

L.J. Standard. Thursday, April 27, 1944.
Sunoco.

Sewell Avery, President of Montgomery Ward and Company, is sixty-nine years old, ~~but~~ *but he's rugged - and* it took two soldiers to throw him out of his own office today. The episode was not seen by reporters and we wouldn't know about it, but for the fact that it was related by Attorney General Biddle, who evidently was quite proud of the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

accomplishment. Each of the two soldiers grabbed one arm and one leg of the sixty-nine year old ~~man~~ *business executive,* carried him downstairs and through the store, and then threw him on the sidewalk. This was done by the order of Attorney General Biddle himself, who explained that Avery had refused to turn over the books of Montgomery Ward to government officers, refused to call a meeting of the staff, refused to cooperate in any fashion. He will not be allowed to return to the premises until he does agree to cooperate, ~~but this~~ *which* he says he will not do.

The action did not result in placing the

Montgomery Ward books in Biddle's hands. The Vice-President, Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Company also have declined to cooperate. They, however, were not evicted. ^{TP} The Montgomery Ward mail order house and retail store in Chicago are now under the control of Wayne Chatfield Taylor, Under-Secretary of Commerce, and the case will be immediately taken to the courts. The officers of the Company stick to their contention that Montgomery Ward was not engaged in war work and that consequently the President had no right to seize the Company's premises and property.

In Washington, the first Congressman to take it up was Representative Dewey of Illinois, in whose district the Montgomery Ward premises are located. He offered a resolution calling for an investigation by a special committee, which was immediately referred to the House Committee on Rules. ^{The Congressman} ~~Dewey~~ described it as high

handed procedure and "the culmination of a series of arbitrary, dictatorial and illegal actions, a new high in official lawlessness."

Congressman Sabath of Illinois took up the cudgels for the President, ^{and that} said no general store or mail order house is so big that it ^{could control} ~~could control~~ the government.

Congressman Hoffman of Michigan described ^{the} ~~it as~~ President move as ^a ~~an~~ action to appease ~~the~~ radical labor group, meaning the C.I.O., which has pledged its resources and its political support to the President. He charges it was the result of a ~~xxx~~ bargain between the administration and the C.I.O. Committee for Political Action, which has a war fund of two million dollars.

Senator Byrd of Virginia ^{is calling for} ~~took the news quite~~ seriously. ~~He wants~~ a full report from the War Labor Board, ^{just} why troops should be used ^{Also he} in Chicago. ~~He~~ has asked Montgomery Ward for their side of the story.

Sen. Byrd says

He ~~said~~ ¹ he wanted to know under what authority the War Labor Board ordered the extension of a labor contract that had expired. *And he* ~~he~~ ¹ wanted to know under what authority the government used troops to seize a plant ~~that~~ is not a war plant, when they took no such drastic action against John L. Lewis.

Some ~~of the Republican~~ members of Congress compared the government's action to the behavior of the Gestapo. *Others* ~~Democrats took the line~~ that businessmen cannot expect special treatment, ~~and they~~ must obey just like private soldiers.

Representative Howard Smith of Virginia was one Democrat who objected to the action. He quoted the law, and said that it authorized the President to seize only plants, mines or facilities equipped for the manufacture, production or mining of any article used in the war.

The mail order house of Montgomery Ward, he said, hardly fits such a description.

A committee of the American Newspapers

Association published a statement this afternoon which was aimed at least partly at the Montgomery Ward case.

In the report, the Committee said that government agencies, far from helping the progress of arbitration in labor disputes, actually hindered it. And it added that the decisions of government boards are frequently unfair.

Sears Roebuck says the seizure of Montgomery Ward is an outrage, a violation of the constitution and of the law.

Today Labor in the Attorney General
Siddle anticipated the investigation the bankruptcy
of the Montgomery Ward, and last his report
The Attorney General filed suit, asked for an injunction
to restrain the company, its president and all its
officials from doing anything to interfere with
the government's control of the firm. The company
lawyer had filed suit several months ago
against the New Labor Board

ADD WARD

Later in the day Congressman Dewey was joined by other Illinois representatives who are protesting tonight against the seizure of Montgomery Ward, describ^{ing} it as an arbitrary use of power and a threat to the peaceful continuation of all private business. One of them announced he had received a telegram from General Robert Lee Wood, President of Sears Roebuck, a firm rival of Montgomery Ward. The head of Sears Roebuck says the seizure of Montgomery Ward is an outrage, a violation of the constitution and of the law.

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Later ^{today} ~~in the afternoon~~ Attorney General Biddle ~~anticipated the legal action ~~the~~ threatened by the President of Montgomery Ward, and beat him to it.~~ The ~~Attorney General~~ filed suit, asked for an injunction to restrain the company, its president and all its other ^{officials} ~~officials~~ from doing anything to interfere with the government's control of the firm. *The company's lawyer had filed suit several months ago against the War Labor Board.*

The company published a newspaper advertisement this afternoon about the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders which was to be held tomorrow. Normally it would have been held on the premises of the Company. But, says the advertisement, "because of the presence of trespassers on the property of Montgomery Ward and Company the annual meeting of the stockholders will be immediately adjourned and will reconvene at the Crystal Ballroom of the Blackstone Hotel."

Perhaps The most important story of the day is the news of the recent meeting between General Douglas MacArthur and Admiral ~~Chester~~ Nimitz. They have coordinated their plans so that in future operations, they can throw the full weight of the forces under their command against the Japanese in concerted operations.

The Navy bulletin does not tell us when or where MacArthur and Nimitz met. But it may be assumed that it was sometime before MacArthur's landing at Hollandia in Dutch New Guinea, since ⁱⁿ that landing ~~was~~ ~~helped by operations of the forces under~~ ^{Nimitz} ~~the command of~~

played an important role.

Evidently it was ~~a most~~ important conference. Nimitz was accompanied by Admiral Sherman, his Deputy Chief of Staff; Vice-Admiral Kincaid, Commander of the Allied Naval Forces in the Southwest Pacific, and Captain Glover, his Assistant Plans Officer. With MacArthur

were Lieutenant General Sutherland, his Chief of Staff, and Lieutenant General Kenney, Chief of the Air Forces under MacArthur.

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Secretary of War Stimson told his press conference today that the recent successes of the Allied forces in the Pacific are now threatening not only the Japanese control of the country they have conquered, but the Mikado's homeland itself. There is no doubt that MacArthur's progress in northern New Guinea has given the Allies bases that are only six hundred miles from the important Japanese base at Palau, and within a thousand miles of the Philippines.

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Actually, the New Guinea operations have pushed the Allied line seven hundred miles ahead. The gains at Hollandia have been won with extremely light losses. At Aitape, only three American fighting men were killed, eight missing, and twenty wounded.

PACIFIC FOLLOW MACARTHUR - NIMITZ

And tonight's news from that invasion of Dutch New Guinea is what our British Allies would call "quite chatty". MacArthur's men have taken over all three airfields ^{at} ~~in~~ Hollandia ~~and that only~~ after ^{only} five days of fighting. That's not all there is to it. By ^{seizing} ~~grabbing~~ those air fields they have outflanked the Japanese bases in their rear and ~~they~~ have isolated something like sixty thousand ^{of the} enemy ~~fighters~~.

MacArthur reports tonight that all three of those air fields are now not merely occupied, but actually in use by ^{the} American ~~troops~~. And that really is something, because as a rule it takes days, sometimes weeks, to restore a ~~an~~ captured air field to the condition where it can actually be used.

The communique from MacArthur's headquarters says specifically "enemy resistance has ceased. Disordered and demoralized enemy troops have fled inland to the southwest" and the communique concluded with the words "the operation can now be regarded as completed".

Here is another encouraging item.

Eight miles north of Madang is a place called Alexishafen. ~~That is~~ In the part of New Guinea where the Australians have been operating. ~~and, as you may recall,~~ They took Madang on Monday. Today they also took Alexishafen, ^{encountering} without any opposition.

~~All in all~~ The operations in New Guinea now read as a brilliant success, which was accomplished, obviously, as the result of the conferences between General MacArthur and Admiral Chester Nimitz.

BURMA

Better news from Burma tonight. The British are preparing a counter-offensive to sweep the Japs out of Manipur. Reinforcements of both troops and supplies are rolling down the Dinapur Road by the hundreds of truckloads. In fact, fighting has already broken out at the eastern edge of the Jap positions at Kohima. British and American planes are bombarding the enemy communication lines. Allied supplies are pouring into Kohima, ~~and to the noses of the Japanese artilleryists.~~ ~~The Japs are afraid to fire, because the British have cannon emplacements higher than the Japs, and if the Japs were to begin firing, the British would spot where the guns are.~~ ^{It} Fighting ^{also} is under way eighteen miles north of Imphal, ~~and~~ ^{where} another enemy attack has been thrown back.

EARTHQUAKE

Somewhere west of the Pacific Coast there has been an earthquake. We do not know exactly where, ~~it was~~. But the instruments in the laboratory of the California Institute of Technology recorded a strong shakeup of the earth, ~~early this morning~~. One possibility is that it occurred in some of the islands occupied by the Japanese in the Pacific.

WESTERN FRONT

At midnight last night, the population of the British Isles, some fifty million people, became completely isolated from the outside world. By government order, all travel abroad ceased, even for ~~most~~ diplomats. ~~The only exceptions were~~ the envoys of the United States, Russia and the British dominions.

All of which is no secret to the Germans, ~~who they~~ evidently believe the invasion may start at any moment. *have* They ~~have~~ distributed their air force over fields near the coast in the southeast, south, southwest and west.

You ~~would~~ think that a broken back would finish a man for combat flying once and for all. But ~~it did~~ not ~~finish~~ Warrant Officer M. Sims of Vancouver, B.C., a pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force. When he was first training for a pilot, he suffered chronically from air sickness. Canadian and British doctors developed a new treatment, and could not be sure of it until they had tested it. Sims offered himself as a guinea pig, proved that the treatment was effectual, and has never suffered since.

A year ago, he sustained a broken back in the course of ~~a dogfight~~ *an air battle* over Germany. At first the doctors feared ~~that~~ he might never even walk again. But they treated him, kept him in hospital several months, and he returned to active service, flying an Intruder fighter-bomber in the squadron named after the City of Edmonton. Only today Sims flew to a Nazi

airfield somewhere in Europe, shot down one enemy fighter,
and broke up several others on the ground. All of which
is not so bad for a man ^{they thought might} ~~who appeared likely~~ never to walk
again.

However, ^{continue to} worried about the eastern front, and

from Berlin is well as from Romania and Hungary.

Reported that the Red Army in Romania has made a new and
powerful attack on the Romanian railway junction at

Jassy. Berlin even admitted that the Soviet forces had
broken through, ^{and have} penetrated to Nazi lines.

Berlin also reports that the Russians have been
attacking at the Lower Danube for two days, and have
broken through ^{there - but not far.} to a strategic point.

Apparently no change at Sebastopol. In
the situation ^{the British have moved out} ~~the British have moved out~~
at Sebastopol in the hills overlooking the city, ^{suspicious}
of a well-fortified ~~but neither~~ ^{and} ~~was~~ ^{was}

RUSSIA

The Soviet high command ~~has adopted an amazing~~ ^{seems content with}

^{the} policy of saying nothing when there is nothing to say.

The only bulletin issued from Moscow today, reported ~~that there was~~ no change on any front.

However, stories about the eastern front ^{continue to} ~~dit~~ come from Berlin as well as from Rumania and Hungary. ~~They~~

^{ing} Reported that the Red Army in Rumania has made a new and powerful attack on the Rumanian railway junction at Jassy. Berlin even admitted ^s that the Soviet forces have ~~and have~~ broken through, penetrated the Nazi lines.

Berlin also reported that the Russians have been attacking on the lower Dniester for two days, and have broken through ^{there — but not far,} ~~to a slight extent.~~

^{Apparently} no change at Sevastopol. An eye-witness ~~reported that~~ the Nazis ~~there had~~ blasted out gunposts in the hills overlooking the city, ~~gunposts~~ so well fortified that ~~neither bombs nor shells can~~

AVIATION FOLLOW BASES

A group of aircraft ^{leaders,} ~~systems~~ in Los Angeles ~~voiced in with those opinions today. They~~ ~~have been holding a conference at Los Angeles. And~~ ^{today} adopted a resolution that the fate of the world is tied to American air power, ^{— tied} far stronger than any arm of governmental policy.

The occasion was a meeting of the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce of America. And, they formulated the doctrine that only an air-minded people can provide the controlled air power which in the hands of free men is the hope of lasting peace and prosperity. They want a strong U. S. air force, they want Uncle Sam to hang onto those overseas air bases, and they want to see commercial aviation expanded in ^{orderly} ~~orderly~~ fashion.

DEWEY

For many months people have been urging Governor ~~For~~ Dewey of New York to say where he stands on foreign policy. He said it tonight to a convention of the American Newspaper Publishers Association. Briefly, it reaffirmed what he said at the Republican conference at Mackinac last year. "Great Britain and the United States must go on cooperating after the War; and, he added these words;—"together, I hope, with Russia^R and China." "Germany and Japan" said New York's Governor, "must not only be utterly defeated and completely disarmed, but they must also be left in such a position that they cannot possibly maneuver as a balance of power."

Gov. Dewey also repeated that our foreign policy must be carried out in accordance with constitutional methods. And he said "No foreign policy which fails to represent the will of the people will ever last beyond the next congressional election".

A ceremony held at the headquarters of Lieutenant General Mark Clark in Italy today was probably the first of its kind. Drawn up in parade formation, was a platoon of fifty-nine girls. ~~They're the~~ Wacs who work at *Gen.* Clark's headquarters. In the background were several hundred soldiers, including a number of generals of not only the United States but also the British and French armies. General Clark read them a citation: "In the face of serious obstacles," he said, "your organization has established an outstanding record in the performance of services invaluable to the Fifth Army."

And the tall, ~~distinguished~~ Commander of the Fifth Army, added the words: "We need several hundred more Wacs in the Fifth Army." He told them they had relieved men for more arduous duties and also brought into their midst a little of American womanhood. And he

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told them that since they had been on the spot, the men
have brushed up their appearance and watched their
language. "I myself am inclined to be impatient on the
phone," said the General, "but," he added, "when I hear
one of these courteous feminine voices on the switchboard
I pipe down considerably."

~~Therefore, the General awarded to that Wac
platoon the Fifth Army plaque with stars to denote
service in the Italian campaign.~~

44 And now I'll pipe down
while R - speaks up.