

This Week IN WASHINGTON

Washington, Dec. 23—Official Washington during the Christmas holidays is practically deserted, but the echoes of the last few weeks are still reverberating through empty corridors. A growing tension has developed since the post election relaxing, and war is again the major topic of thought and plans.

President Roosevelt touched it off by his Warm Springs utterance: "I hope to be down here next March without any question if the world survives—for the usual two weeks next Spring." This statement recalled the

speech with which he took leave of Warm Springs in early 1939. Then, the President promised to be back in the Fall "if we don't have a war."

It seems ever more likely that credits will be offered to Britain. Men close to the Treasury Department are pointing out that Secretary Morgenthau said nothing about the Government refusing credits to Britain, but only promised to uphold the spirit of the Johnson Act which specifically exempts the Government from its provisions. It is expected, however, that the issue of Government credit will be taken to the floor of Congress.

Repeal Will Be Asked

A determined effort to repeal the Johnson Act, itself, will be started on the first day of the new Congress, January 3rd, when Andrew J. May, Democrat of Kentucky, and chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee, will introduce a bill for repeal.

Renewed official discussions of the proposed military and com-

mercial highway from Alaska to Argentina began in mid-December and will be continued in the coming year. This highway, extending from Fairbanks, Alaska, to Buenos Aires in the Argentine, would afford facilities for rapid transport of troops and supplies to any threatened point on the Pacific Coast.

The question of priorities is continuing to be a paramount issue. All manner of plans from price fixing to outright governmental control have been discussed, but the general consensus of opinion is that industry will continue, at least for the next four months, on a so-called "voluntary basis."

Strikes will be discouraged by the government, but mediation of disputes will probably be enforced upon industry and labor alike. The whole keynote in Washington is: "Sacrifice and service."

Resistance to the British veto of ex-President Hoover's plan to feed the peoples of France, Belgium, Holland and other Nazi-conquered countries has developed. This is a difficult problem that the government is handling with kid gloves. No nation has ever made an appeal of hunger to the United States and been refused, and proponents of the plan point to the successful feeding of the Belgians during World War I. The British, however, feel that the sending of foodstuffs to Europe would give Hitler another ace in the hole and are flatly opposed to any shipments.

French Reorganization

The overthrow of Laval has aroused much speculation here. There have been rumors that Hitler demanded a French declaration of war before he would support Laval, but there have also been opinions that Hitler wished someone in power at Vichy who was pro-German, and at the same time was more acceptable to the French people than Laval.

It seems unlikely that France will enter the struggle against her former ally, or that Hitler will press them over-much. General Weygand is the big question mark in any such plans. If his army in Syria would declare for the forces of General DeGaulle, the whole German plan of action would suffer a serious setback.

It is admitted here that Defense building has been lagging, and frantic efforts are being made to speed up production. More power will shortly be given the Defense Commissio, with Knudsen continuing to play the most important part.

Bottlenecks in airplane production have cropped up and caused alarm that the manufacture of airplanes might be frozen at somewhat under 1,000 planes a month. This, even with Britain's capacity, would not be enough to overcome the lead of Germany. Pressure has been brought to bear on various supplying industries, and the bottlenecks are gradually growing less serious.

More Pilots Needed

The lag in the acceptance of pilots for our own air corps will probably cause a relaxing of the education requirements for flying cadets. At present, a minimum of two years of college is required to gain an exemption from a strenuous mental examination which, to date, only 10 per cent. of the applicants have passed. At present, the nine corps of the Army are counted upon to provide altogether a minimum of 2,180 students a month, yet in November only 1,337 were accepted.

The argument about the bases which we recently secured on a 99-year lease from the British in exchange for 50 destroyers is still being arbitrated. The authorities at Trinidad have argued that the base should be established on the East Coast, but our own Army and Navy officials have pointed out that a base on the west coast is essential for proper defense of the Panama Canal.

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Above the Hullabaloo

By LYTLE HULL

"OVER THERE"

Are we Americans so gullible as to believe that if we get into the war in Europe, or into the one in Asia, or into both—we will do our fighting entirely with our navy and air force? If so—we need mental attention.

Why should we go to war with Germany unless we intend to whip that nation? And how do we expect to whip Germany unless we use troops? Britain hasn't the manpower to do it. The white population of the entire British Empire does not equal in number that of Germany.

Neither Britain nor her colonies can afford to denude themselves of fighting men to attempt an invasion of the Continent. At the present time any such invasion would be out of the question even if Britain had an army twice the size of Germany's, and equally well equipped. Armies just can't be landed at will upon a defended shore. But the time may come when it WILL be possible to get a foothold somewhere on the Continent, for a flank attack. For example, if Italy collapsed it might be feasible to attack the Germans from the south.

It would be a mighty undertaking to cross the mountains of northern Italy in the face of Germany's experienced mountain troops and then defeat probably the most powerful army the world has ever known—on its own grounds. It is improbable that Britain could perform this task unaided. The German army is not the Italian army. And if Britain were to weaken her home defense by sending away an army of two million men to attack Germany's flank, the Germans would certainly attempt an invasion of England with some hope of success.

We could, of course, replace these two million British soldiers with our own men and prevent an invasion; but does anyone believe that two million men could march into Germany and defeat her vast army?

It would take many more than two million to perform this feat even if the German army wasn't "half what it is cracked up to be." And there is just one place from which these millions can come—America.

When we declared war in 1917, it was intended that we should send only our navy to help the Allies. We did send the Navy—and two million men. And we spent a great many billions of dollars. And it all ended up about ten years later in a financial crash followed by a business depression so deep that we haven't come out of it yet.

When and if we declare war we will do so with the intention of winning it—because Americans don't do this sort of thing half way. But to win it we will doubtless have to use millions of our own fighting men—and that is just exactly what we will do.

The people of America have a right to know the whole truth before their country is engineered into this war. And they are not being given the whole truth. Already we are being told that we must patrol the sea lanes with our warships if Britain is to survive; but we are not being told that this means America goes to war.

We are being told that Britain doesn't want our men; but we are not being told that she must have them to defeat Germany. We are being told that it will cost a great deal of money to finance us if we get into the war; but we are not being told that it will probably impoverish every one of us—rich man, middle class and the masses.

A person of lesser brain than Einstein knows that if we send our ships to England they are going to be attacked and many of them sunk. The same person knows that Americans will demand war instantly. And after that it doesn't need much imagination to visualize a great army of American boys on their way to those same fields in Europe which the scheming politicians of that perpetual battleground have been irrigating with the blood of their people for century after century.

May heaven help us if we slip again! We struggled through the results of the last war, but then there wasn't a great red bird of prey waiting for the banquet which Europe is preparing for it. The Communist culture was only a squab in those days.

What Cause for Braggin?

Little David: Say, Dad, what kind of things are ancestors?
Dad: Well, son, that means your relations that have gone before you. I'm one, and your granddad is another.

David: Then why do people go around bragging about them so much?

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No Complaint

Druggist: How's your wife today?
Customer: Oh, she can't complain.

Druggist: I didn't know she was sick as that.

Health Note

Doctor: Sambo, how is it your family keeps so healthy?
Sambo: Well, suh, we's done bought one o' dem sanitary drinking cups and we all drinks outen it.

Father (at top of stairs): It's time for that young man to go home!

Young Man (angrily): Betty, your father's a crank!

Father (overhearing): Well, when you don't have a self-starter, a crank comes in mighty handy.

EXPORTS

Whatever the outcome of the European war, the prospect is for small exports in the years ahead, according to the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

"McTavish's daughter was married in the poultry yard."
"Why?"
"So the rice wouldn't go to waste."

INCREASE

Low prices and limited export outlets for coffee and oranges has led to increased cotton planting in Southern Brazil, the increase expected to run between 10 and 15 per cent.

When patronizing local stores, tell them you saw their ad. in The Tribune. We will appreciate it, and so will the merchants.

Old Santa Couldn't Do More!



If we could turn old Santa loose, with instructions to be particularly good to each of those who have been so thoughtful of us, we believe the jolly old gentleman would have a difficult time in getting around this year.

That's why we are so anxious to extend our sincere good wishes to all, and to wish for you and yours all the joys and happiness that you so richly deserve.

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Here's Wishing You a Happy Holiday



To each of you who have contributed to our success and to those of you who have given us your fine friendship we extend a hearty and genuine

Merry Christmas

May Peace, Happiness and Prosperity be yours for many, many years.

REECE & BAKER GARAGE

J. E. Reece

Harvey Baker



May this Holiday bring you the utmost of joy and may the New Year bring with it success as a reward for your every effort. You have been very considerate of this institution and have made possible our continued growth. For your kindness we wish to express our appreciation and to pledge anew our policy of even greater service to the community which we serve.

and Happy New Year!
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Cordial Greetings



We've Been Wishin' You A Merry Christmas for a Great Many Years

And we haven't seen the time yet that it didn't give us a pleasant experience. Each year we are more appreciative of the friendships and patronage that has been ours. Each Yuletide season has found us more determined to serve you better during the coming year.

This year is no exception. We are truly grateful and fully aware of your part in the progress of this organization. We value your continued good-will and trust that we may merit it for many more years to come.



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