

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXVI

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1940

No. 2

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

German 'Peace Drive' Eclipsed By War Threats in Near East; Politicians Hold U. S. Interest

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

Spotlighted on the Washington Scene:

POLITICS:

In the background since congress reconvened, presidential politics stole the show again when the Democratic national committee selected Chicago as its convention site. Republicans, who scheduled their meeting later in the hope that Democrats would set a convention date, were outfoxed. This resulted in minor dissension among G. O. P. leaders, who debated whether to set a date immediately or keep stalling.

Since third-termers dominated the Democratic meeting, observers guessed there would be a strong fight to renominate President Roosevelt in the city where he was first chosen in 1932.

As Chicago became a political focal point, so did Illinois. There were signs that both President Roosevelt and Vice President Garner would be entered in the April 9 preference primary, while in New York the G. O. P. backers of young Tom Dewey challenged Ohio's Sen. Bob Taft and other Republican hopefuls to a contest in the same primary.

UN-AMERICANISM:

Ended was the episode in which Michigan's Rep. Frank Hook charged that Martin ("un-Americanism") Dies was working in cahoots with William Pelley, leader of the anti-Semitic "Silver Shirts." When Pelley surrendered and admitted that letters used as evidence were forged, Hook apologized on the house floor. If this had been a campaign to smear irrepressible

Martin Dies, it had only served to strengthen him and the cause of his "ism" committee. Next day FBI rounded up 12 persons charged with recruiting Americans for service with the Communist forces in Spain.

CONGRESS:

The house continued lopping millions from President Roosevelt's budget, and the senate continued restoring them. The senate voted down a \$1,000,000 cut in Civil Aeronautics authority funds, bringing the independent offices bill back to \$1,139,693,523. But it was still 55 millions under budget estimate, providing a good start on the 460 million congress hopes to save by way of avoiding new defense taxes. Meanwhile the house slashed away at the state-justice-commerce department appropriations bill.

LABOR:

John Lewis' C. I. O., which has been striking at the New Deal lately, turned a partial about-face by defending the national labor relations act against A. F. of L.-inspired changes. Before the house NLRB committee, C.I.O.'s Philip Murray read a statement in which Lewis charged "reactionary and anti-labor" corporations are dictating A. F. of L.'s proposed amendments. At Miami, A. F. of L.'s executive board was also getting hostile toward the New Deal, urging encouragement of private enterprise and charging the administration with trying to place labor "under its thumb." The entire labor-government picture was pretty complicated.

EUROPE:

Rumors

While the western front remained quiet, and while Finland continued making a shambles out of Russia's vaunted armies, two diametrically opposed offensives were taking shape—one for war, the other for peace:

Peace Drive. Berlin denied it, but reports persisted that Nazidom would offer the allies a settlement via the League of Nations' economic committee at The Hague. Terms: (1) no reparations; (2) return of ex-German colonies; (3) Nazi retention of Sudetenland and the Polish corridor; (4) an Austrian plebiscite, neutrally managed; (5) restoration of Czech, Polish and Slovak states.

If the Reich's denials were sincere, observers wondered why Herr Hitler tried so hard to minimize his relations with Moscow, arch-foe of the democracies. No military pact exists, said the Reich, nor will Germany help Russia fight the Finns. Peace gossip only increased when Berlin called home its envoys to Finland and Russia. Would Germany try to settle this war? If so, was it a prelude to peace in the west?

War Drive. Overnight the Balkan states mobilized their armies to full strength, members of the Little Entente backing Rumania against the territorial demands of Hungary. Italy was seen joining them. Across

the Black sea Turkey concentrated troops on the Russian frontier, Iran and Afghanistan doing likewise. One explanation was that Russia planned a drive into this British sphere-of-influence (see map). Another explanation was that the allies planned a deliberate attack on Russian oil wells in the Caucasus region, thereby drawing Soviet troops from the beleaguered Finnish front and cutting off Nazi petroleum sources. Observers asked themselves whether this was the reason French authorities had raided the Russian commercial office in Paris, deliberately inviting Soviet reprisals. Also, was it the reason Turkey, a British-French ally, unceremoniously seized the German-owned ship yard in the Bosphorus?

The Wars
In the West. France reported the quietest period since the war began almost six months ago, and Nazi raids on North sea shipping were slackened perceptibly.

In the North. Finnish troops repulsed one Soviet attack after another, most activity being confined to the area around Lake Ladoga. Finnish military observers estimated that reckless use of manpower had cost the Reds 20,000 dead and wounded in a single week.

Nevertheless, increasing rhythm of Soviet attacks was wearing the Finns down, a situation that disturbed the allies increasingly. Following a meeting of the British-French war council, it was announced concrete aid would be rushed at once. Prime Minister Chamberlain told the house of commons as much, while France kept relaying Italian warplanes which Germany refused to let cross the Reich.

How Italy is cooperating with the Finns was revealed in Rome by Finnish Minister Eero Jaernfelt, who reported 5,000 Italian volunteers have been turned down because no visas were available. But hundreds have been granted, too.

WOMEN

in the news . . .

At Paris, the duchess of Windsor was credited with inventing a new knitted "trench mitten" with zipper attachment to free a soldier's trigger finger.

In the frozen Klondike campaigned Mrs. Norman Black, one of Canada's two women parliament members, seeking votes in the forthcoming special election.

At Baltimore, Mrs. Robert A. Taft announced she would hit the campaign stump trail for her senator husband, who hopes to win the G. O. P. presidential nomination.

At New York, Merry Fahrney, patent medicine heiress, shed her fourth husband.



THE DUCHESS

NEUTRALITY:

Aid to Finland

Early this month a Gallup poll showed the majority of U. S. citizens (58 per cent) favor a non-military loan to Finland. Same day as the survey was released, the senate began consideration of a bill to double the Export-Import bank's capital, permitting an additional \$20,000,000 non-military loan to the Finns (they already have \$10,000,000).

The same Gallup poll showed 61 per cent of the nation opposed a loan to Finland for purchasing war supplies. Day after the survey was published, Michigan's Prentiss Brown proposed in the senate that all of Finland's \$5,891,000 war debt payment should be made available for munitions purchases. There was a good chance the Brown measure might pass.

(The senate did adopt 65 to 3 a resolution asking the securities and exchange commission to expedite registration of any government bonds which Finland may try to sell private U. S. investors. Prompting factor was Secretary of State Cordell Hull's revelation that Russia had violated two pledges of its recognition agreement with the U. S.: (1) Permitting Communist interference with U. S. affairs; (2) failing to safeguard U. S. citizens' rights in Russia. Still, a congressional effort to break relations with the Soviet failed.)

Meanwhile the state department was rubbing noses with Britain's smooth-working Ambassador Lord Lothian, recipient of many a fiery protest in recent weeks. In exchange for better treatment of U. S. ships at British contraband ports, the two governments decided to keep future quarrels quiet. One reason: Recent strong U. S. notes to London have stirred up too much American opinion against Britain, to Adolf Hitler's benefit.

JAPAN:

One Way Out

As Tokyo's war in China entered its thirty-first month, northern forces reported they had entered distant Ningxia province for the first time. In the south, armies were locked in bitter battle near Wungun, Kwangsi province. Two more discouraging signs for Japan were (1) a naval spokesman's warning that Chinese planes may soon begin raiding Japan, and (2) the report that 300 Jap troops were killed when Chinese artillery sank a transport on the Yangtze river.

Mostly, however, Tokyo's troubles were with the western powers. Immediate source of trouble was a combined U. S.-French protest against Jap bombings of the Kuning-Hanoi railway in southwestern China. Both protests were rejected, and the Japanese parliament found itself seriously considering two drastic steps to avoid future protests. First, it was suggested Japan should junk the nine-power treaty guaranteeing Chinese territorial integrity. Second, Foreign Minister Hachiro Arita admitted Japan is asking U. S. citizens to leave China, probably as a threat to make the U. S. renew its expired trade treaty.

AGRICULTURE:

Cotton for Stamps

Having successfully disposed of surplus foods through the stamp plan, Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace announced this system will be adopted to help solve his No. 1 farm problem, cotton. Exports having decreased since Britain stopped taking U. S. surpluses under the barter arrangement, cotton will be offered under the stamp plan experimentally within a few weeks. Plan: Relief clients purchasing \$1 worth of cotton goods at retail stores will be given \$1 worth of cotton stamps free.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Latest Blasts of Political Oratory Are Devoid of Substantial Facts

Honest Abe Gets Many Fine Tributes From Republican Speakers, but U. S. Voters Receive Minimum of Basic Governmental Information.

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

WASHINGTON.—About half of the Republican representatives and senators in congress, most of the Republican governors and scores of lesser lights are back home as these lines are printed. They have been away on speech-making trips. They used Abe Lincoln's birthday as the rallying point. They concentrated on February 12 just as their arch rivals concentrate annually on Andrew Jackson's birthday for ballyhoo and money raising.

Honest Abe received many, many fine tributes. His services to his country were told by good orators and bad. The tributes were justly deserved. But I could not help wondering, as I read page after page of these speeches, just how Abe Lincoln would feel about some of the things that were said, some of the national policies that were advocated, some of the solutions that were offered for national problems.

It may have been just my imagination, but I thought Honest Abe was a bit restless as his great statue sits out its unending days in the vast memorial on the banks of the Potomac river. The memorial is so arranged that Honest Abe gazes through daylight and darkness at a vista that includes the tall and imposing monument to George Washington and, beyond, to the capitol of the United States. The things that have been going on beneath the capitol dome and the things that were said by Republican flag-wavers and represented as being Lincolnian, it seems to me, have been quite sufficient to make the Lincoln quite heavy, to make the lines of his stoney face deeper.

Just as the Democrats, last month failed to convince very many people that Jackson would do as the New Dealers have done, so the Republican orators failed to prove they are sticking to Lincoln's traditional philosophy. The tragedy is that each major party is attempting to streamline a national figure, and the result obviously is that neither Jackson nor Lincoln has been presented to the newer voters in the light of the genuine services which they rendered their country.

Republican Presidential Nominees Aspirants Have Field Day

These speeches, to which I have referred, included, of course, resounding statements by five or six of the men who aspire to be the Republican presidential nominee. There were Senators Taft of Ohio, Vandenberg of Michigan, and Bridges of New Hampshire, and New York's racket-busting district attorney, Thomas E. Dewey, Governor Bricker of Ohio, Republican Leader Martin of the house of representatives, and former President Herbert Hoover.

Anyone who heard the speeches or read them must have come to the same conclusion that I reached. The day's oratory, with the possible exception of Mr. Hoover's speech, was as devoid of good substantial facts as a frog is of feathers. There was outburst after outburst of bitter criticism, reference after reference to New Deal failures, repetition upon repetition of charges of waste and assertions of danger to our national welfare. All of these things were said, with the usual pounding of the table and slapping of hips. But the Republican orators either forgot their facts or neglected to use them in the excitement of the occasion.

What I am seeking to say is that no campaign is worth much in any political battle unless the attacking forces base their charges in the simple facts that individuals understand. Generalities mean nothing any more. President Roosevelt has been the greatest generalizer of all history, and the folks have been digging up some of his earlier general statements to ask about them. Such presentation of attack or defense leads definitely to a lack of confidence on the part of the voters.

I referred above to Mr. Hoover's speech. Let us take one section of it as an illustration of what I mean about generalities. Mr. Hoover talked about the \$45,000,000,000 national debt. He went further. He

figured out that the annual interest on this debt is about \$1,100,000,000 a year. And thus, according to the calculations, each man, woman and child in the United States is paying almost \$8.50 per year in interest. Going further, if there is a family of five, that family's share of the interest on the national debt is roughly \$42.50 a year, or a little more than three dollars a month.

Now, most of the speeches contained a few plain and simple facts like that. Most of them hit around the mark. But not a single one of the speeches laid down a real barrage of facts. They failed miserably to apply the facts to the affairs of the individual voter. So, even though the Republican orators did not ask me for advice, I am going to offer some: if they really want to restore this nation to its native, conservative way of doing things, they will tell the factual story of the New Deal and its theories and dreams. And the voters ought to ask for facts instead of general statements! In these conclusions, I believe Honest Abe likely would agree.

Taft Challenges President's Handling of Budget

Senator Taft lately got right close to specific statements when he challenged President Roosevelt on the question of balancing the budget. He took many of the federal agencies that have come into being under the



SENATOR ROBERT TAFT

New Deal alphabet and pointed out the cost of each and how little worthwhile he believed them to be. It was something Mr. Roosevelt could not answer without resorting to generalities. The Senator, however, has slipped away again from the channel he appeared ready to paddle. Like the rest of the candidates on the Republican side, he is no longer using the ammunition available.

These references to the necessity for the use of facts recalls how thoroughly the National Labor Relations board has been discredited by a special house committee which is investigating the funny looking activities of the board. Thus far, the investigation has had very little in the way of sensational statements except those from the record of the board, itself. Its own papers, its own writings, the exchanges between its own members and staff workers has served to show better than volumes of argument what ridiculous policies the narrow-minded officials and employees have inflicted upon an unsuspecting public. Why? These were facts.

Another illustration: the administration is determined to gain congressional approval for another three-year extension of its right to negotiate trade treaties. Now, there is no doubt that the trade treaties help in some places and hurt very much in others. But I sat in the house ways and means committee room one day listening to administration testimony in support of its request for the three-year extension. The witnesses, all government officials that day, had the facts. It is true that they used those facts to show what they wanted to demonstrate. They were careful that the sordid side of the story was not told. They failed also to break down the facts to individual application, but they pieced together a story that was understandable. It was effective and opposition was difficult because the opposition was not equipped with a complete record. On the story thus built up, it is likely the extension will be voted.

Speaking of Sports

Big Ten Sets Good Example In Athletic Aid

By ROBERT McSHANE
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

JUST how far can colleges and universities go in extending financial assistance to individual athletes?

That is unquestionably the most widely discussed problem in intercollegiate athletics today. The demand for winning teams—a demand emanating from alumni groups, student bodies and synthetic alumni—has resulted in many schools going far afield in their search for athletic talent—particularly gridiron luminaries. It is obvious that many schools have not relied solely upon the fame of their professors or the glory of their traditions to induce athletes to die for dear old Claptrap College. To these factors, in many cases, must be added a more tangible persuader—financial aid.

The length to which a school may go in subsidizing athletes usually depends, or should depend, on conference rulings. It is generally conceded that a majority of schools live up to the letter of their various conference laws, a very few obey the spirit of the laws, and that too many of them wilfully evade restrictions.

Regulations Defined

The Big Ten conference, one of the nation's greatest, operates under the basic principle that the athlete is entitled to every consideration which might be accorded a non-athlete by the university, but nothing further. Maj. John L. Griffith,



MAJ. JOHN L. GRIFFITH

commissioner of Big Ten athletics, in defining conference regulations, states:

"Big Ten regulations on the matter of financial aid to athletes are clear and definite. They state that athletics within the conference are to be conducted on a non-paid-player basis. All unearned financial aid, except from relatives or others in a similar position, is deemed not permissible unless it be in the form of scholarships, loans or tuition remissions administered by properly constituted university authorities."

Members of the conference submit to Griffith's office a complete record of all benefits accorded athletes out of university or athletic funds.

Few people can find fault with those restrictions. They are a logical solution to an onerous problem. Big Ten schools do not attempt to fill all available positions with football players. Nor do they refuse to offer a job to a prospective student because he is an athlete.

Unequal Restrictions

Many advocates of simon-pure athletics would swing the pendulum too far. They shout "subsidization" too quickly. No thinking person would ban an athlete from a school job merely because he is an athlete. His chances for financial assistance should be just as good—no better—than any other student.

Athletes as listed in the Big Ten reports include all varsity squad members and winners of freshmen numeral awards. The 5,169 men who are so listed represent 7.6 per cent of the total undergraduate male enrollment in the conference, which totals 67,823.

Scholarships are made available to 4,475 students in the Big Ten, and of that number 315 are held by athletes. The percentage of athletes holding scholarships corresponds almost identically to the proportion of the number of scholarships available to the total male enrollment.

What could be fairer?

Sportlight

By Grantland Rice

Present Ball Players Lack Stamina, According to Ty Cobb, Who Insists That the Old Timers Played Better Baseball.
(NANA-WNU Service.)

SAN FRANCISCO.—You can't run into Ty Cobb without thinking of baseball. When I run into Ty, the Georgia Ghost, I turn the pages back 36 years to 1904 around Atlanta and Royston, Ga., where I first ran across the phenomenal stripling who later on was to set his game on fire.

The thought then was, "If winter comes, can Cobb be far behind?" For Cobb was the bluebird haringer of spring. It was at that time that Cobb kept writing me letters, signing Smith, Jones, Brown and Robinson—all telling me what a great player young Tyrus Raymond Cobb was. I fell for the gag, not knowing that Cobb was writing them and mailing them to me from every tank town stop. Anyway, Ty helped to make me quite a prophet when I advised keeping an eye on him.

The Ty Cobb of 1940 lives just outside San Francisco, and his two favorite sports are hunting and golf. At the age of 54 his hair is thinner



TYRUS RAYMOND COBB

and part of the old streamlined body has packed on some weight—but not too much.

An Amazing Record

In my opinion, Ty Cobb ran up one of the great records of sports—something close to an all-time record—maybe the all-time top. For a period of 13 consecutive years he led the American league in batting exactly 12 times.

And all the hitters he had to beat out were Napoleon Lajoie, Shoeless Joe Jackson, Tris Speaker, Eddie Collins, Nig Clarke, Sam Crawford, Bobby Veach and a flock of others who were shooting from 350 to 400. One year Joe Jackson hit .410 and Cobb still beat him out, with a far deader ball than they have had for the last 12 or 15 years.

Here is a record—12 batting championships out of 13 consecutive major league play. That will never be approached again. Who was Cobb battling against? Nick Altrock, Addie Joss, Chief Bender, Colby Jack Coombs, Smokey Joe Wood, Doc White, Cy Young, Eddie Plank, Rube Waddell—most of the great pitchers of all time.

The Soft Spot

I asked Ty what he thought the difference was between the old-timers and the present crop.

"Stamina," Ty said. "I mean legs and arms. I've lived on my legs most of my life. As you may remember in 24 big league years I never spared my legs. I've played many a game with almost no skin on either thigh.

"I believed then and I believe now in toughening up your system—not sparing it. Between seasons I hunted all winter, eight or ten hours a day. That's what Bill Dickey has done—and you know where Bill Dickey stands in baseball.

"In my opinion, a real pitcher should be good for at least 45 ball games—maybe 50, if he is really needed. I mean men like Walsh, Cy Young, Alexander, Matty, Chesbro, Joe Wood—the top guys. They could take it—and they loved it. Not this modern crowd. At least, most of them. They haven't the stamina needed to go on when there is no one to take their place.

"I thought Dixie Dean was going to be a throwback to the old days until Dix hurt his arm. He always wanted to pitch. To be in that dugout there are not many left in that. They'd rather be resting up.



Grover Alexander

TREND

How the wind is blowing . . .

BONDS—At Chicago, Barcus, Kindred & Company surveyed the municipal bond field and found 1939 had brought a drop of \$364,454,000 (or 24 per cent) under 1929 in total bonds issued. Among reasons: (1) Pay-as-you-go financing; (2) diminishing birth rate, which requires fewer schools.

RATION—Britain announced that meat would be rationed effective March 11. Already rationed are butter, sugar, ham and bacon.

RISKS—Because Europe's war has steered clear of Pan-American waters, marine underwriters have lowered war risk insurance rates in that area.

WHEAT—Twice as many (320,000) farmers have taken out federal all-risk crop insurance on wheat for 1940, compared with last year.

SKIRTS—The U. S. census bureau figures short skirts have snipped one million sales off the cotton farmers' annual market.