

By Charles H. Sprague

In the news a few days ago was a brief item to the effect that in France the guillotine would succeed the guillotine as the means of public execution.

"For, lo, the great Guillotine, wondrous to behold, now stands there; the Doctor's Idea has become Oak and Iron; the huge cyclopean axe falls in its grooves like the ram of the Pile-engine, swiftly snuffing out the light of men!

Set up in the Place de la Revolution, the guillotine sheered off the heads of Louis XVI, of Marie Antoinette, of sundry nobles. From the prisons the tumbrils rolled over the stone streets of Paris to deposit the daily cargo of victims for the axe of Samson, the headman.

The revolution began to "devour its own children." Danton is condemned by the very tribunal he created. With the "carnivorous rabble now howling round" Danton mounts the platform, admonishes himself, "Danton, no weakness," and says to Samson: "Thou wilt show my head to the people; it is worth showing."

The tumbrils keep rolling, bearing Hebert, who abolished religion and sired the worship of Reason; Desmoulins, another revolutionist, and his beautiful wife, Lucile. "Systole, diastole, swift and ever swifter goes the axe of Samson."

Finally Robespierre himself, the advocate of Arras, (Continued on Editorial Page)

Bus Drivers And Shop Men Given Boost

PORTLAND, Nov. 30. (AP)—The regional war labor board today granted wage increases to Oregon Motor Stages' highway drivers, shopmen and city drivers in Salem and Eugene.

The award, terminating a wage dispute between the company and the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coaches Employees Union (AFL), provided: Highway drivers' base pay of 4.46 cents a mile compared to the old rate of 4.36 and the union's demand for 4.75. The daily minimum was boosted from \$7 to \$7.50. The union asked \$8.50.

Drivers in Salem and Eugene city lines were increased to 90 cents an hour from 85. They asked \$1.10.

Shop rates were set at \$1.15 hourly for mechanics and painters with an additional 5 cents for night work, \$1.03 for combination men and 93 cents for washers and greasers.

Gripsholm Near Gotham

NEW YORK, Nov. 30. (AP)—The Swedish liner Gripsholm, ablaze with lights to assure her safe passage, neared New York tonight with Americans eager for home after long months in Japanese internment camps.

The 18,000-ton ship, given a safe conduct guarantee by all belligerents, carried 1236 US nationals, 221 Canadians and 43 South Americans.

The navy department said the Gripsholm would reach Ambrose light in the lower bay tonight, and anchor there before docking about 10 a.m. (EWT) tomorrow at Jersey City.

Asia Offensive Seen In Heavier Shipping

LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 1. (AP)—A Berlin broadcast quoting a Tokyo dispatch said today there has been increased allied shipping activity in the Gulf of Bengal. Japanese observers believe it is a sign of an impending southeast Asia offensive.

21 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT TO GET THE CANDY FOR THE KIDS Buy Christmas Seals

FOUNDED 1851

Weather Tuesday maximum temperature 54, minimum 46. Precipitation .52. River -1.9 ft. Fair Wednesday and Thursday; little temperature change.

Cairo and Iran Meets Get Limelight

Bonga Captured By Allies

Seaward Anchor Of Japs' Supply Line Uprooted

By ASAHIEL BUSH SOUTHWEST PACIFIC ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Wednesday, Dec. 1. (AP)—Australian jungle fighters pushing north from Finschhafen have captured Bonga, the seaward anchor of the Japanese principal supply line on the northeastern New Guinea coast, and its fall without a struggle has deprived the enemy of another hold on the Huon peninsula.

The Australians occupied Bonga the morning of November 29, General Douglas MacArthur's communique said, and also took Gusika in their general sweep which carried them to the south bank of Kalueng river.

A headquarters spokesman said that before the final success was achieved at Bonga, allied forces were obliged to overcome enemy resistance a thousand yards south of the river.

The allied advance along the coast was paralleled by the inland push northward from Sattelberg, which was taken from the Japanese November 26, toward Wareo which is the western hub of the trail from Bonga.

This interior force was reported to have reached the suspension bridge over the Song river and to have crossed against enemy resistance.

With Bonga in their possession, the coastal troops turned westward along the south bank of the Kalueng river, driving toward a juncture with the force advancing on Wareo.

The Hon peninsula ground units received distant support from allied light warships—probably destroyers—which for the first time ventured north of Vitiaz strait to bombard Sio harbor and environs the night of November 29-30. Sio is on the north coast of New Huon peninsula.

While the Aussie jungle fighters were moving into Bonga, allied bombers were aiding the ground force by smashing at the (Turn to Page 2—Story E)

Invasion Talked On Soviet Radio

LONDON, Nov. 30. (AP)—The Moscow radio in a broadcast tonight warned the German people that they could expect Germany to become a battleground.

Russian spokesmen—including Stalin—always before have confined their statements of military aims to driving the invaders out of the soviet union.

During tonight's broadcast the Moscow announcer asserted the heavy allied air raids are military preparation for what is to come.

Some Rents Raised As Control Office Opens

At least two Salem landlords have notified their tenants of rent increases to become effective today just as the wheels start turning for enforcement of city rent control, which has been in effect in Salem since Mayor I. M. Doughton signed the ordinance more than two weeks ago.

Whether the two, both holding properties in southwest Salem, plan test cases or simply believe that until the rent control office opens the ordinance is not in effect was not revealed Tuesday. Under the new regulations, rents are supposed to move back to those charged January 1 of this year.

Christmas Packages Arrive From Home



Mail call has an even greater attraction than usual for these doughboys dashing to the mail truck loaded with Christmas presents from home for troops in Italy. (AP Wirephoto by signal corps radio).

Officials Cite Lafky Reverse Play; Formerly Opposed Payment of Tax

Position Taken in 1939 Recalled; City Will Merely Shift Pockets With Part Of Sum, Noted as Issue Scanned

By ISABEL CHILDS If, after receiving advice that it has no "moral right" to waive accrued delinquent interest when it finally collects taxes due and owing from city water properties, Marion county court has the sensation of standing "between the devil and the deep blue sea," there is really nothing strange about its reaction, men who have been interested in seeing the long-standing tax question solved suggested Tuesday.

Without wishing to intimate that Herman Lafky, defender of the rights of rural taxpayers, is related to his satanic majesty, some of these persons delved back into newspaper files and correspondence records of public agencies to come out with a reminder that in 1939 Lafky was a "taxpayer and water-rate-payer of the City of Salem," and that then also as a defender of taxpayers he demanded that the entire "tax claim be NOT paid by the Salem Water Commission."

So the county court, according to the attorney, has no moral, and Lafky in his letter of this week suggests, no legal right to waive the interest. But if, as in 1939 "there is no legal authority vested in your commission to pay the \$33,000 tax item, should you desire to do so," then the commission has no right to pay the principal, and the only thing to do is to allow the bill to grow larger.

Of course, the county could foreclose on the \$12,000 piece of property sold by the water commission to Portland General Electric company, thus obtaining a portion of the tax principal the city proposes to pay as soon as bonds can be issued legally. And the commission, if it abided by Lafky's advice, could thus obtain a poor business rating but could not protect the private purchaser.

Since Lafky advised the water commission to take no action toward paying the taxes, an additional \$11,000 interest has accrued beyond the \$6000 interest then owed.

The state supreme court has since July 19, 1939 agreed with a portion of Lafky's freely-offered opinion of that date that "said tax claim is not enforceable as against the water system properties of the city, or the City Water Commission." (Turn to Page 2—Story F)

Ray Contempt Case Winds Up

PORTLAND, Ore., Nov. 30. (AP)—Arguments in the contempt of court action against Tom Ray, deposed business agent of the Portland Bootmakers' union, were concluded tonight and Circuit Judge James W. Crawford said he would announce his decision tomorrow.

Ray was charged with having violated an order issued by Crawford last February which limited expenditure of union funds to current operating expenses. Russell W. Duke, a union member, had accused Ray of withdrawing funds for his personal account.

Ray testified that he had never willfully disobeyed the court order. He said a check for \$6661.69, paid him November 19 by the union's bookkeeper, had been authorized by the local's governing board the previous night.

Ray Contempt Case Winds Up

PORTLAND, Ore., Nov. 30. (AP)—English farmers can't understand why many Americans are underfed, Morton Tompkins, master of the state grange, said tonight in reporting on his recent tour of England.

US Malnutrition Puzzle Abroad Tompkins Avers

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30. (AP)—Price Administrator Chester Bowles said tonight that ration costs of meat will be cut to allow a 30 per cent larger ration in December.

East End Nazi Line Smashed

Sangro Ridge Is Taken; "Winter Line" Penetrated

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Algiers, Nov. 30. (AP)—General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's Eighth army shattered the eastern anchor of the Germans' "winter line" across Italy today, capturing the whole of Sangro ridge and driving the enemy out of a huge bridgehead north and west of the Sangro river that extended at least 15 miles inland from the sea.

Climaxing 48 hours of continuous, bitter fighting, the veteran Eighth slashed forward, threatening to turn the flank of the enemy's entire defense system before Rome.

"The whole of the high ridge which overlooks and dominates the Sangro valley is now in our hands," the allied command announced tonight in a special communique. "The two bridgeheads on the Adriatic side of the coast have now been joined up to form one large penetration in the enemy's defensive positions."

"Our troops have broken deep into the main enemy winter line and enemy counterattacks during the afternoon have all been beaten off."

In today's advance Montgomery's warriors swept through four towns — Fossacesia, Villa Santa Marta, Mozzagrogna and Romagnolo — bringing to 12 the number of towns and villages taken since they opened their attack before daylight Sunday after a heavy artillery bombardment.

Earlier today an allied communique (Turn to Page 2—Story G)

Russians Lose Rail Junction

Fall Back at Key Point in Kiev Area But Gain Elsewhere

LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 1. (AP)—The Russian army has fallen back from the strategic rail junction of Korosten, its second important retreat before the furious German counterattack at the Kiev bulge, but has pressed forward in White Russia and at the Dnieper bend, where almost 4000 Germans fell in heavy fighting Tuesday, Moscow announced today.

The loss of Korosten, 85 miles northwest of Kiev, came 11 days after the loss of Zhitomir. Both of them were railway junctions won back by the Russians in their westward surge from Kiev.

The Russians gave scant details of the withdrawal, announcing in their daily communique that "by order of the supreme command our troops abandoned the town of Korosten and took up more advantageous positions for defense." The midnight supplement made no further mention of the area.

As early as last Saturday the Russians hinted at Korosten's danger when they reported the Nazis had brought up eight tank divisions. (Turn to Page 2—Story H)

Bi-Partisan Vote Board Approved; GOP Wins

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26. (AP)—Aided by eight democrats, senate republicans today drove into the servicemen's voting bill a requirement that the president must draw on nominations by the two major parties in appointing a bi-partisan election commission to supervise next year's battlefield ballots.

The senate wrote in the requirement with a 40 to 39 vote, wiping out the tie which defeated the proposal yesterday. The change—depriving the president of a free hand in setting up the commission—was opposed by the democratic authors of the bill and by Majority Floor Leader Barkley of Kentucky.

Under its terms, each major party will submit a list of suggested election commissioners to the White House. From these the president would name two democ-

First Parley's Results to Be Released Soon

Doings of "Big Four" Played Up in Broadcasts As Items in War of Nerves

By the Associated Press A Reuters dispatch from Lisbon said President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek had concluded a long session in Cairo preliminary to a meeting with Premier Stalin in Iran, and OWI short-wave broadcasts to Europe repeated the story again and again last night.

"The three statesmen met on one occasion in a tent in the shadow of the pyramids," said the OWI transmissions, beamed out since 12:30 p. m. yesterday in English, French, German, Italian and other languages to friend, foe and neutral alike.

"During the conference Cairo was cut off from communication with the rest of the world. Roosevelt and Chiang Kai-Shek, who was accompanied by Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, traveled to Cairo by plane, while Churchill traveled by sea."

It was said that "a communique agreed on after the Cairo conference will be published later this week."

A telephone call to the New York office of war information elicited the information that the broadcasts were authorized by the office of censorship after the Reuters dispatch — duly cleared by the British censorship through London — was received from Lisbon yesterday.

Elmer Davis, OWI chief, said in Washington OWI broadcast the Reuters report because it "already was all over Europe" but criticized Reuters for handling the story.

He said that DNB, the German news agency, "and virtually everybody else" had circulated the Reuters report and that OWI felt "it should give its customers something, too."

In criticizing Reuters, Davis said that "if there were a conference we could assume from past experience that there would be some arrangement for a simultaneous release in all capitals involved."

"If that were the case, Reuters broke a release date," he said. "If there were no conference, then the story would be an invention. Either way, it is equally reprehensible."

The copy for the broadcast was (Turn to Page 2—Story D)

Catroux Reports Quiet in Lebanon

ALGIERS, Nov. 30. (AP)—Gen. Georges Catroux returned today from Beirut and expressed satisfaction generally with conditions in the French protectorate of Lebanon following the release from jail of native officials, the restoration of Bechara Khoury as president and the recall of the French delegate general, Jean Helleu.

Catroux represented the French Committee of National Liberation in negotiations with the Lebanese and British toward a settlement of the troubled conditions in the Levant state.

Rogers' Term Up; Continues In Bank Post

The term of A. A. Rogers, state superintendent of banks, expires today. However, it was apparent Tuesday night that he would continue to serve for an indefinite period. Appointments to this office are made by the state banking board, and it was deemed exceedingly unlikely that this board would meet until the return of Gov. Earl Snell from Chicago.

Other members of the board are State Treasurer Leslie W. Scott and Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell Jr.

Rogers, formerly engaged in banking in Eugene, was appointed state superintendent of banks December 1, 1939, by Gov. Charles A. Sprague. It is known that sentiment favorable to his reappointment has been predominant in banking circles.

Von Papen May Get Ribbentrop's Post

CAIRO, Nov. 30. (AP)—Frank Von Papen, veteran diplomatic trouble-shooter for the Nazis who has been ambassador to strategic Turkey since 1936, may shortly succeed Joachim Von Ribbentrop, one-time wine salesman, as German foreign minister, reports from Istanbul indicated tonight.

Junkers Plot Coup; Allies Aren't Mised

By ROBERT BUNNELLE LONDON, Nov. 30. (AP)—An anti-Hitler group of old line Junker Germans, according to reports from inside Germany, is awaiting the psychological moment to attempt a government coup.

London observers believe this group may seize on any suggestion of merciful peace terms that may come from any meeting of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin.

Reports say this group already has made informal armistice proposals which were rejected without discussion.

These wholly unofficial tenders, the reports continue, were not regarded by the allies as tenders at all and were dismissed, first, because they did not originate formally with the German government, and second, because they fell far short of the United Nations' unconditional surrender.

The group reported ready to overthrow Hitler is said to be led by Field Marshal Karl Von Rundstedt, Field Marshal Walter Von Brauchitsch, Field Marshal Fedor Von Bock and a Grand Admiral Erich Raeder. These old-line professional soldiers are said to have support from among many Junker industrialists, agrarians and diplomats, all of them convinced there is no hope for a German military victory.

The ability of the anti-Hitler group to make good on its peace promises at this stage of the war is highly questionable, and the (Turn to Page 2—Story C)

Warden Agrees To Suspension

FOLSOM PRISON, Calif., Nov. 30. (AP)—Warden Clyde L. Plummer tonight acquiesced in the order of the state board of prison directors suspending him from office pending outcome of the investigation into the conduct of convict labor camps and the prison system in general.