

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe"
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Secrets of the Kuriles

The circumstances of how the Russians seem to have got the Kurile Islands appear to be rather more important than the fact that they have them, and are likely to keep them.

The islands themselves, which form part of the eastern barrier of the Sea of Okhotsk, already a Russian lake, are not as near the continental United States as Eastern Siberia. They are not particularly valuable, since they have relatively few natural resources and one of the most remarkably foul climates on the globe. They once were great sea otter grounds, but no longer. For the Japanese they provided important salmon fisheries. They are the home of the Hairy Ainu, a rather appealing aborigine tribe, but one whose world influence has not been exactly smashing.

How the Soviet got the right to take over the islands, however, is revealing. According to the somewhat belated admissions of Secretary Byrnes in London, who contradicted an earlier announcement of Assistant Secretary Acheson, the late President Roosevelt on the last day of the Yalta conference a year ago agreed that they should be ceded to Russia in the ultimate peace treaty with Japan.

This agreement was kept a dark secret at the time, and certainly no hint of it appeared in the subsequent press conferences of the late president, or his report to congress on the Yalta meeting. The impression given, in fact, was that the conference had confined itself exclusively to European questions, and had let the Orient alone.

The secrecy at the time and subsequently was justified in terms of Japanese-Russian relations early in 1945. If announcement of any such agreement had been made then, it would have given the Japanese a pretext for attacking Russia at a time when the Red army was exerting every effort to give the coup de grace to the Germans. Thus it was not announced, until it leaked out rather clumsily over the last weekend. The manner of the leakage itself is not calculated to improve American-Soviet relations.

What is perhaps most important is that Secretary Byrnes' revelations suggest that the full story of Yalta, and perhaps of other conferences of the late president, is possibly not even yet fully told. Are there other agreements still hidden in the executive archives? Did President Truman himself ever receive an absolutely complete account of his predecessor's diplomacy, including agreements made and others refused? Is there any reason now, the war having been over for nearly six months, why the full agenda of the several conferences in which President Roosevelt participated during the war should not now be published, at least in their main headings? This time it was the Kuriles which turned out to be under the wrong shell; next time it may be something much more important. Americans have a right now to know just to what extent secret wartime diplomacy committed them for the time of peace.—W. A. S.

Peace, It's Wonderful

A Chinese communist general, who must have felt the novelty of the situation, observed that Friday, January 25, was the first day of complete tranquility in China for 18 years. All fronts were quiet, neither communist nor nationalist troops were engaged in open fighting, and the Japanese, long the scourge of the land, were being busily drained off to their homeland in a state of disarmament and complete impotence. Death, at least in military combat, had taken a holiday.

From the look of current reports, however, it is likely to be only a holiday, with the prospect not too distant that death may return after the respite with renewed appetite for the victims of Chinese political feuds.

It is undoubtedly true that General Marshall has fulfilled to the best of his ability—and few Americans have higher ability—his mission to promote lasting peace between the clashing factions of China. Agreement between the nationalists and the communists has been formally made, and as the communist's remark indicates, practical peace has been made—for the present.

Still, there has been no love lost in the press or privately, so far as information extends, between Generalissimo Chiang and the communist leaders. The latter are still sitting tight in Yenan, while in Chungking the Democratic league, a party participating in the main conference of Chinese unity, has complained against the nationalist government, sending petitions.

Editorial Comment

PETRILO'S 1892 TEMPO

The bill to defame James Caesar Petrillo might be more useful if it could be made to apply to all sorts of "feather-bedding" and sharp practices by labor unions, whereby employers must pay double for a single job. This includes not only having idle musicians draw pay while records of school children play, but hiring a carpenter to bore a hole through a wall, a steamfitter to push a pipe through it, and an electrician to poke a wire through the pipe.

We hope there are no legal flaws in this bill which might result in its being thrown out as unconstitutional. The House Interstate Commerce Committee has approved it. The idea is to free the radio broadcasters from the archaic chains with which the American Federation of Musicians' president has shackled them. Take the business of records, or electrical transcriptions. Why should radio stations pay musicians for doing nothing while records are on the air? It would be as logical for newspapers to pay ten hand-set printers for standing by while a linotype machine sets type. Or taxing automobile owners to support carriage-makers and livable proprietors.—Christian Science Monitor

lice to search members' homes in contravention, if not of law, at least of good taste in the present political situation.

No one has announced a way to find a political place for the communists in the new central government which is to emerge from the unity conference; and it not expected that Chiang and his group will give up their present preference. In contrast, the long and bloody tradition of practical Chinese politics has been that no one gives up real advantage without adequate and even liberal compensation either in power or place or other similar tender. The Chungking conference may solve the problems of apportioning seats in the central Chinese legislature, but until it can foster real agreement on the actual balance of personal political power among the long dissident leaders themselves, last Friday's peace may be an interlude instead of the beginning of a long-awaited era.

Harry Hopkins

History will deal more kindly with Harry Hopkins than did the newspapers during his lifetime. As a professional social worker he got the sneers of the practical-minded; yet his talents ranged beyond the dispensing of relief which he directed on a vast scale as head of CVA and WPA. Those acquainted with him credited him with a brilliant mind, and his talents for negotiation were proven in the highest levels of diplomacy. His trip to Moscow at the behest of President Truman to try to retrieve some cordiality in relations with Russia, made at the sacrifice of his health, softened the attitude of his former critics.

Intimate friend of Franklin Roosevelt, beset with critical illness all through his public career, Hopkins has followed his chief in death. In many respects he was a symbol of the Roosevelt era, and his influence on the course of events was far greater than any office title he bore would indicate.

The U. S. supreme court has a difficult question to settle in the appeal of General Yamashita for writ of habeas corpus against the military trial he had in the Philippines. The islands are again under American authority, are not under martial law, and Yamashita's lawyers claim a military court has no jurisdiction. The high court has twice passed decision days without announcing its ruling in the Yamashita case. It's a thin hope for the Jap general; but apparently one that has the court studying the law books.

It's nice to know that the stocking shortage will end in three months, but how about white shirts for men?

Interpreting The Day's News

By James D. White
Associated Press Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 30.—(P)—More than 200 years ago the Russians got into the Kurile Islands—discovered first by a Dutch navigator in 1604—and named them after the Russian word "kurit," meaning to smoke.

The Kuriles are a 700-mile string of volcanic mountains sticking up out of the sea between the Kamchatka peninsula and northern Japan.

The Russians found them inhabited largely by millions of birds, seals, and the remarkable sea otter whose fur the Russians prized.

On the three southern islands already there were a few Japanese fishermen, and the remnants of the Ainu aborigines whom the Japanese had driven out of Japan.

The Russians, and later the Japanese, nearly wiped out the sea otter population through unregulated hunting, and for a long time the Kuriles went unwanted like many other remote Pacific islands.

The Russians freely used the Kurile straits to get past Kamchatka on their way to their Alaskan colony, and the Japanese did most of their fishing and bamboo harvesting on the three southern islands nearest to Japan.

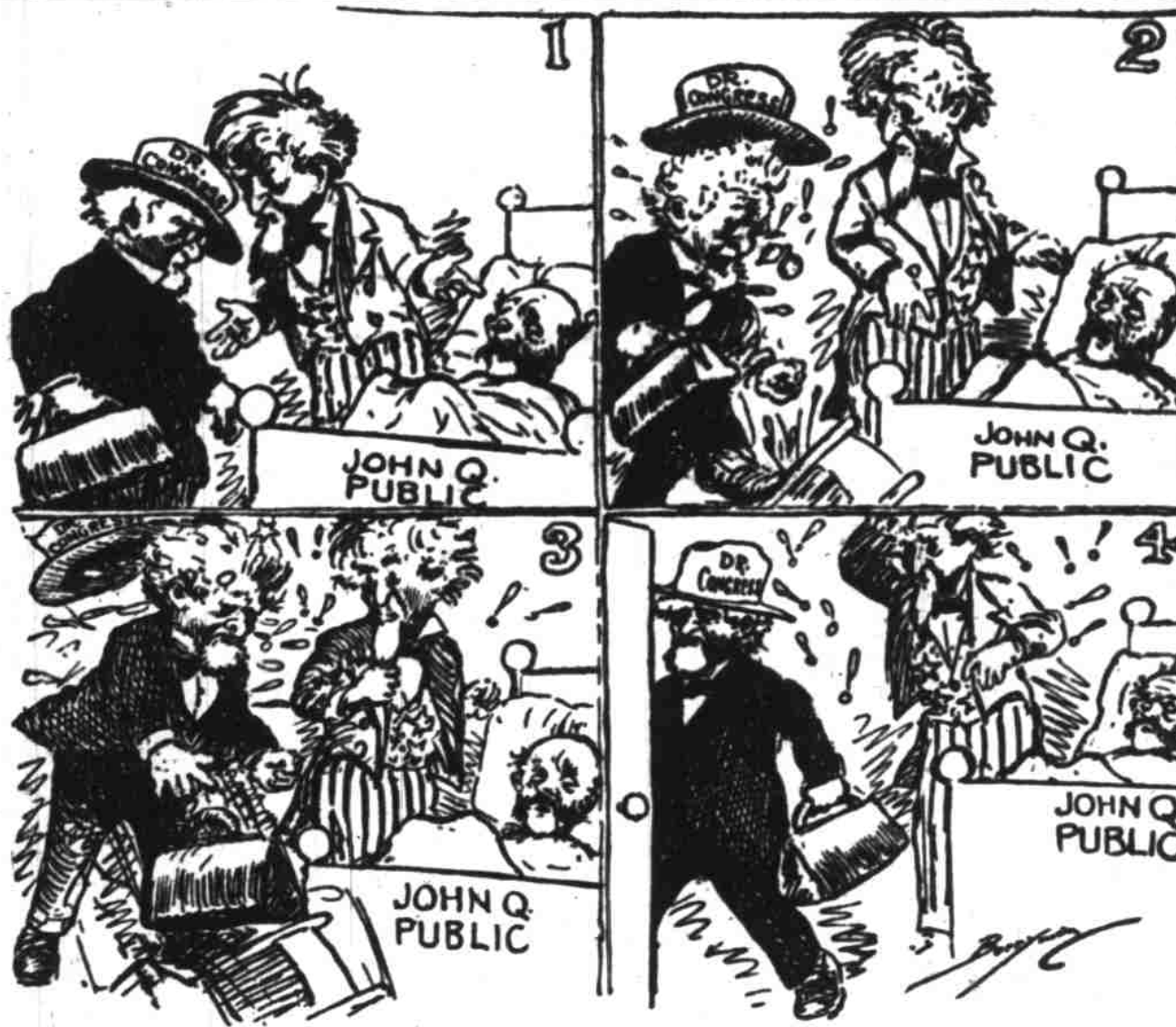
Established on Sakhalin
But by 1975 the Russians had established themselves also on the island of Sakhalin, which lies inside the Kuriles next to Siberia. The Japanese did some quick figuring. They swapped Czarist Russia title to Sakhalin in return for undisputed Japanese ownership of the Kuriles. Thus they fenced the Russians firmly into the Japan and Okhotsk seas and gave away only Sakhalin (which they didn't know had oil on it).

In their war with Russia in 1904 the Japanese grabbed Sakhalin, but the treaty of Portsmouth divided the island equally between the two powers and let Japan keep the Kuriles, where she built naval bases.

After the Bolshevik revolution in 1917 the Japanese took the northern (Russian) half of Sakhalin but later were forced to give it back. Japan kept mining concessions, however, to exploit the newly discovered oil, and did not give these up until 1944 when a case of cold feet persuaded her to return them to Russia 26 years ahead of time.

Disturbed Over Commitment
Americans today are somewhat disturbed because Secretary of State Byrnes revealed yesterday that at Yalta President Roosevelt agreed that if Russia should come into the Pacific war against Japan she should be given the Kuriles, which control Siberian access to the Pacific.

Actually, Mr. Byrnes revealed much the same thing last September when he announced the United States would support Russia's claim to certain islands north of Japan, and disclosed that the big three had discussed this at Yalta. He said then that the United States was not opposed to the Russian occupation of the Kurile chain and the (Japanese) half of Sakhalin after Japan's surrender.



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But How About Doing Something for the Patient?

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. Rogers

IT'S A SECRET, by Henry Hoke (Pamphlet Press—Reynal & Hitchcock; \$1).

The seditions trials and their aftermath are the subject of this vigorously written book which inaugurates auspiciously a new series intended to discuss pressing questions.

Hoke digs earnestly, as some congressmen, federal executives and others will discover to their discomfort, into three grand jury indictments of the alleged seditionists, into the records of some persons who appeared before the juries, and into the history of such organizations as America First and various "mother" groups.

This is not a case of crying over spilled milk, he emphasizes. He wants to know where some organizations got, and still seem to get, the money with which they continue campaigns against democratic government or against such minorities as Jews. He suspects a link between the prewar pro-Fascist forces and the hidden influences which obstructed wartime orientation courses in the army, for instance, by suppression of the book "Races of Mankind," the influences which hampered OWI and which, as he puts it, sought to blame Roosevelt for Pearl Harbor.

PLANNING FOR JOBS: PROPOSALS SUBMITTED IN THE PAST POST-WAR EMPLOYMENT AWARDS, edited by Lyle Fitch and Horace Taylor (Blackstone; \$3.75).

Of nearly 36,000 essays, some 200 are presented here, classified and explained by two Columbia professors. Proposals range from tax reforms to stimulate capital through various subsidies, public works and guaranteed market programs to labor union reforms and work-sharing schemes. There are almost 600 pages.

A WORDSWORTH ANTHOLOGY, collected by Laurence Housman (Scribner; \$2).

The poet, "most easy to laugh at, and sometimes the most difficult not to find dull," Housman remarks acutely, is Wordsworth. But subtract the dross and you have some of the really beautiful lines written in English. He gives more than 100 pages of them.



where the teacher has responsibility for all of the grades. There are only three other one-room schools, and in these only the lower grades are taught.

"Larger schools with better equipment, better buildings, better-qualified teachers, have been established for the benefit of rural school children in Klamath county. The county unit plan, with all of the county operating as a single district, with blanket taxes making possible the best use of tax money in the places where it is needed, and with county wide administration, has facilitated school consolidations and a sound building program that are the answer to the problems pointed out by Mr. Buismann in his Oregonian article."

It would be a mistake to pour more tax money down the sink of single-room country schools in areas where roads permit transporting pupils to good, supervised central schools. Consolidation or adoption of the county unit is a prerequisite to better rural education.

Reconversion Of Burn Urged

Transformation of the Tillamook burn into a green harvest, through creation of a vast tree farm, with a return of many millions of dollars to the state in eight or 10 years, was pictured by Roderic Olsendam, Tacoma, Wash., former public relations official for the Weyerhaeuser Timber company, in an address here Wednesday before the Salem Rotary club.

The investment by the state, Olsendam said, would not exceed \$500,000 over a 10-year period. He also advocated purchase by the state of surplus war fire fighting equipment for use in protecting the forests.

Vets Warned Of Discharge Loss

The office of Hugh Rosson, director of the state veterans department, warned Wednesday that veterans should use every precaution against loss of their discharge papers, provided they desire prompt action in receiving certain GI benefits.

When a veteran applies for and receives his first \$20 check for unemployment under the readjustment allowance, he must take his discharge papers with him to be stamped, and the veterans discharge also must be stamped to show the amount and the type of government guaranty under the GI loan bill, the office explained.

Bill De Hart Wins Posts at Leslie

Bill DeHart, defeated by Fred Sproule for the student body presidency at Leslie junior high school last week, was elected president of two student organizations at the school yesterday.

He was selected to head the Boys' league for the spring semester, defeating Dyle Fussell, Tom Paulus and Jim Moore, and was named president of the Lettermen's club, succeeding Sproule. Other Boys' league officers picked in Wednesday morning's balloting were: Vice president, Ray Cummings; secretary, Whitney Benson; treasurer, Alan Gilchrist; and sergeant at arms, Dean Bunnell. The Lettermen also named Dyle Fussell, vice president; Don Ray, secretary — treasurer, and Tom Paulus, sergeant at arms.

Cake Still Fresh After Cross-Country Flight

Quick delivery on a birthday cake was reported on Tuesday by Mrs. Charles Smalley, South Summer street, whose husband received the cake Tuesday morning by air express. The baked goods had been sent from Grand Rapids, Mich., by Miss Julia Chase who baked it and put it on a plane Sunday night. The 2600 mile trip took approximately 26 hours. The cake arrived with only a few minor repairs to the frosting necessary.

Mt. Angel Degree Team Will Act at Woodburn

MT. ANGEL, Jan. 30.—(Special)—The local court of the Catholic Daughters of America held its social meeting Monday night with ten tables of cards in play. Prize winners were Mrs. A. Uhing, Mrs. Albert Diehl and Mrs. Tom Wachter.

Arrangements were also made at the meeting to attend the initiation at the Woodburn court Sunday, February 3. The Mt. Angel degree team will conduct ritualistic services.

'General Joan of Arc' Headlines Program at Elks Lodge Tonight

Ladies night, lodge meeting and a personal appearance of Julia de la Calzada Peters, known as "General Joan of Arc" for her work with the so-called guerillas, who opposed the Japanese nearly four years on Leyte island, are on the schedule for the Elks lodge tonight.

Mrs. Peters, daughter of a prominent Manila family, eloped with an American mining engineer, Chester Peters, a year before Pearl Harbor when she was 21 years old. Her subsequent experiences constitute what has been declared one of the outstanding sagas of heroism of the Pacific war.

Soroptimist 'Hat Pass' Nets \$70 for Relief

"Passing the hat" at their Wednesday noon luncheon meeting, Salem Soroptimists raised \$70 to add to a previously voted \$50 from the organization's treasury for Soroptimist international's Mme. Noel fund for European relief.

Mme. Noel, famous French plastic surgeon who gained world prominence following the first World war as she helped remake the badly-scarred faces of fighting men, went underground during the last war and reports coming to this country concerning her work have been sparse. Since she is a Soroptimist, the organization has for a number of years made its European welfare contribution in her name.

State Gasoline Totals Mount

Gasoline consumption in Oregon for 1945 totaled 269,102,597 gallons, an increase of 16 per cent over the consumption of 231,859,757 gallons in 1944, Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell, Jr., reported here Wednesday.

The 1945 consumption was greater than for any year with the exception of 1941 when 297,966,614 gallons were used. Total taxes paid on gasoline consumed in Oregon last year was \$13,455,129.97, compared to \$11,592,988.01 in 1944.

Classification of State Civil Service Workers Started

Office review of personnel requisitions, in connection with the classification of approximately 6000 workers under the state civil service law of the 1945 legislature, is now in progress and will be completed prior to April 1, J. N. Chambers, chairman of the state civil service board, announced here Wednesday.

Workers under the civil service act are being classified on the basis of job responsibility. There are more than 100 classifications covering all types of state work.

Richard Coleman, recently chosen as full-time director of the commission, will report here March 15 provided he is released from military service by that time.

Dennis Reprieve Extended One Day

Governor Earl Snell announced Wednesday that his recent reprieve of Andrew Dennis, Portland, under death sentence for the slaying of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Anna Belle McAllen, in Portland in January, 1944, carries the execution date over until Saturday instead of Friday as previously reported.

Snell is now considering an application for commutation of the death sentence to life imprisonment. He indicated that his decision in the case probably would not be announced until Friday.

26 APPLY AS BROKERS

Twenty-six applicants for real estate brokers' licenses wrote examinations here Wednesday under direction of the state real estate commission. The number of licensed real estate brokers and salesmen this year will far exceed the number last year, Claud H. Murphy, state real estate commissioner, said.

Salem 20-30 Organization to Be Reactivated

The Salem 20-30 club will be reactivated at a dinner meeting in the Quella cafe Friday at 7 p.m., according to Wesley Goodrich, temporary chairman pending election of officers.

Ground work for the reactivation has been laid by a group of former members recently returned from military service who are anxious to reorganize the civic organization for young men of the community. The age limits of 20 to 30 during the war were changed to admit members up to age 35.

The Salem chapter was organized July 25, 1935.

Former members who recently met to plan the Friday meeting include Goodrich, Bill Deppen, Bud Edwards, George Fletcher, Larry Engstrom, George Herberger, Ruben Hilfinger, Frank Hunt, Bob Stevenson, Willard Petri, Jim Stevenson, Maurice Walker and Ralph Mapes.

Services Set Saturday for Salem Woman

Funeral services will be held Saturday at 1:30 p.m. from the Clough-Barrick chapel for Mrs. Charlotte Schuenburg, who died Wednesday morning in Salem at the age of 82. The Rev. F. N. Doderfuhl of Oregon City will officiate. Interment will be in Belcrest Memorial park.

Mrs. Schuenburg died after a year's illness, at the home of her son-in-law and daughter, the Rev. and Mrs. Henry W. Gross, where she had lived the last 17 years.

Also surviving are a son, the Rev. C. F. Schuenburg of McMinnville; two sisters, Emma and Anna Meier of Oak Park, Ill.; and two grandchildren, Dr. Carl Gross of Farrago, Idaho, and Ruth Ann Schuenburg of McMinnville.

A native of Germany, Mrs. Schuenburg came to this country as a child with her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. William Meier, and lived in Chicago. She married Charles Schuenburg in 1883 and came to Portland with him in 1891. Mr. Schuenburg died there 17 years ago.

Mrs. Schuenburg was a member of St. John's Lutheran church. Funeral arrangements are being made by Clough-Barrick company.

Gates Sailor Visiting Home

GATES, Jan. 30.—(Special)—Wayne Hann, U.S. navy, from Oakland, Calif., is here on leave visiting his brothers and father.

Mrs. Edmund Klecker and two children of Stayton spent Friday at the Millsap home.

Claude and Jean Sellard visited Sunday with Mrs. E. L. Collins.

Helen Wilson, Willamette student, was here over Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Johnson went to Lebanon Sunday to visit their daughter, Mrs. Gwen Shearer.

Glenn Hennessy has been having his barn yard road graded. Mrs. Ruby Winters visited Sunday in Salem.

Sailor Visits Pratum, Off to California Home

PRATUM, Jan. 30.—(Special)—James F. Huchingson, yeoman 3-c, came last week from Jacksonville, Fla. Mrs. Huchingson and the children, Carolyn and Buzzy, have been with her parents, the George Kleens, since September. They left Monday with his family. Their home is at Antioch, Calif.

Don Wehtje Returns To Storekeeper Post

SWEGLE, Jan. 30.—(Special)—Donald Wehtje, son of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Wehtje, has returned to his position as storekeeper at Tongue Point navy supply depot. It is a position he held before his induction in the army air corp. He received his discharge about three months ago after two years European duty.

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GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"And if you're ever evicted and your furniture moved out on the street—this is something you won't have to feel ashamed of."