



## AS WE SEE IT

By DAN PATRICK

This has been a week of stupendous events and petty politics.

Apparently timed to coincide with the forthcoming Roosevelt-Churchill-Salgan conference, the resounding Russian offensive has exploded from one end of the eastern front to the other with a violence and power unparalleled in the bloody history of warfare.

This Russian offensive is important for many military and diplomatic reasons. To the more optimistic, it promises an early collapse of Germany. To even the most conservative, it represents a long step forward toward the ultimate victory of the United Nations.

Berlin itself seems to be the focal point of the offensive and we are awaiting the train in the streets who rule his hands in gay anticipation of what will happen when the Red Army breaches the defenses of the German capital.

We think Hanson W. Baldwin, military analyst of the New York Times gives the best summary of the situation in this conclusion:

"The campaign in the east now has been fully joined from the Baltic to the mountains of Yugoslavia. The Russians have won great initial success and it is premature to judge their effects, but the parallels in the operations and the outcome of the French and Russian campaigns last summer should be clearly borne in mind."

"Nevertheless there is not much doubt that the Germans face the greatest crisis of the war and their armies must stand or die. They can no longer trade space for time; that strategy has at long last brought the Russians close to the gates of Berlin."

No much for the military situation. Above and beyond that lie tremendous political implications which are bound to test the strength of the men which bind the United Nations.

There are some questions which cry to the high heavens for answers!

What about the fate of American, British and other Allied prisoners of the Nazis who still live German hands in the course of the war?

What about the types of provisional governments to be set up in the liberated areas?

Will Communists get a running start over democracy?

How will the Russian Army treat the German civilian population?

What about the status of the Catholic Church and on a number of fact all religions in the liberated areas?

The world — and America in particular — will look for the answers to these questions not in hush-hushing statements emanating from an international conference but in the deeds of the Russian army and its government.

II — Through these deeds — the Soviets give us an answer which will ring all free and progressive, the cause for unity among the United Nations will receive mighty impetus and the hopes for an equitable peace in tomorrow's world will rise to great heights.

It is not for us to pass pronouncements judgment on the Russians. Let us wait and see and hope and pray that their actions in eastern Europe will bring us into the Valley of unconditional surrender.

80

The past week saw another one of those historic Churchill speeches to Congress.

It was replete with news which Americans apparently cannot obtain from their own government. Most important items covered perhaps were Churchill's reiteration of an agreement with Stalin on a policy for the Balkans, his reaffirmation of the "unconditional surrender" policy of Casablanca and his statement that the principles of the Atlantic Charter, while still valid, cannot be reached immediately.

His viewpoint on unconditional surrender is interesting and subject to minute examination at another time. We must agree with one of his concluding statements delivered in the full flush of the war for which he is so justly famed:

"We shall be no monsters but faithful men, trying to carry forward the light of the world, trying to raise from bloody water and confusion in which mankind is now plunged, the structure of peace of freedom, of justice and of law — which system shall be an abiding and lasting shelter at last for all."

To that, we add a fervent "Amen."

We quote a portion from this brief speech of Churchill to the members convened by the president of the United Nations to discuss the problems of the post-war world.

He said, "I consider the difference of view which you have concerning the character of the post-war world is not the chief obstacle to the final solution of the present difficulties. Whether the United Nations and the Soviet Union are the natural partners of United Nations.

As the new Secretary of Commerce, I am sure, will have already observed during the past few days, the situation is far from clear-cut.

As the new Secretary of Commerce, I am sure, will have already observed during the past few days, the situation is far from clear-cut.

As the new Secretary of Commerce, I am sure, will have already observed during the past few days, the situation is far from clear-cut.

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

By M. E. MURRAY



### The Literary Cockade

## Meet Sheila Daly

By John O'Connor

It is hard to summarize the rather sad and tragic statistics regarding the loss of young women without feeling a deep sympathy. If not a sense of complete despair for our modern system of education. City crime experts and juvenile delinquency experts show a constant rise, and in many critical areas of ports, a phenomenal one. It is only part of the year; more so it has been the breakdown of morality and general disorientation in the past two generations. The causes are made and sleep. The girls that pandered over by many people today in "art school" future citizens?"

You'll remember of the however, and especially now is — in Miss Sheila Daly's first column. At the ripe old age of nineteen she has stepped into her older sister's shoes and is carrying on right well. Moreover, author of the deservedly famous "Wreathes and Leaves", has taken a leave of absence to put the final touches on her second novel and Sheila has readily accepted her sister's role for the Chicago Tribune syndicate.

Sheila has five weeks down body is writing each week for the GARDENING column, page 12, and her column served her well and is being continued by arrangement with the Chicago Tribune.

Sheila has five weeks down body is writing each week for the GARDENING column, page 12, and her column served her well and is being continued by arrangement with the Chicago Tribune.

The new column is a continuation of her former one, with a different title. Miss O'Connor, the author of the first article, has now written several — and in her first article fully distinguished the author and her column from the new and younger author.

The new column is a continuation of her former one, with a different title. Miss O'Connor, the author of the first article, has now written several — and in her first article fully distinguished the author and her column from the new and younger author.

Literary Section

By Rev. Michael Murray

## THE LION AND THE LAMB

Reviewed by Mary Arnold, St. Edmund's Seminary, N.Y.

In these past weeks we might say armed soldiers alone. One of the tragic ironies of modern war is the fierce front, fierce maces over the heads of the soldiers, and suffering of the fanatics and brutes. We have seen pictures of the long lines of refugees fleeing from the soldier. We have heard about the fierce outbreaks of underground resistance. But soldiers have we been given an heroic picture told an occupied country by one who lived in it and escaped from it.

American author Margaret Vail, married to a French estate owner, is forced to flee North, supplies us with just such information. Though the story begins in early 1939, the dominant though eliminate Rose Doleme, born in 1886, is the center of interest through the whole book. No matter how much her mother may have guided her, too Rose, it is impossible to suspect that the courage and confidence of this child is anything less than remarkable, a tribute both to strict parental training and her own personal character.

Rose-Vail, like many American children of today, had her father drafted before she grew to know him. What's more, he was taken prisoner by the Germans and her five brothers have spent five years without a father, knowing he is alive and yet not knowing him! Although too young to realize how men of different nations can kill one another or to grasp the problems of being the daughter of an enemy alien, she courageously stayed her mother or avoided the trials of privation, in the arduous waiting.

I can't imagine anyone who would not find Margaret Vail's narrative a most absorbing adventure as she defended her adopted wife with the American flag, drove about France with Nazi-occupied gas, visited North Africa and Paris (all this, of course, before Pearl Harbor) — sending off the three sons way to release her imprisoned husband, and yet willing to be a mother to her little daughter. And then the war expanded: American against Germany, and the battle between the Americans and French moves to the Mediterranean. Now determine and the moment comes to escape to the United States, unable to take any money out of France.

Even more than the account of these two, however, between the lines is the account of France no longer at war, still without peace; a peace dominated by the same people who had been having to bear children living dead in the fields killed by sniping planes, curfew hours, bombing long dark nights as over gay Paris, trucks ramming through the night, drivers carrying French grown food to Germany, our poor, vain, waiting air.

This may make you think the book is depressing. It isn't. It would make fine inspiration for our war mothers. Once you meet wise and winsome Miss Rose-Vail, like me — K. A. S.

Mr. Thomas Woodlock is another author who is to date most prominent in the field of Church History of the World since he has not found time to translate any of his extensive works on the subject. His latest book, "The Story of Christianity," is a good example. The author of this book, however, speaks, that they are men of deep minds and great conviction that may command respect and inspire conviction in others. It is that kind of man Thomas Woodlock reveals himself to be in his books and articles.

His book, "The Catholic Pioneers," cannot be highly recommended for its simple, direct and frank treatment of the founders, builders, leaders and guides of the Catholic church in America. In fact, it is the best book on the subject that I have ever seen.

It is a book that should be read by every Catholic, especially those who are interested in the history of the church in America. It is a book that should be read by every Catholic, especially those who are interested in the history of the church in America.

It is a book that should be read by every Catholic, especially those who are interested in the history of the church in America.