

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sengue

While there are some Americans who are decrying the proposed loan to Great Britain on the ground that its terms are too generous and repayments too uncertain, there are many in Britain who object to the loan from their side, regarding the terms as too severe and the conditions dangerous to British economy.

The situation in which Britain finds itself is indeed embarrassing. England was the seat of the industrial revolution and became the core of a vast empire. Napoleon taunted the country with being a "nation of shopkeepers" and so it was. It developed into a great center of manufacturing and trade.

Competition developed from Germany and Japan and from the United States. Britain finally moved from its free trade position to one with moderate tariffs and later to an empire preference system which encouraged trade within the empire.

India, long a huge market for the cotton goods of Lancashire, got cotton mills (Continued on Editorial Page)

Schools Close As Flu Spreads

By the Associated Press

Schools at Talent and St. Helens, Ore., and Hoquiam, Wash., were closed today by an outbreak of mild influenza which left vacant seats in several other northwest classrooms.

Neither the Talent nor St. Helens schools will reopen until after the holidays school officials said. Principal Roy Parr, Talent, reported a 40 per cent absence rate yesterday, and Supt. Francis Gill of St. Helens said about 250 of 1,000 pupils were ill.

County health officials estimated 400 to 600 persons afflicted at Ontario, Ore., and many pupils were reported absent from Canby, Ore., schools.

Wife Commands, Hubby Drives Tank

MOSCOW, Dec. 18.—(AP)—A married couple who bought their own tank and used it, with Generalissimo Stalin's permission, to kill 160 enemy soldiers have been demobilized from the red army.

The couple, Lt. Ivan Fyodorovich Boiko and his wife, Senior Lt. Alexandra Boiko, who early in the war turned their savings of 50,000 rubles over to the soviet union to build a tank, took part in campaigns in Poland, Germany, Rumania and Czechoslovakia. The wife commanded the tank; her husband drove.

Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH



"But you must learn to like strawberry jam—people don't have picnics in the winter."

1,000 Unhoused by Blast

These Are Busy Days at Salem Postoffice



LOBBY



BACK-STAGE

Lobby of the Salem postoffice was crowded all day Monday and Tuesday with persons waiting to mail Christmas packages. More than 125,000 pieces of mail went Monday, the greatest number ever recorded locally. In the back room the outgoing holiday mail is sorted by dispatchers. (McEwan Photos)

Western Union Strike Called For January 7

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—(AP)—The general committee of the Western Union Commercial Telegraphers union tonight ordered a strike for January 7 to begin at 8 a. m. in each time zone.

The AFL union, which claims 48,000 members in the nation, has demanded a 25 per cent increase in pay and concessions on 12 other issues. Negotiations with the company have been deadlocked since last August, and a vote to strike was returned in balloting conducted by the national labor relations board December 1.

The strike date was fixed at a general committee meeting here.

SHIP DISPOSAL PASSED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Legislation providing for disposal of 50,000,000 tons of wartime ships won approval in the senate late today.

Nazis Admit 3,544,284 Men Lost Before 'Battle of Bulge'

NUERNBERG, Dec. 18.—(AP)—The German army high command admitted secretly just before its last great gamble, the Ardennes counter-attack, that Germany had lost 3,544,284 men killed or missing in action—65 per cent of them on the Soviet front—in more than five years of war, it was learned today from a Nazi document.

Prepared for the fuhrer's headquarters, this casualty report by the intelligence branch of the German army indicated that Hitler publicly told the truth about the low price in Teutonic lives he paid for conquering Poland, but was an inveterate liar thereafter.

The report did not include the wounded, as American army tabulations do, but an attached note stated there were 729,031 wehrmacht wounded and sick hospitalized in the reich at the time.

Soviet officials have said that German casualties in the east, including dead, wounded, captured and missing, reached 12,000,000. The wehrmacht report covering eastern operations up to November 30, 1944, listed 1,410,728 dead and 907,050 missing.

Military men estimate that the wounded usually number four times as many as the dead. Applied to the wehrmacht report, this formula would mean adding more than 5,500,000 to the dead and missing figure of nearly 2,500,000

Christmas Mail Peak Believed Past in Salem

The peak of the outgoing Christmas mail was believed past Tuesday night when cancellations dropped from the all time high of 125,000 for Monday to well over 100,000 for Tuesday.

The incoming holiday mail is increasing daily and the local post-office staff delivers all packages received each day before quitting and calling it a day, Postmaster Al Gragg said last night.

The parcel post and stamp windows of the Salem office will be kept open until 6 o'clock again Saturday and Christmas packages will be delivered Sunday, Gragg announced.

The previous high for local cancellations was more than 125,000 and was registered in the local post office on a day when extensive mailing by the secretary of state's office was included.

NEW SNOW ON WAY TO EASTERN U. S.

By the Associated Press A new snow storm began enveloping the eastern half of the nation last night bringing some moderation but no lasting relief from one of December's bitterest cold spells. More than 34 deaths already have been directly attributed to weather conditions in the current cold wave.

The new snow increased traffic hazards over wide areas, but heightened prospects for a white Christmas.

Russia Agreed 'In Principle' to Join Axis

By Russell Brines TOKYO, Wednesday, Dec. 19.—(AP)—Russia in late 1940 agreed "in principle" to join members of the tri-partite alliance in a four-power entente which assigned the eastern world between them, Prince Fumimaro Konoye posthumously revealed in a special document defending the axis.

In the document, Konoye reports that then Japanese Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka said he had been told in Berlin that Iran and India were to be Russia's "future sphere of influence" under a secret agreement accompanying the proposed entente. Japan was to receive the South Seas area; Germany would have taken Central Africa, and Italy

Group Meets to Discuss Future Of Camp Adair

Representatives of seven cities of the Willamette valley met at the city hall in Monmouth Tuesday night to discuss plans for the future of Camp Adair and its relative importance to the adjoining areas. The group interested in promoting new industries in the valley will be designated as the "Seven City Development Group."

Clay Cochran, secretary of the Salem Chamber of Commerce, and a Salem representative at the meeting, pointed out that Camp Adair, upon its release by the government, will be an ideal site for one or more large industries since power, sewage, climate, housing, streets, rail connections and its large cold storage plants are the ground work for post war plans of some major industries.

The organization would have five representatives from each town to work together on the plan. George W. Cooper, of the chamber of commerce, Monmouth, has been appointed temporary chairman.

17 Below Hit Near Baker

PORTLAND, Dec. 18.—(AP)—The mercury plummeted throughout Oregon again today. The state's lowest official reading was 17 degrees below zero, recorded at the Baker airport. The highway commission, however reported it was 24 below zero near Meacham. The city of Baker registered 3 below; Lakeview, 4 above.

The moon's first total eclipse since 1942 was clearly visible here, lasting from 5:40 to 7 p. m. No let-up from the week-old snap was predicted by the weather bureau.

Other minimum temperatures: Pendleton 6, Burns 8, Klamath Falls 21, Medford 22, Portland 28, Salem 30, Eugene 33, Roseburg 38.

Weather

Table with columns: Max., Min., Rain. Locations: Salem, Eugene, Portland, Seattle, San Francisco, Willamette river 1.5 feet.

Russia Agreed 'In Principle' to Join Axis

Northern Africa, said a document released today by Konoye's son, Michitaka, who stated it was prepared by his father preceding his Sunday suicide.

Konoye said, however, the plan failed to progress and that three months after the agreement in principle was reached, German officials openly talked about the inevitability of a nazi-soviet war.

Japan once officially requested Berlin to avoid war with Russia, but the overture was brushed aside with the contention "It will be possible to terminate operations in two or three months."

Both he and Japan had been duped by Berlin's "traitorous" power politics, Konoye said, and he added neither Germany nor

Explosion Felt For 90 Miles

SAN DIEGO, Calif., Dec. 18.—(AP)—A navy ammunition truck and trailer caught fire and exploded on a highway about 15 miles north of here about 3:20 p. m. today with a terrific concussion that rendered almost 1,000 persons homeless in a nearby federal housing project and caused about 20 casualties. The blast was felt 90 miles away.

Camp Matthews, near the blast, reported 16 marines were treated for cuts. Windows were broken in the area, furniture blown into the street, and nearby army and marine camp structures reported damaged extensively.

Truck driver John Ayala, of Fallbrook, Calif., noticed his gas tank aflame and leaped out to notify authorities at La Jolla junction, 150 yards away, of the impending danger.

Police and firemen had time to evacuate residents of adjacent Torrey Pines federal housing project and block off traffic at both ends of Rose canyon before the explosion.

Navy reports said the truck was enroute from here to Fallbrook with 57 rocket motors, 49 depth charge pistols, 24 depth charge extenders, 29 depth charge boosters, and 40 millimeter shells.

A section of the gas main which supplies San Diego from Huntington Beach was broken, and a smoke pillar shot up that was seen 90 miles away at Mt. Palomar. The gas company reported about 5:30 p. m. that a four to six hour supply remained and after that the city would have to go on emergency rations until repair could be made. Electric light and telephone service in the area was disrupted.

Homma Denies 'March' Guilt

MANILA, Wednesday, Dec. 19.—(AP)—Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma pleaded innocent today to atrocity charges growing out of the cruel Bataan march of death and other crimes against allied civilians and prisoners of war in the Philippines.

Homma was arraigned before a U. S. military commission. His trial is expected to begin about Jan. 7 before the commission.

Homma, former commander of Japanese troops in the Philippines, is charged specifically with responsibility for the ghastly death march, in which 17,200 American and Filipino prisoners died, and with other brutalities and executions that killed 4,831 Americans and 45,000 Filipinos from April to August, 1942 in the infamous O'Donnell and Canabatuan prison camps.

General Marshall Lands at Manila

MANILA, Wednesday, Dec. 19.—(AP)—Gen. George C. Marshall arrived early this afternoon, two and a half hours ahead of schedule, enroute to China in his new role of U. S. ambassador.

He immediately left with Lt. Gen. W. D. Styer, commander of army forces in the western Pacific, and Maj. Gen. L. J. Whitlock, on a tour of the ruined city.

Marshall plans to leave for China tomorrow morning.

Driver Stops, Victim Runs In Salem Accident

A hit and run accident with a reverse twist occurred in the 700 block on Center st. Tuesday afternoon when a child ran into the street and into the side of a moving car. The driver of the car stopped but the boy got up and ran quickly outdistancing the driver of the car who chased him in an endeavor to make sure the boy was not injured.

War Weary GIs Protest Delay



More than 3,000 returning veterans of the 37th "Buckeye" division from Ohio, held their noses and boomed when told they would have to spend another 24 hours aboard the General Howze at the port of debarkation at Los Angeles. (AP Wirephoto)

Nippon Learned Of U. S. Fleet Via Radio

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—(AP)—Testimony that the Japanese learned on Dec. 6, 1941 through intercepted U. S. radio messages that warships were at Pearl Harbor was laid before the congressional investigating committee today.

This information came from General Douglas MacArthur's staff in Tokyo, along with other word that:

1. The enemy had alternate plans to smash the U. S. fleet if it was anchored outside the harbor.

2. Orders went to the Japanese navy to prepare for the attack as early as Nov. 9.

This information was obtained by MacArthur's staff in questioning Japanese prisoners after the fall of Japan.

The joint senate-house committee received at the same time memoranda of Sumner Welles, former undersecretary of state, describing the Roosevelt-Churchill meeting at sea when the Atlantic charter was drawn in August, 1941. Welles revealed that Mr. Roosevelt was reluctant to agree right then on a postwar organization to disarm aggressor nations, urging that this wait until a U. S.-British "police force" was established.

The evidence was introduced as vice admiral Theodore S. Wilkinson, chief of naval intelligence at Pearl Harbor time, went through his second day of questioning.

The MacArthur information that the Japanese had assigned a force to hit at the fleet if it was outside the harbor led to some sharp questioning of Wilkinson.

Wilkinson said more than half the six battleships, six cruisers and dozen destroyers smashed in the raid could have escaped the harbor.

Congressional Special Ballot Plans Complete

Plans for the special election January 11, to choose a successor to the late Representative James W. Mott, first Oregon district, have been completed by the state elections bureau, Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell, Jr., announced here Tuesday.

The 10 counties in the district have 510 voting precincts. The polls will be open from 8 a. m. until 8 p. m. Farrell estimated the cost of the special election at \$18,000 of which the state's share will not exceed \$2500.

Nominations for the office must be filed by December 31. Walter Norblad, Astoria, was nominated by the district republican congressional committee here 10 days ago and also will file by assembly of 250 or more voters to be held in his home city immediately following the Christmas holiday.

Bruce Spaulding, Salem attorney, has announced that he will file by petition. He is a democrat and previously served as district attorney of Polk county.

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Railroad Speed-Up Ordered

45,000 Men Jam San Francisco Port Facilities

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—(AP)—The army said tonight that 42,000 GIs from the Pacific would have to spend Christmas in west coast ports awaiting transportation home unless the rail jam cleared up.

The navy announced that many of its men scheduled for discharge or furlough will be in the same fix, too, but gave no figures.

Hoping to relieve the situation some, the office of defense transportation ordered all railroads west of the Mississippi to move troop trains "just as fast as they do their regular passenger trains" from now until March 1.

The army's statement reported that more than 35,000 soldiers had been waiting more than 48 hours for trains to the east as of last midnight. It added that with 110,700 more troops expected to reach west coast ports between now and Dec. 24 "the backlog will continue to mount rapidly."

From San Francisco came word that nearly 100,000 soldiers and sailors in all were in west coast staging areas and ports awaiting transportation. Of these the heaviest concentration, 45,000, was in the San Francisco area. Los Angeles reported 17,000 men in two camps ashore and 10,000 aboard ships in the harbor, with the jam expected to last through the holidays.

UAW Rejects Ford Offer of 15 Cent Raise

By the Associated Press The CIO United Auto Workers promptly rejected as "completely unacceptable" yesterday a Ford Motor company offer of a 12.4 per cent wage rate increase.

The UAW-CIO, which is demanding a 30 per cent wage rate hike, twice previously turned down offers from General Motors for a 10 per cent pay boost.

The Ford offer, which the company said would represent an additional outlay of \$33,000,000 annually above the \$35,000,000 it estimated it stood to lose next year on the basis of no salary raises, embodied these conditions:

The increases would become effective when monthly production reached 70,000 units; they would remain in effect for two years but any boost in the OPA ceiling price on cars would not be a basis for wage adjustments; a "company security" plan would be agreed on barring wildcat strikes, protecting "company prerogatives" and reducing the number of union committees.

The rejection did not create a deadlock in the negotiations, however, and another conference was arranged for Thursday.

Soviet Favors Big 3 Meets

MOSCOW, Dec. 18.—(AP)—As foreign ministers of the United States, Britain and soviet Russia met for their third formal session today, the Moscow newspaper "New Times" indicated Russia would favor continued meetings of the big three powers in the interest of world collaboration.

Referring to recent proposals that veto rights of the five major nations on the United Nations security council be abolished, the New Times called this an "attempt to bring about a great power, and an attempt to 'transfer international policy to new rails' which cannot lead peoples to a way of reliable peace."

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BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS

