

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXIV

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1938

No. 39

Weekly News Review

Germany, Italy Dictate Terms Of Proposed Four-Power Pact

By Joseph W. La Blue



EUROPE LAYS THE GROUNDWORK FOR PEACE (See FOREIGN)

Foreign

The European domination won at Munich by Germany and Italy is but a prelude to Hitler-Mussolini plans for relegating France and Great Britain into second-rate status. Still to come is a four-power pact, but first must come the groundwork (See MAP) in which France and Britain are fattening themselves for the slaughter:

ENGLAND sees growing resentment toward Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, who claims: "Our sole concern is to see that this country and her colonial communications are safe." But recalling successive British diplomatic defeats in Manchukuo, Ethiopia, Spain, China, Austria and Czechoslovakia, Chamberlain's foes wonder what he means by "safety." The real Chamberlain policy is appeasement of dictators at any cost. Thus the prime minister has forced a 345-138 approval of his Italian friendship pact in the house of commons. Thus, too, he has dropped Britain's elaborate defensive armament plan and urged the retirement of War Minister Leslie Hore-Belisha. Once active in opposing Spain's civil war, Great Britain must now grant belligerent rights to both Loyalists and Rebels. Still unfulfilled are Hitler's demands for return of war-mandated colonies and a 3-1 air domination over Great Britain. Then he will be ready to make peace.

FRANCE, now torn by financial distress resulting from feverish rearmament, has welcomed Reichsfuehrer Hitler's offer of a 10 or 25-year truce. This is more groundwork behind the eventual four-power pact. In return for German renunciation of territorial claims (in Europe) against France, Paris would re-establish normal diplomatic relations with Italy (already accomplished) and actually turn away from the League of Nations to live at the mercy of dictators.

ITALY AND GERMANY are now so sure of their positions that they find it unnecessary to ask British-French advice on handling Czechoslovakia's minority problem. Although the treaty of Munich stipulated four-power action on Czech minority problems, Foreign Ministers Joachim von Ribbentrop and Count Galeazzo Ciano have just transferred a large part of Czechoslovakia to Hungary.

Labor

Chief among objections to the national labor relations act are that it (1) makes the labor board prosecutor, judge and jury, and (2) permits employees, but not employers, to invoke its aid. Industry agrees generally that NLRB is fundamentally sound if these abuses can be corrected. Industry claims further that NLRB was designed to cover abuses practiced only by a minority of employers, that it fails to recognize that the average employer is honest. Changes in the act have been endorsed by the American Federation of Labor, U. S. Chamber of Commerce and National Manufacturers association. But when John Lewis' Committee for Industrial Organization meets in Pittsburgh this month, NLRB will be defended against amendment proposals on the ground that changes would make the act impractical. Along with

NLRB amendment proposals next January, congress will also get A. F. of L.'s plea for nonconfirmation of President Roosevelt's appointment of Donald Wakefield Smith, NLRB member whom Federationists say is pro-C. I. O.

International

America's demand that Japan maintain China's "open door" trade policy is based on the nine-power pact signed by China, Japan, the U. S., Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Portugal. Under this territorial integrity agreement, Western powers have enjoyed profitable trade with



SEIHEI IKEDA
New sacrifices must be made.

wealthy and populous China. The situation began changing in 1931 when Japan walked into Manchukuo, and has become a greater threat to Western trade interests since the Chinese war began. Today, with the richest part of China under Japanese control, Western powers have feared that nation might go the way of Manchukuo, becoming a Japanese puppet state.

This fear has been justified by Japan's statement of policy in the Far East, interpreted in part as an answer to the U. S. "open door" demand. Japan has announced she intends to create a political and economic union of her empire with China and Manchukuo, which means that Western powers will be left on the outside. Since a foreign office spokesman has said no part of eastern Asia shall be "westernized," British, French and U. S. concessions in China are considered threatened.

Thus, more than a year after her undeclared war on China began, Japan has taken time out to tell the world why. But if Tokyo's statement of future policy has given heart to war-weary Japs, they have also been confronted with the situation's realities. Seihei Ikeda, Harvard-educated minister of finance, has warned that new sacrifices must be made to complete China's conquest and rebuild that nation. Although Japan will make immediate and drastic slashes in her domestic expenditures, the war budget will be hiked to push China's Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek out of the picture.

Transportation

In the opinion of three experts, American railroads have no right to cut 15 per cent from pay checks of 930,000 employees because: (1) it would be a stop-gap measure at best, only reducing the standard of living at a time when business in general is coming back; (2) the railroads' financial problem is still of short term aspect, having been critical less than a year; (3) although railway wages have not fluctuated so badly as wages in other industries, they have not been advancing proportionately so fast as in other industries; (4) a flat 15 per cent wage cut would not be equitable, since smaller roads—which are in worse shape—would derive less benefit than the more prosperous lines.

This was the gist of a 40,000-word opinion handed down by President Roosevelt's emergency fact-finding commission after three weeks of deliberation. Board members: Chief Justice Walter P. Stacy of the North Carolina Supreme court; Dean James M. Landis of Harvard law school, once chairman of the securities and exchange commission; Professor Harry A. Millis, University of Chicago economist.

Likelihood of enforcing the 15 per cent wage cut despite the commission's findings is considered small. But this does not lessen the plight of U. S. railroads, whose sorry condition will probably receive attention from next winter's congress. Since utilities are getting government aid under the guise of U. S. defense insurance (see below), moreover since the government plans to strengthen its defenses generally, railroad management will justify its request for federal aid on the same grounds. Already suggested is a revolving government fund for purchase of new equipment, plus a federal appropriation to pay one-quarter of railroad maintenance costs during a five-year test period. The American Association of Railroads' program includes (1) revision of ICC rate-making procedure; (2) low rate government loans; (3) abolition of government freight rates; (4) repeal of long and short haul rate law; and (5) new government regulations over competing water transportation.

With that preface, we can examine into the situation that exists in the federal communications commission. As laymen whose only contact with radio is on the listening end, or whose only contact with telephones is to use them for business and social intercourse, or whose only contact with the telegraph is to send or receive messages, well, obviously we laymen do not know much about the F. C. C. But that does not excuse any of us for lack of interest. For F. C. C. is just as close to you and me as the interstate commerce commission is, and unless I miss my guess it will be even closer in the years to come.

There has been a measure of control over radio for years, and they have been troublesome years, both for the agency administering the law and the industry forced to abide by the law. Within the last few years, however, there has come into existence the F. C. C. which is concerned not alone with radio, but with telephones and telegraphs. These latter industries, however, are themselves settled down and out of their teens. They have got by the growing pains, but as for radio, the story is quite different and decidedly more important, because there are fundamental dangers to you and me in the situation.

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When the commission reported recently, it failed to mention St. Lawrence waterway plans. But it made bigger and more puzzling news by drawing executives of 14 large utilities to Washington and getting their promise to start expanding. If this was a peace gesture, it was overshadowed by explanations that utility expansion is an important step in the government's defense program.

The program: In 15 areas (all east of the Mississippi) utilities will spend an immediate \$350,000,000, boosting it to \$2,000,000,000 if power consumption increases normally the



SECRETARY JOHNSON
The war department made peace.

next two years. Only government function will be Reconstruction Finance corporation aid in making loans up to \$250,000,000.

Though generally regarded as an optimistic sign of recovery, utility expansion has been minimized in quarters. The 1,000,000 new kilowatts in generating capacity is only a 3 per cent boost in U. S. power potentiality, considerably below the average increase in good business years.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

General Housecleaning in Federal Communications Board Is Needed

History of Control of Radio Is Story of Troubled Days; Public Is Concerned Because Free Speech Is Involved; Split on Board Adds to General Confusion.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART
WNU Service, National Press Bldg., Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON.—It seems among the inevitable and unavoidable things that there must be growing pains when the government starts execution of any new policy. This always has been the case. I assume it is going to be true always, and it does not matter whether that new policy involves something as inherently governmental as government supervision of public services or something as inherently political as the national emergency council. The latter institution ought to have as a part of its title some words designating its value as the hod carrier in political emergencies, such as the recent "purge" of Democrats as distinguished from New Dealers.

With that preface, we can examine into the situation that exists in the federal communications commission. As laymen whose only contact with radio is on the listening end, or whose only contact with telephones is to use them for business and social intercourse, or whose only contact with the telegraph is to send or receive messages, well, obviously we laymen do not know much about the F. C. C. But that does not excuse any of us for lack of interest. For F. C. C. is just as close to you and me as the interstate commerce commission is, and unless I miss my guess it will be even closer in the years to come.

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Federal Control of Radio

Story of Troubled Days

The history of federal control of radio, as I said above, is a story of troubled days. The bulk of the trouble has been due to the type of personnel selected for administration of that control. That is to say, politics is to blame as much as anything. Politicians will endorse any screwy bird, long-haired theorist or narrow-eyed half-breed if such endorsement will get him votes or help hold the royal order of nose-pickers in line at election time.

And that is why, or largely why, the federal communications commission at this writing is undergoing pains like I used to have when I allowed my childish enthusiasm to overcome my judgment and ate apples before they were ripe. I wouldn't care how many of the boys on the government payroll had tummy aches about their jobs, or how many private and bitter words passed between hignups or low-downs in the commission except for the fact that precedents are being established that will affect you and me directly as the years roll by. The things that have developed in the F. C. C. concern us because they involve free speech, involve it as directly as any attempt to use censorship on your newspaper or mine. Besides, there is the certainty that radio has been used to foment or put to sleep some national issues. It brings the nation within any small room that happens to house a couple of good, workable microphones. If there was ever a place for establishment of basically sound and wise policies, it is in the government supervision of radio.

It is hard to get at the facts in the current dust storm within the commission. There are so many stories afloat, however, that somewhere there must be some truth. And this belief is buttressed by the known fact that President Roosevelt is considering what to do to get the tangle straightened out.

Trouble Shooter Fails To Smooth Out the Mess

To go back a bit, it will be recalled that Mr. Roosevelt sought more than a year ago to smooth out the mess by transferring Frank McNinch from the job of chairman of the federal power commission to

that of chairman of the federal radio commission. Every one conversant with the situation said at that time that the new chairman was a good trouble shooter and that he would get things working as a highly technical agency ought to work. But the truth is that Mr. McNinch has not succeeded. If anything, there have been more rows and the work of the commission has been slowed down even to a worse condition than it was.

The whole thing would not amount to a hill of beans except that it seems utterly impossible to get sound and judicial execution of a technical law under such circumstances, and the matter becomes of moment to everyone because this monster, radio, is still in swaddling clothes. Its future life intertwines with your life and mine, and with the lives of our children and the infinity of the future years.

The battle within the commission crops up every once in awhile, just as it did when the commission recently fired Hampson Gary, its general attorney. Mr. Gary was asked for his resignation, and an alternative of another appointment elsewhere in the government. But he stuck out his chin, and said "no." Well, he promptly was fired.

Too Much Interested in Fighting Among Themselves

From all of the stories I have picked up, I suspect that Mr. Gary was no great shakes as a lawyer. On the other hand, it was equally apparent that Mr. Gary was being supported by a couple of commissioners who had hard noses and wouldn't quit fighting. It is an incident that is related as an illustration and as a basis for the statement that most of the members of the commission and a substantial portion of the subordinate personnel are much more interested in fighting among themselves than in trying to understand and administer an intricate law.

This column is not the place to attempt a list of the many rulings of the commission that have done the industry no good. Attention can be called, however, to the procedure under which these decisions are brought about, having in mind that such decisions have just as much force as the law itself.

It is the regular routine in a governmental agency for consideration of problems, determination of policy, interpretation of law, to have their initiative in suggestions from the top individuals. They are named as the policy-makers. They have to assume responsibility. In the case of the communications commission, there seems to be something of the same procedure followed, except that the individual members of the board, or some of them, persist in acting individually rather than collectively as a board.

This would not be so bad if the board members as a whole were in accord. But they are not. There is a split as wide as Pennsylvania avenue. The result is that on many, many occasions underlings have brought forward propositions that served only to fan the flames of disagreement between board members.

General Housecleaning In Commission Needed

Again, even this condition could be corrected and something of a workable nature developed if the bulk of the subordinates around the commission were sound thinkers. That, unfortunately, however, seems not to be the case.

So I say that I am unwilling to charge continuation of the mess to Mr. McNinch. He apparently has tried, but as long as some members of the commission manage to gain public attention by their nauseating blarney and as long as some of the silly flock, claiming to be "original New Dealers," continue to spew out venom about "unfairness of newspapers," it is likely the communications commission is going to get nowhere very fast.

I said earlier that it may be Mr. Roosevelt will have to ask for a general housecleaning and resignation of most of those in key positions. It is quite likely that he will dodge that action if any other way can be found to solve the problem. In any event, I hope that congress looks into the situation.

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Speaking of Sports

6-Man Football Clicking Fast In Rural Areas

By HERB ROGERS

PROBABLY few of the hundreds of thousands who watch the big intercollegiate football games these fall Saturday afternoons have ever heard of "six-man football." Yet more than 2,000 schools in that many small towns throughout the country have pint-sized teams in the field this season.

Originator of six-man football is a Chester (Neb.) high school teacher named Stephen Epler. Back in September, 1934, he got tired of watching students twiddle their thumbs from the opening days of school until basketball season rolled around. He felt that Chester students should have a fall sport.

His school didn't have enough students to man a regulation football team, and even if they had, there wasn't enough money available to put them into football gear.

So, with the co-operation of his superintendent, Epler went to work. He started to remake football from the million dollar spectacle it had become into a modest sport that would fit the purse and personnel of the small town school.

Too Many Tackles

Seven tackles, he decided, are altogether too many. When they come together the spectators can't see what's happening, and the players themselves hardly know what it's all about. Tackles only get in the way of the ball carrier, anyhow. So out went two men and two uniforms.

Then Epler took the guards. The team has to have ends to run down punts, receive passes, turn in the offense. It also has to have a center to get the ball in motion. But who ever heard of a guard making a touchdown? So on each side of the center a guard was left jobless. His team now had a center and two ends. He had chopped off four men.

When it came to the backfield it wasn't so easy, but Epler shut his eyes and crossed off one halfback.

His team now consisted of a center, two ends, a quarterback, halfback, and fullback. Three men in the line, three in the backfield.

Because the town couldn't provide a regulation gridiron, 100 yards long by 160 feet wide, without ruining a good crop of standing corn, Epler reduced the length of the field to 80 yards, the width to 40 yards.

Safer Game

A by-product of this condensed team is a marked decrease in the hazards of football. Surveys show that many football injuries result from the simple fact that in a pile of 14 men, some one has to be at the bottom. Fewer linemen reduced this major hazard.

Also for the sake of safety, Epler added one rule to regulation football. The man who receives the ball from the center must pass it to a teammate, either with a backward, lateral, or forward pass, before crossing the line of scrimmage. This slowed up the offense enough to reduce much of the effect of bruising line plunges.

Surveys show that more injuries occur near the goal lines where players of both sides get desperate than in midfield. To remedy this situation, Epler widened the goal posts to 25 feet, made them at least 20 feet in height, lowered the cross bar to 9 feet, and awarded a premium for goal kicks. A try-for-point after touchdowns nets two points if made successfully by kicking, only one point if made from scrimmage.

Every Man a Hero

In regulation football linemen have a thankless job. The ball carrier gets cheered by the crowd, while the poor tackle who opened the hole through which the carrier advanced merely has his face stepped on. A center's chance to score is just about nil.

But in six-man football every man on the team is eligible to receive a pass; every man is a potential hero.

Playing time is in four 10-minute periods. Other changes from the regulation game are minor.

In most of the towns where six-man football is being taken up, the reigning sports were baseball, basketball and track. A survey made by Epler shows that more than half the high schools in this country have never played football, whereas better than 80 per cent of the schools play basketball.

But because the period between the start of school and the start of basketball season has been a void for popular sports, six-man football has proved to be a natural. It starts the school year off with a bang, and recruits for the new-fangled game were not long in coming forward.

Fastest Sport

WORLD'S fastest indoor game is not ice hockey, as might well be supposed, but an ancient game called Jai Alai, "hy-lee" to you.

Today it is a major sport not only in Spain but in South America, Mexico, Cuba and even such remote centers as Shanghai. Now jai alai seems to be taking root in the United States.

One reason for the spread of the game's popularity is its simplicity. It requires only space, three high walls, a ball and a curved basket-like scoop lashed to the arm of each player. When played by hard-



BABE RUTH
King of Swat tries jai alai.

hitting professionals, the game is spectacular in the extreme.

The ball, hard and about the size of a tennis ball, is served from the basket and driven against the front wall, to be scooped up before its second bounce and returned by a member of the opposing side. Teams range from one to four on a side.

As in tennis, the technique lies in slamming the ball to a spot from which it is hard for the opposing player to return it. When played by experts the game appears easy, but great skill and endurance are required.

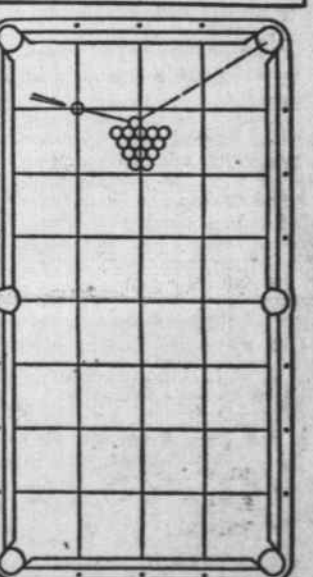
Here and There—

The tiny mule mascot of the Army football team is a gift from Ecuador's minister to Washington. . . Charley Keller, Yankee rookie outfielder from Newark, is hailed as a second Joe Di Maggio. . . Millard White, Tulane's 218-pound triple-threat back, is shot put and discus champion of the Southeastern conference. . . Pop Warner, Temple coach, was called the Texas Steer in his playing days at Cornell. . . Helen Jacobs will lecture on tennis at the San Francisco world's fair. . . Whizzer White says his first three professional games gave him more bumps and bruises than he suffered in his entire college career. . . Santa Clara has won 21 out of 22 football games since Buck Shaw became head coach two years ago.

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Pocket Billiards

By CHARLES C. PETERSON
President, National Billiard Association of America and World's Trick Shot Champion.



LESSON NO. 4

A kiss shot for the corner pocket. It is of vital importance that the balls are spotted carefully according to the diagram. Every object ball must be touching (frozen). Again the striker must make a firm, solid bridge, hold the cue absolutely level, and use no english. If you miss the shot it will be because you did not adhere to the instructions given. Again let me warn you to leave your cue on the line of aim, if you wish to master the game.