

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXVI

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1940

No. 22

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS By Farnham F. Dudgeon

'Dark Horse' Willkie Named G.O.P. Presidential Candidate; McNary for Vice President

(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.



"All Gaul is divided into three parts," said Caesar, and now modern France, covering most of ancient Gaul, is again divided into three parts. The two most important segments will be occupied by the Axis powers, Germany and Italy. Germany received the black area in the above map according to armistice terms which ended the fighting. Italy now controls the dotted area on the map. The white area remains under French control.

POLITICS: G.O.P. 'Oomph'

From the opening session of the Republican national convention in Philadelphia, there was little doubt as to what presidential nominee aspirant was the "gallery's choice." For each time the name of Wendell Willkie was mentioned on the convention floor a sally of cheers swept down from the onlookers.

The New York lawyer and utilities executive in a decidedly brief (two months) period of time had risen from the political unknown to the pinnacle of popular G. O. P. favor.

Entering the convention balloting with a mere handful of pledged delegates, Willkie's dynamic salesmanship started its telling effect in the form of a definite trend toward him as the second roll call of states was called. On the first ballot he had 105 delegate votes cast in his favor and ranked third while Thomas E. Dewey held first place with 360 votes and Robert A. Taft of Ohio was second with 189.

On successive ballots Willkie then gained 65, 86, 47, 123, and finally on the sixth roll call he went over the top with a net gain of 204 votes, giving him a total of 633—501 being necessary for the nomination. Willkie having won, all state delegations then made the nomination unanimous.

Next day, on the first balloting for the vice presidential nominee, Senator Charles L. McNary of Oregon was elected as the party's overwhelming choice for Mr. Willkie's running mate.

Tagged as a "peace, preparedness and prosperity" platform, the G. O. P. 1940 statement of party policy straddled most important national issues but packed plenty of anti-New Deal and anti-Third term punch.

Unanimously approved, the platform contained a keep-out-of-war declaration; a plan of Republican-inspired national defense; a slap at President Roosevelt's "provocative" speeches; and a demand to limit presidential service to two terms.

Willkie's political rise stands out as one of the most dramatic in American history. Coupled with the fact that he started his campaign a short two months ago, is the fact that up until the last few years he has been a Democrat. Many political experts thought this would spell political doom in a Republican convention. But it didn't.

NAMES in the news

Secretary of State Cordell Hull announced that he had ordered Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, U. S. ambassador to Poland, to follow the exiled Polish government from its temporary capital at Bordeaux, France, to London, England.

Other experts were sure that his connection with the public utilities industry would carry a political curse that could end nowhere but in oblivion. But his winning personality added to the fact that among all the candidates he stood out as the one having the most political "oomph" appeared to be the determining factors in his favor.

In his campaign Willkie was quoted as saying that he sincerely hoped President Roosevelt would accept the Democratic nomination for a third term as he would be happy to campaign against him. This attitude seemed to please Republican party leaders, who realize that a vigorous, energetic personality like Wendell Willkie's will be needed in the coming political battle.

UNEASY WORLD:

Europe

As the Nazi war machine continued to push its military occupation of France's entire Atlantic sea coast and German bombers continued scattered raids over an uneasy England, the power of the Soviet Union was being felt in Rumania.

Word from Bucharest indicated that the Rumanian grand council, headed by King Carol had decided to agree to Russian demands for the cession of Bessarabia—long a disputed territory. Bessarabia belonged to Russia before the World war and the Soviet has for many years fumed about its control by Rumania. Up until a few months ago it seemed that Rumania would fight Russia rather than accede to demands for the province.

But of late King Carol has had an uneasy time attempting to keep his nation at peace with both Germany and Russia. With collapse of French forces it appeared that the small nation was not willing to force the hand of its powerful neighbor by refusing this demand. Late dispatches indicated that a portion of the province of Bucovina was included in the grab.

U. S. DEFENSE:

Activity Plus

In the Brooklyn navy yard, the new construction program which will add four huge capital ships to the U. S. fleet, got under way with the laying down of the keel of the 45,000-ton super-dreadnaught, the Iowa. Contrary to the usual practice very little ceremony surrounded the event and only officials were on hand to watch the beginning of what will be the largest battleship ever built for America's navy.

Less dramatic perhaps but vitally important was the announcement that the Reconstruction Finance Corporation had started bargaining to obtain reserve supplies of rubber and tin. Under a new bill signed by the President the corporation is authorized to finance purchases of strategic material so that "in any emergency" supplies will be on hand.

'Socks' That Count



It's better to drop bombs on an invader than to knit socks for young soldiers in the opinion of Mrs. Lorene Holloway, able Jackson Heights, N. Y., air pilot. If war strikes this country, she wants to join U. S. defense forces and organize young women fliers into a fighting corps.

AVIATION: Spreading Wings

Three new air routes mark current developments in America's ever-expanding aviation industry.

Hailed by Alaska's governor, Ernest Gruening, as a stride toward national defense, the 20-ton Alaska Clipper began regular pay-passenger service between Seattle and the territory. On the first flight the Clipper made a trip that usually takes four days by boat in slightly over five hours. Twenty passengers were aboard.

This initial flight called attention to Alaska's air defenses which are in the process of being strengthened by the U. S. navy. Two new flying bases at Sitka and Kodiak are under construction at the present time and the naval expansion program calls for further bolstering of Uncle Sam's air arm in the area.

Pan American Airways is starting transoceanic service over 8,000 miles of the South Pacific to New Zealand and a new flight schedule with daily plane service to Argentina is slated to get under way July 12. On the New Zealand route, four and a half day service will be provided between Los Angeles and Auckland, New Zealand.

INDUSTRY:

Change of Pace

Current reports of Federal Reserve banks plus other commercial indices reveal that a downward trend of industrial activity which has marked U. S. business since last December has now been reversed. Expanding production is noted in many key industries.

With much of such increasing activity centered directly or indirectly in war and defense materials, non-military industries are also registering important gains.

Steel production is now booming along at capacity speeds and new orders from foreign and domestic buyers which are currently pouring in should keep blast furnaces roaring for many months to come.

Automobile tire shipments have shown large increases and leading rubber companies say these more than offset a seasonal decline in sales to car manufacturers. Southern Pacific railroad is negotiating for the purchase of some 2,500 new freight cars.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS:

Business Report

Eighty-nine employees of the league of nations—the last 89 to be exact—were given notice to resign for business appeared to be at a standstill. Secretary General Joseph Avenol started closing up shop about May 16 when Germany launched its blitzkrieg against the low countries. It was then he gave 205 league officials and employees a chance to resign or have their contracts suspended upon any notice.

Two decades ago the league was created to aid in the settlement of international disputes, but business was dull until two years ago, when aggressors started to work in earnest and things began to hum in the great marble building that housed the delegations.

But this activity began to slow down as one by one, Austria, Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, Albania, Finland, Denmark, Norway, The Netherlands, Belgium and then France wilted under the pressure of more powerful nations.

Starting out as a noble bid for peace and world understanding, an idealistic institution is closing its books in a world where force holds the balance in the ledger.

Bruckart's Washington Digest

Universal Military Training Plan Will Encounter Stiff Opposition

Government Owned Monopoly to Control Trade in Surplus Products of North and South America Also Faces Serious Consideration by Congress and Public.

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

WASHINGTON.—It begins to appear that President Roosevelt again has put his head out as a target for political pot shots. Indeed, the reaction thus far to his proposals for universal military training for all youths in the United States and his plan to create a gigantic government owned monopoly to buy all surplus products in North and South America bid fair to develop as much, or more, heat than did Mr. Roosevelt's program for packing the Supreme court of the United States two years ago.

Tremendous opposition has sprung up to each of these plans, but the opposition comes from different quarters and for different reasons. As far as my survey has gone, of course, there are many duplications among opponents, but it must be said that the fundamental objection to each comes from a different base.

Reasons for the two proposals, as stated by those who are working with Mr. Roosevelt on the plans, are to be found wholly in the fear that Hitler's legions—armies and "fifth column" workers—will invade the Western hemisphere, sooner or later. Whether this fear is wholly genuine or partly political, I cannot say; yet that fear is being used to the utmost to force acceptance by congress and the general public of a two-part program to meet the expected invasion that is thus far just a mirage. The program, of course, comes from the wave of hysteria which has been allowed to develop, or has been openly promoted for political purposes.

There is thus far no clear cut program on universal service. Generally speaking, it provides for the training of youth of 18 for one year. It is not entirely a training on the drill field or in camp. It includes training in work "behind the front." That is to say, men must be trained in airplane factories, in handling planes on the air fields, in gun factories, powder factories, bridge building, transportation and general automotive work and a thousand other lines of service, each of which must contribute active and complete collaboration when the boys with the guns and bombs are out in front of the enemy.

Both Girls and Boys Might Be Included

That is the general thought. There are those in the administration, however, who would go much further. They would make universal military training embrace both boys and girls. They would train the girls of 18 or 19 years to fit into a great war auxiliary—equipped to make uniforms and medical supplies and produce and pack the proper foods and that sort of thing. And this group within the President's official family would have all of those boys and girls do this work and do it with almost no compensation, except their own food and clothes. In other words, if the extremes are attained in this direction, it would mean adoption practically of the methods employed by Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin in the training for military service.

Of course, the congress will never agree to such a thing as that. There would be a public revolt against any such program, but I relate these details because they actually are being discussed by men in key positions in the President's cabinet.

I doubt also that congress can be driven into adoption of any military service program of a compulsory character. There are dangers in a world so upset as ours is of this day. No one can dispute that. On the other hand, congress has voted some six or seven billion dollars to be spent for defense preparation, and unless that is wasted, as some 20-odd billions have been wasted in recent years, there ought to be some worthwhile defense structure result from use of that money. The present defense program, as it stands today, provides a regular army of 400,000 men—the largest peacetime army in our history. A navy of fighting ships which will be the largest fleet in all history will be constructed from these funds. Airplanes by the thousands are provided for in the general defense program.

From a political standpoint, the President has taken a long chance. That is more apparent as each day passes.

United States Is Not Looking For Any 'Military' Trouble

It is to be remembered, first, that the United States and its peoples are not a military nation, not a nation looking for trouble. In another phase, it is to be remembered that there are some 2,000,000 fellows who got their feet stuck in French mud and who fought off French cotes as well as German attacks. They are scattered throughout the United States. I know of few of those fellows who ever want to see any more of war. They are saying so with great freedom. They have convinced their friends and neighbors and the families. So, from a general philosophy of peace and the word-of-mouth expressions of experience, it strikes me that universal military service will not get very far now—unless the entire New Deal political machine can be used to run over the opposition as Hitler's armies overran France.

In another way, I think Mr. Roosevelt made a big political mistake by sponsoring universal military service for use when the nation is not at war. It builds up a Republican opposition and supplies that opposition with an added type of criticism to be used in the forthcoming presidential campaign. And from what I hear, the Republicans are going to use it!

Now, concerning the great monopoly for handling all surplus products of the Western hemisphere:

The idea behind this gigantic cartel—government-owned and directed—the dream that is proposed to be made into a reality—is that there is as much danger of German infiltration through business as through armed forces. Moreover, it is held that with Hitler and his gang dominating Europe, they will dictate trade. That is to say, Hitler's Nazis not only will determine who will sell to those peoples under his steel boot, but they will decide the terms at which the products will be sold.

Contention Holds That Hitler Will Influence All Trade

Further, it is contended that small, or even great, corporations in North and South America will find themselves so thoroughly browbeaten by the Hitler tactics that they will yield to whatever methods the Nazis desire to employ. All of which, they say, will mean that Nazi agents will be all over the place, speaking their pieces and promoting their propaganda.

So, comes then the plan for a giant corporation that would absorb all of the products of the Western world. This corporation, in the minds of the dreamers, would be so powerful that it could tell Hitler and his gang where to get off. The company on this side of the Atlantic could say to Hitler's representatives, in effect, we will trade with you, but you will not take advantage of us; we are too big. If you don't trade with us, you get nothing over here.

All of which sounds swell. It sounds like hard boiled stuff. But it will not work, and no really sane person believes it will work. In addition, it has all of the elements of danger that can be crowded into the meaning of the word "regimentation."

The first reason it will not work is because there is not the chance of a snowball in the nether regions that all of the South American nations will join. Unless it embraces everything, it will flop of its own weight. And if all of the South Americans do come, where is a guaranty that they will stay in? They have jumped the traces so many times that there is little faith to be placed in their agreements.

Another reason is that if such a corporation attempts to take all of the surplus, there must be control of production, complete and final control of production of food and fiber and materials of every known kind. If there is no such control, the corporation will find itself shortly owning an accumulation of several years' output, and more coming in because the world can and does produce more than it uses in a great many years.

Speaking of Sports

Tri-Cornered Fight Seen in Senior Circuit

By ROBERT McSHANE
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

THINK back, just for a minute, to the start of this year's major league baseball campaign and see if you can remember the teams you thought would be the chief contenders for first place in the National league standings.

Odds are 10 to 1 that you didn't consider the Giants a very serious threat. Early in April it looked like a two-club race—a bitter fight between the Reds and the Cardinals. The Reds were looking good in spite of last year's flasco and the Cards were expected to maintain the stride that almost carried them past the Reds to the pennant in the final stretch of 1939.

Now, after about 10 weeks of active campaigning, it's a three-cornered race—and it looks as though it might continue to be just that. But the Cardinals aren't in it and the Dodgers and Giants are making life miserable for the Cincinnati delegation.

Unpredictable Giants

According to pre-season dope, the Giants have no reason for their rapid turnaround. Thousands of amateur and professional crystal gazers are casting baleful glances at their present standing. And why not? The Giants sagged badly last year and were scheduled to look even worse this year. Only a few die-hards, probably relatives who hoped for a future touch, picked them to finish in the first division.

The Giants were a team of "ifs." If Carl Hubbell could come back the cause wasn't hopelessly lost. If Joe Moore and Mel Ott could charge in and really play baseball, why then things wouldn't be so bad. There were plenty of other "ifs" on which success would depend—uncertain spots that might crack when the pressure was on.

Look 'em over today. Hubbell, Moore and Ott came rushing back practically as good as ever. Hubbell won't win any pennants single-handed, but he's still the meal ticket, the fellow they can rely on when the chips are down. Ott has been doing better than all right since he started wearing glasses, and critics of Moore refuse to believe the evidence, which is all in his favor. Burgess Whitehead was another question mark last year. He had developed a bad case of the quick jitters. Now the unbelievers suspect that his present-day success is the result of strange herbs and a witch's cauldron.

Terry Knows His Players

Manager Bill Terry is far from the most popular figure in baseball, but he is a canny pilot—one of the smartest in the business today. He would be one of the least surprised if the Giants captured the pennant.

The Dodgers, a strong team with plenty of aggressiveness, became stronger with the recent acquisition of Joe Medwick and Curt Davis. Lippy Leo Durocher finally has the hitter he wanted—a hitter he can count on when runs are needed. From 1935 through 1937 Medwick hit .353, .351 and .374. He had a bad time the past three years in St. Louis, but is figured to become as solid as ever with Brooklyn.

With Davis to help out with pitching chores and Medwick to supply the badly needed daily punch, the Dodgers are loaded for big game. The deal whereby Brooklyn acquired those two men also may help nail the pennant to the Ebbets Field flagpole.

Residents of Brooklyn already see the pennant in the clutches of the Dodgers. And they won't stand for anything that might interfere with the reaching of that goal. Witness the near-riot when the Cardinals' Joe Bowman beamed Medwick recently. Even the police took part in that flasco. Civil war was averted, but narrowly.

Everybody's Happy

The passing of Medwick from St. Louis is not expected to have much effect upon the fortunes of the Cardinals. He was unhappy there, wanting to play with the Dodgers. Joe, one of the last of the Gas House Gang, didn't hold his popularity with teammates and with fans.



Washington, D. C.

GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:

'DANGEROUS GESTURE'
The selection of the Republicans, Mr. Knox and Mr. Stimson as secretaries of navy and war respectively, has a poisonous significance. They are both ardent tom-tom beaters for war.

Mr. Stimson has been raising his voice for us to repeat the follies of 1917 and 1918 in a steadily increasing clamor until his most recent blasts insisted on our conveying contraband of war to Britain and opening our naval bases to the British fleet—both irretrievable acts of war.

Mr. Knox has been preaching armed intervention for months. This choice leaves no doubt whatever about the President's own intentions. If he is not stopped he is going to take this country into bloody war as soon as possible whether it wants to go or not—and with about 85 per cent majority, it doesn't want to go.

Both men are leading citizens with honorable and distinguished records. Mr. Stimson was at one time secretary of war and at another, secretary of state. In neither position did he leave any record that would recommend him as a great cabinet minister. As secretary of state he was ready to use force to oppose Japan in Manchukuo, a course which, however high-minded, would have been fatal to the American strategic position in the Far East.

Both these gentlemen have served as volunteer temporary army officers in time of war—Mr. Knox in two wars. There can be nothing but praise for that patriotic and high-minded performance. But a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. Such temporary service in relatively subordinate commands sometimes—fortunately not frequently—leaves the "veteran" with the conviction that Providence really intended him as a latter-day Napoleon—or at least a master of strategy, logistics and tactics.

That is true in both these cases. In both, this conviction has persuaded these gents that we should commence firing tomorrow—before we get guns to fire. That strategic folly is another danger of this blitzkrieg move.

Surely the President doesn't feel the need of any such expert amateur military and naval advice. He shares a similar conviction about his own powers in these fields. It was obviously not with any idea to improve technical preparedness that this move was made. It will have a reverse effect. It is too clearly a pure political gesture in an election year—the "coalition-cabinet" sickness that the White House has denied intending. It is a dangerous gesture because it is designed to destroy the third term tradition and erect a war dictatorship by impairing our two-party system, which is of the very essence of American democracy—and that is menacing and sinister in the extreme.

Mr. Stimson won't do the war department any good. It will take months to educate him in the completely changed condition since he left—and his is the sort of inflexible mind which does not filter fast.

This is a cruel blow to the fine work that has been done—especially recently—by Louis Johnson in the office of assistant secretary of war.

Under a statutory mandate Mr. Johnson's organization has done much of the preparatory work necessary to rapid supply and industrial mobilization. In its recent historical floundering to make up for its criminal neglect of preparedness, this administration has simply ignored the valuable product of work and planning—by-passed it and paroled it. Now it has taken the tucker out of Mr. Johnson's dynamic leadership and energy by kicking him aside and giving him a new boss whom it will take weeks to educate.

DEFENSE BOOM

We haven't even scratched the surface of consideration of defense of our cities from sudden air raids. That requires tens of thousands of guns with some kind of semi-military home guard and expert crews—and we haven't even begun to think about it or to provide one-tenth of one per cent of the material the whole program will require.

Shall we, like England, daily along with a bunch of Chamberlains until it is too late for any Churchill to do his stuff?

Our effort to build our defenses, if vigorously and intelligently handled, should create much employment and even some kind of an industrial boom.