

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXVI

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1940

No. 18

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS By Farnham F. Dudgeon

Powerful Attack by Nazi Army Pushes Allies Out of Belgium; U. S. Defense Board Is Selected

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

THE WAR: Flanders Flight

When King Leopold III ordered his 300,000 Belgian troops to lay down their arms in their battle against the military might of Adolf Hitler, worried French and British leaders saw that the forces they had rushed into Belgium following the German invasion were doomed. For on the fields of Flanders their armies were exposed to a great encircling movement by the Nazis and were in great danger of being cut off from the main body of the troops in central France.

Without waiting Adolf Hitler began to close the jaws of his gigantic trap of death. Attacking with great ferocity the German machine moved toward the retreating allies. Without loss of impetus military objective after objective was gained in a tremendous show of force.

In the sky, dive bombers swooped toward the earth, cutting off supply details, disrupting communications, destroying immense stores of war goods but failing to seriously daunt allied morale and courage.

Their lines in formation, the British and French retreated steadily toward the English channel. For they were outnumbered and the country they had come to protect from invasion had been ordered by its king to cease fighting. Their best chance



KING LEOPOLD III
His order started a retreat.

for escape was across the Strait of Dover to England or down the sea-coast to rejoin the main portion of their troops along the Somme and Aisne rivers in France.

While from Berlin came word of the great victory being won, from the first soldiers to reach English soil in their retreat across the channel, came reports that important losses were being effected upon the Germans as they advanced. But even these sources admitted that great stocks of war booty was falling into Nazi hands. Supplies of gasoline and munitions which any army needs were being obtained by the Germans.

Next

Next, with Belgium and much of the vital industrial portion of northern France safely tucked away, Adolf Hitler had a choice to make. He could launch his long-threatened air attack on the British isles or he could strike out for Paris.

Feeling against France has been running high in Berlin, judging from current reports. Usually it has been the British that have been the subject to press attack by the Nazi propaganda machine, but now France is getting its share of verbal abuse. Some observers thought these attacks were a feint intended to lull the British into believing they were to be left alone and then when the "hour" arrived it would be a sur-

NAMES

... in the news

Eleven months after he resigned as governor of Louisiana, Richard W. Leche, political heir of Huey P. Long, went on trial on charges of using the mails to defraud. The charge grew out of a truck deal which is alleged to have netted him and two others, a cool \$113,370.

Motion-picture actor Walker Connally, outstanding character actor, died at his Hollywood home.

prise blitzkrieg for Johnny Bull. But England has taken strong defense measures of late to be ready for the worst and she has promised a warm reception for any invader.

France's interior seemed a bit stronger too, for as the Germans moved against the trapped Flanders army in the north the line of defense across the nation's central axis was decidedly bolstered.

U. S. DEFENSE: Progress

President Roosevelt's fourteenth fireside chat began a series of events in the new national defense program that was marked by increasing attention to the details of getting Uncle Sam's house in order—"come what may."

Influenced chiefly by the progress of the German army in its drive toward Paris and London, Americans of both major political parties are getting behind the President's announced objective of building defenses of the Western hemisphere "to whatever heights the future may demand."

Pleading for unity in the drive for military security, the President in his nation-wide radio address warned against Trojan Horse treachery within the nation's borders. He pledged that the government would not expect private capital to provide all of the funds necessary.

Tax

This statement invoked discussion as to how the government intended to foot the necessarily large bill of any such program. A defense-tax movement has been gaining ground in congress. This is a complete about-face on the subject by the legislators. When the first proposals were made to increase armaments, most members of the senate and house passed over the matter of providing the money by remarking that the important thing to do was to provide the defenses and worry about paying for them later.

Now the sentiment is that a flat 10 per cent increase in individual and corporate income taxes might be the best way to meet the obligations to be incurred by the billion-dollar program now under full steam.

And as the rising war hysteria spread over the nation it seemed likely that this suggestion would not meet the disapproval such a tax increase would ordinarily encounter. Reading reports of the fierce power of German military might, U. S. citizens may prefer to dig down in their jeans for preparedness than feel home defenses were insecure.

Commission

A presidential commission of seven, appointed to muster the country's economic resources in connection with the preparedness drive, was announced in Washington. This commission represents a lay "general staff" which will work with government officials and agencies in lining up men, materials and plans for speeding up armament production.

The commission: Edward R. Stettinius Jr., U. S. Steel company chairman, who will supervise production of raw materials; William S. Knudsen, General Motors production wizard, who will direct his attention to manufacturing problems; Sidney Hillman, Amalgamated Clothing Workers union president, responsible for labor matters; Chester C. Davis, Federal Reserve board member and former AAA director, who will guide agriculture's course; Ralph Budd, president of the C. B. & Q. railroad, transportation; Leon Henderson, chairman of the Securities commission, will check on stabilization of wholesale prices; and Miss Harriet Elliott, University of North Carolina, who will guard the consumers interests.

Chester Davis

PEEK-OF-THE-WEEK



Here is Lauriston Taylor, physicist of the U. S. Bureau of Standards, directing the placing of the world's largest X-ray machine. Capable of generating rays to a power of 1,500,000 volts, it was assembled in the high voltage laboratory of the bureau in Washington, D. C. Its use will set a standard for other such machines in hospitals and cancer clinics throughout the country.

GOOD NEIGHBORS: To the South

Not such a "good neighbor" is what many Mexicans are thinking these days of Leon Trotsky, exiled Russian political leader, who has taken up a haven of refuge from his Soviet enemies in Mexico's interior. The recent attempt to assassinate Trotsky has caused at least a few Mexican officials to believe that no good can come from his remaining in their country and they are anxious for him to move on. Trotsky's home is constantly guarded but despite this "protection," Joseph Stalin's arch-rival is not especially loved or admired by some of his "neighbors."

A neighbor further south has been having a bit of trouble with a little uprising of its own. Reports from Panama indicate that the government nipped an alleged plot for a revolution which was scheduled to prevent that country's 1940 presidential election.

An indication that U. S. business was attempting to regain some of its foreign trade lost by the European conflict was evidenced by news that the Moore-McCormack lines were opening a new shipping service between North and South America on both the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard. In announcing the new shipping routes and ships to be used in the service the company's president, Albert V. Moore, said: "The surface of trade possibilities between the U. S. and South America has only been scratched." This was good news to business men for the commerce department's current trade report shows a \$27,000,000 decline in export trade for last month. Some real "scratching" will be necessary to build up this loss.

To the North

A career diplomat, Jay P. Moffat was nominated by President Roosevelt to replace James H. Cromwell as U. S. minister to Canada. Moffat, now chief of the western European division of the state department, is not expected to create the flurry that Cromwell did when, as a U. S. representative, he made his now-famous speech expressing a decided sympathy for the British-French cause in their struggle with Hitler.

SOCIAL SERVICE: Trouble, Trouble

There is no group of persons in the United States that is closer to the nation's vital problems of unemployment, relief, youth movements, etc., than the National Conference of Social Workers. Basic human needs are the social workers' stock-in-trade. Meeting in Grand Rapids, Mich., in national convention, that organization discussed, debated and "resolved" these problems in their relationship to the current domestic and international picture.

MISCELLANY:

Six army flyers were killed in the crash of a Douglas bomber near Mojave, Calif. The crash, which carried the two officers and four crew members to their deaths, occurred in a night trial flight over the army's desert bombing range.

Fifty thousand civilian pilots in the U. S. can be trained by the Civil Aeronautics authority, "without any loss of efficiency and safety," according to an announcement made by that governmental agency.

In Chicago, a 10-day milk strike, in which labor union drivers had refused to make home deliveries pending the outcome of a wage dispute, was ended in a truce.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

New Program for U. S. Defense Crowds Politics Into Background

Rising Tide of War Hysteria in Nation's Capital Endangers Advancement of Many New Deal Social Reforms.

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

WASHINGTON.—There is a new kind of political conflict developing in Washington. The extent to which it will go depends, obviously, upon developments in Europe's war. It is fair to say, nevertheless, that at this moment died-in-the-wool New Dealers are frightened within an inch of their lives from fear of what the war hysteria is going to do to their pet social program.

It should be said by way of explanation that President Roosevelt's defense program is likely to require the best industrial and military brains available. That means the President must turn to the captains of industry—so cordially hated by real New Dealers—for certain types of help and guidance for a preparedness program.

Through these last several weeks, observers here have witnessed New Deal reformers making strenuous efforts toward warding off any changes in their programs that would set back the schemes they have been fostering through the last seven years. Those New Dealers who have the President's ear have gone so far as to persuade him to issue a warning to congressional leaders that none of the New Deal reforms or social advances shall be abrogated by defense legislation.

In the meantime, however, most every observer also has witnessed a tendency on the part of those charged with official responsibility to take steps leading to more workable plans in hastening defense preparation. Indeed, right now there is an intensive study being made under guidance of the army and navy of such things as wage and hour regulations, and limitations upon private financing. Other things that amount to handicaps upon the nation's productive capacity also are being examined. The idea behind all of this is, of course, to learn whether the numerous so-called reforms will help or hinder speedy development and production of the war materials which must be available if Europe's war gets further out of bounds.

Minimum Wage Scales Are Being Investigated

As showing how the New Deal advocates are resisting any encroachment upon the reforms which they have fostered, it is necessary only to report, as an example, that the federal contracts board has been holding hearings on proposed minimum wage scales. The board is functioning under the Walsh-Healy act. This statute permits the department of labor to fix minimum wages paid in any industrial plant which is manufacturing under a government contract, if the materials which the government is buying cost more than \$10,000.

The board has been going right ahead with hearings on its recommendation that a minimum wage of 52 1/2 cents per hour be established in the entire electrical industry. It has done this notwithstanding the fact that anybody must realize how useless the procedure is if it becomes necessary for the President to use war-time powers and require emergency schedules of production to be maintained.

Moreover, it is doubtful that the information collected by the board will have any value in any event. This is true because war-time conditions abroad naturally are influencing our industrial conditions. The data being collected probably will be meaningless if the war continues another six months.

With respect to the question of limitations of hours which employees may work, the same story is true. In addition, it can be said, I believe, that congress will waste very little time in removing the restrictions on hours of labor if the emergency requires complete marshaling of American productive capacity.

Europe's War May End Many Theoretical Ideals

I could go on with other illustrations of the character mentioned here. These serve, however, to il-

lustrate the point I have been attempting to make. They illustrate also the possibility that a further expansion of Europe's war probably means the end for many of the theoretical ideals about which the New Dealers have been prating through these many months.

There is a bit of humor in the grim reality of the conditions facing this country today. I have written in these columns many times that the New Deal pay rollers were leading the drive to re-elect Mr. Roosevelt for a third term. That is the only manner in which they can be certain to hold on to their jobs. Now, however, we find Mr. Roosevelt's candidacy moved forward very definitely by the impetus of Europe's war, while at the same time we find the avid New Dealers being slowly pushed into the background while practical men are called in to direct and manage the defense program.

There is also to be noted, in connection with the excited conditions incident to war preparation here, that certain groups are exerting selfish pressure. It will be said, of course, that a democracy permits selfish interest to employ pressure. But the thing observers note around Washington these days is the very early activity of some groups which are striving, apparently, to make a profit out of the war. Mr. Roosevelt has publicly declared that extraordinary profit is not going to be permitted. His statement, however, does not assure prevention of the selfishness. It will take a great many thrusts and some punishment to accomplish the purpose.

Some conversation has already been heard to the effect that Mr. Roosevelt must place more confidence in private business leaders if his defense plans carry through. The President, as everyone recalls, has seemed to enjoy cracking the whip over business at frequent intervals during his entire seven years in the White House. The more conservative members of the administration recognize the cleavage between the President and general business, and



LOUIS JOHNSON
Not on speaking terms with his boss.

they are seeking to heal the wounds. But the New Deal reformers—the inner circle—will not listen to such advice. Many of them will frankly say that business is not to be trusted, and they are not going to allow business leaders to ride in the saddle of defense management.

Changes in Present Cabinet Are Being Called For

As the war situation in Europe unfolds, some of the saner minds in Washington are calling for changes in the President's cabinet. It seems quite obvious to that school of thought that a real secretary of the navy and a real secretary of war are badly needed.

It is well known that Secretary Woodring and Assistant Secretary Johnson of the war department are at odds. In fact, until a few months ago Mr. Woodring and Colonel Johnson were not on speaking terms. It is the general understanding that Colonel Johnson is doing a reasonably good job, but the condition within the department is such that no complete co-operation can be expected. Mr. Edison, who is running for the governorship of New Jersey, has been no howling success as secretary of the navy.

Speaking of Sports

Yankees Face Tall Hurdle in Pennant Race

By ROBERT McSHANE
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

THE most frequently asked question in sports today—"What's happened to the New York Yankees?"—is one of the hardest to answer. It's difficult to realize that the once-proud Yanks, quoted as 7-20 favorites by betting authorities when the season opened, now are not even money against the field.

Those 3 to 1 odds, the shortest price in all baseball history, are now a thing of the past. The big change came when the Yankees dropped to the American league's tail end position by losing eight games in a row.

No experts, self-styled or real, are saying, "I told you so." And for a good reason. Most of them were on the Yankee bandwagon—it was only natural. The few who picked other clubs to assume command at least placed the Yanks in a near-top position.

Now comes word that Manager Joe McCarthy has called on the American league, in the best interests of baseball and the circuit, to kill the new rule, which prevents the Yankees from making a trade. McCarthy explained that he plans on making his fight with the team which won last year, but that if last year's combination proves ineffective, it will be time to "do something drastic."

McCarthy refused to elaborate on his "drastic" measures, but it is held likely that if the club can't get back in 1939 form it will be shaken up and replacements brought in from the club farm system.

No Yankee Alibis

Admitting that he has never seen anything like the Yankee slump in baseball before, McCarthy offers no alibis. The Yanks had a cold spring on the way north—but so did the other clubs. Then, however, the world's championship team went into a slump.

Sad to say, a slump feeds on itself. It can begin with one man and spread to a greater part of the team. But it's not in the cards for men like Bill Dickey, Joe Gordon, and Charlie Keller to fall when the chips are down. Players like these usually snap out of it in a hurry—one or two good days and they're back in hitting form.

McCarthy doesn't expect to have to take any unusual steps. He won't be satisfied with a two or three-week winning streak. He wants the Yankees to climb on top and stay there. He knows they're a team that can do it. It's about the same club that ran away from both leagues last year, with superstar players in every department.

A Three-Way Jinx

Dickey, Gordon and Keller agree with McCarthy that their troubles were in trying too hard. They agree, too, that the slump will wear itself out and the Yanks will be on their way.

Through the middle of May, Dickey was hitting slightly more than .100. That was a mark to break the heart of one of baseball's deadliest crucial hitters. Joe Gordon wasn't doing much better, and the "second year flax" apparently had visited Charley Keller.

Keller finished the 1939 season with a batting average of .334 and blasted out three home runs in the World Series against Cincinnati, hitting at a .438 clip in the fall classic. This year he visited the sidelines, benched by McCarthy for weak hitting after chalking up a .231 mark in 21 games.

McCarthy can't understand why left-handed pitching should play a very important part in the Yank's slump. They beat southpaws 36 times last year and lost only 14 decisions to them. But while the Yanks were at their worst they dropped their tenth game to left-handed Al Smith of the Cleveland Indians, being on the short end of a 16 to 2 count.

A slump is hard to explain, whether it hits one man or the whole team. The Yanks don't intend to do any explaining. They're out to win ball games. Knowing they're a first-place ball club, they intend to climb into that position.



GENERAL JOHNSON SAYS:

"A BUNCH OF BUNK" Washington, D. C. One principal reason why I went to St. Louis, the metropolis of the great valley, was to check up as well as I could on certain statements so frequently repeated in the East recently.

One is that this great hinterland people so short a time ago opposed to our taking any part in the war in Europe have now changed their minds. Another is that the President's message on defense has so "electrified" and "united" them for his foreign policies that an election this fall would be a mistake—that it is no longer necessary.

They want a third term for Mr. Roosevelt as a measure of national preparedness.

Walter Lippmann, Miss Dorothy Thompson and radio commentator H. V. Kaltenborn seem to have fallen for this line, or at least have stressed various angles of the move to suppress our two-party system on a belief that what we need is unity.

That is also the White House janisariat and third term line. It is at the bottom of the President's dramatic but tricky presentation of the preparedness bill and of his coquetry to seduce a healthy opposition party by the so-called coalition cabinet idea.

Well, it is my observation among this valley people of my own beginnings that it is all a bunch of bunk.

This mid-western country no more approves the President's policy of sticking our necks out into the foreign embroglios of Europe and Asia than it ever did, and that was not at all.

It does approve the spending of whatever is necessary for American defense. It always did. It needed no "unification" on that either by the President's speech or "coalition cabinet."

It is shocked to learn at so late a date that this administration, while spending so many billions for boot-dogging and some useful works, has permitted us to remain so delinquent in defense that we have practically no armament against the dreadful weapons of modern war.

It is beginning to realize that it has not heretofore been told the truth about this defenselessness.

It is especially indignant to learn that as early as 1933 when Hitler started the "mechanization and motorization of army tactical units" which is now conquering civilization, and which then erased the unemployment problem in Germany, Mr. Roosevelt was authorized by congress to spend any part of \$3,300,000,000 that he chose for the same purpose—and spent it and many billions more for other and far less necessary purposes.

Mr. Roosevelt made an effective rearmament speech and got a lot of applause. But the facts are leaking out that he was making a virtue out of his own neglect and inaction in defense, that the appropriation he asked for was unplanned and inadequate.

That the speech and the subsequent coalition cabinet stuff was pure third-term politics and had little to do with increased industrial defense production—which is the essence of our problem.

INDUSTRIAL SENSE

At the end of a luncheon of B. M. Baruch with the President, Steve Early warned newshawks not to begin guessing that there would be a new war industries board. He added that the government is much better organized than it was in 1917.

I think Mr. Early is partly right. But the statement carries hints which, if intended, are altogether wrong. The war industries board was an over-all control of our entire economic system, including demand and supply, price and production, transportation and commerce.

We were organizing a "nation in arms" for total war by overseas attack. That required us to shoot the works—to make many times the effort we are called upon to make today for defensive preparation. It is true that we do not need to repeat precisely the war industries organization.

It is also true that governmental organization is "different" from that of 1917, but Steve is also reported to have said it is "better." If that means "better to get the maximum effort and production out of industry," it is nonsense.

To say this government is better organized to do this job of rapid industrial production for rearmament could be described as a colossal though tragic joke—if it were not so tragic.