

**IT SEEMS TO ME**

*By Charles A. Sprague*

Two statements made in recent days are of real interest to the west. One was by Benjamin H. Fairless, president of US Steel, that his corporation was interested in bidding for the big new steel plant built by the Defense Plant Corporation at Geneva, Utah, and now being operated by Big Steel for the government, also that it was planning on putting in a bid for the Kaiser Fontana steel plant near Los Angeles. This drew a rejoinder from Henry Kaiser who said that the Fontana plant was not a DFC enterprise, but his own, and that he was setting aside assets to pay about one-third of the \$100,000,000 which Fontana cost. Kaiser added that he would be interested in bidding for the Geneva plant; and intimated that in financing these deals he might resort to public issuance of securities.

The west can view these developments with real satisfaction. As the February number of Fortune magazine points out, the west feels that it must have cheaper basic metals to promote its industrialization. Heretofore, aside from a small steel plant at Pittsburgh, Calif., steel used in the west has come from the Chicago-Pittsburgh district or the Birmingham district in Alabama. The freight rates have been high, thus cutting the ability of western manufacturers to compete in the national market for finished goods. If we have permanent steel mills in the west, and freight rates are not too burdensome, and then if we can develop our light metal industry into permanent, large-scale operation the west can really forge ahead in peacetime production.

The recent great increase in population on this coast (California now claims to be third largest state in the country) helps overcome another handicap the west has labored under—lack of a large consuming market. While the west will still be thinly populated, its growth by expanding local consumption help local industries to grow.

You have to give full credit to Henry Kaiser to being an industrialist of vision. He isn't disposed to sit down on his war profits and call it a day. He is ready to throw his war profits into the pot in the gamble for postwar business. His example might well inspire others who talk glibly about the virtue of private enterprise but are so cautious they are unwilling to make any real adventure in finance. There must first be ENTERPRISE if private enterprise is to live.

## Jet Propelled Nazi Fighters Attack Heavies

LONDON, Feb. 9—(AP)—A mighty force of 1300 American heavy bombers—guarded by almost 900 fighters—faced the greatest challenge of German jet planes today and escaped with a loss of 19 bombers and three fighters.

Battered gunners aboard the Flying Fortresses and Liberators failed to shoot down any of these attackers, flying at a speed of 10 miles a minute, but escorting Mustang pilots knocked down five of the jets.

Eighteen ordinary-type Messerschmitt and Focke Wulf fighters also were blasted from the sky and 41 German planes were destroyed on the ground.

Despite the resistance of the German Luftwaffe, the American armada drove through to a successful completion of its objective, plunging 4000 tons of explosives on the synthetic oil refinery at Lutzendorf, factories at Weimar and railway yards at Magdeburg.

## New England Storm Brings Death to 18

BOSTON, Feb. 9—(AP)—With a death toll of 18 and damage mounting into the millions, New England tonight was digging itself out of its worst blizzard since the Valentine's day storm of 1940.

A record fall of snow, ranging up to 17 inches in Boston, clamped shut stores and schools and left most war plants limping on sparse manpower.

Transportation, virtually paralyzed for 24 hours, was wheezing along in low gear. Highways were flecked with stalled automobiles, abandoned by their owners.

Soldiers answered a railroad appeal to shovel out switches. Thousands of commuters trekked wearily homeward after spending last night in police stations, railroad terminals and hotel lobbies.

**Partly Cloudy**  
with morning valley fog today in the mid-Willamette valley area, with somewhat warmer temperatures, predicts U.S. weather bureau at McNary field, Salem.

**Weather**

	Max.	Min.	Prob.
San Francisco	62	47	49
Eugene	53	36	trace
Salem	58	38	trace
Portland	51	39	88
Seattle	59	43	trace
Willamette river	15.6 ft.		

# CANUCKS ADVANCE 5 MILES

## Park Purchase Defeated; Franchise Refused Co-op

### Margins Narrow In Vote

The city of Salem turned thumbs down Friday on proposals to acquire the remaining portion of Bush pasture and to grant a franchise to the Salem Electric cooperative.

The plan to purchase 47 acres of the Bush tract for \$175,000, adjoining the 53 acres the city already has by grant, was defeated 2567 to 2110.

**North End Ballot Heavy Opposing Bush Tract Buy**

The proposal to grant a franchise to Salem Electric was beaten 2366 to 1283.

Approximately 30 per cent of the city's 14,079 registered voters turned out for the special election.

The vote by wards:

Ward	Bush Pasture	Salem Electric
1	328	346
2	246	287
3	176	175
4	224	239
5	270	629
6	341	499
7	425	341
<b>Total</b>	<b>2110</b>	<b>2567</b>

The Bush purchase carried in three wards, but lost heavily in ward 5 (North Salem) and was defeated in the east ward (6), north-central (1) and in the ward which includes a portion of the tract itself (4).

## RAF Hammers Verona, Nazi Supply Town

ROME, Feb. 9—(AP)—Railyards at Verona, the crossroads of all important lines supplying German armies in northern Italy, smoldered today after a massive overnight attack by RAF heavy bombers.

Swarms of American medium bombers and fighter-bombers had swept yesterday blasting new gaps in the battered communications which the nazis must keep open for supplies or for eventual escape from Italy.

The Americans were credited with cutting tracks at 55 places and destroying or damaging 34 locomotives, 100 rail cars and 107 other vehicles.

## 13,600 Workers Idle In Detroit Strikes

DETROIT, Feb. 9—(AP)—Some 13,600 workers were idle tonight as the result of strikes in plants of the Briggs Manufacturing Co. and the Square D Co.

The Briggs walkout, involving an estimated 12,500 employees, started Tuesday over a dispute concerning job assignments in the Mack avenue plant and has spread to four other plants here.

## Observers Keep Close Watch For Fleeing War Criminals

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9—(AP)—American observers in Spain and Portugal are keeping a sharp lookout these days for fleeing nazi war criminals. Acting Secretary of State Grew disclosed today.

At the same time he called indirectly for definite assurances from neutral countries that they will not harbor axis ring leaders who escape from Germany.

## Manila in Flames



Raging fires started by Jap demolition charges and U. S. mortar fire burn in the enemy-held area of Manila, capital of the Philippines. This is the first photo of Manila under battle conditions. (AP wirephoto from signal corps radio)

## Big 3 Believed Whipping Plans Into Shape To Occupy Reich at Moment's Notice

LONDON, Feb. 9—(AP)—The big three, realizing the possibility of a sudden collapse of military and civilian resistance in huge areas of Germany under pressure of the joint Allied offensive, are believed whipping plans into shape for occupying the reich at a moment's notice.

Well-informed quarters here suggested today that President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin possibly are preparing two occupation plans, under the first of which specialized forces are being alerted now for emergency duty. The second plan would provide forces for long-term assignment.

There are indications that specialized troops already are being concentrated on the fringes of Germany to take over quickly when all or part of the country collapses. This force includes civil affairs experts and "teams" of the United Nations relief and rehabilitation administration.

With Nazi military forces being withdrawn to the south and southeast, British officials said northern Germany might collapse at any time. They based this belief on reports from inside the reich that many sections of northern Germany already are showing signs of progressive decay.

In any event, the big three probably will shape their plans to the extent they will not be caught napping by any development.

## Three Valley Men Included on Wounded List

The names of three mid-Willamette valley men were included today in a list of 2374 announced as wounded in action in the European theater of war.

Pfc. Wendell E. Lee, son of Emil O. Lee, route 1, box 187, Silverton; Cpl. William R. McKnight, husband of Mrs. Zella L. McKnight, 606 Baker street, Albany; Sgt. Frederick J. Snyder, son of Omar S. Snyder, of Turner.

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At the same time he called indirectly for definite assurances from neutral countries that they will not harbor axis ring leaders who escape from Germany.

The subject came up for a thorough airing at Grew's news conference, in connection with reports that Britain and Argentina made a secret agreement last summer by which the Argentines

## 'Gigantic' Red Push Claimed

### Russians Sweep Closer to Stettin On Baltic Coast

By W. W. Hercher  
LONDON, Saturday, Feb. 10—(AP)—The Red army swept to within 29 miles of Berlin's Baltic port of Stettin yesterday in its swift drive to seal off all northeastern Germany, and the enemy announced that a new "gigantic" Soviet southern offensive had deeply outflanked Breslau by rolling 35 miles west of that Silesian capital.

On the Berlin front the Russians were said by the Germans to have crossed the Oder and cut direct north-south communications between Kuestrin, Frankfurt and Fuerstenberg at points within 35 miles of imperilled Berlin. These three fortresses are Berlin's major shields and the Russians were trying to encircle them.

## New Red Armies Used

German broadcasts said that several Russian armies had been hurled into the swelling Silesian drive that sent Soviet spearheads to the edge of Liegnitz, big transit center and manufacturing city of 76,000 astride the direct Berlin-Breslau communication lines.

Breslau's garrison on the upper Oder 35 miles east of Liegnitz was threatened with imminent encirclement, only a 32-mile gap still being left open west of the city. The Russians simultaneously were threatening to break open the door into German Saxony in a wide flanking move through Liegnitz, which is 135 miles southwest of Berlin.

In East Prussia the Russians drove new spearheads to the Baltic coast and surrounded the harbor city of Elbing, between Koenigsberg and Danzig territory, thus dimming further the escape possibilities of the remnants of 200,000 to 250,000 Germans originally trapped in a pocket below Koenigsberg.

Moscow dispatches said Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's First White Russian army was laying down one of the heaviest artillery barrages of the war on German lines between the Oder and Berlin.

(There was no further mention of the German-language broadcast from Moscow which last night placed the Russians 7 1/2 miles from Berlin.)

## 800 on Strike At Todd Yards

SEATTLE, Feb. 9—(AP)—Eight hundred welders voted today, with only two dissenting voices, to "stand pat" in the strike which began this morning at the Todd Pacific shipyards and Todd dry docks, and J. B. Barr, organizer for the United Brotherhood of Welders, Cutters and Helpers (Ind.) predicted the navy would take over the two yards "within a few days."

The walkout climaxed a three-year feud between the independent union and the welders' local of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers (AFL). The immediate cause of the strike was the discharge of six welders due to their suspension by the American Federation of Labor, which has a contract with the yards and docks calling for such action.

## They Usually Obey This Yank Private

FORT LEWIS, Wash. —(AP)—An unusual name can be a handy thing sometimes.

Pvt. Colonel Underwood of the engineers, doesn't use the word "private" when calling for hotel reservations while on leave.

"This is Colonel Underwood speaking," he says. It usually works.

## Memorial Revived On Draft

### 'Big Truck' Bill Passed; Salary Increases Asked

Big trucks will slide over Oregon's highways at least two more years, chickens no longer will be the fair game of dogs unless the latter's owner pays the price, and any district attorney in Oregon can try to put the stop-light on initiatives and referendums—under legislation adopted Friday.

The big truck bill goes to the house with the 18 to 10 blessing of the state senate. The chickens-are-livestock measure was a house bill and the senate's approval Friday was the final step.

The other measure, which in effect would have permitted District Attorney T. Lester Johnson of Sherman county to challenge the Townsend initiative when he sought to do so last year, was passed to the house and sent to the senate without argument.

The senate Friday also passed a bill (SB 68) to validate the divorces of persons whose cases otherwise might be questioned because of state residence. It was designed to clarify the status of service wives.

New introductions in the senate included proposals to raise Marion county officers' salaries 15 per cent; increase the salaries of circuit court judges to \$9000, and permit the board of barber examiners to fix minimum prices.

The house spent a comparatively quiet day, passing seven measures, but found a considerable point of controversy in a memorial (HJM 6) to petition congress for consideration of Oregon's farm labor shortage, in regard to the draft.

The memorial was given new life by a vote to reconsider. It was beaten Tuesday 29 "yes" to 25 "no" (needing 31 to pass), but went back to committee Friday after a 36 to 21 ballot approving its revival.

The first gubernatorial veto of the session was attached to HB 70, returned Friday to the house. The bill would provide lump sum payments to minors, in regard to workmen's compensation, and was vetoed because by title "it would change the age of majority." Further action was postponed indefinitely.

Both the senate and house will take up at 9:30 a.m. today. (Legislative news page 3.)

## China Adviser Is Liberated

SYDNEY, Australia, Feb. 9—(AP)—W. H. Donald, famous adviser to China's Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, has been liberated from a Manila internment camp after a three-year masquerade during which the Japanese vainly sought him so they could kill him, it was disclosed here today.

Donald, an Australian, went to China in 1904 as a correspondent for the old New York Herald. Then he became secretary to Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, first president of the Chinese republic, and finally the most trusted foreign confidant and counselor of Chiang.

## S.P. Obtains Transfer of Spur Track Suit to Federal Court

Judge E. M. Page, acting on a petition of the Southern Pacific company issued an order Friday transferring to the US district court, district of Oregon, the pending suit of Bertha B. McMahan against that company in which the plaintiff complains against proposed construction of a spur track for the Western Paper Converting company on North Front street.

Petition for removal of the suit to the US court was filed at 11 a.m. Friday and parties involved in the suit notified that an action would be heard before Judge Page at 2 p.m. At 2:17 p.m. the order approving the bond of \$500 of the Southern Pacific and the removal of the case was filed in the county clerk's office.

Defendant in its petition cited that the complaint asked that the railroad "be perpetually restrained and enjoined from constructing a spur track, which when constructed and completed will be used as a public track; that the loss to the defendant, if the relief prayed for be granted, will be approximately \$25,000 a year, so that the amount in dispute in the suit, insofar as the defendant is concerned, is more than \$3000, exclusive of interest and costs." (A federal court suit must involve in excess of \$3000.)

Holding that the defendant company is a foreign corporation, being incorporated under the laws of the state of Kentucky, the defendant cited that the suit is between citizens of different states. The petition asked that removal be had before the trial and within 30 days from time of filing of the petition.

## Free Again



Lt. Edith Corns, Jap prisoner in Manila for three years, has been rescued in the Yank drive on the picturesque port on the Pasig. Her home is in Los Angeles. (International Soundphoto)

## Yanks Clearing Southern Half Of Manila City

MANILA, Saturday, Feb. 10—(AP)—American infantrymen, driving down mined streets against pillboxes and mortars firing from the upper stories of office buildings, gained 2000 yards toward Manila's prized dock area yesterday. It was clear the trapped Japanese defenders would contest every yard of ground.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, describing the enemy's resistance there as a "final stand," said today house-to-house fighting was "of the fiercest."

Enemy-set fires still were burning in three sections of Manila, but appeared to be diminishing. Maj. Gen. Oscar W. Griswold, commander of the 14th corps, told Associated Press Correspondent Fred Hampson that "a lot of this destruction is wanton and of no military purpose."

Griswold said the Americans were virtually powerless to stop the enemy demolition crews who have turned much of Manila's heart into blackened ruins.

## Chinese Make Counterblows

CHUNGKING, Feb. 9—(AP)—Successful Chinese counter-attacks in three provinces were reported by the high command tonight as preparations for a Chinese-Allied offensive against the Japanese were announced by Maj. Gen. Kung Chi-Kuang.

Chinese forces struck back at the invading Japanese in Hunan, Kiangsi and Kwangtung provinces. They were reported to have recaptured Chihing, 80 miles east of Japanese-occupied Kukong, which lies on the Canton-Hankow railroad in Kwangtung.

## River Recedes Here After 15.6 Ft. Crest

The Willamette river reached a crest of 15.6 feet at Salem Friday afternoon and started to recede. The Santiam river reached a crest of 16 feet Thursday night at Jefferson and was going down Friday, reports from the Salem weather bureau indicated.

## Subs Torpedo Allied Warship, Five Vessels

HALIFAX, Feb. 9—(AP)—Long-range German submarines, sniping at allied convoys bound into and out of Canadian ports this winter, torpedoed a Canadian warship and five merchantmen within one period of 22 days off the Nova Scotia coast, it was disclosed tonight.

The enemy undersea craft apparently were making a desperate attempt to cut the allied north Atlantic supply line at its western anchor.

The sinkings included the Canadian minesweeper Clayoquot, a Canadian merchant ship, and four vessels of other nationalities. A total of 36 men, eight navy men and the rest merchant seamen, lost their lives in the six sinkings.

## Fury Of Assault Mounting

### Monty's Forces Within 4 Miles Of Vital Kleve

By Austin Bealmeur  
PARIS, Feb. 9—(AP)—The Canadian army broadened the front of its big new offensive to almost 10 miles today after sweeping up 14 towns in gains of nearly five miles, and drove to within four miles of flaming Kleve, imperiled northern fortress of western Germany's defenses.

The fury of the assault from the west mounted on a 200-mile front as Gen. H.D.G. Crerar's Canadian and British forces battered eastward between the Rhine and Meuse rivers 27 miles from Wesel, at the northwest corner of the Ruhr valley—last great source of the enemy's war potential.

The south flanker, the giant Schwammendamm dam, whose pent-up waters could be unloosed to crush and British and American drive on the Ruhr from their springboard positions north and east of Aachen.

Striking behind one of the heaviest barrages ever laid down by First Army guns, the Americans seized Hasenfeld, less than a mile east of the dam, and brought the structure itself within range of machineguns.

Further south, the US Third Army was hammering at the German defenders of the Eifel mountain stronghold of Pruem from positions three-quarters of a mile northwest of the city. The enemy fought furiously to hold the important communication center.

Less than six miles to the north, doughboys already eight miles inside the reich threatened to outflank Pruem by forcing two crossings of the river of the same name. They were within four miles of the main road east out of the city, Nazi Wipied Ost.

In southern Alsace, all enemy resistance was wiped out, an official announcement said, and victory flags flew over the city of Colmar. The only Germans remaining on French soil were in northern Alsace, where they were dug in for nothing more than a defensive stand.

Field Marshal Montgomery threw reinforcements into the mountain battle at the northern hinge of the western front, where Canadians and Tommies were slogging through the mud against still relatively light resistance about 360 miles from the Russians on the eastern front.

## Clothing Costs Due for Cut

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9—(AP)—The war production board tonight ordered most of the civilian supply of cotton fabrics channeled into moderately priced clothing.

The action is effective March 1. It is the first major step in the joint WPB-OPA program to cut clothing costs 6 to 7 per cent and to replenish dealers' supplies of inexpensive garments.

"The consumer should feel the effect of the order's provisions by early summer," said Kenneth W. Marriner, director of the WPB textile, clothing and leather bureau.