

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Totalitarian Barbarity

If we can accept the moral legality of putting to death the war leaders of enemy nations, the latest Hitlerian document introduced at the Nuremberg trials is enough to convict and hang every last Nazi disciple who failed to protest it.

The document, in specific contradiction of all international law, ordered the immediate execution of every captured commando regardless of uniform. It was borne of typical Hitlerian rage after the historic Dieppe raid in October of 1942, and went so far as to disregard whether those captured were armed or unarmed. All were to be "slaughtered to the last man."

The newly-disclosed order can have little effect upon Hitler's place in history. Many other factors already have condemned him as a ruthless barbarian without equal. But it does tend to show that Hitler himself realized he was considerably ahead of his subjects in regard to the lengths of cruelty he was willing to go. The order, instead of being permissive, made execution of commandos mandatory, under pain of court martial for those who failed to carry out its provisions.

There is no parallel for such treatment in the United States or any other country, including Japan. Individual instances of barbarity were frequent in the latter nation, of course, but so far as is known no general order such as Hitler's was on file. Certainly there is no similarity in the treatment we accorded the Germans set ashore on Long Island, presumably for satogate. The Germans were not in uniform. And neither were they summarily executed. They were convicted after trial.

It is becoming increasingly evident why Hitler didn't want to be found alive.

Its Up to Japan

There is no way of knowing whether Hirohito had his tongue in his cheek, or whether his subjects will view his remarks as having been forced from him, but on the surface, the emperor's latest pronouncement appears to be one of the most effective steps toward a democratic Nippon that could have been devised.

Such phrases as "the war ending in our defeat" and "the false conception that the emperor is divine" certainly break every precedent. They must also have provided a startling awakening for the hundreds of recent deportees who embarked for Japan with the belief that the Rising Sun was still rising and the emperor still was omnipotent.

So far, since V-J day, Hirohito apparently has done nothing to stir up the one-time clamor for his complete overthrow. His public actions and statements have seemed to thoroughly justify the decision which left him his throne. His disclaimer of divinity, too, seems to go even further than could have been hoped. Whether we can take his statements at their face value, of course, depends on their acceptance by the Japanese people themselves. If they actually break through the bondage of blind idolatry to the point of enlightened reasoning, Hirohito may have earned his reprieve.

The Oregonian cogitates over the proposal to unite the war and navy departments and concludes the navy spokesmen are missing their best argument: fear of fascism through single control of the defense establishment. That seems far-fetched; and might as easily occur if the president bossed two separate departments instead of only one.

The federal fact-finding board is making a "special plea" for a resumption of negotiations in strike-bound industries. Now why didn't we think of that when the rivers started on their flood rampage. We could have said "Please, Mr. Water, get down off your high horse."

Most of the navy men are not waiting for the new-style pants promised as replacement for bell-bottom trousers. They'll take their change with a snappy model suit of brown or grey tweed. They'll skip blues for a while.

Editorial Comment

THE EGG AND PARITY

The agriculture department is urging farmers to cut egg production. However, the law requires that the department support egg prices at 90 per cent of parity. This support price is sufficient to encourage production and the prospects are that the government will have to buy \$200 million worth of eggs.

This drama of "now there are too many eggs" and "now there are not enough eggs" has been going on for a good while. On several occasions we have pointed to it as what one may expect of government planning, and there is no harm in pointing again.

However, it is noteworthy that a price of 90 per cent of parity is supposed to represent justice to the farmers—is sufficient to encourage over-production of eggs. Actual parity would represent still greater profits. One may question if there is not something wrong with this parity formula.

Parity assumes that the farmer prosperity depends on a price. It takes no account of the cost of production. In the case of poultry and eggs, the changes in production methods have been revolutionary in the last few years. The present egg producer would indignantly chop the head off a hen that his father considered rather an exceptional layer. Not only have breeds been improved, but so have feeds. Labor saving devices have come into general use.

The salvation of the farmer is not in guaranteed prices. It is in cheaper production. And while legislators are passing laws, farm production is being modernized and mechanized. In one respect an egg and an automobile are alike; the cheaper they can be produced and sold the more will be bought.—Wall Street Journal

'Bleak' Isn't the Word

The governor of South Dakota is irked because a writer in a national magazine referred to the Black Hills as "bleak." Now we have enough trouble with national publicity in keeping Crater Lake out of California and Mt. Hood out of Washington, without taking up the cause of the Black Hills, but if 'twill help his honor's dignity any we'll be glad to agree with him that "bleak" is not the right word.

Calling the Black Hills "bleak" because they are near the so-called bad lands, to which the term could well apply, is like calling Mt. Whitney a "denuded knoll" just because Death Valley lies to its southward. The rain-kissed forests of the Black Hills are hardly more bleak than our verdant coastal range, the snow-capped Cascades or the gorgeous Silver Creek falls area. And it would not behoove any writer to apply the term to any of those favored spots.

There are frequently gray skies over the Black Hills, and a precipitation that isn't quite as generally friendly as ours (we'll skip last month's capers in the valley for now). But, while we're certain Oregon's scenery still is superior, we aren't willing to term "bleak" such beautiful settings as the summer White House where President Coolidge spent a vacation in the Black Hills a score of years ago.

The year 1946 starts out with a brighter note, at least. Re-lighted lower decks of Salem's street lights are making the business districts look like something other than mourner's row at night, and Southern Pacific flood lights stop an 85-foot pole are making it safer for automobiles and pedestrians in the general area of Mission and 12th streets. And if recently-begun paint-up and clean-up projects turn into the hoped-for epidemic, daytime beauty also will be enhanced.

Henry Wallace is anxious to do something for the common man. He would win more friends if he would tell us what to do to the common cold. Glub, glub!

Interpreting The Day's News

By James D. White
Associated Press Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 2.—(P)—"This is civil war."

This dramatic accusation by a Chinese communist spokesman in Chungking today need not be taken too literally—yet.

He apparently did not care to let correspondents use his name, and his statement was used to color a report that the central armies of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek are about to take over the strategic province of Jehol, and that the communists would fight to hold it.

The communists have reported the same thing before, but have not called civil war so openly.

Jehol (pronounced ruh-huh) is a mountainous area lying between north China, inner Mongolia and Manchuria. Chiang Kai-shek's armies are trying to get in from north China and from the Manchurian side, and if they are in the strength the communists say they are, and are well equipped, they probably can take it.

The communists hold inner Mongolia, to the west. If Chiang Kai-shek can get Jehol, he would be better able to keep the communists out of Manchuria and even to get them out of inner Mongolia eventually.

Recent reliable reports say it was from Jehol that communist troops surged into inner Mongolia and established an important new communist base at Kalgan, in spite of a Chungking government statement today that there were no communist troops in Jehol before the Japanese surrender. These troops are commanded by General Ho Lung, one of the ablest of the red field commanders and one of the keys to the China puzzle today.

He is described as one of the radicals who favor action in the field instead of negotiating with Chungking which communist political leaders like Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai have been doing.

These negotiations now seem to be going against the communists.

Some days ago they proposed a truce arrangement which would "freeze" both communists and government troops in their present positions.

The central government rejected it and made a counter-proposal which stipulated that the communists give up their independent armies.

At the same time the counter-proposal suggested that General Marshall, special American envoy to China, act as mediator in a peace conference. Chungking meanwhile feted Marshall to an extent reminiscent of the cordial welcome it extended his predecessor, General Hurley, more than a year ago.

Hurley wound up by accusing the communists of trying to wreck China by civil war, and resigned.

Yesterday Marshall conferred two hours with Chou En-lai, the communist delegate in Chungking, in a meeting that ended with no announcement of results, if any.

Today's communist statement, "this is civil war," is thus the first public communist reaction since the conference. It is attributed only to an unidentified spokesman, however, and isn't conclusive.

In accusing Chiang Kai-shek of waging civil war in Jehol, the communists may hope that their threat to resist will gain them better terms eventually.

For as the situation stands, the Chungking stipulation that they give up their independent armies—the chief source of their political as well as their military power—is a serious threat to their bargaining position.

They always have taken the stand that if they gave up their armies they would be defenseless before Chiang Kai-shek's troops and secret police.



Not What He Wanted

The Literary News Behind the News

By W. G. Rogers

THE SAINTS THAT MOVED THE WORLD, by Rena Fulp-Miller, translated by Alexander Gode and Erika Fulp-Miller (Crown, \$2.50). Anthony, Augustine, Francis, Ignatius and Theresa are the quintet of saints whose lives are recounted here in a way to give them fresh significance in modern times.

Both Anthony, about 251-356, and Augustine, 354-430, were born south of the Mediterranean; Francis, 1182-1226, in Italy; Ignatius, 1491-1556, and Theresa, 1515-1582, in Spain. They are the saints of renunciation, intellect, love, will power and ecstasy.

The struggles they underwent, within themselves, with their families and with their communities both secular and religious, to establish exemplars of conduct which have survived through the centuries make fascinating reading, and the author points up expertly the bright drama of their lives. The very measure of their sainthood was to a considerable degree the searing conflict with which they rejected the temptations to which man is exposed.

Fulp-Miller takes great pains to justify saints as a subject for a book in this century, though he is the second author to appear this fall with a volume devoted to religious and ethical leaders. We believe today, he says, that the rationalism of the 18th and 19th centuries failed to illumine ultimate truths. Our scientists frankly acknowledge that man is more than a "part of the mechanism of nature." He summons as witnesses Millikan, Eddington, Jeans, Whitehead and Haldane.

Due to the holiday season it is fitting to quote a paragraph from the study of Anthony, whose eloquent testimony led Arias to abandon their heresy that Christ was only a man and to adopt the Nicene creed based on the mystery of Christ's divinity.

"If Christ had been merely a man, the jubilant joy of the Christian faith could not have been born. There would be no resurrection, no miracle of the Holy Ghost, no grace, no sacrament, no redemption. There would be no merciful Mother of God, there would be no Christ-mas. . . ."

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—Mr. Byrnes avows the Christmas season's peace he made at Moscow is an excellent compromise of difficult divergent views — a 50-50 settlement. He is prejudiced. He made the agreement.

To an objective analyst, the agreement resembles the rabbit stew prepared by old Trader Joe in the Dakotas and sold to the Indians. One day an Indian complained about the rabbit stew. He said:

"It tastes like horse meat." "Oh, no," said Trader Joe in an injured tone. "It has good rabbit in it."

"But does it have any horse meat?" asked the Indian. "Only 50-50," conceded Joe. "Whattayamean fifty-fifty?" shouted the Indian. "This is horse meat."

"Well, if you want to know," confessed Joe, "I always use in each preparation — one rabbit and one horse."

Surrender Control
For Japan, a nation we conquered and occupied alone, there is to be established a governing commission of the so-called United Nations, each with a veto power. We are to surrender our control to other nations, including Russia.

But for the nations Russia conquered and occupied alone there are to be no governing commissions. We do not have a veto power in any, nor does any other nation.

In Romania and Bulgaria, both enemy nations now in Russian hands, Mr. Stalin pronounced himself in favor of matters as they now stand, says our state secretary. But Mr. Byrnes thinks he won something he considers as "concessions" by Russia in Bulgaria and Romania. As regards Bulgaria, the agreement says:

"The soviet government takes upon itself the responsibility of giving friendly advice to the Bulgarian government."

Exchange Information
As for the atomic bomb, Mr. Byrnes says we are to give away no secrets but the agreement says the United Nations commission which is to have charge is to proceed "with the utmost dispatch" to "exchange basic scientific information" between all nations, and even provide methods of inspection inside nations to protect against violations in the use of the bomb.

A seat for Russia is specifically provided on that commission, and the commission is to be set up by the assembly of the United Nations meeting in London January 7.

The wording of the agreement, therefore, naturally suggests Russia would have to get "basic scientific information" within a few weeks or a few months at most and a few days at least, if everyone acts "with utmost dispatch" — and inspects our bomb plants.

The Byrnes recipe for peace thus certainly includes: The hair of one horse. The tail of another. One horse (with a secret ingredient of bear, Russian bear). Absolutely no caviar or champagne.

SMILES AT DEATH
LONDON, Jan. 2.—(A)—William Joyce, "Lord Haw Haw" of the Nazi radio, was described tonight as being alert and cheerful on the eve of his execution for treason.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"I still think we Congressmen are shockingly underpaid—look at the national debt we've piled up without us getting our fair share of it!"

IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued From Page 1)

having it served. He writes it as personal experience. He takes up the movements of particular groups of real people who took part in the westward movement of that year; the Reeds and the Boggs and the Donners and the Thorntons, their routes and their fates; the traders into Santa Fe and old Mexico; Col. John C. Fremont, the "Child Harold" of the book (sometimes it's "Don Quixote"); Col. Stephen Kearney; the Mormons under Brigham Young headed westward from Nauvoo to found in the desert a new society.

Thus is combined the supreme personal tragedy of the Donner party caught in the winter snows of the Sierras (first victims of the over-enthusiasm of California real estate promoters) and the high politics of President Polk who dared Great Britain on the Oregon question by forcing the termination of joint occupation and war with Mexico at the same time—and won both gambles.

Oregonians will take interest in the migrations on the Oregon trail with J. Quinn Thornton chosen as the Oregon immigrant (DeVoto calls him Jessy). Thornton's party took the route laid out by Jesse Applegate down the Humboldt and across Nevada and the Klamath country to southern Oregon. They got caught in the heavy rains in the Umpqua country and had to be rescued by help sent from the Willamette valley settlement. Thornton, who was to become a prominent lawyer in Salem, condemned the Applegate route bitterly but it was to become a very important avenue of migration into Oregon.

The work gives interesting sidelights on the prominent characters of the period. DeVoto is very severe on Gen. Zachary Taylor, regarding him as ignorant and incompetent, winning battles with the Mexicans only because of the skill of subordinate commanders and the valor of his fighting men — and the poor quality of the Mexican army. General Winfield Scott comes out much better, being given credit for great skill in landing troops and seizing Vera Cruz and invading the country to capture its capital. Kearney, who clashed with Fremont and Commodore Stockton in California after leading troops across the country from Ft. Leavenworth and capturing Santa Fe, is given high praise; while Senator Benton, father-in-law of Fremont, and long revered as friend of the Oregon country, gets a low score because of his unseemly attack on Kearney in support of his son-in-law. Francis Parkman flutters in and out of the narrative at Independence, Missouri, and at Fort Laramie, but DeVoto thinks Parkman missed the "big story" of the west of 1846. He set down his observations in the literary classic, "The Oregon Trail," but he was studying the Indians of the plains and showed little interest in the western migration of white families to settle the far west.

Those who read "The Year of Decision" will have an excellent background of knowledge, in tense, human terms, of the occupation of the west; and should have a much better appreciation of the heritage which we now enjoy. I hope this year "The Statesman can review some of the events of 100 years ago for the further freshening of popular interest in the story of how the west was won.

Utah Couple Buy Apartment House
Purchase of the Sundberg apartments, 555 N. Winter st., for \$60,000 was announced Wednesday by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Siddoway, who bought the property from W. W. Rosebraugh.

The three-story brick and concrete structure, built in 1932, has 16 apartments and two garages. Rosebraugh purchased it approximately 14 months ago from Don Young. The Siddoways, who came here late last year from Logan, Utah, plan to manage the building themselves.

New Baseball Manager Talks To Rotarians

Professional baseball is big business, George Emigh, new business manager of the Salem Senators baseball club, told Salem Rotarians Wednesday.

Apparently Salem business men are interested in baseball, since one of the largest groups in many months turned out to hear the new Salem club manager. It included many visiting Rotarians from other mid-Willamette towns and other guests.

The business side of baseball, the mechanics of the baseball club membership, with sidelights on travel and living conditions while traveling were discussed by the speaker.

Emigh was introduced by Howard Maple, former business manager of the Senators, who suggested Emigh might be looking for an alibi next fall. The new manager countered with the suggestion that Maple might have some left over alibi which would be usable if needed.

Civil Air Patrol To Reconvene

Salem Civil Air Patrol will reconvene tonight to continue the regular studies of communication and air transportation. A new class in aircraft engines is scheduled to begin. Returning veterans are giving their time to the teaching of the classes.

The CAP members are reminded of the membership contest now in progress. The prizes go to the persons submitting the greatest number of new members. First prize two hours free flying time and a second prize of one hour free flying time. This offer is made through the courtesy of the commander, Lt. James Cannon.

Scouts to Add 2 New Troops

Two new Boy Scout units of the Cascade area in Linn county have been formed according to Lyle Leighton, Salem scout executive. The two new troops are troop 63 in Sweet Home and troop 71 in Sodaville.

The Sweet Home Rotary club is sponsoring troop 63. Ivan M. Burnett is the scoutmaster assisted by George A. Cooper. Committeemen include Harvey W. Holmes, Earl F. Grass, Jack Gilbert, Ed Cardwell and Raleigh Middleton, all Sweet Home.

Sodaville troop 71 is sponsored by the Evangelical church. Kenneth E. Dutenhaver is the new scoutmaster. Committeemen are F. F. Davis, H. L. LaForge, A. W. Sprinkle and H. H. Allen, all Lebanon.

Taggart to Assist Returning Vets

Appointment of Edward T. Taggart, Portland, as administrator of education assistance to veterans under the educational aid law of the 1945 legislature, was announced here Wednesday by Hugh Rosson, director of the state veterans' affairs department.

Taggart, a veteran of World War II, will make his headquarters in Salem. Prior to entering military service he was principal of the Garden Home schools. He is a graduate of the University of Oregon.

Field Man Added To Scout Staff

Paul Pemberton, former Boy Scouts of America field man in Seattle and more recently scout executive in Nampa, Ida., arrived in Salem Wednesday where he will be employed by the Cascade council executive board as a field executive according to W. L. Phillips, council president.

Pemberton will work in the Silver Falls and Salem districts. He is working in the same capacity as Martin Mockford who is in the U.S. navy and who expects to return to his former position of field executive about February 1.

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