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Real National Security

Make no mistake about it, the United States is courting disaster, with its policy of such statesmanship as came to a head on April 4, with the signing of the North Atlantic pact.

There is a lot of confidence being misplaced in the "scrap of paper" which binds the signatories of the treaty to mutual assistance in time of war. Judging the history of pacts and alliances, this might well be as much a beginning of war as a prophesied instrument of peace.

Yet, with full awareness of the pact's implications, the United States goes merrily along, practically neglecting one of its most potent forces of national strength as well as economic security—the merchant marine.

Unless some attention be directed toward the matter of rebuilding its merchant fleet, the probable outbreak of war would find America flat-footed and unable to move surely into the breach at a time speed would be the essence of defense.

Shipping under the American flag, to be sure, is not something that just grows over night. It takes time and experience to develop the skills of management and ship operation. And in time of emergency, these skills and technical knowledge pay off in handsome returns.

The American shipping industry has proved itself eminently capable in times of past crises. The magnitude of service during World War II, latest example, is a record of outstanding service. But the past is the past.

However much we hate war, we need not blind ourselves to the possibility that diplomatic devices too frequently break down. Particularly when the world divides itself into sides and pact counterbalances pact, is the imminence of war a dreadful reality.

The scientific and technological advances in weapons of warfare to the contrary, in the awful carnage of any future war there will be the need for immediate transport of huge numbers of personnel and great cargoes of material.

No other means have as yet been found to do such a job as efficiently and as economically.

It must be noted, however, that a strong merchant marine is not something that can be casually bought on the market. It must be developed. And there seems to be a woeful lack of vision in this respect.

Although American commitments overseas are still of high volume, there is a large amount of shipping done in foreign-flag bottoms. It seems like a strange policy that would not take advantage of such a situation for the strengthening of our own merchant shipping arm.

Should the national interest demand transport of arms, materiel and men, where would they find the means? There is at present only about half enough American-flag vessels fit for the job. And even these are not all of first rank.

Well might those who direct the destinies of our nation defend the logic and purposefulness of the North Atlantic pact. But even more so might they take note of the tragic results that will devolve from a depleted merchant marine, left to wither in neglect.

Surely, if there is sincere thought given to strengthening our national defense, attention must be allowed the merchant marine. Here is greater real national security than in any scrap of paper, no matter how eloquently worded.

—W. K.

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Readers Say

Soviets and U.S.A. Differ Only in Degree, Is Claim

Editor:

The Oregonian March 31 carried an editorial called "We Have No Iron Curtain" in which the principle of freedom is weakly and apologetically defended by advocating freedom of visa to the Russian delegates to the present peace conference here in the U.S.A.

With this I heartily concur; but when the editorial boasts that we have no iron curtain, exception must immediately be taken. There is much in America today that is at least the equivalent of an iron curtain—even as the editorial inconsistently betrays—e.g., the careful watch to which these Russians are being subjected.

There is a lot of American snobbery and intolerance which amounts to a step in the direction of an iron curtain. We have a lot of the denial of plain civil liberties. I would say our lack of one ounce of mercy to our so-called war-crime-makers is odious in the eyes of God and the world.

The way we treat A. L. Strong, keeping her under constant watch so that she can't even move about without a guard hanging on to her arm, betrays something far too much of what Russia is like. I am willing to wager that Thomas Jefferson, whose memory we cherish and emulate would be a marked man in America today and probably expelled! Did he not oppose the Alien and Sedition laws of his day?

There is only a difference in degree in what we are doing and what Russia is doing, it seems to me. And what is so deplorable is the way we tend to copy Russian methods even while we pretend to be saving democracy.

If America loses her right to criticize, in short, civil rights, she is then one with the totalitarians of our day and we are undone.

Sincerely yours,
Paul Brinkman, Jr.
1027 S. E. 57th Ave.,
Portland 15, Oregon.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Perhaps there is only slight difference. But what a difference that makes!

American rights and liberties are so precious they truly should be closely kept against dilution.

Errors Creep in As Reader Finds Three Mistakes

Beaverton Enterprise
Beaverton, Oregon

Dear Editor:

There are three errors in your Bonny Slope News.

Rita Miske as "Goldilocks" and "Mama Bear" and Charles Isaacson as "Papa Bear" should read—Susan Stearns as "Goldilocks" and "Mama Bear" and Daryl Jones as "Baby Bear" and Teddy Nelson as "Papa Bear".

Also John Shannon's name was omitted from Butchie Grasse's birthday party.

There have been no church services in the Bonny Slope school for some time. We all go down to Cedar Mill for both Sunday School and Church. Your correspondent here should have told you about that sometime ago.

We enjoy your newspaper very much but like to see the names of the correct people in the news. Yours for continued success,

Mrs. R. F. Shannon
Rt. 2, Box 508
Portland 10, Oregon

EDITOR'S NOTE:

First rule of a news writer is to get names correct. May you continue your cooperation and call to the attention of your Bonny Slope correspondent any and all items of news she may have overlooked in the very good job she is doing of reporting.

CALLING MINNESOTANS

Dear Editor:

The Minnesota State Society of Portland will have their regular meeting and dance Friday, April 8, 8 p.m. All ex-Minnesotans and friends are invited to come and enjoy a good time with our record attendance. 8130 S. E. 13th. IOOF Hall. Take Sellwood Bus.

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APRIL 9

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Story of Big Wind Arouses Many Old Timers' Interest

LETTERS FILL IN DETAILS AND RELATE EXTENT OF MYSTERIOUS N. W. STORM ON JANUARY 9, 1880

By Hervey S. Robinson

(Continued from last week)

Our recent story of the "Big Wind" of January 9, 1880 seems to have aroused more interest and stirred the memories of oldtimers more than any other chapter in this series. We furnished a similar article from the Clackamas county angle, to the Oregon City Enterprise and the two have brought forth a number of other reminiscences and comments.

At Forest Grove, it appears that a bet was laid upon the date of the storm and one of the parties wrote to the Oregonian for information. As there was lying upon the desk of the feature editor at that time a manuscript by the author of this series describing the storm in Portland it required no further research to furnish the desired information.

A local columnist by a strange coincidence found the story which had been overlooked in the files of the paper for 69 years and brought it out in a recent issue of the Oregonian.

We have just received through Mrs. Margaret Wright of Beaverton a communication from Mrs. Frances Chandler, her husband's aunt, "now 83 years young and very spry", Mrs. Chandler writes: "You asked if I remember anything about the storm that the clipping told about. Yes indeed I do. I was a girl living in Vancouver at the time and my home was on 10th and Reserve Streets. Just opposite the Garrison and across from St. Mary's Academy."

"There were some large fir trees just in front of the officer's quarters on Tenth and fear was felt that they might blow over or at least that the tops might break off and fall upon the quarters."

"A charge of dynamite was put under the roots of one large tree and a blast followed. It didn't uproot the tree but it broke all the windows in our home and did other damage. No one was killed

but it was quite exciting and I saw it from our house.

"There was a large building, a mere roof with sides to support it, where the soldiers drilled. That building collapsed. There may have been some men injured but I don't think any were killed although they rushed out of the building, I guess without waiting for orders from their superiors."

"There was a lot of damage done by fallen chimneys, etc. All through the county trees were uprooted. St. Mary's Academy on 10th St. had some kind of a metal roof. This roof was lifted by the wind and damaged."

Among the communications received by the Oregon City Enterprise was one from Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Brown of that city. Mrs. Brown, who was about six years old, at the time (she was Adah Ranall, then) remembers, as did several others, the incident at the Brown school house at Central Point when a large limb blew off a fir tree and pierced the roof of the building.

"It didn't crush it," said Mrs. Brown. "Just pierced it like an arrow."

The teacher lined the children up and they all marched down to the Foster place, holding tightly to each other's hands to keep from being blown over by the terrific wind. Mrs. Brown said the fences were being blown over like nine-pins. No one, so far as she can recall was hurt.

Rev. Arthur Brown recalls the storm as he saw it on Young's Prairie, south of Estacada. "Yes it was a bad storm there too," he said. "Trees were piled up high from the storm, and as I remember we children climbed on them."

Another party recalls the storm damage in Garfield County, Wash. At Pomeroy, a new Catholic church was being erected. The frame was blown to the ground and a number of other buildings were seriously damaged.

In the mountains, timber was blown down and piled up in

windfalls many feet high. The Pomeroy Meat Market was blown from its foundations, leaving one corner in the cellar and the whole building tipped to an angle of 40 degrees. The tin roof was blown from the Frary and Williamson drug store, the fronts were blown in on some buildings and at least one barn was razed to the ground. At Pataha City a number of barns and sheds were demolished, several houses were rocked and unroofed. At May View heavy damage was done to property.

(Continued next week)



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