

The Oregon Statesman

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

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

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Member of the Associated Press

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The Wallace Letter

Democrats are scratching their noggins in Chicago over Roosevelt's letter in re Henry Wallace. Henry has been something of a political liability among the party stalwarts ever since Roosevelt, with Eleanor's help, crammed him down the throats of the convention in Chicago in 1940. At various times party leaders have consigned Wallace to the political graveyard, but he has a habit of resurrecting himself, and here he is in Chicago, a life-size candidate for reelection.

The president's letter sounds quite a little like Jesse Jones' recent editorial—as though it was forced out. The president says he knows and respects Wallace, that he is his personal friend and that he would vote for him (Wallace) if he were a delegate. That is rather restricted praise, to be sure. Then he sort of cancels this out by saying it is all up to the convention, and that it should and will "give great consideration to the pros and cons of its choice." That very nearly drops him off the deep end.

There is one thing however which may save Wallace and that is the split among many other candidates. With the opposition so divided Wallace may be able to squeak through, but it will be a narrow squeak.

The odd thing about this convention of course is that it should be working up such a sweat over the second position on the ticket; but that is the only place where it has any liberty of thought or action, and the delegates seem inclined to exercise that rare privilege.

Death at Port Chicago

Where the Southern Pacific railroad slips down to Suisun bay and on to Oakland mole heaps began to appear on the tawny slopes several years ago. One didn't need to inquire as to their identity: they were munitions igloos, and they are scattered all over the landscape before you cross the arm of the bay and into Martinez. It is called Port Chicago, and there Monday night a terrific explosion occurred with a death list of several hundred persons. Two ships that were taking on munitions exploded at the dock.

Benicia, where the SP trains used to be broken up and taken across by ferry boat, before the bridge was built, has long been an arsenal for the army. Port Chicago was located in the vicinity. Rail and ocean transportation converged there. The land was settled hardly at all. The place seemed well chosen, and has no doubt served well as a munitions depot.

The cause of the explosion will probably never be determined. Ships and men were blown to pieces, so now there is little in the way of evidence as to the cause. We have had other similar explosions in this war—one at Hermiston; but none had such a heavy loss of life. The sad thing is that accidents of this kind are preventable—something—or somebody—failed at a critical moment; and now some 300 or 400 are dead and a thousand injured.

William James Sidis, a Harvard child prodigy at one time, is dead at age 46, his last job being that of a \$15 a week clerk running an adding machine. Another youthful prodigy, A. A. Berle, did better by himself. He is assistant secretary of state, and one of the brain trusts of the present regime.

Editorial Comment

From Other Papers

LIVORNO

Livorno gave its English name, Leghorn, to a hat and a breed of chickens; but it has other points of tourist interest for the American and British allies arriving there. Tobias Smollett lies in one of its cemeteries; Shelley wrote most of his Cenci in one of its villas. Coral is worked there, which probably means a brisk trade in trinkets with the soldiers. Last but not least for our warriors, Livorno has a fine bathing beach.

Not so ancient as many other Italian cities, Livorno has no Roman history. Starting as an offshoot of Pisa, 12 miles away, Livorno did not amount to much until the Medici took on the job of promoting the port and caused it to eclipse its neighbor port. Before that time Charles VI of France had sold it lock, stock and barrel for as little as 26,000 ducats.

As the third largest commercial port in Italy, Livorno is well worth while to the allies. By the same token, the Germans will miss the steel-working capacity of its shipyards, as well as its foundries and its electrical works. —San Francisco Chronicle.

THE BOY IN THE TURRET

This war turns up more varieties of heroic, breath-taking specialization than any other ever fought. Take the navy air gunner—not the pilot but the gunner, the lad who rides in the turret and with luck brings down the enemy aircraft, saving his own plane and ship and perhaps firing the shot that turns danger for hundreds of men into victory.

He is likely to be just a boy. Any older, thumbing through the booklet which tells what a navy air crewman has to know, will feel like retiring into a dark corner in shame at his own colossal ignorance. He has to know his guns and how to take them apart and fix them in the dark. He must be able to shoot accurately under the most appalling conditions. He must know something about engines, radio transmission and reception, bombs, fuses and torpedoes, the shapes of his own and enemy aircraft and the theory and practice of flight. This is the youngster who was having trouble with his plane geometry just the other day.

Whether he is scared or not when he goes up to meet the enemy, nobody knows. He may say he is, but that proves nothing. Being scared isn't in the books, at any rate. He has to do his work in mid air as precisely and accurately as though he were a skilled worker in a safe little shop fixing a watch. And he does.

The navy air gunner's prize insignia is a pair of wings, an anchor and god stars for combat. It would be worthwhile watching for these marks and paying some attention to the youngster who wears them.

He takes a beating that only youth can endure. Sometimes he is beaten down, that being the nature of war. If he survives, nothing this republic can offer in the way of honor and opportunity will be too good for the navy air gunner.

Hitlerism to Survive?

There seems to be no doubt that Hitler is still boss in Germany, and the evidence points to his strengthening his hand recently. His dismissal of von Rundstedt as commander of the western front and placing von Kluge in charge is interpreted by some as putting the authority in the hands of one more loyal to the Nazi party.

Now comes a dispatch from Stockholm (that fountainhead of rumor) saying that Gen. Friedrich von Saengerterlin has replaced Baron Geier von Plettenburg as commander of the panzer force, the change being made because Plettenburg was considered "politically unreliable."

There are even reports that Hitler is putting political commissars among the troops whose duty is to keep the Nazi ideology alive, to head off grumblings of disaffection and to indoctrinate the soldiers so they will go underground in case of Nazi defeat.

Hitler has a two-fold purpose, evidently; first to resist to the bitter end and second to lay the foundation for continued resistance. To accomplish the former he is dismissing the generals whose first loyalty is apt to be to the German army and the German people. Hitler wants only those in command who are loyal to himself and the Nazi party. To make sure his philosophy will survive he is trying to impregnate the mind tissues of German soldiers with his doctrines. The specimens we have seen in this country seem to be thoroughly infected with the Nazi virus. They predict either victory in this war or in the next one which they are looking forward to. So we may have Hitlerism to find when Hitler is done for.

Portland's Dead Horse

The city of Portland finds itself stuck with an \$800,000 judgment and all it will have to show for it when it pays the bill is a receipt for same. The cause is the city's own fault, in entering a deal for the construction of the public market which turned out to be a dead horse on the waterfront. The public continued to patronize the Yamhill street markets and the stalls in the new commodious and attractive market building failed to get sufficient patronage. Abandoned as a market, the building is now in use by the navy. It is well built and some use for it will surely be devised.

The city had agreed to take the market over when it got to be a "going concern" and to finance it with revenue certificates. For failure to perform its part the city is forced to pay \$500,000 damages with accrued interest of \$300,000. The money will go to liquidate the loan of RFC in the amount of \$1,300,000. The property will remain in the hands of the company and its creditors.

Portland's scorching should be warning of the danger of cities if they go along too easily with the projects of promoters. There will be plenty of such proposals when the war ends, sugar-coated with various worthy purposes, such as aid to veterans or work for unemployed. But the cities should look these gift-horses in the mouth and count the teeth before they sign on the dotted line. After all, \$800,000 is a big jolt even for a city the size of Portland. It will give the city budget a serious wrench.

There are reports that Turkey will join up with the allies this fall. The Turks better get a move on, or they will be like the Pennsylvania delegation at the republican convention in 1940, racing for the bandwagon after it had gone by.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

German hopes of holding the allied invasion front in France on a sector too narrow to serve as a base for major offensive operations have been blasted with loss of St. Lo to American troops on the right and a British-Canadian drive across the Orne south-east of the Caen on the left.

It is still too early to say whether a general German retreat in Normandy is in progress. There is no doubt, however, that the loss of St. Lo and the cracking of the Orne barrier represent Nazi reverses tending to compel prompt readjustment of the front.

Sudden German surrender of St. Lo after eight days of bitter, bloody fighting is significant. The Normandy cross-roads town was a bastion for the new dangerously exposed Lessay-Coulaines pocket west of it. And it is the door through which American forces can reach maneuver terrain suitable for an immediate advance up the shallow Vire valley.

Whatever the sudden collapse of the St. Lo may indicate as to a general German withdrawal, its capture was of prime importance in the battle that General Montgomery, allied field commander, has been waging to get elbow room for larger operations. Montgomery may strike next in the center up the Vire, on the right hand the Normandy west coast to begin the battle of Brittany, or follow up on his break-through south of Caen into the Orne valley plains.

Whichever way he turns there is no basis for concluding that there will be any less determined Nazi resistance than Anglo-American forces have met since their first hit the Normandy beaches. The German effort to restrict the allies' continental foothold seemed keyed to preventing or delaying allied seizure of additional deep-water ports like Cherbourg.

Such ports are the prime needs for building up armies of the size and equipment required to carry forward the invasion on a big scale. How and when the next invasion entry-ports are to be taken only time will reveal.

Better weather, permitting the full force of allied tactical air support of ground troops to be brought into play for the first time in many days, undoubtedly had much to do with the allies' double success. The weather has gone against the invading army more than once since the great adventure was launched. It seriously off-set, temporarily at least, the inestimable advantage of almost unchallenged allied mastery of the skies over the battle area.



"Weapon of the Future"

IT SEEMS TO ME
(Continued from Page 1)

organization which does its political chores. Sidney Hillman of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers union is the directing head.

A related but independent movement is the American Labor party which is largely local to New York. It polled large votes in 1938 and 1940 when it endorsed Gov. Lehman and Roosevelt, but is so split with faction now that its voting power is much reduced. The radicals are in control of the party machinery and Hillman went along with them.

The CIO political action committee has a large war fund, boasting of over \$700,000, collected from membership dues. Attorney General Biddle gave it clearance to spend this money in its own way, thus it escaped the ban of the 1943 Smith act. Now Hillman says this fund will be set aside and new contributions raised on a voluntary basis from union members.

The CIO political action committee and the American Labor party are the closest approximation to the British Labor party which we have in America, except the new deal party which functions as a labor party but campaigns under the label of the democratic party. Its objectives are not limited merely to protective legislation for workers but for putting into effect the social plans of the "advanced thinkers." Not numerous enough to succeed as an independent political party, it uses the familiar device of the "balance of power," by which a minority by swinging its vote solidly may determine the result of elections. It may be that in some of this year's close contests it has been the decisive factor, but its threat remains that of a minority group.

Oregon has been for some years definitely in retreat from the radicalism of 1930-1935. The old commonwealth federation which the CIO supported and the AF of L denounced, has been quiescent for some time, waiting perhaps the return of Monroe Sweetland and Stephenson Smith. Hereafter the CIO makes its endorsements direct and not as a branch of the national political action committee. It does take an active part in politics however, and may be counted on

Inside Washington

Nazi Air Force Beaten

Arnold Answers Query

WASHINGTON — Gen. H. H. Arnold, chief of the United States army air forces, has supplied the answer to the question of military men all over the world—“Where is the German air force?”

Arnold, who should know, has expressed the opinion that the Luftwaffe may never rise as a fighting force to meet the allied invasion of Europe. The reason: There is no German air force in the modern meaning of the term. This does not mean that Germany has no airplanes. But it does mean, however, that Germany's remaining air strength has been so dispersed that it now is impossible to gather it into one effective striking force.

Arnold gives credit for the erosion of the Luftwaffe to American and British bomber forces, who struck relentlessly at industrial targets and reduced the rail plane production capacity to the vanishing point.

As an example of what happened to the German air force in the invasion: Allies learned, it was disclosed, that 700 Nazi planes were ordered to converge on airports near the French invasion coast, but only 350 arrived—the others were destroyed en route. Of the 350 that arrived, only 200 were in shape to take off to meet the tremendous air superiority put in the skies from England.

To add to the industrial woes of the Nazis, Arnold disclosed that destruction of Germany's oil refining capacity now has top priority on the allied air forces' bombing list. There were 55 major refineries in the Reich.

Now, Arnold said, all have been hit and largely destroyed, to cut the Nazis' oil and gasoline refining capacity to less than 30 per cent of normal.

President Roosevelt still wants Vice President Henry A. Wallace as his fourth-term running mate as the hour for the democratic national convention approaches.

Wallace, on his way back from China and Russia, is almost certain to be on hand in Chicago's mammoth Stevens hotel and sprawling Municipal Stadium

to support Roosevelt for a fourth term. There will need to be a considerable swing in sentiment in Oregon however before it can operate as more than a minority bloc.

when democrats start their session, July 19.

But despite Mr. Roosevelt's desires, he is bound to meet opposition to Wallace within the party, and he does not desire to cause too serious a split in the ranks.

The result is that the president probably will go just so far in pressing for the choice of Wallace, and then bow to the majority of the forces opposing him.

As for a southern vice presidential candidate, such probably is not the president's idea.

Failing to get Wallace with the approval of the delegates, he may put his weight back of young Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas.

Mr. Roosevelt believes, according to observers, that Douglas is a liberal who would be acceptable to all factions.

Chances of the southern bloc obtaining the nomination of House Speaker Sam Rayburn or Senate Majority Leader Alben W. Barkley are remote, indeed.

If it is not Wallace, then political observers say, Douglas will be the vice presidential nominee.

Despite what some observers are interpreting as signs that sugar rationing may be liberalized, there won't be any easing of it this year or next so far as consumers are concerned.

The reasons are: Western sugar beet growers did not get all the subsidy they wanted, and the 1944 beet acreage is not as large as last year's; the 1945 Cuban acreage is expected to be

Kenneth L. Dixon
36th Division
Bids Its General
Walker Farewell
AT THE FRONT

By KENNETH L. DIXON
WITH THE AET IN ITALY,
July 7—(Delayed by Censorship)
(P)—With bayonets fixed, eyes
right and two flags flying the
tired soldiers of this veteran out-
fit said farewell to their general
today—passing before him in
voluntary review.

They are the men of the 36th
division. He is Maj. Gen. Fred
L. Walker. And their tribute was
the kind of scene which no man
who was there ever will forget.

The 57-year-old general was
being called home after three
years to command Fort Benning,
Ga.

He didn't want to go and his
men didn't want to lose him.

A review is strictly a deal for
a garrisoned soldier back home.
This division hadn't staged one
in more than two years. Besides
the men are worn, thin and hag-
garded from more than a month's
constant fighting and a 250-mile
chase of Field Marshal Albert
Kesselring's troops. Their eyes
were tired and their clothes and
equipment in bad shape.

But they wanted to do some-
thing. So they dropped up the
grass and each battalion unfurled
the Stars and Stripes and the
red flag of Texas, with its
one white star, and they stood
in rigid lines before him—
stretching thousands strong in
the sunlight across the dusty
fields.

The general's voice was husky
when he stepped up to the field
public address system and
thanked them. He told them
they were great fighting men
and crisply cited chapter and
verse to prove their achieve-
ments in Italy were unparalleled
in military history.

He spoke of their victories and
of the costliest and the most
famous of failures—that first
brutal crossing of the Rapido
river where they lost almost
2000 men in 48 hours. He told
them simply that had been no
fault of their own but because
they had been ordered to do
what was impossible with the
troops available for the attack.

He asked them to join him in
a moment of silence to honor
the thousands of their friends
who had fallen since the divi-
sion splashed ashore at Salerno
in September. For that moment
there was not a single motion in
all that mass of olive drab.

Only once did he mention his
personal problem. He said he
was sorry not to be able to lead
them any longer and let it go at
that. He told them to fight for
their new general as they fought
for him and no man could ask
more. He told them when they
next met the Germans to do as
they always had done before—
“give it to them.”

Just for a moment he hesi-
tated. Then he said quickly
“goodbye and good luck.”

smaller.

The fact that industrial users
got an increase in allowances has
no significance so far as sugar
to consumers is concerned; that
was a move in part to encourage
production of foods that also
would use eggs, thus cutting into
the surplus piled up by the na-
tion's laying flocks.

The current allotment, not
likely to be increased, is five
pounds per person each two-and-
a-half months, plus up to 25
pounds per person for home can-
ning.

The Literary Guidepost

By JOHN SELBY

"The Time for Decision"
by Sumner Welles (Harper; \$3).

The forces of reaction are
again stirring," writes Sumner
Welles in "The Time for Deci-
sion." "The people of this coun-
try should learn that the world
revolution is not something they
need dread, but rather something
that can be made to redound to
their own benefit. The world
revolution is already here. For
that reason it is desperately ne-
cessary that the policy of this
country should not be directed
toward the vain and fatal effort
to put back the pieces as best
we can but rather toward seeing
that our safety requires that
something new can and must be
built."

"The people of the United
States are once more afforded
the chance to offer their coop-
eration and their leadership to
other nations. They are granted
another opportunity to help to
make a world in which they, and
all people, can safely live. The
decision they now make will de-
termine their destiny."

Mr. Welles' book is a sharp
and cool analysis of the period
since the last war, of the mis-
takes made, of the world situ-
ation as of this moment, and of
the possibilities for a world or-
ganization which can control not
merely peoples as such, but
world ideas. He plans a world
organization based on regional
systems, operating under a
United Nations executive coun-
cil which also would exert con-
trol over a kind of trusteeship
for the world's colonial areas.

It is not possible for me to
evaluate this scheme, but any-
body above the grade of moron
can appreciate the exercise of

logic, and certainly Mr. Welles
uses this force nimbly and well.
For me, the big news value of
"The Time for Decision" lies in
his careful resume of his fam-
ous European trip in 1940. This
shows with wonderful clarity
how far behind the fact our peo-
ples were in 1940. Mr. Welles
brought back with him, not from
the mouths of Italian, German,
French and British statesmen,
the inescapable fact of world
carnage. Yet the nation as a
whole, he points out, was still
giggling over the "phony war"

which, he says, was never pho-
ny. He shows that our democra-
tic government was eventually
able to deal realistically with the
true situation.

The really and part is that
nothing can be done about any
of these cases.

STEVENS
Alarm Clock
REPAIR
SERVICE

Now, as Before War, Is Available to Everyone

BIG BEN, BABY BEN
Or Any Westclox, Keywind or Electric.

"We Teach Your Watch to Tell the Truth"

Stevens & Son
Jewelry
Watches
Silverware