

EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

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It Would Make Some Sense—



EVENING OBSERVER'S PROGRESS PROGRAM
IRRIGATION—Complete the Grande Ronde Valley irrigation project.
LA GRANDE — A city of 10,000 — Extend the city limits.

TODAY'S TEXT

For thou has girded me with strength unto the battle: thou hast subdued under me those that rose up against me.—Psalm 18:39.

Coddling Prisoners

Although many of the stories now in circulation are false, it seems to be true that we are treating captured Germans with a gentle consideration that is in marked contrast with the way the nazis have treated many of our men.

In a series of news-column articles from NEA service it was reported how German prisoners are treated and fed at Fort Devens, Mass., where it would appear that they are particularly well contented; and the special situation that controls volunteers in Italian service units was explained.

Provost Marshal General Lerch offers three arguments in justification of the excellent care we give to these prisoners:

First, he says that International Red Cross agents report that, up to the time the reich began falling apart under General Eisenhower's blows, the nazis were living up to their Geneva convention obligations toward Americans and Britishers, however cruelly they treated other nationalities.

Second, he says that word of our kindness toward prisoners, reaching German troops, caused them to surrender more readily and thus saved allied lives.

And finally, he points out that the Geneva convention is the supreme law of the land, and until it is amended he is duty-bound to administer it unwaveringly.

There seems to be very strong evidence that the nazis, in many instances at least, were not living up to their convention commitments even before we crossed the Rhine—that, in many cases, our men were not getting either the food or the treatment that General Lerch was told they were getting.

On the other hand, there is evidence that, up to recently at least, we could have been considerably more strict with our prisoners-of-war without offending the Geneva convention and still have made captivity more attractive than belligerency to any German but a rabid party-man.

But while American prisoners in Germany did not get full benefit of Geneva convention rights, it seems that they really were fed better, treated better, in general, than any prisoners except perhaps Britons. There is evidence that our surrender propaganda did fall on more willing ears because we were, perhaps, over-kind to prisoners, and thereby more of our sons, husbands, brothers, friends will come home.

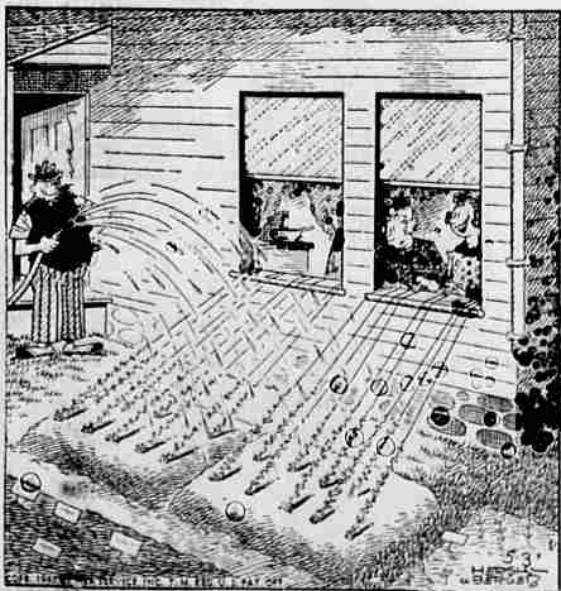
It may well be that General Lerch's policy has been the sound one.

Still Expanding

In case you haven't been quite sure how serious the war department is in warning that this war is far from over, it may be noted that our capacity for producing explosives still is not considered satisfactory.

Far from resting on European victory laurels, the defense plant corporation is spending \$20,000,000 on a new toluene plant at Lake Charles, La., which will not even go into operation until early 1946. Toluene is a basis for high explosives.

Funny Business



"George is quite a labor saver—he's having the beans climb right into the kitchen this year!"

SO THEY SAY

The exploitation and domination of one nation over another can have no place in a world striving to put an end to all war.
 —Mohandas K. Gandhi.

The San Francisco charter should agree upon a definition of aggression to include direct or indirect subsidized governmental propaganda in other nations. The enforcement of such a provision would help cure that cause of wars which grows out of crusading faith, political or otherwise.
 —Herbert Hoover.

I wish we could quit fighting for a little while and be friendly. I'm tired of seeing at German news papers.
 —Etc. Richard Ghetrompt of New York, in Germany.

I was getting smaller and smaller and the lice were getting stronger and stronger.
 —Pet. Earl L. Todd of Evansville, Ind., on liberation from German prison hospital.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

SAN FRANCISCO—To the average outsider, the most difficult thing to understand about this conference is the attitude of the Russians. Poor press relations, plus a few inept moves have melted down a large mountain of goodwill built up by the valor of the Red army. In a few short days they have destroyed much of the favorable sentiment in Latin America, and through no fault of ours, won us more friends below the Rio Grande than we ever had before.

However, one purpose of this conference is to get to understand people and we are going to have to understand a lot about the Russians in the future. First, let's look at some of the things hardest to understand.

One of the things Molotoff did in San Francisco was to invite two prominent Latin-American delegates to dinner at the Russian consulate, along with a few carefully selected Europeans. Latin guests were Mexico's Foreign Minister Padilla, and Chile's Foreign Minister Joaquin Fernandez y Fernandez, who is rapidly assuming a new leadership in Latin America.

Molotoff drank a toast to Chile and her new establishment of diplomatic relations with Russia.

"There are so many Chileans who want to become ambassadors to Moscow," joked Foreign Minister Fernandez in return, "that it is one of my greatest problems." Mexico's Padilla, apparently on excellent terms with Molotoff, said: "All Latin America would be pleased if our sister republic, Argentina, was admitted to the conference."

Molotoff, in mellow mood, seemed to register no objection.

But a day later the mood was different. Padilla arose in secret session to propose Secretary Stettinius as permanent chairman of the conference. Molotoff promptly objected. He pointed out that four countries had invited the other nations to attend this conference and that the representatives of all four host countries should rotate as chairman.

Foreign Minister Padilla then delivered a recitation of previous precedents where the nation which served as host also acted as chairman. When he had finished, Molotoff, who had already pointed out that four nations were hosts, got up and remarked:

"I am glad to be instructed in diplomatic procedure by the delegate of Mexico, but apparently he prepared his little speech before he heard my view."

Padilla, who had not read his speech, was taken aback. He mumbled something about always being prepared when he attended a conference, and sat down. After a long, hot debate, Molotoff won his point. But the manner in which he jumped on the Mexican lost him friends. A lot of Latins, jealous of Padilla's brilliant oratory, previously had

been opposed to him. But Molotoff veered them in the opposite direction.

Next day, in secret session, Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk of Czechoslovakia, a nation cooperating with Russia, pointed to the vacant chair of Poland and moved that the Lublin government be admitted. Foreign Minister Subasich of Yugoslavia, also close to Russia, seconded the motion. Whereupon, Anthony Eden, emphatically opposed. There followed more hot debate.

Finally, to break the deadlock, Foreign Minister Spaak of Belgium proposed a compromise resolution expressing sympathy with Poland and hoping that she could be admitted soon. Genial, rotund Ambassador Caceres of Honduras, a great friend of the U.S.A., rose to second Belgium.

Whereupon Molotoff cracked back: "Notwithstanding the support of the republic of Honduras, the Soviet Union stands by its position."

A note of biting sarcasm rang through Molotoff's voice which startled the delegates. It sounded as if the powerful Soviet Union representing the greatest land-mass in the world, was trying to put the tiniest republic in Latin America in its place. Again, Russia lost more friends. And later when the vote was taken on seating Lublin Poland, she lost that also.

These are some of the things about the Russians that take a lot of understanding. On the other hand, when Molotoff, after winning his point on rotating the chairmanship, finally sat in Stettinius' place, he did an excellent job. He got off a little gag about being glad the conference would now have an opportunity to hear Russian, and proceeded to handle the session in the most expert manner.

Unquestionably it was a good thing to have a Russian preside at the conference.

Another thing you have to remember about the Russians is that we kept them isolated for years, so naturally they now behave like isolationists. You can't block off all trade, cultural and diplomatic relations between two nations for twenty years without making them suspicious and putting a chip on their shoulder. We are now reaping the results of that holier-than-thou policy.

Finally it must be remembered that Molotoff is not entirely a free agent. Lenin once called him "the best filing clerk in the Soviet Union." Since then Molotoff has increased in stature, but so have the Russian generals. There is some suspicion that they are even nudging Stalin's elbow. So when Molotoff pulls off his abrupt moves in San Francisco, he doubtless has in mind the people he has to appease back in the Kremlin, and they doubtless have in mind some of the chivving certain U.S. officials have done regarding a soft peace for Germany.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

The war wife who writes her husband overseas, "I'm in love with another man," has been bitterly condemned and branded a first-class heel.

But still enough husbands overseas continue to get such letters to make a lot of men whose wives are still writing "I love you," feel uneasy.

Perhaps fewer young wives would send those I-am-in-love-with-someone-else letters, if they could be made to see that they may be gypping themselves as well as their husbands.

For there is every chance that the other man isn't such a bargain as the lonely wife imagines.

To begin with, the character of the man who would attempt to cut out an overseas

husband is open to question.

Then, too, he may look good just because he hasn't any real, live competition—but just a memory to compete with. He might not look so good standing beside that overseas husband.

Then, too, the wife is thinking of her husband as what he was like when he left for overseas. She actually doesn't know what he is like now. His war experiences may have improved him greatly, may have made him a much better bet as a husband than the man she remembers. So when she trades a husband overseas for a man here at home, a girl runs a big risk of making an awful mistake.

Not that anyone will have much sympathy for her if she does live to regret such a choice, of course.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

SAN FRANCISCO—Hardest thing to find at the United Nations conference opening is a delegation which didn't have any Dumbarton Oaks amendments to propose.

Foreign Minister Eelco Van Kleffens started off by saying the Netherlands would offer seven amendments.

Just to show you can beat the Dutch, Foreign Minister Ezekiel Padilla said Mexico would offer 28 amendments.

Then Foreign Minister Georges Bidault reminded that the French provisional government would have nine.

Without any help from the other Americans, U.S. Delegate Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg has been able to think up nine of his own, so with 53 proposed amendments from the first four corners it looked as though the California sunshine which greeted early arrivals would in time be blanketed by more than fog rolling in from the Pacific.

The days will be warm but the mere prospect of 45 nations, each offering half-a-dozen or more amendments, is enough to give every delegate a chill that calls for a pair of fresh blankets to sleep under every night.

None of these amendments is criticism of Dumbarton Oaks proposals, you understand. Dumbarton Oaks is perfect—greatest thing in history—hope of the future—just what the world has been waiting for—but, as Foreign Minister Van Kleffens said, "If the Netherlands delegation should criticize, we do it only to improve—we are not worried about mere words. . . . We are not legalistic minded, but we shall propose amendments."

The fog blanket of amendments threatening to darken the San Francisco skies will be only slightly less confusing than the millions of words to be written and broadcast by

the 1200 newsmen and women on hand for the proceedings.

The experting that goes on in hotel corridors doesn't just suffocate you, it drowns you. Real foreign correspondents who have made a life-time business of this diplomatic game can ask four-dollar questions so complicated you can't even understand the questions, let alone the answers.

"Are you opposed to the Yalta vote plan," somebody asked Van Kleffens, "one quasi-judicial or quasi-executive decisions?"

He answered it, but if you want to know how, please look some place else. It was just too deep.

For \$8, somebody asked Dutch Minister Van Kleffens what he thought about Korea.

For \$16, Mexican Minister Padilla was asked what he thought about Poland.

For \$32, French Foreign Minister Georges Bidault was asked something about Czechoslovakia.

The trick seems to be to ask a foreign minister something that is completely foreign to anything he is supposed to know the answer to. It apparently takes practice.

Bidault slid out of one of the slick questions by saying that "the question leads us onto a 'slippery slope.'"

This Bidault, though, seems to be quite a character and a smoothie, too.

"I am sure," his translator said he said "This conference will meet with difficulty. All conferences meet with difficulty."

It was a masterful understatement.

Biggest difficulty of this conference is apparently going to be the Russians.

The \$64 question for them is Lublin? Anybody knowing the answer will please offer an amendment.

Side Glances



"Dorothy wanted to clerk in the dime store to buy her own clothes, but she's too young—so I've hired her as a maid at \$15 a week!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WM. E. MCKENNEY, America's Card Authority

CAREFUL PLAY NETS SIX-HEART CONTRACT

Sgt. Lewis M. Loeb, whose address like many another good American these days is merely c/o Postmaster, New York City, is, as he tells me, an Atlantan "bo'n and bred, suh," and as such, rates Mrs. Margaret Wagar of that industrial capital of the

When West failed to follow, East smilingly won the trick with the eight spot. He returned a diamond which Mrs. Wagar won with the ace and now she got over to dummy by playing her deuce of hearts and was able to discard her two losing diamonds on the king of clubs and the king of spades.

▲ K 8 6
 ♠ 7 6
 ♣ 5 3 2
 ♦ K J 5 4 2

♠ Q J 10 9
 ♠ None
 ♠ K 9 8 7
 ♠ 10 8 6 3

W
 S
 Dealer

▲ 7 4 3 2
 ♠ 8 4 3
 ♠ J 10 6
 ♠ Q 9 7

Mrs. Wagar
 ♠ A K Q J 10 9 5 2
 ♠ A Q 4
 ♠ A

Rubber—Neither vul

South	West	North	East
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening—▲ Q.

IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago
 Fred Montgomery, a clerk at the Hub store, maintains he has a rare freak in the shape of a three-legged chick.

Pat Foley was elected president and George Noble secretary-treasurer of the La Grande gun club.

Adam Leighton was honor guest at a party on his third birthday, by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Leighton at their home on Cedar street.

15 Years Ago
 Ralph Pope was installed dictator of the Loyal Order of Moose. Other officers were C. E. Spivey, past dictator; E. E. Feuerhelm, vice dictator; Curtis Sime, prelate; W. B. Bailey, treasurer; Harry True, trustee; C. H. Provost, inner guard; George Warner, outer guard; and Harry Sitter, sergeant-at-arms.

Former governor Walter M. Pierce addressed the Educational club at the Normal school on "A Layman's View of the School."

10 Years Ago
 The Misses Mae Stearns, Madeline Larson, Alta Lillie, Margaret Carstairs, Mabel Doty and Mrs. Ella Doty spent Sunday at Medical Springs and visited with Miss Stearns' sister, Mrs. Frances Daugherty.

The annual Summer Health Round-Up of pre-school children, sponsored by the city council of P-TA, was held at the Presbyterian church with every doctor in town giving his services. Between 45 and 50 were examined the first morning. It was for the purpose of discovering any defects in children who will start to school in the fall, and in that way give the parents an opportunity to have such defects corrected.

Questions & Answers

Q—How much coal is required to make enough coke to smelt one ton of pig iron?
 A—About a ton and a half.

Q—Who was Tsai Lun?
 A—Inventor of paper, historians believe. He made it of mulberry bark, bamboo, and old fish nets, about 105 A. D.

Q—What is a "concertina" in the army?
 A—A coil of very hard, springy barbed wire. It is held compact by clips, and when they are released the wire springs out to form a barricade.

This Curious World



CHLOROPHYLL, THE LIFE-GIVING SUBSTANCE OF PLANTS, HAS A CHEMICAL NATURE SIMILAR TO THAT OF BLOOD.

SELENOGRAPHY IS THE STUDY OF PHOTOGRAPHY OF WOMEN RACE TRACK STATISTICS TOPOGRAPHY OF THE MOON

ANSWER: The science of the physical features of the moon. The word is derived from Selene, goddess of the moon.
 NEXT: What is the world's largest man-made lake?