

# The Week in Washington

A RESUME OF GOVERNMENTAL HAPPENINGS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Washington, Aug. 28—It's to be a fighting presidential campaign. That is the chief reaction of seasoned Washington observers to Wendell Willkie's challenge to President Roosevelt to meet him face to face in public debate on the issues of the campaign. Especially calculated to get under Mr. Roosevelt's skin is Mr. Willkie's challenge to him to state the grounds for his assumption that in seeking a third term he is entitled to greater public confidence than any of the long list of his great predecessors.

The candidate's speech of acceptance, rather than the party's official platform, is considered to be the real statement of the issues upon which the voters will pass judgment on November 5. It is now clear that there is no divergence between the parties on the necessity for strengthening our national defense. Mr. Willkie put the menace of Hitler and our reliance upon Britain's naval strength in the Atlantic into plainer language than others have done. Beyond doubt the international situation will figure largely in the election returns.

**Draft Endorsed**  
The endorsement of the selective draft method of providing trained military manpower, as stated by Mr. Willkie, is taken here as insuring the early enactment of a measure to that end, which may not follow precisely any of the proposals originally made, but which will not leave much reliance on volunteer service.

Secretary of War Stimson was able to report faster progress in the rearmament program than he did a week or two ago. Out of the 4,000 planes for which appropriations were made in May, contracts have been let for 1,200, mostly training planes but including 50 of the largest and most modern bombing planes. Work has begun in dredging the channel for the "second-string" Panama canal.

The work of enlarging the navy is proceeding faster than army preparations, which are still held up by the delay in congress in amending the tax laws to give manufacturers

## Tobacco Queen



South Boston, Va.—Miss Martha Scott, who has accepted the invitation of the National Tobacco Festival to serve as queen on September 5 and 6. There will be over 100 pretty girls who will make up the queen's court.

a chance to break even. The preliminary work of preparing plans and blue prints in expectation of munitions contracts is going on in hundreds of plants, however.

Henry Ford has agreed to build 4,000 of the most modern and powerful type of airplane engines, and is preparing to go into plane production. The Packard company is about ready to start on the production of 6,000 British-type Rolls-Royce airplane engines. Every other motor manufacturer in the country is in a similar state of readiness to go ahead once the bars are let down.

### Announcement Surprises

The President's announcement that he is in negotiation with Great Britain for the establishment of naval bases on British territory in the Western Hemisphere came as a surprise. Nothing has been disclosed as to how payment would be made for such cities in the West Indies or Canada. The proposal to deliver 50 of our antiquated destroyers to Britain still hangs fire. Either some such "swap" or the reduction or cancellation of Britain's war debt to this country might be our payment for the right to establish naval bases on the islands of Barbados and Trinidad, and in Newfoundland and possibly Nova Scotia, as well as Bermuda.

All such plans depend largely upon the final outcome of the Ger-

man attack on the British Islands. There is a strong belief here among military experts that Britain is certain to lose. That is offset by the remarkable exhibition of courage and unity by the British people, and their apparent success in their air raids on strategic German centers and in fighting off the Nazi air attacks.

The President, in the course of his inspection of the army and national guard forces engaged in training maneuvers in northern New York state, met Premier MacKenzie King of Canada at Ogdensburg, and he promised that the United States would enter into an agreement for the joint defense of Canada, should Germany conquer the United Kingdom.

The expectation that Ambassador Cudahy, recalled from his Belgian post "for consultation" would either be reprimanded or fired or both because of what he was quoted by London papers as saying about the effect of the British blockade on starving Belgians, and particularly because he was reported to have said that the German soldiers in Belgium behaved "better than American troops in the same circumstances," did not come true. Mr. Cudahy apparently convinced the state department that he had been misquoted.

### Blockade Handicap

The British attitude on the blockade of continental Europe, however, is proving a handicap to efforts to get American Red Cross and relief supplies to the civilian populations of the countries taken over by the Germans. All reports which the state department is able to get point to the probability of a famine spreading all over Europe before spring and millions of persons dying of starvation.

### BERMUDA BAY TO BE LEASED FOR U. S. USE AS AIR BASE

Hamilton, Bermuda, Aug. 26—The Great Sound of Bermuda will be made available to the United States for an air base and possibly for a naval base, on a 99-year lease, Maj. Gen. Denis Bernard, governor of Bermuda, informed a special session of this British colony's assembly Saturday.

The legislature first had received assurances that the unprecedented step would have no effect on Bermuda's status in the British empire.

This was the first specific indication of where United States bases on British territory in the western hemisphere might be established.

### MARRIAGE LICENSE BUREAUS STORMED BY 1,500 COUPLES

New York, Aug. 25—Extra police were called in to keep order yesterday as more than 1,500 altar-bound young couples stormed the five marriage license bureaus of New York city.

The current rush to marry has kept pace with congressional action on the selective service bill, but prospective bridegrooms questioned yesterday denied they were hurrying into wedlock to escape the draft.

Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands make up the Greater Antilles.

### SHOES

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### Glasses Fitted



## Bicycle Is Utilized By Mail Carrier

North Wilkesboro, Aug. 24—Burvin Shell, mail carrier on the Hendrix-Stony Fork star route in western Wilkes, hasn't reverted to the horse-and-buggy days, but his means of transportation is more reminiscent of the gay nineties—he is riding a bicycle.

When the flood last week took out practically every bridge in that part of Wilkes county and seriously damaged the roads between the bridges, he promptly borrowed a boy's bicycle and that is the way the mail is being transported.

He makes better time on a bicycle than on a horse, and he can carry the bicycle over the roughest spots, but a horse—well, it would be quite a burden.

Speed was a major factor in 93 accidents on North Carolina highways during January to July, 1940.

The price of one truck bought in 1939 would buy approximately two and one-half trucks today.

## JAP BOMBS DESTROY BAPTIST HOSPITAL IN CHINA

Chungking, China, Aug. 25—Japanese bombs destroyed the American Southern Baptist mission hospital yesterday at Wweilan, capital of Kwangsi province, Central News, official agency of the central Chinese government, reported today.

Eleven native patients and servants were reported injured. The building had been occupied temporarily by the mission since its original plant was destroyed in a Japanese air raid in December, 1938.

## END OF "BLACK EMPEROR'S" DREAM OF AFRICAN THRONE

Remarkable story telling of spectacular rise and fall of "The Great Liberator" who collected millions, made carls and dukes of his contributors and complained that Mussolini and Hitler had stolen his ideas. One of many features in the September 1st issue of

**THE AMERICAN WEEKLY**  
the big magazine distributed with the **BALTIMORE SUNDAY AMERICAN**  
On Sale at All Newsstands

Out-of-state drivers were responsible for approximately 10 per cent of all fatal accidents in this state during the first six months of 1940.

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- New Cook Ranges, \$65.00 value, on sale at \$42.50
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By Mac Arthur

