

The Montgomery Ward employee election turns out to be a victory for the Union. The votes cast today give a majority of twenty-three-hundred-and-forty to fifteen-hundred-and-sixty-five in favor of the United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees Union of the C.I.O.

The President earlier today stated that the Company had agreed that, if the Union got a ~~majority~~ majority, Montgomery Ward would extend the previous contract - the question of contract extension having been the origin of the trouble, to begin with. <sup>but</sup> This presidential declaration was promptly disavowed by both the Company and the Union, with Montgomery Ward responding that it had never promised to renew the contract, election or no election. The agreement was that, if the Union <sup>proved</sup> ~~approved~~ that it represented a majority of the employees, Montgomery Ward would

enter into negotiations with the Union leaders. The Union leaders, on their part, said they had no ideas of extending the old contract - they, too, wated negotiations. So it would ~~now~~ seem that, in spite of what the President said, the whole thing now goes into a stage of discussions between the Company and the labor organization.

Meanwhile, the government has turned the firm back to its private owners. This happened several hours before the result of the vote was made public.

Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones, who had been placed in charge, ~~of the firm,~~ sent a letter to Sewell Avery, the Chairman of the Montgomery Ward Board of Directors, informing him that the federal authorities were relinquishing control.

So what do we have tonight, as a result of all the noise and excitement?

Montgomery Ward is back

in the hands of its owners, who will negotiate with the Union - all of which seems to reduce the uproarious affair to the ordinary humdrum status of ~~the~~<sup>a</sup> Company dealing with Union leaders. And that would seem to be that.

However, there are statements in Congress that the two congressional inquiries into the case will not be called off. ~~the Senate investigation and a quiz of the lower House.~~ ~~and~~ The legislators in charge of these announce that the new turn of events will not change their plans. They explain that the purpose of the inquiries is to determine what right the administration had to order the Army to seize Montgomery Ward.

Today's election victory for the Union was accompanied with all the hail and hurrah of a campaign electioneering in an important political battle.

## BIG THREE

We are not told of any of the results of the meeting of the Big Three, that triad of top flight naval chieftains - Commander-in-Chief Admiral King, Pacific Fleet Commander Admiral Nimitz, and South Pacific Commander Admiral Halsey. They held a conference in San Francisco on Sunday, a fact which was disclosed only this evening. We know of course that they must have discussed large plans for action against the Japs, and naturally enough those plans are not made public - that would be too much of a favor to the enemy. One thing was, that Admiral Nimitz received a decoration, the Distinguished Service Medal, voted by Congress. He is the third officer to be thus honored, Congress having previously voted medals to Admiral Halsey and General Holcomb, former Commander of the Marine Corps. In San Francisco, the decoration was presented to

Admiral Nimitz by

Admiral King.

PACIFIC

~~Tonight we have~~ The losses on both sides in

the American conquest of Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, *and*  
*out tonight.*

Eight hundred and seventy-one Japs were killed, and

a hundred and eighty-three taken prisoner. This was

stated by General MacArthur, who adds that our own

losses in the Hollandia operation were only twenty-eight

killed and ninety-five wounded.

INDIA

The British in India report new successes against the Japs at Kohima. Mountbatten headquarters declares that an offensive of ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ annihilation is being pressed against the enemy. The Japs are fortified in mountain positions around Kohima, and these positions are being crushed by a weight of tanks and massed artillery fire.

Way over in far off India, an important political announcement is expected from that sage and oracle in the loin cloth - Mahatma Gandhi. Right now Gandhi is seeing a lot of people. In a house at <sup>Poona,</sup> ~~Pune,~~ he sits in the cross-legged fashion of the Orient, and receives a stream of callers, talking things over. <sup>T</sup> He receives everybody, but the press. Or rather, he did receive the press yesterday. But Monday is Gandhi's day of silence, a day on which he speaks never a word - some kind of religious observance. So that's when the journalists were allowed in. It certainly argues for an impish kind of humor in the Mahatma, when he receives the <sup>newspaper men</sup> ~~press~~ on his day of silence! It must have been quite an interview.

The word is that Gandhi will soon go to some secluded retreat and there he will await what he calls his - "inner voice." The mystical voice will

tell him something, and then he will make a  
declaration - an important political pronouncement,  
his followers believe. And in India tens of millions  
of people are waiting, waiting for the "inner voice"  
to speak to Gandhi, and then for Gandhi to speak to  
India.

— o —  
Roger, will you take over for  
a moment?



## WESTERN FRONT

Today was the anniversary of the invasion - that other invasion, when the Nazi panzers swept the Low Countries, the beginning of the shattering assault that led to the fall of France and the domination of Hitler in western Europe. That happened four years ago, and on this fourth anniversary, everywhere, the talk was - invasion, the assault to come, the mighty Second Front. Speculation was at a climax today, with new tidings and ~~XXXXX~~ guesses about invasion.

Berlin says that the blow will be launched from six ports along the English Channel, the Nazis claiming that their observation planes have spotted the massing of invasion forces at those six ports. These, say the Germans, are along the coast from the estuary of the Thames to Brighton. And the harbors named are - Ramsgate, Deal, Dover, Folkestone, Newhaven and Brighton. The shore there is along the

narrowest part of the English Channel, the Straits of Dover, just across from Dieppe and LaHavre. And the Nazis would seem to indicate that the Second Front assault might be hurled straight across the Channel where the water is the narrowest.

London today featured reports of tides and weather along that Channel coast, since tide and weather conditions are regarded as being of key importance in the timing of the invasion blow.

British weather forecasts indicate that during the next three weeks the weather is likely to be bright and fair all the way from Holland to Spain. Right now weather conditions are especially favorable, Spring having come early. The days have been warm and dry, and reports from the continent indicate that the ground is hardening everywhere. This is described as the most favorable Spring for invasion since that Spring of

Nineteen Forty - when the Germans had all the breaks of the weather in their invasion of the Low Countries and their knockout blow against France.

~~Another invasion sign is a visit by British General Sir Bernard Montgomery to the British home fleet. The Commander of Britain's ground forces for the Second Front addressed thousands of sailors, and talked to them about the part they would play in the great offensive.~~

ADD WESTERN FRONT

The Germans, as on previous days, give no indication that they are under-estimating the power that is going to be thrown against them. The top flight Nazi military commentator, Lieutenant General Kurt Dittmar, says that the invasion will be, in his words, "unprecedented in the history of wars." He says the Allies - "have calculated every possibility", and they will use - "every possible technical invention." Those are the German expert's own words, and, estimating the Allied strength, he calls it - "really imposing."

The latest tonight from the embattled skies over Europe gives us the figure of five thousand - that many sorties by Allied planes against the Nazis on the continent today. ~~Five thousand sorties against targets during the hours of daylight.~~

~~Reports in mid-afternoon place the number at forty-five hundred, and~~ Foremost in the stunning air assault were two thousand American Flying Fortresses and Liberators attacking eleven targets related to the invasion coast. And added swarms of medium and light bombers continued an all-day assault. <sup>TR</sup> ~~The news was rounding up its account of today's pre-invasion air assault, when tidings came late this afternoon that more bombers were flying across the Channel from Britain, and then, came a London flash, the latest, that the total number of sorties against the Nazis today was five thousand.~~

~~Moreover, today's air offensive is still~~  
~~going on and it is believed that by midnight the~~  
~~figure for sorties will have gone up to fifty-five~~  
~~hundred.~~ A record-breaker! a new and shattering  
high point in the day after day assault which the  
British Air Ministry now officially describes as -  
all out! - ~~undoubtedly an all-out prelude to D-Day~~

with the British naval air arm adding its own  
weight to the immense land-based forces of the RAF,  
we have just another sign that D-Day must be near.

ADD AIR WAR

Today's bombing was the more all-out, because of the presence of British Naval planes in the attacking force. A late bulletin from London states that for the first time, Seafires of the British fleet went into action against the German invasion defenses. ~~They hit two Nazi defense areas on the peninsula of~~  
~~Brittany.~~

With the British naval air arm adding its own weight to the immense land based forces of the sky, we have just another sign that D-Day must be near.

RUSSIA

~~The~~ Headline from Russia -- Sevastapol

captured. A late dispatch just off the wire gives Stalin's official announcement of the conquest of the great port ~~of~~ on the Black Sea. Sevastapol was taken by the Russians after a furious three-day assault - climax of the siege.

This completes the Russian re-conquest of the Crimea, ~~in~~ a whirlwind offensive ~~that~~ wiped out one hundred thousand Germans and Rumanians in thirty-two days.



## ITALY

There doesn't seem to be any great significance in the German withdrawal in Italy. The Nazis pulled back out of a salient in the central part of the line, across the peninsula from Cassino toward Ortona. The salient was a triangular wedge thrust forwards in the mountain country, and in pulling out of it the Germans drew back ten miles - with British Eighth Army forces immediately advancing to occupy the ground.

DE VALERA

A political crisis developed in Ireland today, and tonight Prime Minister De Valera called a general election. This followed ~~the~~<sup>a</sup> defeat he sustained in the Dublin Parliament, ~~when~~<sup>when</sup> a majority turned against him.

~~On~~ On the subject of a transport bill for the consolidation of Irish railroads. Which might not seem to be such a vital issue, and the Prime Minister lost out by only one vote - sixty-four to sixty-three. <sup>TP</sup> But, Ireland follows the British parliamentary system and the adverse majority was taken as a vote of no confidence. <sup>TP</sup> So deValera promptly decided to go to the country for a decision, and called for the election of a new parliament, in which he hopes to have a new majority. The election will probably be held on May Thirtieth, and deValera's fate as Prime Minister will depend upon the voting.

A new type of hero appears today - a hero blimp. Compared with a swagger, flashing warplane, the navigating gas bag may seem like a prosy old slow-poke. But a blimp can be heroic, as was <sup>noted</sup> ~~witnessed~~ today in Washington, where the Navy paid honor to a <sup>balloon</sup> ~~gas bag~~ and its crew - for a series of rescues of airmen forced down in the depths of ~~the~~ jungle and swamp in Brazil.

The war, with the bomber ferry route across the South Atlantic from Brazil to Africa, has brought about a vast amount of flying <sup>over</sup> ~~to~~ the South American jungle - which is of such evil fame as the "green hell of the tropics." I myself flew down that way some short while ago, and remember vividly the chills that went up and down my spine as I looked down on the endless expanses of the equatorial forest, and thought - "What if we were forced down?" The records of adventure ~~tragedy~~ are studded with the stories of men lost in the green hell,

men who never returned.

But there was one thing I saw <sup>that seemed</sup> ~~which caused a~~  
~~pleasant enough - beautiful -~~  
~~feeling of gain pleasure~~ at first. In places the  
immensity of the dark jungle was broken by wide spaces  
of ~~beautiful~~ <sup>glowing</sup> green - with ~~streaks~~ <sup>patches</sup> of yellow. From on high,  
these looked like meadows, like ~~great~~ spreading fields,  
~~pleasant with~~ <sup>a luscious verdure,</sup> grass and flowers. And I was tempted to  
think - what a delightful place! Then <sup>when we flew</sup> ~~was told that~~  
~~lower~~ <sup>I saw that these</sup> beautiful green spaces were not meadows at all,  
no fields of grass and flowers - they were <sup>covered</sup> swamps, with  
green and yellow slime, loathsome, horrible swamps.  
And being forced down in <sup>the</sup> ~~an expanse of the~~ green and  
yellow slime would be a horror.

That experience made me all the more interested  
in the exploits of the hero blimp, as recited by the  
Navy today. One was the rescue of fifteen) - twelve  
United States Army fliers, a Navy pilot, and two

Royal Canadian flight officers. Their plane was forced down in the remotest depth of the tropical wilderness, a section of both jungle trees and the green slime of the swamp. They could never have made their way out ~~by~~ afoot, and a rescue by plane was impossible - no plane could have ever landed among the trees and in the deep ~~swamp~~ ooze. — *those savannahs of slime.*

So only one hope remained to save the fifteen men - rescue by blimp. The lighter-than<sup>-air</sup> gas-bag might be able to set itself down among the trees of the swamp. And, that exploit was undertaken by a blimp under the command of Lieutenant James N. Davis of ~~New York~~<sup>TP</sup>. It was a nightmare of weird peril. The surrounding trees towered to a height of a hundred feet, and the wheels of the ~~blimp~~<sup>blimp</sup> sank up to their hubs in the ~~green ooze~~<sup>moass</sup>. ~~Then the marooned air men were taken aboard for a~~  
~~descent as tricky and difficult as the landing had been.~~

But the exploit was achieved, and fifteen lives were saved.

In the other two rescues, marooned air men were saved in a similar way in the green hell. And in one instance Boatswain John F. Desmond of Mount View, California, swung to the ground from a rope ladder to direct the landing of the blimp in the jungle morass.

plenty of assistance that he did. The Catholic Chaplain at the Western Penitentiary, Father Francis J. Huber, declares that Kelly related the account in the presence of himself and five other people.

He said he had been captured and held prisoner for three days, <sup>and he</sup> explained how he had cut down a prison guard with a knife and made his way back to the American lines. So says the prisoner chaplain.

At Pittsburg, Kansas, Kelly explains that some remarks he made were along the lines of...

COMMANDO KELLY

The news this evening brings us an argument about an exploit attributed to Commando Kelly. He is the hero of an abundance of authenticated exploits, but it seems that he was never captured by the Germans, and never made a desperate escape. The Commando denies that he ever told such a story, but tonight there is plenty of insistence that he did. <sup>TR</sup> The Catholic Chaplain at the Western Penitentiary, Father Francis J. Huber, declares that Kelly related the account in the presence of himself and five other people.

"He said he had been captured and held prisoner for three days, <sup>and he</sup> ~~meets the priest, and he explains~~ explained how he had cut down a prison guard with a knife and made his way back to the American lines." So says the prison chaplain.

At Pittsburgh, Commando Kelly explains that some remarks he made were misunderstood. He never told the prison story, things just got balled up a bit. <sup>And now R - who won't get balled up - I hope.</sup>

MONTGOMERY WARD

Tues, May 9 '44  
Left out of late broadcast

They had a headline election in Chicago today, though this had nothing to do with the politics of the nation. It was a union election, and it was staged with all the hail and hurrah of ~~campaigning~~ campaign electioneering that characterizes an important political battle. In other words, it was a Montgomery Ward election, the employees balloting to decide whether or not they shall be represented by the union, the United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees' Union of the C.I.O.

This was the most dramatic union election in history, <sup>^</sup> after the series of spectacular events that led up to it, - ~~the Montgomery Ward defiance of the~~ ~~government, <sup>and</sup> the Company's refusal to obey the~~ ~~presidential order to extend its contract with the~~ ~~union, the refusal being based on the contention that~~ ~~the Union no longer represented the employees. This was~~



The voting among the employees is ending ~~in~~ about now, after which the ballot boxes will be taken to the offices of the National Labor Relations Board, for an official count. The result is expected to be announced about eleven o'clock tonight.

The latest is a statement by President Roosevelt that today's election, no matter how it goes, will, in his words - "end the case." If the balloting shows that the Union does not have a majority of the employees, that will be that. If the Union has a majority - well, the management has declared that it will continue its contract with the Union. <sup>TP</sup> So stated the President, and then he went on with a press-conference-survey of the Montgomery Ward case. He said it was a <sup>matter</sup> ~~case~~ of law all along, and he reviewed the successive phases of the dispute:—The action by the ~~the~~ War Labor Board, and the refusal by the Company

to obey the Labor Board order.

The President made what sounded like an astonishing statement, when he said - that Montgomery Ward and Company had a perfect right to refuse to obey. But to this he added that any citizen has the right to ~~refuse to obey~~ say he will not live up to the law, in which case the police have the authority to put him in jail for it.

The President said that a lot of people just simply did not know the history of the Montgomery Ward affair. And he added that ~~the~~ press and ~~the~~ radio had not given the full facts well and copiously enough, and in consequence, he intimated, people lacked sufficient knowledge, and jumped at surmises.

This point was expanded by a parable, one of those presidential allegories which F.D.R. always tells so effectively. He said that as, from his vacationing place in the South, he watched the

Montgomery Ward fracas, he was reminded of bedtime stories about children seeing things under the bed.

In all the uproar he <sup>noted</sup> ~~could see~~ that people were seeing things under the bed, because they had not got over their childhood habits.

And now H - do you see anything under the bed?

## POLL TAX

The Senate today took up the anti-poll tax bill, and there were no signs that a filibuster will be staged by the Southern Senators - though they had made many threats that they would talk the bill to death. There was a motion to consider the bill, and this drew no violent protest from the Southerners. The vote was taken, and some of the Senators from Dixieland voted - No. But they showed no signs of going into long speeches in the nature of a filibuster.

So the poll tax bill went on schedule for early action, which makes it possible for Democratic Leader Barkley of Kentucky to make a move to limit debate. If he succeeds in limiting the debate, there can be no filibuster - all of which, however, depends on future action.

## CHAPLIN

The remaining charges against Charlie Chaplin in the Joan Barry case are going to be dropped. This was indicated in Hollywood today, when the United States Attorney stated that officials of the Department of Justice had indicated that the government will not go on pressing the accusation that Chaplin and several other defendants conspired to deprive Joan Barry of her civil rights - by railroading her out of Hollywood. It seems that the case will be formally dropped, when the federal attorney receives written instructions from the Attorney General.