

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., FRIDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 21, 1941

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON EXCEPT SUNDAY

FIVE CENTS COPY

Hitler Meets Axis Comrades



A Japanese military delegation calls on Hitler at the chancellery in Berlin. Beside the German leader is Japan's General Yamashita. Reports that Japan considers the landing of Australian reinforcements in British Singapore "a belligerent action" indicate that Britain may have to battle Axis members in both hemispheres.

(Central Press)

TROOPS MOVE INTO BALKANS

Referendum Bill Introduced Nazis And Britain Send New Forces

Companion Bill Bars Transporting

McGowan of Pender Offers Bill to Provide Referendum in November on Question of Return to Prohibition; Other News.

Raleigh, Feb. 21.—(AP)—The long-referenced bill to provide a statewide referendum in November on the question of return to absolute prohibition except for medicinal liquor was introduced in the House today by Representative McGowan of Pender county.

He accompanied it with a bill which, if enacted into law, would prohibit the transportation of any alcoholic beverages in contradiction with the federal constitution and legislators said that would repeal the law permitting residents of dry counties to transport up to four quarts of ABC liquor home.

The bill provides for depositories in hospitals or sanitariums or otherwise to furnish liquor at cost to patients to be administered under the treatment of a duly licensed physician. It also permits home manufacture of natural wines and ciders.

Both bills went to the committee on propositions and grievances of which Representative Quinn of Duplin, a dry, is chairman. A public hearing on the bills was set for next Tuesday at 2:30 p. m. in the hall of the House of Representatives.

House members, after a wrangle over parliamentary procedure, referred to the appropriations committee a bill proposing to give the supreme court power to make rules for inferior courts. Representative Taylor of Wayne led the fight for immediate passage of the bill.

Representatives Burgh of Henderson and Hatch of Wake and others sent in a bill to create a state division of county and district fair taxes by the state. A fund up to \$25,000 would be set up by the state and donations of up to \$100 would be

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Investigation Of Defense Program Asked

Washington, Feb. 21.—(AP)—The Senate military committee today requested a sweeping investigation of contract letting in the multi-billion dollar national defense program.

The committee sent to the Senate a resolution calling for appointment of a special committee of seven senators "to make a full and complete study and investigation of the operation of the program."

The resolution, by Truman, Democrat, Missouri, recommended that \$25,000 be given the investigators.

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Trenton Hit By Big Fire

Trenton, N. C., Feb. 21.—(AP)—Seventeen frame buildings in the business district of this town burned today.

The blaze was said to have started in a cafe, which was burned along with the postoffice, a grocery store, a 5 and 10 cent store, a filling station and a number of residences.

Firemen from New Bern and Kinston aided in checking the blaze. Damage is expected to run into thousands of dollars.

Publicity Regretted

President Says Publication of Marshall's Testimony Hurtful to National Defense.

Washington, Feb. 21.—(AP)—President Roosevelt said today he considered the disclosure of what was intended to be secret testimony before a Senate committee yesterday by General George C. Marshall, Army chief of staff, as hurtful to national defense.

The President told a press conference that it raised a question of ethics, morals and patriotism on the part of committee members and editors, publishers and broadcasters who printed reports of Marshall's testimony.

The Chief Executive said it was

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Appropriations Expected To Exceed Recommendations But Not Unbalance Budget

Daily Dispatch Bureau. In the Sir Walter Hotel. BY LYNN NISBET

Raleigh, Feb. 21.—With most of the big agencies such as public schools and roads yet to be heard from, the joint appropriations committee has approved expenditures for the next biennium of approximately one billion, three hundred thousand dollars above budget commission recommendations.

There is little doubt in the minds of the most conservative that large additions will be made to the public schools for vocational education, and neither the twelfth grade nor the ninth increment, both of which have fair chances of getting all it takes to make them effective, was contemplated in the budget report.

There is evidence, too, in lobby conversations that secondary roads are going to get more favorable attention from the committee than they get from the budget fixing gentle-

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Greeks Send Urgent Appeal For Planes

Washington, Feb. 21.—(AP)—The Greek government, it was learned today, has made a second urgent appeal to the United States for help—particularly for warplanes—"before it is too late."

The result has been to start defense officials on a fresh canvass of available supplies in search of aircraft that can be spared to reinforce the Greeks in their struggle with the Italians.

Greece's renewed plea for the assistance promised by President Roosevelt some time ago reached here during the last several days. It arrived just before the signing this week of the Turko-Bulgarian non-aggression pact which may alter the Balkan status quo and exert a decisive effect on the military and political future of Greece.

The Greek minister conferred with Undersecretary of State Welles yesterday but both refrained from statements on their talk. It was reported however, that they had discussed Greece's situation in the light of most recent developments.

The problem of finding planes for Greece is admittedly beset with difficulties, for aircraft factories already are loaded with orders for the Army, Navy, Britain and China. The question, however, was understood to be under study.

KING ALFONSO XIII IS CRITICALLY ILL

Rome, Feb. 21.—(AP)—Doctors described the condition of King Alfonso XIII of Spain as grave today. "He said he spent a restless night during which he suffered another heart attack."

Senatorial Redistricting Bill Fought

Raleigh, Feb. 21.—(AP)—Legislators presented numerous objections today to a bill to reorganize state senatorial representation and shifted it to a subcommittee for study after Senator Sanders of Alamance had commented "I see now we might as well tear the bill up."

Amendments given to the subcommittee in writing proposed: to make the third district consist of Northampton, Halifax and Edgecombe counties, electing two senators; with the fourth being Vance and Warren with one senator, offered by Senator White of Vance.

Much of the discussion centered

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Cucumber Growers Face Competition

Raleigh, Feb. 21.—(AP)—Charles F. Cates of Faison, a pickle manufacturer and member of the State Board of Agriculture, said today that truck farmers of 21 eastern North Carolina counties should be warned that the AAA limits their committees have approved for cucumbers is causing a spread of cucumber production on a commercial basis.

In other commercial cucumber producing areas the AAA committees usually exempt cucumbers from the truck limitations.

Cates said he was talking "in the interest of the farmer, not as a selfish pickle man."

As a direct result of the AAA limit of three acres of cucumbers to the farm in the 21 commercial truck counties, Cates said, one pickle plant has moved part of its equip-

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WEATHER

FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Generally fair, continued cold tonight and Saturday.

Extended weather forecast from 7:30 p. m. Feb. 21 to 7:30 p. m. Feb. 26.—Temperature below normal, much below normal; northern sections first part; moderate rain southern section by middle or latter part of period.

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"U. S.-Jap War Can Be Avoided"



Japan's new ambassador, Kichisaburo Nomura, holds his first press conference in Washington and tells newspapermen, "Japan and the United States can avoid war if the United States does not take the initiative." The new envoy, however, made it clear that Japan intends to expand southward and that his country views American fortification of the neighboring island of Guam with disapproval.

Brooks, Gillette Fight Aid Measure

Warplanes Fly Pacific

Washington, Feb. 21.—(AP)—The British embassy announced today that "aircraft are being flown" to its forces in the Far East from the west coast of the United States.

Although indicating that powerful bomber reinforcements were being sent to the British in Singapore, the envoy declined to give any further details.

"We can say nothing about the numbers, types or routes of these aircraft," an official said.

The embassy statement followed reports that Consolidated and Lockheed bombers were being flown from San Diego to Singapore via Hawaii.

U-Boats Made Ready For Offensive

Berlin, Feb. 21.—(AP)—Dietrich von Doentgen, a source close to German officials, said today that Nazi submarines were sinking comparatively few British ships because many of the U-boat crews now are engaged in preparation for the big offensive which Hitler proclaimed.

(The commentary's reference apparently was to Hitler's January 30

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"Forget 1929 And Make Hay" Is Babson's Advice

By ROGER W. BABSON Copyright 1941, Publishers Financial Bureau, Inc.

Babson Park, Fla., Feb. 21.—I wish that readers of my column—and this includes some of my Republican friends—would quit writing me about "good old 1929." Ninety percent of our businessmen, bankers, and investors can make a better record in 1941 if they first will take a damp cloth and wipe 1929 from the blackboard of memory. Ninety percent of our employees, too, can add to their welfare this year if they will quit hankering for the "grand old times." Let us debunk the myth that the 1929 era was an economic heaven on earth, instead of just the opposite. That bedtime story

is dangerous fiction because the fake glamour of 1929 still tempts some of us to underestimate the expanding possibilities of 1941 and to over-despise its potential opportunities. It is well to be realists, and today that means to be optimists.

Rip Van Winkle in Reverse. Supposed that some of these people who are neglecting 1941 in futile yearning for the "good old days" could get their wish and wake up back in 1929. Their first feeling would be that the country had been blasted by a bomb raid. Hundreds of miles of today's sleek highways would be reduced to their original rocks or rutted mud. Every 1929

Nazis And Britain Send New Forces

Arrival of Anthony Eden and General Dill in Egypt Leads to Speculation of Further British Assistance For Greece.

(By The Associated Press.)

Columns of German motorized troops many miles long were reported rolling south through Roumania toward the Danube river frontier with Bulgaria today as Britain sped aerial reinforcements to Greece against an expected Nazi invasion of the Aegean kingdom.

Fast Moves Feared.

In Washington, Chairman George, Democrat, Georgia, of the Senate foreign relations committee, an intimate friend of Secretary of State Hull, declared:

"Germany is preparing to move very fast. I think there will be tremendous developments within the next ten days."

Eden In Egypt. Attention was focused on the arrival in Egypt of British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and the chief of the imperial general staff, General Sir John Dill.

Speculation arose in some quarters that Eden and Dill may divert some of Britain's North African troops to support Greece against Nazi invasion.

Cairo reports said Britain had given Greece every assurance that she is capable of throwing large numbers of troops into the Balkan conflict.

Already Britain was reported to be moving additional air force units to Africa, Greece and the Far East to counter German aerial assaults on Italy and asserted Japanese threats in the Pacific.

Menziez Confident. At London, Prime Minister Robert G. Menziez of Australia warned Britain of "elements of danger" in the Pacific and declared no nation must think that Australia is "unwilling or incapable of defending herself."

Japan now has "obligations to those who are at present our enemies," declared Menziez.

Matsuoka Defiant. At Tokyo, Foreign Minister Matsuoka told Japanese newspapermen that continued defense preparations by Britain and the United States in the South Pacific would produce a situation "attended by considerable danger."

The Japanese foreign minister expressed hope that "the Anglo-Saxons" could refrain from "taking any measures tending to incite Japanese public opinion."

British Advance. British general headquarters at Cairo announced its forces invading

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British Seek Irish Ports

Aid of United States and Canada Asked in Securing Use of Ports In Ireland.

London, Feb. 21.—(AP)—The British government is seeking the aid of the United States and Canada to gain the use of Irish ports on the ground that a German dominated Ireland would constitute a definite threat to their interests in the Atlantic, an unusually reliable source said today.

This source asserted that despite Prime Minister Eamon de Valera's insistence on absolute neutrality for Ireland there were almost "continuous discussions" regarding Irish ports which Britain says she needs to counter German aerial and submarine attacks on her shipping.

It was said there was a movement to get the United States and Canada to take a lead in these discussions. "The feeling here," this source said, "is that Ireland is a potential enemy base in the Atlantic which is just as much a problem from a long range viewpoint to the United States and Canada as it is immediately to Britain."

It was reported that at the insistence of Britain, de Valera already had been given an unofficial American intimation that there is considerable sentiment in the United States that if the British need Irish bases they should have them.

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NAZI BRIDGES SPAN DANUBE

Passage of troops and equipment over pontoon bridges said to be "matter of days if not hours"; Precautions Taken.

Belgrade, Yugoslavia, Feb. 21.—(AP)—Nazi pontoon bridges in considerable number already span the Danube between Rumania and Bulgaria, a leading Balkan diplomat said today, and the passage of troops and equipment south "is a matter of days if not hours."

The river was virtually ice free and the Nazi motorized expeditionary force on the Rumanian side showed every evidence of getting ready for a move into Bulgaria.

Columns of these troops are moving south through Rumania toward the river border, military dispatches said.

Unusual activity was reported from all Rumanian airports controlled by the German air force, with fighting and bombing planes lined up on the runways.

Foreign legations in Sofia heard reports tonight that Russia was making a last minute effort to forestall a German entry into Bulgaria, but there was no confirmation in official quarters of the countries chiefly concerned.

The United States legation in Sofia had a number of placards printed in English, Bulgarian and German, saying "this building is property of the United States" and displaying the American flag and seal.

H. B. PARKER DIES OF HEART AILMENT

Goldboro, Feb. 21.—(AP)—H. B. Parker, 71, dean of the Goldsboro bar, died today in a hospital here of a heart ailment. He had been ill for some time.

The funeral will be held at the First Baptist church here tomorrow afternoon.

R. C. Gives \$19,496,805

Red Cross Reports Total in Money and Supplies Furnished So Far In War.

Washington, Feb. 21.—(AP)—The American Red Cross—"the greatest mother of them all"—reported today it had furnished \$19,496,805 in money and supplies to relief suffering abroad in the first year and a half of the war.

Hundreds of thousands of American women have shared in knitting carloads of sweaters. Tens of millions of surgical dressings have been sent to the war zones. Two chartered ships have braved mine-strewn waters to deliver cargoes of food, clothing and medicines. Night and

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