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"With or without offense to friends or foes  
I sketch your world exactly as it goes."

### This Dove of Peace

Belief is current in Washington that the crisis in the far east has been "made in Germany." Probably, as most of the crises of the past few years in all part of the world have been and still are being made in Germany, Berlin seeks to get Japan into the war and embroiled with the United States in order to hamper American aid to Britain. That was the intent of the three power axis pact, which Japan joined to get freedom for "expansion" in Asia.

What Japan can get from Germany and Italy, outside of moral support, is hard to see but Japan is grasping at straws and so acting as a catspaw to pull nazi chestnuts out of the fire. When the showdown, which Japan is facing, comes, Japan will be left out on a limb, as Italy was in Africa, and as Japan was when deserted by Hitler in the anti-communist pact, designed to curb Russia.

The views of the Japanese military group which rules the government were well expressed by Major Kunio Akiyama, army spokesman at Shanghai, who is reported by the United Press as saying at a press conference:

British and Americans are placing snakes' eggs in a dove's nest. Japan would like to have a dove of peace descend upon her, but the snakes' eggs placed by Britain and the United States include fortifications of Singapore and Guam, the support of Chungking and the arrival of Australian reinforcements in Malaya. Britain made her guilty move when she abrogated the Anglo-Japanese alliance, the United States when it abrogated the Japanese-American commercial treaty. Japan has always been victimized by Britain and the United States.

The seizure of Manchuria, the attempted conquest of China, the threatened attack on Malaya and the Dutch East Indies are part and parcel of the tactics of this "dove of peace" masquerading as a vulture.

### Warning, or Real Threat?

There is considerable speculation among house and senate members as to whether the action of the house committee on taxation and revenue in returning a favorable report on Rep. J. D. Perry's bill to abolish the state tax commission is to be construed as a warning to the members of the present commission to "attend to their own knitting" or is seriously intended to promote passage of the bill.

Throughout the present session and during the last one there has been evidenced a spirit of resentment among certain of the legislators over alleged interference in legislative affairs on the part of the tax commission, by the very nature of its work and knowledge of tax matters, is drawn prominently into the process of formulating laws—so prominently that it may innocently be placed in the false light of promoting or opposing certain legislation.

Personal and political animosities toward members of the commission and its policies also influence a few of the law-makers to look with favor upon the Perry bill, which would replace the existing board of three with a single commissioner appointed by the board of control but removable by the governor alone.

Aside from the questionable saving to be made through cutting off part of the salaries of two commissioners—their work would have to be done by some one else—there is little in the way of economy or added efficiency in the tax department to be gained by the Perry bill. It would still reflect the policies of the appointing power and would be even more vulnerable to the taint of politics by making the commissioner answerable to the governor alone.

### Never Too Late

As in everything else worth while, it is never too late for good, needed legislation. With the present session of the Oregon law-makers rounding the three-quarter turn into the home stretch Rep. Harry Boivan of Klamath Falls, chairman of the house alcoholic control committee, is presenting a bill to bring private drinking clubs under regulation of the state liquor control commission by requiring them to be licensed.

Salem's experience with the only recently closed Web-foot club, target of four successful raids by liquor agents and an abatement proceeding before it was finally cleaned out, offers first hand evidence of the need for such legislation.

The fact that defenders of these speak-easies were able, through a political trick, to confuse the voters at the last election to defeat a referendum act of the 1939 legislature does not mean that the people of Oregon do not want strict regulation of such places, if they are to be allowed to operate at all. Given a fair chance the voters would overwhelmingly endorse even more drastic measures for the control of these "clubs" than is proposed by Boivan.

The best evidence that they are mere screens for the illicit sale and consumption of hard liquor and mixed drinks is contained in the strenuous opposition of their operators to any kind of regulation. The simplest and most effective method of control is to vest the liquor commission with authority to issue, suspend or revoke licenses for them. And any such enactment by the legislature should carry the emergency clause to make its application immediate.

### Litvinoff is Lucky

Maxim Litvinoff, former all-powerful foreign commissar and ace diplomat of the Soviet union, has been expelled from the central committee of the communist party and demoted to the rank of alternate, the stated reason being "inability to discharge obligations."

Litvinoff fell from grace two years ago when Russia started her withdrawal from cooperation with the democracies. His resignation was announced as due to "ill health." He was one of the most colorful of the "old bolsheviks," a familiar figure at the League of Nations and other international conferences.

Litvinoff is one of the few original bolsheviks left alive. Most of them have faced firing squads or been sent to starve in Siberia, or mysteriously disappeared. Stalin, oriental intriguer, is a jealous god and brooks no rivals. Probably Litvinoff owes his survival to his silence and inactivity since his demotion and his devotion to the "party line."

**Isell Is Remodeling**  
Dallas—Werner Isell, proprietor of the Berve Rite grocery and market has been carrying out extensive remodeling operations in his store. He has changed the counter displays and shelving and is installing a self-service system. He is also installing a new fresh vegetable rack and making other changes. Isell plans to have an official opening this weekend.

## A Dog's Life

By Beck



## Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

Virtue Gets Rewarded Twice  
Happy is the philanthropist who can make his donations to the public and serve some good end to himself besides the natural reward which comes from doing the good deed.

Our old friend J. W. Maruny, the landscape gardener, seems to have worked this out in one project, at least, where in its early stages it was working 100 per cent. J. W. took the job of pruning the rose bushes around the courthouse lawn and sent word out to any, all or sundry who wanted rose cuttings to show up at the courthouse today and get the same as the pruning was being done. He also offered to give free advice on how to handle the cuttings for best results.

When last we saw J. W. this a. m. the response had been fine. He had a good share of one section pruned and was dishing out the cuttings by the armload. Not a cutting was left on the ground. So by this piece of philanthropy he was giving those who wanted them all the Caroline Treloar cuttings they could possibly want, and as for the philanthropist himself, he didn't have to go back over the ground to clean up his mess. And anybody who has cleaned up a mess of thorny rose cuttings can realize that there's more to being a philanthropist than just giving something away.

## Novelties In the News

(By the Associated Press)

**Scant**  
Dallas, Tex. — Detectives George Williamson and L. M. McKinney just followed their noses and there was the forger.

A storekeeper recalled cashing a \$9.38 WPA check for a negro who bought a large supply of lotus blossom incense. The officers sniffed around the neighborhood until they found the incense—and a negro who had forged a payee's signature.

**Warning**  
Phoenix, Ariz.—Warning to back-seat drivers:  
Percy Alexanderson was fined \$23 for reckless driving although he wasn't at the wheel when the collision occurred. The automobile salesman was instructing a novice motorist but the highway patrol arrested Alexanderson. He pleaded guilty.

**Feathered Friend**  
Vandalia, Ill.—A contrary chicken was responsible for the discovery of \$375 in gold coins here.  
Miss Lottie Lawler was attempting to catch the chicken. It raced through a flower bed. So did Miss Lawler. She stumbled against an object, picked it up, and opened a sack containing the \$375.  
Authorities believe the money belonged to a former neighbor of Miss Lawler, Miss Thillie Ernst, now of Kansas City, who reported such a loss some time ago.

**Production Must Go On**  
Mitchell, Neb.—A service station attendant found Mrs. Albert Seaxler's Rhode Island Red hen perched on a brace under the fender of her car after an eight mile ride. The fowl's head was cut by flying gravel but when the ride was over the hard working birdy just clucked—and laid an egg.

**Turner Ballots Today**  
Turner — Turner high has been very enthusiastic for a whole week in campaigning for favorites to represent the King and Queen of Hearts for coronation Friday afternoon. Ballots were cast for eight nominees elected, including Vera Mae Hendrum and Robert Ball, seniors; Stan Prather and Ruth Davis, juniors; Clarence Cox and Edith Schuler, sophomores; Bill Towery and Mabel Ramey, freshmen.

## Kelly Says:

Defense Contracts May Breed Scandal

Board Member's Friends Well Taken Care Of

Frankfurter Decision Disgusting to Arnold

—By John W. Kelly

Washington, Feb. 1 — There are the makings of a first class scandal in the way national defense contracts have been given, if Washington rumors are correct. Direct charges have been made by Senator Truman of Missouri, and the house committee on military affairs is conducting an inquiry. The storm revolves around the construction advisory board, composed of three civilians, whose friends have been furnished with millions of dollars worth.

Every contractor, architect and engineer who wants a job files a portfolio of information with the quartermaster general, and this material is turned over to the construction advisory board. When a project is to be awarded the board recommends three names and from this list one is selected on a cost-plus fixed-fee basis. The assistant secretary of war, Robert Patterson, initials the contract recommended (usually the one rated A by the board).

**Dresser Gets His**  
Members of the board are three non-military men. They are Messrs. Harvey, Dresser and Blossom. Dresser is a former civil service employee who was with USHA, later operated on his own hook, and is said to have contacts with the Association of General Contractors. Blossom is a member of a firm which has received \$1,000,000 in contracts. He has admitted this to the house committee and says he will draw nine per cent of the fixed fee or about \$1,000,000. Incidentally, he has been drawing pay from the government at the rate of \$8,500 a year.

Before the assistant secretary of war okays the contracts the contractor has been selected from the three recommended by the board. A Mr. Loving, who was secretary to the General Contractors in the south, makes the selection. One of the first contracts was awarded to N. C. A. Loving & Co. of Charlotte, N. C. Although this is Mr. Loving's name and residence it is said there is no relationship.

Senator Truman asserts that contracts amounting to millions of dollars have been given to friends of Dresser and that little attention has been paid to awarding contracts within a state to contractors residing in that state. This has been the practice in Missouri, at least, where Michigan and Minnesota contractors have been given jobs, and in New England are similar instances. And, incidentally, outside firms have captured contracts in Oregon.

**Truman Wants Probe**  
A resolution has been presented by Senator Truman asking for the appointment of a committee of five, by the president of the senate to make a thoroughgoing probe into the contract awards. Meanwhile the house committee on military affairs is doing its digging without requesting a special committee.

During World War No. 1 there was waste, inefficiency and favoritism, but the public was not aware of the inside story until 1920, when it was disclosed by a senate investigation. There is a disposition in congress to get at the facts now, not in the distant future.

Associate Justice Felix Frankfurter's decision that jurisdictional disputes, strikes and boycotts cannot be interfered with by the federal government has thoroughly disgusted Assistant Attorney General Arnold, in charge of trust-busting. Arnold throws up his hands, says there is nothing to be done unless new legislation, which Frankfurter cannot liberally interpret is enacted. Judiciary committee of the house is preparing to explore the subject to see what can be done. In

## Hold Far East Crisis Made In Germany

Washington, Feb. 21 (AP)—The belief spread in some congressional circles today that the administration regards the tense far eastern situation as something made in Germany.

The administration, in the opinion of these legislators, has reason to think that Berlin has been exerting pressure to get Japan into the present war and then embroiled with the United States in the far east in order to hamper the British aid program.

This interpretation of the recent abrupt turn of events in the Orient was one reason, it was reported, why the decision was taken to dispatch immediately a number of the latest army and navy planes to reinforce American air strength at Pacific bases.

When General George C. Marshall, army chief of staff, testified yesterday at a secret session of the senate military affairs committee, one committee member said he left the impression that these were legitimate conclusions.

Marshall was said to have told the committee that he considered the situation in the far east "serious."

When Japan signed the three-power axis pact last September, officials here construed the alliance primarily as an attempt by Germany and Italy to create the threat of war in the Pacific and thereby impede the flow of American aid to Britain while at the same time allowing Japan freedom for "expansion" in Asia.

German and Italian papers and periodicals have from time to time pointedly cited the importance of the pact with Japan. Very often the main theme of these articles has been criticism for the attitude of the United States on the war, and policy of British aid.

## Scotts Mills Man Killed by Log

Silverton, Feb. 21—Charley Ehms, 27, was killed at about 11 o'clock this morning at Scotts Mills when a log fell from a log truck and crushed him. He had driven a load of logs into the lumber mill at Scotts Mills and started to unload when the accident occurred, according to information had here.

## Puncel is Honored

Clear Lake—W. F. Puncel, a farmer in Clear Lake district for about 36 years, celebrated his 81st birthday Sunday. It was the first time in several years that all of his children were together. Those present were: sons, William Puncel and wife, Arthur Puncel and wife and children Virgil, Doris, and Jane, both families of Clear Lake; Edgar Puncel and wife and children Leona, Leoto, Freddie, and daughter, Mrs. Ella Lee and family, Harvey, Violet, of Portland. Additional guests were: Mrs. Tiffany, of Portland, and Miss Minnie Lee of Alaska.

A jurisdictional dispute, according to Frankfurter, although interstate commerce is stopped, soon squads run riot and small business and the general public suffer, the unions are immune from punishment. They are, he contends, above the law. There was a break in the Owyhee reclamation project more than a year ago and about 33,000 acres (the crop) was destroyed. Hundreds of claims have been listed, ranging from \$75 to \$2,000 by settlers. Settling a claim with the federal government is like pulling teeth. Usually several years are consumed in the process. Recognizing this, Rep. Walter M. Pierce wishes to make a short cut, as the damaged settlers are in his district. He proposes that the settlers be given credit for the damage and this credit be applied to the reclamation project charges against them.

## Salem Sketches By Will Danch



"I'm quitting this hermit life. It's not worth it when you consider I'm missing those swell card parties Al Adolpison and his pals give!"

## To Coordinate British Efforts In Near East

By Frederick Kuh

London, Feb. 21 (AP)—Great Britain's military strategy and political policy, offensive and defensive, for the entire near east is to be reviewed at Cairo during the visit on which Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and Gen. Sir John Dill, chief of the imperial general staff, arrived yesterday, it was understood today.

A Belgrade report that British forces had landed on the Greek island of Lemnos, commanding the entrance to the Dardanelles, was regarded as evidence that Britain was taking every means of strengthening its position in view of the possibility of a German march into Bulgaria.

It was believed also that British Empire forces were advancing steadily on Tripoli, capital of Libya, and that exciting news from that front might arrive at any time. Eden and Dill are to bring empire commanders in chief and other authorities in the near east in consultation at Cairo, it was understood.

They will have the reports of the high British army, navy and air forces who recently visited Turkey and inspected Turkey's defenses in the Bulgarian frontier area. It was believed that plans to coordinate all operations in Africa and the Aegean sea area would be discussed, including greater aid to Greece—If Greece wants it—and aid to Turkey in any emergency which might confront it.

## Students Are Hosts

Lyons—The children of McCulley Mountain school and their teacher Mrs. Mary Lovette entertained their parents with a Valentine party held at the school house. Games furnished the entertainment after which refreshments were served. Sunday dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Nydiger were Mr. and Mrs. John Trask of Mill City, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mason and daughter Pauline of Detroit and Mr. and Mrs. Herman Gessner and children, Donnie, Judy and Garry, of Sublimity.

## Social Security Benefits Huge

Washington, Feb. 21 (AP)—The social security board estimates that nearly \$4,400,000,000 was disbursed under public social insurance programs in the United States and its territories during the year ending January 1, 1940.

Unemployment compensation amounted to \$435,887,000. Oregon received \$4,114,000 under the federal-state unemployment and railroad retirement acts. In Oregon 29,383 persons exhausted their credits under the unemployment compensation laws during the year.

Old-age and survivor insurance payments totaled \$124,263,000. Of this \$1,034,000 went to Oregon residents under the railroad retirement act and social security law.

Under the other insurance programs, over which the social security and railroad retirement boards have no jurisdiction, payments were estimated as: disabled veterans of the World War and their survivors, \$400,000,000; state workmen's compensation \$250,000,000, and retirement systems for public employes, \$180,000,000.

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## Room and Board . . . . . By Gene Ahern



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