

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

King George, say London dispatches, is recovering from an attack of influenza. He is just one of thousands of Britishers who have been suffering from a new epidemic of flu. A similar epidemic is reported in eastern United States. So far the west has not been affected seriously—(business of knocking on wood).

Naturally news of a flu epidemic revives memories of the disastrous epidemic which swept Europe and America in 1918. Health people as well as ordinary citizens have been fearful of another outbreak in this war. The word to date is that the current influenza is not in virulent form, either in Europe or in this country; and one authority says that this may head off a more serious type by immunizing the people.

In the past epidemics have been spread by the wars. The movement of troops and peoples, the disorder in living conditions, the debility caused by exposure and poor nutrition have given a fertile ground for germs of disease. Syphilis, for instance, which may have been introduced to Europe from America, was spread by the movements of armies in the 16th century. In the last world war typhus took a heavy toll in the Balkan countries, almost decimating the Serbian armies.

The influenza of the last war was first called "Spanish influenza," because it was thought to be of Spanish origin. It got its entry into this country at Boston, and then spread rapidly all over the land. It numbered its victims by thousands in army camps and among civilians. One characteristic which is recalled is the speed of its development. A person took down with the disease and died in just a day or two. People grew frantic as whole households became ill at the same time. Hospitals were crowded, nurses and doctors overworked, with many of them sick with the same disease. Gauze nose masks were recommended and in some cities required. People went around wearing packs of gauze over noses and mouths to filter breath and catch the germs. The gauze itself would soon (continued on editorial page)

### Knox Confident Navy Is Master In Pacific

By HAMILTON W. FARON  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 14—(AP) The US navy has grown so confident of its mastery in the Pacific that Secretary Knox might just as well have said today, "Tojo here we come!"

"We are getting ready to drive home some hard blows," Knox told reporters, a statement that would not have been heard for military security reasons a year ago.

Now, Knox had no hesitation in saying that "the preliminaries are over."

Where the new blows will land was, of course, not disclosed. They may hit in the Marshall islands, under constant air attack since US forces took over the Gilberts.

Knox persistently expresses wishes these days that the Japanese (Turn to Page 2—Story E)

### School District May Seek Tax Settlement

When the city of Salem and the county of Marion have reached a settlement, as they probably will by March 1, 1944, on the water system properties tax, then school district No. 24 will ask for the same sort of agreement and will be prepared to pay the \$896 principal due the county on certain Bush and senior high school properties.

School directors, believing the legal questions at issue the same as those involved in the water system question, indicated Tuesday night that they would continue to wait until the entire question had been threshed out between city and county.

The taxes were levied and assessed but had not been billed when the lands were sold to the school system. Payments were held up pending litigation in the water system case, considered identical.

SHOPPING DAYS LEFT... Buy Christmas Seals

# The Oregon Statesman

FOUNDED 1851

NINETY THIRD YEAR

10 PAGES

Salem, Oregon, Wednesday Morning, December 15, 1943

Price 5c

No. 225

Weather  
Tuesday maximum temperature 34, minimum 24. River -1 ft. Partly cloudy west portion with rain late Wednesday. Partly cloudy Thursday with showers in west portion; little change in temperature.

## Russia's Army Opens New Offensive

### Jaluit, Wotje Are Hit

Allied Air Power Strikes Again At New Britain

By Leif Erickson  
PEARL HARBOR, Dec. 14—(AP)—Two new attacks on Japanese bases in the mid-Pacific Marshalls—at Wotje and Jaluit—by army and navy heavy bombers were announced today by Pacific fleet headquarters.

Seventh army air force four-engined bombers delivered an attack yesterday on Wotje, the principal fortified base of the enemy in the more than 20 Marshall atolls. One raider was damaged by anti-aircraft fire but none of the crews was injured.

Two navy fleet air-wing Liberators went in at low altitude Sunday at dusk to hit Jaluit. This attack was made on the same day as another against Jaluit by Seventh AAF bombers.

One pilot was wounded and both planes sustained damage from machinegun fire. These raids 300 miles north of the American-won Gilberts continued a series now moving into the second month.

Jaluit, one of the most frequent targets, is an enemy air base on the southern rim of the Marshalls. Wotje, which has a deep anchorage for ships in Christmas harbor, is near the center of the group.

Fleet headquarters also reported light night attacks by enemy planes Saturday and Sunday on (Turn to Page 2—Story C)

### Oregon Pays First Warrant

Aside from some technical and legal details, Oregon's share in the purchase, jointly with Washington state, of a couple of Kentucky distilleries was half completed Tuesday when the state treasury department ordered the transfer of \$1,400,000 of liquor control commission funds to the Commerce Trust company, Kansas City, Mo., for the escrow account of the Shawahan Distillery company, Inc., in payment for shares of distilling stock.

The warrant was drawn by Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell, Jr. A second warrant in the amount of \$1,825,000, in favor of the Waterfill-Frazier Distilling company was expected to arrive today.

The liquor commission expects to receive 31,000 barrels of whiskey, Washington receiving a 11 1/2 percent amount. They propose to dissolve the distillery corporations and sell the other physical assets to Henry E. Collin of Toledo, O.

### PGE Rate Cut Not to Affect Part of Salem Area

Reductions in Portland General Electric company rates, ordered Monday by Public Utilities Commissioner George H. Flagg, will have no effect on charges in Salem, West Salem, Silverton, Woodburn and Mt. Angel, Flagg declared today. These cities, he explained, are already receiving from the company the Bonneville-plus rate.

Five per cent reductions may be anticipated in Aurora, Donald, Scotts, Mills, Gervais, Hubbard, Turner and St. Paul, while Portland, McMinnville and probably more than 100 other incorporated towns and cities' residential rates will be reduced approximately 10 per cent.

Slight reductions only may be anticipated in unincorporated sections of this area receiving the Bonneville-plus rates, according to Flagg.

### Nazi Loss Mounting In Italy

Canadians Take Ortona in Drive Toward Pescara

By EDWARD KENNEDY  
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Algiers, Dec. 14—(AP)—Throwing reserves of armor into a desperate counter attack against Canadian troops fighting yard-by-yard toward the seaport of Pescara, the Germans have suffered heavy losses in tanks and men from the fire of Eighth army artillery concealed in the hills, it was announced today.

The Nazi command resorted to this costly measure in a futile effort to prevent the reinforced Canadians from closing in on the road junction of Ortona, 11 miles below Pescara on the Adriatic coast.

Shaking off this and similarly fierce Nazi counter-attacks, the Canadians continued doggedly to the heights overlooking Ortona. The whole current thrust of the Eighth army up the Adriatic coast hinges on the Canadians' success in taking Ortona.

A New Zealand division was reported attacking Nazi positions on high ground on the left flank of the Canadians in an effort to relieve some enemy pressure in the coastal sector.

On snow-covered hills farther inland, where Gen. Sir Bernard Montgomery's Eighth army is pressing toward the provisional capital of Chieti, Indian troops broke into German positions for a limited advance and took 50 prisoners. The weather was overcast throughout the battle area.

Activity on Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's Fifth army front again was limited to artillery duels and patrol movements.

Bad weather again kept the big bombers idle, but the tactical air force ranged over the enemy's supply lines behind the battle front and knocked out a number of bridges. American Mitchells attacked a German oil depot at the Yugoslav port of Split and blasted warehouses at Sibeni, farther up the coast. Two allied planes were missing.

### Sec. Hull Flays 'Neighbor' Criticism

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14—(AP)—Secretary of State Hull tonight labeled "unfair and unfounded" a charge by Senator Butler (R-Neb) that the United States is being played for a profligate sucker in Latin America.

Hull declared that the charge was "calculated to injure" the whole good neighbor policy.

In a hotly-worded reply to criticisms voiced by Butler after a 20,000-mile tour of Central and South America, Hull praised the Latin republics for their contributions to the allied war effort.

### School Board Planners Offer 5-Year Slate

Skeletonizing a possible five-year plan for improvement of Salem public educational plants, the special planning committee of the city school board Monday night sought and received authorization to call in interested non-board members for a full discussion of the proposed projects.

Representatives of various organizations from which suggestions might be expected to come will be invited to meet with the board two weeks hence, December 28. From the loosely-knit committee thus organized, school directors expect to secure a plan which may be given public hearing before it gets on any ballot.

Briefly, the plan suggested by the committee as one possibility, presented to the entire board Monday night by Supt. Frank E. Bennett, is:

By vote, a sinking fund could be established and developed with a levy of 5 mills, which would net at the close of a five-year period approximately \$450,000 should the tax base of the district remain essentially unchanged. This year's levy is down 6 mills because of the income tax offset. Such a fund could not provide

all the improvements needed. Nor could a bond issue under the current \$800,000 to \$900,000 bond margin provide for all needs. However the \$450,000 could begin to provide. Should state or federal matched monies programs be developed at the close of the war it might go far toward meeting at least current requirements. The plan proposed to voters should specify which projects are most necessary. To the postwar planning committee of the board, these improvements seem to require immediate attention:

I. A central heating system for Parrish and the senior high school buildings. Parrish boilers will have to be replaced in the next few years, engineers have advised the school administration; the senior high building's heat is provided by furnace and boiler room directly beneath the platform of the auditorium, operating with a roar discouraging to any performer. By building a central heating plant and including in the extension room for a small auditorium, the system would be provided with a classroom for band and orchestra and for dramatics, with a small

### Attorney I. H. Van Winkle Dies Suddenly Tuesday

Isaac Homer Van Winkle, 73, attorney general of Oregon since 1920 and a member of the Willamette university law college faculty since 1905 as instructor, dean and finally dean emeritus, died late Tuesday night at his home, 145 North 17th street. In poor health for a number of years, he nevertheless continued to perform his duties as attorney general and was at his office as usual on Tuesday.

Born on a farm near Halsey in Linn county December 3, 1870, I. H. Van Winkle was a member of a pioneer Oregon family. His paternal grandfather, Isaac Van Winkle, had come across the plains in 1859; his father, Isaac Newton Van Winkle, a native of Missouri, engaged in mining in Idaho for a time but later farmed near Halsey. I. H. Van Winkle's mother was Elizabeth A. (Pearl) Van Winkle, daughter of James Pearl who had crossed the plains in 1852.

I. H. Van Winkle's early education was gained in the Halsey schools and he taught school in Linn county before entering Willamette university, where he attained a bachelor of arts degree in 1898 and a law degree in 1901, being admitted to the bar that same year.

He began practice in Salem. Earlier he had been deputy assessor of Linn county. His connection with the state's legal department began in 1904



I. H. VAN WINKLE

when he became a law clerk in the attorney general's office. In 1910 he was appointed first assistant attorney general, holding that office until 1913, and again from 1915 until 1920.

In that year he was appointed attorney general by Gov. Ben Olcott upon the resignation of George M. Brown. That same year Van Winkle was elected to the office and subsequently reelected in 1924, 1928, 1932, 1936 and 1940. Following graduation he was (Turn to Page 2—Story B)

### Eden Reports Teheran Meeting Means to End War, Build Peace

By RICHARD J. MASSOCK  
LONDON, Dec. 14—(AP)—Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden today brought the house of commons a promise of the war's shortening and prospects of enduring big-power collaboration for lasting peace from the middle east conferences of President Roosevelt

### Rommel to Halt Anti-Hitler Army Moves

By ROBERT BUNELLE  
LONDON, Dec. 14—(AP)—Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, sent to shaky northwest Europe as a kind of anti-invasion chief, may be given supreme command of the German army in an effort to forestall an anti-Hitler peace plot by Junker generals, refugees with close underground contacts in Germany said tonight.

There have been repeated hints of such a move, along with indications that Field Marshal Karl Von Rundstedt is slated for removal from command of western defenses, which he has held since April, 1942. Von Rundstedt is senior among German military aristocrats recurrently reported waiting for a strategic moment to attempt an anti-Hitler coup combined with a "merciful peace" bid to the allies.

### Carrier Use Due in Pacific

CHICAGO, Dec. 14—(AP)—Rear Admiral Dewitt C. Ramsey, chief of the navy's bureau of aeronautics, said tonight that carrier based planes would constitute the spearhead of America's westward drive in the central Pacific.

"Through the use of carriers in large numbers we can concentrate in any given area an overwhelming air superiority," he said in a speech prepared for delivery to the Illinois Manufacturers association.

"The possibility always exists that the Japanese carriers will challenge our advance, but the sooner we can force a decisive engagement with them the better. We can afford to lose ships for ship and they can't."

### Ask Home Rule Of Farm Labor

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14—(AP)—Demands for more "home rule" in handling the farm labor problem prompted the house appropriation committee to send the 1944 financing program back to a subcommittee today to determine where centralized authority should stop and state and local responsibility begin.

In general the committee was agreed on the need of continuing the farm labor program but undecided how to split up the recruiting task between the war food administration and the agriculture extension services, which are largely local in character.

Congress has only until December 31 to decide the issue. Expenditures have not been authorized beyond that date.

### Yugoslav Battle Flames

Nazis Hurl Six Divisions Trying To Take Balkans

By WILLIAM SMITH WHITE  
LONDON, Dec. 14—(AP)—Yugoslavia flamed tonight into a major battlefield as the Germans hurled six divisions, (perhaps 90,000 men) into one sector alone, and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden disclosed that Britain was helping the Yugoslav army of liberation "in every possible way," with the Russians also going to its aid.

Marshal Josip Broz (Tito) declared in a broadcast communique that 1500 nazis has been killed as his partisan troops threw back assaults in eastern Bosnia, where the bulletin said the Germans had concentrated six divisions for a great battle against the partisans' third corps.

Saluting Moscow's decision to send a military mission to Tito's new government, Eden told the house of commons that a British mission had been in Yugoslavia since last spring and would work as a team with the Russians.

On the battlefield the action was heaviest in Bosnia where the Germans struck furiously seeking to secure the approaches to the main railway running the length of Yugoslavia through Belgrade, but it also was erupting in the Montenegro-Serbia border area of Sanjak and in Dalmatia.

"Heavy fighting is going on," Tito's radio said, listing four battle areas where 1500 Germans were killed and many more wounded. One German tank-supported column captured Plevlje in combat in Sanjak, it added.

Three towns — Duvno, Livno and Grabovo — were lost in heavy fighting on the Dalmatian-Bosnian border, the communique said, but Livno was recaptured by the partisans in a counterblow.

### Social Security Per Cent Frozen

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14—(AP)—With social security tax receipts outstripping benefit payments by a ratio of more than six to one, the senate finance committee voted today to hold payroll contributions by employees and employers at the current rate of one per cent each throughout 1944.

The proviso, championed by Senator Vandenberg (R-Mich.) for the third successive year, was tacked onto the tax bill, now calculated to add about \$1,222,000,000 annually to existing revenues. In the absence of congressional action, the social security levy would advance automatically to 2 per cent January 1.

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## Cherkasy, Last Major German Position, Falls

Northern White Russia Is Center of New Battle But Reds Retreat at Kiev

By James Long  
LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 15—(AP)—The Russians have captured Cherkasy, last major German bastion on the middle Dnieper and perhaps have opened a new major offensive in northern White Russia, but, Moscow announced today, they were forced back from Radomysl, 55 miles west of Kiev, by a fierce German drive to retake the Ukrainian capital.

More than 6000 Germans were killed in the last days of the stubborn fighting for Cherkasy, a German stronghold south of Kiev which guards important railway communications.

"Fighting raged for every street, every basement," said the Moscow midnight communique. "Trying at all costs to hold Cherkasy, the enemy constantly brought up fresh reserves."

But German resistance melted under Russian pressure coming from two directions and the Germans were cleared from the town, leaving considerable war materials and prisoners in Russian hands.

Berlin radio reports told of a new Russian drive far to the north near Nevel—about 70 miles from the Latvian border—where Gen. Andrei I. Yeremenko, defender of Stalingrad, was on the move with six infantry divisions and two tank corps.

The Germans admitted they had been forced to give up some positions. The Russians, who rarely announce an offensive until they have made important gains, did not mention the area.

But in the Kiev bulge, where Moscow dispatches made clear that the Germans were bringing up still more tanks from the deep rear and were in position to make a serious bid for Kiev, the Russians fell back from the highway junction of Radomysl to the east bank of the Dnerev river.

Southwest of Malin on this fighting front of about 25 miles the Germans attacked with four regiments of infantry and 160 tanks. After several hours' fighting they were flung back, losing 600 men and 18 tanks. Soviet aircraft were pounding German concentrations, destroying some tanks and about 200 German trucks. (Turn to Page 2—Story A)

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### Statesman Sports News

Popular interest continues keen in the field of sports. Back from fighting fronts comes word of how soldiers want to know how their favorite teams are doing.

The Statesman Sports Page is "Tops" among all upstate dailies. Al Lightner, our sports editor, won his spurs in athletics himself. He has a knack at writing too. That's why all local sports fans reach for The Statesman for sports news.

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