THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXV — GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1939 — No. 8

Weekly News Analysis

Nazi, Argentine Trade Plans Threaten American Program

By Joseph W. La Bine

EDITOR'S NOTE—*When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst, and not necessarily of the newspaper.*

Trade

Today's high pressure international salesmanship runs counter to the reciprocal trade program of U. S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull. Devoted to the cause of low tariffs and "most-favored-nation" pacts, Secretary Hull's idealistic and honest efforts must compete with such devices as the German barter plan and a series of multi-colored trade ideas which emerge annually from congress' halls. This month Mr. Hull saw his beloved program threatened on several fronts:

Argentine. Of all South American governments, that at Buenos Aires is least friendly with the U. S. At Lima's Pan-American conference Argentina spoiled President Roosevelt's "continental solidarity" declaration by charging that the disgraceful policy of "dollar imperialism" was still rampant. But the real roots of this dislike are commonplace things like hoof-and-mouth disease, drouth and depression.

An agreement was reached in 1935 providing for U. S. import of cattle from Argentine sections not infected with hoof-and-mouth disease. But congress failed to ratify it. In 1937 drouth and temporary U. S. prosperity forced heavy imports from Argentina. This business dropped with a thud in 1938's recession, far faster than Argentina

ARMOUR'S PRESIDENT CABELL
He didn't want German harmonicas.

curtailed her imports from the U. S. Result has been a trade unbalance and subsequent strengthening of Argentine exchange control against the U. S., encouraged by Germany's increasing willingness to swap machinery for Argentine foodstuffs. This sentiment reached a climax with Argentina's declaration that imports from the U. S. must be reduced to the level of 1935-36. Faced with a 40 per cent slash in exports, Secretary Hull may be forced to dangle juicy trade plums before Argentina's eyes, seriously endangering the rest of his reciprocal program.

Germany. Barter trade like Nazi Germany's is allowed in the U. S. provided it does not interfere with the "most-favored-nation" plan. But artificial currency devices like German payment for U. S. goods with "trade marks" (good only for purchase of Nazi goods) are taboo. Mid-February found U. S. lard prices low and likely to drop still more when the spring hog run starts. Meanwhile Germany hungered for fats. Putting two and two together, German trade experts began contacting midwest packers to swap lard for machinery.

Though the Reich apparently progressed on two deals, most packers turned their backs, uninterested. Recalled was the experience of one firm which arranged a swap deal with Germany several years ago, only to find itself burdened with several thousand Nazi harmonicas. Typical was the comment of R. H. Cabell, president of Armour and Company, who dismissed the bid by simply stating that "the big packing houses are not interested in bartering, but in the sale of products at market rates." Next day packers were pleased to note that lard futures were selling up, but Mr. Hull could not fail to note that the Nazi program has made progress.

Agriculture. Crux of the "cost-of-production" farm bill now before congress is that domestically consumed products shall have a minimum price. All surpluses would be dumped abroad for whatever they would bring. Whatever the bill's merits, Mr. Hull presumably regards it as an artificial trade barrier in the field of agricultural trade, which would be reflected in other branches of commerce. If "cost-of-production" fails, the state department must still hurdle a second new farm measure which would extend governmental loans on three major crops (cotton, wheat, corn) equivalent to three-fourths the "parity price"—an amount higher than the current market price. Farmers would then be expected to turn their crops over to the government for the loan price. Domestically consumed products would sell at not less than the loan price. With surpluses the U. S. would attempt to recapture its lost foreign markets.

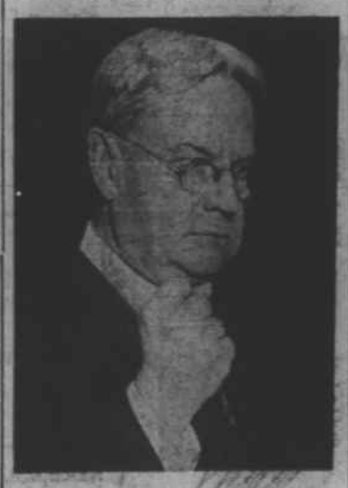
Significance. Though world economic satisfaction must be a prelude to permanent world peace (an important principle in the Hull program), each nation seeks to further its own admittedly selfish interest with self-preservation as a justification. Still to come is the showdown in which nations will decide whether world problems will be settled via economic treaties, at the expense of selfish aims, or via force, at another kind of expense.

Defense

Last December President Roosevelt's arms expansion program had more foes than friends in the still-to-convene seventy-sixth congress. Two months later it had more friends, thanks to clever White House publicity maneuvers and a lot of saber-rattling in Europe. The house passed 367 to 15 an administration bill to spend $376,000,000 extra on defense the next two years. (Same day, Great Britain voted about $1,000,000,000 more for arms.) Chief features are boosting the army's aviation force to 5,500 first line planes and making the Panama canal impregnable. Certain of passage was the Vinson naval expansion bill to spend $68,000,000 on naval air and submarine bases.

But there was little unity in this new strength. Closely allied to rearmament is the problem of U. S. military alliances with other democracies, since the threat that inspired American rearmament is the same threat that makes France and Britain jittery. After a California air crash revealed U. S. manufacturers were selling military planes to France, after President Roosevelt denied telling a senate military affairs committee that U. S. "frontiers are in France," the White House-congress foreign policy debate came out in full bloom. Questions: (1) Shall the U. S. keep its foreign policy secret? (2) Is President Roosevelt risking involvement in war through secret international deals?

After a week's debate there presumably were no longer any secrets about either the French deal or the administration's foreign policy. Actual cause of the rumpus was apparently removed, but not congressional resentment.



SENATOR JOHNSON
He resented White House resentment.

Thundered California's Sen. Hiram Johnson: "No epithets applied to senators or newspapers will relieve the situation of its secrecy . . . There is resentment among the administration that anybody should ask the facts. But if there comes a war it will not be fought by the President alone . . ."

Facts themselves are startling. Faced with U. S. military orders under the new defense bill, plane manufacturers already have their hands full with export orders. Starting with $25,000,000 in 1938, plane exports have roughly doubled annually, approximating $200,000,000 this year. In the past eight months France and Britain have ordered 1,200 ships.

Europe

In modern Europe no month is complete without its crisis. January's crisis was Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's visit to Rome. February's was the fall of Barcelona and its decisive implications. In March the crisis will again center on Spain if three signs mean anything:

(1) Germany and Italy have helped Spain's Insurgents win their battle thus far, France and England siding with Loyalists because they were anti-Fascist. Today, with Loyalists on the run, Britain has granted de facto recognition to Gen. Francisco Franco's Insurgents, encouraging France to fall in line. Obviously a policy of expediency, the Anglo-French overture is accompanied by financial offers to help rebuild Spain. In wooing Franco, Paris and London will positively arouse the Rome-Berlin axis to new wrath.

(2) Combined British home fleets will maneuver around Gibraltar in March, just as Germany completes its most thorough mobilization since last autumn's much-feared troop concentration. Meanwhile Italy is

GEN. JOSE MIAJA
His 500,000 against 1,000,000.

doubling its garrison in Libya (adjoining France's African Tunisia) as an admitted step in retaliation against reputedly increased Tunisian garrisons.

(3) Closer conformation of Anglo-French policy is seen in London's declaration to help Paris in event of war, also in Britain's de facto recognition of Insurgent Spain while awaiting official French action. Such parallel policies, coupled with the bold British decision to spend $1,000,000,000 more on armament, illustrate how Europe's two democracies are drawing closer together and preparing to meet the next totalitarian demands. Probably these demands will be Italian territorial claims against France, coming immediately after the Spanish war.

Meanwhile that war has gone merrily on its way as Gen. Jose Miaja finds himself practically the boss of Loyalist Spain's civil and military branches. With an estimated 500,000 unenthusiastic soldiers under his command, General Miaja recently heard that his friend General Franco was about to charge against Valencia and Madrid with 1,000,000 men.

Labor

In Washington John L. Lewis could peek at the calendar for March realizing it probably held the fate of his Congress for Industrial Organization. At the core of trouble is United Automobile Workers of America, torn during January when President Homer Martin simultaneously resigned and was booted from C. I. O.'s executive board. Reason: U. A. W. underlings thought Mr. Martin was conniving for personal control of Ford Motor company's heretofore independent labor vote, while Mr. Martin thought C. I. O. was turning communistic. Now split in two factions, U. A. W. opens a pro-Martin convention in Detroit during early March, and an anti-Martin parley in Cleveland March 27.

First victory was scored by the Martin faction when property of U. A. W.'s Plymouth local (Detroit) was pulled from court custody and returned to Martin cohorts.

To rumors that he might lead U. A. W. into alliance with William Green's American Federation of Labor, Mr. Martin answered with an emphatic negative. Daily winning public support from such Lewis henchmen as Sidney Hillman and Philip Murray, Mr. Martin stands a good chance of emerging not only as undisputed head of U. A. W., but as leader in a C. I. O. conservative movement.

People

In Moscow, Secretary Earl Browder of the American Communist party hailed President Roosevelt, Cuba's Col. Fulgencio Batista and Mexico's President Lazaro Cardenas as opponents of Fascism.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Age-Old Fight Between President And Senate in Vicious Revival

Current Squabble, Involving Senators Glass and Byrd, Invited by President Himself; Mr. Roosevelt's Attempt To Discipline Senate Serious Political Mistake.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART
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WASHINGTON. — Through nearly all of our nation's history, there has been a continuing controversy concerning the respective rights and prerogatives of the President of the United States and the senate. It has alternately smouldered and burst into flame. It has been characterized by vicious outbursts from one side or the other at various times and it has made or destroyed the political fortunes of a great many men.

Washington has been regaled with a fresh revival of the controversy in the last several weeks. The fundamental differences are the same as they always have been. There are, however, new names and new faces and obviously the political fortunes of individuals who have entered upon the public stage in recent years are bound up in the boiling kettle. Like the earlier embitterments over these rights, this one will prove nothing in the way of a tangible solution.

The current fight must be said to have been invited by President Roosevelt. Perhaps, his course of action was urged by some of the "inner circle," which so often has wrongly advised him lately, men who do not know politics and who ignore political history—but the fact remains that the President carried the fight to the senate, and there are more than a few observers who expect that he will come off a bad loser.

Mr. Roosevelt, as I have reported in these columns earlier, was insisting upon his own selection for political appointments where the senators from a particular state were not receiving his smiles. The procedure was not pleasant but there was no sensational outcry from the senators concerned until the nomination of Judge Floyd Roberts, to a United States district judgeship, was sent to the senate. Mr. Roberts was picked without consultation—even over others recommended—with Senators Glass and Byrd of Virginia. It proved to be the signal for a riot.

Advisers Reckoned Not With Senatorial Courtesy

After the manner of senate procedure, Senators Glass and Byrd rose in their places in the senate and pronounced Judge Roberts "personally offensive" to them. That was enough. The senate, as it has done so many times before, promptly rejected the Roberts nomination by the terrific jolt of 72 to 9. It was such a slap that even the Virginia senators were surprised at its overwhelming character. It surely made the fact abundantly clear that Mr. Roosevelt could not get away with his theory namely, that a President can pick nominees without "the advice and consent of the senate" as the Constitution specifies. But it did not have that effect.

And here was where the President made a great political mistake. He sought to discipline the senate by publication of a letter to Judge Roberts in explanation of the senate's action. He scored Senator Glass and he tarred Senator Byrd. They were almost guilty of conduct unbecoming gentlemen.

It was rumored that the strategy of the "inner circle" was to have Mr. Roosevelt smear the two senators and thus create a serious defection in their own political machines in their native Virginia—which anyone acquainted with Virginia politics will tell you is much easier said than done.

But the President and his untrained political advisers reckoned not with senatorial courtesy. Now, senatorial courtesy is an intangible thing. No one ever has been able to define or describe it. One simply has to say that it exists and let time prove the statement. The proof always can be found, and the action of the senate on the Roberts nomination, and since, certainly seems to demonstrate that the senators will fight for their rights, or what they believe to be their rights, on a collective basis. Each sticks by the others; none knows when he may need the same kind of help.

Senate Is Thoroughly Embittered at Roosevelt

Thus, after several weeks of this lashing back and forth—because Senators Glass and Byrd did not fail to tell the country what they thought of Mr. Roosevelt's action—we find the senate thoroughly embittered at Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Roosevelt saying, repeatedly, that the senate is trying to usurp the powers of the Chief Executive. As I said, that fundamental difference has existed since the formation of our government. It is going to continue to exist because of the form of our government, its system of checks and balances, and it will exist as long as our system of political parties obtains.

Coldly and without bias, it must be said that each side to the battle predicates its conclusions and conception of its rights upon a thirst for more power. Mr. Roosevelt, as President, conceives that he should be boss; the senators, as representatives of sovereign states, conceive that they are the elected representatives and they are not going to have a single individual, even though it be the President of the United States, dehorn them of the strength that an election by popular vote gives them.

Moreover, the President must do political knitting. He must keep the weave as free of knots as is possible. In the case of the present incumbent, it is quite apparent that he desires to be complete boss of his political structure. He had a taste—indeed, a full meal—of it for five years when a subservient congress vastly earned the sobriquet of rubber stamps. I imagine that he liked it; anyone would, if that person is really human.

Old Line Democrats Seek To Regain Party Control

Nor are the senators, not just Glass and Byrd alone, but all of them, blameless, if one desires to turn purist. The senators have their political machines. They seek always to keep those machines well oiled, smooth running. Upon the functioning of the machines depends whether the senators can be reelected time after time; upon that machine depends the retention or the loss of the power which every politician loves. I imagine they can not be blamed for that, any more than the President can be blamed for wanting to keep his hand on the throttle. That is politics.

Selection of the men to judicial jobs, or to any other political post in the nature of a plum, is vital to maintenance of machines. Politicians continue as leaders only so long as they can dominate the scene and get for their followers the things their followers want.

But in the current battle there is somewhat deeper disagreement between the senate and the President. It is too well known to warrant more than mere reference here that old line Democrats are determined to regain control of the Democratic party label. They have had more than enough unpractical direction from the regiment of college professors, crack-pots and long haired dreamers without political training. Many of them will tell you unhesitatingly that continuation of Democratic party control in the hands of such men will be destruction of the party and its conversion into a vehicle guided by socialists, communists and a complete rainbow of colors. Naturally, they want to adhere to Democratic doctrines and Democratic principles. And that is the line of cleavage.

The result? I doubt that Mr. Roosevelt can win over the senate.

Wants Judges Who Will Be Friendly to New Deal

The other phase of the differences is less clear. I can report it only as the belief of quite a few senators. Some of them believe it, definitely. I give it here simply as a subject for thought.

By insisting upon his own choice of nominees for judgeships in the federal courts, Mr. Roosevelt is attempting to place men in the judiciary who will be friendly to all of the New Deal laws, or so some members of the senate and the house firmly believe. That is to say, the belief is held that Mr. Roosevelt is seeking to do by use of the appointive power that which the congress refused him the power to do when it killed off his scheme to pack the Supreme court.

Speaking of Sports

Varied Sports Show Planned For Exposition

By ROBERT McSHANE

IN THE distant future, when the curtain rings down on San Francisco's Golden Gate exposition, California will have staged a sports program huge enough to exhaust the high powered adjectives of even the most fluent publicist of the Golden state. The western World's fair sports show will be nothing short of colossal.

Modest natives admit that no exposition ever thought sports so important, and none ever lavished one-third as much money and effort on an athletic program.

"But this is California, where sport is more important than anywhere else in the world," shyly admits Major Art McChrystal, director of the program. "We won't have any world champion prize fights, and no All-Star baseball game as will the New York fair, but 90 per cent of our events will be in the exposition grounds, not off over town somewhere."

The so-called minor sports will be staged in a swift succession of events, and will include everything from yacht racing to the National Open championship for horseshoe pitchers. And perhaps fair directors are smart in not running a championship prize-fight — Unless contenders show remarkable improvement the horseshoe pitchers would easily provide more excitement.

Indoor polo will be housed in a coliseum seating 9,000 people around a ring 230 feet long and 100 feet wide. In this coliseum, too, will be seen box lacrosse, the amateur rage of Canada.

The N. C. A. A. basketball championship for west of the Mississippi river will be held in the coliseum, as will an indoor track championship.

The International championship six-day bicycle races will be held March 12 to 18, the National indoor championship in fencing will be held in June, the National singles and doubles in handball May 15-20, the lawn bowling championship September 10-13 and the volley ball championship May 18-20.

There are other championships to be determined, but they are too numerous to mention. The good major has gone to the trouble of inventing new sports so that additional championships can be awarded. Darned unselfish, these Californians.

Dodger Purchase

ANNEXATION of three Yankee chain baseball players by the Dodgers was announced recently by Larry McPhail, general manager of the Brooklyn club, who stated that Pitchers Kemp Wicker and Jack La Rocca and Catcher Chris Hartje cost them the tidy little sum of $50,000—with no discount.

Larry McPhail

Wicker, 30 years old, is the only member of the recently purchased trio who possesses a big league record. He was with the Yankees for a while in 1937, winning seven and losing three games. The same year he won seven and lost two for the Newark Bears, member of the Yankee string. During the past year he was with Kansas City, another Yankee unit, finishing with nine victories and an equal number of defeats.

Hartje and La Rocca also are Kansas City grads. A lame arm hampered La Rocca last season, getting him off to a late start. His final record was six wins and five defeats. Hartje batted .289 for the Blues.

A rumor that Branch Rickey, general manager of the St. Louis Cardinals, would sever his present connections and hook up with McPhail in the purchase of the Brooklyn club was effectively spiked when Rickey termed the rumor "wild talk with no element of truth."

Sport Shorts

Shortstop Murray Franklin batted .439 in the Mountain State league, North Carolina, to win the Louisville Slugger trophy . . . Hunting licenses numbering 6,860,010 and costing $11,348,006 were issued in the United States and Canada during 1937 . . . The Green Bay Packers will play a team of southern college all-stars next fall if the pro circuit approves . . . Paul Wearly of Muncie, Ind., set a world's record for Class A outboard motorboats of 44.117 miles per hour at Lakeland, Fla.

Promoter King

WHEN C. C. (Cash and Carry) Pyle, most spectacular promoter of the final years of sports' golden decade, died at his Los Angeles home recently, he left a heritage of fantastic ventures fully as exciting as the wildest dime novel.

Pyle's fertile imagination led him to see the possibilities of cashing in on Harold (Red) Grange's gridiron ability. He first achieved nationwide attention when he took the Galloping Ghost off the University of Illinois campus and guided his career in professional football.

During the winter of 1925, with Grange as the main attraction, Pyle and the Chicago Bears launched a highly successful tour. Grange galloped up and down football fields in all parts of the country. When they returned to Chicago in February, 1926, Pyle and Grange had harvested more than $100,000.

Red Grange

His most unusual promotion was the famous "Bunion Derby" of 1928, in which almost 100 runners, young and old, started out on a transcontinental run from Los Angeles to New York, with Pyle riding comfortably alongside.

This first derby, billed as a $500,000 attraction, with a $25,000 purse going to the winner, led to numerous law suits, which reputedly cost Pyle $50,000. However, friends of Pyle maintain that of all his schemes, the Bunion Derby was closest to his heart, that he thoroughly enjoyed the antics of his runners. A second race was held in 1929, and the derbies universally were voted the strangest events in sports history.

Pyle was also the first to see the possibilities in professional tennis. On October 9, 1926, he presented the late Suzanne Lengien, Mary K. Browne, Vincent Richards and other stars in Madison Square garden as his initial effort in this field of activity. The gate receipts were announced as $40,000.

"He was the greatest promoter of all time," Grange said of the man who started him on his professional career. "The greatest promoter—but not the greatest business man. He had more ideas than any man I ever knew."

Grange estimated that during the three years—1925-'26-'27—he was managed by Pyle, the two attracted $1,000,000 at the gate, half of which went to them. They split the profits, which would place Grange's earnings under Pyle at $250,000.

In 1928 Grange and Pyle formed the American Professional Football league. It was formed after the National league had refused to grant the pair permission to sponsor another club in New York. It was a failure, however, as the league never really got underway. Both men lost considerable money on the venture.

Pyle, with the addition of a little business sense, would have easily been the equal of Tex Rickard as a promoter. He was, however, the most colorful individual in an era of unusual men. If anything appealed to his sense of humor he was willing to take a chance.

They Do Come Back

DON'T take too seriously the old saw that "champions never come back."

Away from the turf for three years, Jockey Don Meade is now being sought by owners of the most pretentious racing stables in America. He is the lad who made the most sensational comeback in turf history at Hialeah Park, Miami.

Banned by the Florida State Racing commission for wagering on horses other than the ones he rode, Meade was thought to be through. Most horsemen felt that the 25-year-old jockey would never get into the limelight again.

Don Meade

Now Meade has become a hero. That's why everybody wants him. He has been offered large bonuses to fly to California to ride in the $100,000 added Santa Anita Handicap, which will be run off on the Coast March 4, the same time as the Widener race at Hialeah. The young rider has turned the bonus offers down, and announced that he was going to ride in the Widener for his contract employer, George Odom, trainer.

Meade has been a consistent winner—race after race. Whenever Trainer Odom has a horse in a Hialeah race, Don pilots it. If not then Don may ride any man's horse. That's why there is a fight among horsemen to get second, third, fourth and even fifth call on the jockey.