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Ye Smudge Pot

By Arthur Perry

The Japanese admitted bombing of Tokyo and four other great cities of the empire, while cheering to the people, is taken by them, and some commentators, with a liberal helping of salt. This trend is aided and abetted by the official shushush on the details, accompanied by a dignified silence. The public has moped and moaned and cursed the fate of Pearl Harbor, Singapore and Bataan so long, they are prone to believe good news when it does come. Again, it is about the first time this nation has received cheerful tidings, unfollowed by black information the British had all but kicked the military bucket somewhere on their far-flung battlelines. The interpreters of the news are a gloomy lot anywhere. In the serial taking apart of Nippon, they refer "to the reported bombing of Tokyo." They are taking no chances on error. In their yen for accuracy they should say: The reported bombing of the alleged Tokyo. It was Flying Fortresses, not kites, the Nipponese saw in the skies over Yagawa, Kobe, Yokohama and the home town of the Mikado.

SO SUDDEN!

(Oakland Post-Inquirer)

"News of the engagement of Miss Helen Henderson, daughter of James Henderson of the Island of Hilo, to Seldon Chillingworth, has reached her."

It was warm enough yes, afternoon for some of the Older Girls to wonder, if the electric fan they stowed away last fall, where they used to hide the gin, still worked.

Gen. MacArthur after some controversy, has been named commander-in-chief of United Nations' land, sea and air operations in the southwest Pacific, with orders to proceed with an offensive against the foe. He will do his own thinking, without any help from "Tommy the Cork" or starchy-eyed youths in Washington, D. C.

The German people were directed by their propaganda minister to pray for Adolf Hitler on his 53rd birthday. He sure needs it, and the German people might put in a few licks for themselves.

J. Tannehill Walker, 3, went fishing with his Paw Sun, and caught a fish as long as himself and about as lively. This boy is getting an early start as a piscatorial enthusiast, and it is hoped he will not make catching another his life work.

"It is time for the government to crack down on the crack pits." —Blue Mt. Eagle. —By cracky!

Pierre Laval of France, new chief of that unhappy land, by grace of Adolf, sounded in his first formal speech, like he was running for office, instead of already in it. He promised the French people everything but \$30 every Thursday and free electric lights.

F. Brown of E. Pt., took time off from the store Sun, and planted his corn. He is one of the Brown boys who has been in a fast lane for six weeks, with no time off for good behavior, due to a government of biz.

The government is short of brass for war material. They might boil down the democratic national committee man who advised the palpitating democracy last week the way to lose the war was to elect a republican congressman.

Moore, brakeman, jumped and fractured an ankle. Glenn Baker, engineer, was cut and bruised. Both are from Wishram, Wash.

Spokane, Wash., April 21—(P)—Gasoline rationing in eastern Washington was attacked as unnecessary in a sharply worded resolution by the Northwest Mining association today.

Two trainmen were injured, neither seriously, Lawrence

Train Wrecked by Burning Trestle

The Dalles, Ore., April 21—(P)—A burning railroad bridge gave way beneath a freight train near here yesterday, dumping a locomotive tender and 10 box cars into a gully.

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"Play Ball"

LET'S give thanks for small favors. The baseball season opens in Portland tonight.

The skipper of this department has never been a rabid baseball fan, but as has been frequently remarked, all values are relative.

And with leaders of practically all other sports, rushing into the army and navy, no horse racing this winter, and probably no big football games in the fall, it is refreshing and heartening, to find something on the sport page but bathing beauties, boiler plate and reminiscences of Connie Mack.

SO play ball you Portland Beavers! Let the peanuts crack and the ice-cold bottles pop, and the fat man in his shirt sleeves, ride the umpire with the wooden head!

Its the great American game, and we are grateful to the powers that be for letting it carry on in spite of the war.

It isn't much,—at least as Portland plays it. But it is a lot more than nothing. So again Gracias,—Great White Father! Gracias!

Crazy-Like a Fox!

A RESPECTED contemporary up the line pontificates that this man Laval is plain crazy.

"Imagine any sane person, condemning the declaration of war on Germany and urging collaboration with the nazis."

So the "dope" is given 30 days before he lies down in a lead-lined casket, or is pushed for life into a padded cell.

MEBBE so, mebbe so!

But the fact should not be forgotten that the ex-premier with the shifty eye and the undertakers clothes, in his native land has no reputation for being mentally unbalanced.

No, at the Quai D'Orsay they claim M. Laval is no dope and no crusader. If he didn't have strong support for this hook-up with Hitler against the allies and particularly England, it is believed he would never hazard it.

M. Laval, in short, is a thorough-going Fascist. He not only believes collaboration with axis fascism is best for him, but best for France.

And he has plenty of nerve,—don't forget that,—the sort of nerve that goes a long way, at such a critical time in a mercurial melting pot like subjugated France.

THIS is no prediction Laval will win out.

We can't believe he will.

But it IS a rebuke for those who would write him off as just another French "nut" who can be hustled quietly off to the psychopathic ward, or can be shelved without a fight.

If Pierre is crazy, he is crazy like a fox. If this reapprachment with Nazi Germany were as forlorn a cause as our worthy contemporary believes it to be,—NEVER fear!—M. Pierre Laval would never be leading it!

Was Japan Really Bombed?

"Which I wish to remark,
And my language is plain,
That for ways that are dark
And for tricks that are vain,
The Heathen Chinese is peculiar."

AND probably if Japanese instead of Chinese labor had been dominant in California in Bret Harte's day, Nippon would have earned the somewhat questionable tribute.

For both the yellow races are Oriental, and are not inclined to be as open and direct, and therefore as comprehensible, as the Caucasian.

Which is partly an answer to the inquiry of a subscriber as to what these bombing reports from Tokyo REALLY mean.

FRANKLY we don't know.

Our guess is Tokyo and other large industrial centers in Japan WERE bombed on Saturday last, by U. S. bombers and in all likelihood from some U. S. airplane carriers,—if from land bases certainly we would think super-bombers, not light ones, would have done the damage.

And Nippon immediately broadcast the news, in the hope of getting some valuable information regarding the point of origin.

BUT if it develops no such bombing ever occurred, or if there was a bombing it was not by U. S. planes,—well this department will not be greatly surprised.

"For ways that are dark and tricks that are vain," the Japs are only a few steps behind their amber brothers the other side of the China sea. And already the Tokyo radio has broadcast at least three utterly different versions of what actually happened.

So almost anything may develop.

However, until there is evidence to the contrary, this department will stick to the belief Japan WAS bombed, U. S. airplanes did it, and all these conflicting reports from Tokyo merely add up the fact that Nippon, greatly agitated, is merely engaged in another of its well-known "fishing" expeditions.

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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 here. No reply can be made to queries not conforming to instructions. Address Dr. William Brady, 265 El Camino, Beverly Hills, Calif.

SO THIS IS CANCER MONTH

They tell me this is Cancer Month—and I don't mean astrology. I never can get enthusiastic about such "weeks" or "months" and I'd rather not be bothered even about "days," if you don't mind.

But cancer is different. For quite a while now I haven't said a word about cancer, in this column. Not because the frowns of a certain class of people intimidate me, but it just happens I have been pounding away on other lines for a while.

Now I'm going to try to print the common

Danger Signals of Cancer

1. Any sore that does not readily heal, particularly if it is in or about the mouth or at any other body orifice.

2. Any wart or mole that changes in color, size or appearance; or that is situated on a part of the body subject to chronic or constant irritation from the clothing, whether or not there is change in color or appearance, and particularly if it is on one of the feet.

3. Any lump, especially a lump in the female breast.

4. Any unusual discharge from any of the body cavities, particularly if it is blood-stained.

5. Digestive disturbance or persistent discomfort purporting to be "indigestion" developing in a person between 45 and 65 years of age.

Some people contend that the average reader of Q. is that of a 12-year-old child. I don't know about that, but I believe the Q. of readers of this column is considerably higher than that and so I print these danger signals, confident that readers who may become at all suspicious or alarmed about their own trouble will act as intelligent people—that is, not worry about it but go straight to a physician and find out.

After all, our greatest worries, fears or dreads are about what we do not know. Dread, Doubt and Delay are great allies of cancer. The most potent weapon

to hold them down by indirect pressure.

But a new group is rising inside to advocate that any necessary wage readjustments be paid in the form of government bonds, redeemable after the war. This would circumvent the inflation argument, and please Messrs. Green and Murray who are working against any freezing

All factions know something must be done, but the question is distinctly disagreeable here politically.

It looks like the Japs got all tangled up in their radio morale planning just before our first bombs hit them. On Tuesday they denied as "an infamous lie" a statement attributed to Reuters, British news service, stating they had been bombed. They said Reuters had faked the statement to bolster British morale.

That made it doubly embarrassing for them five days later when the infamous lie came true.

The way they said it also let us know they did not expect any bombing, did not think it possible. That told us the time was ripe.

Funny part of it is, Reuters never carried any such statement. Could it be that the Japs fell for some elusive bait to tell us what we wanted to know?

THERE may be some danger in over-interpreting the bombing raid on Japan as the awaited opening of our big offensive. Technically, it must be accepted mainly as an extension of our harassment raiding—like the blows leveled at the Marshall, Wake, Marcus and New Guinea islands.

It represents offensive and inspiring action, but the big offensive drive will require a lot of material to be marshaled at far-away corners of the earth. Generally it is anticipated for next year.

PLANS for building subma-

rine have been developed among the president's advisers over the freezing of wages. His war labor board is still granting increases in some specific instances, thereby running counter to what obviously is the general

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