

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

CHARLES A. SPRAGUE, Editor and Publisher

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Russians Launch Offensive

Russia lost no time in taking the offensive against the Japanese in Manchuria. The necessity for this is apparent. First, Russia is in an exposed position in Asia, with its Trans-Siberian railroad running close to the border as it dips down to Vladivostok which itself is nearly hemmed in by Japan. Second, Japan has long concentrated its strongest army, the Kwangtung army, in Manchuria to guard its borders against the Russians. Soviet commanders therefore are wise in moving first to push the Japs back and so protect their railroad line of communications.

From the initial reports the Russian strategy seems to be to aim at Harbin, important rail center in Manchuria. Striking from two directions, the Russians crossed the Mongolian border along the railway northwest of Harbin to capture the city of Manchouli and crossed into Manchuria from Kharbarovsk northeast of Harbin along the Amur river. If the penetration continues Japan's armies will be definitely on the defensive and unable to counter-attack into Soviet Asia.

There is little doubt that Russia has been building up strength in Manchuria. Never, even when the Germans were pressing the hardest, was Soviet Asia stripped of military strength, although troops from Siberia were brought in to help lift the threat to Moscow. Trans-Pacific lend-lease must have given Russia-in-Asia large stores of supplies for use in the present fighting. After V-E day Russia shifted its armies to the east as rapidly as possible over the one railroad. Japanese armies in Manchuria must now be self-supporting. The sea lanes to the home islands are under steady attack and the Japs at home can spare no aid in men or materials to their armies in Manchuria.

If some kind of harmony could be fixed up in China and China's weight of both regulars and communists thrown against the Japs in Manchuria on their western flank the position of the Japs would swiftly deteriorate.

The signs indicate that Russia's declaration of war was not a token declaration but one which will be backed by action. The Japanese are afraid of the Russians. It looks as though 1904-1905 would soon be avenged by the new Russian armies.

No Immediate Revolution

We need not be too greatly alarmed over the imminence of revolution in power generation due to the discovery of how to split an atom of uranium, 235. It cost the government two billions of dollars to solve its problem. "Money no object" was the tag on "Manhattan project." Discovery of a new secret weapon which would speed up victory would be cheap at most any price, because of the economy in life as well as in war spending. Between putting a thimbleful of this new material in a destructive bomb and having a new and practical agent producing a controllable force there is doubtless a great void.

Consider the item of cost. There have been countless efforts to transmute base metals into gold; but we have been told that even if the problem could be solved by science the costs would doubtless be higher than it costs to go out and dig up gold out of the earth. The made-gold, in other words, would be too costly. So with this new form of energy. The costs may be so excessive that not for decades or even centuries would it be a practical substitute for coal, petroleum or electric energy.

Then there is the matter of handling. How can it be put in small enough parcels so it will light a flashlight, drive a car or a locomotive, or heat a city, and still offer no threat of destruction? From reports the raw materials worked on at Richland are harmless. But somewhere the "dope" must get its dynamite. From then on it becomes public menace No. 1. It is reasonable to suppose that it will take a long time before this energy can be bridled or diluted and made available at filling stations all over the world.

We may expect however diligent the effort to be applied toward solution of these problems, they bring to man's beneficent use the power which science has found in the tiniest segment of matter.

Editorial Comment

It might as well be said now as later, there is some feeling among the white collar classes who report and pay a good share of the income taxes and seem to get fewer of the benefits of social progress, subsidies and strikes that they were misinformed in the recent election. They feel that way because it is now announced, less than two months after the state special election, when millions of surplus income taxes were voted for building funds, that there will be no forgiveness of Oregon income taxes this year. The state tax commission estimate of revenues is the basis for the advance warning to the people that there will be no discount on 1945 personal income or corporate excise taxes payable in 1946.

Oregon's income tax rate is relatively high among states. The 75 per cent and then the 25 per cent relief still left a lot of money from that source. But, having voted out the surplus that had been built up notwithstanding these reductions, apparently the State must assess the full measure of the tax for this year.

The feeling is that the outcome of the special election might have been different if the voters had not felt after much explanation that those funds were to come from income taxes already in hand. Technically the statement was true but it is doubtful if the electorate understood fully that the forecast for income taxes this year would be as conservative as that just issued by the tax commission. We think some editors who supported the building fund measures, as we did, didn't get the full picture that it now revealed. With the cost of living 30 per cent up the fall Oregon income tax rate this year is going to be a surprising burden to a good many.—Oregon City Enterprise.

Saving of Lives

Getting Russia into the Pacific war is said to have been the principal object of President Truman's journey to Potsdam. His purpose, according to reporters, was to end the war quickly with the least loss of American lives. It would not be just to the president however, to assume that he was inviting Russia to lose more of its soldiers to effect this saving. After all, Russia has born heavy enough losses in its youth in the war against axis powers.

President Truman undoubtedly thought that with Russia closing the single open flank left to Japan and offering bases for American operations on Asia's mainland that the war could be brought to an end with far less overall loss of life. For our part we shall be surprised if the entrance of Russia on top of the release of atomic bombs does not force Japan to an early surrender regardless of "face." This would make unnecessary the invasion of the islands by force, with resulting heavy casualties. Thus the president's hopes would be fulfilled—and those of all Americans.

City Hall Alterations

The building of a pair of lean-tos on the city hall would result in such architectural gaucheerie that it ought to be avoided—unless the purpose is to offend the artistic sense of citizens so they will be shocked into building a new city hall. Here is a building with oddies of space going to waste in its roomy vastness, yet so crowded are the working offices that these additions are contemplated.

Just what should be done with the building we are not prepared to say; but really nothing should be done until the whole building is surveyed by a competent architect. Better wait and do the job right than to butcher the building in a hurry.

Interpreting The War News

By JAMES D. WHITE
Associated Press Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 9.—(AP)—The Red army has chosen the obvious routes into Manchuria, attacking across the desert from the west and up the broad valley of the Amur river from the northeast.

Moscow's first communique said that on the west the important railway town of Manchouli had been captured and that Soviet troops had fought their way ten miles inside prepared Japanese defenses.

This front extended southward around 150 miles to the Buir lake region where the fierce fighting of 1939 around Nomonhan took place.

Directly athwart this western drive lies the massive Hsingan mountain range, guarding Japan's main industrial development around Mukden, farther east.

The drive presumably is penetrating great defenses which the Japanese Kwangtung army has been building for years behind Manchouli.

Since Japan invaded China in 1937 there have been repeated stories among the Chinese of large forced-labor gangs taken to the Manchouli-Hailar region to work on vast concrete projects. The stories usually had the laborers killed and buried in the fortifications they had been forced to help build.

The other arm of the Soviet offensive is taking a somewhat easier way into the one remaining—and largely intact—concentration of Japanese strength. Crossing the Ussuri river from the maritime provinces, it is making its way up (southward) the Amur valley and is following in reverse the most likely direction of any Japanese drive which might have been made to cut off eastern Siberia.

Meanwhile, according to the Tokyo radio, a protective Soviet move has been made near northern Korea in a thrust past the moth-eaten little Manchurian town of Hunchun. Japanese officers told me in 1938 that Hunchun would be their base if they ever made a swift drive into maritime Siberia to cut off Vladivostok.

This apparently minor thrust could develop later into a campaign pointed at outflanking Korea. The Soviet bombing pattern falls along the chief railway junctions and distribution centers of northern Manchuria—Harbin, Hailar, Chiamusui and Kirin—all undoubtedly aimed at paralyzing Japanese troop movements.

The probable paths of the two drives thus far announced converge at Harbin, the railway nexus of northern Manchuria situated on the Sungari river, which is a tributary of the mighty Amur.

On the Sungari near Kirin is one of the two large power dams which the Japanese built during the last decade. The Kirin dam compares with Boulder dam in power output. So does the other dam on the Korean border in southwest Manchuria, on the Yalu river. Both furnish power for the string of factory cities which are built mostly in the general area of Mukden, halfway down the great double-tracked railway from Harbin to Dairen.

This is the ultimate goal of allied power, for here is lined up Japan's whole war potential in Manchuria, which today may well exceed that of Japan itself.

The Kwangtung army never has been seriously depleted by the demands of the war elsewhere. Its soldiers are Japan's best. They are big and tough.

Manchuria in the summer is a land of green prairie planted mostly with a tall maize crop called kaoliang (not Manchurian millet) which grows ten to fifteen feet high and which used to furnish perfect cover for Manchurian bandits. The days are hot now, but the nights are cool. The sun shines warmly and great ranks of cumulus clouds march across the vast rolling landscape like soldiers abreast.

Soviet Russia chose the best time of year to attack the Kwangtung army, the cream of Japan's fighting force.



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The Hot Seat

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

SPIES AND TRAITORS OF WORLD WAR II, by Fort Singer (Prentice-Hall; \$2.75).

Admiral Walter Wilhelm Canaris, head of German secret service, is the villain of this thriller. He was no new hand at espionage; in World War I he was Mata Hari's superior and, Singer says, knowingly sent her to her death.

In this book he matches his deadly wiles against U. S., British and Soviet secret service forces, but particularly against the Soviet NKVD chief, the resourceful Laurent Beria. Sometimes he won, sometimes he lost, but whether heads or tails, some agent paid with his life.

Singer doesn't romanticize, for which we can be grateful; the facts in themselves sound exciting enough. This war, too, had its Mata Haris, though they didn't all have to stand before a firing squad. There was Ruth Kuehn who ran a beauty parlor in Hawaii; the beautiful blond Greta Kainen who worked in Stockholm and Helsinki; Helvig Delbo alias Greta Johansen; Madison Avenue's doll woman, Mrs. Velvaine Dickinson.

Singer devotes considerable space to Tyler Kent, U. S. embassy secretary whom the British have imprisoned; the case got into politics; Kent's mother has defended him ardently; the case isn't settled yet, Singer declares.

The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, the late Subhas Chandra Bose, Takis the Filipino, Fritz Mandl the munitions maker and once husband of an American film star, are among those listed on the wrong side of the ledger in the democratic-fascist conflict. Their names and part of their stories have appeared in the press, but this is an interesting roundup.

The author, who has himself participated in undercover work on the continent and was sentenced to death by a Nazi court, has contributed some incidents and background detail which are new to me. One of them is the story of a "Swiss" watchmaker. He lived for years in England, and finally discovered, by piecing together chance remarks and gossip, the faults in the defenses of Scapa Flow. It was he who guided Capt. Prien's submarine in for the successful attack on the battleship Royal Oak.

At his right hand during those difficult days was the Rev. Anthony (Fra Theodor) Benkovic, a member of the Franciscan order, who was born in Pennsylvania. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas N. Benkovic, live at Steelton, Pa. Father Anthony visited the camp the day after the American fliers arrived and every

American PWs Get Comfort by De-Titled Yugoslav Baroness

By William B. King
(Subbing for Kenneth L. Dixon)

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia—(AP)—"We wish that we could see our Americans again. Can you tell us if they got home all right?"

That observation from several sides in Zagreb proves once more that American soldiers have an irresistible way about them—even when they are prisoners of war.

It was last March 21 when a group of American prisoners—all airmen who had been forced to bail out in the area—were brought to Zagreb by the Ustachi (militia of the Quisling Croat state). They were housed in barracks on a corner of the old family estate of Baroness Vera Nikolic, near Zagreb.

"When I heard that the prisoners were Americans, I got terribly excited," the baroness said. "I immediately started trying to figure out how I could help them without arousing the suspicions of the Ustachi."

The baroness, a charming middle-aged woman whose title dates back to the Austro-Hungarian empire and doesn't mean much these days, set to work. By feigning indifference and making her desires look like suggestions from the authorities, she got permission for the men to "work" in her fields and vineyards and to attend mass in her chapel.

The Ustachi didn't know it, but it was just a short step from there to setting up a volleyball court and having a tennis tournament on the estate's courts.

1st Lt. Paul Harden of Parson, Kas., was commanding officer of the prison unit. He had his hands full in the final days when Zagreb was falling to the attacking Partisans of Marshal Tito's army and confusion was the order of the day.

At his right hand during those difficult days was the Rev. Anthony (Fra Theodor) Benkovic, a member of the Franciscan order, who was born in Pennsylvania. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas N. Benkovic, live at Steelton, Pa.

Father Anthony visited the camp the day after the American fliers arrived and every

day after that until they left. He acted as camp chaplain, interpreter and general contact with the outside world.

He still carries a note from Harden certifying all this and more. He supplied food and medicine before a doctor was available and, says Harden's note, "provided small arms for prisoners when safety of same was threatened by the Ustachi."

Father Anthony, whose stay in Yugoslavia already has been unduly prolonged by the war, hopes to return soon to America.

As the battle for Zagreb approached the prisoners took the arms and machineguns of their guards and fled to the woods.

The final night before the liberation of Zagreb they spent barricaded in the home of the baroness while a battle raged all about them.

"It was terribly exciting," the baroness recalled, "but everybody behaved wonderfully."

When the Americans left their prison barracks to march into Zagreb May 9 they had at the head of their column an American flag, made with paint and a length of white cloth by 1st Lt. E. F. Benkoski of Concord Road, Westford, Mass., and 2nd Lt. Charles A. Turrill of Orange, N.J.

The Safety Valve

LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

Objects to City Hall Plan

To the Editor:

May I offer a strong protest through your columns to the plan now proposed to create larger quarters for the police depot and recorder's office in the city hall.

It is proposed to build a lean-to on one story room on both the south and north sides of the main stairway, these structures to be one story and jutting out from the main building.

This same proposition was suggested several years ago while I was chairman of the public building committee but we would not allow the architectural design of the city hall to be so disfigured. At that time we received a number of protests from citizens objecting to "a couple of warfts" on the city hall building.

While I do agree that more room is needed for the police department and recorder's office, I believe this is the wrong approach to the problem, especially while there are several thousand feet of space unused and available in the building.

First the idea that every department must be on one floor should be forgotten. As a suggestion—

The entire space now used by police and recorder should be turned over to the police department. This means the recorder would have to be located elsewhere, and there is plenty of room in other parts of the building.

The spot for first consideration in my opinion is the basement under the fire department. At nominal expense large pleasant quarters could be arranged in this well ventilated, attractive space, with a lot of room.

An entrance could be provided on Chemekeka st. with a long easy ramp, thereby eliminating a stairway, and quick access to all other departments.

A large number of citizens who are interested in discouraging a disfiguration of the city

Oregon's Rain Propaganda, Professor Tells Salem Lions

Dr. Egbert S. Oliver, professor of English at Willamette university, speaking Thursday at the weekly meeting of the Salem Lions club said that after he had heard so many remarks concerning the precipitation in his native state, he decided to investigate just how much it did rain in Oregon.

Control Board To Commence Building Plans

Oregon's state board of control Thursday gave the "go ahead" signal to the \$6,000,000 building program approved by the voters in June. Asking that plans be prepared at once for buildings already earmarked to receive a portion of the money and for such other structures as the legislature has provided for by appropriation, the board indicated it anticipated a possible speedy end to the war.

Among the most-needed buildings, Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell, jr., declared is the 100-bed children's hospital at the Fairview home, for which an appropriation has expired during the war, but which will be built with other funds.

75 On Waiting List
Seventy-five children in need of such hospitalization as could be provided there are on the waiting list, with little hope that half of them can be received in the institution within the coming year unless the new building is available, Farrell declared.

Gov. Earl Snel said enough others are in private institutions (because they could not be admitted to Fairview under present conditions) whose parents will immediately seek to place them here to fill the new building on opening day.

Blind School Eligible
The blind trades school of Portland is eligible to participate in the \$6,000,000 fund. Attorney General George Neuner has advised the board of control. In fact, the board of control is responsible for the operations of the trades school, Neuner declared, which board members said might put a new light on their relationship to the school, in recent years conducted solely under a special commission.

Negotiations Authorized
Dr. Ware, superintendent of Eastern Oregon State hospital at Pendleton was authorized to negotiate with a specified Pendleton architect for plans for a new residence at the hospital. Dr. Raymond W. Kessler, who is receiving his army discharge shortly, was named assistant superintendent of the Pendleton institution. He formerly served on its staff.

CIRCUIT COURT
Bertha Chambers vs Robert P. Chambers; plaintiff's reply to defendant's answer and cross complaint contains general denial.
Charlotte G. Bryan vs Cleo Thomas Bryan; defendant's complaint charges cruel and inhuman treatment, asks divorce, restoration of maiden name, and \$500 per month for support so long as defendant remains in the armed forces.

Probate Court
B. J. Grodzki and George E. Schuele vs W. R. Dempsey; order noting default of defendant in answering judgment for sums of \$25.50, \$25.00 and costs.
Kenneth Cook and Michael Kessler vs Jim Overfield; complaint charges illegal possession of property, asks restoration of property, asks divorce and inhuman treatment, asks divorce and restoration of maiden name.

Justice Court
Allison Rowland vs Thomas Rowland; divorce complaint charges cruel and inhuman treatment, asks divorce and restoration of maiden name.
State Unemployment Compensation Commission vs Henry John Harder; writ of attachment on real property satisfying judgment for \$31.24.
Florence Nelson vs John Nelson; divorce complaint charges cruel and inhuman treatment, asks divorce, restoration of maiden name.

MUNICIPAL COURT
Lester V. Nornis, Jas S. 15th st., no driver's license, fined \$2.50.
Bonnie Ratches, rt. 2, box 348M, Salem, no driver's license, Bail \$5.
MARRIAGE LICENSES
Carl H. Scott, 33, U. S. navy, Salem, and Vivian Bishop, 36, housewife, Salem.
Gavin T. Blair, 18, merchant marine, Okmulgee, Okla., and Thelma Pierce, 18, cannery worker, Okmulgee, Okla.

Justice Court
L. Keith Ferguson, 31, shipyard worker, B. C. Canbada, and Patricia M. Weaver, 19, sales clerk, Gervais.
Julian Pat. Moskova, 33, U. S. navy, Denver, Colo., and Fuyllis Archambault, 25, housewife, Mottville, Ia.

Justice Court
State vs William Henry Jenkins and Ardith L. Jenkins; on charge of forced robbery, continued for plea till Saturday, Aug. 11, 1945 at 10 a. m.
State vs Earl M. Moore, malicious destruction of property, hearing for plea set Aug. 11, 1945 at 10 a. m.
State vs Earl Wesley Bretton, assault with battery, given 24 hours to enter plea, hearing Aug. 9, 1945. Bail \$150.

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GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"When you grow up and decide to be president you'll thank me that I made you practice the piano!"

IT SEEMS TO ME
(Continued From Page 1)

(Continued from page 1)
developed: fighter planes and anti-aircraft batteries. And in no country did aerial bombing break civilian morale so it forced a peace, although many in Berlin "broke" under the terrific bombing of last February. The atomic bomb has not yet been fully appreciated as to its results on morale; but destructive as it is of materials and of life one does not see how civilian morale can survive its use.

Douhet's idea was that "The primary objectives of aerial attack should not be on the military installations, but industries and centers of population remote from the contact of the surface armies." While military spokesmen never admitted the validity of the Douhet conception of modern warfare, and the miniature application of it by Mussolini's airforce in the Ethiopian war proved revolting to the rest of the world, it is true that there was little delay in resort to that type of warfare. The Germans opened up with their general blitz in which the horrible example was Rotterdam, systematically destroyed by aerial attack, after local resistance had ceased. Their bombing of London was aimed more at breaking morale than destroying military and industrial installations. From then on aerial warfare became total.

It is the degree of the devastation done by the atomic bomb which shocks us into realization of how far modern warfare has gone from the old rules of fighting between uniformed armies to reach the Douhet version. Bomb or incendiary does not distinguish between the armed, uniformed soldier and a sleeping infant, between a grandmother and a cadet. I know of no way now of shrinking back the areas of combat. But I do say that if our philosophy of life has any validity, the philosophy which has been refined through centuries of development in religion, ethics and customs then we must labor to bring the period of wars to a final ending.

hall building are hoping the proposed plan will be abandoned. Sincerely,
L. F. LeGaris.

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