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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1943

A Historic Conference

About the best news that we have heard since the war started came from Moscow this week with the announcement that America, Britain, Russia and China—the great allied nations—have jointly determined to crush their enemies into unconditional surrender and then, as peace-time partners, work together for international peace and security.

This solemn pledge, therefore, should remove all doubt from our minds and from the minds of our enemies that Russia will not co-operate with the United States and England to defeat Germany and to help restore world peace.

It should dispel all doubt that Russia might sign a separate peace with Germany and disregard the rights and wishes of the allies. It should be an assurance, too, to all small nations of the globe that the allies are determined to have a lasting organization of peace-loving nations and to confer cold vengeance on all enemies who have bloodied their hands with barbarism.

The conferees also pledged to have further meetings, to provide ways of conferring through diplomatic channels, to set up an advisory commission in London on European affairs and another advisory council to deal with Italy.

A plan for banning fascism in Italy and setting up a democracy was outlined and General Eisenhower was given the authority for its execution. It may even provide for the resignation of the King, which was requested this week by Premier Badoglio.

The four decisions of the conference that stood out, however, were as follows:

1. There shall be unity of action and consultations between powers with a common enemy (Russia is not at war with Japan and there was no intimation she should be) until the day of unconditional surrender.

2. There shall be established as soon as possible "a general international organization, based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving states, and open to membership by all such states, large and small, for the maintenance of international peace and security."

3. There shall be cooperation by all hands "to bring about a practicable general agreement with respect to the regulation of armaments in the post-war period."

4. There shall be swift and sure justice for those Germans guilty of atrocities in occupied lands. America, Britain and Russia joined in this; Japanese of this type have already been promised punishment by President Roosevelt. The German slaughterers of helpless people will be tried in their victims' homelands and if necessary will be pursued "to the uttermost ends of the earth" for delivery to their accusers.

This was, indeed, a historic conference and has served severe notice on our enemies. To Secretary Hull goes much credit for the success of the conference. The announced agreements follow closely the pattern designed by this nation.

50 Years of Progress

In 1893 a group of Waldenses settled in the edge of Burke county and established a community which was later incorporated as the town of Valdese, which is the Italian word of Waldensian.

During the fifty years that have passed since that time, Valdese has grown from

a small community to a fine little town of nearly 4,000 population, and today Valdese is standing on the threshold of a new era of expansion and development.

This remarkable progress has been due, in a large measure, to the fine character of the Waldenses. They are hard workers, resourceful, thrifty, tolerant, honest, reverent, patriotic and have deep love for home and abiding faith in God Almighty.

In celebration of the Golden Anniversary, an observance was staged in the town last week, with Gov. Broughton delivering an address and unveiling a marble monument dedicated to the founding of the town.

An inspiring story of the founding and growth of Valdese was told in a special 32-page anniversary edition of The Valdese News, which is published by Miss Beatrice Cobb. This was an excellent issue and we congratulate Miss Cobb and other members of the staff.

To the Waldenses, we also extend hearty congratulations and best wishes. You have already made an inspiring and enviable record.

Tax Committee Reports

After weeks of hearings and deliberations, the House ways and means committee has practically completed its work and recommendations on a new tax bill which will provide \$2,183,000,000 of additional revenue—80 percent short of the \$10,500,000,000 requested by the administration.

The committee has said "No" to increasing individual income taxes next year but has recommended raising the excess profit tax on corporations from 90 to 95 percent. It has recommended increasing postal rates and certain excise taxes that are summed up as follows:

Liquor—Raised from \$6 per gallon to \$8; beer—\$7 per barrel to \$8; wine—now 10 cents to \$1 per gallon, to 15 cents to \$2.00.

Cigars—Present excises of \$2.50 to \$20 per thousand doubled.

Electric light bulbs and tubes—Increased from 5 per cent of manufacturers' sale price to 25 per cent.

Jewelry—10 per cent retail, to 20 per cent; furs—10 per cent retail, to 25 per cent; luggage, handbags, wallets—now 10 per cent of manufacturers price on luggage only to 25 per cent of retail.

Toilet preparations (soaps, tooth and mouth washes, dentrifices)—now untaxed, to 10 per cent of manufacturers' sale price; other toilet preparations (lipstick, etc.)—10 per cent retail, to 25 per cent.

Local telephone—10 per cent of bill, to 15 per cent; long distance phone—20 per cent, to 25 per cent; telephone, radio and cable—15 per cent domestic, to 25 per cent, and 10 per cent international, to 15 per cent; leased wires—non-services, 15 per cent to 20 per cent.

Transportation of persons—10 per cent, to 15; transportation of property—3 per cent retained and to include parcel post.

Postage—In-town letters—two cents to three; out-of-town letters—three cents to four; airmail—six cents to eight; second class mail—doubled, except newspapers and religious and church papers exempted from boost; third class—doubled; money orders—now six to 22 cents per order, to 10 to 36 cents; registered mail—now 15 cents to \$1, to 20 cents to \$1.35; insured and COD mail—doubled.

Obliging Bus Drivers

How about the bus drivers? Well, how? We read of old that there once flourished in peace, happiness and plenty a man named Job. In course of time he lost his fortune, his family, and his health, and was covered with sores. He was true to the faith and lives in memory as the world's hero of faith and fortitude. "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him", expressed the essence of Job's religion. We sometimes think the bus driver of today is the modern miracle of patience and good humor.

Down the road goes the bus, but the unmusical alarm announces that some one "wants off". So the bus stops. Perhaps a couple of hundred yards farther some one "wants on". Then, the modern Job starts again. A mile down the road a figure stands waving frantically. He or she is flagging the bus; a passenger gets on. The bus starts again and gets up speed—then somebody "wants off". And so it is.

One reason why most of the drivers are such nice fellows is that they have passed through much tribulation and have reached a sort of beatific state.



NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS By PAUL MALLON

Washington, Nov. 3 — Senate and public discussions on how to preserve the peace of the world have tended to devolve into political abstractions, forgetful of one basic, concrete fact, more important than all the accumulation of words and ideas, namely:

The United States will have a navy at the end of this war which will outclass Britain's historic sea power by a ratio of probably five to one, unbelievable though that guess may now seem to the public. The most conservative estimate places our contemplated superiority at three to one.

Indeed, no less secretive a source than the World almanac was able to show, as of November two years ago, that we then contemplated approximately a two to one advantage.

While few appreciate the growing extent of our sea power, or its prospective peacetime usage, a magazine of the navy league of the United States currently reports (October issue) that our growing fleet the first six months of this year acquired six new aircraft carriers, five cruisers, 39 destroyers, and 18 submarines.

Apparently, the British have not been able to build replacements for their losses (much heavier so far than ours) and, while the building plans of Tokyo are hardly guessable, it is plain from known and published facts that the United States soon will have a five-ocean navy, double or treble the size of any fleet heretofore known to the history of the world.

Therefore, the American navy will have a dominant controlling factor in the future peace of the world and its economic and political operation. Britain may have the bases, but we will have the ships, the old way of a five to five ratio with Britannia, the former Mistress of the Seas, obviously is gone forever.

It is inconceivable that these ships will be scrapped at the war's end to repeat the folly of the 1921 disarmament conference, which enabled the Japs to build, and later to sneak-build against US and Britain to the point of making her war against US feasible.

Indeed, no other nation will be close enough to us on the sea to be interested in promoting a scrapping program.

Such an unrivaled fleet, topped with an adequate, alert air force, and a moderate-sized army, conceivably could guarantee the security of this country for another generation or more.

While the Hull-Stalin talks in Moscow are not likely to even touch upon such a subject (Russia no doubt will come out of the war with the largest and best single army) and a current post-war discussion persists in avoiding such mundane matters, the real actual planning behind doors here is apt—and indeed should be worked out from this basic consideration.

Guiding fact to be remembered about the Stalin-Hull news from Moscow is that the Russian newspapers exist, not primarily for the purpose of giving out news, but to further the interests of the Soviet government. Commenting upon the trend of the talks, therefore, probably will remain quite useless until official announcements are issued afterward by the participants.

The only worthwhile suggestion which can be made is the rather

obvious one, namely: Mr. Hull is primarily interested in trade, not in military matters, and Russia will need goods of every character after the war.

Politics killed the sales tax and is likely to kill any important tax action before the next election. Congressmen just figure there is no advantage to be gained by identifying themselves with a sales tax, (the administration and labor being against it) although many are agreed privately it is about the only remaining feasible method of tapping the source of swollen war incomes.

House Ways and Means Chairman Doughton has accused the Republicans of playing politics because they have been against most tax proposals, but he and his fellow Democrats are no less guilty. Indeed, so was the treasury in making its rather political proposal. Election time is too near for tax realism.

FOR SALE—Typewriter ribbons, new shipment, for Standard and Portable; also carbon paper and stencils. At The Times office.

You're Telling Me By WILLIAM RITT Central Press Writer

ZADOK DUMKOPF says it would be interesting to know how many thousands of gallons of ink have been saved by cartoonists since that big chin of Mussolini's retired from the realm of big news.

Yanks in Australia viewing their first emu must naturally wonder how such a big bird can fit into a crossword puzzle.

"Nazi Put Out Peace Feelers"—headline. This is no football game, Adolf, so it's no use calling for time out.

To be made a Kentucky colonel has been the life-long ambition of

grandpappy Jenkins, who thinks he'd look pretty sharp wearing a goatee.

Weeping, according to a noted medico, is good for the health. Hitler, boasts the Nazis radio, is in fine physical trim.

Speaking of duration champions, some sort of award should be made to the New York Giants. They've just endured one of the worst seasons in their history.

The next time Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria thumb a ride on a battlewagon, they should first make certain it isn't a toboggan in disguise.

Blankenship Praises Ecusta Paper Plant

S. G. Blankenship, president of the American Pulp and Paper Mill Superintendents association, visited the Ecusta Paper corporation's plant last week-end and declared that "it is the finest paper mill in America".

Mr. Blankenship spoke at the annual conference of the Southern and Southeastern division of his association held in Atlanta last week.

The national president is production manager of the Port Royal Pulp and Paper company, Ltd., of New York City. While here he visited Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Van-nah and Mr. Raymond Bennett, new chairman of the Southeastern division of the superintendents association.

Brevard Boys Are Elected To Office

Bob O. Brannon, popular Brevard boy, has been elected president of the pre-college group at Brevard college, it was announced today. Brannon is the son of Mr. and Mrs. M. O. Brannon, of Brevard.

Alex Kizer, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Kizer, of Brevard, was chosen as vice president and Betty Lou Buckner, daughter of Mrs. Pauline Buckner, of Asheville, was elected secretary-treasurer.

NOT WAR BUT FUN!



This Picture Packs More Punch, More Thrills Than Any Other Anti-Nazi Film Comedy

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