

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

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Daylight Ahead

Supply situation could change quite rapidly with a few shifts in the war and expulsion of the enemy from certain territories. For example, the withdrawal of the Germans from Norway which might be made voluntarily to consolidate their forces at home would permit Scandinavian pulp and paper to get to market. Most of it would go to Great Britain initially, and the American domestic situation would not be relieved very much for some time.

In the far east, with the crushing of Jap sea power the Malay peninsula, Java and Sumatra, great producers of rubber and tin, would be ripe for plucking with a strong amphibious force. The rubber plantations will still be there and natives to work them, so it should not be long before rubber would be ready for shipment. There would be a shortage of shipping for awhile, but some cargo vessels carrying munitions to the far east could come back with oriental products in their holds.

Already with the occupation of Leyte and Samar islands American soap-makers are looking forward to obtaining supplies of coconut oil from the Philippines. They like it better than the domestic vegetable oil and animal tallow which they are now forced to use. It makes better suds. Here again the problem will be one of shipping even after more of the islands are liberated.

We have reached that point in the war when the economic picture may change quickly. It is as though we were drilling a tunnel through a mountain. There still is no light; but a few more blows from the hammer and we will break through into broad daylight.

"Probably Sunk"

The public may wonder over the report "probably sunk" with reference to an action at sea. The ignorant may inquire: "Doesn't a person know if a ship is big as a battleship is sunk or not?" Well, brother, if you were flying a dive bomber at 300 or 400 miles an hour and dropped your egg on a cruiser you wouldn't stick around for three or four hours just to see if the egg curdled the ship so it sank. You'd go back for more eggs, or at least high-tail it out of the flak. There are still no sky hooks for a plane to hang by to see what the effects of his bombing finally are.

His own eyesight or an action photo may tell him whether he made a hit, a near-miss or a miss; but he has to rely on later information to find out if the ship really sank. It takes a long time to get in reports and pictures from all the planes operating in the area, study them critically and conclude what the results were. The navy has tried to be conservative and make no claims not fully substantiated. When it sees a ship falling apart and men dropping off its sides, it lists it as "probably sunk," until additional information comes that it really went down. But the public can lean quite heavily on the "probably."

The facts seeping out of China reveal that General Joe Stilwell was trying to effect needed reforms so that China could fight to save herself. Chiang objected and demanded his recall, which our government complied with. Why didn't Wallace or Pat Hurley, who were sent there as the president's emissaries, handle the situation?

Argentina is calling for a conference of all the Americas. Tail wagging the dog?

Editorial Comment

QUESTION BEFORE THE PEOPLE

A rather curious story is related on Page 1 of Sunday's Register-Guard. A working man, with a large family was before Judge Skipworth, under indictment for forgery—a felony which could carry long penitentiary sentence. He had been gambling over a period of years in a professional gambling house in downtown Eugene. A heavy loser, he became desperate. He took some checks of the man who runs the gambling house, and forged the gambler's signature. He got caught, of course.

So did the gambling house proprietor. There are indications that the gambler would have been glad to "forget it." District Attorney Bill Fort and Sheriff Crowe did not see it that way. They did not let the gambler's lawyer see the forger at the jail. They levied a separate charge against the gambler. They hauled him into justice court and the court fined him \$75.

Under our peculiar laws conducting a gambling den is only a misdemeanor. Forgery? That's a felony, a major crime. We think most people will approve Judge Skipworth's decision in this case to parole "the sucker." And we think a very large section of the public is going to ask:

"What goes on here?" There will always be trouble with gambling and commercial prostitution. This paper has never "crusaded." But there are plenty of indications that slot machines, pinballs, punch boards and professional gambling joints in this state are approaching "racket" proportions. This mess needs probing from bottom to top, especially top places. —Eugene Register-Guard.

ONION SURPLUS

The metropolitan press editorially entreats patriots to eat onions of which there is a surplus crop, further confounded by a lack of places to keep them. Patriots will whoopingly come to the rescue, if he has a chance, but he fervidly balks at eating onions straight. But the onion is mysteriously missing these times from the dishes the native patriots adore. The onion is no longer in partnership with hamburgers, the hamburgers consisting largely of soy beans, epicures suspect. They are no longer used to another steak, of which there are supposed to be none, because of the alleged beef shortage. They also merge well with liver, but most of the liver is stored in the same vault as the radium. Rugged diners loved a slice of onion with their hamburger sandwiches, but the current hamburger is a feeble imitation. Claim chowder and beef stews, favorite retreats of onions, have them not, not to mention a lack of both beef and chowder. However, the onion surplus crisis can be conquered. Let chefs by Washington bureau edit, the onion in the soup and salad with the same lavish hand they do carrots. —Art Perry in Modford Mail-Tribune.

Truman and Bricker

The people have had a chance to hear and to see and to learn about Harry S. Truman, Roosevelt-approved, Hannegan-chosen democratic candidate for vice president. We believe the impression they have obtained is that of a small-bore man, shunted by circumstances into a place not of his seeking and far beyond his deserts. He was and remains a Missouri county politician who pulls down rather than adds stature to the democratic ticket.

His political origins are putrid, and he has never repudiated the political machine which carried him to the top. He remains a faithful collaborator with whatever organization is in power. Hannegan, democratic national chairman, is a graduate of the rotten St. Louis county democratic machine which became such an offense in the nostrils of the people of that city and county that it has been soundly beaten in recent elections.

The contrast between Truman and John W. Bricker of Ohio is so glaring that only the hardened partisan can prefer the former. Bricker is a man of high character, sturdy in his principles, clean in his living, who over and over again has been returned to high public office as attorney general and then as governor of his state. He is a man fully capable of assuming the duties of the presidency, if that became necessary. The country must shudder as it reflects on the possibility that Truman might succeed to the presidency, he has so little personally to offer in the way of qualification.

If there are those who hesitate to vote republican because they prefer Roosevelt, they should take a look at Truman and then at Bricker. One look should convert them to voting republican this year.

Neuner for Attorney General

Opposing candidates for attorney general of the state are George Neuner, republican, who was appointed to succeed the late I. H. Van Winkle, and Bruce Spaulding, democrat of Salem. The latter is an attorney of recognized standing who served competently as district attorney of Polk county. Neuner is a veteran in the state's legal and political affairs, and was United States district attorney for a number of years. Neuner's experience and the fact that he has a good working staff entitle him to reelection. We see nothing to be gained in making a change in this office which presumably would mean a considerable overturn in the staff of assistants if party loyalties are considered.

Stirred by the switch of Senator Ball, who was first appointed to the senate by Governor Stassen, Governor Thye of Minnesota and others of the Stassen-for-President committee have come out strong for Dewey. Even Mrs. Stassen went on the air in behalf of the Dewey-Bricker ticket. We have a hunch however that an intended beneficiary is Commander Stassen himself. 1948 is just four years off and Stassen is only 37.

Britain which converted to war production more completely than the United States, is starting to talk reconversion. It is estimated it will take a capital expenditure of four billions a year for five years to get industry there back in civilian production. Living in England will be on a very scant basis for some years following the war until the country's economic position can be rebuilt.

General MacArthur may eat his Christmas dinner in Manila this year. He's on the way.

Interpreting The War News

KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

Allied success in driving Nazi forces from the south bank of the Meuse in Holland achieved two goals.

Early use of the Antwerp communications hub was brought within sight to bolster an expected renewal of the drive against Germany's Siegfried line anchorage on the lower Rhine.

And it freed the whole length of the Flushing-Breda-Nijmegen-Arnhem hard surfaced highway except its extreme western end on Walcheren island. Elimination of that last obstacle to full allied use of the road is in progress. With final clearance of Walcheren fast movement of priority traffic for Field Marshal Montgomery's troops should be possible as the main allied left flank supply base.

It seems unquestionable that seizure of that road to supplement the anticipated clearance of Scheldt estuary approaches to Antwerp and its extensive and undamaged dock facilities for seagoing craft figured importantly in allied plans. The considerable port of Flushing on the south shore of Walcheren island at the mouth of the west Scheldt estuary offers good weather protection for shipping, obviating delay while the estuary itself is cleared of silt or enemy-placed obstructions.

Allied spokesmen have made no secret of the fact that it was the supply lag that gave the foe a chance to man his Siegfried line defenses after the retreat from France. That handicap has been virtually removed now. Little allied delay in moving in heavy force to crack or turn the north end of the Siegfried front is to be anticipated.

There will still be some weeks of relatively good weather in the Dutch battle theater. General Eisenhower and his army commanders can be expected to make the most of it now that they have gained elbow room south of the Meuse and freedom from danger of an enemy flanking attack.

On Montgomery's right the American first army has virtually been marking time since the capture of Aachen to await completion of the British-Canadian operation south of the Meuse. Its left flank successfully bore the brunt of a Nazi diversion assault which defied American lines but failed to affect in any way allied overall operations.

There was striking evidence in that Nazi counter action of the straits to which the foe has been reduced to hold his western front. It came too late and lacked the power to accomplish its objective. It furnished its own preview of what to expect when General Eisenhower signals a full scale attack on the Siegfried line.



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Teacher's Pet

The Literary Guidepost

By JOHN SELBY

"THE GREAT LAKES," by Harlan Hatcher (Oxford, \$3.50). Books seem to appear frequently in cycles. Apparently we are having a Great Lakes cycle, inasmuch as one publisher is issuing a volume on each of the lakes, and at the same time another and very different publisher is doing the whole job in one volume. It is a remarkably good volume.

It is written by Harlan Hatcher, who has done many books besides this one, including one of the finest of the Federal Writers' Project guides, the one on Ohio. He was, of course, not the author of the guide, but the editor.

In any case, Mr. Hatcher has tried successfully to take his reader through one of the most dramatic pageants of settlement and development the world has ever staged, beginning romantically in the distant past with little groups of brave men fanning through the magnificent virgin expanses of water and forest. The roots of the present are in exploration, conquest, and the hope of broadening the religious bases of the Old World. Conquest, in a direct commercial sense, continued to be the motive until very recently; perhaps to this moment. But it is evident from Mr. Hatcher's sweeping scenario for empire that the old style robber baron passed out with the last of the great pineries.

The era of exploration and minor warfare is handsomely told, but for me the least interesting part of the story. The better part begins a little over a century past when steam and immigrants began working over the face of the Lakes country, when Astor's fur empire declined, and the mad and ruthless exploitation of the forests almost ruined everybody, including the exploiters themselves.

When a story such as this is told with Mr. Hatcher's skill, it is bound to make a sweeping sort of impression. But the actual test is something else—it lies in the corroborative detail. I suspect part of this came out of the Guide series mentioned above, and much more was drawn from years of independent research. But the result is a mass of purely American material, some legend, mostly fact.

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



"She's got a terrific background, mom... her great granddaddy played wassie drum in the Civil War!"

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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