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Stalled by West Coast Storm



C. P. Photo photo

These autos, some of them hub-deep in mud, were caught in the grip of a storm and stalled in the western part of Los Angeles. Overnight, the city became virtually a lake as the terrific rain storm swept the area.

REVENUE BILL PASSES SENATE

Measure Sent Back to House for Concurrence In Minor Amendments; Flood of New Bills Introduced in Legislature.

Raleigh, Feb. 19.—(AP)—The Senate adopted six amendments, deemed as minor, then passed the annual revenue bill on third reading today and sent it back to the House for concurrence.

The vote was 56 to 0 after 16 minutes devoted to explanation by Senator Henry of Gaston of "a few minor clarifying amendments."

The Senate also passed unanimously and sent to the House a constitutional amendment of the 1932 general election to create a new December state board of education and place complete control of the public school system in its hands.

On motion of Senator Cherry of Gaston and without dissent an amendment was adopted to provide for appointment by the governor of one member of the board from each congressional district with no heaviest burden to be chairman and the state superintendent of public instruction a member ex officio.

A House committee approved the Senate-passed bill to reorganize the Department of Conservation and Development.

Senators sent in 16 new bills, including measure to repeal the law

(Continued on page two)

Ambulance Driver



Mrs. Juanita B. Pagella

American-born Mrs. Juanita Brutton Pagella is one of the two American women in the American ambulance corps in Great Britain, voluntary outfit supported by American money. From Palo Alto, Cal., Mrs. Pagella married her husband, a British Marine officer, a few days before the outbreak of the war.

Women Pray For Defeat Of Measure

(Continued on Page Two)

Road Matters Spotlighted In Committees

Raleigh, Feb. 19.—(AP)—Highway matters held the spotlight in legislative committees today.

The Senate road committee unanimously reported the Brooks bill to prohibit alternate highway numbering after a spirited hearing. House roads committee rejected the Poole-Cuzzell bill to limit it to 1,500 gallons the load of petroleum products a truck may haul on the highways.

With little argument the Senate roads group unanimously reported the Palmer bill to put license plate fees for private automobiles at a flat \$1 instead of a sub-committee

(Continued on page two)

Proverbial Mushroom A Slow-Poke Compared With Fort Bragg Growth

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

Raleigh, Feb. 19.—Yesterday just an old field with a few scrubby pines, broom sedge and maybe some cotton or tobacco stalks; today a jumbled mass of lumber, tile, piping and freshly turned earth from new sewage ditches; tomorrow a row of timbered barracks ready for Uncle Sam's potential fighting men.

That almost literally, is the story of Fort Bragg. Driving along the main highways traversing or passing by the military reservation, one may see dozens upon dozens of these new buildings with glistening white sides and gleaming red roofs; and if the visitor desires to drive off the main road and out onto the rough and bumpy drives of the new developments he will be amazed to find in t

as many buildings on the other side of the little hill invisible from the highway.

Your correspondent visited Fort Bragg Monday for the first time in several months. He had read the figures of how many men are working there, how many soldiers are now in training or expected during the early summer, how many miles of sewer lines, and all such. Those figures meant little because of the difficulty of translating such statistics into a mental picture of the actual scene.

Instead of saying that so many million feet of lumber went into construction of so many houses and barracks, let's say rather, that the reservation looks as if some mighty giant had carelessly thrown a handful of red and white blocks over a four-mile square playground—and laughed in glee to see how they fell

sometimes in orderly row, sometimes helter skelter away. Or, if you prefer a more dourly smile, let's say that it looks like a mammoth tulip field, the red roots, white walls and green pine giving the effect of tulips hitting their heads from a white graved nest.

The fort influence was observed miles before the actual reservation was reached. Motorcycles, army trucks and uniformed men were in evidence, as also was every conceivable kind of transportation except the once temporarily popular Hoover cart. It was learned at Lillington, twenty-odd miles from the fort, that housing conditions were tight and that room rent had greatly advanced. Other living costs, however, seemed not to be affected. Even in Fayette-

(Continued on Page Two)

Singapore Reinforced

Major War Explosions Feared

Japs Accuse Britain Of War Move

Reinforcement of Singapore Base Protested; In Balkans, German Munitions Trains Speed Across Yugoslavia; Other News.

(By The Associated Press)

War fever mounted sharply in the Far East and the Balkans today threatening new major explosions at any moment.

In the Orient Japan accused Britain of committing "a belligerent act" as thousands of newly arrived Australian troops filed into defense posts on the Malay peninsula to reinforce the empire's naval base at Singapore.

In the Balkans long lines of speedily moving German war supplies across Yugoslavia enroute to Bulgaria—gateway to a possible Nazi invasion of Greece.

Dispatches from Belgrade said Germany's axis partner Italy was apparently throwing all available resources into the conflict against Greece in Albania, and a Greek spokesman declared Italian commanders were ordering counter attacks "with complete disregard of bloodshed" without gaining an inch of ground.

From these disclosures it appeared that Premier Mussolini's fascist legions were making a final desperate attempt to turn the tide alone before Germany makes her expected strike with the arrival of spring.

In Shanghai, the official spokesman of the Japanese military force in China asserted the arrival of Australian troops at Singapore "cannot be interpreted as a gesture contributing to peace in the Far East" but other quarters declared this was Britain's answer to increasing Japanese

menace in the Far East.

Japan Offers to Mediate in War, Accuses U. S. and Britain of "Warlike" Moves.

London, Feb. 19.—(AP)—The government informed the house of commons that it had received "a special message from Japan" offering to mediate in the war and also accusing the United States and Britain of "warlike" preparations in the Pacific Ocean.

Richard Butler, undersecretary for foreign affairs, said that Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden has received this message following the same general line as a statement issued in Tokyo yesterday.

That Tokyo statement expressed Japan's readiness to "act as mediator or take whatever action is indicated to recover normal conditions not only in greater East Asia but

anywhere in the world."

Authoritative London quarters

said today that Britain would not

enter the war unless it was "certainly certain to be a certainty."

It was understood the Japanese

had been told the Foreign Office

and the Foreign Office had been

alarmed by the British "dreadful

and imminent" threat to Malaya.

Today they marched back and forth in front of the Senate wing of the Capitol, waving American flags. A Capitol police sergeant went inside, looked up the law, and warned them that picketing of the Capitol was unlawful.

The marchers then walked across the plaza from the Capitol, knelt and prayed. "Don't send our boys to war"; "Don't pass this bill"; and "God bless America" were among the phrases heard.

(Continued on Page Two)

Big Four of Congress Confer With FDR



C. P. Photo photo

Here are the men known as the "Big Four of Congress" pictured at the door of the White House as they ended for their weekly conference with President Roosevelt. They currently are engaged in trying to have passage of the long-expected bill.

Left to right, John W. McCormack of Massachusetts, House majority leader; Vice President Henry A. Wallace and Speaker

of the House Sam Rayburn.

(Continued on Page Two)

Australians Backed By Plane Force

Malay Peninsula Made Veritable Powerhouse of Military Energy; Britain Believed Able To Meet Any Threat.

Singapore, Feb. 19.—(AP)—The existing strength of British Singapore base was increased today by thousands of Australian and Indian troops that had been enroute to defend the island of Malaya. This added the instance of all power in south Asia had fallen to the British.

The arrival of the Australians made the Malay peninsula a veritable powerhouse of military energy and increased expansion of offensive forces and potential endurance. If the empire now was ready to meet any threat, an indication of the war to the South Pacific.

The Australians came completely equipped to reinforce British Indian and Malay troops guarding the great base. Many volunteers and other defense units also have been completely mobilized and are in training to support the regiments mounting the defenses.

Chinese residents, who form Malaya's largest and most important racial minority, are organizing to help in protecting the country. An air defense program is being vigorously pushed ahead in all ports and centers of population. Bomb blast screens are installed to protect important buildings in Singapore and a plan is being prepared to disperse the unessential population to the nearby countryside in the event of an emergency. Hundreds of air raid shelters are being built in the hilly areas of central and northern Malaya.

The numerical strength of the Australian contingent was a military secret, but it was beyond doubt the largest and most powerful force of men, guns and munitions ever to arrive in Malaya in a single convoy.

National Unity Urged

Jap Message Cold Wave Holds On To Britain

Connally For Aid Bill

Texas Senator Says Democracies "Must All Hang Together"; Bailey to Speak.

Washington, Feb. 19.—(AP)—Senate Connally, Democrat, Texas, declared the national unity in support of the administration's British aid bill held the Senate today the best guarantee of the world's survival, furthering the small arms.

The Texas senator opened the third day of Senate debate on the legislation with the assertion that opponents of the bill had engaged in "specious" arguments to the charge that the proposed lendlease measure would cause Great Britain a "defeat."

Assessing the European war as "the greatest struggle of democracy for the Pacific island of Guam against fascism," Connally said the United States could not afford to let Japan on the score should be disregarded.

At the same time, Connally declared that the small arms should face the chief of naval operations in the Pacific. The transaction was to be completed at the end of the session.

(Continued on Page Two)

FOUR PERSONS DIE IN AUTO ACCIDENT

Washington, Feb. 19.—(AP)—Four persons died in a fatal accident on Route 10, about 150 miles north of Atlanta, Ga., today. All four were members of the Hellenic community.

The British community said the accident occurred in the first instance to dislodge a British citizen.

Two British citizens were reported

dead yesterday to have driven the British from several towns.

The British post at Picacho, Arizona, reported yesterday that British drivers, after the British had been

dislodged.

In Italian Somaliland, the only

colonial unit operating on the

part of the Italian government,

it was indicated that the Italian

resistance along the river, some 120

miles inside Italian territory, had

ended the British advance.

(Continued on Page Two)

General Assembly's Jaunt To Bragg And Fayetteville Will Not Delay Its Work

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

Raleigh, Feb. 19.—Accepting invitation extended by Senator Strom Thurmond and Representative John Cook, on behalf of the commanding general of Fort Bragg and the people of Fayetteville, members of the General Assembly will take off tomorrow afternoon for an inspection tour of that fort.

The invitation was accepted with due appreciation, but also with some reluctance, on account of the rear that it might delay consideration of the appropriations bill. After a lot of argument and two or three trips back and forth between the two branches, conferences among committee chairmen, etc., a plan was

finally worked out to have committee meetings tonight and tomorrow morning. The invitation was extended in the Senate and tentatively accepted during the absence of several members. Mr. Cook, being informed of that action, extended it in the House, and then phoned the fort and his home town to get ready for company.

Chairman Lumpkin of the appropriations group asked that a rain check be given on the bid until some later date so that his boys could finish their work on the big spending bill this week. That called for more conferences. Finally it was all settled, and Governor Harris observed:

(Continued on Page Two)

Farm Export Market Faces Little Change

Washington, Feb. 19.—(AP)—Administration farm officials said today they saw little likelihood that Great Britain would require any appreciable quantity of American farm products in the near future.

This view was based upon an analysis of British needs, the present shipping situation and the factors which caused Britain to restrict its imports of American products at the beginning of the war.

When the war began England cut down on purchases of American farm products to conserve foreign exchange for purchases here of armaments.

(Continued on Page Two)

Guam Project Seems Assured

Washington, Feb. 19.—(AP)—Because of the tension in the Far East, House approval seemed assured today for development of Guam as a naval aviation outpost—a project rejected twice since 1933.

Both Democrats and Republicans expressed belief there would be

scant opposition to the proposed expenditure of \$4,700,000 on the small Pacific island to provide bomb shelters for personnel and vital communications equipment and to make

(Continued on Page Two)