

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING CO.

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

Member of The Associated Press

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this newspaper.

## Western Front

Every utterance of a responsible statesman or military leader of the United Nations has a double meaning; or perhaps double purpose is better. One is the meaning intended for the home folk, the other the meaning intended for the enemy. Thus when Secretary Stimson predicts heavy losses in impending army action he means to steel the American people for just that thing; but he also means to jangle the nerves of the enemy, to keep him guessing and worried. And when Prime Minister Churchill declares the allied purpose to carry on aggressive world-wide offensives against the axis powers to make them "burn and bleed" he not only sounds a victory call for the peoples of the United Nations, he rasps the nerves of the enemy who take down and weigh every word which he utters.

It is true that these predictions of doom for the axis are not always immediately fulfilled. The promises of sustained and devastating air raids on the continent have not been performed in the degree anticipated; but they have come with a frequency and a magnitude which leave destruction and terror in their wake. Some day bigger furies will be unleashed. And some day, surely some time this year the allies will seek to establish a front on the continent.

Speculation as to the time and place will be rife, but the secret will be closely held just as long as possible. The various fronts suggested have advantages and disadvantages. We might review them briefly:

First, direct attack across the English channel either on France or through the Low countries. The raid at Dieppe while not in full scale was one of real power. It proved a costly failure,—or a success if it demonstrated that a real attack must be supported with overwhelming might. This approach is the shortest. Airplane and naval strength could be used most effectively. Parachute troops could be dropped behind the lines in large numbers. An early effect of such a landing would be the pinching off of the submarine bases along the French coast. The road to Berlin would be the shortest, but probably the toughest, with the Maginot line reversed and the Siegfried line to groin.

Second: Norway. This would be difficult because of the rugged nature of the Norwegian coast. The only immediate military gain would be the elimination of German naval and air bases which harass the routes to Russia and the British Isles. It would be an insecure foothold for an attack on Germany proper.

Third: From the south. The under-belly of Europe is not soft, so far as terrain goes. Fortune magazine for January published a map with descriptions showing how well Central Europe is defended from the South. The Pyrenees bar the gate from Spain; the Alps from Italy. Probably the best approach would be through Saloniki and up the Vardar river valley through Yugoslavia. The crossing to the Danube valley is easy and the terrain is well adapted for military movement. This was the back gate through which the allies entered in the first world war. Successes on this approach resulted in the capitulation of Austria and thus led to Germany's appeal for an armistice. Its difficulty lies in its distance from Great Britain and the United States. First the Mediterranean would need to be opened which would require the conquest of Tunisia, the capture of Sardinia, Sicily and Crete. The aid of Turkey in such a campaign would be invaluable.

Our guess is that the attack will be from the west, using Britain as a base, seeking a beach-head along the coast of France or the Low countries. It will be accompanied by a massing of aerial and naval might of tremendous proportions, combining blast with blitz, making an attack in depth to prevent the converging of defense forces. If such an attempt is made it will be costly, but perhaps less expensive in time and men than attack at the end of a long sea arm. Wherever and whenever it comes, we must bear our share of the cost, realizing that is the only way to make Germany "burn and bleed."

## Suspend Milk Control

Fixing of fresh milk prices by state authority was initiated in depression days when dairymen were suffering from the plague of low prices and excess production. The control which was established in 1935 did work to the advantage of the majority of producers and distributors. The price was regulated by a control board, from producer to consumer. Producers were allotted quotas of certain markets, which became their "basic", a franchise which came to have definite market value.

At the present time there is no excess production of milk either for the fluid market or factory use. Prices are now controlled by the federal OPA, which not only controls the retail selling price but has put a limit on the price paid the distributor. In the principal markets quotas are now meaningless because the bars have been let down and most anyone who can serve can get on the market. Surplus is no longer a vexing problem because of factory demand for cheese, evaporated milk, milk powder and butter. Rationing is in prospect for butter because of limited supplies.

In this situation state milk control renders no important and essential service. Its maintenance constitutes an unnecessary expense to be borne by the dairy industry. It just doesn't make good sense to continue this as a fifth wheel of government under existing conditions. The bill of Rep. John Steelhammer to suspend milk control for the duration of the war and six months thereafter is reasonable and desirable. Its adoption would be a wise settlement of the present problem of what to do with milk control and the control board.

The trouble with the German generals is that their rulebook on war fails to tell them how to retreat. That's quite as important in warfare as going forward—sometimes. The Russians handled their great retreats in 1941 and 1942 with amazing skill, preserving their lines, preventing break-throughs, and saving their

armies. Now their armies come back to press the offensive. Hitler had his troops stay in Stalingrad and the Caucasus until retreat was too late. Now his lines are crumbling rapidly.

Saturday's all day rain amounted to only a little over two inches. The transplanted Californians at Camp Adair who have been chiding us about this "unusual" weather should read about Southern California. The rainfall in a 24-hour period in the hills back of Pasadena amounted to 25.83 inches breaking all previous records in this country. Compared with that our Oregon rains have only been heavy dew.

Multnomah's Rep. Leo Smith is wrong sometimes, but is entitled to an orchid for courage. Bucking the current nationalist trend, he opposed a provision in the optometrists' bill which denies non-citizens the right to practice.

## News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

(Distribution by King Features Syndicate, Inc. Reproduction in whole or in part strictly prohibited.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Mr. Morgenthau's tax counsel, Randolph Paul, has taken the smart lawyer's way of balling-up the house ways and means committee about the Ruml plan and pay-as-you-go. He has done a good job of it.

The committee is bewildered and the public, no doubt, is also. Mr. Paul got his training as a member of a large New York firm of tax lawyers and is supposed to have made a fortune working on that side of the street. Coming to the treasury last year, he indicated he intended to use just as much strategy and just as many tricks on the government side.

What he devised as a substitute for the Ruml plan confirms his promise, although no one, except a corporation lawyer, could present it without laughing. He has suggested to the committee, with a straight poker face, that the way to put taxpayers on pay-as-you-go, in the face of these unprecedented war taxes, is to double the payments this year.

Actually, his plan to ease the problem of whether these war taxes can be collected, is to collect two years in one, making 1942 and 1943 taxes payable this year, minus 10 per cent. Only those with incomes under \$2000 a year would fall to have their taxes approximately doubled. To ameliorate the suffering, he would increase the nation's load 81 per cent.

Not even Mr. Paul can believe that this could be done, but he has found a high-placed champion of his cause. It so happens that chairman Doughton of the committee actually saved last year his taxes for this year and he has them in the bank. It would be no hardship for him to pay two years in one, and he thinks everyone else should have saved similarly. So he is backing Mr. Paul, with a sympathetic substitute.

The treasury did not advance its proposal for another 81 per cent increase in taxes for this year as a formal plan. A smart lawyer would never do that, in the face of public enthusiasm for Ruml.

He doesn't even officially oppose the Ruml plan, and professes to believe in pay-as-you-go. He merely let himself be called as a witness and offered the doubling idea as a "suggested substitute" for Ruml.

Unfortunately, the tax lawyers representing the public on the ways and means committee have not had as much experience as Mr. Paul. Suspicion and confusion have been spread among them.

The administration has planted the suspicion that the Ruml plan would favor the rich (over \$2000) in some way or another not sufficiently evident to be presented clearly and forcefully. The committee, in turn, has become suspicious of Mr. Paul's sincerity in backing pay-as-you-go.

What will come out of it, nobody knows. The only thing certain to an observer is the fact that the whole system of war taxation has not been efficiently organized to get the most money with the least suffering.

Neither the treasury nor congress has been able to furnish the leadership for devising new methods, but merely continued to increase old taxes more and more each year toward the breaking point.

A simple solution for the conspired confusion over the Ruml plan would be to simplify it still further. Let Mr. Ruml eliminate the feature of his plan requiring the taxpayer to balance up with the treasury in 1944 on the basis of earnings this year.

Then the taxpayer would pay this year exactly as at present on the basis of earnings made last year, but let it be called this year's taxes. Let each taxpayer in future years pay similarly on the basis of his previous year's earnings.

Eliminate only his obligation of being always a year in debt to the government. When he dies, or his earnings otherwise cease because of illness or unemployment, let his tax obligation cease. Or if his income is diminished let his tax obligation diminish as of the same date.

This would put the nation on a pay-as-you-go plan devoid of unprovable suspicions. It would help the man unable to pay his taxes, but not the man whose income justifies taxes—unless he die, become ill or unemployed, or otherwise suffer reverses.

The man whose income is increasing might get what Mr. Paul would call an "advantage" out of delaying a year in paying increased taxes, but that is largely a lawyer's theoretical prospect, as the national facts of the situation suggest income now is at its believed peak, and will start declining as soon as the war is over.

The advantage in truth, therefore, would still be generally on the side of the treasury—where the treasury always seems to want to keep it. Goering tried to frighten Russians and the world by saying Stalin was now throwing in his last reserves and the nazis would be ready to strike back with a great spring offensive. Do not sit up and wait for it.

Last year, the promised German spring offensive was delayed until fall. This year it may be delayed even longer.

Declining German production and manpower reserves make the chance of the Germans rallying power for another Russian drive almost impossible to conceive.

Some military men think Hitler has stores of planes hidden away for a final concentration of defensive effort, but there is no doubt he is at the bottom of his offensive barrel.



Down to the Heel.

## Radio Programs

KSLM—SATURDAY—1300 Kc.

- 7:00—News in Brief.
- 7:05—Rise 'n' Shine.
- 7:30—News.
- 7:35—Four Gospel Program.
- 8:00—Eaton Boys.
- 8:30—News Brevities.
- 8:35—Tango Time.
- 9:00—Pastor's Call.
- 9:15—Dickson's Melody Mustangs.
- 9:20—Popular Music.
- 9:45—Uncle Sam.
- 10:00—World in Review.
- 10:05—Song Parade.
- 10:30—Organ, Violin, Harp Trio.
- 11:00—Campus Freshmen.
- 11:30—Hits of Yesterday.
- 12:00—Organalities.
- 12:15—News.
- 12:20—Willby Serenade.
- 12:35—Willamette Valley Opinions.
- 1:00—Henry King and His Orchestra.
- 1:05—Broadway Band Wagon.
- 1:30—Mildred's Melodies.
- 1:45—Harry Brewer's Novelty Orch.
- 2:00—Isle of Paradise.
- 2:15—Sincerely Yours.
- 2:30—Sing Song Time.
- 2:35—Broadway Band Wagon.
- 3:00—KSLM Concert Hour.
- 3:05—Harry Horlick's Tangoes.
- 4:15—News.
- 4:30—Teatime Tunes.
- 4:35—Johnny Richards Orchestra.
- 5:15—Let's Reminisce.
- 5:20—The Quintones.
- 5:25—Tonight's Headlines.
- 6:15—War News Commentary.
- 6:30—Silver Strings.
- 6:35—Wilson Ames.
- 7:30—Memory Timekeeper.
- 8:00—Haven of Rest.
- 8:30—Old Songs.
- 8:35—John Galt's Orchestra.
- 9:15—The Woman's Side of the News.
- 9:30—Wartime Women.
- 9:35—Let's Again.
- 10:00—News.
- 10:15—Stars of Today.
- 10:20—Melody in the Night.
- 11:00—Journal Juniors.
- 11:30—Concert Gems.
- 12:25—Bridges to Farm Front.
- 12:30—News Valley Folks.
- 1:00—From Rigadon to Rhumba.

KALE—MBS—SATURDAY—1330 Kc.

- 6:45—Good Morning Club.
- 7:00—News.
- 7:30—Wilson Ames.
- 7:30—Memory Timekeeper.
- 8:00—Haven of Rest.
- 8:30—Old Songs.
- 9:00—John Galt's Orchestra.
- 9:15—The Woman's Side of the News.
- 9:30—Wartime Women.
- 9:35—Let's Again.
- 10:00—News.
- 10:15—Stars of Today.
- 10:20—Melody in the Night.
- 11:00—Journal Juniors.
- 11:30—Concert Gems.
- 12:25—Bridges to Farm Front.
- 12:30—News Valley Folks.
- 1:00—From Rigadon to Rhumba.

## Your Federal Income Tax

No. 33

### DEDUCTIONS FOR TAXES

Taxes are, in general, a deductible item in arriving at net income for federal income tax purposes. In the case of taxes incurred in connection with a trade or profession, the amount is shown in schedule H to arrive at net profit (or loss) from business or profession entered in item 9 of the return, Form 1040; taxes on rental property should be shown in schedule B, while other taxes deductible should be shown in item 14 of deductions. Taxes shown in item 14 must also be supported by an explanation (in schedule C) of the deduction.

The deductibility of taxes is subject to four general limitations:

1. Taxes are generally deductible only by the person upon whom they are, by law, imposed;
2. Federal income, war profits, and excess profits taxes are not deductible for federal income tax purposes;
3. Taxes for local benefits, such as assessments for street, sidewalk, sewage, and other local improvements which tend to enhance the value of the property taxed, are not deductible except amounts allocable to maintenance or interest charges;
4. The tax must be a tax for public purposes. Charges for governmental services such as municipal water bills, parking meter charges, service fees, and the like are not deductible as taxes, but are deductible as expenses if incurred in a trade or business.

In the case of state and local "sales taxes," if the amount of the tax is measured by the price of the article sold, or by a sum per unit of the article sold, and is separately stated, the amount paid is deductible by the purchaser.

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 run from the air at any time in the interests of national defense.

- 1:30—Halls of Montezuma.
- 2:00—Navy Bulletin Board.
- 2:00—I Hear America Singing.
- 2:15—Bowling Series.
- 2:30—Hawaii.
- 4:00—Just Five Lines.
- 4:30—News.
- 4:35—Arthur Ravel Orchestra.
- 5:00—American Eagle Club.
- 5:30—Norman Nesbitt.
- 5:45—Willard Trio.
- 6:00—Chicago Theatre of the Air.
- 7:00—John R. Hughes.
- 7:15—Bowie Parade.
- 7:30—Bulldog Drummond.
- 8:30—This is the Hour.
- 8:30—Churchman's Saturday Night.
- 8:45—Dick Kuhn Orchestra.
- 9:00—News.
- 9:05—Arthur Ravel Orchestra.
- 9:30—Snub Mosley Orchestra.
- 10:15—Ernie Hecker's Orchestra.
- 10:30—News.
- 10:35—Jack McLean Orchestra.
- 11:30—Snub Mosley Orchestra.

KEE—BN—SATURDAY—1390 Kc.

- 6:00—Musical Club.
- 7:00—The Cadets.
- 7:15—Mirandy of Persimmon Holler.
- 8:00—Bank of America.
- 8:00—Breakfast Club.
- 8:30—Christian Science Program.
- 8:35—Reading Is Fun.
- 9:30—Breakfast at Sardi's.
- 10:00—National Farm and Home.
- 10:30—Washington Luncheon.
- 10:45—Fantasy in Melody.
- 11:00—Metropolitan Opera Company.
- 11:30—Musical Cocker.
- 2:45—Sol Lewis, Country Editor.
- 3:00—Dinner Music Concert.
- 3:30—Message of Israel.
- 4:00—A Man and His Music.
- 4:15—Ambassador Hotel Orchestra.
- 4:45—Little Blue Playhouse.
- 5:00—Boston Symphony Orchestra.
- 6:15—Edw. Tomlinson, Commentator.
- 6:30—Spotlight Bands.
- 7:00—John Galt's Orchestra.
- 7:15—Music of Lou Bring.
- 7:30—Red Ryder.
- 8:00—Roy Porter News.
- 8:15—Danny Thomas Show.
- 8:45—Sol Lewis, Country Editor.
- 9:00—Bob Haynes Singer.
- 9:30—Helen Ernst, Organist.
- 9:45—Sports Scripts.
- 10:00—Charles Fox Orchestra.
- 10:00—National Barn Dance.
- 10:30—Can You Top This?
- 10:30—Bill Stern Sports Newsreel.
- 10:45—Dick Powell Serenade.
- 10:50—Organ Concert.
- 11:00—Truth or Consequences.
- 11:00—Abie's Irish Rose.
- 11:30—News.
- 11:30—Three Sun Trio.
- 11:30—Story Editor.
- 11:30—News.
- 10:15—Pasadena Auditorium Orch.
- 10:30—St. Francis Hotel Orchestra.
- 10:30—News.
- 11:00—Hotel Biltmore Orchestra.
- 11:30—News.
- 11:30—The Organist.
- 12:30—J. a. m.—Swing Shift.

KOAC—SATURDAY—530 Kc.

- 6:00—Music.
- 6:30—Homemaker's Hour.
- 11:00—Music of the Masters.
- 11:30—Co-ed Half Hour.
- 12:00—News.
- 12:15—Noon Farm Hour.
- 1:00—Favorite Classics.
- 1:15—Today's Commentaries.
- 1:30—Variety Time.
- 1:45—Excursions in Science.
- 2:00—Books and Authors.
- 2:15—The Marvel of Vision.
- 2:30—Memory Book of Music.
- 2:30—News.
- 3:15—Treasury Star Parade.
- 3:30—News.
- 4:15—The Band Stand.
- 4:30—Stories for Boys and Girls.
- 5:00—The Campuses.
- 5:15—On the Campuses.
- 5:30—Evening Vespers.
- 6:00—News of War.
- 6:15—News.
- 6:30—Evening Farm Hour.
- 6:45—Uncle Sam.
- 7:30—Basketball.
- 9:30—News.
- 9:45—Uncle Sam.
- 10:30—American Melodies.
- 11:30—American Melodies.

KSLM—SUNDAY—1300 Kc.

- 8:00—Langworth Foursome.
- 8:30—Gospel Broadcast.
- 9:00—News in Brief.
- 9:15—Spiritual Interlude.
- 9:30—Organ, Harp, Violin Trio.
- 9:30—Popular Music.
- 10:15—Moonbeam Review.
- 10:30—Hits of Tomorrow.
- 10:30—American Lutherian Church.
- 12:30—Langworth String Quartette.
- 1:30—News.
- 1:30—Golden Melody.
- 1:30—Young People's Church.
- 1:30—Romantic String Ensemble.
- 2:30—Isle of Paradise.

11:30—War News Roundup.

KOIN—CBS—SATURDAY—530 Kc.

- 6:00—Northwest Farm Reporter.
- 6:15—Breakfast Bulletin.
- 6:30—Texas Roster.
- 6:45—KOIN Klock.
- 7:15—News.
- 7:30—Dick Jay News.
- 7:45—Hillbilly Champs.
- 8:00—Consumer News.
- 8:15—Jackson P. Drews, News.
- 8:30—Philharmonic Concert.
- 9:00—Theatre of Today.
- 9:30—Kid Critics.
- 9:45—Voices in Song.
- 10:00—Country Journal.
- 10:30—Adventures in Science.
- 10:45—David Cheskin Orchestra.
- 11:00—Melody Time.
- 11:45—Of Men and Books.
- 12:00—News.
- 12:15—F.O.B. Detroit.
- 12:30—Hello from Hawaii.
- 1:15—Report from Washington.
- 1:15—Klippel, Peterson and Crew.
- 4:15—Modern Melody Trio.
- 4:30—Alex Kirilloff Russian Orch.
- 4:30—Old Fashioned Revival Hour.
- 6:00—Tonight's Headlines.
- 6:15—Antia Boyer and Tomboyers.
- 6:15—Langworth Gypsy Orchestra.
- 7:00—Shepherd of the Air.
- 7:30—Organ-Worship Novelty and Salon Group.
- 8:00—First Presbyterian Church.
- 8:00—News Flashes.
- 9:15—Organalities.
- 9:30—Back Home Hour.
- 10:00—News.
- 10:15—Dream Time.

KALE—MBS—SATURDAY—1330 Kc.

- 6:00—Wesley Radio League.
- 6:30—Central Church of Christ.
- 8:45—News.
- 9:00—Detroit Bible Class.
- 9:30—Safety Songs.
- 9:45—Hymn Singer.
- 10:00—News.
- 10:15—Romance of the Hi-Ways.
- 10:30—Canary Chorus.
- 11:00—Pilgrim Hour.
- 11:00—Rev. Floyd Johnson.
- 12:30—News.
- 12:45—Gems of Melody.
- 1:00—Lutheran Hour.
- 1:30—Young People's Church.
- 2:00—Catholic Revival Hour.
- 2:15—Upton Close.
- 2:30—Portland Bible Classes.
- 2:30—First Methodist Church.
- 3:30—Anchors Aweigh.
- 4:00—News.
- 4:15—Remember When.
- 4:30—Stars and Stripes in Britain.
- 5:00—American Forum.
- 5:45—Gabriel Heatter.
- 6:00—Old Fashioned Revival Hour.
- 7:00—Around the Clock.
- 7:00—Eyes on the News.
- 7:30—This is Our Enemy.
- 8:00—Hinson Memorial Church.
- 9:00—News.
- 9:15—Voice of Prophecy.
- 9:45—Sunday Serenade.
- 10:00—Old Fashioned Revival Hour.
- 11:00—Jan Garber Orchestra.
- 11:30—Ernie Hecker's Orchestra.
- 11:30—Horace Heidt Orchestra.

KEK—BN—SATURDAY—1190 Kc.

- 6:00—Soldiers of Production.
- 6:30—Jose Marais African Trek.
- 6:30—Quiet Hour.
- 9:30—Stars from the Blue.
- 10:00—Horace Heidt Review.
- 10:30—News.
- 11:00—Coast to Coast on a Bus.
- 11:45—Speaking of Glamour.
- 12:00—John W. Haycock, News.
- 12:15—Wake Up, America.
- 1:30—National espers.
- 1:30—Melody Makers.
- 2:00—Grappappy and His Pal.
- 2:30—Musical Steelmakers.
- 3:30—News.
- 3:30—Music of Lou Bring.
- 3:30—Metropolitan Opera Auditions.
- 4:00—Chaplain Jim, USA.
- 4:30—Show of Yesterday and Today.
- 4:30—Eyes on the News.
- 5:15—Fitzgerald and Four Keys.
- 5:30—Edw. Tomlinson, Commentator.
- 5:30—The Green Hornet.
- 6:30—Inner Sanctum Mysteries.
- 7:00—Good Will Hour.
- 8:00—Earl Godwin, News.
- 8:15—Jimmie Fidler.
- 8:30—Quiz Kids.
- 9:00—Ambassador Hotel Orchestra.
- 9:30—News Hearst Church.
- 9:45—Dorothy Thompson.
- 10:30—University Explorer.
- 10:30—Organ Favorites.
- 10:30—The Quiet Hour.
- 11:30—Symphony of Melody.
- 11:30—War News Roundup.

KOIN—CBS—SUNDAY—530 Kc.

- 6:30—News of the World.
- 6:35—E. Power Biggs.
- 6:45—English Melodies.
- 7:00—Church of the Air.
- 7:30—Wings Over Jordan.
- 8:30—Warren Sweeney, News.
- 8:30—Modern Moods.
- 8:30—Invitation to Learning.
- 9:30—News.
- 9:35—Voices in Song.
- 9:30—Salt Lake Tabernacle.
- 10:30—Trans-Atlantic Call.
- 11:00—Those We Love.
- 11:30—World News Today.
- 11:35—Aunt Jemima.
- 12:00—New York Philharmonic.
- 1:30—The Piano that Refreshes on the Air.
- 2:00—The Family Hour.
- 2:45—William Winter, News.
- 3:30—Edward R. Murrow, News.
- 3:45—Dear John.
- 3:45—Gene Autry.
- 4:30—Commandos.
- 4:30—News.
- 4:45—Peeland School of Music.
- 5:00—Only Yesterday.
- 5:30—William Winter, News.
- 5:45—Phil Stearns.
- 5:45—Eric Severald.
- 6:30—Radio's Readers Digest.
- 6:30—Fred Allen.
- 7:00—Take It or Leave It.
- 7:00—Report on the Nation.
- 8:30—Crime Doctor.
- 8:30—Dick Jay News.
- 8:30—The White Horse.
- 8:30—William Winter, News.
- 8:30—Leon F. Drews, Organ.
- 8:30—Mullin Club.
- 9:30—Five Star Final.

## 'Curiosity Killed a Cat'

By ANNE ROWE

Chapter 17 Continued

The Inspector didn't seem to resent her rudeness, or the omission of his title. "Also much less correct," he said placidly. "What's on your mind, Mrs. Libby—outside of bawling me out?"

"The dead man, Professor Stoddard," she snapped at him. "He came to Cliffport with a letter of introduction to me, and I sponsored him socially. How d'you think I like it, reading in the paper he was killed while trying to commit a robbery?"

"The paper didn't say that. It only hinted it looked thataway."

"That's the same. And it's a lie. He didn't. He went there because of a scientific discovery that had driven him crazy. And I mean crazy, and can prove it. Tell him, Spence!" she ordered belligerently.

The Boston physician smiled indulgently. "Gladly, my dear Grace. Only—don't you think you should proceed a little further with the er—preliminary?"

"I see what you mean." She settled herself firmly for action. "Now where'll I start? You all know about the medical dispute that almost disrupted my party last Thursday—about Robert's hands?"

The Inspector was ignorant of the incident, and Mrs. Libby sketched it briefly for him.

"And then yesterday—you remember how it poured?—when I got home from a Red Cross meeting, there is the professor, waiting for me in a perfect dither of excitement. Wanted to know how he could get hold of Dr. Woodill. Had to ask him something, urgently. In connection with Robert's hands."

"With Robert's hands? But—why all the fuss about 'em? He's had this trouble a couple years, and everyone knows it's just—something wrong with his system," the Inspector wondered.

"Maybe it is and maybe it isn't. Don't interrupt," Mrs. Libby admonished. "Anyway! I got Spence on the phone—he was only at the hospital butting in—and he promised to come right over. Now you go on, Spence." (To be continued.)

"As you wish, my dear." The

famous diagnostician leaned forward, elbows on the arms of his chair, fingertips beating a gentle tattoo against each other—a picture of professional eminence about to give a verdict. "I followed Mrs. Libby's summons immediately, and found Professor Stoddard very excited indeed when I arrived a few minutes later. It is hardly any distance at all from the hospital to Mrs. Libby's residence, you know—"

"Yes. Sure, we know. Go on," urged the inspector.

"It is almost impossible to give you a clear picture of our conversation. The man was incoherent with excitement. Only one of his many questions was clear, and that one he literally jumped at me. It was: 'Have you ever heard of the Valley of Sickness, somewhere in Central America?'"

"The what?" asked Inspector Pettengill incredulously.

And Mrs. Libby threw in triumphantly. "Didn't I tell you he was crazy?"

"I told him I had not," Dr. Woodill went on calmly. "And as a result we had to listen to a wild tale about this strange place, all mixed up with local superstitions. It was called the Valley of Sickness because anyone staying in it for a certain length of time became afflicted