

EDITORIAL PAGE

La Grande Evening Observer

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Page Four

"Shake Hands Mit Mine Lat est Agvaintance, Herr Nips"



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

Yea, and why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right? — Luke 12:57.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

How prone to doubt, how cautious are the wise! — Homer.

The New Wilson Story

Mrs. Eleanor Wilson McAdoo chose an appropriate setting to divulge a story that the Wilson family had kept secret for 21 years. The time was the close of the second world war in Europe. The place was San Francisco, where a world congress is attempting to forge an instrument for lasting peace, and where Mrs. McAdoo told to Peter Edson of NEA service a hitherto unknown story of her father, the first world war president.

The day before Woodrow Wilson died, Mrs. McAdoo said, he told his daughters that it was right that the United States had not joined the league of nations in 1920. He was reconciled to the fact that, though our entrance into the league which he had conceived would have been a great victory for him, it would not have worked because "deep down in their hearts the American people didn't really believe in it."

Some day, he prophesied, this country would join a league of nations because it really wanted to — and then and then only would it work.

That story makes comforting reading, and also rather startling news. It is comforting for the admirers of Wil-

son to know that he did not go to his grave the embittered, heartbroken man that history has pictured him, and that he came to credit popular feeling rather than a senate conspiracy for our aloofness. Knowing this, we can be sure that he met death with more happiness and peace of mind than has been believed.

But why, one wonders, did the story remain so long untold? Why was the country allowed to believe that a villainous "little group of willful men" in the senate had denied the wishes of the people, sabotaged us into isolationism, and helped to precipitate the second world conflict?

President Wilson's stature would not have been decreased by revealing what Edson has called "an important new footnote to history." But the record of Lodge and the rest in the league debate, though none too shining at best, would not appear as black as it has now become.

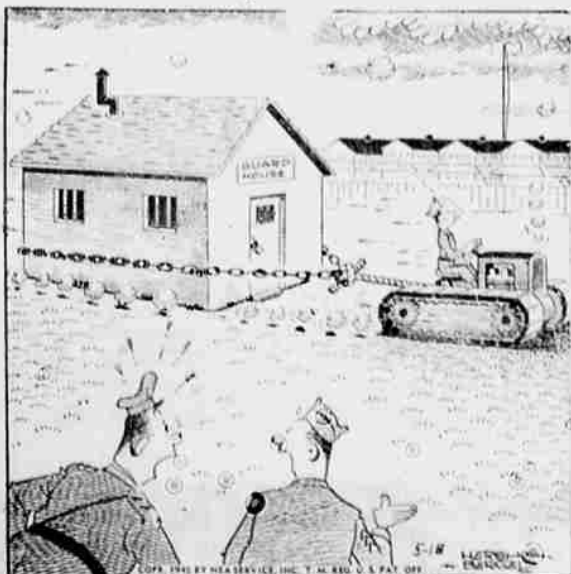
After all, it is not a light thing to accuse even dead men of having hastened such a conflict as this which, though half finished, we are still fighting.

For it is not too certain that even with America in the league, war could have been averted. There is too much evidence that there were men of other countries who "deep down in their hearts" did not really believe in the league.

In any event, Mrs. McAdoo's belated revelation is a good story, and a welcome one. And her father's prophecy which she disclosed is penetratingly correct.

Today the American people, having endured another and more frightful lesson, really want a league for peace. So do the peoples of the world. So, we believe, do the peoples' representatives at San Francisco, even though some are not yet wholly purged of narrow self-interest. And this time, we devoutly hope, Wilson's dream will be realized.

Funny Business



"All I know is that he says he won it in a poker game with the major!"

SO THEY SAY

We will utilize all land masses near Japan as fast as we can take them, but the islands we already have can absorb much more of the air forces. Lack of engineering troops to develop bases is a critical item.

—Lt. Gen. Burt M. Giles, commander army air forces in Pacific.

End of hostilities in Europe will not solve the national coal shortage, and it may be necessary to ration the "brown-out" order some time during the fall of this year.

—J. A. Krug, chairman war production board.

If there was justification previously for not speaking our minds freely to our Russian allies, that justification is now past. I am profoundly convinced that the future peace hinges upon a firm understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union. — Senator Homer Ferguson (R.), Michigan.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON.—Watching our diplomatic relations close-up, both in San Francisco and Washington, leads to the unmistakable conclusion that the most important problem this country faces—more important than any domestic or war problem—is our relations with Russia.

Russia is now on the road to becoming the most powerful nation in Europe and Asia, and there is nothing we can do to prevent it. Half a billion Chinese, plus one-third billion Indians restless under British rule, are certain to gravitate to Russia; also the middle-European countries of Czechoslovakia, Austria, Poland and the Balkans.

The United States, meanwhile, is bound to become the rallying nation for western civilization—Great Britain, Latin America, France, Holland, the Scandinavian countries.

There will be two powerful blocks. The question is: will they drift into war 10 or 20 years from now? If the toboggan once starts, no power on earth can prevent war. The time to stop it is now. And already our relations with Russia have reached the low level of diplomatic nose-thumbing and caustic note-writing which augurs ill for the future.

With this alarming situation in mind, this columnist proposes to diagnose the entire tangled skein of our Russian relations. Some of what follows will be considered very critical of Russia. Some may be considered critical of the United States. It is suggested that no conclusions be drawn until both sides are presented.

Keep Out of Berlin

Relations with Russia began their nose-dive just a few days before President Roosevelt died, when Stalin sent his note accusing us of a deal with the Germans in order that we might get to Berlin ahead of the Red army.

Of course there was no deal. But there had been a conference of American and German officers in Switzerland to arrange for an armistice in Italy, and the manner in which the Germans were surrendering wholesale to the Americans in the west, while fighting to the last ditch against the Russians in the east, made the Russian generals suspicious.

The Russians are a suspicious people anyway, and long years of isolation have not made them less so. Also, in view of the fact that 700,000 Germans have already been shipped off to Russia by the Red army, it is easy to see why the German army hastened to surrender on one front, while fighting fiercely on the other.

To allay Russian suspicions, the American

army stopped its advance on the river Elbe, carefully kept out of Berlin.

Keep Out of Prague

Almost simultaneously, however, another unfortunate incident occurred. The American ambassador to Czechoslovakia, Laurence Steinhardt, was all set to go back to Czechoslovakia with the invading Russian armies. So also was a British diplomatic mission. President Benes was returning and was anxious to have American and British diplomats go with him.

But the Russians said no. Their excuse was that no housing facilities were available in Czechoslovakia. And up until this writing, Ambassador Steinhardt is still cooling his heels, unable to enter the country to which he is accredited.

Shortly thereafter occurred another unfortunate incident. At Yalta it was agreed that both the British and American armies would send troops into Vienna, and would also occupy certain Austrian provinces. But suddenly the Russians set up a government in Vienna under the old socialistic leader, Dr. Karl Renner. Also they seized the Viennese airfields.

So now, British and American token forces, which expected to fly into Vienna, cannot land. Also no American or British ambassadors can enter the city until we recognize the Renner government.

Trouble in Bulgaria

Little has been published on the Bulgarian situation, but more Bulgarian leaders have been executed by the Russians than in any other allied-occupied country. Probably they are all Nazis of the type who would eventually have faced trial for war crimes. Therefore, U. S. officials do not object to this so much as to the fact that Americans are not permitted to be free agents in Bulgaria.

On top of all this came the arrest of the 16 Polish leaders who were to negotiate with Moscow for the broadening of the Lublin government. With this climax, Churchill and Truman wrote similar notes to Marshal Stalin, setting forth all the broken Yalta promises—Austria, Poland, failure to consult regarding a new government in Roumania, failure to carry out certain political pledges in Yugoslavia. They asked Stalin for an explanation.

Stalin's reply, which will be outlined in an early column, left a great deal to be desired. It was one day after its receipt that President Truman stopped lend-lease shipments to European Russia, continuing, however, Seabird shipments of equipment for the trans-Siberian railroad. Some U. S. gen-

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WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

If you live in Danville, Ill., and want your lawn mowed, your garden spaded, or your basement cleaned, you just call Youth Employment Center at the local YMCA and there is a school boy for the job.

The boys, from 14 to 18, work after school and on Saturdays while school is in session, and all day during the summer months.

It would certainly make any community a better place to live if boys that age were encouraged to help with odd jobs and were organized so as to be easily located.

If there are more jobs than boys, then there ought to be a priority list. Women

living alone and households in which the man of the family isn't able to work should have highest priority. And at the bottom of the list should be placed the calls from homes where there is a strong, healthy man member of the family, who could do the work around the place if he would.

That way the high school kids would get the idea that their work is really important. For even a 14-year-old would certainly get more satisfaction out of mowing a lawn for a war wife than in pushing a lawn mower all afternoon so that the man of the family could go out to the golf club to get fun out of exercise.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

SAN FRANCISCO — With Foreign Commissioner V. M. Molotov gone from the San Francisco conference, the Soviet ambassador to Washington, Alexander A. Gromyko—pronounced Gro-mee-ko, with the accent on the mee—becomes Mr. Big for the Russian delegation at the United Nations charter-writing and spelling bee.

Gromyko smiles a little more readily than the others in this stolid, impassive and almost impassable group. But, aside from the smile, he is pretty much the personification of mystery wrapped in enigma—tall, dark and taciturn.

He is younger than nearly all the other heads of missions here, being only 37. That would make him only nine years old at the time of the Bolshevik revolution in 1917, so he has grown up under communism. He is a career diplomat and apparently a good one in Russian eyes, for he has been awarded the Order of Lenin—highest civilian decoration given by the Moscow government—for the job he has done in Washington in the past six years.

Gromyko's public utterances since he became ambassador, succeeding Maxim Litvinov, have been noteworthy only for their extreme caution, couched in the customary polite but dull diplomatic phrasing. About as far as he goes in committing himself is to say that the people of the Soviet Union feel friendship and deep respect for the U. S. people, and are grateful for receiving from us not only moral but also substantial material support.

As far as Washington society is concerned, his greatest material display of friendship comes at the annual October revolution anniversary receptions in the big limestone embassy formerly occupied by czarist diplomats, four-and-a-half blocks up 16th street from the White House. On these occasions, Gromyko dons gold braid and shakes hands with from 1500 to 2000 members of official Washington, who put on a somewhat graceful grab for the vodka and caviar. It's enough to make a recluse of even the most gregarious of hosts.

Gromyko was born in Minsk, White Russia, some 400 miles west of Moscow and near

what used to be the pre-war, pre-Curzon-Lane Polish border. Minsk was of course overrun by the Germans early in the war.

But at San Francisco Gromyko has the satisfaction of seeing White Russia admitted as a sovereign state in the United Nations.

He was educated as an economist and for a time lectured at the Institute of Economics and the Academy of Science. Entering the government, at 30 he was in charge of the American section of the foreign office. After a year in that position he was ordered to Washington in 1939 as counselor to Ambassador Constantin Oumansky. In the three months between Oumansky's recall and the arrival of Ambassador Litvinov in December 1941, Gromyko was in charge of the embassy and conducted early negotiations for Soviet purchases and lend-lease supplies from the U. S.

He knew practically no English when he arrived but has studied the language diligently, along with all the reports on manufacturing, economics, history and politics—the usual things expected of any career diplomat.

Today Gromyko has a good working knowledge of English and he gets about in the diplomatic set a bit more. But the ambassador and Madam Gromyko are not, perhaps, as clubby with the White House and state department officials as were Maxim and Ivy Litvinov.

Recall of Litvinov at the time of the first Quebec conference in 1943 was at first gossiped about as a slap at the United States for failure to develop a second front. The state department was quick to deny that, however, and any ideas that Gromyko is a second-rater have been completely removed.

He was head of the Soviet delegation that helped draft Dumbarton Oaks proposals last fall and he has handled his government's affairs in Washington all through the difficult periods when second front, Polish, Finnish, Roumania, Yugoslav and German occupation and reparations questions have been the big issues.

Side Glances



"They're having some kind of bean stew without meat, Henry, and don't you dare make a face when you taste it, and hurt their feelings!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

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

BE CAREFUL, DON'T OVERDO CONVENTIONS

Most bidding conventions are overdone. Too many players use them as a substitute for thinking. However, there are times when a convention is ideally suited to a hand, and today's hand is an example.

While a one-spade bid by

♠ A Q 7 6 5	♥ K 3	♦ A Q J 8	♣ K
♠ K J 9 8	♥ 9 8	♦ 9 2	♣ 10 9 7 6 4
N E S W			
Dealer			
♠ 10	♥ A Q 10 7 5 4	♦ K 10	♣ A 5 3 2
Duplicate—Neither vul.			
South	West	North	East
1 ♠ Pass	2 ♠ Pass	3 ♠ Pass	4 N.T. Pass
5 ♠ Pass	5 N.T. Pass	6 ♠ Pass	7 N.T. Pass
18			

view, he would have responded with three hearts. But the bid in another suit, three clubs, accepted the slam invitation.

North employed the Blackwood convention in the bid of four no trump, and South's response, five hearts, showed two aces. North then bid five no trump, asking for kings, and South, with one king, responded correctly with six diamonds.

This of course was all the information North needed to bid a reasonably safe grand slam.

IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago
J. W. Spencer of Union, W. J. Case of Elgin, and W. B. Hindman of Elgin were elected directors of the Eastern Oregon Telephone company.

Early Purples, grown in the Freewater-Milton orchards, were the first cherries to appear on the La Grande markets.

L. H. Howland, county surveyor, returned from a week's visit in Wallowa county on business.

Flora and Chrystal Davis left for Joseph, Mo.

15 Years Ago
Workmen were tearing down the Garity blacksmith building and that formerly occupied by the Mother's lunch, to provide a site for a new structure to become a part of the Larison garage.

About 20 carloads of seniors left on the annual class picnic of the La Grande high school. They went to Radium springs to spend the day swimming and picnicking.

10 Years Ago
One hundred sixteen students were graduated from La Grande high school. Of that number 52 are boys and 64 girls.

Four-tenths of an inch of rain fell in La Grande, bringing needed moisture to both city and valley. It was the first rain of consequence since late April and soil conditions were getting very dry.

Starting with a three-hit spree in the first inning of the baseball game, La Grande defeated North Powder Tuesday with a score of 11 to 7.

This Curious World



NEXT: An early idea of lighting.