

Henderson Daily Dispatch

ONLY DAILY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN THIS SECTION OF NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA

TWENTY-EIGHTH YEAR

LEASED WIRE SERVICE OF
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

HENDERSON, N. C., THURSDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 6, 1941

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON
EXCEPT SUNDAY.

FIVE CENTS COPY

U.S.-Mexican Pact To Be Signed

Italian Colonists In Africa Flee Before British Forces Moving Rapidly On Bengasi

Reports of Fresh Greek Successes Plunge Italy's War Effort Into Further Gloom; British To Reach Bengasi In 48 Hours.

By James M. McManus, Associated Press.
Panicked Italian colonists were reported fleeing before the British in Premier Mussolini's collapsing north African empire today as aerial scouts told of seeing intact motorized columns withdrawing from Bengasi and Black Shirt troops falling back past hosts on the east Libya stronghold.

From Greek successes in Albania announced in Athens plunged Italy's war effort into further gloom.

Disputed from the Libyan desert battlefield said that General Sir Archibald P. Wavell's troops were pressing westward along the Mediterranean coast at a pace which would bring them to the gates of Bangi within 48 hours.

Bengasi, 325 miles from the Egyptian border had been heralded as the site for a probable major defense by Marshal Rodolfo Graziani's retreating army. It was not immediately clear whether the withdrawal of motorized columns signalled abandonment of the town.

Latest reports put the British within 60 miles of Bengasi, sweeping forward at a 30-mile-a-day clip.

In the Greek-Italian war, an Athens spokesman declared that the Greeks had smashed two fascist counterattacks in the Adriatic coastal sector and that the Italians were falling back "in confusion, abandoning dead and wounded on the field of battle."

The Greeks said that Italian tank attacks had been frustrated and that the Italians had been driven from positions of great strategic importance.

The British reported steady advances by their other armies on Africa's far-flung fronts—in Eritrea, in Ethiopia and in Italian Somaliland. South African troops were said to have driven 60 miles inside Somaliland.

In Egypt, British forces are closing in on Cheren, important railroad town. British headquarters announced.

German bombers struck at London and southern England last night in a short but intensive raid. The British officially classed the attacks as light.

Bad weather cut short the German

Seized by Nazis



Ivan Jacobson

Severe Code Is Imposed In Rumania

Bucharest, Feb. 6.—(AP)—(Passed by military censor)—The most severe criminal code in modern Rumanian history was announced today by Premier General Ion Antonescu, providing such penalties as death for drawing anti-government cartoons and five to 15 years at hard labor for singing political songs in the streets.

The code also establishes the death penalty for misappropriation of more than \$5,000 in public funds and up to five years imprisonment for parents whose children are convicted of crimes. Penalties equal to those for parents are provided for children over 15.

The prison terms are doubled for Jews, communists and those of non-Rumanian origin.

More than 20 crimes are made punishable by death within ten hours after sentence is passed. Among them are promising to redistribute fortunes or to end taxation, and engaging in any class struggle.

The special punishment for communists was the first in Rumanian history.

While saying he was "not a tyrant" and does not wish to "spill blood," Antonescu declared any future revolts must be forestalled so that order can be reestablished immediately "for us and our allies."

Market Bill Is Favored

Joint Committee Approves Broughton-Backed Measure to Aid Farm Marketing.

Raleigh, Feb. 6.—(AP)—The joint legislative committee on agriculture favorably reported today the Broughton-backed bill to provide a state-wide system of public marketing centers.

The committee also adopted a resolution directing that the congressional delegation be telegraphed a request to have tobacco included in the provisions of the lease-lend bill now under debate in Congress.

Representative Allen of Wake, chairman of the House education committee, explained the retirement bill which provides for joint contributions by employees and the State to provide pensions to persons 60 years of age or older.

School matters, including the retirement program, got much attention and a committee rejected a bill to provide a ninth month for schools.

The House adopted a joint resolution offered by Representative Willard of Pasquotank calling for a

Retirement Bill Debated

School Matters Get Much Attention From Legislature on Busiest Day of Session.

Raleigh, Feb. 6.—(AP)—The House debated the bill to provide a retirement system for all State employees including school teachers today as the legislature had perhaps its busiest day.

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New Engineering Building For N. C. State College's School Of Agriculture

Daily Dispatch Bureau,
In the Sir Walter Hotel.
By LYNN NISBET.

Raleigh, Feb. 6. North Carolina State College is to have a half-million-dollar plant to be known as the Agricultural Engineering Building, and to be used as class room, for demonstration in use of improved farm machinery, and as a working "laboratory" in practical farming.

A \$300,000 building is projected, to be constructed without cost to the state, by a federal allocation of \$150,000 and a "loan" from another state fund of a like amount, said loan to be repaid from rental proceeds from the old agricultural building, now under lease to Farm Security Administration and yielding a net return of about \$25,000 a year.

All preliminary planning and negotiating has been completed and there remains only the formality of passing agreed upon legislation to consummate the deal. Proper bills are

now in preparation and will be introduced within the next few days.

It was first thought that the state would have to issue bonds for its share of the construction cost, but the more desirable loan plan was worked out yesterday.

The new building will put the agricultural school at State College on a par with other departments there, and on a par with the best of such schools in the South by making possible the acquisition without cost of just as much farm machinery as the school can use. Manufacturers are willing to supply this equipment and to keep it up to date without cost to the college.

The college has been handicapped for years for lack of this very factor, and agricultural leaders have been working to remedy the situation. Governor Broughton has given full approval and pledged the full sup-

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Scene of Fatal New Haven Fire



Investigators search the charred ruins of the New Haven Quilt and Pad Company in New Haven, Conn., where early reports revealed that ten men were burned to death and three other employees injured. A spark from machinery is believed to have started the fire. The dead were trapped in the picking room. Coroner's assistants are about to remove one of the bodies. The plant was working on a 24-hour basis on defense orders.

Strike Threat At Ford

Babson Is Bullish On Home Building

Economist Advises Building of Houses This Year, Declaring Prices Are Bound to Rise in Near Future.

By ROGER W. BABSON
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Babson Park, Fla., Feb. 6.—It is an inherent characteristic of man to want to build. In my time I have built a large number of buildings for educational, business, and other purposes. In fact, as I write, I have before me blueprints of a new office building. The act of building satisfies a creative impulse and a pride of possession. As a primitive urge, building has descended through ages.

As an industry, it is the oldest known next to agriculture. The man of today reads the real estate and builders' ads or roughly sketches his own ideas for a home. He is actuated by the same impulse as was his primitive ancestor in piling up his stones and weaving branches to make crude walls and a roof.

Advantage of Building.

Everyone is agreed as to the good prospects of industrial building. More factory plants are being drawn

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New Meeting With Laval Expected

Five Demands Made on Ford; Other Strikes Continue As Another Is Begun.

By The Associated Press

The huge Ford Motor Company, which holds millions of dollars in critical defense orders, faced an implied strike threat today from the CIO United Automobile Workers.

"Any necessity of a strike at the Ford plants can be avoided by sincere negotiations" on five union demands made yesterday, declared a statement by B. J. Thomas, United Automobile Worker president, and Michael F. Widman, Jr., director of the union's drive to organize the Ford workers.

Ford spokesman said they wouldn't take the trouble to reply to the union, which asked wage increases, acceptance of the principle of seniority and an immediate bargaining conference for employees of the company of Highland Park and River Rouge, Mich.

There are 35,000 Ford production workers in the Detroit area.

On other labor fronts affecting the defense program this was the situation:

Seven thousand employees of the Allis-Chalmers Company in Milwaukee, Wis., and 6,000 of the International Harvester Company tractor plant at Chicago remained out on strike with no apparent progress made by any settlement of the disputes. Allis-Chalmers has some \$40,000,000 in defense contracts.

At a LeClerc, Wis., rubber plant 300 CIO unionists walked out yesterday contending the company had violated seniority rules.

A second strike in two weeks stopped

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Lindbergh Says America Is Prolonging The War

Washington, Feb. 6.—(AP)—Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh said today that by aiding Great Britain and other countries the United States is encouraging war, prolonging it and increasing bloodshed in Europe without materially affecting the course of the war.

Under questioning by Senator Connally, Democrat, Texas, Lindbergh declared that the nation already was committed to giving Britain some aid. "We should keep our promises," he declared, then added:

"I think it is very important that England not be beaten in war, but I don't think that is in American control."

Meanwhile House supporters of the British aid bill smacked down the first amendment formally offer-

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Will Settle All Major Questions

Millions of Dollars Involved; Some Points Pending For Several Years; Final Arrangements Expected Friday.

Washington, Feb. 6.—(AP)—The United States and Mexico signed an agreement today to sign a comprehensive "good neighbor" agreement in the near future, settling all major economic and financial questions now outstanding.

The pact, it was understood, will provide for a general all-inclusive disposition of "every problem" between the two nations. A number of the points involved have been pending for several years and involve millions of dollars.

The formula for the agreement were worked out by Undersecretary of State Welles and Dr. Francisco Castillo Nájera, the Mexican ambassador. They were said to concentrate on a lump settlement rather than a piecemeal disposition of numerous claims and counter claims arising from the oil expropriation, agrarian expropriation and other controversial questions.

Final arrangements for the pact probably will follow the return of the Mexican ambassador here Friday after conferences with his foreign office in Mexico City.

One of the major questions scheduled to be settled arose in 1938 from the Mexican government's expropriation of American, British and Dutch-owned oil properties valued by the oil companies at from \$400,000,000 to \$440,000,000.

Earth Settles, City Damaged

West Pittston, Pa., Feb. 6.—(AP)—At least 20 families were thrown from their beds and half a dozen streets were damaged early today by a surface settlement affecting a three-block area in the eastern Pennsylvania community.

The settlement was preceded by a loud rumbling noise. Cracks as deep as 20 inches appeared in some streets. Gas and water mains were broken and some residents were ordered from their homes until the gas could be turned off.

The community, with a population of about 3,000, is in the heart of Pennsylvania coal fields and the ground beneath the town is honeycombed with mines.

A large area of another Pennsylvania coal town—Shenandoah—was badly damaged by a similar settlement about a year ago.

FARM BULLETIN NOW AVAILABLE

Raleigh, Feb. 6. The new annual issue of "Agricultural Statistics," published by the State Department of Agriculture to serve as a guide to farmers, farm leaders and others in planning and determining agricultural progress, is now off the press and available for distribution.

More than 10,000 copies of the publication have already been distributed among agricultural workers and leaders.

Winant Nominated

Washington, Feb. 6.—(AP)—John G. Winant, former governor of New Hampshire, was nominated by President Roosevelt today to be ambassador to Great Britain, succeeding Joseph P. Kennedy.

The nomination of the 51-year-old former Republican governor of New Hampshire was sent to the Senate along with several other diplomatic appointments.

These included:

Anthony J. Drexel Biddle of Pennsylvania, now ambassador to Poland to serve also as ambassador to the exiled government in London of Belgium and as minister to the government of Norway and The Netherlands.

Clarence E. Gauss of Connecticut, now minister to Australia, to become ambassador to China.

Nelson T. Johnson of Oklahoma, now ambassador to China, to become minister to Australia.

J. Pierrepont Moffat of New Hampshire, now minister to Canada, to serve additionally as minister to Luxembourg.