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GERMAN STAFF OFFICERS SET UP OFFICES IN SOFIA

Huge Increase In Retail Buying Forecast For 1941

Total Sales Estimated At 50 Billions

Cash Register Tallies 12 To 20 Per Cent Above Same Period In 1940

DEMANDS ARE HEAVY

Fatter Pay Envelopes In Arms Industry Centers Basis For Increase

BY FRANK McMILLEN
NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—Retail buying by Mr. and Mrs. American Consumer aggregating \$50,000,000,000 or more was forecast today in merchandising circles for the full year 1941 as the tempo of store sales hit the fastest pace in eleven years.

Merchants across the nation this week reported cash register dollar tallies averaging 12 to 20 per cent above the comparable 1940 period, with demand heavy for all types of staple goods.

Wider employment, fatter pay envelopes in defense industry centers, economists said provided the basis for broadened store business that has now spread to even many remote rural shopping centers.

Too Moderate
Some executives thought an estimate of retail sales in the vicinity moderate. They pointed out such figure would represent a gain of only 1 per cent over last year's \$45,500,000,000.

The big question mark in the business ahead for the stores along main street was whether the defense program, as it expands, would hamper production of consumer goods.

Right now the making of airplanes, guns, ammunition, army clothing, motor trucks and tanks isn't interfering much with output of peace-time goods, but another six months' business leaders say, may bring another story.

Already there are some complaints from manufacturers of houseware that companies making aluminum, brass, and cast iron plates are rolling more and more heavy sheets used in armament industries, and less and less of the light sheets used in the making of pots and pans.

Two semi-official observers close to the administration in Washington.

BRITISH ATTACK INVASION COAST

Great Aerial Engagements Are Staged Over The Strait Of Dover

Test Well At Proposed Marine Base Completed

JACKSONVILLE, Feb. 22.—An indication of the speed with which the U. S. government is pushing surveys of the proposed \$15,000,000, 110,000-acre marine corps training base south of here was seen today with the arrival of more test-well drilling equipment augmenting facilities already on the scene.

"Australia Ready"



Australia will take no initiative in shattering Pacific peace, says Acting Foreign Minister A. W. Fadden, but adds that the government is prepared for any emergency. Landing of Australian reinforcements at Britain's vital Chinese base at Singapore brought Japanese denunciation as "a belligerent action."

NAZIS SAY BRITISH USING U. S. FLAG

Claim Armed Merchant Vessel Sunk While Flying American Colors

BERLIN, Feb. 22.—The German high command said today an armed British merchant ship out of Canada, with her belligerent identity hidden under United States colors, had been sunk by Nazi naval forces in the Indian ocean.

Authorized spokesmen stressed grave concern to Washington. "The question arises," one authorized source said, "whether the British are inspiring such flag swindling in the hope there will be an opportunity for developments between Germany and some neutral country."

The German communique made only the bare statement: "In the Indian ocean, naval forces sank an armed British merchantman, the Canadian cruiser, of 7,178 tons. The steamer, to conceal its nationality, showed a United States flag and had American colors painted on its hull."

Since the war began, all United States ships on the high seas have displayed large flags painted on their sides.

"If the example of the Canadian cruiser can be taken as an indication of the general trend," a German spokesman said, "it behoves America to see to it that British armed merchant ships, through misuse of the (American) flag, do not endanger Americans' freedom of the seas."

Authorized sources voiced suspicion that "an unfortunate mistake was exactly what Britain hoped for" in the alleged camouflage of the Canadian cruiser, which sailed out of Halifax and is registered in Lloyd's as owned by the Canadian Tramp Shipping Company, Ltd.

If every ship with an American flag must be suspected by Nazi sea raiders as being British, "a most unfortunate incident might occur," it was said.

The German press also played up the reported "inking as a danger signal for America and as a sign of British weakness."

Three Solons Flay Measure To Aid Britain

Senator McCarran Says Lease-Lend Bill Will Put U. S. Into War

TAFT AIRS HIS VIEWS

Administration Discusses Question Of Accepting 2 New Amendments

BY WILLIAM B. ARDERY
WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—Three opponents hammered at the administration's British aid bill in the senate today, and one of them, Senator McCarran (D-Nev.), predicted it would put the United States into war within 60 days after its enactment.

Senator Taft (R-Ohio) said that the bill would put "the issue of war" before the country within six months, and Senator Capper (R-Kan.) asserted that it would give the President "complete war making powers."

Discuss Amendments
While the senate worked through an extraordinary Saturday afternoon session in order to hasten action on the bill, administration supporters discussed among themselves the question of accepting two amendments—one suggesting that the President consult legislative leaders from time to time on operation of the British aid program, and another naming Britain, Greece and China as the countries to be aided under the bill.

Three of those in charge of the measure—Senators Barkley (D-Ky.), George (D-Ga.), and Connally (D-Tex.) said, however, that there was no present plan to accept further revision of the bill, which already has been amended by the house and the senate foreign relations committee.

George told reporters that any additional amendments might have an adverse "moral effect." He said the changes might be in-

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HOPE ABANDONED FOR ALFONSO XIII

Extreme Unction Administered As Ex-King's Condition Grows Worse

ROME, Feb. 23.—(Sunday)—Extreme unction was administered late last night to Alfonso XIII former king of Spain, as his condition grew worse.

A person close to Alfonso's suite said death "may be a question of minutes—it may be a question of hours."

Alfonso sat in a chair in his hotel room, awaiting the crisis. He was too weak to be moved to his bed.

At the ex-king's own request, the Spanish Jesuit priest, Ulpiano Lopez, was summoned to administer the last rites of the church.

Seeing the members of his family

SOLDIER SONS



Senator Hattie Caraway of Arkansas has two sons in the Army. Naturally she's proud of them, and here she admires their photos. Forrest Caraway, left, is on duty with the infantry in Alaska. Capt. Paul Caraway, who also is in the infantry, is a law instructor at West Point. Both graduated from the military academy.

City Manager Plan Vote Date Will Be Set Soon

CARNEY RECEIVES BILL

Meeting Of County Elections Board Will Be Held Monday Or Tuesday

Definite date—sometime in March—for the special city election on the issue of changing Wilmington's municipal government to the city manager type will be determined tomorrow or Tuesday as the county election board meets.

Announcement of the election board meeting was made last night by H. G. Carney, board chairman, who yesterday received a certified copy of the legislative enactment calling for the special election. The certification came from Secretary of State Chad Eure.

Will Advertise Date
The county board, composed of Carney, Robert Strange and J. H. Niggel, will order public advertisement of the election date. Under North Carolina law governing special elections, the date must be advertised for four consecutive weeks, a fact which will tentatively fix the voting day late in March.

The election will be conducted by the city election board, and will culminate a lengthy controversy between advocates of city manager and proponents of the present commission form of government. Sponsorship of the city manager campaign has been in the hands of the Wilmington Junior Chamber of Commerce. To bring the issue to a vote, the Jaycees began last November circulating petitions memorializing the state legislature to call a special Wilmington election to determine the controversy.

Last month the Jaycee petition bearing 2,400 names, was presented to Reps. Jack G. LeGrand and John Morris, New Hanover county general assemblymen now in session with the legislature in Raleigh.

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Arms Project Land Prices Probe Pushed

Fees Of War Department Land Agents Are Slashed For Second Time

NINE TRACTS STUDIED

Were Purchased As Sites For Arms Plants And Army Proving Fields

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—(P)—A searching undercover investigation of land prices charged the government for defense projects was disclosed today in an announcement that for the second time fees of war department land agents had been slashed.

The justice department indicated the investigation centered on nine scattered tracts bought under pressure for speed for such purposes as sites for arms plants and army ordnance proving grounds.

"Exorbitant" Fees
Commercial agents were employed by the quartermaster general to obtain these tracts by direct purchase. It was the fees paid some of these agents that were reduced, with Norman M. Littell, assistant attorney general in charge of the justice department's lands division, contending that they were "exorbitant."

Paul M. McCord, Indianapolis, land agent in the acquisition of some 60,000 acres in southern Indiana for an artillery proving ground, agreed at a conference with officials to reduce his fees from 6 1/2 to 3 1/2 per cent.

At the same time Willis N. Coval, president of the Union Title company, Indianapolis, agreed to a flat fee of \$50 as an abstract charge for each of some 600 tracts purchased, irrespective of size. Previous charges ranged upward to \$200, it was stated.

Fees Reduced
Earlier the fees and charges of agents buying land for an arms plant at Burlington, Iowa, were reduced from 6 1/2 to 3 1/2 per cent for all expenses.

The fees as well as prices paid for sites for the nine projects for which agents were employed have been under investigation for several weeks, Littell said, indicating that other downward revisions were in prospect.

Included in the nine were an ordnance plant site at Weldon Springs, Mo., and a shell loading plant at LaPorte, Ind., but Littell declined to disclose the full list.

In the twelve months ending next June 30, the war department is undertaking the purchase of 3,980,000 acres estimated, to cost \$47,260,000.

The bulk of the land was obtained through condemnation or from the interior or other government departments, out of the quartermaster-general's office decided

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FRANCE REJECTS JAPS' PROPOSAL

Call On Vichy To Cede One-Third Of Indo-China Provinces To Siam

VICHY, France, Feb. 22.—(P)—France rejected today a Japanese-sponsored proposal which reliable informants said was a demand that approximately one-third of the western Indo-China provinces of Laos and Cambodia be ceded to Thailand (Siam).

Informed sources, in the midst of far Eastern tension of which the Indo-China-Thai dispute is only a nebulous segment, said the government had decided it would prefer to let border hostilities be resumed rather than accept peace terms so severe.

(French-Indo China and Thailand ended their sporadic warfare with an armistice signed on Jan. 31 aboard a Japanese cruiser. Japanese mediation of the dispute began shortly thereafter in Tokyo, but it has bogged down.

Japanese radio advices indicated the French rejection of the Thailand demands followed a meeting of the supreme council of

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Students Cry Against Nazi 'Occupation'

German Signs Erected On Roads Leading Into Interior Of Bulgaria

50 RADICALS ARRESTED

Red Leaders Tell Followers To Resist Nazis By Non-Cooperation

BY ROBERT ST. JOHN
SOFIA, Bulgaria, Feb. 22.—(P)—Nazi general staff officers in civilian clothes, their black military boots shining under their raincoats, began establishing themselves in Sofia this afternoon and from the city's leading hotel they peered quietly out at groups of angry students shouting against "the German occupation of Bulgaria."

On newly erected posts on the highways leading from the Rumanian frontier toward the interior of Bulgaria, bright new road signs painted in German appeared.

But up to late afternoon watchers along the Danube reported that no regular Nazi troop movement into this country had begun, although the river border is laced with Nazi pontoons.

(This troubled country may become the German high road to Greece and Turkey.)
50 Arrested
The police here arrested nearly 50 radical Agrarian leaders without explanation at almost the moment the first German officers arrived. Additional anti-aircraft guns were mounted on the national bank building in the center of the city.

The British educational institute, which is connected with the British legation, hurriedly shut its door and its four British directors made haste to leave the country.

The legation remains, although the minister has made it clear that continued diplomatic relations with Bulgaria depend upon "German movements."

To their tens of thousands of followers the communist leaders were understood to have sent the word by grapevine: "Resist the German invasion by non-cooperation propaganda, but not by force!"

Students singing nationalistic songs paraded not only in front of

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REDS DENY HAND IN NEW TREATY

Disclaim Any Active Assistance In Arranging Bulgarian-Turkish Pact

MOSCOW, Feb. 23.—(Sunday)—A terse statement by Tass, official Soviet Russian news agency, today disclaimed any active assistance by the U. S. S. R. in arranging the recent Bulgarian-Turkish non-aggression accord.

The Tass statement said: "The Swiss newspaper basler (Basle) Nachrichten published a report alleging that the recent agreement between Bulgaria and Turkey was concluded with the active assistance of the Soviet union. Tass is authorized to state that this report does not correspond to the facts."

The Bulgarian-Turkish accord, signed last Monday, has been regarded by some Balkan observers

Experts See Nazi Food Shortages

U. S. Economists Believe Shortage May Be Felt Within Six Months

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—(P)—A conclusion that Germany is facing the prospect of serious shortages of essential foods within six months has been reached by government economists.

This opinion, it was learned today, is expressed in a report prepared by Dr. Frederick Staus, agriculture department economist, which correlates the confidential and other information the government has been able to secure on the German situation. It was prepared primarily for information of the White House and defense officials, and has not been given general circulation.

The prospective shortages, the report said, are in meats, fats, vitamins and minerals—foods described as necessary to maintain the striking power of Hitler's military forces and the efficiency of workers in his war industries.

Deficiencies were said to be developing due to the British blockade, a decreasing domestic output, and depletion of reserves built up before the war.

"The fat situation is most critical," the report continued. "By mid-1941 most of Germany's fat reserves will be used up, with Holland and Denmark no longer able to supply appreciable quantities. Current supplies, including imports, will then be only about half of pre-war while present rations require 80 per cent of pre-war quantities."

"Deficiencies of vitamins and minerals may not damage health immediately or visibly, but they tax the nervous system of workers, who already have to endure lack of proper clothing, insufficient heat, and all the nervous strains that go with war itself. The effects of malnutrition may be postponed, but workers' efficiency and staying power will decline."

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Army Orders

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—The War Department released the following orders yesterday, dated Feb. 19.

BRIGADIER GENERAL
Haislip, W. H., General Staff Corps, to duty as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1, Washington, D. C., Feb. 22.

COLONELS
Gunner, M. J. (Inf.), relieved detail as a member of general staff corps, Atlanta, Ga., to 5th Division, Ft. Custer, Mich., March 15.

Vachon, J. P. (Inf.), New Haven, Conn., to 43d Division, Camp Blencling, Fla., March 6.

McMurdoo, H. B., Med. Corps, Chicago, Ill., to Area Service Command, Camp Forrest Tenn., March 15.

Reynolds Is Flayed For Stand Against Lend Bill

RALEIGH, Feb. 22.—(P)—U. S. Senator Robert R. Reynolds of Asheville, who recently took a stand against the pending lend-lease bill allowing aid to Britain, was denounced in the state house of representatives today as a man who had brought disgrace to North Carolina.

In an unusual departure from legislative procedure, Representative Grady Withrow of Rutherford county rose on a "point of special order" and flayed Reynolds in a manner seldom heard on the floors of the general assembly.

In his speech, delivered in an emotional tone, he did not mention the junior senator by name, but he asked that Reynolds' name be inserted in the house journal, together with a statement declaring that Representative Withrow expressed "disapproval" of the junior senator's stand on the British aid bill.

Withrow, after gaining the floor, said, "we have in Washington a man whom I helped put there, and I want to apologize for it."

"North Carolina," he continued, "has been disgraced in the American union during the last few days. I'd say that the man who

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Stirling Talk Is Expected To Draw Big Crowd Here

Admiral Yates Stirling, internationally known naval authority, and former chief of staff of the United States fleet, will speak on the subject, "The Challenge Across the Pacific," at 8:15 o'clock Monday evening, in the New Hanover High school auditorium under the auspices of Wilmington post No. 10, American Legion.

Advance ticket sales and increasing interest in the importance of Japanese question in the Pacific indicate an audience of at least 1,000 persons.

Admiral Stirling will speak at 11 o'clock Monday morning at the High school, where he will be received



ADMIRAL STIRLING

WEATHER

FORECAST
North Carolina: Partly cloudy and continued cold Sunday and Monday.

(By U. S. Weather Bureau)
(Meteorological data for the 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. yesterday.)

Temperature
1:30 a. m. 33; 7:30 a. m. 30; 1:30 p. m. 49; 7:30 p. m. 46; maximum 53; minimum 29; mean 41; normal 40.

Humidity
1:30 a. m. 60; 7:30 a. m. 59; 1:30 p. m. 32; 7:30 p. m. 44.

Precipitation
Total for 24 hours ending 7:30 p. m. 0.00 inches. Total since first of the month 2.52 inches.

Tides For Today
(From Tide Tables published by U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.)

Wilmington High 7:48a Low 2:02p
8:05p 2:51p
Masonboro Inlet High 5:54a Low 11:35a
6:56p

Sunrise 6:48a; sunset 6:03p; moonrise 4:59a; moonset 3:30p.

Cape Fear river stage at Fayetteville on Feb. 22, at 8 a. m., 11.25 feet.

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