

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

IT SEEMS TO ME that the rapid increase in consumption of intoxicants is very alarming. In four years in this state consumption of spirituous liquors has increased by about 60 per cent. The increase is proceeding at a more rapid rate now, subject only to the prospect of diminishing supplies.

Here are the figures for consumption of spirituous liquors as reported by the state liquor commission:

1938 1,063,313 gallons
1941 1,267,099 gallons
1942 1,659,903 gallons

The comparison for the first quarter of 1943 with previous years is as follows:

1st quarter, 1941—248,639 gals.
1st quarter, 1942—305,252 gals.
1st quarter, 1943—431,513 gals.

The trend seems to be toward the spirituous liquors and away from wines, both natural and fortified. Consumption of beer, which has the lightest alcoholic content, has shown considerable increase. The comparisons by years are as follows:

Fortified Wines
1938 775,472 gallons
1941 584,623 gallons
1942 530,592 gallons

Natural Wines
1938 271,548 gallons
1941 225,474 gallons
1942 157,027 gallons

Beer
1938 346,578 barrels
1941 416,871 barrels
1942 542,871 barrels

The cause is not far to seek: flush money and the unsettled conditions of war times. The curve of state liquor sales moves right up with the industrial and wartime payrolls, showing that when the men—and women—are in the money a bigger expenditure for liquor is made.

And the American drinkers go in for whiskey, not stopping with beer and ignoring wine. In the case of wine it is the more potent (Continued on editorial page)

Cost of Living Rise Estimated 26.1 per Cent

PORTLAND, Ore., May 22.—(AP)—The cost of living in the Portland area has risen 26.1 per cent since the start of the war. W. E. Kinsey, Oregon labor commissioner, said Saturday.

He testified at a regional war labor board hearing that increased living costs and average annual earnings should be considered in setting up minimum wage standards.

The board, seeking to determine what wage level is fair for the region, also heard testimony from farm, labor and employer representatives.

Dr. G. Bernard Noble, board chairman, said pay increases would be ordered for workers found to be in substandard levels.

Dan Hay of Salem, submitting a statement at the hearing on behalf of the Associated Employers of Oregon of which he is manager, said that in a survey among members he had found prevailing opinion in establishments employing chiefly women to be that anything less than 50 cents an hour would be a "sub-standard" wage rate in relation to cost of living.

Hay added however that taking "supply and demand" also into consideration, 60 cents an hour "would be more suitable." He estimated that living costs in Portland were 30 per cent higher than in Willamette valley cities, voiced recognition of a policy granting to women workers equal pay when taking over jobs formerly held by men, and favored a 10 cents an hour differential for cannery workers in recognition of that work's seasonal nature.

Germans Lose 44 Bombers

LONDON, May 22.—(AP)—Forty four out of a large force of German bombers and fighters which attacked Kursk, 120 miles north of Rostov, Friday morning were shot down, Moscow announced early Saturday in a broadcast recorded by the Soviet Monitor.

The Russians said their losses were 10 planes.

The enemy planes were overtaken by our fighters on the outskirts of the town," the broadcast said, "and were met with intensive anti-aircraft fire. A few raiders broke through.

Lebanon Votes 10-Mill Tax Levy

LEBANON, May 22.—(AP)—Lebanon voters approved, 161 to 39, Saturday a 10-mill levy over a five-year period to provide a \$70,000 sinking fund for improvements to the city's sewer and drainage system.

Work Stops Spread

Nation's War Effort Curtailed by Labor Negotiation Tiffs

By the Associated Press
A fresh work stoppage in the mine fields, spreading strikes in the Akron rubber factories and walkouts in Michigan's Chrysler plants curtailed the nation's war output Saturday night.

Miners quit work at four Alabama pits which supply coal for coke ovens feeding coal to the Birmingham district's steel and iron plants. The mines, normally employing 3,800 men, included three operated by the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co., a US Steel subsidiary and a shaft operated by the Sloss-Sheffield Steel and Iron Co. Company and union spokesmen attributed the strikers to protests against fines imposed by the company for unauthorized strikes April 27 to 30.

A strike of CIO United Rubber Workers spread from the Goodrich Rubber Co., and Firestone Tire and Rubber Co., to the General Tire and Rubber Co., involving upwards of 35,000 in the three plants and halting production at Goodyear and Firestone. The strikers were protesting union spokesmen said a War Labor Board decision granting them an increase of three cents an hour in basic pay, instead of eight cents an hour which had been sought by the union.

Nearly 24,000 workers were involved at six Chrysler plants, and the Chrysler tank arsenal's assembly line closed for lack of parts. Company spokesmen said about 2,000 of 14,000 on-day shifts returned to work yesterday. Union leaders have charged a breakdown in collective bargaining at the Chrysler plants; the company denied this. R. J. Thomas, head of the CIO United Automobile Workers, said he was "going to find out" who was responsible for the strike.

All workers in the Bituminous coal fields of Pennsylvania, aside from 360 at one mine, had voted to return to their jobs after a flurry of work stoppages.

A two-day-old work stoppage at the Steelton, Pa., plant of the Bethlehem Steel company ended, but 900 workers at the Crucible Steel company's La Belle plant in Pittsburg halted work. Spokesmen for the Crucible workers said they were protesting delay in obtaining a ruling by a federal agency on a contract clause.

Prisoner Exchange Expected

WASHINGTON, May 22.—(AP)—The state department announced Saturday that the Japanese government had given "reason to hope that a second exchange of approximately 1500 American civilians for an equal number of Japanese civilians held in the United States may be arranged.

Negotiations for further exchanges of Americans held in Japanese occupied territory and Japanese in the United States had been under way, the announcement said, since the first tank place last summer.

Funeral Arranged
NEW YORK, May 22.—(AP)—A lavish state funeral costing \$23,000 will be given Admiral of the Fleet Isoroku Yamamoto, the Japanese radio reported Saturday.

MASSACRE BAY, Attu Island, May 14. (Delayed)—(AP)—I met home sergeants today.

There was a first sergeant (name censored) with whom I walked a little way as he made his way back from the front line dressing station to the second line station. He wore a tag officially identifying him as a "walking around case, able to travel but not for the moment able to fight longer because of two shrapnel wounds, one in his thigh, one in his shoulder." He was a little reluctant to talk; and when he did talk, his words came painfully.

Kills 4 Japs
"I was the last man in the platoon," he said. "We were going up around the top of a ledge at night.

Dies



MRS. WM. HOWARD TAFT

Ex-President, Chief Justice's Widow Passes

WASHINGTON, May 22.—(AP)—Mrs. William Howard Taft, who during her 81 years saw her husband become president and then chief justice of the United States and one of her sons a senator, died Saturday.

Ill for a year and a half, Mrs. Taft died at her home where she had lived much of the time since she first came to the capital with her husband when he was inaugurated in March, 1909.

Mrs. Taft was credited by friends with being the political mentor for her husband, who urged him on through the various channels that led to his nomination and election as president.

Her residency in the capital was broken only once in more than 30 years, the eight-year interlude between the time she moved from the White House and the day upon which she came back to Washington as the wife of the chief justice. He served on the supreme court (Turn to Page 2—Story G)

Observation Organization Is Praised

"Astonished" by the quality of the equipment and the alertness of the civilian workers at the Willamette valley ground observation posts of the army's aircraft warning service, Maj. Ralph Millet, ground observer officer of the first fighter command (Atlantic coast), spoke of his experiences viewing the Oregon posts when he stopped briefly in the state's capital late this week.

With Col. John C. Gray, commanding the general's staff for the ground observer corps, fourth fighter command, Capt. R. Stebbins, office of air defense, Washington, DC, Lt. H. L. Young and Capt. William K. Morgan, Portland, Millet had been viewing the west coast aircraft warning service network of civilian-manned observation posts when he halted in Salem to visit the state civilian defense office and state officials.

"With your more sparse population, I had not expected to find anything like this," he said, speaking not of the marble capitol building but the ground observation post.

"A short time ago I stood beside a woman who must be 65 years old; I heard no plane but she asked us to cease our conversation and listen, and sure enough she had spotted one. Alert! That is the word for it. You may quote me as saying the setup is swell," Millet declared.

(See story on page 12.)

Red International Is Disbanded; Attu Japs Split in Three Groups

Final Battle Prepared

Nip Supply Center Blasted; Kiska Heavily Bombed

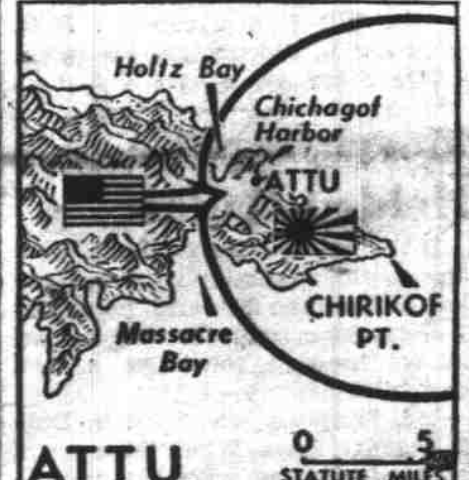
WASHINGTON, May 22.—(AP)—Triumphant American troops have split the Japanese remnants on Attu island into three isolated groups in preparation for the final battle, the navy disclosed Saturday.

This was the 12th day of fighting on the rocky island.

Fighter-bombers destroyed Attu village, apparently the enemy's supply center, Friday. A fuel depot went up in flames and other installations took fire. A church and one other structure were the only buildings that rose above the ruins of the little Aleut settlement.

The Jaanes evidently had no more intention of surrendering despite the hopelessness of their position, than they had had in other tight spots of the war in New Guinea and Guadalcanal. There was no doubt among authorities here that the fight would go on until the last enemy soldier has been blasted or bayoneted from the last fox-hole.

The navy communique today



American forces who landed on Attu island at Holtz and Massacre bays (semicircle) inflicted heavy casualties on the Japanese invaders. A Tokyo radio broadcast admitted. The navy said that advance US patrols from both sides of the island had joined (open arrow).—Associated Press Telemat.

brought the fighting up to date, covering not only the activities of

Silverton Woman Is Honored

SILVERTON—Because a Silverton woman, Mrs. George Christensen, in looking out over her garden while doing her breakfast dishes thought of her soldier son in Australia, she composed a little poem.

The little poem finally found its way into the pages of the Saturday Evening Post and now John Tasker Howard, well known composer of music in New Jersey, has written music for the poem. The song is awaiting publication.

When asked how it feels to have "rased so high" in the literary world, Mrs. Christensen turns rather diffident and answers, "Well I never—" and stops there.

Host



W. J. La ROCHE

Knights Close First Session Of Conclave

More than 180 delegates to the 35th annual convention of the Oregon Knights of Columbus ended the first day of meetings at a dinner dance Saturday night in the mirror room of the Marion hotel.

Delegates were welcomed to the convention Saturday morning by John W. Kelley, secretary of the Oregon post war planning board, who represented Gov. Earl Snell.

In the afternoon sessions of the convention the Rev. Damian Jennings, OSE, spoke on "The retreat movement in war time" and Frank Loneragan, past supreme director of the Knights of Columbus, compared the sacrifices of mothers and the bond-buying public in his address.

At 6 p. m. Saturday visiting knights were interviewed over KSLM.

Knights of Columbus members will attend a Communion Mass celebrated Sunday morning at St. Joseph's church and will later attend a breakfast in St. Joseph's hall. Rev. Martin W. Doherty, pastor of Sacred Heart church of Gervais, will be toastmaster and Joseph Bradley of Belmont, Calif., and Rev. Francis W. Black, state chaplain, will be speakers at the morning meeting.

Corp Donald Tangar, USM, who was wounded at the Guadalcanal engagement, was an honored guest of the knights for the afternoon.

W. J. La Roche, grand knight of the Salem council, was host of the convention.

Nazi Air Loss 286 in 3 Days

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, May 22.—(AP)—American warplanes, pouring new fire and destruction on axis military power across the Mediterranean, swept over ports and airfields of Italy, Sicily and Sardinia again Friday and destroyed 97 more enemy planes guarding the invasion approaches to southern Europe.

These new stabs at axis air power brought to 286 the number of enemy planes destroyed in three days. Thirty of the 97 planes bagged Friday were shot out of the sky by big US bombers and fighters and 67 were destroyed on the ground. The allies have lost 12 planes in the furious three-day offensive.

Civilians Trapped By Flood

Mississippi Breaks Illinois Levee to Inundate RR Yards

By the Associated Press
The swollen Mississippi river, gorged by flood waters from its rising tributaries, crashed through weakened barriers in southern Illinois and east Missouri late yesterday (Saturday), inundating one of the nation's largest railroad yards and trapping some 1000 civilians.

The flood waters, which already have spilled over 1,356,960 acres and made more than 100,000 homeless in six midwestern states, engulfed the Missouri Pacific railroad's Dupo, Ill. railroad yards, washed out the main line of the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio railroad and threatened the town of Dupo, whose 2082 residents were being evacuated.

Coast guardsmen sent out boats immediately when the Mississippi made an unexpected break through in St. Charles county, Mo., isolating about 1000 civilians. The water joined the Missouri for the second time two miles above the normal confluence and the civilians were caught in the pocket.

The Dupo yards handle 8000 freight cars and service 50 locomotives daily.

Meanwhile, as the Illinois, Arkansas, Washash and Mississippi rivers continued their ominous rise, the Red Cross in St. Louis issued a flood report on the Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Illinois area showing:

Inundation of 1,356,960 acres; 9663 houses damaged; 29,837 families made homeless and otherwise directly affected; 19,662 persons in shelters; 18,161 persons being fed and 7135 needing rehabilitation.

The Red Cross said there was an "increasingly serious health situation" in the affected areas and that "conservatively" more than 100,000 persons were homeless in the four states and Kansas and Indiana.

George Miller Dies, Age 71; Headed Firm

George O. Miller, one of the founders of the Miller Mercantile company, which operates 10 stores in the Pacific northwest, among them the Salem "Miller's," died at his home in Portland Saturday at the age of 71 years.

Mr. Miller, second cousin of Floyd E. Miller, assistant manager of the Salem store, was also president of Miller Brothers company, wholesaling establishment. The widow, five children and seven grandchildren survive.

The Millers, two sets of brothers, came west from Nebraska in 1902 to commence their mercantile activities in Oregon. First they resided in McMinnville, in 1906 expanding to Portland. At that time George O. Miller moved to the larger city, remaining there the rest of his life.

Only survivor of the original firm is L. A. Miller, McMinnville, who still works in the business at Portland, father of Floyd E. Miller of this city and cousin of the deceased president of the two companies.

NLRB Hearing In 61st Day

PORTLAND, May 22.—(AP)—As the Kaiser shipyard labor hearing dragged through its 61st day and the transcript reached 8,500 pages, trial examiner Robert N. Denham remarked:

"Unless you plan to spend the rest of your lives in this room, I suggest you limit your inquiries. We are wandering all over the face of the globe."

The remark was directed to AFL Attorney Edwin Hicks, who was asking a witness about the nature of operations of sheet metal workers in general. Denham asked him to confine his questions to sheet metal work in shipyards. Hicks replied he merely was trying to give a complete picture.

Allies Hail Move As 'Far Reaching' In Effect on War

Lenin's Organization Said Unable To Handle 'Economic Development In Various Countries of World'

MOSCOW, May 22.—(AP)—The Comintern, the organization which Lenin and his advanced revolutionary followers created in 1919 to mobilize working class parties throughout the world, announced its own dissolution Saturday in order to advance the cause against fascism.

The action, the most far-reaching yet taken in the swing toward full war cooperation between Soviet Russia and her major western allies, was adopted by the Comintern's executive committee which explained that, because of inability to convene a congress under present war conditions, it was asking the various national sections to ratify the step.

A resolution adopted by the committee said the communist international had been out-moded and had proved to be a drag, in some countries, on the "further strengthening of the national working class parties."

The great lesson of the war, it added, was that "the general national uprising and mobilization of people for the speediest victory over the enemy can be best of all and most fruitfully carried out by the vanguard of the working class movement of each separate country working within the framework of its own country."

The text of the announcement seemed to indicate that dissolution of the Comintern was no temporary war-time expediency but a final act of abolition.

The resolution, signed by two Germans, two Finns, two Italians, two Russians, two Frenchmen, a Czech, a Bulgarian, a Hungarian and a Spanish woman communist, said that even before the war it became clear that because of increasing complications in internal and international affairs of various countries "any sort of international center would encounter insuperable obstacles in solving the problems" of the communist movement.

Differences in the "level and tempo" of the economic and political development in various countries were accentuated, it added, by the war which placed a dividing line between countries which fell to Hitler's domination and those united in an anti-Hitler coalition.

The working class parties have three main tasks, it declared. Those in Hitler's bloc must give all help "by sabotage of the Hitlerite military machine from within."

The "sacred duty" of those in the anti-Hitler coalition consists of aiding "by every means the military efforts of the governments of these countries aimed at the speediest defeat of the Hitlerite bloc."

Finally, the basic task in the occupied lands is the promotion of the "armed struggle developing into a national war of liberation," the resolution declared.

"Communists have never been supporters of the conservation of organizational forms that have outlived themselves," it continued, adding that they acted in 1935 to give greater flexibility and independence to the various national sections.

As a result, the resolution of the communist party of the United States in withdrawing from the Comintern in November, 1940, had been approved, the resolution stated.

Center Program Is Postponed
Threatening weather caused postponement of the Salem victory center program planned for Saturday night by the junior chamber of commerce. A similar program, with special entertainment by and for soldiers and civilians, is planned for presentation shortly, Don Black, chairman, said.

Admiral Land to Visit Portland
PORTLAND, May 22.—(AP)—Rear Admiral Emory S. Land, chairman of the United States maritime commission, is scheduled to arrive here Tuesday to inspect shipyards in this area.

He will present the maritime "M" pennant to Henry J. Kaiser's Swan Island yard for its tanker production record and will witness the launching of the tanker River Raisin, named after an early-day American battle.

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Eye-Witness Tells of Attu Experiences

I looked down and saw a little light, which I thought was some kind of an animal. We went on a ways and took a break until dawn. I got to thinking about that light and went back to look again. In the dawn, it was not an animal. It was a little tent. A Jap soldier was sitting outside. He saw me and shot up at the same time I saw him and shot down. I killed him. Then I threw two grenades down into the tent. There were four other Japs inside. The grenades killed them all.

The sergeant said he hoped to get his wounds fixed quickly so he could get back up to the front lines. "My captain's up there," he said. "He's in a foxhole and has a leg wound. They've got us

pinned down so badly now that we can't get to him."

Medical Squad Trapped
Then there was a sergeant (name censored) of a medical squad. I met him at the dressing station, just after he had come back.

"There were 20 of us," he said. "Some litter bearers, some wounded. We were trying to get back here, but we went into a box canyon. The Japs let us get in, then opened up on us. They had both ends of the canyon closed with machine guns. We couldn't move. Everytime one of us stuck his head up, the Japs let us have some more lead. Finally, 12 out of the 20 were wounded.

"We were in that canyon for three days, from the first day of the occupation until now. Finally our mortar crews found the range and began working on the Jap machine gunners. While the mortars were making the Japs let us alone, those of us who could walk had a chance to get out.

"I've got to get these scratches fixed up and go back up there about dark tonight. I want to get the rest of those boys out."

He also had some shrapnel wounds, three of them.

Does "Impossible"
There was also a first sergeant whose name was not immediately available. He was in no condition to talk, having crawled some three (Turn to Page 2—Story A)

Dimout
Sun. sunset 8:45
Mon. sunrise 5:29
(Weather on Page 5)

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