

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Deliberation

Normally at about this stage of proceedings someone remarks, conversationally if not editorially, that it is about time the legislature adjourned so the people of Oregon may "settle down" and proceed with their routine affairs unperturbed by fear of drastic legislation which may throw those affairs into confusion. That no such suggestion has been heard from responsible quarters is pretty fair indication that the 1941 legislature enjoys public confidence to a greater degree than most.

If indeed any general concern about the legislature has been expressed, it has reflected fear that the members would fail to do some of the needful things, rather than some unwise things. Concern in this direction, if it is at all general, may be based or may have been heightened by the members' delay, or the committees' delay, in getting the more important and more complicated issues out onto the floor for disposition. Just at present certain groups seem agitated or on the point of becoming agitated, because the unemployment compensation bills are still in committee.

In justice to the committee involved, it needs to be recognized that these are weighty and abstruse matters which require a great amount of digesting. Reports this weekend indicate that they will be reported out early in the week. There were however disquieting reports, first that the bills were being held up needlessly for log-rolling purposes in connection with other controversial issues, and second that undesirable amendments might have to be accepted in order that the desirable ones, or even the one necessary feature, might be enacted.

That one "must" amendment is the one designed to make the employer's base period for computing experience rating comply with the federal social security law as amended in 1939. If this amendment is not made, experience rating may be as dead as though that section of the present law were repealed, and employers must continue to pay the uniform 2.7 per cent payroll tax.

It is to be hoped that the unemployment compensation bills will come out shortly, and in such form that the legislature may vote separately on each independent proposal for amendment.

"Farmer" Jones' wine bill ought also to make its appearance on the floor soon. The Statesman has heretofore expressed the opinion that the one vital change in the liquor law is better control of wine and especially of fortified wine. That attitude is unchanged despite the possession of "new evidence" which might modify the original opinion.

It is true, as the Woodburn Independent vigorously asserted last week, that fortified wine is—or was—the cause of numerous deaths and many cases of serious mental disorder. It is necessary to note however that the present state liquor commission has not been "sitting on its hands"; all shipments of wine into Oregon are analyzed and the injurious types are now being barred. Insanity cases traced to fortified wine showed a sharp drop in 1940.

But fortified wine is still too potent a beverage to be sold without the controls which are possible only through confining its sale to the state liquor stores and agencies.

"New evidence" also is at hand in connection with Sen. Coe McKenna's recently-introduced copyright bill. It does not upset this newspaper's contention that copyright ought to be strictly a federal matter, but it does explain why state regulation is sought.

Publicity about the ASCAP controversy has dealt almost entirely with its radio aspect. The conditions which resulted in introduction of this bill have to do with ASCAP's relation to the motion picture theatres. ASCAP has in effect "pleaded guilty" to monopolistic practices in connection with radio; if it is guilty there it must be double culpable in its dealings with the theatres. A radio station may avoid paying ASCAP fees, simply by neglecting to play ASCAP music; but a motion picture theatre has no choice. It must play whatever music is on the films it leases.

It is claimed that Hollywood in dealing with ASCAP "gets off easily" because it is a "big customer" and also because it helps to popularize music. To make up for the movie producers' low fees, theatres are charged a "seat tax." Theatre proprietors contend that this is unjust and the fee exorbitant, and correction of this situation is the purpose of the attempt to legislate in Oregon. The McKenna bill is an attempt to do what the federal government has so far failed to do. But it appears to be too general in its provisions, as now written, in that it would outlaw, in Oregon, a legitimate and reasonable association seeking to collect royalties.

Though reasonably conservative, the legislature is not parsimonious. On the contrary, it has rather offhandedly resigned itself, apparently, to the creation of a deficit. Members of the ways and means committee have blithely suggested that a "paper deficit" may be nothing more; that it may be overcome by increased income tax receipts. It is true that increased receipts from inheritance taxes and from titling departments would tend to offset a deficit. But no matter how much income tax receipts increase, they would not help to balance the budget; for when they hit the 5 per cent limitation ceiling, the remainder replaces certain millage levies and if they are wiped out, it goes to offset county property levies.

The last three state administrations have, with the help of the legislature, kept the state budget in balance. If this present legislature lets the bars down the state will find itself in a serious situation, not immediately, but two years hence and thereafter. In the next few days, while decision on tag-end appropriations are being made, there ought to be a renewal of best engineering exercises.

Liquidation

One wonders if Maxim Litvinoff was liquidated the other day because he could no longer keep still about the terrible prank which his masters played upon him.

It was Litvinoff, it will be remembered, who for years stood at Geneva in all apparent sincerity for "collective security" against the rising tide of fascism, and who constantly proposed disarmament at a time when it was clear that the slack policies of England and France would never allow such a thing.

It was Litvinoff, more than any other man, who continued to voice the Wilsonian principles of high-mindedness—and somewhat specious disinterestedness—during the years before the tempest; and it was Litvinoff who, because of his own internationalist background, could never forget that the original idea of Marx and of the Russian revolution was also internationalist in spite of the fact that Stalin had long since founded a new Russian power-state.

His betrayal was as mean and bitter as any ever played on a statesman who appeared to be sincere, withal utopian. Litvinoff for years preached a crusade of righteousness against the sins of "imperialism" and "power politics" without realizing that in the final analysis the state whose sentiments he purported to express would prove to be the most imperial, the most relentless and the most amoral of all. Perhaps his ultimate liquidation is the penalty he paid for failure to perceive the motives which were working deep within the Kremlin.

Litvinoff has now been removed from the party central committee, where he has been placed since his dismissal as foreign affairs commissar in May, 1939, for "failure in his duties." Such a sentence in Russia is tantamount to death outright, or a long, lingering demise in some concentration camp which would make tsarist punishments seem mild by comparison. He marches on a road trod already by many Russians who were stupid enough or naive enough to believe that a just state could be built on the precepts of an unjust book.

E. L. Wieder

Achievement of a single life objective, be it public service, success in business, in making friends or in some creative field, is scarcely remarkable. There is general belief that anyone with fair capacity needs only in addition choice of the objective, determination, concentration and in some cases, courage. But linked with that belief is the further notion that it entails sacrifice of other desirable attainments; that a man bent on making money or a better mousetrap cannot spare the time and effort and attention required to perform useful public service and to win a host of friends.

And if occasionally, upon the termination of a notable career, analysis seems to prove the contrary, it appears more justifiable to conclude instead that this career was but an exception—and the individual exceptional.

An exceptional citizen, indeed, was E. L. Wieder, whose death Friday night is mourned by the Salem community and by friends throughout the state. Whatever may have been the demands of his business interests, they were adequately met but there was always time and energy and attention to spare for unselfish, unostentatious, conscientious community service and for the making and cherishing of many friendships.

In this skeptical age there are those who question the quality of fraternity exemplified by the fraternal organizations; who suspect that it is more a matter of form than of substance. But in the life of E. L. Wieder who found in those activities a satisfying expression of his natural friendliness, there is evidence that the substance is there, for the acceptance of those who can recognize and assimilate it. His was a rich, full life which shed benefits upon large numbers of his fellow-men.

Syllogisms

Argument by syllogism is often risky business. It means that the conclusion is only right if the premises are right; and if one of the premises, either the major or the minor is all wet, the whole thing's haywire.

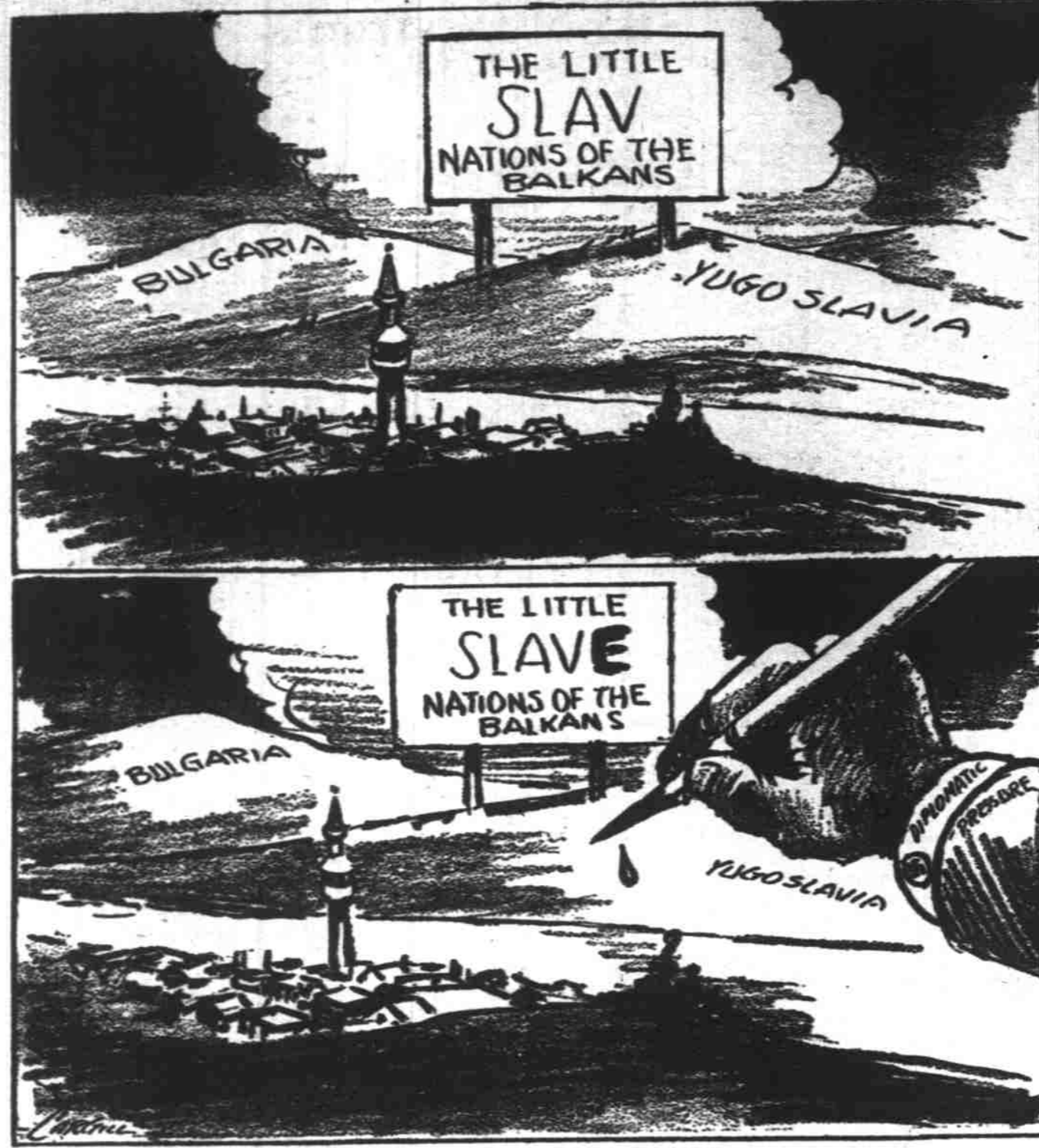
Try this one, for instance. In Clackamas county last week 11 pinball operators pleaded guilty to running illegal pinball devices. Major premise: Minor premise: Marion county is not much dissimilar to Clackamas county. Conclusion: Maybe pinball operators who could be made to plead guilty to running gambling devices could be found in Marion county. Proof: Things equal to equal things are equal to each other.

Or try it this way. Marion and Clackamas counties are similar in a lot of ways. Illegal pinballs have been found in Clackamas county. Conclusion: There is reason to believe they might be found in Marion county. Proof: The same.

Change it again. In Clackamas county officers have been vigilant in tracking down illegal pinball machines. In Marion county officers have found no illegal pinball machines. Conclusion: Marion county officers are not as vigilant as Clackamas county officers, or the county is as pure as the sheriff claimed some time ago.

Well, as we remarked earlier, syllogisms are tricky things. A while back the county sheriff was telling us about cleaning up the county with an unpaid deputy, but no arrests were ever made, then or since. Maybe the sheriff's own major premise was wrong, and the county was clean. Or maybe the premise was right. . . .

There is talk, despite previous promises to the contrary, of a filibuster on the part of lend-lease bill opponents "until the war is over." There is little profit in suggesting what would most likely follow the filibuster, assuming that it prevented aid to Britain. But if such tactics are employed they will supply all but conclusive evidence that the bill's broad grant of powers to the president is necessary—that in an emergency requiring speed, congress is futile.



"Mightier Than the Sword"—1941 Version

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Historian Barry sends 2-23-41 congratulations, gives a brief outline of history of provisional government:

(Concluding from yesterday:) Quoting further Barry: "It has been asserted that 'THE' provisional government was established at Champeog, May 2, 1843.

"The word 'THE' is absurd. If the consecutive forms of local government be regarded as a unit, (there certainly was continuity,) then the beginning was February 18, 1841, when the entire community established a wonderfully efficient local government, which continued to FUNCTION until July 5, 1843. On July 3, 1844, one of the officials of 1841 functioned in his office, and enabled a pioneer to obtain money due to him, without charge.

"On February 18, 1841, the laws of New York state were specified, until a local code should be adopted by the community. On July 5, 1843, the English-speaking portion of the community adopted a code. One law which the committee appointed by the caucus had selected, was rejected, and one of the laws of New York state was substituted.

"There was continuity, since of the twenty charter members of 1841, fourteen were active in the reorganization, or the second form. Seven were elected officers, four in the same office as in 1841. There was continuity.

"If the view be taken that the civil government of 1841 was separate and distinct from the second form; although there were continuity; then the American-type government, established by the Organic Act of 1845 was also a separate and distinct government.

"In 1844 the second form had

three-heads, a triumvirate, or executive committee of three; instead of the American plan of one chief executive. It had no constitution; and had the law: 'That any person refusing to pay tax as in this act required shall have no benefit of the laws of Oregon and shall be disqualified from voting at any election in this country.'

"That three-headed government, of the taxpayers, by the taxpayers, and for the taxpayers, was supplanted by the American-type government, with, as the constitution, the Organic Act of 1845; with one chief executive; and was a government, of the people, by the people, and for the people; and was one of the best governments in the history of the world.

"All honor be to the noble pioneers of Oregon who established that efficient and satisfactory government. It is a glory not only of Oregon, but of the United States which produced such men. That Champeog humbug robs those noble pioneers of the honor justly due to them.

"The ridiculous saying that 'THE' provisional government was established at Champeog, May 2, 1843, is silly.

"The little gathering at Champeog May 2, 1843, was one of the many meetings in a long series, it was merely 'another' meeting, and was an INCIDENT, and not an EVENT.

"If anything was established it was a 'civil' community, lasting 65 days. The civil government of 1841 continued. On June 13, 1843, \$3,716.00 was taken in by authority of that government. On July 3, 1843, one of the officers functioned in office July 5, 1843, one law was continued.

"If there were any Compact

during those sixty-five days, it had no head, like a canned sardine. It had no legislative body, although a committee was active; yet was not a legislative body. They merely represented the individuals who composed the caucus, and had no authority to make any laws for anyone else. The caucus merely authorized them to prepare a code for acceptance July 5, 1843, when many laws were changed; then enacted for English-speaking settlers.

"Among the officers-elect were Burns, magistrate-elect, and Bridges, constable-elect. They were not validated July 5, 1843, when the fourteen took oath and were 'duly initiated.' 'There is probably nothing outside of Mother Goose that is as silly as the Champeog humbug.'

The Safety Valve

Letters from Statesman Readers

SPRING APPAREL

To the Editor: The Statesman's new spring apparel has all the earmarks of No. 9 Rue De La Paix transferred to "big time" on Newspaper Row in lit' o' N'York near Broadway and then landed Kerplunk in Salem to sell 'em and no foolin'.

The wide white spaces fit to T even permitting more "elasticity" minus any figgety and with all sails set including the sterns and "Jimmy Green" the fairway looks fair and more to spare coupled with the stellar roles by MB, RG, PH and all the rest in the extensive cast in the wings and backstage waiting eagerly with their "copy."

And the print is just right to suit all hands especially the old-timers bothered with dim sight and—well, a feather-weight wall up on their wall. So in the words of O'Flaherty I'll say "Good luck to ye and may you enjoy big biz dolled-up in the new phiz."

DAVID McEATHRON

To the Editor: May I say that I am greatly in favor of reducing the waiting period which precedes payment of benefits to those receiving unemployment compensation. My husband (whose claim has been approved) not only has put in three weeks waiting period but six weeks besides, and has not even received one check as yet. I would also suggest hiring more office force.

We are about to lose our furniture and if he had these checks (\$90 worth) now due him, or rather overdue, would be of considerable help. Some of our friends are having the same trouble.

It is to be hoped the legislature revises some of the compensation laws.

MRS. D. BROWN.

BOUQUET

To the Editor: The new print demonstrated in your newspaper is an improvement over the old and easier to read too, just as you say.

Your editorial page looks better too: more streamlined, though it was conservative after a decadent fashion before. I think the paper as a whole, with its new type, is more modern without being flashy.

JOSEPH M. PORTAL

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—There is nothing in the rumors of a Knudsen resignation. As long as the OPM director can deal directly with President Roosevelt, and not through an intermediary, he is in for the duration.

This is probably why the new Hopkins planning board was passed on the defense set-up as an adjunct rather than an overall policy-making body. The difference is not likely to be important, however, in practical workings of the new committee. It will have policy-making functions.

The satisfactory compromise developing from recent administrative defense difficulties will probably allow the new dealers to do the planning and the business men to do the work.

Price Protector Leon Henderson will be coming back from his vacation shortly, strengthened not only in health but possibly also in administrative power.

Henderson found his price holding down a task unsatisfactory without additional authority, and let the White House know it. There was talk he might go to the SEC in Jerome Frank's spot, but that has been reserved for Edward Eicher.

Top rung of the defense commission expects instead, Henderson will get his power.

Mr. Roosevelt's demand that the press publicly examine its conscience for having published information picked up through congressmen about the dispatch of new fighting aircraft to Pacific outposts, has caused plenty of upper case introspection but no action—and was so intended. My information indicates FDR just wanted to put a damper on congressional leaks concerning

all his future actions, and took this opportunity to make both the congress and the press self-conscious about telling too much. He is playing a delicately balanced game of pressure diplomacy in the far east and he does not want his thrusts and feints overinterpreted or underestimated.

No grave military secret was involved this time. Certainly no congressman would have let out the news from General Marshall and no newspaper would have published it, if either had the slightest notion the information could be harmful to national welfare.

Only result will be to make both the legislators and the newsmen a little more cautious. As long as they are free to use their judgment as to what is for the welfare of the country, the public may rest assured that it is getting straight news. Only difference now is they know they will be required to face White House ire if their judgment errs.

Democratic Chairman Ed Flynn's friends tell that he took to Mr. Roosevelt a list of some 28 persons brought into the war department by Secretary Stimson and Undersecretary Patterson, all of whom are—shocking though it seems—republicans, mostly Harvard men, but opposites of the Frankfurter type. Mr. Flynn saw this as the outrage that it is, particularly as he is organizing for the 1942 congressional campaign. If the president said anything it is not being told.

One of the things General McArthur told the congressmen in executive session (and this is certainly not a military secret) was that Japan clearly had bitten off more than she could chew.

Senator Dave Walsh is back from Massachusetts with information that business men are having policy concerning the prospects of what Winant and Ben Cohen will do to bring the new deal to the British in London. (Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.; reproduction in whole or in part strictly prohibited.)

Wotan's Wedge

By FRANCIS GERARD

CHAPTER 23, Continued

Hermann paused a moment, his face white and blazing. "Hate them!" he whispered. "I hate the very air they pollute!"

The old man gently laid a hand on the other's head. "And so you must work, my son, that these people may have power no more. We use such weapons as we may find and we must seek help from such people as are not brutes as these are. As you know, we must look to England to see justice done; for, with all her faults, she has a habit of ingrained honesty which goes beyond the double-dealing and muddle-headedness of her politicians, and is found at the very core and heart of all those things which are the best in England!"

To her, to the United States and to all humanitarians we must turn, for they alone are our hope and the hope of all who would be decent and free in this world. "Go back to your work, Hermann, and know that you, too, are doing your share to overcome these Nazis who would goose-step in their jackboots across the faces of mankind. Tell me," he went on after a little pause, "are your plans nearly completed?"

"Yes, Rabbi." They talked for a little while longer; then, when Rabbi Ephraim had blessed him, Hermann Roststein, alias Siegfried Klotter, returned to the other room. "How do you find him?" asked Raphael Gleiner.

Klotter replied, "There is nothing wrong with his mind; it is as keen as ever, but he looks very frail, so full of years." He paused for a thought, then looked up with a sigh. "Raphael," he said, "I want to have a look at your Records Department of which you are so proud."

"That's true, Hermann," smiled the Swiss Jew. "It has taken a lot of time, trouble, money and even lives, this tabulating of enemy weaknesses."

Klotter nodded. "I know, how well I know it!" Gleiner and Klotter made their way by a back staircase through a steel door which opened with a combination lock. The whole top floor was divided into offices where a small staff of hand-picked men worked during the day and slept in the modernized basement at night. One of these rooms was devoted entirely to a card-index filing system.

"Who do you want to look up?" asked Gleiner as they went in.

"A man called Stutz, Erich Stutz."

"Is he a member of the Nazi Party?"

"He was."

"Dead?" suggested the other. "If so, his record will not be in this room. It will be in our room which my assistant calls the morgue."

"No, he's not dead—yet," explained Hermann, "but he has been expelled from the Nazi Party and is now a fugitive in England."

quickly. "Is he after you?"

"Yes, He is," replied Klotter grimly. "That is why I have got to know all about him to make up my mind how best to deal with him."

Raphael Gleiner looked about him at the great metal filing-cabinets which ran from floor to ceiling all around the room. He shook his head.

"Stutz is not dead and no longer a member of the Nazi Party," he murmured. "Look here, Hermann, excuse me just a moment. I think I had better call my assistant."

He picked up a house telephone, pressed a button, and said, "Blattner?... Gleiner speaking... Would you mind coming up to our office?... Herr Roststein wants some information."

A few minutes later, they were joined by a little, dark, birdlike man in a long, woolly dressing-gown, beneath, which his pajama trousers showed luridly purple. After introductions, he asked, "What was it you wanted?" and Klotter explained.

"This way, gentlemen," barked Blattner, and they followed him to another room where he unlocked one of the filing cabinets. He used no less than four keys; turned the electric light off and on seven times. The five-foot steel drawer then rolled slowly forward apparently of its own volition. Siegfried Klotter smiled. "Burglar-proof?"

"We think so." The little record keeper hustled forward, muttering "Stutz, Erich; Stutz, Erich; until he extracted a card and held it close under his nose to read.

"But what does this tell us?" asked Klotter, looking at the card over Blattner's shoulder and seeing nothing but apparently disjointed numerals.

"Oh, this is not the record," Gleiner explained. "This is merely the index. One man's name may occur dozens of times in other records."

When Erich Stutz's record was finally assembled, it was not a pleasant one.

Born of peasant stock in Passau, forty-four years ago, Erich Stutz had shown himself early to be possessed of strong traits which might be described as anti-social. At 15, an assault on an 11-year-old girl sent Stutz flying from his native village carrying scythes and pitchforks. Stutz next turned up in domestic service as an under-foot-ma at the castle of a noble Prussian family.

"Who are these people?" asked Klotter, his finger on the name which stretched half way across the typewritten page, punctuated at intervals by vons and zus. "There are none of them left now," said Gleiner. "At least, none of the name. Relatives of the Wallenfels. The last of them, a girl named Adelheid, married young von Reinhold, who died recently."

To be continued