

Threatening Crisis Looms For Britain In Balkan Country

Fairly Apparent That Hitler Has Taken Territory By Telephone

A new and threatening crisis is facing Great Britain in her struggle against barbarism, the late developments on the diplomatic front leaving the heroic Greeks with little hope and the British with almost insurmountable obstacles to encounter.

Only last week Turkey declared that she would go into action when the first German soldier placed foot on Bulgarian soil. Yesterday, Turkey and Bulgaria signed a non-aggression pact, meaning that Turkey will not fight Germany now and that she will possibly stand by as Hitler's barbarians march on little Greece. The exact meaning of the pact is not clear, but the news was well received in Germany and Italy, Mussolini seeing in it some hope for his Wops in Albania.

While some military observers view the developments with alarm and declare that the pact virtually pits the whole world against Britain, others are still hopeful that Hitler will run into trouble in the Balkans. It would appear just now that Greece is about to be left out on a limb, some believing that Great Britain, fighting frantically on all fronts over a large portion of the world, cannot effectively aid Greece in repulsing the crashing German mob.

Uncertainty marks the situation in the Far East, recognized observers stating that Japan, timing her action with whatever move Germany makes, will move on Singapore in the South Pacific. Japan has declared that she will decisively deal with any obstacles Britain may lay down to impede prosecution of Japan's national policy.

Britain has warned Bulgaria that the free passage of German troops across the Balkan country will likely draw her into war. Britain does not seem to be greatly disturbed over the Turkish-Bulgarian pact, one report declaring that it does not necessarily mean that Turkey will not act against Germany later on.

Commenting on Germany's reports on losses on the high seas, Britain today stated that the Axis powers had lost more tonnage on the seas than she had since January 7. The comparison did not include heavy British losses last week off the coast of Portugal, however. Three Italian ships and a German merchant ship were sunk yesterday by the British.

An official report stated that deaths from German raids in England last month were considerably below the average, that less than 1,500 persons were killed and that approximately 2,000 others were injured.

America's part in the struggle is being focused on the lease-lend bill which is now undergoing attacks in the Senate. Missouri's Senator Clark declared today that the bill will weaken the United States defense, and that in passing it Congress would abridge its powers. The passage of the bill is predicted in time, but the slow-acting leaders in Washington apparently refuse to recognize the grave situation in Europe and especially in the Balkans and over in the Far East at the present.

Plans are being advanced to raise thirteen billion dollars for financing the defense program, and small investors through the purchase of postal savings stamps are being called upon to raise a third of the amount.

Hold Brotherhood Dinner Tomorrow

The fourth annual Brotherhood Dinner of the Disciples of Christ will be held around the world on Wednesday evening. The Williamston Christian Church will hold its dinner in the Woman's Club room at 7 o'clock. Greetings will be read from many churches of the State and nation along with those from many foreign fields. Rev. John L. Goff will make the address on the subject, "The Fellowship of a World Church."

The membership of the local church will join with the Brotherhood of Churches in making an offering to assist the British Churches of Christ to carry on their missionary work in India and Siam. The whole membership is expected and urged to attend.

Move Auto License Bureau This Week

The State Automobile License bureau, maintained by the Carolina Motor Club in the Williamston Motor Company here for more than a dozen years, has been moved to the C. O. Moore building on Washington Street. Operated as a convenience for automobile owners, the bureau in the Williamston Motor Company building was one of the oldest in the State.

Mr. Dick Smith, treasurer of the county and chamber of commerce secretary will handle the sale of the tags in the future in the Moore building right next door to the Williamston Motor Company.

Guaranty Bank Buys Old Bank Building

IN A HURRY!

Discontinue Plans For Construction Of A New Building

Local Banking Institutions To Exchange Buildings On Or About Sept. 1st

The Guaranty Bank and Trust Company yesterday purchased the old People's Bank building now occupied by the Branch Banking and Trust Company, it was officially announced today by Mr. D. V. Clayton, cashier and local representative of the Guaranty institution. No purchase price figures were released but it is understood that the lot owned by the Guaranty bank between the Watts Theatre and the Woolard Hardware Company store was offered as a part of the purchase price. At the time the purchase was effected yesterday, the Guaranty bank was about to let a contract for the construction of a building on the Main street lot, one report stating that the firm had received and opened bids last Friday.

The building was purchased by Fred Sutton, Kinston attorney, several years after the People's Bank suspended business. Plans were made for opening the Bank of Williamsburg in the building, but at the last minute an application for a charter was rejected. Purchasing the Farmers and Merchants Bank, one of the few banks in the county to keep its doors open through one of the worst depressions in years, the Branch Banking and Trust Company rented the old People's Bank building from Sutton and has carried on its activities there since that time.

When the Guaranty Bank was granted a charter to open a branch here in 1935 the old Farmers and Merchants Bank building was leased from the Branch Banking and Trust Company.

Both banks have leases on the buildings now occupied by them until Sept. 1, this year. Now that the Guaranty Bank has purchased the People's Bank building, the Branch bank will, it is understood, remodel the old Farmers and Merchants building and occupy it on or about September 1st.

In announcing the purchase this morning, Mr. Clayton said that his company is planning to spend approximately \$2,500 repairing and remodeling the big three story building. No definite plans have been announced by the Branch Banking and Trust Company in connection with renovating the old Farmers and Merchants Bank building.

Fire Department Gets Three Calls

Local firemen answered three calls in as many days during the weekend period, but very little damage was caused by fire.

The first call was received last Saturday evening at 7:15 o'clock when an oil stove used for heating water went out of control in the J. L. Rodgeron home on West Main Street. The fire soon burned itself out and while the plastering around the flue was burned black no damage was done by the fire. Smoke filled the kitchen and it looked at one time as if the back part of the house was burning.

Yesterday afternoon at 12:25 o'clock, the firemen were called to the home of Perlie Williams, colored woman, on West Warren Street where they found a chimney blazing. The fire was confined to the chimney and no damage resulted.

An over-heated flue in the home of Sarah Griffin, colored, on West Sycamore Street, fired the wall paper, but the fire was brought under control before the fire department could find the home. The call was received within four hours of the one to a home on Warren Street.

Three Auto Wrecks Reported In County

Three persons were hurt, none seriously, in three accidents reported in the county during the past weekend. Damage to property was estimated at \$350.

J. W. Bellflower, Jr., young Goose Neck Township farmer, miraculously escaped death and injury when his car went out of control and turned over in several feet of water in Conoco Creek between Hamilton and Oak City late last Sunday night. Driving a new car, Bellflower was said to have dropped off to sleep and when he woke up, the machine was plunging into the creek. The car was damaged to the extent of \$175, it was estimated.

Two persons were hurt when Fate Spruill wrecked his car near Gold Point last week-end. As far as it could be learned here the victims were not seriously hurt.

Officers J. H. Roebuck and Roy Peel destroyed a crude plant and poured out 400 gallons of beer in this township Sunday.

Assisted by Robersonville police, the officers wrecked two plants in the Gold Point area of Robersonville Township, county officers wrecked three liquor plants Sunday and yesterday.

Working in the Reedy Swamp section of Williamston Township and in the Gold Point area of Robersonville Township, county officers wrecked three liquor plants Sunday and yesterday.

Edward Bowers, Bethel man, was injured in an accident last Saturday at the main street and highway intersection in Robersonville. Damage to the cars was placed at \$75.

Second Road Death Reported In County By Highway Patrol

Edgar Everett, Colored, Fatally Hurt In Accident Near Oak City

Fatally hurt in an automobile accident near Oak City on February 1, Edgar Everett, 26-year-old colored man, died in a Rocky Mount hospital a few days later according to a belated report reaching the highway patrol. Recording the death last week-end, Highway Patrolman Whit Saunders stated that a complete investigation of the accident had not been made. Learning of the death indirectly, the patrol questioned several witnesses, but could not reach others immediately.

Driving an old model car said to have been worth hardly more than \$10, Everett, accompanied by James and William Everett, Jr., brothers, and Jeff Parker, Wiley Staton and Ernest Lynch, was driving toward Hamilton on Highway No. 125 when the car turned over a couple of times, fatally injuring Everett. None of the others was badly hurt.

Investigating the accident at the time, members of the patrol were advised that no one was badly hurt, that no other car was involved and that the property damage was slight.

Witnesses, questioned last weekend by Patrolman Saunders, stated that Everett was driving about 35 miles an hour and turned his head to look across a field. He ran into a ditch and in trying to turn the car back into the road he caused the machine to turn over a couple of times. Everett suffered no broken bones, but he was injured on the head, bruises having been detected on the forehead and on the back of his skull.

The second investigation last weekend revealed that Everett's application for a driver's license had been disapproved by highway safety examiners, and it is apparent that witnesses hesitated to offer any information immediately following the accident.

Carried to a doctor in Oak City by Jasper Peterson, near whose home the car turned over, Everett was removed to a Rocky Mount hospital where he died the following Tuesday.

Everett was a tenant on the Hyman Etheridge farm in Goose Nest Township.

Bertie Rounding Up Tax Dodgers

The Bertie County grand jury ordered a round-up of approximately 1,000 alleged tax dodgers in Bertie last week. Presentments were prepared against the nearly 1,000 persons who had failed or neglected to get their names on the books for poll or personal property taxes. The grand jury order came after a study of the tax records had been made by a previous order of the court.

In addition to the drive against those who failed to list poll or personal property taxes, the county, under an order issued by Judge R. Hunt Parker, is making a study of automobile registrations which are to be checked with the tax records.

According to the Bertie Ledger-Advance, Windsor newspaper, no action is expected just now, but subpoenas will likely be issued in May for the alleged tax dodgers.

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Dr. J. L. Spencer Now In Portsmouth

Dr. J. L. Spencer, well-known dentist and popular citizen of Williamsburg for a number of years, closed his office in the Tar Heel building here yesterday to engage in practice at Portsmouth. Dr. Spencer, whose many friends throughout this section regret his leaving, had considered the opening for several weeks before deciding to locate in the Virginia city.

Dr. Spencer is taking over the office maintained by a member of the Army reserve corps who has been called into active service.

Mrs. Spencer and little daughter will join him in Portsmouth shortly.

Father Of Local Man Died Friday

James Oscar Dudley, father of Mr. W. E. Dudley, of this place, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. E. J. Wells, in Rocky Mount, last Friday evening following a lingering illness. He was 67 years old.

Mr. Dudley was a member of the Rocky Mount police force and later served as an officer in Scotland County. He had been in feeble health for some time.

Besides his son here he leaves his widow, Mrs. Lou L. Dudley, a daughter, Mrs. Wells, and a son, F. N. Dudley, of Rocky Mount.

Funeral services were held at his late home last Saturday afternoon by Dr. E. L. Hillman. Interment was in Pineview Cemetery, Rocky Mount.

Quarter Million Dollar Increase In Real Estate Values Listed By White Owners In This Township

Still Looking to Lease-Lend Bill to Aid Tobacco Growers

Whatever the uncertainties facing Britain may be as they relate to food supplies and munition stocks, late reports from Washington indicate that efforts are still being made to score an advantage for eastern Carolina tobacco growers under the lease-lend bill. The movement to brighten the outlook for the tobacco farmer is now underway in the United States Senate.

Senator Josh Lee, Oklahoma Democrat, and Senator Arthur Capper, Kansas, Republicans, introduced amendments to speed the flow of farm products to Britain under the powers of the measure and reduce overhangs surpluses.

Meanwhile, Representative John H. Kerr conferred with Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard in an effort to enlist his aid in disposing of this country.

large stocks of tobacco to the British under the bill, and Representative Herbert Bonner announced that one of Britain's outstanding tobaccoconists was due to arrive in Washington within a few days to cooperate in the effort.

Senator Lee's amendment would place tobacco, cotton, wheat and other agricultural products on an equal footing with arms and ammunition as items to be exchanged under the bill. According to the interpretation placed on the measure in the House, this power is already implied, but Lee seeks to make it absolutely clear and explicit.

Senator Capper's amendment is slightly more far-reaching. It would require Britain to resume its "normal" purchases of farm products from this country.

Legislative Review By County Representative

Voices Opposition To Salary Raises For Court Judges

Reorganization of a Number of State Departments Is Now Being Considered

By CLARENCE W. GRIFFIN
Martin County Representative

The work of the North Carolina General Assembly is continuing at a rapid pace and several of the leading members are predicting that the session will adjourn March 8. Last week a bill was introduced which would call for a Constitutional Amendment to create a State Board of Education consisting of seven members to have general supervisory power over the State School System. This bill is in line with the trend of Governor Broughton's administration to reorganize several state departments.

The guards in the State Prison camps will probably be glad to learn that a bill has been introduced to provide an increase of \$10 per month in the salaries of all guards in the State Prison Camps.

The Building and Loan Associations will get some new legislation. One bill introduced will provide that three members of the board of directors of any Building and Loan Association may act as an executive committee to make loans between the meetings of the board of directors. Another bill introduced would give the Building and Loan Association the right to borrow money up to 35 per cent of the gross assets of the association. This is a small increase above the provisions contained in the present law.

A bill was also introduced providing that any person convicted of felony could be compensated when he proved that he was innocent and was pardoned. This compensation could run as high as \$5,000. Another bill relating to the courts would abolish capital punishment and make a life imprisonment sentence mandatory upon the judge in all cases in which the jury recommended such action. This bill has already passed the Senate and is now before the House.

Another bill tending to reorganize the State set-up at this time would create a department of motor vehicles.

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The slaughter houses have their experts, but reports state that Griffins Township has one of its own when it comes to butchering hogs. During the season just ended, Farmer Tommie Whitley, of Farm Life, butchered 306 hogs for his immediate neighbors in thirteen days. This is an age of specialization, to be sure, but the young man has well demonstrated that he is an able butcher as well as a successful farmer.

The thirteen farmers in Mr. Whitley's community packed approximately 60,000 pounds of meat this season, or about the same amount they ordinarily store.

Bill To Reorganize Road Commission Is Before Assembly

Plan Advanced To Place Patrol and Vehicle Bureaus Under One Department

North Carolina's ten little highway domains are about to crumble before determined action in the State Legislature. A bill to tear down the ten highway districts and establish a State-wide system was introduced in both houses of the legislature last evening. A proposal was also advanced to place the highway patrol, motor vehicle bureau and the safety division into an independent department. These agencies now operate under the State Revenue Department.

Instead of a district commissioner determining the road construction program in his individual district, the commission under the terms of the bill now before the assembly would consider the program as a body. The new bill would advance the road program on a state-wide basis rather than on the wishes and whims of the individual district. It is fairly apparent that the district commissioners would be robbed of some of their power, and the bill indirectly admits that favoritism has marked the activities of the highway commission during the past four years.

The bill now being considered reads, in part, as follows:

"It shall be the duty of each commissioner to inform himself of the road needs of the particular division from which said commissioner is chosen and to report his findings from time to time to the commission.

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Barnhill Brothers To Lease Building

Barnhill Brothers, local store operators, are announcing today the lease of their main street store building to a new drug store firm, the present store management headed by Mr. Garland Barnhill, stating that the building will be remodeled within the near future for the new firm.

In connection with the change, Mr. Barnhill announced that his firm would close out all merchandise during a special sale beginning next Friday morning. Marked reductions are being effected to move the stock and vacate the building within a limited time. No official announcement has been released by the drug firm now in the process of organization, it was reliably learned.

Barnhill Brothers opened their store here 13 years ago next month and have been prominently connected in this section's mercantile field during that time.

Slightly Hurt In Auto Crash Here Last Night

Miss Becky Rose was painfully but not badly hurt in an automobile accident in the main street business district here last night at 10:20 o'clock. Thrown from her seat in the crash, Miss Rose broke the windshield with her head and her knee was hurt when it struck the dash board of the car.

Harry Taylor, driving his brother's new Buick, was traveling down the street when Dick Smith started to back from the curb in front of Margolis Brothers' store. Neither of the drivers was hurt. Damage to the Taylor car was estimated at \$100. The Smith car damage can be repaired at a small cost.

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White Stem