

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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OREGON NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

Ye Smudge Pot By Arthur Perry.

Naval experts criticize the captain of the Nazi pocket battleship, Graf Spee, for ingloriously scuttling his ship, instead of going forth to a battle he had less chance of winning than a combination tallow-legged cat and Chinaman.

The Secret Service reports there is less counterfeit money in the country than ten years ago. There is also less genuine money, many report.

"Want to Trade: 5 passenger car, worth \$400 cash, will carry your load over the rocky mountains. Want team, wagon and small type Jersey cow. W. S. Wilburn, Calico Rock."

The Older Girls are admiring the sturdy battling of the Finns, also their minister to America, Hjalmar Procopce. Photos reveal the diplomat as better looking than any of the beauties of the screen.

TRY IT SOME TIME (Emmett Ida.) Messenger: "George Jones of Coulee, Washington, is a lucky man. He escaped death the other day because he was standing close to fifteen sticks of dynamite when they exploded. He was only two feet away and all he got was a little dirt in his eyes. His escape is explained by the fact that he was in the center of the concussion where waves from the blast did not develop full force."

There is still plenty of what is called "mild flu", until you get it. "Want unencumbered elderly woman for housework. Room, board and small wage. No smoker." (Cooz Bay Times)—Talking no chances of cigarette ashes in the pie crust.

It is quite evident somebody in Europe is lying about the results of battles in the European war zone. There has been nothing like it since the deluge of 11th hour canards, at the tail-end of a red-hot primary election campaign.

A pr. of puttees showed up on the Main Stem yesterday. They used to be the proper caper for orchardists and 2nd loots.

SO THINK WE ALL "And this evening we really feel that there is a great deal of good will in the world. Of course its display doesn't make the headlines with any great consistency, but doesn't necessarily prove there is no good will. It just proves possibly that all newspapers have desk men who carry blue pencils and frowns in their working kits. It's the same thing with the place of money in everyday affairs. Because one can't think of anything more important than ready cash and lots of it, doesn't mean there isn't thousands of things in the world more to be desired. There is, of course. We're going to make it a point to think of some of them some time." (Harold Haysnes in the Astoria Astorian-Budget.)

Death to Taxes Olympia, Wash.—(AP)—Thanks to State Liquor Board funds, a prosperous water system and pinball machine license fees, the town of Ridgefield, near Vancouver, Wash., will not ask its citizens for one penny of taxes next year. Ridgefield's 600 citizens were assessed on a 6 mill basis this year. 7 mills in 1938.

"Spurlos Versenkt"

IF THE press dispatches are true,—the longer this war goes on the less we believe them,—then,—The suicide of Captain Hans Langsdorff is not surprising. As a loyal Nazi, he could only follow the orders of the "All-Highest", Der Reichfuhrer, who (again crediting the Berlin dispatches) ordered that the Graf Spee be blown up, and the officers and crew saved.

We don't doubt now that Captain Langsdorff would have preferred to have gone down,—or up—with his ship. That would have been in accord, not only with naval tradition but no doubt with his own inclination and sense of the fitness of things.

BUT in war orders are orders, and his first consideration was not what he would LIKE to do, but what his duty to his country and his supreme Commander DEMANDED.

So,—he followed out those orders. No doubt sending his ship to the bottom was like sending his family and his personal honor there also, but there was no other way.

And with his officers and crew safely off, his responsibility did not end, until they were secure in some neutral port.

With THAT done, however, Captain Langsdorff had discharged his full duty, and was a free agent again, to face the consequences of his defeat or if he preferred take "the easier way".

He chose the latter. We fail to find anything particularly inspiring or commendable in the career of Captain Hans Langsdorff of the Graf Spee as thus outlined. But assuming the report from Berlin regarding Hitler's orders, is correct, the tragic climax, to a tragic story, does make sense.

Was the Graf Spee Fatally Hurt?

BUT—again if press reports from abroad can be relied upon,—the flight of the Graf Spee to Montevideo does NOT make sense.

An Argentine naval expert, and alleged witness of the naval battle, for example, maintains the German pocket battleship, had victory in her grasp, when she quit cold and beat it.

According to his story, the Exeter had been put out of commission entirely,—the ship that had caused the most damage to the Spee,—while the other two cruisers were hurt and no match at all, for the superior armament of their opponent.

Why then did the Graf Spee retreat,—when by sticking to its post perhaps another ten minutes, it might have won one of the most outstanding naval victories of modern times?

IF THIS diagnosis of the situation is correct,—or even half correct,—then the retirement of the pocket battleship—under her own power and at unimpaired speed!—does not make sense, except under the assumption that Captain Langsdorff was either an arrant coward, or criminally incompetent. (In which case of course his suicide would be even more understandable.)

But its hard to believe that, and barring more convincing evidence than this Argentine expert offers, we doubt if any trustworthy authorities will accept it.

PERHAPS Captain Langsdorff left a letter that can definitely clear up the mystery once and for all. But barring that, it is our belief something like this is the explanation: while Uruguayan engineers pronounced the Graf Spee able to go to sea at the zero hour, they said nothing about its ability to FIGHT.

The most probable explanation therefore is that the Graf Spee's guns were out of commission or the fire control towers shot off,—which would bring about the same result. In short the ship could navigate, but it COULDN'T fight.

Such an explanation at least does make SENSE, both for the Graf Spee's sudden retirement from the fray, and her refusal to come out fighting last Sunday night and trust to her speed and darkness to make her escape.

No other explanations, to date, have.

"Donald Duck" Is Right

FRANKLIN Waltman, high-priced publicity director for the Republican National Committee is improving.

For a long time, his efforts struck this column as decidedly strained and ineffective,—rather like hunting humming birds with a sawed-off shot gun.

But in his last installment we note he calls Secretary Ickes "Donald Duck". As the term carries no quotes we can only conclude the title is original with Mr. Waltman, in which case he deserves a specially nice Christmas present from Brother "D.A.M." Hamilton.

For while this column has never lost its admiration for Secretary Ickes' picturesque vocabulary and rugged honesty, it has of late, become very much bored by his constant scolding and, particularly his disposition to allow no Republican head to show above the second basement without feeling he must whang it with a verbal brickbat.

The general spectacle has reminded us very much of some popular figure always in a more or less raucous dither, but we never could figure out just which and what.

But now we know,—it's as clear as daylight! It was that pestiferous common scold "Donald Duck"!

Personal Health Service

By William Brady, M.D.

Signed letters pertaining to personal health and hygiene, not to disease diagnosis or treatment, will be answered by Dr. Brady if a stamped self-addressed envelope is enclosed. Letters should be brief and written in ink. Owing to the large number of letters received only a few can be answered. No reply can be made to queries not conforming to instructions. Address Dr. William Brady, 265 El Camino, Beverly Hills, Calif.

OBSTACLE TO PROPHYLAXIS

Dental practitioners have long used the term prophylaxis in a restricted sense, referring to the important feature in the preservation or conservation of the teeth, that is, periodic inspection, removal of stains or tartar deposits, scaling and polishing of the teeth to prevent caries or decay from getting a start in any minute fissure or crevice in the enamel, and also attention to the condition of the gums for the prevention of pyorrhea. All of which is absolutely indispensable if you want to keep your teeth—and who but a dimwit doesn't?—yet it is well to remember that prophylaxis has a wider meaning than that. It is the art of guarding against, preserving from or preventing disease. Anything that contributes to the prevention of disease is a prophylactic remedy, precaution or measure, for instance adding vitamin D to the regular diet in infancy, childhood or youth to prevent rickets or keeping the skin between the toes dry to prevent ring worm (epidermophytosis, foot itch).



We explained the other day how nasal allergy impedes progress in the prevention of three-fourths of the illness physicians attend—respiratory infections. The increasing number of individuals who are allergic but do not understand the nature of their trouble and hence ascribe their reactions to fancied exposure to cold or wet tends to confuse the uninitiated and raise doubt in regard to the question of exposure to cold and wet. I reckon that having explained as clearly as I can the nature of nasal allergy and the characteristically sudden beginning and cessation of the stuffiness, sneezing and watering at the nose, a reaction which inevitably occurs not long after some real or imagined exposure to draft or change of temperature, there is nothing more I can do about it.

Although I hope I may be wrong, it seems to me that the allergic state, tendency or hypersensitivity is steadily increasing in frequency among the general population. I hope this is only an apparent increase, due to the fact that the nature of the trouble is more generally recognized today, where as formerly it passed as "cold" or "catarrh," or in cases of allergic asthma as "nervousness" or "neurosis." But the conviction that having explained as clearly as I can the nature of nasal allergy and the characteristically sudden beginning and cessation of the stuffiness, sneezing and watering at the nose, a reaction which inevitably occurs not long after some real or imagined exposure to draft or change of temperature, there is nothing more I can do about it.

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But the security zone is remembered by its originators, if not by the public. The Graf Spee was destroyed to its fate when it attacked the French merchantman, Formosa, off the Uruguayan coast. This was the second of two clear instances in which the security zone was ignored. The first occurred when the British freighter Stonegate was sunk farther to the north, probably also by the Spee.

These violations are now to be the subject of consultation among the powers which conferred at Panama. The move to consult was spontaneous throughout the Americas. Our state department no longer had to take the lead. Out of the consultations, it is expected, will come a final warning to Germany.

The Germans will be threatened with immediate internment of all German warships or armed merchantmen putting into American ports. Other powers will be made to understand that the same treatment awaits them, if they too ignore the security zone.

In times like these, there is something pretty stirring in common action, efficiently planned and wisely executed by many nations. The administration's hemispheric program, until recently the butt of ill-informed ridicule, might better serve as the text for a lecture on sensible international dealing.

At the National Capitol With John W. Kelly (Continued from Page One)

Secretary Hull wrote to McNary that exports to Canada, France and Britain are actually large, not withstanding the currency question, but neglected to mention that the bulk of these exports consist of war materials, such as airplanes, airplane engines, bombers and materials they can purchase nowhere else except in the United States, while the allies are acquiring their other supplies from their colonies and the commonwealths of the empire.

SECRETARY of the senate, Ed Hall (personal guardian of every toadyman), has received word from Washington's Homer Bone that the latter will not be on hand when the session opens January 3. Senator Bone is uncertain when he will occupy his desk in the chamber.

Last summer Bone slipped on a scatter rug, sustained a fracture to his hip and has been a hospital case since then. The senator is wearing a mechanical contraption but it is a handicap to locomotion and sitting in comfort. Spring may come before the senator is back on the job.

RUMOR circulated among new dealers is that Washington's Schwelienbach will accept appointment as federal district judge in his state, where there is a vacancy. Schwelienbach can have the job (for life) if he wants it. This would leave Washington state with one senator—Schwelienbach's term expires in January, 1941—with the vacancy to be filled by Governor Clarence Martin. Speculation in the national capital is that Steve Chadwick is a possible appointee. Chadwick was defeated by Bone for the senate in 1932, then dropped out of state politics and became national commander of the American Legion. (Chadwick's grandfather was secretary of state and governor of Oregon.)

JUST to keep the record straight: That article in Time, news magazine, about Charles McNary, of Salem, Ore., having breakfast with President Roosevelt "sometimes thrice a week" where he is "constantly counseled with," just isn't correct. It has been many a long day since the Oregon senator had breakfast at the White House and he called but once (Time was correct saying he used the side entrance) for a private confab since the adjournment of congress last August, and that was when Mr. Roosevelt discussed something more important than politics.

Lesson in Manners Paris, Penn.—(AP)—Worshippers at First Presbyterian church were astounded at a group of young people who cracked jokes, audibly, munched peanuts and otherwise had a rousing good time during service. It wasn't lack of manners though. The goober-eaters and joke-crackers were just doing their part in a "clinic in worship." Theirs was "the wrong way of worship." Another group showed "the right way."

Unlaid Down Nevada, Mo.—(AP)—Meet the man who doesn't believe his wife's place is in the kitchen. He's just been sued for divorce. His wife alleging he made her travel with him on his "freight train bumming excursions."

THAMES HISTORIC, SCENIC AND BUSY BUSINESS STREAM

History of River Recalled By Germans' Attempt To Bottle Up Its Mouth.

Washington, D. C.—(Spl.)—Germany's attempt to close the mouth of the Thames river with mines and sunken ships would, if effective, close to shipping one of the world's busiest rivers. For London is the second largest port in the world, annually receiving shipments from nearly 30,000 vessels.

"About 160 miles long, the Thames at its mouth is more than five miles wide," says a bulletin from headquarters of the National Geographic society. "It is about 750 feet wide at London."

"Daily, 500 vessels pass through the mouth of the Thames. The port of London receives and ships over its 1,700 wharves goods valued in excess of \$3,500,000,000 a year. It has 700 acres of enclosed dock water and five miles of quays. The docks extend 25 miles below the city. In the era of the sail, even without dredging, the largest sea-going vessels could sail directly up the Thames to the London wharves."

"For centuries, the Thames with its many tributaries has furnished power for English mills and industry. Huge hammers weighing two, three and four hundred pounds were powered by water, as were the great metal cutters and the roaring bellows behind blast furnaces and forges."

"Liquid History" "Aside from its economic importance to London and England, the river's popular appeal is in its scenery and history. It has been said that 'The Thames is liquid history.' Up and down the valley the tides of war have ebbed and flowed, as various forces advanced and retired, Britons and Romans, Saxons and Danes, Cavaliers and Roundheads."

"It was once a Venetian avenue of London itself, affording easy passage to Southward, to Shakespeare's Globe and other theaters on its banks. Stairs led from the ends of streets to boat landings."

"More than 3,000 boatmen with at least 2,000 craft were the taxis of a coachless London in the days of Good Queen Bess, when members of the house of lords and house of commons were rowed to Westminster and the parliament, or just about town."

"Great parades of barges once passed up and down the Thames. Castles along the shore and the Tower of London had their water gates; and the mansions of the nobility had flower gardens extending to the river bank."

FEDERATED RULE OF WORLD URGED Swarthmore, Pa. (UP)—The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has a plan which it believes will provide "a permanent solution" to the problem of war.

The league's proposal embodies a conference of neutral nations, a call for an immediate truce in present conflicts and the eventual establishment of a federated world government.

Neutral nations would participate in a continuous conference and would offer their "good offices" for mediation of warring powers, according to the plan.

William I. Hull of Swarthmore college, noted pacifist and peace worker, whose death November 14 ended a career of life-long devotion to the cause of peace, constructed the peace proposal.

Flight O' Time

Medford and Jackson County History from the files of the Mail Tribune 10 and 20 years ago.

TEN YEARS AGO TODAY December 20, 1929. (It was Thursday.) Pacific highway near Eugene under water, as flood threatens Willamette valley.

Mr. and Mrs. Ned Vilas are the parents of twins born in a Portland hospital last Tuesday. Christmas mail arrives at postoffice, and clerks work overtime.

Colder weather predicted for city and valley coming week. Radio beacon to be installed at airport at once.

Dr. George F. Dean is named president of the Fruitgrowers league. Mayor Pipes issues letter urging parents to instruct children to obey the curfew law.

TWENTY YEARS AGO TODAY December 20, 1919. (It was Saturday.) Oil tanker J. A. Chanslor strikes a reef near Bandon, Ore., and 47 aboard perish.

Victor Berger, Socialist candidate for congress from Wisconsin, is re-elected. House passes bill calling for deportation of all aliens belonging to an anarchistic organization.

Chinook wind blows over valley and melts snow, before citizens can obey Mayor Gates' warning to shovel walks. Due to the heating system being out of commission, there will be no services at the Episcopal church tomorrow.

Communications

Wants "A Night of Light" To the editor: Mr. MacFadden, publisher of Liberty Magazine, has sent the following telegram to the president, the governor of every state and to the mayors of all the important cities throughout the country:

As America's answer to the blackout threatening the world—a blackout of freedom as well as light—will you proclaim Christmas eve a "Night of Light," calling on citizens to keep every room of every home and building fully lighted with blinds wide open from dusk to midnight? I believe this symbolic action making this night brighter than any we have ever experienced would dramatically contrast America's freedom to the darkness which enshrouds not only Europe's cities but her democratic institutions and would recharge our determination to keep America beyond the reach of foreign "isms." As an American citizen, I am sending this suggestion to you, Mr. President, also to every governor, to many mayors. I believe that citizens will spontaneously respond and that America's "Night of Light" will be bigger, more significant news—in nations where news can still be circulated—than any blackout.

Won't you and your family join in this demonstration of our freedom? Whether you can floodlight a factory, house, apartment or light but a single lamp, will you light your lights on Christmas eve?

And will you do one thing more: Will you go outside and see the lights your fellow citizens have lighted? And as you stand there, will you think what all the lights you see this Christmas eve are signalling: America is not blacked out. It remains the land of liberty and light. The lamps are going on all over America: We will not see them dimmed in our lifetime.

Will you light them Christmas eve? Joseph M. Doohar, Pacific Coast Manager of Liberty, 1659 Russ Bldg., San Francisco.

Seasoned Banquet Sedalia, Mo.—(AP)—A guest, invited to partake of an elk dinner, arrived at his host's home wearing ear muffs, despite delectable weather. "How come?" queried the host. "So I won't have to listen to all the lies you are going to tell about killing that elk," said the guest.

Chan & Chan Chinese Medicine Co. Be relieved at once by our herbal remedy. Do you have? A.S.H. or a. Hay Fever, Stomach Trouble, Constipation, Chronic Cough, Rheumatism, Stomach Trouble, Piles, Arthritis, Catarrh, Eczema, Appendicitis, High Blood Pressure, Prostate, Heart, Liver, Bladder, Kidney, Glands, Blood, Urinary troubles. If a Dr. will give you relief. 233 E. Main

NOW OPEN DAILY 10 a. m. to 5:30 p. m. Except Wed. Wed. 10 a. m. to 12

3 MORE DAYS TO BUY AND USE CHRISTMAS SEALS PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM TUBERCULOSIS They inform the public concerning tuberculosis through talks, leaflets, motion pictures and every means of communication.

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