Quotations at Portland

PRODUCE EXCHANGE

PORTLAND, Ore., June 20.—(AP)—Produce exchange:

Butter—Extras, 25; large standards, 24; prime firsts, 23½; firsts, 23; butterfat, 25 25½.

Eggs—Large extras, 23c; large standards 21c; medium extras, 22; medium standards 20c.

Cheese—Triplets, 12c; loaf, 13c.

Portland Grain

PORTLAND, Ore., June 20.—(AP)—Grain:

Wheat	Open	High	Low	Close
July	72⅝	72⅝	72¼	72¼
Sept	72½	72½	72	72
Dec.	73½	73½	72¾	72¾

Cash grain: Oats No. 2 38 lb. white 25.00; oats No. 2 38 lb. gray 25.00.

Barley No. 2 45 lb BW 25.00.

Corn No. 2 EY shipment 28.75.

Milrun standard, unquoted.

Cash wheat (bid): Soft white 76; western white 75; western red 73½.

Hard red winter ordinary 73; 11 per cent 74; 12 per cent 78; 13 per cent 83½; 14 per cent 88½.

Hard red spring ordinary 73; 11 per cent 74; 12 per cent 78; 1 per cent 84; 14 per cent 88.

Hard white-Baart ordinary 77; 11 per cent 77; 12 per cent 79; 1 per cent 81; 14 per cent 88.

Today's car receipts: Wheat 125; barley 1; flour 13; corn 7; oats 2; mill feed 5.

Portland Livestock

PORTLAND, Ore., June 20.—(AP)—(USDA)—Hogs: Receipts 1400, market active, 35 higher, good-choice 165-210 lb. drifeins 9.10, carload lots 9.35, 225-75 lb. 8.50-60, some from carload lots 8.85, light lights 8.50-85, packing sows 6.25-75, feeder pigs 8.75-9.25, top for under 110 lbs.

Cattle: Receipts 1750 including 145 through and direct, calves 150, steers and heifers native, steers 25 higher, instances 50 higher, heifers 25-50 higher, few early sales, cows strong to 25 higher late trade only steady, bulls weak to 25 lower, good grain fed steers 8.50-75 bulk grassers 7.75-8.25, one load 1048 lb. 8.50, common 6.00-7.00, best grass heifers 8.00; few loads and odd lots 7.75 down to 6.50, common 5.50, low cutter and cutter cows 3.25-75, common-medium 4.00-75, few 5.00, good beef cows 5.00-65, mixed cows and heifers 6.50, bulls 5.00-75, beef bulls 6.00, choice vealers 50 higher, others steady, choice 7.50-8.00.

Sheep: Receipts 1200, market active, spring lambs 75 higher, good grades 7.00, common-medium 5.50-6.00, slaughter ewes strong to 25 higher, medium-good grades 2.00-75.

Portland Produce

PORTLAND, Ore., June 18—(AP)—Country Meats—Selling price to retailers: Country killed hogs, best butcher under 160 lbs. 10½-11 lb; vealers 11 11½ lb; light and thin 8-10 lb.; heavy 8-9 lb.; bulls 10 lb.; canner cows, 7½-8 lb.; cutter cows 8-9 lb.; spring lambs 13 lb.; old lambs 8-9 lb.; ewes 3-6 lb.

Live Poultry—Buying price: Leghorn broilers 1½ to 1¾ lbs., 14-14½ lb.; 2½ lbs., 14-14½ lb.; colored springs, 2 to 3½ lbs., 17-17½ l; over 3½ lbs. 18-18½ lb.; Leghorn hens over 3½ lbs. 15-15½ lbs.; under 3½ lbs., 14-14½ lb.; colored hens to 5 lbs., 18-18½ lb.; over 5 lbs. 17-17½ lb.; No. 2 grade 3c lb less.

Turkeys—Nominal buying price: Breeder hens 20c lb. Selling price: Breeder hens 22c lb; toms 17-18c lb.

Potatoes—New Shafter, $2.20 cwt.; Yakima Gems, 2s, 60c; local, 65c cental; central Oregon, $1.45-1.50 cental.

Onions—California wax, 50c; Cal. red $1.40-1.50, yellow $1.50.

Wool—1938, Nominal; Willamette valley, medium, 18c lb.; coarse and braids, 18c lb.; eastern Oregon, 16-16½c lb. lb

Hay—Selling price to retailers: Alfalfa, No. 1, $17-18 ton, oat-vetch, $14 ton; clover $11-11.50 ton; timothy, eastern Oregon, (—) ton; do valley, $15 ton, Portland.

Mohair—Nominal: 1938 20c lb.

Hops—Nominal; 1937, 11½-12c lb.

Cascara bark—Buying price: 1938 peel, 3c lb

Sugar—Berry or fruit, 100s, $4.90; bales, $5.10; best, $4.80 cental.

Domestic flour—Selling price, city delivery, 1 to 25 bbl lots: family patents, 49s, 6.05-6.65; bakers' hard wheat, net, $4.65-6.15; bakers' bluestem, $4.55-4.90; blended hard wheat, $4.60-5; soft wheat flours, $4.35-4.45; graham, 49s, $4.95; whole wheat, 49s, $4.95 bbl.

Wool in Boston

BOSTON, June 20—(AP)—(USDA)—Very few inquiries for wool were being received today by Boston concerns. Asking prices for spot wools in this market was unchanged from last week. Quotations were reported steady on bright fleeces offered from the middle west through Boston houses.

Gardeners' and Ranchers' Mart

PORTLAND, Ore., June 20.—(AP)—(USDA)—Produce changes:

Apples—Oregon Newtowns, extra fcy. $1.35 1.50; fancy $1.15 1.25; Washington Delicious, extra fancy, $1.75-1.85; loose 2½c lb.

Artichokes—Calif., 16 lbs., $1.10-1.25.

Asparagus—Oregon 12 pound crates, U S No. 1, 7-8c; No. 2 5-6c lb.; 30-lb. crates, $2.20-2.30; Wash., No. 1 7-8c lb.; 2s, 5-6c lb.

Apricots—Calif., 24 lbs., $1.50-1.75.

Beans—Ore., Blue Lakes and wax 8-9c.

Cabbage — The Dalles, crate, $2.00-2.25; local $1.50-165.

Cantaloupes—Calif. Imperial jumbo 45s, $2.25-2.e 30s, $2.75-2.85; 45s, $2.65.

Cauliflower—Ore.-Calif., No. 1, $1.00-1.15 crate; Seattle, 90c-$1.

Celery—Utah type, $2.40-2.50; white, $2.25-2.30; Oregon Hearts, $1.50-1.75.

Cherries—Wash., Bings, 5-6c lb.; Oregon Bings, 5-6c lb.; Royal Annes, 3-5c.

Cucumbers — Hothouse, 3-4c doz. $2.50-2.75; Calif., lug, $2.25-2.75.

Currants—$2.50-2.75 crate.

Garlic—Local, 5-6c best; new crop 5-6c cut.

Grapefruit—48 100 Arizona, fancy, $1.85-2.35; choice $1.75-2.00; Florida, $3.75 4.25.

Lettuce—Labish, $1.25-1.50; Wash., 3 and 4 doz, $1.35-1.45.

Lemons—Fancy, all sizes, $4.50-5.25; choice grades 50c to $1.00 less.

Onions—Oregon yellows, U. S. No. 1, 50 pound sacks medium to large, $1.25-1.40; No. 2, 50 pound sacks, 75 90c; California white wax $1.40-1.50; per 50-pound sacks; flat reds, $1.25-1.35 per 50-pound sacks; yellows $1.35-1.50; whites, $1.50-1.60.

Peaches—Nominal.

Peas—Oregon, bush, 5-6c; telephone, 6-6½c lb.

Potatoes—Oregon, local sacked, per hundredweight, long whites, 50-pound sacks, US No. 2, 25-30c; 50-pound sacks russets, US No. 2, 40-45c; Deschutes, sacked per hundredweight, russets, US No. 1, $1.35-1.50; Yakima, sacked per hundred-weight, russets, US No. 1, $1.35-1.50, New stock, California, sacked per hundredweight, White Rose, US No. 1, $2.20-2.30; The Dalles Cabblers, 2½-3c per pound.

Oranges—California navels, fancy, all sizes, $3.00 3.50; choice Valencia fancy, $2.30-2.90; choice, $2.00 2.15; loose, $1 25-1.75

Peppers—La., $2.50 hamper.

Raspberries—Ordinary, 2.25 crate; Cuthberts, $2.50-2.65.

Rhubarb—Apple boxes, 55-60c; field grown, bulk, 1¼-1½c lb.

Sweet potatoes—California, 50 pound crates, $2.35 2.50; Louisiana yams, $2.25-2.50

Spinach—Oregon best, 65-75c per orange box.

Squash—Wash., Crookneck, scallop Zucchini, $1.30-1.45 flat; Calif. Zucchini, $1.25 flat.

Tomatoes—Tex.; as is, $1.75-1.85 hothouse, extra fancy and fancy, 12-15c; choice, 8-10c lb.; Wash., hothouse, 12-12½c lb.

Bunched Vegetables—Oregon, per doz. bunches; beets, new crop, 22½-25c; carrots, 30-35c; green onions, 25-30c; parsley 20-25c; radishes, 25-30c; leeks, 30c-35c; turnips, 50-60c; California: carrots, $2.35-3 crate; 45-40c per dozen; Wash. gr. onions, 22½-25c; radishes, 22½-25c.

Root Vegetables — Sacked, rutabagas, $1.75-2 per hundredweight, lugs, 60-70c; horseradish root, 25c per lb. California carrots, 50-lb. sacks, $1.35-1.50; beets, $.25-.5.

Watermelons, California, $2.25-2.50 per hundredweight, per pound crates, extra.

Stocks Climb 1 to 5 Points

Signs of Reversal in Gloom Over Business Given as one Cause

NEW YORK, June 20.—(AP)—Stocks hit one of the best recovery strikes of the year today with market leaders climbing 1 to more than 5 points.

Volume expanded substantially on the run-up and chart readers were particularly heartened by the fact that the list broke out of 1938 downtrend with vigor.

The upswing was attributed to an assortment of factors, including signs which some thought indicated the lengthy business and industrial recession might reverse itself sooner than expected, and assurances of administrative chieftains the lending-spending program would be pushed rapidly when the president signs the bill.

Lead in Comeback

Steels, motors, coppers, rubbers, mail orders, farm implements, oils and specialities were in the forefront of the comeback. Even the recently lagging rails turned in a relatively good performance and a number of utilities pushed up easily.

The Associated Press average of 60 issues was up 1.9 points at 40.6, the best advance since April 9. Transfers totaled 1,087,050 shares compared with 327,840 last Friday. Today's volume was the largest since April 22.

Salem Market Quotations

FRUITS
(Buying Prices)
(The prices below supplied by a local grocer are indicative of the daily market prices paid to growers by Salem buyers but are not guaranteed by The Statesman.

Apples—Extra fcy. Delicious	$1.35
fcy. Winesaps, $1.50; orchard run Romes	1.00
Bananas, lb., on stalk	.06
Hands	06½
Grapefruit, Calif., Sunkist, crate	2.00
Dates, fresh, lb.	.14
Lemons, crate	5.50 to 6.50
Oranges, crate	2.65 to 3.15

VEGETABLES
(Buying Prices)

Asparagus, Ore., doz.	.90
Beets, doz.	.25
Cabbage, lb.	.03
Calif., new crop	.03
Carrots, local, doz.	.40
Cauliflower, Calif.,	1.85
Celery, Utah, crate	2.50
String Beans, Calif., lb.	.09
Celery hearts, doz.	1.30
Lettuce, local	1.25
Onions, No 1, cwt.	2.50
Boiling, 10 lb., No. 1	.20
Green onions, doz.	.25
Radishes, doz.	.25
Peppers, green, Calif.	12 to .15
Parsley	.40
Green peas, lb	.07
New potatoes, cwt.	2.50
Potatoes, local, No. 1, cwt.	1.50
No 2 cwt. bag	.50
Raspberries	2.00
Rhubarb, lb	.02
Spinach, local	.65
Strawberries, local	1.25
Hubbard squash, lb.	.01
Turnips, doz.	.60

NUTS

Walnuts, 1937, lb.	10 to .16
Filberts, 1937 crop, lb.	12 to .15

HOPS
(Buying Price)

Clusters, nominal, 1937, lb.	10 to .13
Fuggles, top	nominal

WOOL AND MOHAIR
(Buying Price)

Wool, medium, lb.	.18
Coarse, lb.	.18
Mohair, lb.	.20

EGGS AND POULTRY
(Buying Price of Andresens)

Large extras	.21
Medium extras	.19
Large standards	.19
Heavy hens, lb.	.15
Colored frys	.16
Colored medium, lb.	.15
White Leghorns, lb., No. 1	.12
White Leghorns, frys	.14
White Leghorns, lb., No. 2	.10
Roosters	.05

LIVESTOCK
(Based on conditions and sales reported up to 4 p. m.)

Spring lambs	5.25 to 5.50
Lambs	4.00
Ewes	1.75 to 2.25
Hogs, tops, 150-210 lbs.	8.50
130-150 lbs.	7.75 to 8.25
210-300 lbs.	7.50 to 7.75
Sows	6.00
Dairy type cows	3.00 to 4.00
Beef Cows	5.00 to 5.75
Bulls	5.00 to 5.75
Heifers	5.50 to 6.00
Top veal	6.50
Dressed veal, lb.	.10

MARION CREAMERY Buying Prices
Butterfat, A grade .24½

Grade B raw 4 per cent milk, Salem basic pool price $2.00 per hundred. Surplus $1.08.

Co-op Grade A butterfat price, FOB Salem, 24½.
(Milk based on semi-monthly butterfat average.)

Distributor price, $2.32.

A grade butterfat — Delivered, 24½c; B grade, 23c; C grade 18½c.

A grade print, 28c; B grade, 27c.

Butterfat, B grade	.23
Colored hens, under 4½ lbs.	.15
Colored hens, over 4½ lbs.	.18
Leghorn hens, light	.10
Leghorn hens, heavy	.12
Colored fryers	.14
Stags, lb.	.05
Old roosters, lb	.05
Rejects, market value, No. 2 grade	5c less
Large extras	.21
Medium extras	.19
Large standards	.19
Medium standards	.17
Undergrade	.15
Pullets	.13
Dirty extras	.17

GRAIN, HAY AND SEEDS

Wheat, white, bu.	.60
Wheat, western red, bu.	.58
Barley, feed, ton	24.00
Oats, gray, ton	25.00
Oats, white, ton	23.00
Alfalfa, valley, ton	13.00
Oat and vetch hay, ton	10.00

Logans Ripening But Crop Is Light

NORTH HOWELL—Strawberry picking will be over this week with rather unsatisfactory results to all concerned.

Loganberries are nearly ripe and picking will begin Wednesday in the Coomler acreage. The crop will be much lighter than usual and the fruit not so well formed on account of dry weather lately.

All spring grain needs rain very badly but the hay is very good.

Hop Growers Starting Dusting, Brush Creek

BRUSH CREEK—Dusting for blight is under way in local hopyards. Hop vines are looking thrifty but growers report that a blight is affecting them. Training of hops has been completed for the summer.

Reduced Interest Rate Is Extended

Temporary Rate of 3½ per Cent to Continue Till July, 1940

Reduced interest rates on federal land bank and commissioner loans have been extended by federal legislation for a period of two years, according to word received from the Fedreal Land bank of Spokane by W. S. Bartlett, secretary-treasurer of the Salem group of national farm loan associations.

On federal land bank loans through active national farm loan associations the temporarily reduced rate of 3½ per cent per annum will be continued for all interest installments payable prior to July 1, 1940. On loans obtained directly from the land bank the rate will be 4 per cent.

"The temporarily reduced rate of 4 per cent on land bank commissioner loans is also continued until July 1, 1940," Mr. Bartlett said.

Contract Rate Unchanged

"The temporary interest reduction does not change the contract interest rate, that is, the rate written in the mortgage at the time a loan was made. At present the contract rates on new land bank loans are 4 per cent for loans through unimpaired associations, and 4½ per cent for direct loans. The contract rate on all commissioner loans made through the land bank is 5 per cent. Under the law, as now amended, both land bank and commissioner borrowers will resume interest payments at their respective contract rates on July 1, 1940."

"Farmers who now obtain new loans through an active association at the 4 per cent contract rate," Mr. Bartlett continued, "will get the benefit of the 3½ per cent rate for all interest installments payable prior to July 1, 1940."

Accident Victims Home

AIRLIE—Mr. and Mrs. Fred Aebi are home from the Dallas hospital where both have been confined for the past month following a wreck in which a CCC truck collided with their car.

Closing Quotations

NEW YORK, June 20—(AP)—Today's closing prices:

Air Reduc	50⅛	Consol Oil	9
Al Chem & Dye	152	Corn Prod	65¾
Allied Stores	6½	Curt Wright	4⅝
Am Can	90¼	Douglas Aircraf	46
Am & For Pow.	3½	Du Pont	101½
Am Pow & Lt.	5⅛	Elec Auto Lt	16⅛
Am Rad & St.	11⅝	Elec Pow & Lt.	10
Am Roll Mills	16¼	Erie RR	1⅞
Am Smelt & Rf.	38⅜	Gen Elec	36
A T & T	132⅝	Gen Foods	29⅞
Am Tob B	73¾	Gen Mot	31
Am Wat Wks.	8⅝	Goodyear Tires	18⅞
Anaconda	26¼	Gr No Ry Pf	15⅞
Armour Ill	4⅝	Hudson Mot	6
Atchison	26¼	Ill Cent	8⅛
Balt & Ohio	4⅞	Insp Copper	10⅝
Barnsdall	14	Int Harvest	54⅛
Bendix Avia	11¼	Int Nick Can	44⅜
Beth Steel	48	Int Pap & P Pf.	29
Boeing	24g	I T & T	9¼
Budd Mfg	4⅜	Johns Manv	74½
Calif Pack		Kennecott	32¼
Callahan Z-L	1⅜	Lib O Ford	30¾
Calumet Hec	6¾	Lig Myers B	98
Canadian Pac	5¾	Loew's	43½
Case (JI)	81¾	Monty Ward	34⅝
Caterpil Trac	43¾	Nash Kelvinator	7⅛
Celanese	13	Nat Bisc	24¾
Certain-Teed	6⅝	Nat Distill	19¼
Ches & Ohio	24	Nat Pow & Lt.	6⅝
Chrysler	45¼	NY Cent	12⅛
Col Gas & Elec.	6⅜	North Am	19⅞
Coml Solv	7⅞	Northern Pac	8⅛
Comwlth & Sou.	1¼	Packard	3¾
Con Edis	25	J C Penney	66
		Penn RR	15½
		Phillips Pet	34⅝
		Pressed Stl Car.	6⅜
		Pub Serv NJ	28⅛
		Pullman	25¼
		Radio	5⅝
		Rem Raid	11½
		Rep Stl	14
		Sears Roe	60
		Shell Union	13⅛
		So Cal Ed	21⅞
		Sou Pac	11½
		Stan Brands	7¼
		St Oil Cal	27¼
		St Oil NJ	48
		Studebaker	4½
		Sup Oil	2½
		Texas Corp	40
		Timken Det Axl	9½
		TransAmerica	9¼
		Union Carb	68¾
		Union Pac	65½
		Unit Airlines	8¼
		Unit Aircraft	26¾
		Unit Corp	2½
		Unit Gas Imp	9¾
		US Rubber	29
		US Steel	45⅛
		Walworth	6½
		West Union	22⅞
		White Motor	8¼
		Woolworth	43⅞
		(Curb)	
		Cities Serv	8½
		Elec Bond & Sh	7⅜

Rust Gives new Boost to Wheat

CHICAGO, June 20—(AP)—Ominous reports of black stem rust in some of the best domestic spring crop areas did much to lift Chicago wheat values 1¾ cents today.

At the close, Chicago wheat futures were ¾-1¼ higher compared with Saturday's finish, July 78-78⅛, Sept. 78⅞-79; corn ⅝ off to ⅜ up, July 57⅜-¾, Sept. 58⅝-¾; oats elevated ⅛-⅜; rye unchanged to ⅛ advance, and provisions unchanged to a bulge of 22 cents.

Late advances of wheat values here accompanied even sharper upturns at Winnipeg, where there were net gains of more than 2 cents a bushel.

Minnesotans Visit

BETHANY—Recent guests at the Silas Torvend home were Mrs. Torvend's brother and his family, Mr. and Mrs. Nels Pederson and Palmer, Alice, Edmond and Norris, all of Bejou, Minn.

Stocks & Bonds

June 20
STOCK AVERAGES
Compiled by The Associated Press

	30 Indus.	15 Rails	15 Util	60 Stocks
Today	59.4	13.9	30.5	40.6
Previous day	56.5	13.9	29.4	38.7
Month ago	56.6	13.8	30.1	39.1
Year ago	89.2	38.5	40.2	64.1
1938 high	68.2	21.6	34.9	47.9
1938 low	49.2	12.1	24.9	33.7
1937 high	101.6	49.5	54.0	75.3
1937 low	57.7	19.0	1.6	41.7

BOND AVERAGES

	20 Rails	10 Indus	10 Util	10 Forgn
Today	47.6	95.7	89.5	62.1
Previous day	46.2	95.6	89.5	61.9
Month ago	53.9	97.0	90.0	62.2
Year ago	92.8	102.7	97.5	72.8
1938 high	70.5	98.0	92.2	67.0
1938 low	46.2	93.0	85.8	61.2
1937 high	99.0	104.4	102.8	74.7
1937 low	70.3	95.5	90.3	64.2

"CONTRABAND"

By DENNIS WHEATLEY

CHAPTER XXIV

A group of men ran over to each plane as its propellers ceased to twinkle and began to unload its cargo with well-drilled precision. Then, as the last plane landed, there came the puff, puff, puff of the midnight train, and the earth quivered below the embankment until its driver brought it to a standstill.

Wells touched Gregory upon the elbow and began to back away down the gully. Gregory followed, and when they were out of earshot the Inspector whispered, "We've got to get over the bank—far side of the train—so they can't see us by those beastly lights. Then we'll try to get into one of the box cars unobserved."

Climbing the wire fence, they crawled up the steep slope, crossed the tracks on hands and knees, slid down the other side, and made their way back to the place where the train was standing.

Intense activity was now in progress on the far side of it. The men were hurling out the boxes from its foremost cars. Wells scaled the bank again and slung himself up to one of the rear trucks but found it padlocked. Gregory tried another with the same disappointing result. Dropping off, the two men conferred again in whispers.

"They won't unlock the doors of the cars on this side," Gregory muttered.

"No. Got to take a chance on being spotted and reach the boxes," Wells replied. "Come on, let's get beneath the train and wait our opportunity."

They crawled between the wheels, Wells leading, then a little way along, until they were below the couplings between two cars. The smugglers were hard at work unloading within a few feet of them.

One of the wooden cases which the smugglers were pitching out of the wagons caught in the rough grass only about a third of the way down the embankment. Gerry Wells decided to take a chance. Praying to all his gods that if the men saw him in the semi-darkness they would take him to be one of themselves, he slipped out from beneath the train and, drawing himself upright, launched himself upon the stranded case. As he heaved it up to throw it down among the rest, he tried to read the big label which was tacked to its top, before it left his hands.

"Hi!" a shout came out of the darkness in his rear. "What's that feller doing there?" It was the driver or the fireman who had witnessed Wells' sudden appearance from beneath the train.

Instantly the mob of workers dropped their cases and turned toward him. Next moment a new voice called from the bottom of the embankment. "You there—come here—else I'll plug you."

A torch flashed out, and Gregory, who was still concealed under the train, an immobile witness of the scene, saw that the order came from the Limper.

Gregory's hand closed on the butt of his torch and he silently drew himself up between the two cars. Then, before Wells had time to answer, he flung the torch with all his force and unerring aim straight at the Limper's head.

"Run, man!" Gregory shouted, as it struck the Limper full on the forehead, and he went down under the impact. Wells leapt on to the tracks, but the man who had first spotted the Inspector sprang from the step of the engine cab and grabbed him round the waist.

Next moment the Limper was on his feet again, yelling blasphemous instructions to his men as half a dozen of them closed in on Gregory.

He laid one of them out with a blow behind the ear and tripped another who went plunging head-over-heels down the embankment.

Wells had torn himself from the grip of the man who had jumped off the train and turned to Gregory's assistance, but below them now the smugglers were running from all directions, throwing themselves over the fence and scrambling up the bank. The Inspector hit out valiantly but he could not reach Gregory who had been dragged to the ground. A second later he too was hurled off his feet by the rush of a dozen brawny ruffians. He went down with a thud, one of the men kicked him in the ribs and another, kneeling on his back, pinioned his arms behind him.

Bruised and half stunned from their desperate struggle the two men were lugged to their feet and thrust down the bank. Half a hundred threatening figures milled round them, their scowling faces lit by the glare of the torches. Pilots, loaders, and the men off the train—all left their jobs to crowd about the captives. Every man at the secret base arrived at the scene of the excitement where they jostled together muttering hoarse questions.

A tall figure elbowed his way through the press. "Silence!" he thundered. "Stand back, there. I'll attend to this."

It was the Limper. He stood glowering at the prisoners, a little trickle of blood oozing from his forehead where Gregory's torch had cut it.

"You, you, you, you," he jabbed his finger at four husky fellows, "take these birds over to the inn. This upset's put us two minutes behind schedule. You've got to make it up. To work! Like blazes now!"

The four men thrust Gregory and the Inspector forward. The Limper followed close behind.

At the inn they were dragged into the little bar parlor and the door slammed behind them. The fat landlord was still behind his bar and the handsome knife thrower of Trouville, now in airman's kit, leaned against it drinking a tot of brandy.

"*Q'est-ce qu'il-y-a,*" he exclaimed, as the others tumbled into the room.

"Spies," snapped the Limper. "Caught trying to board the train. Customs officers I expect; we'll soon find out."

The Frenchman evidently understood English. An evil little smile twitched at his lips. With a single jerk he drew a murderous-looking knife from his sleeve. "*Espions, hein,*" he murmured. "*Ca s'arrange très simplement.*"

As the blade flashed high above Corot's head Gregory jerked himself backwards but, before the knife came down, the Limper grabbed the Frenchman's arm.

"Not here," he said sharply. "Your planes are leaving. Get back to them and see them home. I'll handle this and I'll see these two never worry us again."

Corot's handsome face went sullen, like that of a greedy child who has been robbed of an entertainment, but he shrugged, spat on the floor at Gregory's feet and, turning, slouched out of the inn.

"Search them," snapped the Limper, raising his automatic a little, as an indication that he meant to shoot if they tried to break away, while his four henchmen ran through their pockets.

Pistols, night glasses, torches, letters and money were piled upon the drink-puddled bar. When they were held firm again the Limper glanced through the papers; then stuffed them in his jacket.

"Quick march now," he ordered. "Take them to my plane."

The prisoners were hustled out into the night and across the grass. The smuggler's fleet was leaving; only four planes remained now upon the landing ground. The men were busily transporting the cargo from the railway embankment to the fleet of lorries beyond the inn; the train had gone.

A four-seater monoplane stood a little apart from the big de Havilands. The Limper scrambled into it, dived down to a locker near the floor, and pulled out some lengths of cord. "Tie them up," he said, "then push them into the back of the plane."

Gregory and Wells were securely tied hand and foot and bundled in behind. One of the men got into the plane with them and the Limper went off to supervise the departure of the convoy. At short intervals the other planes roared away into the air. The landing ground was now in darkness and the trucks began to rumble down the road; the smugglers had disappeared when the Limper returned and climbed into the pilot's seat.

He slammed the door, pressed home the self-starter. The plane ran forward, bumped a little and lifted, then with a steady hum it sailed away lightless into the night.

Gregory was hunched on his side in a back seat but his face was turned toward one of the windows and he could see a section of the sky. After they had been flying for a few moments he managed to pick up one of the major constellations and knew, from its position, that they were flying in a northwesterly direction, toward Quex Park. His agile mind began to conjure frantically with the possibilities of drawing Mrs. Bird's attention to their wretched plight so that she could secure help.

The situation began to assume the grimmest of aspects in his mind. From the moment when he had gone down under the rush of men, every second had been occupied until now, so he had not had a chance to realize the full danger in which they stood. No one except Wells and himself knew of the secret landing ground at Romney Marshes, or what their intentions had been when they left Quex Park, so no one would worry about them if they failed to turn up until a day or two, at least, had elapsed without news of them.

The plane banked steeply and began to descend. Beads of perspiration broke out on Gregory's forehead. They scarcely felt the bump as the Limper landed the plane and it flashed through Gregory's mind that the fellow was a first class pilot. The engine ceased to hum and for a moment there was dead silence, then the Limper opened the door of the cockpit and wriggled out. The beam of a torch showed from nearby where he had descended and a new voice came out of the darkness.

"He's on his way over."

"Good," replied the Limper. "I've got them both here. Get 'em out and bring 'em inside."

(To Be Continued)

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