

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"  
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## Mission to Moscow

Announcement of the assumption of civil authority in liberated Poland by a committee of Poles, made public in Moscow, caused Premier Stanislaw Mikolajczyk of the Polish government-in-exile to start at once for Moscow in hopes he can get some recognition for his own regime. The Polish government-in-exile which has been domiciled in London does have the claim of legitimacy. It is a continuation of the last government in Poland, and enjoys the recognition of Great Britain.

The root of the trouble is Russia's claim to parts of eastern Poland which the USSR seized following its deal with Hitler in 1939. Though pushed out of this territory by the advancing German armies in 1941 Russia renewed its claim as its own armies pushed the German invaders back. The Polish government-in-exile protested this claim and later repeated a German charge that the Russians had executed thousands of Poles. The USSR took offense at this and broke relations with the Poles in London.

Poor Poland has suffered all through its history from its greedy neighbors, undergoing three partitions until it was extinguished as an independent country, its territory divided among Prussia, Russia and Austria. The Poles retained their independent spirit, however, and set up their country again after the first world war. The Polish landlords are of course opposed to Russian acquisition of their holdings because they fear confiscation of their lands. Other Poles, however, are eager for the break-up of these landed estates. These differences affect attitudes toward Soviet Russia.

Since in portions of the disputed territory the population is more Russian than Polish, and since Russian military might is overwhelming the only hope the Poles have is to make some agreement with Russia. For some time the London group has been trying to regain recognition from Russia, and the trip of the premier is a final effort to save their own government and to save as much of pre-1939 Poland as possible. In any event Poland will have to keep in step with the wishes of the Kremlin for a long time to come.

## Rail Refinancing

The turn in the fortunes of railroads is a godsend for their financial structures. Instead of paying the increased earnings all out in dividends, the companies are cutting down their funded debt. New York Central, for instance, has reduced its debt in the past decade by about \$100 million, and has about that much accumulated in cash or liquid reserves. This improvement in financial position also enables strong roads to refinance their debt at lower interest rates, the same as utilities have been doing for several years.

An illustration of the latter course is the Great Northern railway which will shortly call for redemption \$119,887,700 principal amount of bonds and notes. To provide the money to pay off these bonds and notes the road will put out a new issue of its general mortgage in the amount of \$100 million, and pay the remainder which with premium will amount to \$23 million, in cash. The interest rate on the bonds being called is 4 or 4 1/2%. The interest on the new bonds will be from 3 1/2 to 3 3/4%. Over the life of the bonds which mature in 1960, 1970 and 1980 the savings in interest will be considerable.

If railway earnings remain fairly steady we can look forward to continued reductions in debt and to refunding operations which will take advantage of low money rates. However, after the war the roads will require heavy outlays for improvements. New equipment may be financed with equipment trust certificates; but extensive reconstruction of grade and relaying of steel will require financing either out of earnings or out of new bond issues. Undoubtedly the roads are conserving cash for this purpose, and plan to modernize their plant and equipment to meet postwar competition.

It is in the national interest to have railroads solvent and able to finance their requirements. The war has proven that railroads are essential and the country ought not to let them starve when the war boom ends.

Congressman Dies has asked Attorney General Biddle to start proceedings under the Hatch act against administration officeholders who did a lot of telephone talk with the CIO political action committee. It seems that the White House wire was busy with phone calls to Mrs. Roosevelt, Lowell Mellett, Jonathan Daniels, David K. Niles, and Samuel Rosenman, all White House habitués. Sure they were talking politics; probably not all fourth term politics either. The CIO-PAC was probably talking third term politics too, trying to help run the country. As far as prosecution under the Hatch act is concerned there is no more prospect of that than there was for going after the democratic national committee which "sold" advertising in its yearbook to the country's biggest corporations, back in 1936.

Jimmy Byrnes who quit his position as supreme court justice to help the president run the home front in wartime, and who bowed out of the race for vice president when FDR undercut him, is going to quit public life and enter the practice of law, according to reports from his home state of South Carolina. He will not quit his chief until after the election though—his sense of loyalty wouldn't permit an earlier resignation. Byrnes is one southerner, one democrat, and one official in this administration who is generally respected all over the country.

CCC camps for work in the forests. Thus the spending spree gets a push for revival. The CCC was a well-publicized venture which fed a good many youths but was expensive as far as work performed was concerned. With a lot less money, expended under normal methods of hiring and buying, far more could be accomplished in the way of forest conservation.

## Blood-Letting Trickle

After all the rumors of blood and thunder inside Germany, the official news simmers down to three or four men, only one of whom, Col. Gen. Ludwig Beck, was of high military standing. The others were comparatively obscure personages, at least as far as the world outside Germany is concerned. After all the torrent of abuse and promise of blood-letting on the Nazi radio, it seems surprising that the death-list (if it is complete) is so meagre. The rivers of blood expected to flow turned out to be a mere trickle.

In fact, so scant is the real information of the nature and extent of the reported plot against Hitler that our suspicion is mounting that the affair may have been staged, or that it involved only a few conspirators. One thing which heightens this suspicion is the picture published of the room in GHQ where the explosion was said to have taken place. There was one picture which showed very complete ruin of the room—walls, ceiling, furniture. A circled X marked the spot where Hitler was reported as having stood when the teller mine blew up. It is difficult to believe that if he had been there he would have escaped with minor injuries and holes in his pants.

While early reports had it that Hitler suffered some burns and cuts and a light concussion of the brain, he still was able, immediately after the blow-up, to receive Mussolini in audience, and show him the room. Of course Mussolini may have been softening of the brain so that little mental effort was required to carry on a conversation with him; but ordinarily one suffering even from a light concussion doesn't engage in conferences and shortly after go on the radio to rant and rave in his usual violent manner.

The whole episode may have been trumped up to give the Nazi ringleaders an excuse to tighten their grip on Germany, and perhaps to HEAD OFF a revolt of the generals. The gang realizes that with them it is rule or ruin, and they are determined to ruin Europe and Germany before they yield their power.

## Desecrating Jap Cemetery

A year or so ago a bunch of Portland pacifists took it on themselves to cut weeds and decorate the graves in a Japanese cemetery in Portland, which roused our editorial ire. It looked like an offensive gesture to our own country.

But recently pictures have been printed of the desecration of the graves in the Japanese burying ground through overturning and scattering of tombstones. These acts of vandalism deserve severe reproof and if possible punishment at law. There is no occasion to desecrate the graves of Japanese who have died in this country. Such action does not bolster the American cause or cripple in a single iota the Japanese might. It takes a low form of courage to vandalize a city of the dead. One may be certain that those who did it probably never will get close to the firing line in the Pacific.

Pres. Roosevelt says he will not indulge in campaigning "as such," but will reserve the privilege of informing the people and exposing "misrepresentations." We wonder what promise he will reiterate, "agane and agane", which he will forget promptly if he is reelected.

## Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

The plain evidence of critical Nazi shortage of manpower was written across the war maps this bitter weekend of the struggle for Germany. It was being shouted, too, from the loudspeakers in Germany itself by a triumvirate of fanatical party followers desperately book-strapped to supreme powers to meet a multiple crisis.

There were intimations that, shaken by his own narrow escape from death at German hands, Hitler had virtually divested himself to all but the symbolism of the leadership, turned over the actual authority at home and at his faltering fighting fronts to Messers Goering, Himmler and Goebbels.

In the east the Nazi front from the Baltic to the Carpathian passes that lead down into the Hungarian plain was buckling under an all but continent-wide torrent of Russian attack. Berlin openly admitted flight in process along the whole line to some shorter front to conserve manpower, and the dispatch of jealously hoarded home reserves to meet the Red avalanche.

Stanislaw, Lwow, Brest Litovsk, Bialystok, Kaunas and Narva all were left behind. Slaulai, halfway across Lithuania to the Baltic coast, fell to the Russians. That cut the only remaining land escape route southward for up to two score Nazi divisions in the upper tier Baltic states. Far to the south Berlin admitted "withdrawal" into the Carpathian foothills between the Upper Dnestr and the San. Przemyśl seemed doomed to split the German east front apart and expose Cracow and German Silesia. In the center collapse of the Brest Litovsk eastern outguard exposed Warsaw to frontal assault. A double headed Russian attack rolled northwestward up the east bank of the Vistula less than three score miles from the Polish capital. It appeared aimed at clearing the great bend of the Bug river.

It might be intended, too, to crack a possible new Nazi short line defense from Warsaw northward behind the Narew tributary of the Bug.

Nor could the Nazi command look westward or southward without added concern. At the very moment when all reserves were needed in the east, an American armored breakthrough of growing scope, speed and power hit them in Normandy. The Aachen gateway to Brittany was threatened in the first real foray of American land power. In Italy Allied forces closed in steadily on Florence. And the retreat of the foe on the Adriatic flank indicated final retirement of the foe into the Gothic line defense from somewhere above Pisa to Rimini on the east coast.

Signs were not lacking that the Russians were ready to strike in the now-dormant Rumanian area. Repeated Allied bombing of Ploesti, pressure on Bulgaria to get out of the war and hints of impending Turkish entry into full war partnership against Germany all pointed to early developments to add to German strains.



The "Yanks" Are Coming

## News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, July 30.—The world money and bank plans devised in the woods at Bretton have been so little explained because, frankly, few understand them. Those few experts who do are accustomed to using such involved thoughts and words that they cannot pass on a simple understanding to the average man.

The announcements stand in the press as a wad of words like a few billion pounds of steel wool. No one can take it apart and say what each strand means—or even what use will be made of the whole. But surveying the way, this much of it is apparent to objective experts:

These contrivances are only the last step in an American theory which began in the last war. Then we had the war loans and debts. Next in peace we had the export-import bank which worked into lend-lease, and now lend-lease has worked into this post-war proposal.

The basic theory of all is the same, namely: It is up to us as a nation of great wealth to supply the insatiable demands of the world for goods. These supplies must be given on credit, the easiest credit, which probably will not be repaid in the future as they have never been generally repaid in the past.

The South American governments are literally rich from the war, yet they have not repaid the bonds sold to Americans, and if you will note the quotations on these on the New York exchanges, our expectations are not high. As a matter of fact, a leading commentator has written that he really should not expect repayment from these future obligations and he actually contended that the information—just alone the information—we would receive from this new financial arrangement would be worth the few billions we are putting into the proposition. That is an excited exaggeration.

But the position of the administration itself is that this arrangement is cheap at any price in view of what the world is facing, although these loans are not alone to be for war rehabilitation, you must understand, but for "development" of all nations. Now this line of thought, this notion we have been following since 1915 has been popular in this country. Most people seem to like the idea and support it. Indeed, it is my guess that the next congress, if it is anything like this one, will surely accept the monetary scheme and possibly even the bank.

The reason the idea is popular is because people think we profit by selling our goods abroad, that these credits will be largely spent in this country, furnishing stimulation to labor and business. All export businesses are thoroughly for it.

But actually it takes substance out of the country in the ultimate end, because it is apparent the foreign governments actually cannot repay us for what they get. We call this kind of thing the promotion of "foreign trade." Actually it is promoting only one-way trade, exporting. The only way we could be repaid is for us to receive an equal amount of goods from the foreign borrowers, things of substance in equal value.

But we ourselves prevent this by another policy which also is popular among us. Our people do not want foreign goods coming here in competition with our own.

The motor manufacturer, for instance, wants to sell American cars around the world, but he does not want British cars coming in here. He is no different from the farmer who does not want Argentine beef coming in, but wants to sell annual surpluses in the world market.

I am not now quarreling with any of these theories. I am merely presenting the fundamentals behind the Bretton Woods agreements, the factors which inspired them, so that you may better understand them. I will present a detailed analysis of them soon.

But fundamentally they perpetuate an incongruity, a conflicting way in which we are involved—one the one hand to give money-credits we hardly expect to be repaid, and on the other hand to hinder repayment by resisting importations of goods and, therefore, actually have a one-way trade policy.

The foreign nations well know this, if our inept citizens do not, and they use it to the fullest. We can lessen these consequences to whatever extent we import non-competitive foreign goods, and might be better off with a direct foreign buying policy which would accumulate stock piles of materials in which we are deficient, against future emergencies.

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## The Literary Guidepost

By JOHN SELBY

"The Magic of Limping John" by Frank Goodwyn (Farrar & Rinehart; \$2.50).

A Texan named Frank Goodwyn has come pretty close to adding something imperishable (I believe that is the literary supplement phrase) to American literature. It is something as truly a part of America as Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn, or Whitman's poetic catalogues. But it comes from the Brownsville neighborhood of Texas, and hence is almost as Mexican as it is American.

Mr. Goodwyn's "The Magic of Limping John" is about a wizard. Limping John Luna was a fiddler who wandered among the Spanish-American villages of the district playing for weddings, catching wild ponies on occasion, hunting, wenching and otherwise filling what time he did not need for his tequila bottle. He was a big man and bearded. He had an air, too, and was wondrously popular both as fiddler and as man. But one day he had some bad luck.

With a couple of cronies, he got himself very drunk on the way to a wedding. He pretended to be the Devil to frighten a simple-minded innkeeper, and swaggered on to the wedding. At the wedding a shot was heard, and the shot turned out to have been fired by another rather simple chap who also had had a fright at Limping John's hands. The crowd gathered about the supposed suicide, but it was Limping John who picked up the body and took it home. Some time later, John happened to notice one of the dead man's arms move, and he was frightened.

It developed that what looked like a workmanlike hole in the corpse's temple was actually little more than a bruise—but Limping John's reputation was made; he had brought the man to life. Nor was he ever able to escape his increasingly horrible fate. Everything he did became a miracle. Credulous women brought perfectly well children for his blessing, and equally credulous men built a miraculous framework with great care, in-

## Practical Religion

—by Rev. John L. Knight, Jr.,  
Counselor on Religious Life,  
Willamette University.

Fouber once said: "Instead of deploring that roses have thorns, I am glad that the thorny stem is capped with roses." The Chinese express the same idea: "It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness."

We need a great deal more of this type of philosophy. Too often we complain about the ugliness and discomfort of life rather than being thankful for its beauty and comfort. The philosophy of life which our forefathers expressed when they sang "Count Your Blessings" was not such a bad idea after all.

Kenneth L. Dixon  
AT THE FRONT

War Correspondent's  
Life Not Glamorous  
On Western Front

By ROGER D. GREENE  
(Substituting for Kenneth L. Dixon)

SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE, July 28—(Delayed)—(P)—The life of a war correspondent here on the western front isn't anything like the glamorous assignment depicted by Hollywood, but you certainly get around faster than a rent dodger in Greenwich village.

We moved again today, for the fifth time since D-day, and in the seven weeks since I came

ashore I have traveled over 3600 miles along the battlefield.

My first home in Normandy was a muddy slit trench with German snipers crawling in the bushes and hiding in trees and buildings. Camouflaged in their weird green and brown jungle jackets draped like zoot suits, they cut loose with automatic pistols and kept it up through the night. The next morning one was blown sky-high out of a church steeple with a Fiat gun and another slumped dead in a treetop from a dose of his own medicine.

Home No. 2 was a French chateau whose owner showered us with kindness, who pilfered from the Germans, but who mystified us by her eagerness to have battle developments pointed out on the map and by her occasional lapse into German. Once she spoke of her "gross-mutter" when an American schoolboy knows the French word for grandmother is "grand-mere."

Home No. 3 was the former German staff headquarters, distinguished only by fleas in the German commandant's bed where I slept, and No. 4 was an ancient little inn near the castle where William of Normandy reputedly set forth to conquer England back in 1066. I say reputedly because Bill the Conqueror, like George Washington, probably slept in every castle for miles around before he crossed the channel.

The little inn near the castle was getting too hot so we pulled out. I don't know what the Germans were looking for because the village is innocent of any military objectives. But every night at 11 o'clock when the last glow of summer twilight faded into darkness the Germans came over low and fast, crumping their bombs and sometimes machine-gunning rooftops.

The ack-ack was beautiful to watch and sometimes we used to stand at the shattered windows, looking up at the leaping chains of fire that wriggled higher and higher into the skies like neon-lit caterpillars.

Then at the last night one of the caterpillars slammed into a German plane and Jerry came screaming straight down and crashed with a terrific explosion into the garden behind the inn. The building's stout old walls, a good two feet thick, shook like the crazy house at Coney Island, so we decided it was time to move on.

Tonight we are billeted in a stone-walled farm house in a tiny crossroads village that somehow seems to have escaped the whirlwind of war. The farmyard looks like that of a peaceful Wisconsin farm—chickens and geese running under an apple tree in the back garden, and beyond, fields of newly harvested wheat and lush green pastures with cows grazing and lowing mournfully.

Justified what we now call total war, and voiced the opinion that "battle is the end for which all armies are raised." Clausewitz, the great German military writer, in many ways merely modernizes and amplifies this fundamental idea of Machiavelli's.

Italy again seems to be merely the battle ground for outside armies. The Italian desire or capacity for warfare seems to have perished with the downfall of the Roman empire. Since then alien armies have used Italy for battlefield. Through modern times armies of France and Spain, of Austria, and the Holy Roman Empire have surged down from the passes of the Alps or across the Riviera or landed from the sea in the effort to dictate control of Italian affairs. Perhaps the citizens of Florence today, conscious of the shutting of foreign armies across Italy in past centuries may see in today's fighting just a repetition of history; and so shrug his shoulders and return to his contemplation of the art which reflects the past glories of his city. Machiavelli, we may be sure, would be intensely interested in the politics of the war, and equally curious over military gear and modern tactics. After four centuries his theories of warfare are still valid.

## IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page 1)

a victory which would put them out of a job.

Machiavelli, who made frequent trips to the camps of the mercenaries, soon concluded they were a vain reed to lean on. So he and his superior recommended a new kind of attack, the diversion of the river Arno from Pisa, but this project failed. (Gen. Grant tried to cut a canal to divert the Mississippi in his siege of Vicksburg, which proved a failure too.)

Then after a fresh band of mercenaries failed to take Pisa by storm Machiavelli came out with his plan of a conscript militia drawn from the residents of Florence and its surrounding countryside. This army finally reduced Pisa. A few years later the defects of militia were revealed when Florence, guessing wrong in siding with France against Spain, saw its militia run disgracefully when they faced the imperial armies. The capitulation of Florence meant the downfall of the political party to which Machiavelli belonged, brought the return of the exiled Medici to the city. Machiavelli, losing public office, turned to writing and thereby gained a far more enduring fame.

The gist of Machiavelli's thinking on military matters may be set down thus:

The use of citizen armies, or militia, instead of mercenaries, who followed war for a living and hence had no taste for dying. Machiavelli saw no hope for Italy save in the creation of patriotic, national armies. It was the application of this idea in Carnot's levee en masse in the days of the French revolution, and firing them with revolutionary zeal which saved France. Garibaldi's army of liberation which opened the way for Italian unification likewise embodied this conception of a national army, and now it is in general use.

Although artillery was coming into use at the time, and cavalry was still very popular, Machiavelli put his reliance on the infantry. Today the infantry is still "queen of battles," and the experience in Europe shows that only the foot soldier can win and hold ground and defeat enemy armies.

Machiavelli urged that great care be taken in selection of camp sites and that attention be given to the health and feeding of soldiers.

"It is not gold, but good soldiers that insure success in war," was a dictum of Machiavelli's which contains a lot of truth. France has always had more gold than Germany, but gold alone didn't bring French victory.

Machiavelli objected to locking armies up in fortresses. While the garrisoning of fortresses became the vogue a century and a half later (recall Vauban's border fortresses for France), military tactics in the 19th century and clear up to the present endorse the idea of the great Florentine.

Finally Machiavelli caught the real significance of war, which was to use force freely to impose one's will upon the enemy. He

sorted Limping John therein, and then announced that he was responsible. And believed it.

There is something extremely funny about Mr. Goodwyn's book, and something terrifying in the way a superstitious citizenry can ruin a man by making him a god.

## "THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



"Wait a minute, Thomas, and let me see what you look like... Somebody at the office asked me today!"

## Stevens

### Diamonds

Each beautiful jewel enthroned in a handsome setting has a personality of its own. Choose yours with care and confidence from our select collection of fine stones.

Credit If Desired

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