

The Oregon Statesman

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

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

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Too Much Rubber!

Just two years ago the little brown enemy was slashing his way down the Malay peninsula and threatening to overrun the Dutch East Indies, and the first tire rationing board for Marion county had just been created. Rubber was the first and biggest item of wartime scarcity.

This month, 48 government-built synthetic plants will be turning out rubber at the rate of 600,000 tons a year; by July the production will be at the rate of 800,000 tons a year. That will be more rubber than the United States has ever used in a year; consumption in 1941 was 775,000 tons.

Of course, there is no over-supply of rubber yet. Try to buy a new tire! The supply is easing; there is synthetic for retreads rather than the decidedly non-durable reclaimed rubber of last year; and the manufacture of shoes with synthetic soles is starting. A lot of tires are thin, and in view of the military requirements and our allies' needs, it will take many months to catch up.

A problem of over-supply is brewing, however. Without speculation as to the rate of its development, let's leap ahead to the postwar outlook. When the Malaya and Dutch East Indies plantations and the rest scattered throughout the tropics get back into production, if the United States synthetic plants continue operating the world's annual output will be 2,785,500 tons a year—more than twice the world consumption of 1,300,000 tons in 1941.

Then rubber over-supply will become one of the world's greatest economic problems—strictly the reverse of the problem the United States and its allies faced two years ago. What to do with the synthetic plants, whether to produce our own supply or to let those plants lie idle for the sake of buying from abroad and thereby encouraging reciprocal trade—it's going to be a tough question.

To some extent it will be solved on a competitive basis. Natural rubber, when obtainable, costs less than synthetic does now. Further technical progress may reverse that situation, or it may not; in either case the less costly rubber will prevail. Beyond that, there will be need for statesmanship to solve the problem. One phase will be the raising of living standards throughout the world; if other peoples come to "ride on rubber" as Americans do, the world consumption will rise toward, perhaps two million tons a year.

Another phase—national security. Whatever its final solution, it should include provisions whereby the United States under no circumstances shall ever again face the crisis it faced just two years ago. Whether the synthetic plants operate or not, they should be kept intact as insurance against "woeful want" in some future emergency.

Where There's No Justice . . .

An observant friend came in and called attention to two significant clues he had observed in that recent new picture from Germany, showing the words "Murder, Inc." on the back of a captured American airman's coat. That is, it was supposed to be an American flier, though the caption was the only "proof" of that. Things he pointed out were (1) that the letters were distinctly Germanic in style and (2) that though the coat was wrinkled the letters were not.

They had been, he insisted, painted on the picture.

Each point was well taken. The picture probably was a fake. Our friend thought it important that the fraud be exposed. It is worthwhile, but scarcely profitable in so far as the fate of American airmen held by the Germans is concerned. If they are to be saved from execution, it won't be through expose of the Nazi propagandists' trick.

A writer for Collier's went about this country asking people what "fascism" meant to them. Not many had comprehensive answers; too many just simply had no idea. It's a serious matter, for if Americans can't recognize fascism they can hardly fight it if it gets a start here.

This is not the place to attempt an exhaustive definition. One of fascism's outstanding features, though, is suspension of ordinary justice. Law and reason carry no weight; innocence is no defense against confiscation of property, imprisonment, torture, execution. So it will profit us nothing to debate with the Nazis the guilt or innocence of our captured airmen. The only argument they recognize is force. We have some Nazi prisoners. Hitler's stooges may hesitate to "punish" Americans for fear of reprisal. Even that may not deter them—but it's the only telling argument we have available.

Coal and Enterprise

Earl Nixon, state director of the department of geology and mineral industries, gave out a statement last week which was highly critical of the federal government for failing to use coal from Coos bay. It is difficult to see, why the federal government has responsibility in the matter. The coal beds at Coos bay are privately owned. "Private enterprise" has full opportunity to market the coal, and has had for years.

Mr. Nixon complains that a subsidy is paid by the government on the extra freight for importing Colorado coal, but it may be cheaper to extend that subsidy for a temporary period than to go to great capital expenditures to provide coal from other areas.

The spectacle of the chrome operations in southwest Oregon is a warning against dependence on federal subsidy. The sudden cancellation of chrome contracts by the government, even after payment of the damages provided in the contract, will leave one concern with a very heavy loss—and the federal government with a heavy outlay for road and plant that will be of little future value.

Business men are forever scolding the government for invading the field of private en-

terprise; but just how enterprising has private business become—from the banks which invest in government bonds or take "V" loans on government endorsement, to the small plant which wants the government to provide machinery and contract for its output? Unless private business shows "enterprise" it can't complain if some other agency moves into the vacuum.

It's an Outrage!

Think of it—"Extra 20 per cent out of the pockets of our fighting men; a tax on soft lights and sweet music; millions of soldiers . . . sailors . . . marines . . . fliers . . . and our fine women in uniform . . . out for fun . . . seeking food . . . music . . . dancing and an evening of enjoyment will find that congress has imposed an added 20 per cent tax on their attempt to dine and dance on their night off. It is a tax on laughter. It is a tax on morale. It is a tax on music . . ."

Such is the plaint of a four-page broadside reaching the editorial desk. There is much more, but nowhere is there an indication of its source. Somehow we entertain a suspicion it wasn't printed at the behest and expense of the fighting men.

One of its arguments is well taken; it points out that the horse racing lobby prevented the imposition of a 5 per cent federal tax on pari-mutuel racing. Race betting is one activity which deserves to be taxed as heavily as cabarets. From our viewpoint, there aren't a great many others.

The way war sorts its victims is inscrutable. It strikes in a kind of blind neutrality. The fine character and intelligence of Talbot Bennett were no shield against war's fate; and now his name bears the legend, "killed in action." To his loved ones and to his many friends that news weighs heavily on the heart. Bennett, a graduate of the local university law school, was well launched on his career as a lawyer, serving as deputy district attorney. As a second lieutenant he lost his life in combat in the southwest Pacific. When a young man like that is taken we should appreciate the more the sacrifice the nation's young manhood is making.

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, January 5.—It was Hitler's personal strategy again—his alone—which got the Nazi armies in Russia into their present precarious position.

An order was sent from the initiative fuser to the commander-in-chief of the southern armies

weeks back to hold the advance positions at the southern end of the line around Krivoi Rog at all costs. The decision had to be Hitler's rather than his generals because it was based largely on political considerations in defiance of soundest military strategy. If the Russians came close to Rumania, the Nazis could expect unrest or open revolts through the Balkans where suppressed opposition would be drawn from their holes to battle again as the Russians approached.

North of that area he sought to protect the flank of his daring Krivoi Rog armies by a decisive counterattack on Kiev. As previously told, he left buildings standing in Kiev and demolished little of the central portion of the city, so confident was he that he could recapture and occupy it through the winter. His counterattack failed halfway to his goal, after six weeks of tremendous effort. Indeed, only two days ago the communiques showed the presence of large numbers of tanks in the area where he was still trying futilely to redeem his counterattacks.

The Reds, however, poured in upon his forces west of Kiev in the most decisive action since Stalingrad. Perhaps the size of the forces involved there has been over-estimated. Instead of having 22 divisions at that one spot, the Nazis may have little more than that strung out all the way from the Pripiet marshes to the Dnieper tip in the Krivoi Rog area. The million-man red army probably covers the same extensive area.

But as the collapse of one single misplaced board may cause an entire house to tumble, his Kiev sector defense soon endangered the whole front, particularly the Krivoi Rog armies. The smattering of reds did not try to push the Kiev counter-offensive straight back into Poland, but directed their main drive southwestward toward the rear of those southern Nazi armies to cut them off.

Yesterday, the southern commander-in-chief of the Nazi armies called a headquarters meeting of all his generals to ponder the danger into which Hitler's strategy had placed him. Behind him, he could see no good defensive position where he might dig in east of the Dnieper river 200 miles back on the Rumania border (the Big river not being suitable to strong defense). Unless he could get his armies back there before the reds arrived from the north, he was lost—his lines all the way up from the Black sea being reported very thinly held.

Another grand Nazi retreat, therefore, seemed in the making. But it is doubtful that it could be accompanied by the same excuses as last time—a "shortening of the line" to be held by fewer men, after all the Nazi retreats of the past few months, their line is actually longer than when they started.

Hitler extricated himself from a similar desperate position after Stalingrad by sacrificing one of his armies whole in order that others might escape. It will be more difficult to buy himself off from rout again even at such a high cost because he is not as strong as then. And even if he does, he will be back near the Rumanian border, a position he feared most—so dangerous politically that he risked the entrapment now at hand and personally ordered his southern army to stay at its advanced position.

Only at the far northern end of the line have the Germans been able to present several strong points to delay the Russians. The promised red drive to the Baltic is not likely to develop for some time until these strong points can be reduced.



Ferdinand—of Bulgaria

Today's Radio Programs

KSLM—THURSDAY—1230 Ks.

7:00—News.
7:05—Marion County Farm & Home.
7:15—Rise 'n' Shine.
7:45—Morning Moods.
8:00—News.
8:30—Program Parade.
8:10—Sextette from Hunger.
8:30—Tango Time.
9:00—Pastor's Call.
9:15—It's the Truth.
9:30—Cliff Edwards.
9:45—Orchestra.
10:00—News.
10:30—Song and Dance.
10:30—Station News.
10:45—Breakfast Salon Orchestra.
11:00—Tango Time.
11:05—Symphonie Swing.
11:30—Hits of Yesterday.
12:00—Quizmaster.
12:15—News.
12:30—Serenade.
12:35—Mid-day Matinee.
1:00—Lum and Abner.
1:15—Ray Noble's Orchestra.
1:30—Melody Melodies.
1:45—Spotlight on Rhythm.
2:00—News.
2:15—U.S. Army.
2:30—Keystone String Quartet.
2:45—Broadway Band Wagon.
3:00—KSLM Concert Hour.
4:00—Langworth String Orchestra.
4:15—News.
4:30—Feature Tunes.
4:45—Jazz Magnates.
5:15—Let's Reminisce.
5:30—Orchestra.
6:00—Tonight's Headlines.
6:15—War Commentary.
6:30—Evening Serenade.
6:45—Orchestra.
7:00—News in Brief.
7:15—Big Band King's Orchestra.
7:30—Keystone Karavan.
8:00—War Fronts in Review.
8:10—Donkeys in Action.
8:15—Laverne Boyer.
8:30—Mustangs.
8:45—Poland vs. Hitler.
9:00—News.
9:15—Waltz Time.
9:30—American Legion Auxiliary.
9:45—Between the Lines.
10:00—Serenade.
10:30—News.

KODN—CBS—THURSDAY—490 Ks.

6:00—Northwest Farm Reporter.
6:15—Breakfast Bulletin.
6:30—News.
6:45—Kohn Klock.
7:10—Aunt Jemima.
7:15—News.
7:30—News.
7:45—Nelson Pringle.
8:00—Consumer News.
8:15—Valiant Lady.
8:30—Romance of Helen Trent.
8:45—Our Gal Sunday.
9:00—Life Be Beautiful.
9:15—Ma Perkins.
9:30—Democracy Flynn.
9:45—The Goldbugs.
10:00—Young Dr. Malone.
10:15—The Gang.
10:30—We Love and Learn.
10:45—News.
11:00—Neighbors.
11:15—Open Door.
11:30—William Winter News.
11:45—Machete's Children.
1:00—Broadway.
1:25—According to the Record.
1:45—Tales from Near and Far.
2:00—Mary Martin.
2:15—Newspaper of the Air.
2:30—American Women.
2:45—News.
3:00—Jeri Sullivan, Songs.
3:15—World Today.
3:30—Chet Huntley, News.
3:45—Stars of Today.
4:00—Bob Anderson, News.
4:15—Red's Gang.
4:30—Tracer of Lost Persons.
4:45—Galen Drake.
5:00—Red's Gang.
5:15—Harry Flannery, News.
5:30—News.
5:45—Bill Henry.
6:00—Major Brown.
6:15—Dinah Shore.
6:30—The First Line.
6:45—Here's to Lomax.
7:00—I Love a Mystery.
7:15—Harry James Orchestra.
7:30—Death Valley Days.
7:45—Joseph C. Harsh "Memory of the News."
8:00—Music.
8:15—It's Waltz.
8:30—Dance Band.
8:45—Five Star Final.
9:00—Warline Women.
9:15—William Winter.
9:30—Chas. About Dogs.
9:45—Savoy Rhythms.
10:00—Harri Bann.
10:15—Phil Harris.
10:30—The O.C. of the Air.
10:45—News.
11:00—Serenade.
11:15—Music and News.

KEX—EN—THURSDAY—1190 Ks.

6:00—Musical Clock.
6:15—Marion County Farm & Home.
6:30—Western Agriculture.
6:45—Home Harmonies.
7:00—A.D. & Dreamer.
7:15—News.
7:30—Ma Perkins.
7:45—The Hubbard Family.
8:00—Breakfast Club.
8:15—The Tramp.
8:30—Breakfast at Bard's.
8:45—News.
9:00—Commentator.
9:15—Christian Science Program.
9:30—Baby Institute.
9:45—The Mystery Chet.
10:00—Ladies Be Seated.
10:15—Song by Marion Downey.
10:30—News Headlines and High Lights.
10:45—Commentary Policy and Glass.
11:00—News.
11:15—Blue Newsroom Review.
11:30—The Daily Ladies.
11:45—Voices in Harmony.

KOW—NBC—THURSDAY—880 Ks.

4:00—Dance Patrol.
4:15—Labor News.
4:30—Mirth and Madness.
4:45—Music.
5:00—Labor News.
5:15—Journal of Living.
5:30—News Headlines.
5:45—Charles Runyan, Organist.
6:00—Sam Hayes.
6:15—James Abbe News.
6:30—Special Assignment.
6:45—David Harum.

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6:45—David Harum.

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page 1)

to keep out of the picture and wait until the next election in 1948, if the war has not ended by June, 1944.

"Dewey would be a tougher man for the democrats to beat in the state of New York than Willie. Throughout the rest of the country Willie is the better of the two campaigners . . ."

"Women voters in the republican party are much more enthusiastic than women voters in the democratic party. With them it is a religion. Many of them are fanatics, but entirely sincere."

Such is Dan Tobin's analysis of the political situation at the beginning of 1944; and a pretty judicious one it is. Undoubtedly he will be found supporting FDR with all his strength, but clearly he is not optimistic of democratic success—if the war is ended by midsummer.

Willkie without doubt has a tremendous popular following. Instead of going to the ash-heaps as defeated presidential candidates often do he has grown in stature, although at the time he has lost some of the supporters he had in 1940 (he never did have republican congressmen). The Willkie campaign will be directed toward winning the states with presidential primaries. If he does this and comes up to the convention with a large bloc of votes it will be difficult to head him off. The opposition strategy is to herd in a bunch of favorite son delegations who will serve to block the Willkie following on initial ballots and wear him out. Then a swing may be made to Dewey, MacArthur or some darker horse. The final decision will depend very much on the situation at convention time. Right now the republicans are quite cocky, made so by the results in Kentucky. They are confident of victory, even over Roosevelt. This outlook might change in the intervening months, so republican leaders would see a need to put forward some one with popular appeal like Willkie.

The country should have elected Willkie in 1940; then it wouldn't need to change horses in 1944.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON

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The fall of Berdichev, announced by the Moscow radio, has thrown open to the Russians the whole interlocking road and rail network west of Kiev to the old Polish border and provides the red army with a key bastion for the next and crucial phase of the great battle.

Imminent Russian capture of Shepetovka junction, 60 miles to the northwest, will tighten the red grasp on these vital communications.

However a shift in the force and direction of the main Russian attack is apparent, in support of the conclusion that the full weight of red army offensive power in the bulge is now being turned southward in an effort to destroy utterly the German forces all the way to the Black sea.

A virtual lull in the effort to expand the northwestern sector of the great bulge now that the Polish border has been reached is indicated. While the exact line on which the Russians propose to stand temporarily is not yet clear, there seems no reason to expect more than holding action on that front at this stage of the battle.

Deeper penetration of Poland and capture of Olesva and Novograd Volynski would be dangerous. Russian advance elements are nearly 200 miles from the Kiev supply base and battle wrecked rail lines and roads hamper communications with the rear.

For the first time, red leaders have the inestimable strategic advantage of close-knit interior lines to speed troop movements. Berlin says at least a million soviet troops have been thrown into the battle of the bulge. If that is even relatively true the interior communications network now available to the red commander and which will be completed with capture of Berdichev and Shepetovka, would make it possible to mass overwhelming Russian striking power at any selected point.

Berdichev is the last Nazi foothold on the Leningrad-Odessa trunk line for a stretch of more than 200 miles. Restored even to partial service that rail lateral would permit quick shuttling of heavy Russian forces from north to south, for new punches at the tottering, exhausted and over-extended German defense front.

That rapid investment of Vinnitsa and Zherminka junction will follow the fall of Berdichev cannot be doubted. With the Berdichev bastion wrested completely from the foe, the foe, the Russians could converge on Vinnitsa and Zherminka from two directions. They are obviously not waiting for that, however.

So far as it can be traced on the maps, the main Russian attack now is driving southward from the bulge on an arc more than 100 miles wide, reaching

from Berdichev around to a point 20 miles or more southeast of recaptured Belaya Tserkov. At various points on the indicated Russian south front it is within 20 miles or less of the Cherkasi-Vapjarka rail feeder for all Nazi forces in the northwestern portion of the Dnieper bend.

An early junction between Gen. Vatutin's victorious first Ukrainian army in the bulge and the second Ukrainian army south of Kiev, centering at Cherkasi, is indicated.

OWI Reminds Bitter Fight Still Ahead

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—(AP) OWI, in a sobering report on the war, reminded the nation Tuesday "we are still 3000 miles from Tokyo" in the Pacific and there are no signs that either Japan or Germany lacks the weapons or the morale to fight a long time.

Taking nothing away from "the string of victories" piled up this year by the United Nations, the office of war information asserted, however, it is time to face these facts:

1—Germany has lost only a fifth of the territory she held a year ago; Japan has lost only a twentieth.

2—Germany has a powerful air force now principally fighter planes; its steel position is "excellent"; its coal production, "tremendous"; it is almost self-sufficient in rubber; has more oil than it needs and enough high octane gasoline for the Luftwaffe; the German people are getting enough to eat, far more than in 1918 and the harvest this year was the best since 1939.

3—Japan: is protected by a 3000-mile outer rim of defense bastions and has maintained communications only for that distance while we must transport men and materials 9000 miles to get at them; Japan has "no manpower shortage"; it has enough supplies of all but a few commodities "to wage a long war"; there is a two to three years' supply of vital strategic materials such as manganese, tungsten, mercury, tin, chrome and rubber, a three-year supply of high octane gasoline and a year and a half's supply of lubricating oils; new plants are being built in places difficult to bomb; Japan's biggest weakness is shipping.

Fourth Term Predicted

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 5.—(AP)—US Sen. Joseph F. Guffey Tuesday predicted President Roosevelt will run for a fourth term, "be re-elected and carry Pennsylvania," in addressing a party banquet. The remarks brought heavy applause from the several hundred listeners.

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SUBMITTED TO THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY	
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1943	
RESOURCES	
Cash on Hand and Due from Banks	\$ 97,109,908.62
United States Government Bonds	359,475,497.18
Municipal and Other Bonds	4,716,137.34
Loans and Discounts	\$9,865,321.02
Stock in Federal Reserve Bank	405,000.00
Bank Premiums (Including Branches)	\$,273,126.55
Other Real Estate	1.00
Customers' Liability on Acceptances	34,827.51
Interest Earned	880,082.96
Other Resources	106,151.30
	\$407,357,314.54
LIABILITIES	
Capital	\$5,000,000.00
Surplus	7,500,000.00
Undivided Profits	1,685,974.59
Reserves	1,265,014.53
	16,451,000.12
Reserve for Interest, Taxes, etc.	897,862.45
Accumulated	26,807.57
Dividends Declared	19,750.00
Deposits	\$90,055,776.62
Other Liabilities	19,314.78
	\$407,357,314.54
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