

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Russia's Dominance

As the Russian armies slowly tighten their grip around Budapest, capital of Hungary, announcement comes from Moscow of the formation of a "provisional Hungarian government" with a Col. Gen. Bela Miklos as prime minister. A proclamation is issued calling Hungarians to wage a war of liberation against the Germans.

This adds another chapter to the political book of Hungary. The veteran regime of Admiral Horthy was ready to capitulate and negotiate with the advancing Russians when the nazis in the capital inspired a coup d'etat and placed Ferenc Salazi, a minion of the nazis, in office as premier. Then the Germans poured in troops and defended Budapest and the line across Hungary. Russia has finally resumed its thrusts in Hungary and has set up this new political regime which doubtless will function as does the Polish committee with headquarters in Lublin.

So it is that across Europe from the Baltic to the Black sea Russia is building for the future with regimes which will be friendly to, if not actually dependent on, Moscow. The Russians already dominate Rumania; their influence is predominant in Yugo-Slavia (Newsman Eleanor Packard was expelled from Yugo-Slavia when she reported that pictures displayed in that country were of Tito and Stalin, with scant recognition of Churchill and Roosevelt, though most of the supplies for Tito had come from the western allies). Russia has a treaty with Czechoslovakia and controls the Lublin Polish committee, while it has moved to incorporate the three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania into the USSR.

This is a natural result of the military power revealed by Russian and by the fact that Russian armies, for the most part, are the liberating armies. It does not of itself violate the Atlantic Charter, though where territories are seized and peoples shifted around, it would.

For one thing, the situation in east central Europe will be stabilized after this war. The "cordon sanitaire" raised against bolshevism after the first World war will become a protective moat for Russia.

Tired Wisconsin Progressives

Third parties have had scant success in the United States since the alignment of the republican and democratic parties was drawn in Civil war times. The farmer-labor party in Minnesota, which had considerable state success, finally merged this year with the democratic party in that state. Over in Wisconsin, long under the LaFollettes a state noted for its political irregularity, the LaFollette progressive party is on its last legs. Its leaders are canvassing the situation trying to decide whether to carry on or to fold. Its strength has largely seeped back to the republican party from which it sprang.

The Wisconsin decision will have to be made soon because Bob LaFollette, who has been sen-

Editorial Comment

AMERICA'S RESPONSIBILITY

In the course of a dispatch to this newspaper explaining the political situation in Italy, Herbert L. Matthews, our correspondent at Rome, remarked that: "Britain, Russia, and other European nations see war as an instrument of politics, but for the United States it is something purely and narrowly military—to win the war and then go home."

Many Americans not only agree that such a difference in national attitude exists, but pride themselves on this difference. They talk as if it were merely selfish and calculating to fight a war for any reason beyond itself, and as winning the war and then going home were the only altruistic and noble course for us to pursue.

But a little reflection will show how ill-considered such an attitude really is. Every war in which reasonable men participate is fought for a purpose. For America, as for England and Russia, the primary purpose of the present war was to remove a threat to its national survival. But once such a threat is removed, a rational people will use their victory to try to insure, as far as possible, that the threat does not arise again. They will try to establish the conditions under which international prosperity, good-will and a lasting peace are possible. We have not spent \$400,000,000,000 and sacrificed half a million casualties in order to have nothing to do with Europe. We did not participate in this war in order to wash our hands of the result. That is what we did the last time. The ultimate consequence was that we were forced to participate in a war incomparably more costly to us.

War is necessarily an instrument of political policy. But to many Americans think of "political policy" only in the bad sense. They associate it with schemes for spheres of influence, dubious military alliances, territorial aggrandizement, and with all sorts of Machiavellian intrigue. But if we do nothing, or merely proclaim our intention not to "interfere" in this, that or the other local situation brought about directly or indirectly by our participation in the war, we shall in effect leave the actual framing of policy to others; and we shall be inconsistent if we later complain that the policy actually adopted is a harmful one from a world point of view or from that of our own national interests. The true alternative to narrow and shortsighted national policies is not no national policy at all, but far-sighted policies that look beyond immediate national interest to our larger interests as citizens of a single world.

But such policies are not to be achieved either by self-righteously announcing a "hands-off" policy in Europe or by repeating a few idealistic slogans. They can be put into effect only by specific decisions in specific situations. Our war and post-war policies will not be decided merely by what we do regarding the agreements reached at Dumbarton Oaks. They are actually being decided every day by what we do or fail to do, by what we say or fail to say, with regard to specific situations in Italy, Belgium, Greece, Yugoslavia, Poland, or a score of other points. But if in these specific situations we do nothing, if we fail to make our influence felt, if we keep publicly washing our hands of responsibility for what is being done in a situation which we helped to create, we merely leave a vacuum so far as American policy is concerned; and we shall hardly be entitled to complain if others rush in to fill that vacuum with policies that go counter to our own interests or to those of a durable peace.—New York Times.

ator for 19 years, comes up for reelection in 1946. He will have to make it clear long before the election whether he will stand as a candidate in his old progressive party or whether he will run as a republican. Republican senators are concerned about this, too, though not so much as if they had won the election, for LaFollette has seniority, and if a republican would rate the ranking republican positions on committee assignments. In view of the trend in Wisconsin it is likely that 1946 will see LaFollette running as a republican.

Women and Pipes

Papers have reported that the females of the species are taking up pipe-smoking because of the shortage of cigarettes. In fact, there have been numerous pictures of women so engaged. The pictures looked staged, however, as though the news photographer had brought the pipes along as "props." The gals looked a bit awestruck at the undertaking.

The Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce, in its desire to be helpful in the present distressful situation, comes forward with the suggestion that the ladies fill their pipes with cut plug and then take a few whiffs. That surely would gratify their appetite for nicotine. We pass on the Journal's suggestion:

With the cigarette shortage growing more acute throughout the country each day, opportunity is surely hammering and hollering at the doors of pipe manufacturers. The ladies, it is said, are now taking strongly to pipe smoking but there is too much talk about the shape and color of the hods that should appeal to women. The shape and color of pipes—take it from us—should not be vital issues. It is the content of the smudge-pots that is of paramount importance—the tobacco, if you please. And to the ladies we would say: Get into immediate possession of a plug of Navy Cut or Horse Shoe. Whittle off a chunk and after working it into a mixture resembling stoker coal, load your hods carefully—even corn pipes will do—10 cents each at any tobacconist's shop. Then let the match play lightly over the top of the bowl until a dense smoke resembling that of burning creosote results. Inhale deeply, forgetting the while all about the audience and the color and shape of the vehicle holding the damnable mess.

As we say, it is the content rather than the pipe itself that counts. And if after a dozen or so deep draws of that time-tried and extremely potent Navy Cut you have any desire remaining for cigarettes it will be more than passing strange. There may ensue a sense of extreme dizziness and you may see black spots before your eyes as the tobacco bubbles and sputters but keep at it and you are sure you will experience a thrill that no cigarette can impart. And in passing, it might be mentioned that the price of good, black plug tobacco is still within the price range of all, due probably to the fact that the demand thus far has been none too strong, no doubt, because so few have had the benefit of our advice in the matter.

No one seems to have told Santa Claus not to come this year because of the stocking shortage.

Interpreting The War News

KIRKE L. SIMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

The war news from Europe on Christmas day held two elements that helped brighten the Yuletide season on United Nations home fronts.

In the west the Nazi counter-attack across Belgium and northern Luxembourg clearly had spent its first force. Front line observers read the relative lull as a sign that the Germans were regrouping of another lunge; but battle momentum once lost is hard to regain.

Portents were even more encouraging in the southeast. The battle of Budapest was close to its end. A vast Russian pincer attack had all but throttled Budapests last communications west, and the twin drive on Vienna up both banks of the Danube was taking definite shape. It is a fair deduction that the uncertain breathing space attained at high cost in the west did little to abate the apprehension with which the Nazi high command watched the evolution of Russian strategy in Hungary and Latvia—and above all on the still ominously quiet Polish front.

That the moment is close at hand for rested Russian armies of the center astride the short road to Berlin to join in the attack German military experts cannot seriously doubt.

What happens in the east, particularly in Poland, within the next week or two could go far toward shaping events in the west.

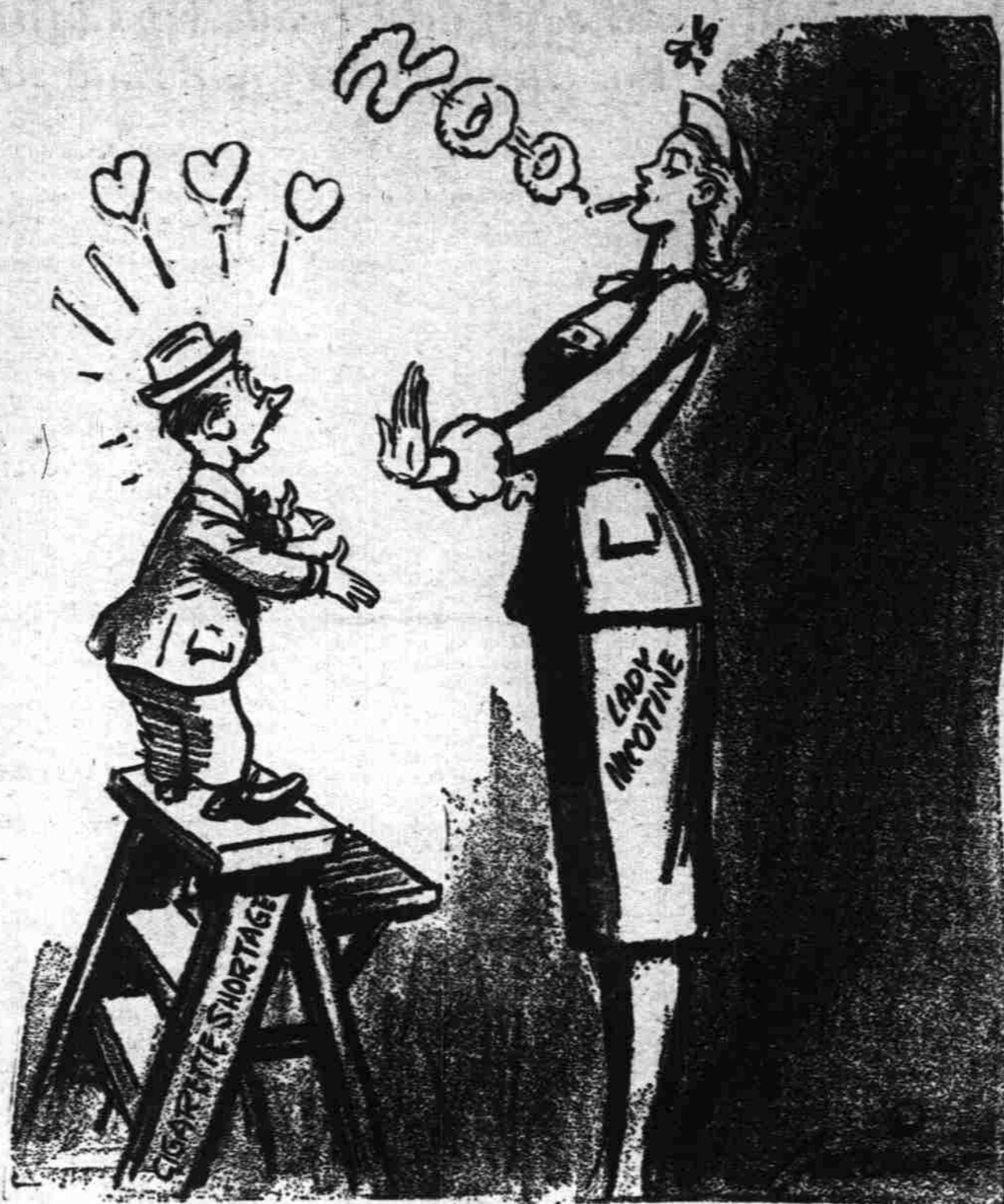
The savage but risky German counter-attack between the Roer and the Moselle has attained its first objective—bringing the Allied advance toward the Rhine in the Aachen bulge to a halt and diverting much of the American Third army from the Saar basin offensive.

There has been no hint of Allied withdrawals on either stalled attack front, however, to cope with the Nazi power drive between them.

A critical decision must soon confront the German commander in the west. His loss of momentum westward, as well as his failure to make progress northward and cut communications of the Aachen bulge, probably is traceable to his necessity of diverting troops from offensive to defensive action. He must hold open the neck of the great sack in Belgium into which he has poured such strong forces.

The Nazi commander must decide whether to attempt to hold the Belgian bulge almost to the Meuse as a leverage to keep the Allied offensives above and below it in continuous check, or to withdraw again within Siegfried line defenses from which the sally was started. To hold that ground securely more troops must be committed in the sack. Even to attempt withdrawal would require a massing of troops to keep the dangerous neck open again First army punching from the north and Third army attacks from the south. Otherwise that "worst defeat" which General Eisenhower told his troops was possible as a result of the Nazi "gamble" could come.

There is a definite limit to the reserves available to the foe for west front action. The German highest military command dare not pare down east front dispositions in the face of poised Russian legions in Poland.



Under the Mistletoe

The Literary Guidepost

By John Selby

"S.R.O." edited by Bennett Cerf and Van H. Cartmell (Doubleday, Doran; \$1.50); "THE BEST PLAYS, 1943-1944," by Burns Mantle (Dodd, Mead; \$3).

The only play collection I know in which the vague considerations of "art" played no part is published this month by Bennett Cerf and Van H. Cartmell with a most appropriate title. This is "S.R.O." and "S.R.O." is the second book Mr. Cerf has published this fall through another publisher than himself. He has, as is well known, a very prosperous firm of his own.

Anyway, the plays were chosen because they knew how to win friends. There are about four plays among the 14 included which would justify the adjective "good," and even there one must usually add, "of its kind." It takes a really active and willing imagination to wade through a play like "The Old Homestead," a work which nevertheless supported Denman Thompson from 1875 to his death in 1911. "The Man from Home," which was perpetrated by Booth Tarkington and Harry Leon Wilson, both of whom must have known better, is another example. Probably the finest of all is, however, Anne Nichols' "Abie Irish Rose." It is beyond belief that anybody could read through the play, except as an exercise in theatrical history. That, most likely, is what Messrs. Cerf and Cartmell intend it to be.

But "Life With Father" reads well, so does "Arsenic and Old Lace," and so does "Oklahoma," which last is surprising since musical plays are notably dull on paper, as a rule. I enjoyed dipping into Mary Roberts Rinehart's "The Bat" (Avery Hopwood's, too), and found the success of Erskine Caldwell's "Tobacco Road" strange, as usual. And John Chapman's introduction is filled with information.

Burns Mantle's "The Best Plays: 1943-1944" is ready also, and Mr. Mantle's friends will be a little shocked, quite likely, to see that he flatly calls the season of 1943-44 a "war casualty." The fact that none of the season's plays is given an unqualified

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 25—A strong, generally thoughtful editorial writer who is against the Roosevelt, particularly Mrs. Roosevelt, regime spoke out in several metropolitan papers recently: (note, I think the radicals called him fascist-minded during the last campaign although the charge was of a political nature and therefore not intended to be believed literally).

"There is only one way to assure ourselves of military strength, whenever needed. That way consists of a system of compulsory military training."

That is simply not true. There are many ways of assuring ourselves of military strength, whenever needed. A logical, straightforward way consists of putting military training into the high schools and colleges to develop, and keep trained, the necessary officer personnel, and enlarging and modernizing the national guard, giving it weapons, including airplanes and tanks, artillery, ammunition and commissary to develop a private personnel.

That would be the more efficient way, because it would be constant, always up-to-date, always ready to handle the latest implements of warfare scientifically and efficiently, although there are of course many other things which must be done, including the maintenance of a greater permanent military inventors' council with laboratories, continuance of West Point and Annapolis at war size or larger, and an alert, ever watchful, and efficient war department to see that we do not fall asleep to dangers from without.

cheer does not lessen the book's value as part of the Mantle series, which for 25 years has, in turn, been a part of theatrical history.

These are democratic ways. The taking of a boy from his home, work and career for a year of service in the army is a Prussian method instituted by Prussian militarists after the war of 1870. It must be an inefficient way of developing an army because the Prussians have never won with it, nor has it produced results in France and some other nations which took it up.

On the opposite side of the same fence a radical editorial writer in a metropolitan daily, (I think he is the very one who called my above friend "fascist-minded" and certainly he thinks the Roosevelt regime, and particularly the Mrs. Roosevelt regime, is just about right on everything), wrote recently:

"The only way this country can get away from maintaining a very large army and developing a militaristic caste system after this war is by compulsory military training."

Is this not the strangest collection of bedfellows upon any world mattress? Radicals, conservatives, people who think each other fascists or communists, Mr. Roosevelt and the chamber of commerce, PM and the NY Herald-Tribune, Mrs. Roosevelt and "the fascist minded," all enjoying this same delusion—insistently.

For there is no more truth in saying this is the only way to "avoid a large army" than that it is the only way to maintain an army. It would be a large army of more than a million youths 17 to 21 years old, a new large army each year.

But it would hardly be what we would call a skilled army. We would have to maintain another one for older men for defense. We would have to have an air force constantly alert, a corps bent on nullifying the effect of rocket bombs, and what other new weapons, daily, a whole war department of just as much strength as if we did not have compulsion in training.

These trainees would only be reserves—reserves that might otherwise be obtained more efficiently by a real national guard. As a friend of mine puts it:

"We must be a military, but not a militaristic nation," and we need a national guard which literally must be "a guard of the nation."

But a great many other people are saying daily in the papers a year of national service would cure juvenile delinquency, promote youth-health, make better citizens. These are all non-military excuses for a military step, which lacks sound military grounds.

Well, this war has cured crime. Would these same people advocate continuance of this war forever in order to cure crime? Of course, not.

We handle crime otherwise. Well, why not handle our non-military problems in a non-military way, or at least in a democratic way?

Portland Radio Station

Plans Farming Service
PORTLAND, Dec. 25.—(P)—The first radio farm service in Portland will be established next month by station KALE. Burton S. Hutton, former staffer at station KOAC in Corvallis, will be in charge.

Kenneth L. Dixon
AT THE FRONT
Strasbourg Is City Of Borrowed Light In Shadow of War

By Wade Werner
Substituting for Kenneth Dixon
STRASBOURG, Dec. 23.—(Delayed)—(P)—This has become a city of borrowed light in the shadow of frontline war.

American troops patrol its streets, French flags float serenely over its rooftops. But no part of this Alsatian capital is more than five miles away from German guns. Most of it is closer, and its waterfront on the Rhine is under machine gun and mortar fire from the opposite bank.

So it was a simple matter for German artillery to knock out a municipal power plant. The only surprise was that they waited three days before doing it after the Seventh army drove them out of town. Since then nearly a month has passed and army civil affairs detachments collaborating with French authorities have managed to borrow enough electricity from towns well beyond the artillery range to illuminate all Strasbourg.

There also was enough for pumping the city's water supply and operating refrigeration plants and hospital electrical. Only street cars still are idle.

Strasbourg's food situation

IT SEEMS TO ME
(Continued From Page 1)

result, the flow of money at race meets in 1944 broke all records, amounting to over \$300,000,000.

The same expansion was noted in Portland for the dog races. Some of the war activities like financing of the war bond selling campaigns were supported by proceeds of special race days; also, the George A. White service men's center got a big lift from this source. The state general fund gets only a trickle of the many millions posted as bets on the dogs; but ten per cent goes to county fairs and certain live stock shows and the Pendleton Roundup. Since most of these events have shut down for the duration, they have accumulated a lot of money for postwar spending. These funds will not suffer from the suspension of racing because of their ample credits, but the Portland special agencies will lose quite a chunk of money.

By taking the state or units of government into partnership for the sharing of the patronage of man's vices, sponsors of race meets and pari-mutuel betting have made themselves quite impregnable from attack on moral grounds. In Oregon there has been no move to abolish pari-mutuel betting since Senator Staples led his gallant but unsuccessful attack in the 1937 legislature.

The war boards are not hesitating now to crack down sharply as they see the necessity for added restraints. WPB has frozen civilian production, stopping the trend toward reconversion; the manpower-commission has imposed fresh controls over labor to hold workers at war jobs; the OPA is renewing ration controls on meats and canned goods, with higher point-cost for many items.

The people, in their chastened mood following reverses on the western front, will accept these new orders without complaint, as if it were in token of their contrition over premature celebration of victory. I hope they will not be so quick to throw off these restraints when the next news of military success comes in. Let's stay on the job this time until it really is concluded.

To many of us serving overseas, all this Utopian chatter is a serious waste of time. Most of all, we want to return home, and because you are our parents, wives and sweethearts we feel you want this, too, most of all. But, indeed, this is not enough. Salem is a wonderful city. It and its people and its institutions have endowed each of its sons with a peculiar brand

(Continued on page 11)

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



"Let's amaze everyone by eloping!"

JEWELRY
Craftsmanship
Frankly... we're proud of the excellent jewelry manufacturing we are now doing for the people of Salem and vicinity! All of this work is done in our own store by our own craftsmen.
A full guarantee goes with each job we do, whether it be setting a diamond, or overhauling a watch. If you have a jewelry problem... let us help you solve it!
STEVENSON
Salem, Oregon