

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Chester A. Sprague

Stung by criticisms of slow motion in return of servicemen from overseas, the war shipping administration and the army and navy have opened the throttle on ocean shipping until now they are pouring more men into the west coast ports than the railroads are able to move out. The pile-up is so great that thousands are kept on shipboard in port for lack of accommodations in the nearby staging areas where men are held until transportation is available. Meantime, the railroads are putting into service almost every old car that will roll in the effort to move men out and move them fast. ODT has ordered the roads to give troop trains the same consideration in schedules as regular passenger trains.

There simply isn't enough equipment — pullmans, coaches, locomotives — to haul the men away as rapidly as the ships are bringing them across the ocean. The situation is regrettable but the cause is so obvious that all concerned might as well accept it in a spirit of resignation. It does no good to gripe at the government or to cuss the railroads or to grouse at the crowded condition of hotels and restaurants. Sure, it is disappointing not to be able to step on a train and speed off for the home one hasn't seen for two years or more. Sure, it is disappointing not to have the boy come home for Christmas, especially if he is only a few thousand miles away just sitting on a bench waiting for transportation.

A little reflection is in order, however. He is getting back much faster than seemed probable a year ago. Then it looked as though the Jap war would last well into 1946. And he will not be ducking bullets on Christmas day, or shivering in a rocky foxhole or sweating on a hot South Pacific atoll. He's coming back, and generally whole. He isn't there room for rejoicing rather than complaining, even if GI has to sleep on shipboard two days longer? It's time to count our blessings, and chief of them is that the war is over, with all its hazards to life. The other things which distress us are for the most part minor irritations in comparison.

Communists Release Fliers

TIENSIN, China, Dec. 19-(P)—Six marine fliers who were held in Chinese communist custody more than a month made their way into this U.S. marine headquarters today after the communists had escorted them much of the way.

All six were in good physical condition. Taken before Maj. Gen. Keller E. Rockey, commander of the marine Third amphibious force, they beamed "This is the best Christmas present we could get."

Mail Cancellation Hits Record High

Christmas card and letter mail boosted the cancellation figure for the Salem postoffice to 136,000 before the books were finally closed Tuesday night. Only Monday a new record of 126,000 cancellations had been set when an avalanche of package mail was received.

Outgoing package mail is definitely past the peak while incoming package mail is increasing daily. Postmaster Al Gragg said Wednesday night. The Tuesday rush of mailing was late and even at 8 p. m. workers did not believe it would pass 100,000, Gragg said.

Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH



To Work As Parley Continues

No Settlement Made on Major Issues Involved

WINDSOR, Ont., Dec. 19-(P)—Members of the United Automobile Workers of America (CIO) voted to end their 14-week strike at the Ford Motor company of Canada, it was announced tonight, and return to work pending negotiation and arbitration of the issues.

When the last ballots in the two-day vote were counted it was announced that the strikers of local 200 had chosen to accept the government's plan to return to work. Of 10,000 Ford workers, 8500 were eligible to vote. It was said that pickets, in constant attendance around the Ford works here since the strike began on September 12, would be withdrawn immediately.

War Powers Extension Fails

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19-(P)—Six southern democratic senators teamed with a solid republican bloc today to vote a six-months extension for the second war powers act under which rationing is carried out.

The thin margin of one vote—the roll call was 31 to 30—assured the six-months-only extension previously approved by the house. The bill goes back to the house for consideration of an amendment affecting the naturalization of soldiers. It sets Dec. 31, 1945, as the deadline for application of members of the armed forces for naturalization papers.

U.S. Evidence Cut at Trial

YOKOHAMA, Thursday, December 20-(P)—An affidavit detailing abuse and murder of an American prisoner of war was stricken from the records today at the trial of the Japanese charged with his death. The prosecution protested the ruling "will cause many of our cases to fail."

\$85 in Currency Stolen From Beauty Shop

Theft of \$85 in currency from a table at the rear of the Hollywood Beauty Shoppe, 2075 Fairgrounds rd., during the noon hour Wednesday has been reported to city police. A check for \$11.80 was also included in the loot, Elsie Bishop, proprietress, said. City police also were investigating Wednesday a burglary at Ed's Lunch, 554 State st.

Fathers Made Draft Exempt; New Score to Loose 837,000

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19-(P)—All fathers were made draft-exempt today and the army and navy announced further reductions in discharge requirements which would make 837,000 more persons eligible for release. Selective service instructed local draft boards not to induct any more fathers and not to accept on a volunteer basis any father having three or more children. When the war ended, the drafting of fathers was restricted to men under 26 and today's order removed that one remaining category from the draft. On Dec. 31, the army point score will be cut from 55 to 50 for enlisted men and from 73 to 70 for officers. The navy program will affect 237,000 more persons between now

Cherrians Put Decorations on Christmas Tree

Thousands of Salem residents were surprised and delighted Wednesday night when the Cherrians' Christmas tree on the county courthouse lawn sparkled and glowed in its network of colored electric globes a full 24 hours ahead of the promised hour for its lighting. The 500-600 red, blue, green and gold lights hang in ribbons and scallops down the sides of the great old Norway spruce seem to be rays from the great blue star which stands erect on the very tip of the community's Christmas tree. Since the 1941 blackout the dark spruce has not been lighted until yesterday, although the custom established by the Cherrians in 1913 had always previously been observed.

Mrs. Mansfeldt Convicted of Manslaughter

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 19-(P)—Mrs. Annie Irene Mansfeldt was convicted of manslaughter tonight in the gun slaying of Mrs. Vada Martin, 36-year-old nurse whom she had accused of stealing the love of her husband, Dr. John Mansfeldt. The socially prominent Mrs. Mansfeldt took the verdict of a jury of six men and six women in stunned silence but seemed on the verge of collapse as she was led from the court room. The jury had deliberated four hours and 38 minutes and reached its verdict at 10:08 p.m. The law is that the sentence cannot exceed ten years. Wednesday at 10 a.m. was set for trial on her second plea of innocent by reason of insanity. The defendant's mother, Mrs. Susie Hunter, 71, of Fresno, and the victim's husband, Naval Officer William Martin of Baltimore, were not in the court room.

Freeze Death Toll Now 56

By the Associated Press The chilled and snow-covered eastern half of the nation was offered more of the same diet of snow and cold last night that caused at least 56 deaths. Since one of December's bitterest cold waves started moving east from the Rockies about two weeks ago the weather pattern has been snow, followed by clearing and colder, followed by moderation and more snow. While a fresh storm dumped from three to nine inches of snow from eastern Kansas to the Atlantic seaboard, temperatures began to plunge again in the south and northwest and colder weather was forecast for the entire snow belt.

Churchill to Visit States

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19-(P)—Winston Churchill will sail for the United States early in the new year for a visit to be climaxed by an address at little Westminster college in Fulton, Mo. President Truman not only endorsed the invitation to the former British prime minister to speak in the president's home state, but agreed to introduce him to the audience. The speech, entitled "World Affairs," will be delivered March 5, 1946. Churchill is coming to the United States largely for a rest.

Commons Passes Nationalization of Bank of England

LONDON, Dec. 19-(P)—The labor government pushed its bill to nationalize the 250-year-old Bank of England through the house of commons tonight and took steps toward nationalizing the coal mining industry and civil air lines. By 306 to 126, commons approved and sent to the house of lords the bill for public ownership of the Bank of England. It had been hailed by laborites in debate as "a great charter of freedom for the English people," and denounced by opponents as useless and involving an unwelcome encroachment of authority on other financial institutions. EPIDEMIC CLOSES SCHOOLS JACKSONVILLE, Dec. 19-(P)—The current influenza epidemic closed schools here today. Forty per cent of the pupils had been absent. The talent school closed yesterday.

Truman Demands Merger

'Hermann' Finally Harmless



LONDON, Dec. 19.—Two members of a British bomb disposal unit finally dug around "Hermann," a 4000 pound Nazi bomb, imbedded in a lumber yard near this city. The bomb, dropped in 1941, failed to explode. Not until now, however, were engineers able to render the missile harmless by draining its TNT. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman)

Salem Veterans Organize Cooperative for Building

A veteran's housing cooperative was organized Wednesday night at the offices of the Farmers Union Cooperative association. Various ideas were suggested. Purchasing about 30 acres for subdivision into plots for the construction of a community of homes appealed to the majority. Cooperative organizing, financing, purchase of materials and supplies, construction and installation of utilities were discussed. Additional purchase of materials for the construction of homes on privately-owned plots was also considered. Among those who were present and appointed on the organizing committee were W. R. Willis, engineer; Vince Genna, Blake, Moffitt & Towne; R. Vance MacDowell, Farmers Union Cooperative; Joseph M. Devers, law; J. Ray Rhoten, law; William C. Magness, instructor. Additional support was pledged by members of the American veterans committee, American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars, and telephone calls were received giving promises of help from many sources. Committees were appointed to investigate further possibilities, properties and sources of materials. Another meeting was called for Jan. 3 at the offices of the Farmers Union Cooperative association. All veterans who feel that the housing problem is a personal matter and wish to attempt a cooperative solution of that problem will be welcome, representative from the nucleus organization said.

Sleepy Prowler Goes Unnoticed In Victim's Bed

MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 19-(P)—A sleepy prowler entered the home of Nathan Donner here last night and curled up in bed with his host. Donner said he didn't even know he had a guest until he was aroused by police looking for the prowler, whose entrance had been witnessed by a neighbor. He was about to leap from bed to join the search when he realized the object of it was snoring peacefully beside him. The prowler's rest was interrupted by a trip to police headquarters where he was charged with drunkenness.

Willamette Students Get 12-Day Vacation

Willamette university students will embark on a 12-day Christmas vacation with the conclusion of classes Friday. Studies will be resumed on Wednesday, January 2 at 8 a. m. University officials announced Wednesday that all school offices would close for a five-day period extending from noon on Saturday until 8 a. m. Thursday, December 27. SOMERVILLE TO RETIRE WASHINGTON, Dec. 19-(P)—General Brehon-Somervell, chief of army service forces, will retire on April 29. Weather Salem Max. 38 Min. 22 Rain .00 Eugene 35 25 .00 Portland 35 24 .00 Seattle 41 23 .00 San Francisco 42 37 .00 Willamette river 14 feet. FORECAST (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Local fog this morning, partly cloudy in afternoon. Maximum temperature 46 degrees.

Mother, 3 Children Cremated

Morning Blaze Near Woodburn Takes 4 Lives

WOODBURN, Dec. 19-(Special)—Mrs. Norman B. Seely, 24, her three daughters, all under 3 years of age, were burned to death about 6:45 this morning at the family home three miles east of town. The father, Norman Seely, left the house just after 6 o'clock to do the milking at his father's (Ralph Seely's) place across the road. He had started the fires in two wood stoves in the house before leaving. The house was seen in flames by Ralph Seely at about 6:45. Mrs. Seely was awake and nursing the three months old baby, Sharon Rae, when the husband and father left the house. Their bodies were found near the sink in the kitchen, and it is believed she may have heard the fire and left the bedroom with the baby to seek the other girls, asleep in separate rooms upstairs. Possible escape through a door on the other side of the house was evidently ignored in an attempt to save the children. At least one of the girls is believed to have awakened, for her body was found some distance from the bed springs, L. E. Barrick, county coroner, reported. Mrs. Seely could have made her escape with the baby through the window near her bed. Her father-in-law, the first person to reach the scene of the fire, pulled the mattress from the bed through the window. The house was completely destroyed in the fire, the heat of which was so great that pennies from a child's bank were found fused, Barrick said. Woodburn and Monitor fire departments responded to the alarm. (Story also on page 12)

Stalin Receives Byrnes, Bevin

MOSCOW, Dec. 19-(P)—Generalissimo Stalin, just returned to Moscow after a lengthy vacation, received U.S. Secretary of State James F. Byrnes and British foreign secretary Ernest Bevin today and the Russian leader was reported looking "well and rested." Byrnes and Bevin are in Moscow conferring with soviet foreign commissar V. M. Molotov on the multiple problems facing the world. They met for the fourth time today in a session lasting one hour and 15 minutes.

Court Divides McVay Verdict

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19-(P)—Capt. Charles B. McVay 3rd, was acquitted on a charge of inefficiency today in the loss of the cruiser Indianapolis but no immediate report was filed on an additional charge of negligence. Under general court martial procedure, a finding of guilty on any count is not announced immediately. It is withheld pending review by the judge advocate general of the navy. Immediate announcements are restricted to allegations which the court finds "not proved." Capt. McVay was pale and obviously shaken as the court martial failed to announce acquittal on the negligence charge.

Maybe They Got A Bargain Rate

PETERSBURG, Ind., Dec. 19-(P)—Lannie Spile, suffering from a broken rib, was accompanied to a doctor's office by his wife and sister-in-law, Mrs. Maegi Willis. Mrs. Spile slipped on ice at the door of the building and broke her right arm. Mrs. Willis started into the office, fell, and broke her right arm. The doctor patched up all three.

6 1/2 Tons of Nuts, Candies Needed For Institutions

Approximately 5000 pounds of assorted nuts, 8000 pounds of candies, mixed and chocolates, and 300 cases of oranges will be required to supply Oregon's state institutions for the Christmas holidays, the state purchasing department announced here Wednesday. Turkey dinners will be served Christmas day at virtually all of the institutions. There will be Christmas trees at most of the institutions, purchasing department representatives said. At the Oregon state hospital here more than 3000 patients and attendants will participate in the Christmas feast. Turkeys for most of the institutions were produced on state farms.

Pearl Harbor Probers Ask Time Extension

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19-(P)—The joint senate-house committee investigating Pearl Harbor decided tonight to ask congress for authority to continue its inquiry and complete hearings by February 15. The committee now is operating under a resolution requiring a report and conclusions by January 3. The extension of time was decided in an executive session and announced by Chairman Barkley (D-Ky.). The committee authorized Barkley—as he put it—"to cruise around in legal circles" for new counsel. William D. Mitchell, former attorney general, and his staff have resigned effective January 3 on the ground that the committee was taking too much time in its cross examination of witnesses. The committee received evidence today that the army feared a German-Japanese move into South America in June, 1940, screened by a naval raid on Pearl Harbor and sabotage of the Panama canal. The army went on an immediate alert in Hawaii and Panama, then reduced it after several weeks when nothing unusual happened.

Continued Cold, Weather Forecast For Northwest

No relief is in sight for the Pacific Northwest, caught in the grip of winter. The forecast is for continued cold and little change in temperature. Holiday motorists will find it difficult and hazardous travel on the highways for the rest of the week. Few roads leading out of the state are in normal condition, state highway commission officials said Wednesday night. Highways to the south via Grants Pass and Klamath Falls report packed snow and frost. The Santiam pass has 63 inches of snow with roads open. Spots of ice and snow were reported all along the Columbia river highway. Astoria reported normal conditions. American Telephone and Telegraph company's long line department said delays as much as four hours on calls coming in to Washington and Oregon were due to bad weather.

Spaulding Land, Equipment Sold to Oregon Pulp, Paper Co.

All timber holdings, logging and lumber operations and equipment of the Charles K. Spaulding Logging company has been purchased by the Oregon Pulp & Paper company, officials of Oregon Pulp announced here Wednesday. The price was reported to be more than \$400,000 for the residue of the 55-year-old Spaulding firm's property assets. The operations, which will continue for awhile under the Spaulding name, include approximately 100,000 acres of standing timber in western Polk county with trucks and other logging equipment; the sash and door factory and retail yard at McMinnville, both of which are to be reopened shortly. An estimated 55,000 acres of logged-off land is included in the deal, which is one of several made in recent months involving more than \$1,000,000 in new investment, including reconstruction of portions of the papermill destroyed here by fire in August. The papermill major operations which have been down since the August 19 fire will be resumed by February 1, Nels Teren, vice president and general manager of Oregon Pulp & Paper, said in Salem on Wednesday. Approximately \$350,000 is going into the rebuilding and improvements at the papermill.

Fight Due Over New Proposal

Air Force Wins Equal Footing Under Measure

By William R. Spear WASHINGTON, Dec. 19-(P)—President Truman, the constitutional commander-in-chief, laid out a course for complete unification of the army and navy today to a divided congress and wrangling service chiefs. He told them, in a detailed message to congress, that "further studies of the general problem would serve no useful purpose. There is enough evidence now. 'Sink the Navy'."

'No Violence' in Kidnap Hoax

CHELSEA, Mass., Dec. 19-(P)—Tiny Ronald Carlan, central figure in New England's outstanding kidnap hoax, died of "asphyxiation and acute respiratory infection" and "there was no evidence of violence," medical examiner William J. Brickley said today in a preliminary report. As events moved swiftly, the Boston psychopathic hospital reported it had completed examination of Mrs. Rose Carlan, the baby's mother, and Judge John W. McLeod set tomorrow for a court hearing of the murder charge against her.

Veterans Get GRATUITIES

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 19-(P)—The Hollywood veterans service council announced tonight that gratuities will be paid to 13,611 Americans who served in the Canadian forces during World War II.

REDTS TO HANG 7 NAZIS

LONDON, Dec. 19-(P)—Seven of the ten German SS men tried on war crime charges by the Russians at Smolensk were sentenced tonight to be hung, Moscow radio said. The other three were sentenced to from 12 to 20 years in prison.

BUY CHRISTMAS SEALS

GETTA BUSY MONK—I'M ONLY GOTTA SHOPPING DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS!