

# EDITORIAL PAGE

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Well, We Could Easily Starve It to Death



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

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY**  
To the sick, while there is life there is hope.—Cicero.

**Black Market Expands**  
The black market is claiming another victim. Eggs, which escaped for a long time, now are falling under the racketeer's sway. The only protein food still reasonably free from such illegal influences seems to be fish, and developing market conditions may soon remove that lone exception.

Eggs were slow to attract the price-gougers' attention because up to recently they were very plentiful. But now they are tightening up and the chiselers are muscling in. At least 25 New York wholesalers have gone out of business because they say they can't get eggs.

Insiders say that other wholesalers are considering whether to shut down, try to keep going on legitimate supplies, or capitulate to the black market.

Not long ago eggs were so abundant that both trade and government agencies said they were one protein you could depend upon. In fact, the prospect that WFA worried enough to ask for a 16 per cent cut in output so that the administration would not have to turn a few million dozens into fertilizer again this year.

But the meat shortage caused a poultry shortage. Black marketers shoved the retail price up to as much as 75 cents a pound for chicken. Poultrymen began shifting from white leghorns, which lay a lot of eggs but weigh little, to breeds that lay less but weigh more—Rhode Island New Hampshire Reds, Plymouth and Barred Rocks.

Meanwhile incubator operators rushed to market to get eggs for hatching and Uncle Sam, who had been shipping to our men overseas the nutritious but not very palatable powdered eggs, discovered a way to ship eggs in shells, and began buying in larger quantities.

Taking one consideration with another, the egg-eater's life is getting unhappier every day.

Fish, too, seemed fairly plentiful, and the black marketers pretty much ignored it. But fish also is tightening up.

The army has asked for 25 per cent of the Boston catch of haddock, pollock, cod, and scrod toward an overall order for 25 million pounds of frozen filets. The navy wants 10 per cent of the Boston catch. Both requisitions are expected to be extended soon to Gloucester, New Bedford, and Portland.

Since Boston supplies about 65 per cent of the nation's fish at this season, and the other three ports add from 15 to 20 per cent—totaling about 85 per cent from the four—it is obvious that fish filets are not going to be so plentiful for a while.

This is exactly the sort of situation that preceded black marketing in meat, then poultry, now eggs.

## Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

**SAN FRANCISCO**—Now that the European war is over, most important problem facing President Truman and the big three is Russian cooperation in the war against Japan. Regarding this there is a strange about-face.

Two years ago, members of the new president's own "Truman committee," together with members of the senate military affairs committee, visited Australia and came back with a statement from General MacArthur that thousands of American lives were being lost because Russia did not give us Siberian bases against Japan.

Ex-Senator Cabot Lodge aired this statement to senatorial colleagues and it created a bad reaction against Russia—even though General Marshall told senators that we would not be able to hold Siberian bases if Russia gave them to us.

Today, however, some of the people who two years ago were yelling loudest for Russia to come into the war against Japan are now arguing exactly the reverse.

This is not true of Chief of Staff Marshall who believes that any move which will shorten the war and save lives should be taken. But it is true of many high-ranking army-navy leaders who frankly admit in private that they don't want Russia in the war against Japan.

This is especially true of the navy. It will be recalled that commander-of-the-fleet Admiral Ernest King opposed Britain's sending a fleet to help us in the Pacific because he felt we could do the job ourselves and that Britain battleships weren't geared to our speed. But Roosevelt overruled him. Admiral King likewise belongs to the school that believe: Russia should not come into the Japanese war.

Chief argument against Russia's entrance is that she will want Korea and Manchuria, and will stir up the northern Chinese armies to fight against Chiang Kai-shek in the south. This is probably true. Unquestionably political complications will result from Russia's coming into the Pacific; unquestionably Russia will want a hand in the far east peace.

However, against this is the question of wasting a lot more American lives in a longer war. And there is no doubt how the boys who have to do the fighting and the dying feel about it. Also there is probably no doubt what President Truman, whose final decision it is, will decide about it.

The Russians can back the Chinese northern armies against Chiang Kai-shek anyway if they want to whether they come into the Jap war or not.

**Linquist Vandenberg**  
Michigan's energetic Senator Vandenberg, who at the start of this conference slipped anti-Russian stories out to certain newsmen, is now getting along much better with Molotov. In fact they seem to be excellent friends.

When the question of recognizing Russia came up in the senate ten years ago, Vandenberg voted against it, never has been invited to the Russian embassy, and always carried an anti-Russian chip on his shoulder. However, he has now learned two words in Russian, while Molotov has learned two words of English.

Molotov's two words are "ok" and "all-rightly," which he pronounces with an "E-E" on the end. Vandenberg always enjoys a chuckle and sometimes slapped Molotov on the back when the Russian vice-commissar came out with these words.

The Michigan senator, in turn, has learned to say "Amerikansky delegatsia," which means "American delegation," and he also knows the Russian word for "good," which is "khoroshaw." Molotov these days chuckles when Van drops these hard-won nuggets from his Russian vocabulary.

But when they get into deeper waters, the two men need an interpreter. Once, when talking privately, Vandenberg is reported by friends to have told Molotov: "If friendly relations could be established between the United States and Russia, I would be one of the happiest men in the world."

To which Molotov, perhaps remembering Vandenberg's vote against recognizing Russia, is reported to have replied: "And if I could believe that, I would be one of the happiest men in the world."

**Philadelphia: United Nations Capital**  
One thing every successful international conference needs is a symbol, something which the public can understand and visualize. Charles Evans Hughes, secretary of state in 1921, was a master at this when he staged the Washington arms conference.

However, the San Francisco conference, though far more important, far more vital to the hopes and fears of future mankind, has been deficient in appropriate symbolism. For this reason the proposal of the Philadelphia Record that the future headquarters of the United Nations be grouped around Independence hall in Philadelphia is worth careful study.

Philadelphia and Independence hall were the scene of almost the same kind of debate now progressing at San Francisco—the debate of the continental congress to draw up

## Side Glances



"My son had 24 bombing missions in the Pacific without half as much trouble as I've had with this bike!"

## McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

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

### ESTABLISH SAFEST SUIT IN NO TRUMP

When playing a contract at no trump and holding two different five-card suits opposite two three-card suits, people often say to me, "Which suit do you set out to establish?"

Well, this question is often an-

♠ AK 8 6 4	♥ Q 4	♦ 7 6 3	♣ 9 3
♠ 7 2	♥ 10 8 6 3	♦ K J 5 2	♣ A 5 4
N W E S Dealer		♠ Q 9 3	♥ J 9 5 2
♠ J 10 5	♥ A 7	♦ 10	♣ K J 10 8 2
Rubber—Neither vul.			
South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 N T	Pass	3 N T	Pass
Opening—♠ 2. 14			

going to lose three diamond tricks.

Now the question is, should we start the club or the spade suit? Well, can't you see that if you lead the spade and it loses, now the opponents will cash their three diamonds, the one spade and will lay down the ace of clubs and defeat your contract?

But if you establish the club suit, true they get in with the ace and cash three diamond tricks, but now you have four club tricks, a diamond is five, three hearts is eight and two spade tricks are ten, one more than you can actually cash, as the opponents will take four tricks.

## IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago

J. F. Corbett, chief dispatcher, who has been in Portland attending to business matters, returned home.

County Judge Frank Phly went to Portland on business.

Pat Foley, proprietor of the Foley hotel, went to Walla Walla.

The senior class of Cove high school gave their class play, "A Scrap of Paper." Participating were Henry Maxfield, Louie Lantz, Vernon Layne, Guy Barker, Philip Conklin, Herman Lund, Vera Pease, Cassie Kelly, Jean Holmes, June Chadwick, Charlotte Ramsdale and Mabel Gibson.

15 Years Ago

Alice K. Gates spent the weekend in Elgin visiting Mr. and Mrs. Charley Beam.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis A. Greulich left for Spokane to attend the Rotary district convention.

A miscellaneous shower honoring Miss Lucille Black, whose marriage to Ed Fitzgerald was set for June 1, was held in the home of Mrs. Doyle Zimmerman with Mrs. Zimmerman and Miss Winona Lyman, hostesses.

10 Years Ago

Work was progressing on the new club house for the Northside Improvement club.

Among the Masons attending an Eastern Oregon meeting here was Frank Peters, circuit judge of Hillsboro, and senior grand warden of the Masonic grand lodge of Oregon.

## This Curious World



**Quoting Odds**

FOR A HOTBED, YOU USE A COLD FRAME," SAID MRS. WILLIAM GUMPERT, LONG-TIME GARDENER.

USED AS A BASE IN CERTAIN GERMAN-KILLING SOLUTIONS WILL DESTROY SOME GERMS THAT EVEN PENICILLIN CANNOT CHECK.

## WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

OPA is having a tough time trying to break the black market in meat because of the difficulty of getting housewives to testify against their butchers.

In New York, for instance, 95 per cent of the cases against retailers that OPA have brought to war emergency court have been backed up by testimony from a paid inspector.

Obviously, paid inspectors can't begin to get the goods on all the black marketers. It doesn't matter how many complaints OPA gets about a dealer's selling above ceiling price. Nothing can be done unless the customers who have been overcharged will testify in court, or an OPA inspector can manage to make a purchase at an above ceiling price, so that he can testify himself.

OPA gets plenty of postcards from women complaining of a store that is selling at above ceiling prices, but usually the tip-off doesn't result in a conviction because of the postscript: "I don't want to testify in court."

No, it isn't pleasant for women to have to testify in court to help clean up black marketing. Appearing in court takes time; it will probably make an enemy; it may mean some publicity.

But if housewives aren't willing to get in and fight to put down the black market in meat, they really shouldn't complain of dealers' profiteering.

As long as all they are willing to do is pass the buck, then they shouldn't expect protection against the black market.

## Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

Woodrow Wilson died with the conviction it was right for the United States to stay out of the old league of nations, and the day before his death he prophesied this country would join a new league of nations and that it would succeed, his daughter Eleanor Wilson McAdoo has just revealed, breaking a family secret closely held for 21 years.

Mr. McAdoo is in San Francisco in connection with her war bond work and as a radio correspondent covering the United Nations conference.

This story of her father's death, making an important new footnote to history and today's big war news, has never been told before. Eleanor Wilson consents to its being told today because this seems the right moment to bridge the gap between the ends of World Wars One and Two, between the old league of nations which her father helped create and the new United Nations organization being created at San Francisco.

Had Woodrow Wilson died as Franklin Delano Roosevelt did, at the height of his victories, the end of the league of nations might have been different.

The day before Woodrow Wilson died, Feb. 3, 1924, he lay on his bed in the house on Washington's "B" street, where the family had moved after they left the White House in March, 1921.

In the room with him, watching him, was his daughter Margaret, Eleanor Wilson's sister. The expressionist's eyes were closed. He spoke quietly.

"It was right that the United States did not join the league of nations."

Startled, Margaret Wilson caught her breath, came to his bedside.

Woodrow Wilson opened his eyes and smiled. Again he spoke.

"You think I'm saying don't you. The not."

"But I've been thinking about this for a long time."

Her father had had much time to think, says Eleanor Wilson today. In Paris he had contracted the Asthma had developed from that and with it came broken sleep. The

ability to sleep, to relax completely for five minutes or an hour, had been one of Woodrow Wilson's greatest sources of strength. From a nap or a full night's sleep he could wake refreshed and able to cope with any new task. But now, with one arm paralyzed and one foot dragging when he could walk, in the long days and the longer nights of wakefulness, Woodrow Wilson had done much thinking.

There was nothing the matter with his brain, Eleanor Wilson declares, and he was anything but the broken-hearted man he has been so commonly and so wrongly portrayed. But he had been thinking about his battle for a league of nations for a long time and now he was telling his thoughts to his daughter, Margaret.

"If we had joined the league when I asked for it," he said, "it would have been a great personal victory. But it would not have worked because deep down in their hearts the American people didn't really believe in it."

Margaret Wilson rose then and bent over her father's bed. His eyes were clear, she told her sister Eleanor afterward, and they shone with a light as if he were happier in the assurance of what he had just said and what he was to say next.

"The time will come when this country will join such a league because it will know that it has to be. And then and then only will it work."

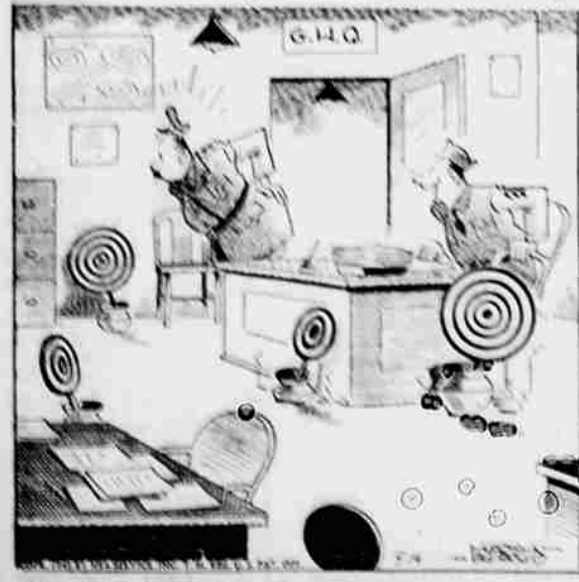
He laughed a little.

"He was really a gay soul," Eleanor Wilson recalls today. "To us he was never the cold, austere professor so many people have tried to make him. And he was never an egotist."

He was sincere, and he was a philosopher, and he was reverent at all times. But he had the grandest sense of humor, and that revealed itself in his last hours and his last words with Margaret on the league of nations.

"You know," he said, "God really does know better than I."

## Funny Business



## SO THEY SAY

Unrepentant and with no sense of guilt (the Germans) are obedient—the only thing to be said in their favor.

—Maj. Gen. W. P. Temple, AMG director, 21st army group.

Every day the war in Europe is shortened saves us \$200,000,000.

—Rep. J. Buell Snyder (D) of Pennsylvania, chairman subcommittee on war department appropriations.

It is not enough to have a security organization. We have to have the means for doing away with the conditions that make it easy for wars to start.

—British Deputy Prime Minister Clement Attlee.

We know beyond peradventure that another war, coming upon an intensive development in military, electrical and chemical science, could wipe great masses of civilians off the face of the earth in a matter of very brief time.

—Acting Secretary of State Joseph C. Green.

The cleaning squad got tired of cleaning up meat messes, sat!