

The Oregon Statesman

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

The sinking of 22 British merchantmen by German capital ships loose in the North Atlantic, the general increase in the quantity of British ships sunk by submarines, bomb or surface action, the report that British cruisers may be en route to American shipyards for repairs, the escape of a German merchant vessel to South America with a cargo of airplanes and airplane parts all points to a single, all-important conclusion. The British blockade of the European coast, and the British defense of the Atlantic sea-lanes, have been weakened nearly to the point of impotence.

How this has come about cannot be simply answered. The British entered the war with a navy which had felt the effects of the disarmament conferences of the 'twenties, so that many fewer capital ships were on hand than at the conclusion of the World War. The available supplies of lighter craft, cruisers and destroyers, were also limited.

More important, however, have been the tasks to which the British fleet has been assigned. At the outbreak of the war its task seemed fairly clear: to protect the Atlantic sea-lanes against a reasonably small German submarine fleet; to keep what there was of the German navy bottled up in Kiel; and to cooperate with the French navy in maintaining a general blockade on German ports, and a general control over all shipping bound to and from Continental ports.

With the fall of France, the burden, never light, became vastly heavier. Merchantmen bound toward Britain across the Atlantic became vulnerable to German aircraft based in Brittany, Norway and the Low Countries. Submarine shoals, guided by airplane scouts, lay in wait for convoys protected by destroyers too few for the task. Meanwhile, the scourging of the Italian fleet in Mediterranean waters demanded more and more of the heavier units of the British flotilla, and a corresponding quantity of small, protective and striking craft.

It has thus not been a deficiency of spirit, or of men, or of ability which has limited the British control of the Atlantic and the middle sea between Italy and Africa. It has been lack of ships and ship replacements which not even the receipt of American destroyers and the acquisition of merchant navies from invaded lands can fully overcome.

Now the battle of the Atlantic, as the first lord of the British admiralty has termed it, has been fully joined, and the leaks, the inadequacies of the blockade and the convoy system have become apparent in a way which can hardly be explained away by British understatement or by German hyper-boastfulness. Already the British are confident that American cruisers, destroyers and even battleships will be brought from the Pacific to guard the shipments of American war materials on their way to England; and their confidence, as any close observer of the president must realize, is by no means wholly without foundation.

Reciprocity

The American market for the American farmer has been in recent years a favorite slogan of the Grange. It was aimed rather directly at the Hull reciprocal trade agreements. The Statesman has also been critical of that program on a slightly different basis, always with the reservation that reciprocal trade is the only sustained trade possible. Other nations can't and won't buy from America unless they can sell to America.

If there is any issue in this country that the war has buried deeply even if perhaps temporarily, it is reciprocal trade. And now it looks as though the farmers are getting what the Grange sought for them—but not in a way they like.

The American market is almost the only market available to the American farmer. In the last half of 1940 exports of farm products amounted only to \$166,000,000. The nation's total exports for the year were around four billion dollars, of which little more than half a billion was in farm products. Imports amounted to 2 1/2 billion, about half in farm commodities. The percentages suggest that the farmer has a kick coming along the lines which the Statesman often pointed out when the trade program was in effect; that one industry was penalized, sometimes arbitrarily, at the expense of another. The Grange now argues more insistently than ever, that the American farmer "should be given the American market to the limit of his capacity to supply it," since no other market is open to him. But he has a greater hold on the home market than ever before; Europe is not a competitor. The American market has expanded because of the defense program and the greater speed of purchasing power. But it hasn't been able to absorb the American farmer's surpluses. He is feeling the pinch because he cannot export.

It's a lesson he may well remember when and if normal trade conditions are restored. The farmer needs an export market, which means the nation must import goods to maintain trade balances. Some of those goods will have to be agricultural, because many of the nations with which the United States wants to trade, produce no others. To some extent trade may be worked out so that competitive products are not imported. But the lesson, in part, is that the Grange's slogan is too glib, its solution too simple. It can't be done that way.

Botanist

Botanically speaking, North America is divided into seven "life zones." Five of the seven occur in Oregon, those missing being the tropical, and the semi-tropical which goes by a higher-sounding name. Zones which properly belong in the far north, nevertheless are represented on the higher levels of the Cascade range.

Oregon thus enjoys almost unlimited variety of plant life and this probably accounts for Dr. Morton E. Peck's choice of Oregon, a third of a century ago, as the field for his intensive study in this fascinating field. At any rate, no one excels him in extensive knowledge of the life that springs from Oregon soil.

Dr. Peck will at the close of the current academic year terminate his service as a classroom teacher at Willamette university. At about the same time his comprehensive "Manual of the Higher Plants of Oregon" will appear. But official retirement will only mean in his case, his friends suspect, more time to be devoted to his favorite study, and further contributions to the fund of knowledge concerning it.

Though unassuming and retiring, Dr. Peck is honored for his achievement, not only by other scientists but by his Salem neighbors.

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, March 24.—The pattern of Hitler's purposes in the Balkans is beginning to be visible through the gaseous news from German controlled areas. Clouds of confusing propaganda do no longer conceal the fact that der slick fuehrer's crafty game is working out only 50 per cent successful so far.

Hitler never wanted to fight in the Balkans. He went in to rescue the fallen Mussolini. He conceived a series of skillful diplomatic and military moves, which on the chess board, seemed certain to relieve the death-grip on his fallen mate. He has succeeded in diverting General Wavell's British troops from annihilation of what was left of Graziani's Italian army in Africa (probably half of it.) His thrust down through Bulgaria required Wavell to withdraw to Mediterranean ports and detach troops for service in Greece and possibly Turkey. (Get your map out to follow the rest of this.)

But the other half of the plan fell flat. He hoped, by threatening the unprotected Greek flank in Salonika, to cause the Greeks to withdraw their best troops from pursuit of the Italians in Albania. The sure-thing was devised in the last meeting of Hitler and Mussolini some weeks ago. Mussolini prepared a last big drive in Albania to take advantage of the weakening of the Greek lines which Hitler was to contrive for him.

The Greeks outstaked them. They sent a few of their crack troops out of Albania to Salonika, but only a few. They took the chance that Hitler was not really preparing to fight; at once in Salonika. When Mussolini fell upon their supposedly weakened lines for an easy victory, they let him have it—personally. Il Duce once learned that Greek power against him showed no noticeable results from Berlin's effort. His drive failed. He went back to Rome dejected, while Hitler warmed up this new scheme of going in directly through Yugoslavia to hold up the collapsing Italians by the trousers—personally.

When it all comes out, the story of the Greek success will make one of the most brilliant exploits of the war, even if its effect proves temporary.

The British are spoofing about the number of troops they have in Greece. It is 500 sea miles from the nearest British embarkation point in Africa to Greece. With slow transports such as are being used in the Mediterranean, the trip across cannot be made in much less than two days. Material cannot be knocked down and packed. It must be carried set up for use. In this form it requires considerable space.

If the British send 50,000 troops, they are planning to fight only a delayed action against the Germans. If they ever get 300,000 on the job (the number they claim now to have landed) you will know they intend to scrap.

If Yugoslavia has really made any kind of an agreement with Hitler, German troops will soon be moving through that country. Don't trust contrary claims. The Yugoslav government has been trying to save face with its people by allowing German equipment and hospital trains free transit, but not nazi soldiers. There is bound to be a lot of small print or unwritten understandings, and the complete sellout will be in the appendix as usual.

Yugoslavia, however, has room for only 4 or 5 German divisions at its mountainous southern front, a mere 50,000 to 75,000 men. Furthermore, the roads are not good for mechanized equipment.

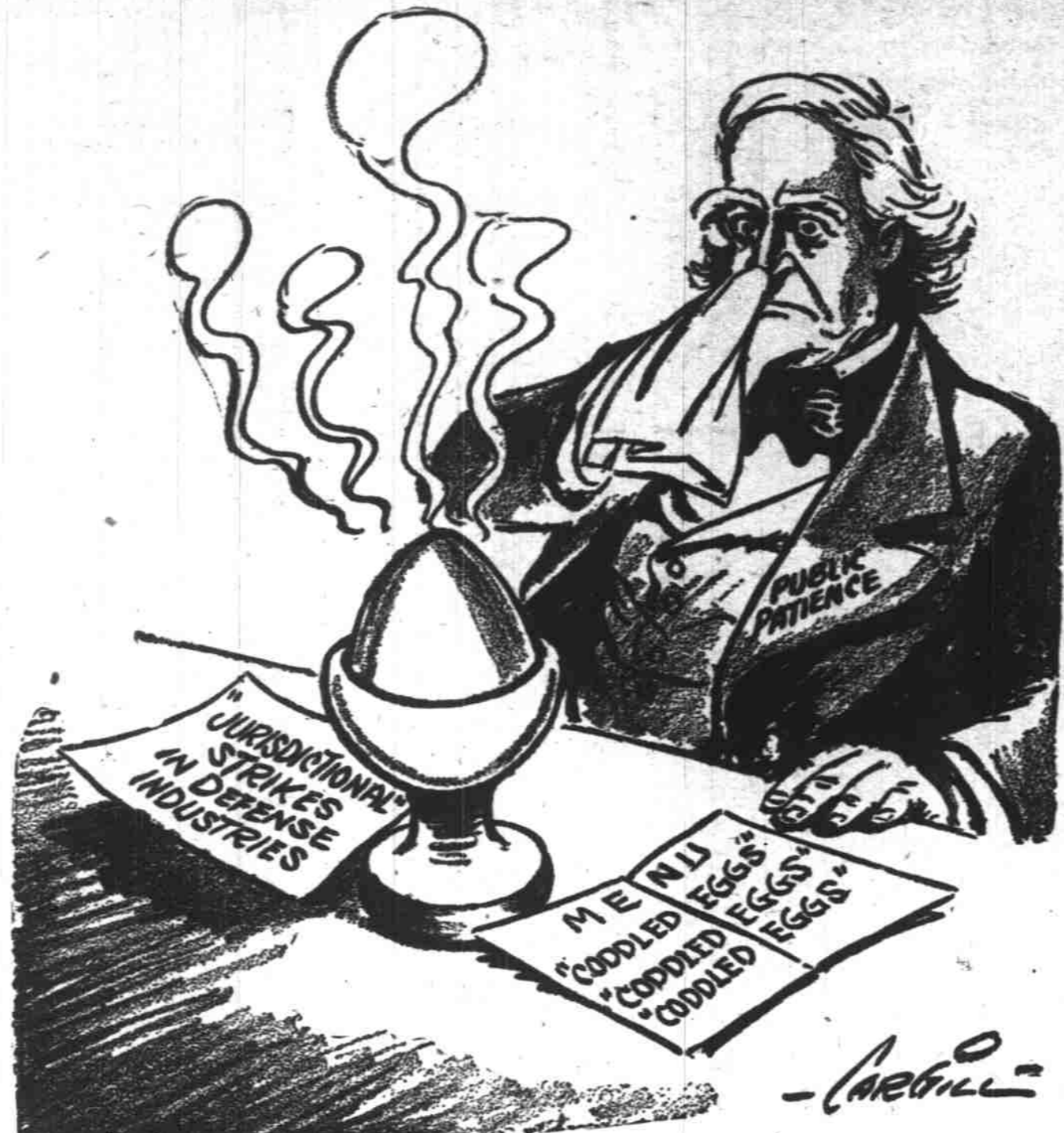
If the Turks see that the Greeks and British have a chance, they could contribute enough defensively in Salonika to enable the allies to put up a fight. With the Greeks on the left of the line, the British in the center and the Turks on the right, Hitler's army would have a job on its hands. The British weakness of a long rear line of supplies back across the Mediterranean to Africa would not appear insurmountable. They still hold all the seas around Africa so they could maintain their various enterprises with reasonable hope.

The answer to all these questions will develop in the number of men they put into Greece—which is not clear yet.

The official tune on the war is changing around here. State Assistant Secretary Barle was not just propagandizing for his St. Lawrence treaty when he said the conflict may last three more years. You hear three or four years on every official side.

The opinion has been substantiated by certain returning news correspondents who have inspected conditions in Germany over recent years, but do not feel free to say under their own names what they believe. German propaganda has been superior to the British from the start of the war and too much out of Berlin is taken in the United States at its face value. This is natural because Germany has been more successful up to now.

The new tune (wishful or not) is of dominant importance because it implies the superiority of American production (barring strikes) will have time to swing the tide.



Fed up!—Wonder What Will Be Done About It, and When?

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Reprinting some 3-25-41 building, making it necessary to move the keepsakes in the cornerstone.)

Samuel E. May was a great singer, chorister of the First Methodist church, and popular citizen. He was the second secretary of state of the state of Oregon, for two terms, 1862 to 1870, and was the grandfather of our Junior United States Senator Frederick Steiwer. (Senator Steiwer died a few years ago. His brother, Karl Steiwer, is a prominent citizen of the Looey neighborhood in southern Marion county; address, Jefferson, rural route.)

"E. J. ('Jenk') Harding was a prominent pioneer, county clerk, and brother of United States Senator B. F. Harding, serving from '62 to '65, to finish the term of Col. E. D. Baker, killed at the battle of Ball's Bluff. The widow of 'Jenk' Harding is the grand old lady of Gervais, hale and hearty, and in possession of a large body of land, the estate of her deceased husband. (Born April 14, 1838, she lived beyond the century mark; was around 100 years of age when she died.)

"Wm. M. Laughed had a meat market, in partnership with 'Pep' (Geo. M.) Stroud, afterwards for many years popular railroad conductor, and his son is still a prominent man with the traffic department of the Southern Pacific. The firm name was Stroud & Laughed. There are numerous members of both families in this section. (Benita Stroud, formerly in charge of Marion county health service, has been living here; in West Salem.)

"W. H. ('Bill') Watkins was a famous Democratic war horse. He was a harness maker here; then superintendent of the penitentiary (had that place when the cornerstone of the present main building was laid), and was afterward chief of police of Portland. He was also a whilom Democratic newspaper manager. (The first corner of the main building of the penitentiary was a few years ago torn away, to accommodate the present main

building, making it necessary to move the keepsakes in the cornerstone.)

cause he was thrifty, saved his money, and became wealthy.)

"J. L. Starkey was a prominent man in many early day enterprises. He erected and owned the Starkey block, northwest corner of Commercial and Court streets, part of which stands about as it was originally. A. A. (Amos) Starkey, his brother, was a liverman.

"A. S. Kightlinger was a carpenter and builder. His sons, Schuyler and Marion, are still residents of Salem. B. B. Hayward was an old time stage driver. In those days stage drivers were among the best known and most popular and best paid of the public servants; in a class with the railroad conductors and engineers who followed them.

"Is there any old timer who does not remember Shan Conser and Pap Stroud, conductors, and Big Jack Miller and Phil Corbin, engineers, and the first passenger train and only ones for a considerable time on the railroad running from Portland to Roseburg—the only line in Oregon? (Some of the old time railroad conductors and engineers ought to have long chapters of books devoted to them. For instance, Phil Corbin, who spent years and years as a main line engineer, and never had a wreck or near wreck—and when he was shifted to a branch line, went into the then abandoned and incomplete foundation of the Portland Hotel and killed himself with a pistol.)

"L. Hirsch was Leopold, partner of Ed. Hirsch, of the firm of L. & E. Hirsch, merchants. Ed. Hirsch was state treasurer two terms, elected in 1878, re-elected in 1882, and afterwards postmaster of Salem."

(Continued tomorrow.)

Radio Programs

- These schedules are supplied by the respective stations. Any variations noted by listeners are due to changes made by the stations without notice to this newspaper.
- 11:00—News.
 - 11:15—St. Francis Hotel Orchestra.
 - KEX-NBC-TUESDAY—1160 Kc.
 - 8:30—Musical Clock.
 - 9:00—Western Agriculture.
 - 9:15—Financial Service.
 - 9:30—Breakfast Club.
 - 9:40—Loren Center.
 - 9:50—National Farm and Home.
 - 10:00—News.
 - 10:30—Sharply We Live.
 - 10:45—Associated Press News.
 - 11:00—Dr. Army Band.
 - 11:15—Chorus of Divorce.
 - 11:30—Amanda of Honeymoon Hill.
 - 11:45—John's Other Wife.
 - 12:00—Loren Center.
 - 1:30—Mother of Mine.
 - 1:45—Market Reports.
 - 2:00—News.
 - 2:15—Art Center.
 - 2:30—Two Kings and a Queen.
 - 2:45—Cross-Road Troubadour.
 - 3:00—Loren Center.
 - 3:15—News.
 - 3:30—Teatime Tunes.
 - 3:45—Blady's Melody.
 - 4:00—Popularity Row.
 - 4:15—Dinner Hour Melodies.
 - 4:30—Tonight's Headlines.
 - 4:45—War Commentary.
 - 5:00—Alvino Roy's Orchestra.
 - 5:15—A Song Is Born.
 - 5:30—Interesting Facts.
 - 5:45—Twilight Trio.
 - 6:00—Evening Strips.
 - 6:15—Europe Tonight.
 - 6:30—Harry Secor's Orchestra.
 - 6:45—Kenny Baker's Orchestra.
 - 7:00—News Tabloid.
 - 7:15—Johnny Measner's Orchestra.
 - 7:30—South American Nights.
 - 7:45—Hits of the Day.
 - 8:00—News.
 - 8:15—Loren Center.
 - 8:30—Let's Dance.
 - 8:45—Dream Time.
 - 11:15—Koin Klock.
 - KGW-NBC-TUESDAY—620 Kc.
 - 8:30—Sunrise Serenade.
 - 9:00—Trail Blazers.
 - 9:15—News.
 - 9:30—Katie Hayes.
 - 9:45—Stars of Today.
 - 10:00—Against the Storm.
 - 10:15—David Warner.
 - 10:30—Ma and My Shadow.
 - 10:45—Between the Bookends.
 - 11:00—Kathleen's Orchestra.
 - 11:15—Hymns of All Churches.
 - 11:30—Arnold Grimm's Daughter.
 - 11:45—Valiant.
 - 12:00—Light of the World.
 - 12:15—Story of Mary Martin.
 - 12:30—Ma Perkins.
 - 12:45—Pepper Young's Family.
 - 1:00—Vic and Mollie.
 - 1:15—Backstage Wife.
 - 1:30—Stella Dallas.
 - 1:45—Loren Center.
 - 2:00—Young Widder Brown.
 - 2:15—Girl Alone.
 - 2:30—Loose Journey.
 - 2:45—The Guiding Light.
 - 3:00—Life Can Be Beautiful.
 - 3:15—News.
 - 3:30—Maureen and His Music.
 - 3:45—H. V. Kaltenborn.
 - 4:00—Richard's Orchestra.
 - 4:15—Battle of the Sexes.
 - 4:30—News Flashes.
 - 4:45—Bel Tabin Cafe Orchestra.

Today's Garden

By LILLIE L. MADSEN

E.W.—Asks if there is any special care to be given to violets.

Violets are like any other flower; they respond best to proper treatment. They like a rather heavy soil, but one that is well drained. However, it must be retentive of moisture. A good, moderately rich compost is considered best. They should have a comparatively cool place throughout the summer. March is one of the best times to take root cuttings for new starts. Double and single violets grow in about the same conditions.

P.O.—Asks if wallflower seed planted now will bloom this spring. And if they are annuals? No, they will not bloom until next spring. If you seed the plants now you must carry them over. Wallflowers are most often treated as biennials. However, they will frequently live from year to year until they are quite old plants.

M.B.—Wants to know when is the proper time to plant forget-me-not seed. July or early August. You can get plants at most of the greenhouses or florists and set them out now. They transplant readily when they are in bloom.

E.W.W.—Asks if it is too early to set out pansies and when should pansy seed be sown. Pansies may be set out anytime now. I notice they are in bloom in the nurseries and at the florists' outdoor gardens. Pansy seed should be sown in July or August.

Wotan's Wedge

By FRANCIS GERARD

Chapter Thirty-Four Continued
"Nothing, Sir John," the telephone informed him. "We had strict instructions from Mr. Halliday that the party was not to be interfered with."

"How did you discover it?"
"Tailed him, as we have been doing and actually saw him dump the body on Putney Heath."

"Who is it?" snapped Meredith.

"A lady, sir. A foreign one as had visited him before. I've got the name here, sir; I'll spell it out to you." He did so.

"Gratin Adelheid von Reinhold," repeated Meredith and shook his head. "All right. Thanks for phoning me. Will you let Sir Hector McAllister know that I shall be with him at ten thirty in his office unless I hear to the contrary? And, for heaven's sake don't let that certain party know that you're on to him!"

"We won't sir," replied the man at the Yard.
"Another thing," went on Meredith. "I've not heard from Beef. I'm worried. He promised to let me have a telegram at twelve-hourly intervals. He's more than twelve hours overdue. I want enquiries made. Discreet, you understand. I want to know if Malkyn's can tell you where he is, but I don't want these enquiries broadcast. D'you get it?"

"O. K. Sir John. I've got it all right. We'll check up pronto!"

(To be continued)

Here's the 11-Man Defense Mediation Board Set up by Roosevelt



In an effort to settle labor disputes before they can disrupt the national defense program, President Roosevelt has named an 11-man mediation board, with Clarence A. Dykstra, president of the University of Wisconsin and director of the selective service system, as chairman. Besides Dykstra, the members named are William Hammatt Davis, chairman of the New York state mediation board; Frank P. Graham, president of the University of North Carolina; George Meany, general secretary of the A. F. of L.; George M. Harrison, grand president of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks; Philip Murray, head of the C. I. O.; Thomas Kennedy, vice president of the C. I. O.'s United Mine Workers of America; Walter C. Teagle, former president of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey; Roger D. Lapham, president of the American Hawaiian Steamship company; Eugene Meyer, publisher of the Washington Post, and Cyrus Chang, vice president of the United States Rubber corporation.