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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1944.

Case Against the W. R. A. Looks Stronger Than Ever

AS was to have been expected, a Japanese government "spokesman" seeks to justify the barbarities inflicted on American prisoners by blaming the Allies for "cruelties committed against Japanese civilian internees." There is no basis whatever for such a charge, as will be attested by the Japanese who have been released from relocation centers. Yet it calls to mind the position taken by our War Relocation Authority officials in defense of some of their attitudes toward the Japanese evacuees. It should be emphatically stated that there is no disposition on the part of the American people by and large, nor has there ever been, to mete out retribution in kind against Japanese war prisoners of any class. There is little possibility that the cruelties inflicted on American prisoners by the Japs will be duplicated in our own prison camps, either for war captives or civilian internees. Our leniency springs from an innate desire on the part of a civilized nation to be decently humane. But officials of the War Relocation Authority have implied a more expeditious reason for a too-tolerant policy toward their Japanese charges. We were told it was important to treat the Japanese reasonably well because that would somehow insure better treatment for American prisoners at the hands of the Japanese. After all these months, we now know what was really going on while these statements were being made. Perhaps the War Relocation Authority was kept in ignorance of the true state of affairs in the Jap prison camps. It is not uncommon in our scheme of the doings of the right. But whether the W. R. A. knew the truth or not, to entertain any hope that kindness on our part would be reflected by clemency on the part of the Japs obviously was simply chimerical from the start. Now that the facts have been disclosed, all that talk has the sound of empty hypocrisy. And there will be more public inclination up and down the Pacific Coast to point to incompetence on the part of W. R. A. policy-makers and to renew the oft-heard and as-often-ignored demands that Dillon Myer and some of his key men be ousted from their soft berth.

Never in the Spotlight

SELDOM conspicuous in the news, and never allowed to remain long enough in any community to take root there, the agents in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have gained a reputation throughout the United States for integrity and efficiency. The circumstance is brought to mind by the transfer of H. B. Fletcher, who has been agent in charge of the Seattle office, to a comparable post in Cleveland, Ohio. During his term here, Mr. Fletcher has ably fulfilled the traditions of the bureau, at a period when the work of the F. B. I. was doubly important. In view of the high standard of personnel on which its chief, J. Edgar Hoover, has insisted, the Seattle office has reason to expect no less competent leadership from Mr. Fletcher's successor.

No Cause for Excitement

BECAUSE in Russia the press is supposed to be rigidly controlled, Americans and Britons sometimes attach too much importance to its utterances. The Russian newspapers are presumed to be minutely censored, and we have come to regard them virtually as "spokesmen" for the Kremlin. Hence when a Russian newspaper accused the British of treating secretly with the Nazis for a separate peace, the charge stirred up a commotion. By contrast, dozens of American newspapers have laid no less spectacular charges at the door of our Russian allies without receiving much attention. The Russian suspicions of Britain may, indeed, have reflected official Soviet thinking. Certainly the incident played into the hands of Nazi propagandists. But the hullabaloo soon died down. The heavens did not collapse. Now a Russian newspaper accuses the Vatican of consorting with Fascism. Let's not be too excited about it.

We May Well Wait Until We're Invited Before Butting Into Those Squabbles

THE Soviet government does not feel that the situation has yet ripened to a point where the good offices of the United States can be used to advantage. Secretary of State Hull had tendered those good offices for possible use in attempted adjustment of the boundary dispute between Soviet Russia and the Polish government-in-exile. Courteously worded, Moscow's declination is no less curt. Not as rough as Pravda's rebuke of Wendell Wilkie, it is quite as frank in telling Mr. Hull Russia's boundary plans are none of his business. Foreign Secretary Eden took Britain on the other slant. No offer of British good offices; just a plain statement that Britain will recognize no boundary not acceptable to the free Poles. Whether Mr. Eden consulted Mr. Hull before issuing that statement is not known; but he, too, may have thought it none of Mr. Hull's business. In one respect the British attitude is consistent. It was the Nazi invasion of Poland, September 1, 1939, that provoked Britain to declare war on Germany. Sixteen days later Soviet Russia also invaded Poland. Poland had been promised British aid in either event. Britain has a primary obligation to save as much of Poland as possible. Eden's statement on the boundary reaffirms that obligation. The situation is unfortunate in all respects. The qualifications of the Polish government-in-exile are doubtful. It broke off relations with the Soviet government over the mass slaughter of Polish prisoners. The question of whether the prisoners were killed by Russians or Germans is still moot. Moscow refuses to have any more dealings with the exile government; but the British have none other with which to deal. Premature as it may seem to those at a distance the boundary dispute is very real and likely to become more bitter. There will be more disputes of such and other matters. The Moscow retort should make our State Department less eager to intervene. If its good offices are to be made available in any of Europe's further quarrels, let them await invitation from all who are directly concerned.

More Atrocity Stories Still Remain Untold

By CONSTANTINE BROWN

WASHINGTON — The story of Japanese brutality against the American and British soldiers who have had the misfortune to fall into their hands has been known in Washington and London for some time. It is said in well-informed circles that information of even more horrible atrocities is in possession of the American and British governments. They have not been disclosed because absolute confirmation has not yet been obtained. There were two principal reasons why the most horrible story in modern civilization was withheld so long from the public. The United States and Britain were endeavoring to get out of Japan as many civilian captives as possible and felt that disclosure of the atrocities might affect their release. There seems to be no hope for the return of the rest of the Americans and British who are dying a slow death in the so-called prison camps across the Pacific. Thus, there was no good reason why the story should be withheld any longer. In many circles, it also was felt that the disclosure of the Japs' barbarism might stir up such a strong feeling in both English-speaking countries that there might be a popular outcry for immediate retaliation. Since there are fewer than 400 Jap prisoners in the hands of the Allies and the Japanese government does not care if they are killed, there is no practical way of avenging the Americans and British except by undertaking immediately large-scale operations to stamp out the Japanese race. This would have been contrary to the existing strategic plans which call for action in the Pacific only after Hitler has been defeated.

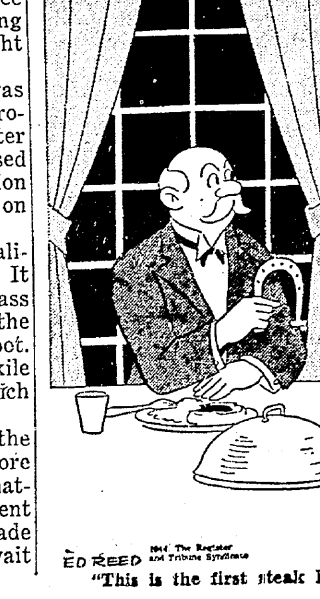
IT is realized in quarters which are responsible for the conduct of the war that the most carefully laid plans can be changed when there is an overwhelming popular outcry for such a change. Political men, diplomats and high-ranking officers are the trustees in whose hands the nation has placed the conduct of the war. But when a nation becomes aroused, it can instruct its trustees to change their plans and go after an enemy who might be considered far more dangerous than another. Some time ago before the country was fully aware of the definite commitments regarding the United Nations' strategy, such a change in our war plans might have been demanded. Today, however, it is unlikely that there will be such a demand. This is more true since the people of the United States rely on the promises given them that the campaign against Germany will be swift even though expensive.

THE official disclosures of the American and the British governments place the Japanese in their true light. All the veneer of civilization has been removed in one clean sweep. Responsibility for the atrocities cannot be placed on just a few leaders. The entire Japanese nation is guilty. The disclosures were not propaganda; there were even understatements in the endeavor to tell a simple and horrible story. There cannot even be the excuse that Japanese soldiers—polished diplomats in Washington called them stupid peasants when their cruelties against the Chinese were brought to their attention a few years ago—killed some of their prisoners in the heat of battle. The beheading of prisoners, the beheading of officers, the systematic starvation of tens of thousands of Americans, Britons, Filipinos, Australians and Indians is a studied and well defined policy of the Japanese government. The rank and file of the armed forces from generals down to privates participated enthusiastically in the acts of barbarism which have been disclosed, and in many others which have not yet been given official publicity. Some reports say that even medical men, whose task in war and peace is humanitarian, have taken pleasure in operating on healthy prisoners without anesthesia and leaving the men to die in a searing sun. The audience was composed of officers and men who rejoiced loudly at the sufferings of the unfortunate prisoners.

THE reports published last week were not aimed at arousing the war fever against Japan in the United States; neither was there behind that disclosure any motif of bolstering the sale of war bonds. The Washington and the London governments have been planning to acquaint the public with the Japanese method of warfare for some time. But it was not until all hope of saving more victims from the Japanese horror camps was gone that the report was released.

OFF THE RECORD

By Ed Reed



"This is the first steak I ever ate that had a wishbone."

SAID THE MAN TO HIS OWN SHADOW

By Ding



No Wonder Those Politicians Are So Noble

By FRANK R. KENT

WASHINGTON—The vigor and enthusiasm with which the administration is pressing the bill by which it is proposed to have our federal officials only and under federal supervision, is greater than it has exhibited for any other legislative proposal since we entered the war. The President has put his full personal strength behind it, as witness his violent and denunciatory message to Congress. If he would do half as much for his national service recommendation, it might easily go through. Stimulated from the White House, members of his cabinet are actively urging his particular soldier-vote bill. But, more significant is the eagerness of the White House political aides and fourth-term strategists. As a result, the Roosevelt House and Senate leaders, who have been lukewarm to other presidentially recommended measures, are right "up in the collar" on this one. It would be pleasant to record that all this administration concentration is inspired by the lofty desire that the men in the armed services should not be deprived of their right to vote while fighting for their country, and that there is no political purpose to be served in the Green-Lucas program. But one must be glib, indeed, to believe that. Privately the New Deal politicians make no secret of their expectations from the sort of bill they are pushing. Some of them think that the President's message is the best campaign speech he will make this year. Senator Taft had sound grounds for his comment on it. ONCE his bill is through, the New Dealers argue, there need be no worry about the success of the fourth-term effort. The soldier-vote will put it in the bag. That is their belief and it must be admitted there is considerable ground upon which to base it. One extraordinary pro-Roosevelt advantage is obvious. Clearly the appeal, "Stand by the commander in chief," upon which the fourth-termers are seeking to justify their attempt, will be much stronger with the men in uniform than with others. THERE are two reasons. One is that, between the Army special service and the O. W. I. foreign service, there is no way to get any political information to the armed forces abroad which the administration thinks undesirable for them to have. The whole business is bottled up and no amount of breast-beating protests of how pure the hearts of the administration's propagandists and how nonpartisan they intend to be, will change that.

THE popularity of Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York as a G. O. P. presidential nominee has increased substantially during the past six weeks. Wendell Wilkie's popular standing has shown a slight drop and he is the favorite of the latest Gallup Poll among the rank and file of Republican voters from coast to coast. Governor Dewey's gains have come in virtually all sections of the country, but principally in the Middle Atlantic area, which includes New York State. Wilkie's best areas are New England and the South, and he has shown a gain in both areas. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, whose popularity as a candidate has increased slightly since December, runs third today, with Gov. John Bricker of Ohio fourth. Next comes Lieut. Comdr. Harold E. Stassen, former governor of Minnesota.

VOTERS from coast to coast were shown a list of men most prominently talked about as possible presidential candidates and were asked to indicate their choice today. Based on those who named a Republican, the results show the following standings of the five most popular men:

Table with 3 columns: Name, Today, Dec. Dewey 42% 38%, Wilkie 23% 25%, MacArthur 15% 18%, Bricker 8% 10%, Stassen 4% 6%

The remaining 3 per cent of the vote in today's survey as provided between Governor Earl Warren of California and Eric Johnston, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce. In the December survey, Senator Taft of Ohio received 5 per cent, while Johnston, Governor Warren, and Gov. Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts each received 1 per cent. WILLIE is the top choice of New England Republicans at present, and he runs Governor Dewey a relatively close race in the Far West—the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Coast states. But in the Middle Atlantic area—New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and West Virginia—Dewey is favored over Wilkie by better than 5 to 2. In the area stretching from Ohio across the prairies to western

Weather Report

Forecast for Seattle and vicinity for period ending 8:30 p. m. Thursday: Cloudy, with intermittent light rain today and tonight. Rain Thursday. Lowest temperature Thursday, 40 degrees. Highest Thursday, 48 degrees. Washington: Occasional rain west portion and snow over and east of Cascades today, tonight and Thursday. Little temperature change. Data furnished by United States Weather Bureau for 24-hour period ending 5:30 a. m., Pacific War Time, February 2, 1944.

Table with 4 columns: City, High, Low, Precip. Atlanta 60 40 0.03, Boston 31 10 0.03, Chicago 47 28 Trace, Denver 42 22, Detroit 31 28 0.13, El Paso 68 39, Kansas City 45 43 Trace, Los Angeles 63 48

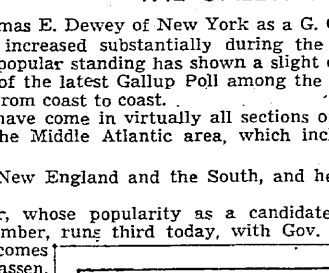
Transfer on an undisclosed assignment from Maj. Arthur B. Smith, Corps of Engineers, was announced by Col. Conrad P. H. r d y, Seattle district engineer. Maj. Smith has been serving since November as labor-relations chief for the Seattle District Army Engineers. Prior to that he was Spokane Area engineer. He first went to Spokane in October 1942, serving as executive officer for the area during construction of the Spokane Army Air Depot, Baxter Hospital and other Army projects. The major, born in England, came to Seattle in 1910. A member of Company A, 116th Field Signal Battalion, the Alaska during the First World War, he continued his military training after the Armistice and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers Reserves. After leaving the University of Washington, he was with the Wallace Bridge & Iron Company and the Alaska Gold Mining Company, a civil engineer, Hessler-Taylor Company, as an industrial engineer, and with the West Coast Lumbermen's Association, on research engineering. He received his captaincy February 1, 1942, and was promoted to major October 1942.

Thomas C. Armstrong, son of Albert Armstrong, 1225 39th Ave. N., recently was promoted to first lieutenant at Drew Field, Fla., where he is regimental administrative officer assigned to the Aircraft Warning Unit Training Center. A University of Washington graduate, he was a member of the Seattle Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Republican Club. The War Department has announced the promotion to captain of 1st Lieut. Francis E. Williamson, Jr., 905 Olympic Way. Captain Williamson, a veteran of the First World War, has been on duty with the Seattle Fighter Wing since November 1, 1942. He previously was at Lowry Field, Colo., where he was recalled to active duty in July of 1942. The captain wears the Silver Star, Purple Heart and Victory Medal; also the Medaille d'Or, awarded to him by the Republic of France.

In the First World War, Captain Williamson saw service in the Baccharat Sector and Meuse-Argonne offensive. He was wounded in action and was cited for gallantry. He held a Reserve commission as second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers, effective March 21, 1926, and was in the inactive reserve until he was recalled to duty. Prior to active duty in the Army he was in the Forest Service, stationed at Snoqualmie National Forest. He holds a B. S. degree from the University of Montana. His work as a radio operator and gunner on one of Maj. Gen. Claire L. Chennault's B-24 bombers has earned Donald F. Whitford, 29 son of Mrs. Chris Svendsen, 6512 11th Ave. N. W., promotion to staff sergeant. It was announced recently from China Air base Staff Sergeant Whitford, who was in the trucking business in Seattle, entered the Army on March 17, 1942, at Monterey, Calif. He received his basic training at Sheppard Field, La., and had his gunnery training at Harlingen, Tex. He has been in China about nine months. Once previously he was scheduled for overseas duty, but his plane cracked up in Puerto Rico and he spent six weeks in a Puerto Rican hospital before he again was assigned to a tactical unit. Second Lieut. Harold W. Brandrud, 5910 Greenwood Ave., has completed a course in post administration and supply at the Columbus Army Service Forces Depot, a dispatch from the Ohio station reported. He received his commission in the Quartermaster Corps at Camp Lee, Va., on November 22, 1943. Lieutenant Brandrud is a graduate of the University of Washington and received his master's degree from the Harvard Business School. Nine new Washington arrivals are at Camp Roberts, Calif., Infantry Replacement Training Center, for basic training. They are Alexander Moles, whose wife, Violet, resides at 3307 W. 75th St.; M. R. Johnson, whose wife, Jessie, resides at 2575 Sixth Ave. W.; Jack A. Urbin, son of Mrs. Vida Urbin, 3758 Rainier Ave.; James Walter Hird, son of Mrs. Lucia Hird, 826 W. 62nd St.; Gordon Black, son of Mrs. Kathryn Black, 1307 McClellan St.; Gene Grosso, son of Mr. and Mrs. Camillo Grosso, 2001 Charles St.; Felix B. Tajon, Tacoma; Albert Stanley, Toppish, and Florentino M. Castillo, Port Blakely. The promotion of 1st Lieut. Norman D. Krauss to captain has been announced by Col. Harry E. Storms, commanding officer of the Western Signal Corps Training Center, Camp Kohler, Calif. Captain Krauss, formerly a resident of Seattle, is dental surgeon at the Western Signal Corps School, Davis, Calif. The school is a part of the Western Signal Corps Training Center. Before he became a practicing dentist in Seattle he attended Gonzaga University for two years, and obtained a D. M. D. degree from the North Pacific College of Oregon. Commissioned a second lieutenant ant September 25, 1942, he reported to Camp Kohler the following month, and was advanced to first lieutenant. He served as assistant to the dental surgeon at Camp Kohler before his assignment to the Western Signal Corps School as dental surgeon. Captain and Mrs. Krauss formerly lived at 1555 E. 90th St. A long way from home, assisting to "em flying" in European skies, is Pfc. Robert J. Nilsen, 22-year old son of Mrs. Mary A. Nilsen, 702 Boren Ave. Stationed at a Thunderbolt fighter base, 8th Army Air Force Fighter Station in England, Pfc. Nilsen is an intelligence section clerk. Previous to entering the Army, he attended Broadway High School and worked as a shipfitter at Seattle-Tacoma Shipyards in Seattle.

Dewey Gains in Nation Poll; Wilkie Shows Slight Drop

By THE GALLUP POLL



THE sectional standings of the four men with the highest votes follow:

Table with 4 columns: Region, Dewey, Wilkie, MacArthur, Bricker. N. Eng. 38% 41% 14% 3%, Md. Atl. 54 21 16 4, E. Cent. 35 15 17 21, W. Cent. 40 23 19 3, South 30 36 24 6, Rocky Mt. 37 26 21 7, Pa. Cat. 35 27 12 4

THE SOLUTION of yesterday's puzzle is: CAPA HIRE BIB, ARAN ANON ONE, SICK BALD UCA, ELK FINE CRIN, ACUTE BONDS, ARGON ARNEE, SEEN HAMAN ND, IS QUININE TO, AI UNDI CRAM, SWEDS STOLE, STARE ALIST, TANS ADIT ALE, ANT AVION UTES, ICE GORE LEAP, RED OWNS EDDY