

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
From First Statesman, March 23, 1851

THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

Member of the Associated Press

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this newspaper.

Feeding the Peoples

Congress is going to investigate the food situation again. One shivers at the prospect. The government administration agencies haven't done too well in controlling food supply and distribution, but no one has suffered for lack of food. Civilians are eating better than they ever have before, as a whole; our army is the best-fed army in the world; we have shared our substance with allied nations with some allowance for liberated countries.

A congressional committee is apt to start with two disqualifying prejudices: first, a jealousy of administrative agencies; second, readiness to accept the producer viewpoint. On the first point congressmen as well as others delight in abusing bureaus and bureaucrats. Members appear to have a sort of inferiority complex as regards the executive branch of government, so they vent their spleen on the underling divisions. It is always easy to cast judgments on the basis of hindsight; and in the management of the provisioning of tens of millions of people blunders are sure to show up, which will form choice meat for the investigators.

In the second place, the senators and congressmen from the farm belt who are under steady pressure to break down price controls on farm products will be sure to argue that if only the farm group plan had been adopted things would be better. Maybe they would; but congressmen and senators who are playing up to the farm vote are hardly the best judges.

A year ago there was a surplus of eggs and so much pork that fewer farrowings were urged because of limits of animal feed. This year supplies are down, but demand has taken a big jump due to heavier fighting and to opening of so much of Europe which is calling for food-stuffs.

The tendency seems to be to cut down elsewhere so that our domestic food supplies may remain high, though a cut of 12 per cent on meats is set for April 1. It would be wrong to say however that the civilian population is suffering from any lack of food. Virtually all kinds of food are available though not in the quantities of normal times. We may have somewhat shorter rations for a few months, but no one will suffer.

The cut of 87 per cent in American supplies of meat to Britain which is reported to be planned for the next quarter seems unduly drastic because the British meat allowance is very small as it is. This cut would reduce the weekly meat rations from 24 to 20 cents worth per person in the British isles. We in America can stand more of a reduction than 12 per cent rather than diminish the portion of Britain by 87 per cent.

These questions are primarily administrative and decisions must be left with administrative bodies. It's all right for them to be under constant scrutiny, and for their acts to be discussed and commented on. Even congress must be permitted its authority to investigate. But there is no reason to get panicky. We can still take some curtailment in supplies. And the prospect is that before many months there will be some relief. And we must remember that Britain has been on very short rations for nearly six years, and that peoples on the continent, many of them, suffer from real malnutrition.

Strip Mining

Last week The Statesman commented on a bill in the Oregon legislature to impose a small degree of control over dredging operations which now leave humps of gravel where once was fertile bottom land. Our Oregon problem is very tiny, on an acreage basis, though the ruin is of greater significance than the area would indicate because of the limited quantity of good bottom land in those districts where gold dredging is carried on.

Other states have a similar problem on a far greater scale due to strip mining for coal. Modern power machinery has made strip mining very profitable where the overburden is not too great. In 1914, strip mines produced 1,281,000 tons of coal. The quantity increased to 21 million tons in 1934 and by 1944 the strip mine production reached 93 million tons, or 15 per cent of the total of bituminous coal produced.

According to an article in the Wall Street

Editorial Comment

FLOOD CONTROL

The army engineers in Portland state that the Fern Ridge dam on the Long Tom river has proven its usefulness as a unit in ultimate flood control by a network of seven dams. The completed network will have as its chief purpose the reduction of flood damage in the Willamette river basin as well as to provide benefits in the way of navigation and irrigation. Col. Ralph A. Tudor, however, Portland district army engineer, states that two years of operation show that a maximum benefit can be derived from Fern Ridge dam only if river channel improvements are effective in the down-stream area. The meandering channel of Long Tom river, with bank caving channel diversions, gravel deposits and debris choking all combined bank capacity of the river, so that it became impossible after flood damage had been prevented by storage of flood waters, to release the excess water without some localizing flood resulting. It was, therefore, found necessary to do a great deal of general straightening and in some cases to excavate a new channel.

The rainfall which occurred during the early part of February caused the inflow to Fern river reservoir, to increase to a peak of 5600 cubic feet per second. This water, if permitted to pass the dam, would be joined by local flows and produce a moderately serious flood. However, only one-third of the total flow was permitted to pass the dam, and, therefore, the river between the dam and Monroe, flowing in a new channel, was held to inbank capacity.

Below Monroe, damages were experienced because of the Willamette overflowing its bank in the vicinity of Ingram's slough and the water traveling overland to the Long Tom channel. Floods in these areas, the engineer states, will occur until the remaining dams of the Willamette valley project are constructed. They have been authorized by congress and the army engineers are now making plans whereby the flood water will be no harassed, that instead of producing damage to the valley, they will be of benefit.—Corvallis Gazette-Times.

Journal, "All this frantic grubbing has resulted in reducing sizable areas of the great coal states to nightmarish landscapes of tumbled earth and stone." As a result campaigns to reform the strippers are boiling throughout the coal producing area. West Virginia has passed a law to regulate treatment of land by strip miners. Bills are pending in Pennsylvania and Ohio. In Indiana and Illinois where strip mining has been carried on for a longer time operators voluntarily level off the land, and in some cases try to reclaim it. Reforestation is done on some lands and occasionally farming is attempted.

The war has given a big impetus to earth-moving machinery. This equipment will be used more and more in dredging and mining operations, increasing the amount of land made waste and degrading the landscape. Surely some plans can be devised that our soils will not be utterly destroyed and our scenery made hideous in the effort to get at the gold or coal or minerals which lie under the surface.

Plot Against Hitler

Louis P. Lochner, Associated Press correspondent whose long residence in Berlin made him one of the real authorities on German affairs, has written some revealing articles on the failure of the plot against Hitler last July. Lochner has accompanied the American armies into Germany and there has gotten in touch with former acquaintances who have given him full details of the anti-Hitler plot. Lochner's articles, written from Bonn, are among the most informative of the war, dealing as they do with the inner dissension within Germany and with Hitler's purge of dissident elements.

The story as unfolded by Lochner indicates that the bomb explosion at Hitler's headquarters was real, and not a fabrication as we had surmised with the design to follow it with the purge. There actually was a conspiracy of leading army men and an actual bomb placed under Hitler's chair. Hitler was wounded, only a few shifts in the scene saving him from sudden death. Lochner's informant says that Hitler now is irrational at times.

Himmler, it is stated, was one of the conspirators though he was clever enough to escape the consequences by diverting suspicion to an accomplice. Rommel was also involved, but he was reported dead from injuries when his car was strafed by an allied plane. Others of the plotters were summarily put to death, some shot, others garroted with a wire. People's courts which Hitler set up carried out many secret trials and sentenced many to execution, and in many of the German cities hanging bodies of the condemned conspirators proved Hitler's power and effectively crushed any fresh attempts at revolution.

The net result is that Germany has lost some of its ablest leaders, like Col. Gen. Ludwig Beck; and all chance at an earlier surrender or negotiated peace was lost. The military men knew that Germany would lose when the United States entered the war—their memories went back to the result of American intervention in 1917-1918. They wanted to obtain peace to prevent Germany's destruction. Mad Hitler, however, is so fanatical that he will compass Germany's complete ruin rather than yield.

The whole is a sad and sorry picture: One man plunging the world into terrible war and shoving his own country over the brink into utter chaos when his attempt at world dominion failed!

Interpreting The War News

By KIRKE L. SIMESON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WAR ANALYST

A flood of American military might is at the gateway to a wide sweep of German countryside stillable for war of maneuver, and leading directly to the heart of the enemy's power to resist.

The Seventh army's capture of Saarbruecken, and Zweibruecken and Worms, and the Third army's smash beyond Kaiserlautern virtually eliminates the last German strength west of the Rhine. The two powerful armies now are joined, their strength multiplied.

Significant are the indications that for the first time, wholesale surrender of seasoned Nazi troops is becoming apparent.

With their formations cut to pieces by lunging tank columns and battered from the air by Allied planes by the thousands, that part of the German war machine which has tried to stop the U.S. Third and Seventh armies is losing heart for continued resistance.

Even before news of the Saarbruecken-Zweibruecken-Kaiserlautern triumphs was reported, it was apparent that German defenses on the east bank of the Rhine may start caving in even before what forces the Nazis had on the west bank had been completely obliterated.

The German account said First army elements had bored seven miles up river to the vicinity opposite the west bank town of Andernach. That would mean that the northern end of the Rhine valley plain between Coblenz and Andernach had been reached. It is across that limited flat land on both sides of the Rhine that the east-west stem of the six-lane military autobahn highway runs to cross the river and Third army forces are already lined up on the west bank ready to spring across.

There was partial Allied confirmation of the First army push up river to pave the way for a Third army crossing below Coblenz. It is a logical development, and one filled with gravest possibilities for the enemy.

With the count far from complete, front line dispatches put the aggregate of Nazi casualties in the Saar-Palatinate operation in excess of 50,000, half or more of them taken prisoner by the Third and Seventh armies. That represents substantially two-thirds of the total estimated German force west of the Rhine when the two-army squeeze started. Even such of those as do escape will reach the east bank badly disorganized and short of fighting equipment.

The fall of such vital Nazi hubs as Worms and Kaiserlautern and a score of other key points to fast charging Third army columns while the Seventh plowed through the Siegfried line on the south unchecked came with breath-taking speed. Nothing short of complete and utter confusion and a spreading sense of impending total defeat within Nazi ranks could account for it.



Distributed by King Features Syndicate by arrangement with The Washington Star

Three's Company

News Behind the News

By PAUL MALLON
(Distribution by King Features Syndicate, Inc. Reproduction in whole or in part strictly prohibited.)

WASHINGTON, March 20—What will happen to those war bonds you are so patriotically buying and should be storing away, was threshed out between the treasury and financially wary senators in the debt increase hearings—but not generally observed.



Paul Mallon

It is enough to lay the Snide stories impugning the integrity of those bonds, and, in fact, clear the whole postwar atmosphere, not only as to government finance, but upon prices, business, taxes and all economic policies.

Treasury Undersecretary Bell agreed with the senators that the government must have, and will get, whatever controls are necessary to maintain the full face of all war loans.

The government cannot afford to let them drop to 82 this time, as after the last war, simply because the whole financial equilibrium of the country is, this time, inextricably involved in the bond value balance. The banks, for instance, own about \$96,000,000 of the debt and will get about \$20,000,000 to \$25,000,000 more of it annually.

The government simply cannot afford to let the bonds drop without letting the banks drop, and these institutions are indeed now guaranteed by the government (FDIC).

To fulfill its necessities in this respect, Mr. Bell laid out a course of action, under senatorial promptings (from Byrd, Hawkes and Milliken mostly) which carries sound expectations.

Rather large refunding operations will have to be conducted to pay those people who want to cash in to buy autos, radios, etc. New bonds will be issued to raise that amount of cash. To handle this operation the government will have to support the bond market ("manipulate it") is the way one senator put it.)

A bill is now being passed cutting the gold reserve behind the dollar to 25 per cent, which will give the federal reserve system the tidy bookkeeping credit of \$36,000,000,000 for such support.

"This should be enough (they

all agreed) if the government cuts expenses and keeps taxes up (Messrs. Wallace, radicals and Keynes theorists, please note). In short, the government can no longer afford freely to finance domestic and world WPA's and keep faith with the people on the bonds they hold, but must curtail and watch its financial step in order that high taxes may be sufficient to support government without further deficit financing.

Furthermore it must encourage a high level of business activity in order to get enough tax revenues to sustain itself, its bonds and expenditures. Thus its course is a required one, and not a choice as between a spending or a non-spending policy.

Only wise and thrifty management is permitted by the expected debt of \$292,000,000,000 (June 1946) and every dollar of debt adds difficulty to the problem.

Mr. Wallace and his friends should remember government bonds and the faith of the government pledged to the people who bought them, when their free spending "humane" policies are proposed.

The postwar reconversion must be handled with similar skill and care, because widespread unemployment would force the government to expend forces which would add to its inability to meet the bond payments soundly, and to keep enough business going to pay the interest on the debt.

If these reasonable projects fail, then Mr. Bell seemed to agree with the senators that the federal reserve system will have to issue currency to pay the expenses of government. (Indeed, Senator Byrd, argued, not without grounds, that if the government is to buy all bonds the inflationary result will be the same as issuing money.)

But they both meant that if the government cannot make things add up, it will have to go into further and further inflation, higher and higher prices, cheaper and cheaper dollars.

From this, you can see there is no chance whatever that your war bond cannot be met 100 cents on the dollar. The only chance of depreciation is not in the bond, but in the dollar. The postwar obligation of the government, in keeping faith with the people for their bond purchases, therefore is to protect

and stabilize the value of that dollar.

You bought the bond, at, say, current price levels. It cost you a certain amount of work. The government will have broken faith with you if it lets prices double and pays you off, three, five or ten years hence with dollars that represent twice as much work and half as much purchasing power in terms of bread, butter, milk and rents.

Does this condition not also require the government to establish certain definite economic policies for postwar, and not go running off into social ventures and experiments? Certainly it requires price-fixing and OPA regulations as long as a shortage of goods threatens to bring more inflation.

Also is not its responsibility for stable prices, against inflation, for good-business and soundness, now greater than its responsibility for, say, housing or any other spending policy with which it comes into conflict?

So many people now hold bonds and will hold them that this public interest has become paramount to any other governmental or class interest.

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

"COPERNICUS AND HIS WORLD," by Hermann Kesten (Roy Publishers; \$3.50).

This isn't a biography but a panegyric. It's all about Polish astronomer who gave his name to an epoch, who made us all Copernicians, who was the "mightiest human in 1000 years." Kesten writes of him as of a god.

And when Kesten speaks of Copernicus' "world," he means the entire world upon which his revolutionary discovery touched, the world reaching back to Ptolemy and coming up to Einstein. It's a vast canvas. Copernicus is set in the midst of it; the man who proved this globe was not the center of the universe pays the penalty at last of becoming the center of that globe.

The great astronomer was born in Torun, Poland, in 1473 and died 70 years later in Frauenburg, where from his tower he made the celestial observations and momentous deductions, published only in the year of his death, that started the earth to moving around the sun.

He studied in Cracow, Bologna, Rome, Ferrara, Padua. He was a canon, with an assured income. Using incredibly crude instruments, he performed the computations which led Luther and Melancthon to condemn him and the Catholic church to ban his writings until 1835. His book "On the Revolutions of Celestial Bodies," some 30 years in the making has never yet been published in English, Kesten says.

The information about Copernicus himself may be slight. At least this volume deals more copiously with his extraordinary times than with him. It pauses for a sketch of Savoranola, returns to Aristotle, Anaxagoras, Archimedes, Plutarch, winds up with Tycho de Brahe, Kepler, Giordano Bruno, who burned, and Galileo, who didn't. There must be hundreds of proper names, though there is no index.

With all this profusion of background, you wonder occasionally whether Kesten came to bury Copernicus, not to praise him. But you get in sum total an enormous and stirring panorama and a keener appreciation of the fiery spirit of Renaissance, Reformation and the thundering dawn of modern science.

Visits From Coast

PEDEE — Mrs. Archie Kreber of Gold Beach brought her mother, Mrs. Joe Oscar, to the hospital at McMinville.

Kenneth L. Dixon
AT THE FRONT!

Maquis Joe Killed His First German When He Was 17

By A. I. Goldberg
IN ALSACE (AP)—Maquis Joe of Kokomo killed his first German when he was 17 for two reasons—he didn't like the German and he needed the German's gun to be a soldier in the Maquis.

Joe is John G. Toppet, now 20, of Colmar, a six-foot two inch Alsatian who speaks an ingratiating English, has killed at least 11 Germans "for sure," is proud of his cousin George Baer who is a technical sergeant in the U.S. army in New Guinea, and wants to visit the United States.

He has an uncle, Henry Baer, a philatelist, in Nassau street, New York City. Uncle Henry is George's father.

More than that, he says, "I have lots of friends in the United States now, from all over. They adopted me."

Young Toppet, now a warrant officer in the French army, is the son of doctors. His mother is an Alsatian, his father a Norman.

Maquis Joe was a killer because he had to be. Near Luxeuil on July 1, 1942, he crept up on a German sentry, stabbed him to death with a knife, buried him in the woods, and he had his gun.

Joe was only 16 when a group of six British and two French paratroopers landed in his area in southern France. He helped guide them to a German garrison post.

The toll that night was 52 Germans.

After Joe got into the Maquis and killed a few more Germans he got to be a personage. By the time the Seventh army land-

ed in southern France he was leader of 60 Maquis.

The 36th Texas division drew him as a guide. He was a good one and that's one of the reasons he can claim he has a lot of friends, from all over. The 36th adopted him and gave the tag, Maquis Joe from Kokomo. There's another friend in the United States he would like to see. She is Miss Jeanne K. Farney, of Foxcroft, Middleburg, Va., a teacher of French in a school there. She is the sister of his godmother.

Georges Kieffer is a big man in the FFI.

He's a big man anywhere, all eight feet six inches of him, and GI's are ready to believe his claim that he is the tallest man in the world.

It's a title Georges said he won at the Paris fair in 1937. He is 31.

Lt. George Gregg, Chesterfield, S. C., first spotted Georges and the giant is a favorite companion in the snapshots the boys send home.

Georges has a girl, he told the boys. She is seven feet six inches tall and as soon as the war is over Georges says they will get married.

During the German occupation, he fared badly. At first the Germans made quite a fuss over him, even gave him two food ration cards. Then they decided he was a "bad German" and took his food cards away. He dwindled from 306 pounds to 280.

Georges found work to do with the FFI. Now he is a road guard for the region. And he's learning English fast from the doughboys.

He doesn't fare too ill from the food standpoint, either.

Indian Situation and Church Will Be Discussed Thursday

A first hand account of the situation in India facing the Christian church will be given by four speakers at a no-host dinner at the First Presbyterian church Thursday at 6:30 p.m. One of these speakers, Dr. C. Herbert Rice, has been for 20 years a missionary, during that time serving both as college teacher and college president. Three of the speakers are Indian nationals who have been invited by the Board of Foreign Missions to participate in a "fellowship mission" to the churches in America, Ralla Ram, Miss Zillah Soule and Khazan Singh.

Augustine Ralla Ram is a graduate of Forman Christian college, Lahore, India, and received his theological training at Saharanpur seminary. He was pastor in Allahabad from 1915-1928, chairman of the foreign missions committee of the Indian General Assembly, one of India's delegates to International Missionary conference at Jerusalem and at Madras, went on a fellowship mission to England in 1932, was delegate to World conference of Christian Youth at Amsterdam in 1939, for seven years was stated clerk of the General Assembly of the United Church of North India.

He has been general secretary of the Student Christian Movement of India, Burma, Ceylon, since 1928, a member of the World Student Federation and is in demand as a speaker and discussion leader by Indian youth.

Miss Zillah Soule of Lucknow, India, was born in India, graduated from Johnson Girl's school at Jubbulpore, has her bachelor's degree from Isabella Thoburn college at Lucknow, is now taking post graduate work at Columbia university for her master's degree in education, will return to India a specialist in field of teacher-training. She was principal of the Christian Normal school, Khanuwa, for eight years. She was a delegate to the Christian Youth conference at Lakeside, Ohio, was consultant on India at United Council of Church Women's Assembly at Columbus, Ohio.

Daniel Khazan Singh is a graduate of Forman Christian college, Lahore, India, and received his theological training at Saharanpur seminary, holds his master's and B. T. degrees. He has two generations of Christian leadership behind him, is considered a skilled teacher by training and experience. He is pastor of Ludhiana church, the oldest church in the Punjab, and serves on important church and mission committees. He has served as chaplain to Christians in India's armed forces, is known throughout India as one of the progressive national Christian leaders.

Edith Fairham, accompanied by Jewell Gueffroy, entered two Easter songs in the Holy week observance.

Blood Center Collects 200 Pints Tuesday

The maximum quota of 200 pints of blood was donated on Tuesday at the Red Cross mobile blood donors center at the First Methodist church; report women in the ambulance corps, assigned to the center.

New members of the gallon club numbered eight. The following have been added to the list of those who have donated eight pints of blood: Florence Huston, 2515 River road, Julian; Kindler, 655 North Cottage at; L. V. Benson, 1995 East Nob Hill; Lyle Leighton, Boy Scout office; George Underwood, 945 Shipping st.; Faith Weller, 1359 Plaza; Helen Gallagher, Stayton; Lee Barnum, 1320 Mission st.

Having given the ninth time on Tuesday, Mrs. Ruth Hadley, Silverton; Mrs. Della Keithley, Aumsville; Mary Lee Hauptmann, 157 South Winter street, Luke M. Johnston, 1645 South Liberty st.

Ten-time donors are D. K. Gremmer, 303 North 23d, R. M. Griffin, route four, Box 98, Dorothy Leslie, 166 Gerth st., and Harold Douris, Oregon Statesman.

'God Is First,' Pastor Stresses In Kiwanis Talk

The Rev. Chester Hamblin, leading a program dedicated to Holy week, told the Kiwanis club Tuesday that the "worst sin" is that of putting anything or any human being before God.

"God is first" and "the Cross is the eternal point of reference," the pastor of the First Presbyterian church stressed. "We see things as we think," he declared, and added that "when you have regulation and regimentation running amok, you lose the basis of real morality."

Edith Fairham, accompanied by Jewell Gueffroy, entered two Easter songs in the Holy week observance.

"THE YOUNG IDEA" By Mossler



Copyright 1945 by United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

Distinctive
DIAMONDS
Enduringly Beautiful

Diamond rings cleaned regardless of where purchased without charge.

Another Stevens Service



Stevens Son
Manufacturing Jewellers

Terms Gladly Arranged

Store Hours 9:30 - 6:00

"I'd like to see something in an off-the-face beanie!"