

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sweeps Us; No Fear Shall Awe" From First Statesman, March 23, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING CO.

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, President

Member of The Associated Press

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Speaking of Floods . . .

To residents of the lowlands along the Willamette, to the owners of property there, to persons who can't go where they want to go because highways are under water, this present flood is a serious matter.

To the rest of us, though we do not lack sympathy for those discomfited, it is a show. Many of us went down to the river bank to take a good look.

Going to the river was a shorter trip than it has been at any other time in recent years and the longer one waited, the shorter the journey.

Strictly for the purpose of supplementing enjoyment of the flood "show" by affording a basis for comparing this flood with Salem's worst, and taking into account that not everyone in the vicinity has accurate information on the subject—we've heard the story pooh-poohed in recent days—and hoping no one is seriously worried, we take the liberty of quoting a reliable version of the 1861 flood; the story as related in the 1871 Salem city directory:

About the 1st of December, 1861, the most disastrous flood that ever occurred in Oregon was experienced.

The water was sufficiently deep, near the courthouse, to swim a horse.

The flood destroyed a great quantity of property in Salem. B. M. Durelle had a fine steam sawmill washed away; Brown & Rector lost a cider manufactory; and a warehouse containing a vast amount of wheat, apples and other produce was swept away.

Hundreds of horses, cattle and other stock were drowned throughout the valley and many persons lost their lives, and entire farms were swept clear of every vestige of improvement.

The steamer Enterprise, if we remember aright, came up the river to render assistance to any and all who might be found. When the boat arrived at this place, she had on board several persons who had been taken off house-tops and trees where they had climbed to safety.

The great flood was not confined to Oregon alone, but at the same time California and Washington Territory were suffering the same disasters.

Elsewhere it has been related that the "Enterprise" or some other steamer "docked" in the general vicinity of the courthouse.

The 1860 flood waters reached the courthouse grounds; those of 1861 swept farther, to the edge of the university campus.

Government engineers asserted, after surveying the Willamette river's flood potentialities six years ago prior to approval of the Willamette Valley Project which now is sidetracked due to the war, that the "expectancy" of such a flood as that of 1861 is "once in a hundred years"—nevertheless a comparable flood occurred 29 years later.

With Giraud asserting that the dozen persons arrested at his order include some who backed Vichy and some who cooperated with the Americans in paving the way for the occupation of North Africa, and that these men were merely put in jail "to cool off," the picture becomes even more confused.

But it helps toward an appreciation of this last-mentioned situation, to recognize that in the viewpoint of a DeGaulist, anyone who cooperated with Vichy is a traitor.

than that. Government "by the people" has not, for any such period as in the United States, been a thing Frenchmen could take for granted.

Though we can understand their viewpoint, for the sake of the objective it is to be hoped that Frenchmen will forget their internal differences and pull together for victory—and let the future wait.

Defrauding the Fighters

Charges brought against the Anaconda Wire and Cable company alleging that inferior wire was furnished to the military forces, wire to be used for purposes such that its failure might cost innumerable lives, are not yet proven in court; therefore all that may fairly be said, is that if the charges are true, anything that might be said of condemnation would be too weak.

Indeed Attorney General Biddle may be fully justified—if the charges are proven—in his declaration that this is "one of the most reprehensible cases of defrauding the government and endangering the lives of American soldiers and sailors ever to come to the attention of the department of justice."

But in so declaring, he takes in a lot of territory. Some gigantic frauds have been perpetrated upon the armed forces in America's greater and lesser wars.

So—regardless of the outcome of the Anaconda case, it seems fair to observe that government has profited from past mistakes with the result that frauds of the sort here alleged have become much rarer.

Here's a Christmas card from Walt Lebegood. Beg pardon, it's Lieut. Lebegood of the 35th Engineer regiment.

Editorial Comment

From Other Papers

FARM RELIEF PROGRAM

The War Manpower Commission and the Department of Agriculture have outlined a program for the relief of American farmers.

Generally speaking, the idea depends on a full-time mobile army of experienced farm workers which can be moved around the country at federal expense to supplement local manpower as crops mature.

Certainly the whole scheme will collapse unless the 48 states are induced to revoke or suspend those statutes—adopted originally to protect their wage-earners against competition from outsiders—that would make impossible the complete mobility upon which the new farm relief plan depends.

Many ideas just as promising as this one have flopped because nobody did anything to effectuate them. Others have failed because too many persons did too much, all different. This led to chaos.

The farm manpower relief outline does credit to Commissioner McNutt as a practical planner. Now it remains to be seen how good the Hoosier will prove as an administrator.

Meanwhile the farmers themselves have an immediate job. Mr. McNutt cannot succeed unless the legislatures of most states co-operate by relaxing crippling legal barriers to labor mobility.

THE CHAIR STILL ROCKS

"Mac" and "Ma" after surveying the chair called "war wages," decided that some repair work would have to be done.

They then called on "The Boss" for instructions and set about to repair the production salary chair.

The "Repairman" looked up in disgust and replied, "During times like this you are lucky to have a chair at all. This is the way 'the boss' told us to fix it and the common taxpayer like you should shut up and like it!"—Jefferson Review.



Wonder What a Lifeguard Thinks About?

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 any time in the interests of national defense.

"Golden Lady"

By CLARENCE BUDINGTON KELLAND

Chapter 39 Continued "Ain't I the lucky one?" "Well," said Darnley, "now that we have that point settled, what do you want?"

"I just want to know how you meeked that coat out of the studio and what you did with it?" "I didn't," stressed Darnley.

"You 'n' Miss Shafto," said the detective. "Tell him," piped Jerry's voice from the bedroom, "that he's all wet!"

Darnley's lips pressed together and her little jaw set. She was more angry than frightened now. "Did you ever," she asked, "hear of a thing called a bluff?"

"I've heard of almost everything. You do, in my business." "Grandpa Carfax used to say," said Darnley, "that you could tell a second-rate poker player by the way he bluffed the wrong people."

"Miss Carfax," purred the lieutenant, "the police always get the facts in the end." "In manner was that of a patient schoolmaster trying to explain to a backward pupil."

"Let me see, isn't there something about false arrest? I mean, doesn't it cost money to do it?" countered Darnley. "It's been known to," the detective admitted.

"Is it a pinch?" Jerry asked, emerging from the bedroom. "Because if it is, I want my lawyer."

"It isn't," said Darnley. "The lieutenant is trying to make—" Suddenly her face lighted and she clapped her hands upon her knees. "I knew I'd remember. I know who that man was."

"What man?" "The one I saw this afternoon coming out of an elevator." "Coming out of what elevator and going into where?"

Darnley frowned. She did not answer immediately while she considered all the implications of that man going into Lacey Gorse's studio.

"I'm studying whether it's time to tell you," she said. "You were posing this afternoon?"

"Yes, for Leonard Sneed in the Maritime Building!" "Maritime Building, eh? What floor?"

"Even at Hitler's dubious New Year's assurance to the German people that this winter could not possibly be harder for them than the last was being proclaimed, Moscow versions of the Don-Caucasus battle indicated developments were giving it the lie direct."

They pictured the divisions for the first time, 22 axis divisions cut off in the Stalingrad salient. They told also of lashing new soviet advances southward below the Don to reach its many Caucasian tributary and its frozen lake chain.

The Russians seemed to have reached or turned the last Don tributary line to the south offering axis defensive possibilities to guard southern approaches to Rostov as the Donets position would guard it from the northwest. There is a deadly menace to the whole Nazi Caucasian salient in the one-day 40-mile forward jump of the foe to approach Salsk and its direct rail connection with Rostov from the southeast.

Completely and deeply invested by soviet advances which have forged a multiple ring around it, the Stalingrad salient has lost that flank protection value for the Caucasus drive as much as though it had been withdrawn or had collapsed. It has made a potential death trap for an estimated 300,000 axis troops caught in the pocket. At no time last winter did any such disaster threaten Hitler.

The very speed of the Russian thrust to the Manych indicates a critical weakness in Nazi dispositions in that sector, south of the lower Don, to guard the approaches to Rostov. Russian generalship appears to have out-guessed the foe again. It opened its many-pronged Don attack by every indication at Stalingrad itself, then struck far up the Don to begin the encirclement march. The front now has been widened southward until the Hitlerites are under attack almost everywhere along the snow swept, barren steppes for a distance of 400 miles or more.

Hitler's New Year's proclamation was his most defensive utterance, a new apology to his hearers for being in the war at all. It spoke of his peace efforts "curtly trod down" by his foes.

By every word and phrase Hitler revealed his own knowledge of a growing yearning for peace in Germany. He sought to combat it as he so often has before by saying that the war had been forced upon him and was not of his making. That he is also worried by the rising talk among high placed united nation spokesmen of after-the-victory plans is obvious. It may be infiltrating into Germany for all his efforts to bar it out.

"Germany is an unmitigable object for such experiments," he said.

But whatever Hitler said, however he said it or why he said it, events in Russia are too clearly pointing to an impending tremendous crisis for the facts long to be hidden from the German people.

Interpreting the War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON

Wide World War Analyst for The Statesman

Tune in KSLM Sunday

8:15-9:30 A. M. Spiritual Interlude

9:30-10:00 P. M. Back Home Hour

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