

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

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## WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

### Hitler Seeks Way to End Misadventure Of Mussolini Against Battling Greeks; Farm Group Asks New 'Parity' Loans; Lord Lothian, British Envoy to U. S., Dies

(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.)



CANAL ZONE.—A picture by the Signal Corps, U. S. A., showing Secretary of Navy Frank Knox (left) as he inspected the army's coastal defenses, "Somewhere in Panama." Shown left to right are: Secretary Knox; Maj. Gen. Jarman, commanding the Panama coast artillery brigade; Lieut. Gen. Van Voorhis, commanding the army's Canal forces; Captain Hickey, 15th naval district chief of staff; and Lieut. Col. Carl Rohsenberger.

## PEACE TALK: On Many Fronts

While cannon roared and ships were torpedoed into the deep, talk of peace broke out in Europe. But there was no peace. The fury on land, sea and in the air did not abate, nor did there seem much chance that the peace moves would be successful.

In England a motion was made in commons by Independent Laborites from Glasgow that the government seek a negotiated peace. The government's reply was made by Maj. Clement Atlee, Labor leader, who said the choice was not war or peace but "war and what kind of peace." The motion was defeated 341 to 4. The following day in a Northampton election a candidate who campaigned on a "stop the war" platform was defeated 1,167 to 16,587.

In Germany there were indications that Adolf Hitler was seeking a formula to bring an end to the Italian misadventure against Greece. The effort was handled by Franz von Papen in Turkey who sought to have that nation intervene with Greece.

This was important since any German move to help Mussolini would require movement of Nazi troops through Bulgaria or Yugoslavia and risk involvement with Turkey. But Greece was in no mood for a cessation of hostilities.

In Portugal there were rumors of underground movements seeking peace. Many looked upon this as the most logical step of all, since Hitler would rather trust dictator-controlled Portugal than either the pope or President Roosevelt. Also Portugal has for 400 years been allied to England.

## War Goes On

In Italy, Premier Mussolini was continuing reorganization of his combat forces. Added to the retirement list was Marshal Pietro Badoglio, hero of Ethiopia and commander of all armed forces; Gen. Ettore Bastico, governor of the strategic Dodecanese islands; and Admiral Cavagnari, chief of the naval staff who had served Italy in five wars.

The "invasion of Greece" begun a month earlier was turning into a debacle. Italian forces had lost all supply bases and airfields in southern Albania. Many of the bases had been built and equipped since Italy took over Albania and all were aimed at carrying on the march toward the Aegean. How far into central Albania the Italians would be forced to retreat before finding a new defense line was uncertain.

In Egypt the British opened another blitz against the Italians. For weeks the army of Marshal Graziani sat at Sidi Barrani, 75 miles within the Egyptian border. Then the British struck. In the first three days they took 4,000 prisoners, killed the commanding officer of the post and captured his assistant.

All this was aimed at pressing a concerted drive to crack Italy and put a wedge into the Axis alliance. Within Italy there were reports of anti-Fascist riots and murmurs of discontent.

## LOSS:

### One Ambassador

"It's like a plank had dropped out of things," was one official reaction in London to the news that Lord Lothian, British ambassador to the United States, had died in Washington, D. C. Victim of a uremic infection, Lord Lothian was ill but a few days and died at the age of 58 years. Night before his death he had been forced by his illness to cancel an appearance before the American Farm Bureau federation meeting in Baltimore.

However, in a speech written by him and delivered by Neville Butler, counselor of the British embassy, Lothian made a strong appeal for more aid by the United States for the British war cause.

Announcement of his death followed only by a few hours the news of the speech.

Popular in Washington circles, Lothian was respected by his superiors and his countrymen at home. Official British sources said quite frankly that his influence in Washington would be sorely missed in these critical days. Lord Lothian came to the United States as ambassador in 1939.

## FARM PROGRAM: Loan Advocated

The American Farm Bureau federation, meeting in Baltimore, advocated a program, which through the use of government loans, would peg prices of major crops considerably above current market quotations.

The federation, which has been pro-New Deal, admitted the plan would require congressional revision of the present agricultural legislation. The present law permits loans up to 75 per cent of parity rates. The proposed legislation would make loans to farmers at rates equivalent to 85 per cent.

Edward A. O'Neal, federation president, said parity prices based on current conditions were about \$1.12 a bushel for wheat, 15.75 a pound for cotton and 81.5 cents a bushel for corn.

Coupled with the high loan feature would be a system of marketing quotas and heavy penalties for farmers who sold in excess of their allotments.

## EPIDEMIC:

### But Not Serious

Developing in California and sweeping eastward with reduced strength, an epidemic of influenza sent thousands of people to sick beds but at no time became serious in the eyes of medical authorities. Greatest cause of rejoicing among them however, was the fact that the type of influenza was not the deadly one that covered the nation in 1918-1919. The present type contained none of the forms of pneumonia present in the World War epidemic.

However hundreds of men in army cantonments were placed in hospitals and precautions were set up among the civilian population. Doctors mostly ordered rest and sleep.

Right at the moment, there is no sure way of controlling influenza, according to the public health service. Medical science is better than in 1918, however, in at least one case—the virus which causes the malady has been isolated.

## School Days



LONDON, ENGLAND.—A Harrow schoolboy laughingly holding parts of a German incendiary bomb which had fallen on the famous English school during a recent air raid. Slight damage was done to the school's museum, which houses many British relics.

## LIFE JOBS:

### At the Top

Resignations of Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes and Associate Justice James McReynolds from the Supreme court are expected shortly after the inauguration. It has been gossip in the capital for weeks that Hughes offered his resignation, but was prevailed upon by the President to withhold it until after the campaign.

The appointments, which are for life, are greatly sought after by lawyers who regard it as the highest honor that can come to their professions. Many have been mentioned for the two places, but there is some indication the chief justice place may be filled from members now sitting, either Mr. Justice Stone or Mr. Justice Douglas. If such would happen, the President could make three appointments instead of two. For the other places there has been mention of Senator Minton of Indiana, who was defeated in the recent campaign; Leon Henderson of the SEC, and Attorney General Jackson. Appointment of Jackson might raise to cabinet status Francis Biddle, now solicitor general.

## NAMES

### ... in the news

**Prisoner**—Mrs. Elizabeth Deegan, clerk in the U. S. embassy, was taken into custody by German secret police in Paris. The granddaughter of the former senator from North Carolina was accused of assisting British officers escape occupied territory.

**Citizen**—In 1938 Ruth Bryan Owen, daughter of the "Great Commoner" and minister to Denmark, married Capt. Boerge Rohde, gentleman-in-waiting to Denmark's King Christian X. Now in Lewisburg, W. Va., the former commander of the king's life guards has taken the oath of allegiance to the United States. He said he adopted citizenship because no other country in the world guarantees such freedom.

**Romance**—Diego Rivera, Mexican muralist, was married. Cupid shot him in a duel with Freda Kohls, who, incidentally, was the artist's third wife, from whom he was divorced in 1939.

## TRAVELERS:

### Sea and Air

President Roosevelt studied the Caribbean defense situation first hand, on the ground. On the U. S. S. Tuscaloosa he visited French-owned Martinique, British-owned Antigua, in the Leeward islands, as well as American territory.

The duke and duchess of Windsor reversed that schedule, coming from the Caribbean Bahamas, where the former king is governor, to Miami, Fla. The voyage was entirely informal and was to give the duchess an opportunity to visit a dentist.

Col. William J. Donovan, wartime commander of the "Fighting Sixty-Ninth," was a passenger on the Europe-bound Clipper plane under the name "Donald Williams." Last July Colonel Donovan visited England, mysteriously just before the swap of U. S. destroyers for British air bases in the Western hemisphere was announced. On this trip his destination is unknown and his mission unrevealed.

## MISCELLANY:

Turkish newspapers reported that approximately 200 Jewish refugees bound from Bulgaria to Palestine were drowned when their ship broke to pieces in rough seas near Istanbul, Turkey.

## Washington Digest

### Civil Service Strives to Keep Politics Out of Defense Work

Merit System Increases Efficiency of Rearmament; U. S. Foreign Policy Awaits Clarification in Roosevelt's Inaugural Address.

By BAUKHAGE

(National Farm and Home Commentator.)

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.) Washington is a nervous and jittery place these days with winter running in and out so fast that the squirrels in the park hardly know whether to bury nuts, eat them or just watch the ones that walk by.

Part of the atmosphere of suspense is due to wondering what is going to come out of those notes which the President took with him when he sailed away from his fishing-and-inspection trip and which he is still working on.

When he left, men who usually know at least something of what the White House is thinking about, told us:

"The President has closed his mind to any additional aid to Britain now. There will be no change in the present program. We will try to send more supplies but there won't be any change in the nature of the help that we've been supplying."

Most of us who observed Mr. Roosevelt closely at his last conferences before he left thought we saw confirmation of this statement in the way he answered questions on the subject, the tone of his voice, his look, his gestures.

Some of the people clamoring for more active participation in British efforts went so far as to say: "He's walked out on us."

But hardly had the Tuscaloosa weighed anchor than things began to happen which made us wonder.

There was the widely printed story that the United States was preparing to send American merchantmen with supplies right through the war zone to England. Another that American warships would act as convoys, at least part way.

## Discusses Financial Aid to Britain

Then there was heated controversy concerning financial aid to Britain. After a meeting of departmental heads admittedly for the purpose of "exploring" the subject, Jesse Jones, federal loan administrator, said that he considered Britain "a good risk."

Senator Johnson of California came right out and said he expected a drive to repeal the Johnson act, which forbids loans to defaulting nations, at the next session of congress. He said he would fight it.

These were some of the signs which seemed to point toward the consideration of new and drastic methods of helping John Bull.

But still the people who made their original predictions to the effect that the President wasn't planning action, certainly none that might involve us in the war, held their ground.

At this writing no one professes to know what form the notes in the President's portfolio will take. We can only wait for the inaugural address, the budget message and the report to congress on the state of the nation. When we know what these state papers contain it will be interesting to look back and see who was right, the people who, like Senator Johnson, said we were "edging into war" or those who believed that the President had set the Ship of State on a neutral course and then lashed the helm.

## Rearmament Story Has Two Sides

There are a lot of stories circulating about inefficiency in rearmament work. Some tell of men who are employed in industries where they are pitifully inexperienced.

That's one side of the defense story that you hear a good deal about these days. But it isn't the only side. I heard the government's side of the defense hiring story the other day from Arthur Flemming, one of the three-member civil service commission.

"The United States civil service commission," Mr. Flemming said to me, "is faced with the heaviest load in its history."

Today the civil service commission is the "central civilian recruiting agency for the entire defense program," as Mr. Flemming described it and when I had finished my interview with him I took two of the most hopeful thoughts away with me that I have been able to nourish in the 25 years since I began watching the failures, faults and foibles, as well as the achievements of the Washington "side show."

The first thought was this: we have a fair chance of keeping poli-

tics, scandal and disgrace out of the defense program, such as we had in the last war, if it is humanly possible to do it. And second, if this is done, we may take the greatest step in our history toward cleaning up the rottenness of the patronage system that is the curse of democracies.

Perhaps I am over optimistic. But here are the facts as I learned them.

In the first place the civil service commission has recruited, examined and certified 240,000 work-



JOHN C. GARAND

between July 1 and November 23 of this year. There were 178,000 placements alone in the war and navy departments. Most of the workers, of course, were employed in navy yards and arsenals. Take Watervliet, for instance, up in Connecticut where they make the big guns. That arsenal has a hard time keeping 120 men busy normally; now it employs 3,000.

The civil service commission staff has been enlarged for the emergency recruiting from 1,800 members in June to 4,000 today. Besides the force in Washington there are 13 district offices and 5,000 local secretaries; one in every first and second class post office. These secretaries, who are usually postal employees, have information on examinations and requirements of positions open. Here the persons who want jobs can go and find out just how to apply for them.

## Red Tape Slashed To Increase Efficiency

But there is a side of this recruiting work that does not show up in figures. It is the spirit which is evident from the attitude of the commissioners themselves and the whole staff. There is no clock-watching here. Hours mean nothing. Red tape has been slashed. There is one objective—to get the best men and women available for Uncle Sam and to get them quickly.

"The best example of the benefits of the system," Mr. Flemming explained, "is the skilled worker who has worked up through the service and who, though he could easily secure higher wages in private business, is loyal to the government and prefers to stay in the federal service."

"One of the outstanding examples of these men is John C. Garand. Long before the national defense program got under way this man, one of the key figures in our defense, was working inconspicuously in a drafting room in the armory in Springfield, Mass. Now his name is known around the world as the inventor of the Garand rifle."

John C. Garand, Mr. Flemming told me, was born in Canada and came to this country when he was 10 years old. When the World War broke out he enlisted in the artillery and was assigned to the bureau of standards in Washington to do ordnance work. After the war Garand took a civil service examination for draftsman and was sent to the armory in Springfield. He perfected a number of inventions and finally produced the Garand rifle. Loyal to the civilian service of the United States as he had been to the armed forces, he patriotically turned his patent over to the government. His rewards are simply the promotions he has won. He is now senior ordnance engineer. You'll find him at his desk today.

## U. S. Is Short of War Essentials

Experts Say It Would Take Three Years to Get Needed Supply.

WASHINGTON.—Uncle Sam won't have to requisition aluminum pots and pans from the nation's kitchens in event of war—as Britain did—but he's much less fortunate with regard to some other vital raw materials.

Defense authorities estimate it may take three years for this country to acquire stock piles of some so-called strategic and critical materials adequate to a wartime demand, despite the progress already made in that direction.

If the United States should become involved in war in the meantime, strict conservation and distribution control measures and the wider use of substitutes almost certainly would be necessary in the case of some of the minerals for which this country is dependent upon foreign sources.

Of the 29 commodities which the army-navy munitions board lists as strategic and critical, officials indicated they are chiefly concerned about things which the man in the street takes for granted, such as rubber, quinine, mica, chromium, tin, tungsten and manganese.

Kaleidoscopic changes wrought by the war already have interfered with the normal supply of those and other materials.

## Need Tin and Rubber.

Army experts, keeping a constant watch on the shifting military and political tides abroad, report, for instance, that the French island of Madagascar, source of some of the world's best mica for electrical insulation, has quit exporting to this country, the neutrality act and the cost of war-risk insurance has virtually quadrupled the expense of bringing chromium ore from Turkey, where the best grade is located.

Thus far, Japan's penetration of French Indo-China has not affected the relatively small shipments of tin and rubber from that country, but informed sources emphasized the situation would be vastly different if Japan should attempt to blockade those two essential products as well as the tungsten coming from nearby Malaya.

For military reasons, precise figures as to the size of the growing reserves of the various materials are being withheld, but Edward R. Stettinius Jr., in charge of the defense commission's materials division, reported six weeks after taking office that surveys offered reliable indications that adequate supplies would be available for defense industries as needed.

## Army Forecast.

On the other hand, army sources forecast that if the existing situation with regard to chromium ore—important to the manufacture of armor plate and armor-piercing projectiles—continues, the United States would be in "bad shape" on that score in about a year and a half. Domestic production of the ore is insignificant.

Not all the items on the strategic and critical lists are so well known.

There is, for instance, charcoal made from coconut shells. It has long been considered the best absorbent filling for gas mask canisters. The munitions board reported, however, that "great progress" has been made in the development of satisfactory substitutes from domestic materials which are abundantly available and that large-scale production of the latter would permit removal of coconut char from the strategic list within the next year.

Substitutes also are being developed for a number of materials, including synthetic rubber and substitutes for quinine, such as atabrine and plasmochin.

## This Youngster's Name Comes From High Source

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK, MONT.—If Allyn Grinnell Stevens isn't a mountain climber when he grows up, it won't be his fault. He was christened for a mountain and a glacier.

Allyn's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cullen A. Stevens of Tampa, Fla., his grandmother, and his two brothers were touring Glacier park when he was born.

What to name the youngster was something of a problem. The parents and grandmother consulted park rangers. Mrs. Stevens recalled she had hiked to Grinnell glacier the day before the boy was born. She suggested his middle name be Grinnell. Everyone agreed.

Ranger Walter Nitzel gazed at Allyn peak which towers above the Many Glacier camp ground. He said the first name should be Allyn. That idea also was adopted.

## Needs of Schools Shown by Survey

Extensive Revision Is Urged As Prime Necessity.

WASHINGTON.—Today's high-school graduates, facing a world of profound social and economic change, find themselves poorly equipped to meet the complex problems of present-day lives, results of a study indicate.

Competition among adults for positions in industry virtually has eliminated opportunities for apprenticeship, and the high-school graduate, trained though he be in vocational studies, can find no employment, according to a survey completed for the American youth commission by the American council on education.

"Even if vocational education were unqualifiedly successful in other respects, it cannot create jobs where they do not exist," the report said.

Recommending that thorough practice in reading—the most important single branch of education—accompany vocational studies, the report emphasizes the role of social studies in providing an effective education for citizenship in a democracy.

The committee making the study, headed by Ben G. Graham, superintendent of public schools in Pittsburgh, found that the stylized nature of present-day courses in English composition, mathematics, foreign languages, history and natural science kills their appeal for the modern student.

It is recommended that these courses be revised to present fundamentals of enduring value rather than a mass of easily forgotten detail.

If the high school is to fill its place as a factor in the American order, the report concludes, it must expand its program of instruction.

## Astronomer's Tests Show

### Speed of Earth Cut Down

PASADENA, CALIF.—A recent experiment on the speed with which the earth is traveling around the galaxy of solar bodies by Astronomer Ralph E. Wilson, of the Mount Wilson observatory, has established that this speed is not as great as previously estimated.

Dr. Wilson reached his new conclusion after looking at stars 1,000 parsecs, or 19 trillions, of miles away. The check showed that the earth is moving 138 miles a second around the center of the galaxy. This rate equals 11,290 miles a minute.

Previously it had been estimated the earth's speed around the center of the galaxy was 13 miles per second faster than stars 1,000 parsecs farther out, but the new observations have cut this to 11.6 miles per second.

The study of gas clouds in the inter-stellar space resulted in the new figures.

## Finds Food Rationing

### Makes English Healthy

NEW ORLEANS.—David John Rodgers, British consul, sees the English people growing more healthy on wartime rations.

"We have always eaten too much," Rodgers said. "Food rationing is not only conserving food, but is rectifying the English diet. Now we are learning moderation in food. I think it is unlikely that when the war is over the English people will go back to their classic British breakfasts and heavy lunches. The afternoon tea custom may also disappear."

"The rationing plan was put into effect not so much because there is a scarcity of food in England," the consul explained, "but because we want to build up a reserve."

## Inexpensive Hobby Takes

### Well-Developed Muscles

SPOKANE, WASH.—A Tacoma safety engineer has found an inexpensive but heavy hobby—he collects rocks with fluorescent qualities.

Water Sutter awed visitors at the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies with more than a ton of rocks which threw off multi-colored rays when subjected to different lighting effects.

Altogether, Sutter has collected more than 800 tons of rocks from all parts of the world.

## Kindergarten Boasts It

### Has Its Own Laboratory

PERU, NEB.—Kindergarten as taught by Ann Harris, student teacher, at Peru college, is different.

Her kindergarten laboratory has a rock garden, bird gallery, "mystery table" for nature's phenomena, aquarium, "viparium" for snakes and terrarium for plants.