

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXVI

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1940

No. 39

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

National Lottery for Peacetime Draft Holds Spotlight of Defense Program; Germany Changes Tactics in Air War; Tension in Far East Affairs Grows

(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.)

Joys of Childhood?



U. S. army guns, tanks and toy soldiers in miniature are the favorite of the current season's new crop of toys as far as Nick Tassalo, 6, is concerned. Nick is shown at the preview of the toy manufacturers' display in New York. A large percentage of the new toys for the coming Christmas season reflect the national defense program preparations.

POWER:

On the St. Lawrence

An agreement between the United States and Canada looking toward development of a hydroelectric system along the St. Lawrence river has been advocated by four Presidents but never achieved. The war need for greater power has brought about a start.

With the consent of the United States, Canada will take more water from the Niagara river to generate power for its defense industries. So as to maintain the level of the Great Lakes, waterways now flowing into the Albany river and Hudson bay will be diverted southward to the lakes.

The announcement immediately awoke echoes of the two-decade fight for a Great Lakes-to-the-Sea waterway. Existing navigation above Montreal is limited to 14 feet. Locks are sought to provide a 32-foot draft.

Farmers of the West favor the plan. It would permit ocean liners to dock at Great Lakes ports and load wheat. Advocates of public power look upon the proposal as providing cheap electricity.

Opposition comes chiefly from ports in the Gulf of Mexico and along the Atlantic, as well as trans-shippers of grain. On the Canadian side the same is true.

President Roosevelt has allotted \$1,000,000 of special defense funds for a survey.

SABOTAGE:

Mr. Dies Agrees

A wave of fires and explosions in U. S. defense industries "like the recent Hercules powder blast in New Jersey," is predicted by Representative Dies (D., Texas), chairman of the house committee investigating un-American activities. He called attention to the fact that a former member of the German American Bund told his committee several weeks before the New Jersey disaster that it could be expected.

Dies said there are more than 250,000 alien agents in the United States and more than 5,000 in defense industrial plants in the Detroit area alone.

Meanwhile members of the same committee declared they have proof that Friedrich Draeger, German consul in New York, has for six years been the actual head of the National Socialist party in the United States. They said the German diplomat has been "under observation for a long time" and is head of a vast ring of espionage, sabotage and propaganda.

It was revealed that Draeger's connections were linked up when a raid was made on the German Tourist Information Bureau and Trans-ocean Press, both in New York.

Far East Bloc

In Manila, Capt. Rulo Romero, a native Filipino, graduate of West Point and officer of the Fourteenth Engineers at Fort McKinley, was formally arrested and charged with plotting to sell confidential military papers to an unnamed foreign power. He was taken into custody in the basement of his home while allegedly photographing documents showing defense fortifications at the entrance to Manila bay. Two civilian accomplices were arrested. His American-born wife was sought.

Meanwhile a Japanese, who feigned insanity, was seized on the U. S. aircraft carrier Langley, at Olangapo. He was found when still in a wet bathing costume and apparently had swum from shore to the ship.

Washington Digest

Congress Establishes Vocational Schools to Train Farm Youth

Rural Schools to Offer Instruction in Mechanical Trades; Rumors Predict Roosevelt, Willkie Will Name Loser to Head Defense Board.

By BAUKHAGE

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)
WASHINGTON.—Remember that old song: "How you going to keep 'em down on the farm, after they've seen Paree'?"

Well, you're not going to be able to keep some of them down on the farm who haven't seen Paree. This time it isn't the bright lights that are calling, it's the pay envelope. Not the lure of the ladies but the lathes and riveters and stamping machines in the factories that are calling.

At least, that is what the experts here in Washington who claim they can see through a haystack without blinders prognosticate.

And Uncle Sam is helping. Most people didn't notice it but congress slipped \$10,000,000 into the last deficiency bill, most of which is going toward helping the farm boy get a job in the city. The money is to be appropriated as part of the industrial defense program for "out-of-school rural and non-rural vocational schools" but the fact is that states will share in the fund according to their farm population.

At present more than 2,500 rural vocational schools are offering instruction in vocational agriculture. These schools, if they get additional money for equipment and teaching, can provide training in auto-mechanics and other skills basic to defense industries.

City Employers Prefer

Men Raised on Farm

And this isn't just a defense measure, either. We know that scarcely any city produces enough babies to keep its population even. We know that while some farm districts are overpopulated now and have been since the depression, a lot of farmers' sons will always go to the city if they can find work there. Right now defense industries need help and they prefer a man with a card that shows he has had vocational training. This doesn't mean that agricultural vocational training will be cut down but the \$10,000,000 while it won't go very far, will help a lot to give the farm boy the mechanical training the city boys have been getting.

But there is another reason why more farm boys are going to get city jobs. They are preferred in a lot of industries anyhow. A farm boy makes a good factory worker, the experts tell us, if he comes from a farm where machinery has been used, because he's just that much more experienced than the city boy. Especially the tractor wheat farms of the Northwest, the corn-belt, the Mississippi South. He knows a cam from a gear, he knows what makes the wheels go round. He can transfer this "feel" he has for farm machinery to a lathe or any other simple machine.

Another thing, he's better disciplined than the city boy. On the farm Pa is the foreman. The boy is used to taking orders. Also he's used to working hard. And when he goes to the city he's likely to be steadier and more reliable than the city worker.

Defense Commission

Post in Doubt

There is an interesting rumor chasing itself around the lamp-posts on Pennsylvania avenue these days. It's one of those wish-fathered thoughts but it's worth repeating over anybody's back fence. This is the way it goes:

"If Roosevelt is elected he's going to make Wendell Willkie chairman of the defense commission. If Willkie is elected he's going to name Franklin Delano Roosevelt for the job."

Such a consummation might do more to unify the defense program than any other single thing.

At present there isn't any chairman of the commission. When Mr. Knudsen, head of the production unit of the group, has a problem that involves national policy he has to put on his hat and walk over to the White House, or else call National 1414 and ask to speak to one Franklin Delano Roosevelt, for he's the boss.

The same thing applies to the heads of the other units. As a matter of record there has been no public criticism on the part of the defense commissioners about the arrangement but some people feel that it would be a wonderful thing as far as public opinion goes, if the next President, whoever he may be after next January, picks his erstwhile

political opponent as head of our gigantic effort to ring America with an impenetrable wall of wings and ships and men.

U. S. May Lack

President in January

As a matter of fact when inauguration day rolls around there actuality may not be any President to inaugurate.

At least that's what some of the prophets of gloom on Capitol Hill are predicting will happen if the November election should be very close.

This is what the worrying ones say:

"When the Lame Duck amendment to the Constitution was written and inauguration day and the convening of the new congress were moved back from March to January, Senator Norris and everybody else thought our troubles were over. We all agreed it was wonderful to get rid of the painful sight of lame ducks limping around the political barnyard. It was a waste of time, often with a defeated President still in the White House, always with some defeated congressman who really didn't represent anybody, sitting in the Capitol until the March following the November elections.

"That's all very well under ordinary circumstances, that is when we don't have a close election. But suppose we do have a real close election this year. Congress meets on January 3. The brand new congress. It has to organize, elect a speaker and be ready for the joint session with the senate three days later because that's when the electoral vote is counted. And until the vote is counted and approved by the whole of congress the results of the election are not official.

"Usually this ceremony is just an empty form—unlocking the specially made box, taking out the beautifully engrossed certificates from each state signed by the proper officials and reading off the score that everybody has known since election day. But suppose the vote is close and there are charges of fraud and the side which makes the charges has enough votes in the house to demand a recount?"

Close Election Would

Necessitate Recount

"The law says that if the electors can't decide on the President that the Vice President with the most votes has to take over the presidency in the interim. But it would be quite likely that if one candidate's vote was questioned his running mate's would be, too. So who would be President then?"

This is the problem as some of the legislators see it. They point out that if fraud were approved in a single precinct in a single state, it might change the electoral vote of that state and so the outcome of the election. Meanwhile, an investigation might drag out and postpone the approval of the electoral vote indefinitely.

Of course this isn't likely to happen but at least it provides something for congress and the country to worry about and take their minds off the war. And it could happen.

In the famous case of President Hayes the vote was protested and it took a nine-man commission to settle it. Congress selected three members of the Supreme court, three senators and three representatives to do it. Their task was considerably expedited, however, since they had a pro-Hayes majority and simply threw out all the electoral votes challenged by the other side. The supporters of Tilden, the defeated candidate, were never convinced that he wasn't cheated out of the presidency.

Such a thing could hardly happen again but it is true that fraud charges are predicted this year and nobody but a spendthrift or a violently loyal partisan is anxious to risk his money betting on the number of seats that will be won or lost in the house in November.

What we forget is that the American people usually go in for land-slides and the close election is the exception. That's probably why we don't take close races into consideration and perhaps it's why Senator Norris and his friends who drew up the Lame Duck amendment didn't allow a little more time between the meeting of the new congress and the counting of the electoral vote and inauguration day, "just in case."

SPEAKING OF SPORTS

By ROBERT McSHANE

Released by Western Newspaper Union

Heavyweight Hopefuls

ARTURO GODOY, the South American glamour boy, is gunning for a third bout with Heavyweight Champion Joe Louis.

Just why Godoy should be re-matched with the champ is a matter which cannot be explained to anyone's satisfaction. The demand for this bout is just about as great as the demand that Hitler and Mussolini visit New York's east side.

Fortunately, at this writing, the bout is still in the conversational stage. And the conversation is practically all Godoy's. Uncle Mike Jacobs will think a long time before he promotes a bout with as little in its favor as this setup.

Sadly enough, Godoy epitomizes the field of defeated fighters now monopolizing heavyweight circles. That field includes Max Baer, Lou Nova, Lee Savold, Pat Comiskey and Bob Pastor, Tony Galento evidently has decided—and very wisely—that enough is enough.

The Roll Call

It is quite evident that the contenders do not fit into the championship class. Max Baer, when the right occasion arises, is one of the most dangerous of present-day fighters. But that right occasion will never come for him in the same ring with Joe Louis. Nova took a horrible lacing at the hands of Galento. It won't be easy for him to climb back even as far as his former rating. Dopesters wouldn't give Savold much of a chance on the basis of his past victories. Pat Comiskey's stock didn't climb when Baer whipped him in their recent encounter. Comiskey, nevertheless, is young enough to snap back after sufficient seasoning in the big time. Pastor, sole remaining white hope in the list of aspirants, lacks the punch to reach the top. And his drawing power seems limited to his relatives and a few close friends.

The solution? There just doesn't seem to be any. Time will have to take its toll and some day a now unheard of youngster will arise and overpower Ol' Pappy Louis.

Financial Success

DESPITE the American league's failure to produce the world's championship baseball team for 1940, the junior circuit has ample cause for rejoicing.

The official books disclose that an all-time American league attendance record was set in the season just closed.

Will Harridge, president of the league, reported recently that the home attendance of the eight clubs was 5,433,791. This shattered by 178,332 the 16-year-old record, 5,255,459. The 1940 total exceeded last year's figures by an amazing 1,163,189.

The season got off to a poor start due to unfavorable weather conditions. However, the lost ground was more than recovered when the Yankees failed to assume an early and definite control of the pennant situation. The open race that resulted for the championship attracted fans who weren't interested in last year's one-team marathon.

Night Game Leader

The Chicago White Sox paid attendance was 669,336—which fact caused a wide smile to crease the face of Manager Jimmy Dykes and brought untold happiness to the members of the Comiskey family, whose finances are involved to a very large extent. In round numbers the 1939 attendance was 592,906.

The seven night games played by the White Sox attracted 214,760 paying patrons, or almost a third as much as the 70 daylight contests. The average for the night contests was 30,680, highest in the league. Cleveland averaged 30,150 for its after dark games.

The league's 35 night games attracted a total of 634,228 customers, for an average of 18,121. The St. Louis Browns, who played 14 of their games under the lights, averaged 3,364. The Browns, incidentally, more than doubled their 1939 attendance. Bad news came to the St. Louis club, however, when Harridge intimated that they would be limited next year to seven night games, maximum number permitted under existing league rules.

Detroit led the list with a total attendance of 1,112,663. New York was second with 983,975. St. Louis ranked last with 239,391.



Washington, D. C.

WAR PROPAGANDA

Never in our history has there been such open propaganda for offensive action that would make unavoidable our prompt involvement in war on the other side of the world—war indeed over a range at least as wide as the vast stretch from the Straits of Malacca to the Straits of Dover. It might be wider.

If we enter this war on the side of England, whatever we call ourselves we shall be her ally. We must fight wherever defeat threatens, or victory beckons.

It now seems quite probable that the direction of the war has turned from westward to southward. New Theaters threaten in the Mediterranean, the Balkans, perhaps Persia, the Persian gulf and even into India.

That is the British domain on which "the sun never sets." Propagandists now openly say that to preserve democracy on earth we must preserve the British empire. Perhaps the millions of conquered and exploited black people in Africa and brown people in Asia and Malaysia are their idea of democracy; but to try to push this great, powerful and peaceful nation into wars to protect such foreign possessions is hysteria that has broken all bonds of reason.

These war-minded men advance measures which could take us into such remote and sterile fields as "defense of America." They say that the Atlantic and Pacific oceans are no longer barriers of defense, but avenues of attack. Since Hitler can't cross twenty-odd miles of the British channel to get at Britain with a land army, it is a safe bet that he doesn't turn up his nose at the Atlantic ocean, even if these potential architects of their country's disaster do so every day in their war dancing madness.

If we push our belated defense preparations on land and seas as rapidly as possible, the chance of our involvement in bloody war, no matter what may come, is too remote to consider.

The catastrophe of our involvement in war would not be merely the bloody loss and danger to life and limb. It would immediately adjourn our free democracy for a war dictatorship. It would permanently adjourn our free economic system of private ownership and liberty of enterprise by so burdening it with additional debt and taxes that the government would control all private property and absorb all private income in the United States.

ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAY

The senate has twice refused to ratify the St. Lawrence waterway. It never was and never will be a waterway project. It is a power project. It was called a shipway to fool the Middle West. Actually a 10,000 cubic foot diversion into the Mississippi from Lake Michigan which was bargained for with Canada in the boundary waters treaty for the Chicago Drainage canal has already been largely surrendered. That greatly helped low water navigation in the Mississippi. Its surrender hurt every Mississippi valley state far more than the St. Lawrence canal can ever help them.

The plea was "Great Lakes navigation." The facts were that inexpensive works in the lake outlets could have raised their levels 10 times the amount that diversion lowered them. The motive was not navigation but power—and, in that particular case, private power at Niagara Falls.

SHADES OF TEXAS GUINAN

"Hello, suckers!" So Texas Guinan used to greet her guests in her high-class honky-tonk, where she sold them champagne which they knew to be faked from apple cider, at prices which they knew to be multiplied. She fleeced them outrageously in many other obvious ways from the moment they gave their wraps to the hat girl to the instant of their departure.

She was rolling them, but made no effort to conceal that process of her methods of doing it.

Texas Guinan was tops in inventing and putting over attractive fakes. She gloried in being able to do that even while laughing openly at the weakness of their deception and the incredible gullibility of the suckers who swallowed them, paid through the nose for them, and clamored for more.



Interest in the current draft program has led the government to place on display in the Washington office of the Selective Service board this first World War draft register. The register shows that the draft lottery began 9:16 a. m., Friday, July 20, 1917, and ended 16 hours and 46 minutes later, with the drawing of the 10,500th capsule. The same method is being used to determine the order in which men shall be called for the 1940 peacetime conscription program.

DEFENSE:

Numbers Called

To War Secretary Henry L. Stimson went the honor of selecting the first number in the national selective service lottery. President Roosevelt was to pick the first capsule out of the goldfish bowl that was used in the 1917 draft lottery, but graciously yielded to Stimson. The late Newton D. Baker, secretary of war under President Wilson, selected the first number in 1917.

Contracts

The industrial program of national defense entered its second phase. First was drafting and awarding of contracts. Billions of dollars worth of goods, from battleships to paper clips, were contracted for.

The job now is one of procurement, actual manufacture on the speed-up scale demanded by the Defense Commission in order to achieve the two-ocean navy and equip an army that will number close to 1,500,000 within a few months.

Chief bottleneck is machine tools, the machinery and gear necessary in the process of turning automobile shops into tank factories, and the mass production of warplanes and munitions. William S. Knudsen, head of the production division of the commission, said tool makers are swamped with orders, sold out a year in advance. President Roosevelt issued an order permitting seizure of tool machines being made for foreign countries, wherever the material is necessary in American defense.

Outside tools, however, the vast industrial capacity of the United States seemed to be taking both defense and expanding civilian orders in its stride toward record production figures. The climb in manufacturing indices since last spring still has left a margin of surplus in manpower, raw materials and money.

But despite the rise of various business statistics to new peaks since 1929, Wall Street security markets remained inert.

WAR AT NIGHT:

Tactics Change

England was emerging from almost three months of continual bombing with greater confidence in its ability to withstand whatever the Luftwaffe can deliver. As the stormy weather wore on and German planes were not halted by fog and freezing weather, British air leaders increased the fury of their own raids over France, Germany and Italy. Prime Minister Winston Churchill made bold to predict that by spring, 1941, with the help of American production, England will seize supremacy of the air.

The German air attack on London was reduced in one respect. Daylight raids were fewer and less violent. In the beginning Air Marshal Goering sent large formations in daylight raids. During this period the British scored heavily. Then the tactics shifted to single planes at varying heights. The German losses were reduced, but still remained high.

Now raids are confined largely to night. Bombers drop their packages from the stratosphere and scoot for home. The result is that the

Germans no longer can pick their targets, but bomb indiscriminately. However, the height of the German planes is too great for British anti-aircraft guns while defense planes are unable to climb into battle fast enough. German losses have dwindled. The English people have been told a new, fast-climbing plane soon will take the air in quantities.

Otherwise on the war front: France denied rumors in diplomatic circles that it would declare war on Britain in order to get better peace terms from Germany. The terms were said to give Alsace-Lorraine to Germany, Nice and Tunis to Italy, and provide for control of all other French colonies by a three-nation board. Vice Premier Laval conferred with Adolf Hitler and was said to favor the plan.

London revealed after several denials, that Adolf Hitler twice has tried to start his promised invasion of Britain. The British said that on September 16, German troops were loaded in barges along the French ports, but R.A.F. bombers attacked the boats so heavily the attempt was frustrated.

ROADS OF DESTINY:

Burma Road

For three years China has absorbed and dispersed the heaviest shocks that a superior Japanese army hurled against it. While European nations who considered themselves a nobler race have been subjugated, China has produced nothing to equal the treachery of the Fifth Column, costly errors of command, or the crimes and stupidity of European diplomacy.

For more than a year its sole avenue of supply from the outside world has been via Rangoon by ship, then by narrow gauge railroad across Burma to Lashio, thence over hundreds of miles of tortuous road through wild, malaria-infected countryside to Kunming, in China, where railroads again are available.

For three months Britain kept the road closed, as an act of appeasement to Japan. When Japan signed the alliance with Germany and Italy the road was reopened. But during those three months Japan seized control of near-by Indo-China from France and based airplanes within bombing distance of the Burma Road. Nightly the crude bridges are being blown to bits and rebuilt by thousands of coolies working in disregard of their lives.

Blue Danube

Famed in song and romance, the beautiful blue Danube has become a highway of conflict in Hitler's march to the east.

Germany was supposed to have agreed with Russia to limit its penetration of the Balkans to commercial ties. When Nazi legions were sent into Rumania to "instruct" King Michael's army, Russia apparently looked at the proceedings with sour face.

Heavy echelons of Soviet troops were sent along the Danube to create a military area. German troops lined the other bank. German submarines, knocked down and shipped by rail to Rumania, were floated down the Danube to its mouth in the Black sea. There a German naval base quickly grew up. The base is a definite threat to the main Russian fleet in those waters.