

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Democrats and the League

The United States News, in reprinting an article by Wendell Willkie in a recent issue of the Birmingham Age-Herald, underscores the point made by Willkie that republicans alone were not responsible for the scuttling of Woodrow Wilson's league of nations. Willkie relates the battle in the 1924 democratic convention when Newton D. Baker sought to get an endorsement of the league but was defeated in the resolutions committee and on the floor of the convention. In February, 1932, when Governor Roosevelt was looming as a candidate for the democratic nomination for president the Hearst papers quizzed him as to whether he still favored a league of nations. Roosevelt replied and made public his reply that if elected president he would not favor American participation in the league of nations.

Thus the claim of democratic politicians that the republican party was the implacable foe and the democratic party the loyal friend of the league of nations is proven false. The parties were divided on the issue, and Wilson himself failed to stir up the public response which he needed to obtain the ratification of the treaty and covenant.

The Statesman believes that we should look with fresh eyes at the whole question of international organization, trying to learn from experience just how we might introduce a better form of peaceful order. Churning over the debates of the 1920 campaign will be of little profit to either political party. The attempt of the democrats to make political capital of what happened to the league of nations is poor ammunition when the fourth term candidate ran out on the league himself in 1932 when it was unpopular.

Bishop Cannon

The death of Bishop Cannon brings an echo of the battles over prohibition. In the years when it was the law of the land Bishop Cannon was one of its most ardent supporters, and as such became the butt of editorial sarcasm and cartoonist satire. Pictured as an arid killjoy, Cannon was used by prohibition's opponents as the type which was interfering with personal liberties. In this atmosphere of propaganda and studied contempt for the law bootleggers grew more bold, until prohibition went down in a welter of corruption and gangsterism. Bishop Cannon lived on, but the age with which he was identified passed out with repeal. The liquor traffic is now legalized, and the century-old battle against intemperance is thrown back almost to its beginnings, the urgent need now being one of education in personal morals.

Henry Kaiser has bought the patents for helicopter designed by 29-year-old Stanley Hiller, jr., of Oakland. Maybe Kaiser will do better with it than he did with his famous cargo plane.

Editorial Comment

TRAITORS
Times get tougher for collaborators as allied armies close in on Hitler's shrinking fortress. We read frequent news stories telling of what happens when Frenchmen locate some of their traitors cringing in cellars. The stories will continue with variations as the armies march on other occupied countries. Hearts, if traitors have them, must be quaking in Prague and Oslo and Copenhagen.

We are not forgetting that there are certain Americans among the enemy. We should soon have news of Ezra Pound, poet, born in Idaho, who chose to live in Italy and make fun of American crudity. He spoke over Rome radio, praising Mussolini and his social reforms. One wonders whether his son, Homer Shakespeare Pound, lived to grow up, and what he thinks of his father.

In the Berlin region somewhere is Fred Kallenbach of Iowa. Broadcasting in April, 1941, he said the Germans were getting a big kick out of news that Roosevelt was going to send war material to the Red sea on American ships, adding, to make it more amusing: "It won't be long now until the Germans will be getting a lot of secondhand American war material." The answer to that is that they're getting it, but it isn't second-hand.

Another of these is the South Carolinian, Robert Best, who refused the opportunity to return on the Gripsholm "in the interest of history." When he spoke on the radio for Goebbels in a typically Nazi blast of anti-Semitism, he said he was experiencing for the first time "the situation which comes with a perfect realization of freedom." That is something he should enjoy fully while it lasts, which is not going to be much longer now.

There are others, Jane Anderson of Georgia, Douglas Chandler and Edward Leo Delaney of Illinois and two German-born naturalized American citizens.

All eight of these are under indictment for treason. We have not forgotten.—San Francisco Chronicle.

TURN TO THE LEFT

A former Romanian diplomat in this country predicts that postwar Europe will adopt a modified socialism and proceed by stages to full socialism. Word from France is that the people's political temper is "not communistic, but far to the left." The Dutch underground has notified the government-in-exile that the people favor a form of socialism under the crown. Sweden already has a good start toward state socialism.

All of which should not be the signal for a lot of Americans to start looking for a deep storm cellar. A swing to the left is the most natural reaction of a fascist-dominated Europe, even in those countries where fascism was not actually in control. A swing to the left is also natural in a group of countries which still has a peasant class, and other barriers which breed poverty and discontent.

It is not accidental that the United States has achieved its high standard of prosperity and comfort under a system of private capitalism operating in a free democratic republic. The system has its operational faults and abuses, but basically it is strong, popular and successful.

What we need now is a sound plan for putting that system back on a peacetime basis with fewer faults and abuses than it had before, and a willing and cooperative belief in it by all of us who must make it work.

Fill that need—as it undoubtedly will be filled—and we need not go looking for red bogeymen under the bed.—Albany Democrat-Herald.

All Is Lost

For Germany virtually all is lost of the conquests of 1934-41. The Hitlerites have been expelled from Russia. They are being ousted from the Balkans. France and Belgium have been liberated. Only Norway, Denmark, Czechoslovakia and parts of Poland and Holland still have the swastika flag flying over them, and there soon it will be pulled down. The "lebensraum" for which Hitler led the German nation to war has vanished. Back practically at its old frontiers the German army waits nervously for the inevitable penetration of the fatherland itself. And not Hitler for all his vaunted power and boasting can hold back the avenging force.

Hitler essayed too much. From his central core he spread his power over most of western Europe, but his rule, like that of Napoleon's was based only on force. His dominion fell apart once the component parts saw a chance to regain their independence. Federation or even consolidation of Europe might be a good thing, but not the Hitler kind of consolidation. His methods of ruthlessness and frightfulness defeated his own purposes.

In his vain bid for glory and for German "lebensraum" Hitler has brought death to millions, desolation to thousands of cities and towns, ruin to great cities and institutions, and ignominy to his own nation. For all the sacrifice Germany has nothing in the way of permanent reward. Do the Germans realize that fact, or do they think it but a second failure which a third trial might turn into success?

Second Dunkirk

The World war is on the verge of a second Dunkirk, with positions reversed. There was grim justice in the assignment of the British army for the advance along the channel coast, which has carried them through Brussels and Antwerp, and given them a position behind the Germans at Calais, Dunkirk and Ostend. For the 100,000 German troops penned between the British lines and the channel there is no route of escape. There will be no salvation for them by sea, as occurred for the British 300,000 in 1940.

The zeal of the British to seal the doom of the Germans on the channel is increased by their desire to end the robot bombing of their homeland. Reporters say it was the prime objective of the British, that they were more concerned with the damage from the bombs to their homes than with anything else. Their energy is being rewarded, for as soon as present ammunition is exhausted the bombings from Pas de Calais must cease, and Holland will be a temporary and unsatisfactory substitute.

Unsettled England is breathing more easily, seeing an end to the five years of fear and intermittent destruction which have haunted its people.

Ground action has absorbed most of news attention, but the air fighting on the continent continues on a great scale. The task of aerial destruction should become much simpler when the airfields of France and Belgium are made into bases with adequate supplies. The "haul" will be made much shorter when the planes do not have to fly back to British bases.

Oregon is producing over two million turkeys again this year. That is something to gobble over, not crow.

Another thing—if we'd been having a state fair we would be sure of fine rains.

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

The shape of a vast and powerful Russian-allyed nut-cracker attack designed to crush Nazi Germany into submission before winter is becoming more clearly defined with every official bulletin although some sectors remain cloaked in secrecy for security reasons.

And the first official hint now comes of simultaneous Russian and allied drives toward a junction in the southeast to lope off the Balkan peninsula as Brittany was sheared away.

In the east, Russian forces capitalizing on gaps cut in the German defense front keyed to the Narew river, pushed deeper into the critical Vistula-Bug triangle above the confluence of the two major Polish streams northwest of Warsaw. The curving Bug front is the vital link of the German line defending the Danzig corridor approach to the Baltic or Berlin.

It is a formidable obstacle to Russian deployment into the rolling plains that lead northward to German frontiers but is already outflanked by Russian penetration of Nazi lines on the Narew above Serock. Red forces are reported now driving into the narrow Bug-Vistula triangle itself to complete the break-through. It would mean a return to fast maneuver operations in the east over terrain well suited to tanks and even deep raiding to the enemy rear by Russian Cossacks. It must mean, too, German retreat in the east to ill prepared German frontiers to stand final siege as the retreat from France and Belgium has exposed the western borders of the Reich to now developing allied frontal mass attacks.

Official reports confirm the creation by American armies of Moselle and Meuse bridgeheads within striking distance of the Nazi "west wall" defense lines—although the exact positions of most advanced elements is still a guarded matter for military reasons. There seems no doubt, however, that south of the indicated Moselle front between Metz and Nancy, American and French elements of the Mediterranean invasion army may already have linked arms with American Third army comrades close to the upper Rhine.

Press reports from allied headquarters in France intimate some disappointment that Third army supply lines failed to keep pace with forward elements that once stabbed into Germany itself. But in view of the German "west wall" fortifications now to be faced, General Patton is apt to need big, long range guns for the work ahead of him. It takes time to bring them up with their stores of ammunition, but it will save American lives if they are at hand to join allied air power in blasting open the roads to the Rhine and beyond.



"Summons to Berchtesgaden"—1944

The Literary Guidepost

By John Selby
"Steamboats Come True"
by James Thomas Flexner
Viking; \$3.50.

No season produces too many books that are useful, and just as attractive as they are valuable. James Thomas Flexner has done a book of this sort in his "Steamboats Come True." Other men have recognized the same situation as Mr. Flexner, and have done something about it, too. But this is certainly the most amusing effort to get at the truth I have seen in a long while.

If someone says, "who invented the steamboat?" the answer is pretty likely to be "Fulton." And the chances are that his first successful steamboat will be identified as the "Clermont," and his passage up the Hudson river will be described. Actually, Fulton did not invent the steamboat any more than Mr. Flexner did—everything needed to produce such a vessel was already invented, and these had been combined successfully many years before. For did Fulton call the boat the "Clermont"? Furthermore, Fulton was not primarily interested in producing steamboats in any case, but thought of them as a profit-making sideline; he was enamored of the submarine, and trying hard to sell it to a number of nations. Although he did not dream up the submarine, he did sell it to Napoleon I, Pitt, and later to the government of the United States. Fulton was quite a lad.

There are at least nine other candidates for the position of steamboat inventor, but Mr. Flexner's favorite is Fitch. Fitch was an eccentric. He was a surveyor, and eventually was captured by the Indians and had a difficult time of it. He was a brass founder, a silversmith, clockmaker, cartographer and a good enough mechanic to build a steam engine. He even believed himself, at one time, to be the Messiah of a brand-new cult ranking with Christ and Mohammed.

But these eccentricities did not keep him from building a steamboat of his own in 1790, 17 years before Fulton's made its trip to Albany. Nor did they interfere with the operation of the Fitch boat for several months on a regular schedule, its ports being Burlington and Trenton in New Jersey, and Philadelphia. After that summer Fitch's mind appears to have clouded a bit, and certainly his boat was left to rot. Mr. Flexner has brought a lot of Americana to life in his book.

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"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



"I think this upswep does something to me—don't you, mom?"

A Story of a Dead City

CANNES, France—(Delayed)—(P)—This capital city of the world's eternal children of sunlight—the rich, fashionably constructed, cosmopolitan set—stands silent and almost deserted as the Seventh army doughboys roll on toward Italy's famed Riviera.

Taken after the German garrison general twice decided to surrender and twice changed his mind, the city to which Napoleon fled from Elba and Jimmy Walker from New York shows some damage from bombardments, but not as much as might have been expected.

Fighting for the city was sporadic but spottily intense. Cpl. Robert Powers of Baton Rouge, La., pointed to spots where trees and shrubbery were whittled down by mortars and machineguns along a road entering the city.

"And they planted mines all around," he said. "They didn't get to plant as many as they wanted because they finally ran out in a hurry, but still there's plenty. Better stay in the middle of the road."

He'd hardly finished speaking when some luckless French civilian set off two mines a few yards to the left of the road. The road bridge itself had exploded from an unexplained cause a few hours before. Two vehicles were hit by other mines within a radius of 15 yards—one a Red Cross jeep, the other a truck carrying Powers and other soldiers.

Near the beach stood the castle of Henry Clews of Wall street fame. A soldier who had spent the night there said it had been the scene of "a pretty rough little scrap."

"We shot at it when the Germans were inside and then we got inside and they shot at us," he said.

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Kenneth L. Dixon
AT THE FRONT!
Fredricha Has Some Narrow Escapes From Nazi Gestapo

SOUTHERN FRANCE, Aug. 31—(Delayed)—(P)—After three years of aiding the French underground with funds and food, the first time New York socialite Isabel Townsend Fell—now known as "Fredricha" or "the girl with the blonde streak"—started active maquis work, it almost proved fatal.

Orders given her by "Joseph," her first maquis chieftain after her escape from an axis prison, were to return home and help hide fleeing maquis and incoming allied parachutists. This was about a year ago.

She was to get detailed instructions through a maquis youth who was to identify himself by asking "how are the twins?"

But Joseph was killed and several patriots captured by the gestapo. Someone cracked and gave away the plans. Fortunately, word reached her first and she

was prepared when the gestapo came. By feigning ignorance and fright she managed to escape arrest. They kept her under surveillance in the hope of trapping others but even that failed.

She continued to organize the maquis in the Cannes area, and learned to forge identification papers. She supplied food, clothes, arms and ammunition, and her house became a regular recruiting station. Her new chieftain was the famed "St. Paul," probably the best known maquis leader in southern France.

She had several close scrapes with the gestapo, although usually warned far enough in advance.

"After a few false alarms, however, we got careless," she said. "That caused the closest call."

She was expecting a maquis band to pick her up one night for a special job. (She was termed a "crack shot" by the French.) When the doorbell rang she saw a group of men in the shadows.

"Naturally I thought it was the maquis," she said, "and called cheerily to them in French. The answer came gruffly from an obviously German throat: 'This is the police. We are going to search the house.'"

"Two big apes seized me while one little monkey poked a sub-machinegun at my heart. There were 20 of them in all. I told them it seemed like a lot of supermen needed to search a house with only three women."

"They held the machinegun on me in the bathroom while I dressed but seemed to get more decent as I continued to feign anger while they tore up the radio and ripped out desk drawers. "I really was terribly worried. I was so tired the evening before that I had carelessly failed to bury some identification papers. They were hidden in a book case."

But the men overlooked them and finally left with three large American flags. She asked that one be left her. They laughed: "Don't worry. You will see it again soon enough."

Despite the cryptic remark a month passed and nothing happened. Gradually intelligence work was added to her duties, as well as organizing women's demonstrations in Cannes.

During the last few days before the American invasion things happened fast.

The Germans started building huge gun emplacements nearby. (Continued on Page 5)

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from Page 1)

the Normandy operation was a

feint.

3rd, the fumbling and hesitation in meeting the invasion. In its initial stages, when success was teetering, no vigorous counterattack was launched. The subsequent blows which were struck were local, separate operations, largely defensive in character. The one exception was the assault at Mortain at the joint of the Normandy-Breton peninsula operations, which, though tactically correct, was "too little and too late."

4th, an apparent absence of plan for lines of retreat and defense. In the more than three years of occupation there was time both for constructing defenses, which was done, and for planning courses of action for most every eventuality in the way of invasion. This latter was not done. It seems that the Germans were confident that the coastal defense line would hold, and made no preparations for retreats which might be used to reform troops for victory in battle. When the eggshell of the coastline was cracked the inside proved so soft a rout followed.

5th, unwise use of reinforcements. Even when the noose was being tightened at the base of Normandy the German command kept pouring armor and men into the pocket to the amazement of allied observers. Segments of the 15th army were pulled across the Seine in a belated attempt to stop the allied advance. Thus the reinforcements were sacrificed instead of being expertly used to turn the tide of combat or cover an orderly retreat.

6th, disintegration in retreat. There seemed to be no chain of command directing withdrawals. The units were left to scramble for themselves.

The German generals let their armies be caught in the trap which their own master strategist, General Count Schlieffen had taught as the tactic for the offense. The Americans followed Schlieffen's dictum which is the real base of modern warfare: "How is the enemy's wing to be attacked? Not with one or two corps, but with one or two armies, and the march of these armies should be directed, not against the enemy's flank, but against his line of retreat, in emulation of what was demon-

strated at Ulm, in the winter campaign of 1807, and at Sedan. This leads immediately to a disturbance of the enemy's line of retreat and through it to disorder and confusion, which gives an opportunity for a battle with an inverted front, a battle of annihilation, a battle with an obstacle in the rear of the enemy."

It is probable that the Hitlerizing of the army spread the poison of disaffection among the wehrmacht. The field officers knew they had a strong enemy in front to fight, and a military freak in their rear to satisfy. After allowing for this and for their lack of reserves and or air cover the conclusion seems inescapable that the German generals failed in the crisis. Both in the first world war and now in the second, when their initial burst failed to bring a decision they proved incapable of sustaining the war to final victory. In this war both Russian and British and American generals have showed greater ability in the conduct of large-scale warfare. This fact ought not to be without significance for the future.

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