

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Sprague
I asked a local real estate man the other day how business was. He replied they were having a hard time getting enough farms to sell.

While this means that equities are not thin enough to be washed out with any recession it does not mean there is no speculation. For it is a matter of common knowledge that farm prices have risen.

Back in the corn belt some folk are getting worried lest the land boom run away with itself. Some are even proposing government controls, like heavy taxes on profits in land sales.

Good old Iowa surely hasn't forgotten its experience back in 1920 when corn land went to \$600 an acre (generally on contract) which was followed by prolonged depression and many foreclosures and multitudes of heartaches.

The place for the controls is in prices to withstand inflation and in (Continued on Editorial Page)

County Tops Bond Quota by Large Margin
Marion county topped its quota in the recent fourth war loan campaign with sales of \$5,764,000 representing 135.7 per cent of its \$4,246,100 quota, according to Jess J. Gard, county war finance committee chairman, following receipt of final statistics Tuesday from E. C. Sammons, state chairman.

The Oregon Statesman

FOUNDED 1851
NINETEENTH YEAR 12 PAGES Salem, Oregon, Wednesday Morning, March 22, 1944 Price 5c No. 309

Weather
Tuesday maximum temperature 54, minimum 38. River 3 ft. Oregon: Partly cloudy Wednesday and Thursday, with showers extreme northwest portion Wednesday. Little change in temperature.

Russians Sweep Towards Danube; Nazis Take Over Balkan Puppets

Reds Cut Off Black Sea Ports

German Forces, Crimea to Odessa May Be Trapped
By TOM YARBROUGH
LONDON, Wednesday, March 22 (AP)—Russian troops sweeping across the Dniester river into Bessarabia on a 50-mile front cut the Cernauti-Baltsky trunk railway yesterday, and stormed through 40 villages to within 30 miles of the Prut river, from which the nazis launched their 1941 invasion, Moscow announced today.

River Channel Job Awarded

PORTLAND, March 21 (AP)—A contract to straighten the Willamette river channel 12 miles north of Salem was awarded by the district army engineers office today to Kuckenberg Construction Company, Portland, on a low bid of \$178,537.

Willkie Blasts Chi-Trib; Stassen Hurls in His Hat

WASHINGTON, March 21 (AP)—Lt. Com. Harold E. Stassen today became the fourth openly receptive prospect for the republican presidential nomination, leaving only Gov. Thomas E. Dewey and Gen. Douglas MacArthur outside that category. Stassen wrote Secretary of the Navy Knox that he does not seek and will do nothing personally to secure the nomination, but if he were nominated he would consider it his plain duty to accept and would request inactive status to permit him to discuss the issues of the day.

Plune's Nose Cut Off, But Pilot Returns

AT A BOMBER BASE IN BRITAIN, Wednesday, March 22 (AP)—Despite a blinding snowstorm, a pilot flew his noseless Flying Fortress back from Frankfurt Monday after a freak accident in which three bombs from another B-17 hit the plane. The three bombs failed to explode but they knocked off the nose and killed the bombardier, Gunner Sgt. Richard A. Jones of 3183 West 98th street, Cleveland, Ohio, found the bombardier's bloodstained Bible beside his body.

Nazi Airmen Pour Bombs On to London

LONDON, Wednesday, March 22 (AP)—The German air force poured incendiaries and high explosives upon London early this morning in a renewed attempt to burn out the capital. The swooping raiders were met by a terrific barrage. One was seen speedily to fall from the flare-lit sky. The barrage opened up a few moments after the alert was sounded and swelled to a sustained thunder. The barrage subsided after a half-hour.

Airtroops Retake Old Hotel

Fanatic Germans Blast Way Back Into Continental
By RICHARD MASSOCK
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples, March 21 (AP)—Fanatic young nazi parachute troops—perhaps the toughest young men in the German army—have fought their way back into the ruins of the Continental hotel at Cassino's edge and continue to wage a desperate struggle for vital heights behind the stronghold, it was announced today.

Willamette Student Wins at Stanford

PALO ALTO, Calif., March 21 (AP)—Miss Darlene Dickson of Willamette university, Salem, Ore., last night won the Pacific regional finals of the national discussion contest on inter-American affairs, at Stanford university. Miss Dickson advocated inter-American trade and commerce as a basis for permanent cooperation. There were eight contestants from 11 eastern states.

Marines Take Emirau Island

By ASAHEL BUSH
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, SOUTHWEST PACIFIC, Wednesday, March 22 (AP)—American marines from the Solomon islands seized Emirau island Monday while United States battleships in their first action in the Bismarck sea area pounded the Japanese base at Kavieng on New Ireland with 1000 tons of steel. The marines overcame light enemy resistance to put Emirau under allied control easily. Possession of Emirau, in the St. Matthias group 84 miles northwest of Kavieng, completes the isolation of all enemy bases in the Bismarck archipelago and places us within bombing range of Truk.

Six Missing In Explosion At Bomb Depot

FENDLETON, Ore., March 21 (AP)—An igloo containing bombs exploded at the Umatilla ammunition storage depot at 9:30 tonight and five or six persons are missing. Col. A. S. Buyers, commanding officer, announced at midnight. He said names of the casualties would be announced as soon as determined. Cause of the explosion is unknown, he said, but "There is no knowledge of any sabotage." Col. Buyers said the explosion did not "communicate with any other property" and that there was no fire. He said damage might amount to \$75,000 to \$100,000.

Japs Claim Advance From Burma Border

By CHARLES GRUMICH
NEW DELHI, March 21 (AP)—Japanese troops are advancing in fierce fighting along the northwest Burma-Assam border, the southeast Asia command announced today. (The Japanese-controlled Singapore radio said Japanese units have crossed into India. It interrupted its regular transmission to announce: "Japanese units, supported by free Indian forces, crossed from Burma into India and are fighting on Indian soil.") The allied communique asserted that combined allied forces operating in northeast Burma scored "unexpectedly sudden" victories in breaking through into the upper Mogaung valley, and in the capture of Sumpuram, 70 miles west of China's Yunnan border. The Japanese had concentrated troops, vehicles and stores on the banks of the Chindwin river and were attempting to push up the Kabaw valley just west of the Chindwin.

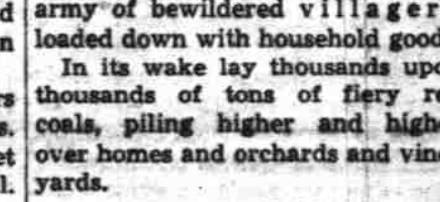
Hull Defines Foreign Policy; Blasts Vichy

WASHINGTON, March 21 (AP)—Secretary of State Hull tonight laid down a 17-point program of American foreign policy aimed at a post-war world of international cooperation, and called on all liberty-loving peoples to show themselves worthy of freedom by fighting for it. Issued as millions of allied troops poised for the coming invasion of Europe, Hull's remarks about liberty were regarded as a call to the peoples of occupied lands to arise and aid the liberating armies when the time comes. They appeared designed, too, to reply to criticism that the United States has no clear foreign policy and to clarify some of the questions which have been raised in connection with recent American moves in the diplomatic field. For example, the point on liberty stating that "never did a plainer duty to fight against its (liberty's) foes devolve upon all peoples who prize liberty and all who aspire to it" fits closely with the attitude adopted towards the Finns. Hull has not commented on Finland's rejection of Soviet armistice terms, but he has warned the Finns in the past that they must "bear the consequences" of their association in the war with Germany. Clearly the urge to fight for liberty was also directed at the nervous Balkans, where Hitler has occupied Hungary while rumors of peace feelers by Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria swarm in-

Vesuvius Destroys Villages

Biggest Eruption In 72 Years Casts Pall Over Naples
ON THE SLOPES OF MT. VESUVIUS, March 21 (AP)—Lava streams spilling from the fiery crater of historic Mt. Vesuvius—swollen and multiplied by a recent new eruption—swept on one town tonight and threatened two others at the volcano's base, after engulfing two villages during the day. Two Italian boys were reported killed by an explosion of a stone cistern at Massa di Somma after lava spreading above it brought the water to a boil and a geyser leaped into the air. A violent eruption of Vesuvius at 5:30 p. m. threw jets of lava about 1000 feet skyward and hurled streams of the molten mass down the slopes. In the van of the molten, gluey mass scrambled a fearful, pitiful army of bewildered villagers, loaded down with household goods. In its wake lay thousands upon thousands of tons of fiery red coal, piling higher and higher over homes and orchards and vineyards.

Ace Aldrich



Captain Donald N. Aldrich, U. S. M. A. C. Before he was 15 years old, Marine Captain Donald N. Aldrich, U. S. M. A. C., had 100 hours in the air. He learned to fly with his father, who was a commercial pilot. Captain Aldrich, Chicago's foremost ace of World War II, shot down 20 Jap planes in the Pacific in six months and holds the D. S. C. He is home on brief leave and was greeted on arrival by his wife, Marjorie, and by their family pet. (International Soundphoto.)

Postmasters May Get Annual Salary

WASHINGTON, March 21 (AP)—House passage sent to the White House today legislation putting fourth-class postmasters on an annual salary instead of basing their income on the volume of business transacted. The legislation also provides allowances for office rent, fuel, lights and equipment. The salary scale ranges from \$72 for offices having receipts of less than \$50 a year to \$1100 for those whose receipts exceed \$1100 but are less than \$1500 annually.

Germans Move On Capitals

Troops Occupy Vital Points to Stop Russians
By WILLIAM SMITH WHITE
LONDON, Wednesday, March 22 (AP)—German troops were reported today to have taken over vital communication facilities in Sofia and nazi armored columns were said to be moving swiftly on Bucharest, indicating that both Bulgaria and Rumania might soon share the fate of Hungary, now completely dominated by Hitler's armed forces. The new German moves came amid indications that the nazis were maneuvering to set up a Quisling regime in Budapest under the protection of 100,000 German troops which had seized command of strategic centers within the past 36 hours. Without immediate confirmation from other sources, the Ankara Turkish radio declared that the Germans had occupied the postal and telegraph offices of Sofia. The broadcast was recorded in Bern, Switzerland. The reported move perhaps (Turn to Page 2—Story F)

Allies Sink 27 Jap Ships

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Southwest Pacific, Wednesday, March 22 (AP)—Allied warplanes, striking day and night at Japanese shipping seeking to reinforce and supply blockaded forces in the Bismarck archipelago, are turning the waters off the northern coast of New Guinea into a graveyard for the shrinking Nipponese merchant marine. A convoy of five enemy ships was sent to the bottom with heavy loss of life in the latest reported action by American aircraft in that area off the coast between the enemy bases of Wewak and Hollandia. Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported the action Tuesday. (The navy in Washington announced yesterday that United States submarines had sunk 15 more enemy ships in the Pacific and from London came official word that British submarines had accounted for seven more in far eastern waters.

WFA Would Unfreeze 1943 Frozen Foods

WASHINGTON, March 21 (AP)—Citizens can expect more frozen foods, particularly poultry, fruits and vegetables, in the next 30 days as a result of a war food administration (WFA) order today making available cold storage space for this year's perishable commodities. The order, effective tomorrow, requires within 30 days a 20 per cent reduction of stocks of frozen poultry, frozen and cold-pack fruits and vegetables, and fruit and vegetable purees in cold storage warehouses of more than 10,000 cubic feet capacity. In addition, all products which have been in such storage 10 months or longer must be removed. Salem Man Held on Stolen Check Charge
ELLENSBURG, March 21 (AP)—Wind blew a minor crime wave right into the lap of the law by wafting stolen checks out of a pocketbook from a rooftop to the ground. Sheriff Bob Dorsey said today Elmer E. Quinn, 37, was arrested in the room below the rooftop cache and admitted two apartment burglaries and thefts of gasoline and purses. Dorsey said Quinn came here in January from Salem, Ore. Salem police said Quinn was unknown to them except for being booked as "drunk" some time ago.