

# THE PILOT

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## THE SITUATION IN THE FAR EAST

Many an American who has been watching Europe during the past year has had his attention suddenly diverted to the Far East. At the present time, the action there, so far as we are concerned, is of a diplomatic and not of a military character. But, in the opinion of many an authority, the question of whether this country is to remain at peace or go to war will be answered in that vast Oriental land that lies some 6,000 miles away from our Pacific Coast.

We now have a very different Far Eastern policy than we had a year or two ago. We are taking a firm stand with Japan. Our efforts at appeasing her are apparently over. This new policy could have been forecast when the President appointed Mr. Stimson to the Cabinet. When Mr. Stimson was Secretary of State under President Hoover, he tried to effect a joint English-American policy which would have stood squarely in the way of Japanese empire-building in China. The English, however, refused to come in, and the effort failed.

There are many conflicting arguments as to whether our current policy is right or wrong, necessary or foolish. Those who support it say that if we give Japan an inch she will demand many a mile—that every concession made her simply paves the way for new and stronger demands in the future. And, with England at war in Europe, we possess the only check rein that can be used against Japanese ambitions to dominate and control all Asia, and thus to establish herself as a world power equal or superior to the United States and Britain. Furthermore, they argue that we have an economic stranglehold over Japan—that if we refuse to buy from her and sell to her she will no longer be able to obtain the resources that are necessary to building an empire. And lastly, they quote naval authorities who have testified that if war comes, and fleet is pitted against fleet, we can wipe out Japan's navy in a matter of months.

On the other side are those who argue that we have no business in the Far East. Our investments there are comparatively small and belong primarily to a few very large industries. The Philippines are, in the view of some, practically indefensible, and should be abandoned, along with Guam and other lesser outposts. So far as the natural resources of the Dutch East Indies are concerned, they say, we can use substitutes or find and develop other resources nearer at home. Lastly, they believe that we cannot afford the gamble that a war with Japan would entail—it would mean that our naval power would be concentrated in the Pacific, almost half a world away from our shores, thus leaving the Atlantic coast undefended and open to attack from Europe if England collapsed.

Whether this will become a telling political issue in the short time remaining before election is still another factor. Mr. Willkie, like Mr. Roosevelt, is in favor of helping China and combating Japan. But, going by his speeches, he feels that this can be done without taking a chance on involving ourselves in a war which we might lose—and which would be immensely expensive, in both dollars and materials, even if we won. Hugh Johnson, one of the leading columnists, recently wrote that Mr.

# THE POCKETBOOK OF KNOWLEDGE



Roosevelt is leading a war party and Mr. Willkie a peace party, and said that in his opinion this should be the decisive issue of the campaign. It is true that some men supposedly in the know are saying that there is an even chance of us becoming actively involved in war within a few weeks, or by the end of the year at the outside. Navy Secretary Knox, on being questioned by newsmen concerning this, has simply said that he didn't know.

At any rate, we are today working hand in hand with England in the Far East. It is felt certain that Britain will throw open her great naval base at Singapore to American fighting ships if we ask it—whoever controls Singapore controls India and the far-flung life line of the Empire. Japanese statesmen have said that they would consider American use of the Singapore base a declaration of war, and that Nippon would fight to prevent it. However, of late, Japanese official declarations have been more moderate in tone, and some think that Japan may be slowly backing down.

One thing is almost certain—we are closer to war now than at any time since 1916. We can't go actively to war in Europe, for obvious geographical and strategic reasons. So if we do fight, it will be in the East. And, if that happened, we would be automatically at war with Germany and Italy, under the terms of the recent Axis agreement. Then a new World War, far greater in extent and purpose than the first, would at last be underway. The armor-clad figure of Mars would shadow all the earth.

## FREE PRESS THREATENED

"The death of a free press is on order; its delivery is scheduled after November 5 if Mr. Roosevelt is re-elected."

So says the Lowell, Mass. Sun in an editorial October 17th titled: "Boss Flynn on Newspapers." We quote:

Boss Ed Flynn of the Bronx, the man Mr. Roosevelt picked to replace James A. Farley after Big Jim and been purged at Chicago, forgot about Willkie long enough yesterday to level a broadside at the newspapers of the land.

Boss Flynn said that "the newspapers of the country are under a real dictatorship, a financial dictatorship of their advertisers I challenge them to print this," he added.

Probably every newspaper in the land printed that statement. It was printed on the front page of this newspaper. As has frequently been the case lately, the Boss of the Bronx was talking through his hat.

Mr. Flynn hastened to add, however, that advertisers do not do as much dictating to Democratic papers as they do to Republican papers.

In what class would Mr. Flynn place a Democratic paper, an inde-

## "Miss Vass-Lakeview" To Be Crowned Oct. 31

Twenty High School Students in Competition, Sponsored by Local Merchants

Twenty high school students, sponsored by business men of their community, are competing for the title of "Miss Vass-Lakeview," and the lucky girl will be crowned with due ceremony at the big halloween carnival to be staged at the Vass-Lakeview school on Thursday night of next week, October 31.

The committee in charge of this feature of the carnival is delighted with the cooperation given by the business men in sponsoring the girls. Mrs. Gladstone is getting up a one-act play which will be another highlight of the evening's fun, and there will be fortune telling, sideshows and other attractions too spooky to mention. The doors will open at 7:30 o'clock and there will not be a dull moment, the committee promises.

pendent Democratic paper, which is supporting Mr. Willkie? We wonder what song Mr. Flynn would be singing if the American press was united in support of Mr. Roosevelt.

Boss Flynn yesterday was merely echoing the New Deal drive to stifle a free press in America. The death of a free press is "on order"; its delivery is scheduled after November 5 if Mr. Roosevelt is reelected.

At this time, we cannot help but think of that newspaper, printed not a thousand miles from Lowell, which up to 1940 had supported every Democratic presidential nominee since 1878. Prior to and after the Republican convention at Philadelphia it made it clear that it would support Wendell Willkie this year.

Not many weeks later, federal agents swooped down upon that newspaper, and pulled it into court.

Coincidence? Give the New Deal the benefit of any doubt, and say "yes." But who can be criticized for raising an eyebrow, especially so when that newspaper was the only one in all New England, and one of the comparatively few in the nation, thusly attacked.

Yes, indeed, Mr. Flynn was talking the language of the New Deal yesterday. The type of attack on the press which he used was much the same as that trumped up by Hitler and Mussolini before they abolished a free press in Germany and Italy. It is predicated on the theory of "Rule or Ruin—Dictate or Destroy."

No dictator can be satisfactorily entrenched as long as a free press exists in his nation. The death knell of freedom of speech and assembly is not a difficult thing to accomplish after a free press is killed.

And if the free press of America is not throttled in the manner now planned, it will be done via the war route and censorship.

This election is no mere contest between two political parties. This election has no precedent in all American history. In this campaign dictatorship and freedom are locked in a death struggle.

It is also the last ditch stand to maintain peace in the United States.

## Grains of Sand

Tomorrow, Saturday, is your last opportunity to register for the general election on November 5th. Register—and vote.

Old friends are drifting into military service. News comes that the Rev. L. M. Hall, former pastor of the Page Memorial Methodist Church in Aberdeen, is now a chaplain at Fort Bragg. He is pastor of a church in Dunn.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Sanford Enterprise (colored reports that "Rev. G. W. Harrell was a plea visitor at the office Wednesday." We assume that "sant" was left off the "plea" by the typesetter, but maybe not. We have a lot of plea visitors at our office, too.

You'll have to hurry. The World's Fair in New York closes Sunday, for good and all.

Enlargement of the Fort Bragg reservation is being discussed, and engineers have already surveyed sections of Hoke county around Raeford. Parts of Moore are being looked over, but the Army can't get much of its contiguous to its present land without coming right into Southern Pines.

The dentists played golf here Saturday morning and the greenskeeper says he found quite a few cavities in the course.

"The soldiers has captured the town," Lila reported when she came to work early Monday morning. It looked that way, with the boys in khaki all over the place and army trucks lining most of the downtown streets.

They weren't advertising a movie though they might have been. They were "The Boys from Syracuse," an artillery battalion of the New York National Guard, bound south for maneuvers.

District Engineer Fred Underwood says nothing will be done in road work here until the winter season

## LITTLE FLOWER GIRL HAS FIVE ON HONOR ROLL

The regular meeting of the Little Flower Guild was held last Friday with the largest attendance since the Guild's organization. There was but one member absent, unavoidably so because of illness. Three new members have joined: Ann Seawell, Jean Sadler and Mary Ruth Spring.

During the business meeting, a report was made on the Achievement List, a record of which had been kept since organization six months ago. Grades had been given for the following:—prompt and regular attendance at meetings; neatness, accuracy and promptness in execution of assigned problems attendance at Church services, including services designated and those attended voluntarily; co-operation and participation in social service activities of the Guild; performance of duty in office (if any).

Members having a general rating

is over. The State Highway and Public Works Department hasn't decided yet where to locate the straightened road (U. S. 1) between Southern Pines and Aberdeen, and has no definite plan for an improved road between here and Fort Bragg.

of 90 or above have been posted on the Honor Roll and are, in the following order: Mary Ilona Williams, Helen Maloney, Geraldine Maloney, Jane Maloney and Mary O Callaghan.

**EVELYN EDSON**  
Notary Public  
Telephone Office N. H. Ave

## PERSONAL

John — your wife has learned the truth! She's found out it's easy to bake all kinds of cakes and hotbreads perfectly every time—even though she's never tried the recipe before. What she's found is Rumford Baking Powder! For with Rumford you can use any good recipe without worrying about how much baking powder to use. The amount the directions call for is the right amount to use of Rumford. Send for a FREE recipe book. Address: Rumford Baking Powder, Box C, Rumford, Rhode Island.

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FOR THE SIXTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

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Southern Pines, N. C.

Saturday, November the second

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