

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Shape of Things to Come

The flat prediction that air power would determine the outcome of future wars—originally voiced according to some sources not by Billy Mitchell nor any other military authority but by that genius of constructive mechanical evolution, Alexander Graham Bell—has been coming true by gradual stages. In the Spanish revolution, almost forgotten though it ended less than three years ago, air power proved an efficient auxiliary arm but failed as an independent weapon of conquest. To date that has been the history of this war. Combined air and land or air and sea assaults have been successful. But the Germans while in possession of marked air superiority failed miserably in their project of smashing England exclusively by the overhead method.

This last weekend the British introduced a new technique with results which the United Nations are frenziedly applauding. Heretofore bombing alone—even our bombing of Tokyo—has been a warfare of attrition, for which perhaps a better name is "abrasion." It has been a matter of wearing down the enemy. But this bombing raid in which more than one thousand planes concentrated their destructive potential upon one city, constituted warfare of annihilation.

Cologne is, or rather was, a city of some 768,000 population; more than twice the size of Portland, almost exactly the size of Boston, somewhat larger than Pittsburgh which it resembled in industrial production. Imagine what the wiping out of Pittsburgh would mean to the United States war effort.

Tentative box scores suggest that the concentrated effort was decidedly economical in relation to its effectiveness. More than forty of the bombers were shot down—but that meant only about 4 per cent of the total force. Reasons why it should be economical are not difficult to see. German air defense forces must be widely scattered to protect all of the possible targets. A hundred fighter planes at Cologne, a hundred more at Hamburg, a larger force at Berlin and smaller ones at dozens of other possible RAF objectives can trade blow for blow, more or less, with relatively small bomber detachments and their protective fighters. But when a huge air armada concentrates upon Cologne, only the defense force there, diminutive by comparison, can oppose it. The effect of such concentration with respect to anti-aircraft defenses is quite comparable.

So the British, with American aid which this time was largely in the nature of materials and supplies but which next time may include a substantial percentage of American fliers, have introduced a new phase of aerial warfare.

The success of such forays is fairly well demonstrated in the smoking ruins of Cologne. The unknown quantity in this equation is the ability of United Nations forces to repeat and repeat again. How often can such an attack be mounted? That is the big question. If it can be done frequently enough, this technique will prove the equal in effectiveness of a major land invasion.

Anyway, the weekend news was good.

Salem's Production Curve

School's out for the summer. School boys and girls of suitable ages are turning their thoughts in the direction of jobs—and to a greater extent than ever before, at least within their experience, there are jobs to be had.

Berry harvests are beginning and for once there is no great influx of adults and transient families to compete with the young people. There is in fact the prospect that before the summer is over there will be serious shortage of workers in many divisions of the food-gathering and processing industry. The community volunteer turnout for harvest work, begun in Salem last year and now becoming a nationwide program for which Salem has received due credit, will have to be continued and expanded here this season if the crops are to be salvaged.

The truth is that in Salem and its vicinity—within the territory from which Salem draws its economic substance—there is going to be more work and more jobs than in any given period in the past. This city's permanent industries are running to capacity and to their number has been restored, to the gratification of all concerned, the sawmill which has been idle for most of a decade. The state payroll is as large as ever.

And on top of all this, there is Camp Adair. So long as the Salem residents working at Camp Adair made the daily trip in their private automobiles, their growing numbers were scarcely visible except as the heavy traffic on the intervening highways was observed. When the Salem chamber of commerce first broached its low-cost transportation plan, even some of the businessmen who pledged financial support were skeptical.

What has happened? Within a few days after service was started the busses provided in the original arrangements proved unequal to the demand; it now appears that perhaps a dozen or more will be needed. Even after construction is completed there will be need for a vast amount of civilian services to the camp.

Where are the lugubrious ones who predicted that wartime conditions would, as they did to some extent in the last war, make Salem a "deserted village?" Exactly the opposite is happening—and "we ain't seen nothin' yet."

Steel and zinc buttons are being substituted for solid brass buttons on the uniforms of enlisted men, aviation students and army nurses, the war department announces. The new buttons are coated with brass and look exactly like the old ones but use only 30 per cent of the amount of brass formerly required. Officers, it may be judged from the text of the announcement, will still wear "brass buttons." Oh well, probably they never did have that stultifying effect suggested by common use of the phrase.

Hate Schools

Anyone with rudimentary knowledge of freshman psychology should have known it would be a flop. And we fear that a good many well-intentioned officers who merely obeyed orders are so mortified they dread the sight of an enlisted man.

Someone had the bright idea of starting "hate schools" for the British commandos. Atrocious movies, "hate talks" and inflammatory slogans posted all about the place were the means. The idea was to make the men tougher and more savage.

It wouldn't have been a good thing if it had worked. A soldier who sees red isn't as effective as one who keeps his wits about him. And it wouldn't have worked even if it hadn't been so patently ridiculous. The Germans managed it—but only by catching their subjects quite young and by convincing them of a lot of things that weren't so.

The hate schools have been cancelled.

"Bring your own sugar" will be no joke, with respect to lodge and church dinners. Such institutions unless they serve at least four meals weekly, are not entitled to "institutional" sugar allotments.

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, June 1 — Inside congress a demand is arising for a singleheaded handling of gas rationing and rubber, just as strong as the movement which forced consolidation of war production under Donald Nelson with such excellent results.

Threaded all through the Truman committee report are statements attributing our tire, and hence our gas, rationing confusion to the division of authority among many government bureaus. Other mistakes are mentioned in connection with failures in every phase of the problem (stock pile, synthetic rubber, etc.).

Bickering has resulted between Jesse Jones, the war production board, Henderson, war department, Ickes and everyone else who has had anything to do with our prime civilian problem. But in every case, the committee goes back to division of authority as the root cause.

Of our failure to accumulate a rubber stock pile, the committee says there was division of authority between OPM, Rubber Reserve Corp., the RFC subsidiary, and others, adding:

"It is possible that had complete authority and responsibility been centered in the hands of a single agency, the failure might have been avoided."

Concerning the inadequacy of our synthetic rubber planning, it mentions the conflict between the old Stettinius advisory committee and the reconstruction finance corporation as causing "great difficulty in obtaining a decision."

"At the whole mess today, it concludes: Of the present time it appears the principal difficulties probably result from a lack of centralized and sole responsibility."

While the more spectacular clash of personalities involved in the committee's generous distribution of blame has been drawing most of the popular attention, this correctable cause of the whole existing muddled situation has been overlooked.

Disheartening aspect to the congressmen, however, is that a year and a half of agitation was necessary to cause centralized control of war production in Nelson, so ardently do the various officials fight to retain their authority. If it takes another year and a half before rubber and gas are put under single control, the war could be over.

The unsatisfactory state of rubber affairs in the government was illustrated again when President Roosevelt promised early solution by manufacturing tires other than rubber.

Around the war production board and the other government bureaus dealing with rubber, no explanation of what FDR had in mind was available. It was said politely that the president was probably just talking offhand (meaning he did not know what he was talking about).

About 25 or 30 ideas for making wood, tarred rope or steel spring tires without rubber have been submitted to the national inventors council, but no government rubber authority believes these will solve the situation.

The other officials swear the public cannot expect tires of any kind for at least two or three years. They say the only possible solution is synthetic rubber, because no more than 40,000 to 50,000 tons a year is possible from Brazil.

They are pushing the Butadiene process as fast as they can, but if they succeed in all their plants, they say they can furnish only enough tires for military and essential civilian (police, ambulance, etc.) use.

Even Donald Nelson was caught short by the president's optimism. His pessimistic statement (founded on above mentioned facts) reached the public just before Mr. Roosevelt spoke, and Mr. Nelson thereupon emerged from his political, but not his rubber, difficulties by adding that he also hoped American ingenuity would save the situation.

Here again was a perfect example of division of authority resulting in chaos.

So also with the administration of gas rationing. Practically everybody has been speaking his official piece to the public. Even Assistant War Secretary Patterson issued a public warning a couple of weeks back, although no one seems to know exactly how he got in on that particular subject.

As matters stand now Petroleum Coordinator Ickes keeps track of oil and gas (censoring the figures also) and then tells Donald Nelson or Nelson's Transportation Coordinator Eastman about it, and this party or these parties of the second part pass the word on to Leon Henderson, the party of the third part, who does the rationing through his organization.

Certainly gas rationing lacks singleheaded authority, just as rubber.

If one man could be appointed to run either or both, and all the rest told to shut up, existing confusion would at least be ended and a straight-line policy would be possible.



1500 Years Doesn't Seem to Have Convinced Anybody

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. All radio stations may be cut from the air at any time in the interests of national defense.

- KSJM—TUESDAY—1390 Kc. 6:30—Rise 'N Shine. 7:00—News in Brief. 7:30—Rise 'N Shine. 7:30—News. 7:45—Your Gospel Program. 8:00—Jerry Sears Orchestra. 8:30—News Briefs. 8:35—Music A La Carter. 9:00—Pastor's Call. 9:15—Harry Owens Orchestra. 9:30—Stan Kenton's Orchestra. 10:00—World in Review. 10:05—Musical College. 10:30—Women in the News. 10:35—Melody in Miniature. 10:40—Lud Gluskin's Orchestra. 11:00—Rus Morgan's Orchestra. 11:30—Melodic Moods. 12:00—Ivan Dimars. 12:15—News. 12:30—Hillbilly Serenade. 12:35—Willamette Valley Opinions. 1:00—Lum and Abner. 1:15—Tune Tabloid. 1:30—Sing Song Time. 1:45—Melody Mart. 2:00—Sing Song Time. 2:15—Salem Art Center. 2:30—Herb Jeffrey's Songs. 2:45—Isle of Paradise. 3:00—Broadway Band Wagon. 4:15—News. 4:25—Interlude. 4:30—Teatime Tunes. 5:00—Here Comes the Band. 5:15—To the Ladies in White. 5:35—Dinner Hour Music. 6:00—Tonight's Headlines. 6:15—News Analysis. 6:20—Evening Serenade.

Editorial Comments

DAMNING EVIDENCE

Continued maintenance of WPA administrative personnel in Oregon, on a scale comparable to that believed necessary during previous years when the rolls were several times what they are today, was criticized here this week by David Eccles, former state budget director. Eccles insisted WPA not only clings to the army of paid help in the Portland office but refuses to yield any of the agency's three and one-half floors in the Bedell building to requests for space from the state price and rationing boards, new agencies created by war demands.

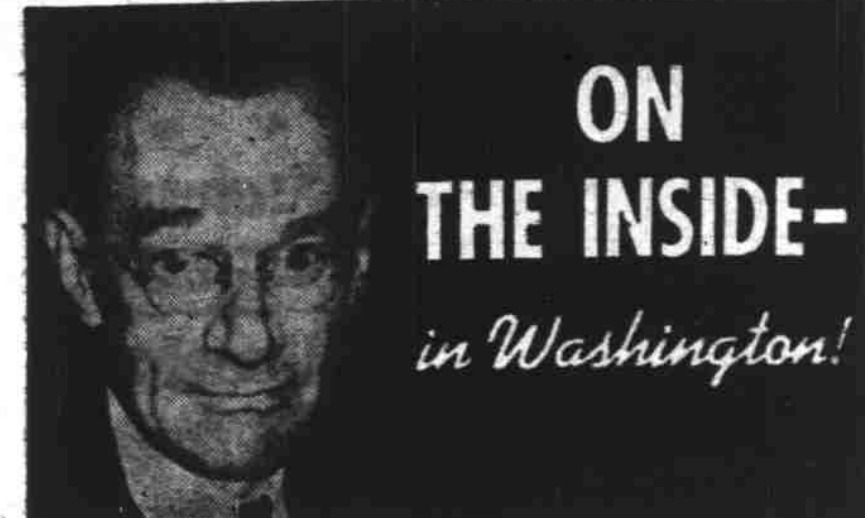
Eccles suggested that probably most of the 10,000 persons remaining on WPA in this state could be absorbed by the state and county welfare commission. It is known that many of these people are unemployable, for one reason and another, and may not be assimilated by private business or industry, even though the demand for help is high. Thus it may be assumed there is a place for the federal work agency even today in government, provided that place is justified by its relation to other considerations of necessity, expense and convenience.

However, no matter how tolerant and liberal the view on continuation of WPA, it is manifestly preposterous to maintain an administrative framework for operation of a program on a high-load scale, when the program itself has been slashed to a fraction of its previous size. The criticism need not rest on ethical or political grounds, but is justly made from the point of common sense and simple business judgment. Furthermore, to charge unnecessary administrative offsets against WPA projects now considered vital to national defense, amounts to an unnecessary sacrifice of very vital funds for the job at hand.

Incidents such as this add damning evidence to the case against bureaucracy that attempts to perpetuate itself regardless of whether or not its existence in government is justified by the function assigned to it. No one may be expected to believe, very sincerely or for any length of time, that men practicing this sort of thing are working in the public interest.

—Astorian-Budget.

- KEK—NBC—TUESDAY—1390 Kc. 6:30—News. 6:35—National Farm and Home. 7:00—Men of the Sea. 7:15—Breakfast club. 7:30—Home Makers' Half Hour. 8:30—Kendall Hall. 8:40—Household Hints. 8:50—Fit Club With Patty Jean. 9:00—Children in War Time. 9:15—Jimmy Blair, Singer. 9:30—The Old Masters. 10:00—Baukhage Talking. 10:15—Second Husband. 10:30—Men of the Sea. 10:45—John's Other Wife. 11:00—Just Plain Bill. 11:15—Between the Bookends. 11:30—Stars of Today. 11:45—Keep Fit With Patty Jean. 12:00—News and Highlights. 12:15—War Livestock Reporter. 12:30—Market Reports. 12:45—Men of the Sea. 1:00—News Headlines and Highlights. 1:15—Club Matinee. 1:30—News. 2:00—The Quiet Hour.



By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
Wide World War Analyst
For The Statesman

A funeral pyre befitting the thousand British dead of Coventry has been lighted at last by their countrymen in the heart of the German Rhineland to assure them that they did not die in vain.

They waited long, those men, women and children who sleep in common graves in England's midlands. Nazi airpower seemed the unchallenged master of even English skies that November night 18 months ago when death rained down on them from above.

Yet this June day the smoking ruins of what once was Germany's great industrial city of Cologne, bomb-blasted as no other city has ever been, give evidence of more than vengeance. They prove that the deadly right arm of Hitlerism, its air arm, has been matched and exceeded.

Cologne was Coventry over again, but trebled or quadrupled. A thousand British bombers freighted with gigantic missiles carried the ruthless war to Germany as against perhaps 500 Nazi ships which shattered Coventry that November night in 1940 in Britain's blackest hour.

And tomorrow, when American battle planes supplement Britain's mighty armada, it may be 2000 or 3000 ships a night that wing their way to stamp out Hitlerism in Germany by city. The terror nazism loosed upon a peaceable and unready world is being slowly but certainly rolled back upon its author from the west and from the east.

For implicit in the Cologne bombing and frantic Nazi efforts to disguise its true proportions from the German people is the same lesson that can be read now on the Russian front and in Libya. The initiative, the power of surprise, has been wrested from Hitler's grasp. He can no longer mass crushing overwhelming power by air to deal swift and stunning

blows on a chosen front before allied strength to stem his victory tide can be rallied to meet him.

Twice now since the coming of spring in Europe the Germans and their Italian puppets have struck out to regain the mastery that the initiative gives in war. In the eastern Crimea and then in eastern Libya their offensive blows have been quickly muffed by allied counter action.

The battles in Russia have simmered away to slow motion to leave Russian armies in the Kharkov - Krasnodar - Izyum bulge, not the Germans on reconquered Kerch isthmus, masters of the strategic situation in the Ukraine. The door to the vital Caucasus appears still firmly closed in Hitler's face.

In Libya a Nazi-fascist diversion attack has been sucked into a dangerous British trap, according to reports from Cairo, and is already seeking escape westward. A broad British counter-offensive is hinted at, although there is room for doubt that it will be launched in the near future.

Such a campaign would draw British forces away from the eastern Mediterranean, and might imperil Suez. It seems more important that General Rommel's forces be shattered beyond all hope of early aggressive action than that he be driven out of the Libyan hump immediately.

However, surveying the situation on all three active fronts at the moment, from Cologne to Libya and to the Ukraine, one thing is becoming crystal clear. Hitler's failure to achieve air control in Libya and in southern Russia, even though he transferred large aerial forces from Germany itself and his vast conquered area of the continent, has thus far been his undoing. It is he, not the allies, who seem to be suffering now from dispersion of air strength on too many tasks. And that could prove the beginning of the end for him.

'Crime at Castaway'

By EDITH BRISTOL

Chapter 28 Continued

The night light burned dimly in the upper hall. That meant they were still out. I closed my door and crept back to the window, still straining my ears for the sound below.

Now I knew what it was. It was someone breaking into the locked cabinet in Walter Gregg's study. The cabinet where the business papers were filed. How long ago it seemed that I had filed them there.

I could feel my heart pounding so hard it seemed to me whoever was downstairs could hear its beat. My pulse pounded in my ears and my cheeks burned with excitement.

The upstairs telephone was in the hall—if I called for help, the intruder would get away. If I only had that gun Miss Baldwin had talked about!

The rasping of metal continued, now loud, now softer below me. If I was going to act, I must act quickly before the marauder finished his job and was gone. I acted.

I acted—but I acted on impulse. And foolishly enough, as it turned out.

I tiptoed across my bedroom and carried my bedside lamp, unlighted, to the window ledge. There I tipped it so it would throw a beam straight on the window below—and anyone escaping through the window would pass through its light.

Then I fumbled in the drawer of my dressing table—it takes longer to tell than it did to do it—for something hard that I could throw. Something solid and not too large. My vanity compact—the very thing!

Leaning out the window I took careful aim at the pane beneath me—there was just enough pale moonlight for that—moving so stealthily that I knew I would not alarm the intruder until he felt the crash of my round metal missile.

I'd smash the glass, he must run out and, as he did so, I'd switch on my light and see who it was. I counted on his leaving, as he must have come, through the window and not by way of the house nor through the long windows of the passage opening on the patio.

running across the gravel of the yard. A motor picking up and an automobile moving away. Domino was barking by this time—I am sure it was the sound of the shattering glass and not the presence of the intruder that disturbed him—Martha came running upstairs with Ace and Deuce pattering behind her.

(To be continued)

Today's Garden

By LILLIE L. MADSEN

Many inquiries concerning calla lilies have been reaching me recently. Particularly as to their adaptability out of doors. They do very well out of doors in the Willamette valley and even much better at the beach cottages. The cool moist air of the ocean side seems to suit them best.

But I have seen some very good clumps in the valley this spring. Plant them in a rather sheltered spot, give them rich soil and do not let them dry out during their blooming period—usually in May. This last seems rather superfluous this spring, but there are Mays in which irrigation will have to be resorted to if the callas are to be at their best. There are a number of clumps around which are 15 to 20 years in age, so it would seem they will withstand our winters very well. Good blooming-sized bulbs should not cost over 25 cents and they multiply comparatively rapidly if the soil is favorable. It should not be too heavy and drainage should be good.

H. A. reports that she marked some wild trilliums and wants to know if they can be moved now.

Answer: It would be better if she waited until the foliage began to wither down. If the bulbs are well marked there should be no difficulty in finding them. Remember they grow rather deeply. And in planting them in your own garden find a place somewhat similar to their natural habitat. Give them good loose soil filled with leaf mold.

How Your Congressman Voted
on Major Measures affecting War Policies will be told exclusively in
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