

EDITORIAL PAGE

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French Novel of Mystery and Intrigue



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
Let those who always loved now love the more.—Thomas Parnell.

Old Fears and the New Peace

It is easy to grouse at the Russian government for its adamant stand for a veto power in the United Nations organization that would permit the big five to squelch action, investigation and even discussion of international disputes. It is easy to foresee that, under such an arrangement, the organization would be powerless even to begin doing the job envisioned for it. It is easy to say that the new league would not even be what the old league of nations became, a "debating society." But it is extremely difficult to find reason for Russia's determined stand which, if persisted in, might wreck the organization before it is formed. By all the rules of reason, Russia needs peace and a breathing spell more than any other of the United Nations. Her people have paid a heavy price for victory in lives and inequity and exhaustion. Fierce fighting, the scorched-earth policy of defense and German retaliation have done great damage to her most populous and industrially developed regions. If any country needs friendship, help and a quiet atmosphere for economic

convalescence, it is Russia. Yet, by her government's stubborn defense of a destructive proposal, she is alienating many would-be friends and causing a split among the Big Five. Why? The most plausible conjecture is that the Russian position reflects an old, deep-seated fear—fear of Winston Churchill, frank opponent of the philosophy of communism; fear of the United States, which belatedly recognized the Soviet Union under an administration now passed into history; fear of other powers which kicked Russia around in the old league when her government was suspect, unstable and unpopular. All these are political, balance-of-power fears which seem to fall within the sphere of temporary advantage. They ignore the original purpose of the San Francisco conference, which was to draft at least the first form of a lasting charter to guarantee a peace that should endure beyond the life span of Mr. Stalin, Mr. Churchill, and other present heads of government. World peace is too heavy a responsibility to assign to the mortal, fallible men who happen to be the chiefs of the world's five great states. Leaders die and governments change and power shifts from one nation to another. What is wanted from San Francisco is a charter which will come nearest to guaranteeing the peace under good world governments and bad, a charter based on justice, not power. What is wanted is a peace mechanism to work for the benefit of the anonymous millions who fight, suffer and die in the world's wars, and who pay for them. These are the people for whom the world peace plan was designed. And these are the people who seem to be remembered less and less in the diplomatic vacuum by the Golden Gate.

Funny Business



SO THEY SAY

I believe there are wars we should not have had to fight if we had been properly prepared in time, if we had shown the aggressors what might we were equipped to wield.
—Joseph C. Grew, acting secretary of state.
If we could give millions for relief of the Tokyo earthquake, we ought to be ready to help with many more millions the people that have been fighting by our side.
—Sen. Millard E. Tydings, Maryland, in plea for Philippines.
I didn't say a damned thing about the Russians. I leave them to the state department.
—Sen. Albert W. Hawkes, New Jersey.
Loans alone can't cure the world's diseases. Each country must work out its own salvation politically, financially and morally. All American can do is help.
—W. Randolph Burgess, president American Bankers association.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—The state department isn't announcing it, but Italian ambassador Tarchiani has made an unusual move by proposing that Italy declare war against Japan and help supply troops for the Pacific war. The state department took the matter under advisement, and after some deliberation with the British, both governments agreed to approve an Italian declaration of war against Mussolini's old Axis partner, Japan. However, here is the catch. Both the British and American governments refuse to make any commitments to supply shipping or to permit Italian troops to participate in the fighting. What the Italian government will decide to do under the circumstances remains to be seen.

Maritime Scandals
Senator George Aiken, liberal Vermont Republican, is preparing a hot blast against one of the weak spots in the old Roosevelt administration—the maritime commission. The blast isn't going to help Chairman Emory Land's ambition to be a full admiral. Senator Aiken will point out that four separate reports by Comptroller-General Lindsay Warren, describing maritime commission's misuse of public funds, have been nonchalantly pigeon-holed in the senate commerce committee. Sanctimonious Senator Josiah Bailey of that committee was named chairman of a special committee to investigate the maritime commission as long ago as 1938. He has now spent \$17,000 of the \$20,000 allowed for expenses, but has reported exactly nothing to congress. Senator Aiken will point out that since January of this year, some—but not all—maritime commission contracts have carried these two amazing provisions, certainly not aimed to save money for the taxpayer: "The contractor shall have no obligation

to make any statements or returns of costs to the commission or to make available to the commission any of its books, records or accounts pertaining to the performance of work under the vessels contracts. "The contractor shall have no further or other obligations under the vessels contract or on account of the performance of work thereunder, including any obligation to repair, remedy, replace or make good any defects, breakdown or deterioration occurring in any vessel delivered under the vessels contract." In addition, Aiken will point out that the commission has insured hundreds of vessels for many times their actual value. The Nebraska, for instance, was built in 1912 at a cost of \$713,000, and was estimated five years ago by Admiral Land to be worth \$110,199. On its owners' books it is listed as worth \$5,276, but the maritime commission has insured it for the amazing total of \$1,019,320. The Nevada, built in 1912 for \$616,000 and listed by its owners at \$3,457, has been insured for \$800,800.

Ex-Governor of Vermont
When President Truman first came into office, he promised Republicans he would appoint men of their selection as minority members of government commissions. This week, he is carrying out that promise by appointing ex-Governor William H. Willis of Vermont as a minority member of the federal communications commission, replacing ex-Governor Norman Case of Rhode Island, also a Republican. Case, an old friend of FDR when both were governors of their respective states, held office largely on the basis of Roosevelt friendship, not because of support from the Republican party. Each commission provides for a certain number of Democrats and Republicans. So GOP leaders want their own men in these key jobs, rather than Republican friends of the White House.

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

One thing that is already known about servicemen is that many of them do not want or expect to go back to their old jobs when they return to civilian life—or even, perhaps, to go on living in the old home town. That is easily understandable. They have seen many places now and Podunk may not seem to be the center of the universe as it did before they had seen a great deal more of the world. As for the old job, the boy who worked in a filling station or was never very successful as a salesman and whose job in the war was flying a bomber or working as a member of a ground crew very likely has decided the old job back home isn't challenging enough to hold his interest or to make the best use of his newly discovered capabilities. And men who have learned that they can handle other men and assume the kind of responsibility that calls for quick thinking and fast decisions aren't likely to want to go back and sit at a desk doing a routine job that gives them no chance to use their own initiative. Natural as this situation is, it can be hard on wives—if they are bound and determined to go on living in the same house in the same town, or if they are impatient for their husbands to take the first job offered them because it looks like security for the family. Dr. Wilbur M. Miller,—head of psychiatry

in the department of medicine at the University of Iowa and a director of the state's psychopathic hospital—believes that the service wife's reaction to this problem is extremely important. He points out that the wife who was a "good sport" during the emergency of war and who from necessity put security out of her mind while she trailed her husband from one army camp to another may feel that when her man is finally home the most important thing in the world is for him to get a job in a hurry and settle down to getting ahead and making up for "lost time." In this attitude she is likely to be mistakenly backed up by her parents who may see a threat to her security in her husband's not being able to make up his mind right away just what he wants to do, or in his wanting to pull up stakes and try something entirely new. Dr. Miller's advice to the war wife whose husband comes home at the end of the war in that frame of mind is to acknowledge to herself that while for others the emergency of war is over, it isn't over for her. And that she must be as willing to go along with her husband's new plans and ambitions as she was to follow him from army camp to army camp. If she insists on his going back to the old job she may win her point. But she is likely to discover in time that her husband is resentful, frustrated, and unhappy.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—Since Soviet Russia won't permit American newspapermen to go into Poland, the only two sources of information from that blacked-out spot on the map are first, what news the London-Warsaw government underground is able to smuggle out of the country, and second, what the Moscow-Lublin government chooses to pass out. The critical and cynical U. S. newspaper reader, who has a pretty good batting average in judging the curves on all such pitches will be pardoned if he uses his fishy eye and lets most of these offerings go by as high, wide and outside. But every once in a while, the propaganda pitchers accidentally deliver a fast one right over the plate and you can swing at it. Definitely in this groove is a piece called "Resurgent." Occupying half of the latest issue of the "Information Bulletin of the Embassy of USSR," this handy eight-page pamphlet comes out three times a week under the imprint of Russia's Washington embassy and is, therefore, the official last word on what Moscow thinks you should know and wants you to believe about its affairs. The piece in question, by one K. Rudnitsky, leads off with the assertion that "the world is following with intense interest the processes taking place in liberated Poland." Skeptics may say this is something of an understatement, but let Rudnitsky tell you: "Boldly laying new paths for its development on lines of broad, political and economic democracy," he says, "the country is winning the sympathy of all progressive sections of freedom-loving nations." Sympathy is right. "No observer who is at all impartial," Rudnitsky continues, "can fail to be amazed at the speed and efficiency with which the newly resurrected Polish state is handling the exceedingly difficult problems." He itemizes, "an overwhelming majority of the industrial plants have been recon-

Today, industry is employing over 60 percent of the pre-war number of workers. Immense work has been done to rehabilitate the railways," and so on, and on. Then come the fast ones: "The government, as we know," writes Rudnitsky, "took over large scale industry, but it was obliged to extend its administration to a vast number of medium and small enterprises, owing to the absence of their owners." Where these owners are the author doesn't say, but he does explain the philosophy of this expropriations in most revealing terms: "From the very first," he says, "the provisional government has declared that private initiative and private capital would be allowed and encouraged in medium and small industry. These medium and small plants are now being turned over to their lawful owners, or if the latter are not available, to the producers' cooperative societies, or else leased to private individuals." This being so satisfactorily explained, Rudnitsky next takes up agrarian reform. Literally, on the day following the ejection of the invaders," he writes, "when the sound of guns had not yet ceased, the provisional government proceeded to carry out the primary point of its program. Namely, the abolition of the landed estates and the apportionment of the land to the peasants—the reform, embracing the whole of Poland from one end to the other, is now in the main completed. Individual peasant holdings have been demarcated and deeds conferring private ownership of the land issued. . . . some 4,300,000 hectares (over 10,000,000 acres) were confiscated from the big landowners. . . . Well, that's how Moscow wants you to believe things are in Poland. There's a lot more to the article, but these pertinent paragraphs will give you the idea. While it lasted, it was just a nice, quiet, well-managed little revolution they must have had.

Side Glances



McKENNEY ON BRIDGE
By WM. E. McKENNEY, America's Card Authority

THIS HAND HELPED WIN OHIO TOURNEY

One of the largest and most successful tournaments is the annual Ohio state event held in Cleveland. While this tournament attracts players from a great many different cities, it has always been most difficult to win any of the events from Cleveland players. However, this year, most of the major events went to

once Stratford of Cleveland and Clare "Corby" Smith of Pittsburgh; second place went to Mrs. Marquita Fullerton of Cleveland and Jack Abbott of Pittsburgh. Here is one of the hands that helped Miss Stratford and Smith win the championship. The opening lead was won in dummy with the ace. The ace of trump was cashed followed by the ten spot which Smith, in the East, won with the king. On the second spade, Miss Stratford discarded the eight of clubs so now Smith cashed his queen of diamonds and under led his ace of clubs, which Miss Stratford won with the queen. She led back the nine of diamonds, and Smith was able to get in a ruff, thus defeating the contract for a top score.

Miss Stratford	Smith		
♠ 9	♠ K 7 5 2		
♥ 8 5 4	♥ J 3 2		
♦ 9 8 4	♦ K Q		
♣ K 8 5 4	♣ A 9 8 3		
Dealer			
N E S W			
Duplicate—N-S. vul.			
South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 N T	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	Double
Opening—♣ K			

IN FORMER YEARS

30 Years Ago
Abe Harris returned from Portland where he attended the rose show.
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Reuter were Sunday visitors in Union. Willard Carpy, a student at the University of Oregon, arrived home to spend the summer with his parents.
Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Epling returned from Portland where they attended the rose show.
15 Years Ago
Gifford Seitz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Seitz of this city, returned from Portland where he was a junior in the University of Oregon medical school.
George Anderson, jr. returned from Eugene, where he was a junior at the University of Oregon. He left later for Vancouver, Wash., to attend the reserve officer's training camp for six weeks.
10 Years Ago
Roy L. Skeen, of the department of psychology and education at the Eastern Oregon Normal school, received notice of his appointment as a member of the Oregon state textbook commission.
Miss Dorothy Lee Reynolds and Miss Mildred Green, students at St. Paul's school for girls in Walla Walla, returned to La Grande to spend the summer with their parents.

Questions & Answers

Q—How have appropriations for the U. S. army air forces increased since 1898?
A—In 1898, \$50,000 was allotted for "aeronautic investigation and inquiry." In 1944 the army was given \$23,655,988,000 for military aviation.
Q—What practical purpose does the paratrooper's war cry, "Geronimo," serve?
A—Yelling relieves pressure on the ears and nervous tension in jumping. This yell originated at Fort Benning, Ga.
Q—What is a joto held in the Jap navy?
A—A warrant officer.
Q—How are names used for U. S. aircraft carriers?
A—They are selected from names of islands, bays and sounds of the United States, as well as battles of World War II in which the navy has served.

This Curious World



Quoting Odds

"HEAVY CREAM IS LIGHTER THAN LIGHT CREAM," Said JOSEPH H. NETTLETON, New Milford, Connecticut.



NEXT: How do plants climb?