

The tense situation in Europe reflects itself in Washington where officials are anxiously awaiting developments. That the war-threat carried implications that might involve the United States, and seriously affect our future, is not denied.

Better Prepared.
The first comment on the troubled condition of the world is that the United States is far better prepared for eventualities than it was in 1914. This, in itself, worries many people who fear that our participation in the struggle will be hastened by our preparedness. This reasoning lies behind the pacifist move to limit armament in the United States, in order that no government will dare to go to war against its success.

Atlantic Squadron.
Quite recently the Navy created an Atlantic squadron, consisting of seven of our newest and best cruisers and seven of our finest destroyers. Despite all explanations the squadron was placed in the Atlantic because of the threatening conditions abroad and the fear that these warships would be needed in the Atlantic. There is no idea of aggression against any other nation, so far as we can imagine, but a conviction that if war spreads through Europe there will be work for American ships to do in giving protection to American interests.

Air Center Moved.
Another significant move was the recent transfer of the Army aviation headquarters to Illinois, near the strategic center of the country. From Scott Field airplanes can go to any border of the nation and, besides, the nerve center is not vulnerable to enemy attack. Now, the average reader might as well understand that this move was based upon sound military reasons and was put into effect now because of the fear that danger might be ahead. Nobody has any present idea that we will be attacked but nobody knows, and consequently prudence is in order.

Meanwhile, looking to its defense, and preparing for military emergency, the officials are beginning to check up on plans to mobilize industry for war activity. The manufacture of munitions and equipment in time of war is an important job and one that cannot be arranged overnight. It must be perfected before the outbreak of hostilities and the United States, profiting from the confusion and delay of the last war, is merely getting its house in order to be able to look the future in the face without flinching.

Anti-Aircraft Guns.
Significant is the strengthening of our anti-aircraft defenses. The War Department has ordered 338 new rapid-fire anti-aircraft guns and carriages at a cost of \$10,000,000. These guns will equip 32 regiments of anti-aircraft troops instead of the six or seven now so equipped. The new weapons will not be ready for nearly two years but then they will be distributed to regiments on the East and West coasts to defend our large population centers. Again, let us point out that anti-aircraft guns cannot be produced overnight. If trouble develops they must be on hand if they are to do the nation any good.

Neutrality.
Another aspect of the situation abroad is to be seen in the renewed agitation over neutrality legislation. Congress is certain to face this problem and some action will have to be taken. The present neutrality laws have not worked satisfactorily and have not, apparently, been applied equally to the warfare in Spain and in the Far East. In fact, it may be said that our present neutrality legislation is not satisfactory to anybody, including pacifists, officials and foreign nations.

Conflicting Ideas.
Of course, there are people in the United States who believe that the money being spent on preparedness is being thrown away and that the way for this nation to maintain peace is to be found in a lack of the means of defense rather than in the possession of an army and navy comparable to those of other great powers. At the other extreme, there are some who would have the nation jump into the world arena, take immediate sides and throw its weight in the scales that represent certain definite ideals. There are, too, the middle-of-the-roads, who advocate extreme caution, watchful waiting, and every conceivable effort to keep out of war. This last group, we think, is by far the vast majority of our people.

Last week the voters of Georgia (Turn to page four, please)

Want To Sell
Something?
Try a Want Ad

DEVOTED TO

Volume No. 14.

GALAX, VA. (Published for Sparta, N. C.) THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1938.

You Will Profit
If You Always Read
Times' Advertisements

Number 16.7

Eleven persons were killed in a train accident

—early Tuesday near Niland, Calif., for which railroad officials blamed a brakeman's mistake. The accident occurred when two Southern Pacific passenger trains collided head-on. In addition to the eleven killed, more than 100 were injured.

C. F. Donnatin, Southern Pacific superintendent, said the wreck was caused by the sudden, unexplainable decision of Eric Leonard Jacobson, veteran brakeman, to throw a switch as the Argonaut, New Orleans-to-Los Angeles flier, sped toward a siding where the Chicago-bound Californian, tourist train from Los Angeles, was waiting.

The Argonaut engineer saw the block signal arm rise, a red light flash. Brakes screeched, but the big locomotive veered sharply and plunged into the tourist train.

Donnatin said Jacobson was dazed and hysterical from the effect of a decision he could not explain. An important rule of the service, the superintendent said, is that when a train is on a siding, waiting for another to pass on single main line tracks, the brakemen must not approach nearer than 20 feet from the switch stand.

Both locomotives were smashed to smoldering piles of scrap metal, five coaches were overturned and 800 feet of track was ripped up. Scores were trapped in the forward coaches of the Californian, and acetylene torches were used to reach some of the bodies.

Mason, white-haired engineer of the Californian, heard his fireman, Martin, shouting: "Jump! jump! She's coming at us!" Mason jumped. He was the only survivor of the two locomotive crews.

The third car of the Californian, a streamlined coach on a non-streamlined train, was damaged most. The heavy baggage car in front telescoped it. All eight of the dead passengers were taken from this coach.

J. H. Dyer, of San Francisco, a Southern Pacific vice-president whose private car was attached to the Argonaut, took personal charge of the rescue work.

The Roaring Gap Hospital for Children closed

—on Thursday, September 15. At the two tonsil clinics held there during this month, 64 tonsilectomies were performed for children from Alleghany County. One hundred and thirty-eight patients registered for tonsil operations but this number could not be taken care of, on account of lack of space.

All of these operations were performed free of charge, although patients who are able to pay, are supposed to do so. However, if a patient cannot pay, Mr. and Mrs. James Gray, of Winston-Salem, who established the hospital, take care of the expenses.

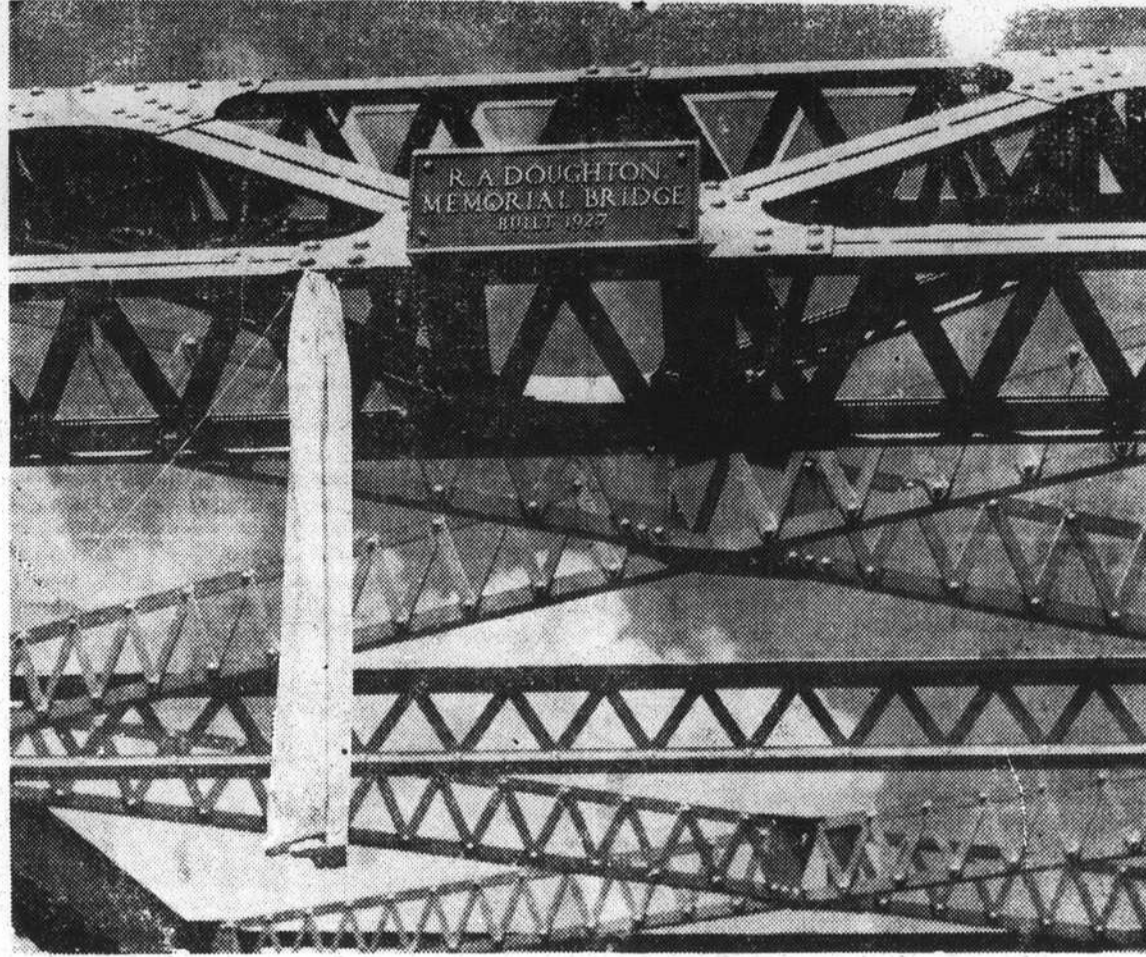
The hospital has a bed capacity of thirty. All summer long there has been a waiting list of sick babies, only those who were very ill being taken in.

The Roaring Gap Children's Hospital is not a charity hospital, it has been pointed out. Private physicians may, and do, send their patients there. Private rooms are available. During the summer only a few pay patients were inmates of the hospital.

Dr. Butler, medical director of the hospital, and Dr. Fielden Combs, eye, ear, nose and throat specialist, both of Winston-Salem, very generously gave their time and labor free of charge, thus making the operation of the hospital possible. The citizens of Alleghany County appreciate the fine spirit which prompts these physicians to close their offices in Winston-Salem while they come to Alleghany County to work for nothing, it has been said.

Mrs. Virginia Ashley Greene was assisted at the tonsil clinics by Miss McClure, of Boone, county health nurse for Watauga County.

Bronze Plaque Unveiled At Doughton Bridge Labor Day



Pictured above is the bronze plaque unveiled when the Doughton bridge across New River, a few miles north of Sparta, was dedicated on Labor Day. The tablet was unveiled by Miss Irene Calhoun, Elk Creek, Va. Ex-Governor E. Lee Trinkle, of Virginia, made the dedicatory address, and Governor Clyde R. Hoey, of North Carolina, and other dignitaries, spoke. The picture was taken at the south approach to the bridge.—Photo Courtesy The Roanoke Times.

Methodists will hold a uniting conference

—in Kansas City, beginning next May 26. The conference will be held for the purpose of actually merging the three major branches of Methodism in the United States, approval of which has already been given by the general conferences of the three branches.

Nine hundred delegates will represent the eight million members of the three church organizations at the uniting conference. The conference will merge the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Methodist Protestant Church.

Union of the churches has been a question before its leaders for a number of years. Decision to unite was reached last year.

The selection of a meeting place developed a battle in the committee, with heavy pressure from Baltimore and Kansas City in the last ballot. The committee's vote was 9 to 6 for Kansas City. Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, New York, Atlantic City, and Lake Placid, N. Y., were eliminated earlier.

Ten members of the entertainment committee were guests of Kansas City on Friday, looking over the city's equipment for a meeting. They were breakfast guests of the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and luncheon guests of the Ministerial Association.

The conference meeting hall will be Kansas City's huge auditorium, which has a seating capacity of 14,000 and has 35 committee rooms. Committees are at work harmonizing the disciplines of the three closely-related denominations, looking forward to their union in one great denomination, to be known as the Methodist Church.

The first session of the Union Baptist Association

—was held at the Whitehead Baptist church on Friday and Saturday, September 16 and 17. C. S. McKnight was elected moderator, and J. Raymond Miles, clerk.

Six churches were in the organization, and Liberty church, near Low Gap, joined by letter and sending delegates.

A large number of visitors were present each day.

A regular meeting is to be held at the Cherry Lane Baptist church Saturday, September 24, and a baptismal service is to be held Sunday morning, the 25th, at 9:30 o'clock, near the home of C. S. McKnight. There will also be preaching at the church at 11 o'clock Sunday morning.

National And World NEWS At A Glance

MELVIN PURVIS WEDS
Charlotte, Sept. 14.—Melvin Purvis, of Timmonsville, S. C., and San Francisco, Calif., former ace operative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was married here tonight to Mrs. Rosanne Wilcox Taylor, of Florence, S. C., and Baltimore, Md.

Purvis, who directed the capture of John Dillinger, the outlaw, gave his age as 34. His bride gave her's as 30.

SEN. GEORGE IS VICTOR
Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 15.—Georgia Democrats tonight gave a thunderous "No" in reply to President Roosevelt's exhortation that Senator Walter F. George, conservative who had opposed major new deal legislation, be voted out of the party.

George was renominated, it was shown in virtually complete returns, some official and others unofficial, from yesterday's Democratic primary. The nomination was tantamount to election.

BUILDING GAINS NOTED
New York, Sept. 16.—Building construction last month was the best for any August since 1930, the F. W. Dodge Corporation reported today, topping July by one-third and the same month last year by 12 per cent. Contracts awarded in the 37 states east of the Rockies totaled \$313,141,000, the statistical organization stated, compared with \$239,799,000 in July and \$281,217,000 a year ago.

MAKES FATAL DIVE
Medford, Mass., Sept. 17.—After police had tried for half an hour to coax him down, an unidentified, well-dressed man dived 100 feet to his death late today from atop Lawrence Observatory.

BOAKE CARTER TO SPEAK
Chapel Hill, N. C., Sept. 18.—Boake Carter, famed radio news commentator, will speak at the University of North Carolina, the latter part of this month, it was announced here today by Voit Gilmore, of Winston-Salem, chairman of the Carolina Political Union, student organization which brings speakers of various affiliations to the campus.

RUSSIAN AID BALKED
Geneva, Sept. 20.—Soviet Russia was reported today to have offered help to Czechoslovakia if she fights Germany, but Rumania, it was said, threw a monkey wrench into the plan.

Rapid developments after a Czechoslovak appeal to Moscow to stand by the Prague government should Germany try to seize Sudetenland apparently were brought to an abrupt end by a Rumanian refusal of right-of-way for Russian troops and arms.

Hunters may be subject to some difficulty

—this fall if they fail to carry a positive identification as to their residence, in addition to their hunting license, according to John D. Chalk, North Carolina Commissioner of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Commissioner Chalk said recently that every attempt will be made during the coming hunting season to catch those individuals who have for years obtained their hunting licenses under false pretense. Every officer in the field has been instructed to ask for positive identity, failing which steps will be taken to prohibit hunting until proper identity is established.

"North Carolina sportsmen do not go hunting or fishing without first equipping themselves with proper licenses but all hunters and fishermen are not sportsmen; therefore, it is necessary for game protectors to check licenses closely," said Commissioner Chalk.

R. L. Doughton is to speak at a Democratic rally

—in Statesville on Thursday, September 29, when the Ninth District congressman, whose home is in Alleghany county, will open his campaign for reelection.

Other speakers on this occasion will be Gregg Cherry, of Gastonia, chairman of the state Democratic Executive Committee, and B. D. Guire, of Lenoir, chairman of the Ninth Congressional District Executive Committee. Also, representatives from each county in the district will make brief talks.

A large delegation from Alleghany County is expected to attend this meeting.

A meeting of the Young Women's Circle was held

—Thursday night, September 15, at 7:30 o'clock, at the home of Mrs. P. H. Tompkins. The president, Miss Marie Perry, presided during the business session.

Mrs. Robert Gambill conducted the devotionals, after which Misses Lillie Ervin and Vangine Choate presented an interesting program. During the social hour the hostesses served a salad course, a sweet course and soft drinks. The October meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Robert M. Gambill.

Plans are complete for the Alleghany Agricultural Fair to be held at Sparta High

School on Friday and Saturday, September 30 and October 1

—and officials are anticipating a large attendance. This annual event is looked forward to very anxiously by Alleghany county citizens, and it seems that an unusually interesting program has been arranged this year. All exhibits, except livestock, must be entered and in place Friday morning, and judging of the exhibits will take place Friday afternoon.

Hitler will have a meeting in Godesberg today

—with Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, of Great Britain, the meeting having been postponed from an earlier date during this week, in order to give Czechoslovakia more time to consider acquiescence to the demands laid down by Hitler when he and Chamberlain met last Thursday in Germany. The demands were relayed to the Czechs by England and France, with a virtual ultimatum for a "yes or no answer" in a very short time, if they were to guarantee that the little Czech republic would continue to exist.

An official communique from the prime minister's residence said:

The prime minister and the German Fuehrer have decided to resume their conversation, which was begun at Berchtesgaden, at Godesberg, on Thursday, September 22, at 3 p. m.

The prime minister earlier was reported to have decided to fly to Germany to see Hitler on Wednesday, regardless of whether the Prague government reached a conclusive decision on the Anglo-French plan for liquidating the Czech crisis.

The first reply of the Prague government to the Anglo-French proposal was delivered to the foreign office late today, and shortly afterward Chamberlain announced the date of his talks with Hitler.

The Czech reply was understood to have asked for further consultations on the Sudeten partition plan. There was no official hint as to whether the reply indicated ultimate acceptance.

Meanwhile there was a growing fear that further delays in reaching an outright settlement may prompt the German Fuehrer to march on Czechoslovakia, to gain a military as well as a diplomatic triumph.

It was understood that Chamberlain would fly to Godesberg Thursday morning, accompanied by Sir Horace Wilson, one of his most intimate advisors, and William Strang, foreign office expert.

Meanwhile the Czech reply to the Anglo-French proposal was to be studied throughout Wednesday by members of the British "inner cabinet." It was presumed Chamberlain's decision to go to Godesberg Thursday instead of Wednesday was to enable him to study the Prague message.

The September term of Superior court will open

—here in the Alleghany County Court House, on Monday, September 26, at 9:00 a. m., with Judge

Hoyle Sink presiding. J. Erle McMichael, Winston-Salem, solicitor for this judicial district, will prosecute the docket. Twenty-one cases are on the warrant docket, of which fourteen are drunken-driving cases. Nine criminal cases were continued from the last term of court, while there are two sci fa cases. One murder case, that of Sam Ellis, charged with the murder of Elder Johnny Hoppers on July 16 of this year, is on the docket.

Eleven cases are on the civil docket, one of these being a divorce case.

It is expected that this term of court will be rather more lengthy than usual, as there are on docket a few cases each of which will probably consume a good deal of time.

As a special feature of the fair, faculty members of Sparta High School will present the play, "Aunt Cindy Cleans Up," Friday night, at eight o'clock. This is said to be one of the most hilarious farces ever written. Claire Harlow, portrayed by Miss Nellie Ruth Kreger, shares a bungalow with her Uncle Ripley at Claytonville, a summer resort town. Uncle Ripley, played by Isom Wagoner, leaves Claire alone to entertain Lotus Clayton, played by Polly Dougherty, and Aunt Sabina, who Miss Gertrude Andrews most ably portrays. Aunt Cindy, an eccentric old maid, played by Mrs. Lucy Halsey, stays with them and is a source of much amusement. Burton McCann plays the part of a handsome young movie star, Colby Magnet.

"You will explode with merriment," said an interested person recently, "when you see Biff Budkins, played by Bryan Taylor, eat Aunt Cindy's soap for a piece of cake!"

Other comical characters of the play are: Parker Tubbs, played by Arnold Jones, who proposes to Aunt Cindy; Hester Hart, one of the funniest roles ever written, played by Miss Aileen Perry; Mrs. Jennie Dawson, who hears everything in town before anyone else even suspects it, and her close-mouthed daughter are played by Miss Annie Sue McMillan and Miss Sarah Warren. Some one said recently "there is never a dull second when 'Aunt Cindy Cleans Up'."

On Saturday morning at the fair, athletic contests will be held for grade and high school boys and girls. It is hoped that high schools other than Sparta, and grade schools in the county will have teams here for the 50-yard dash, 100-yard dash, potato race, sack race, and broad jumping and high jumping contests. Pig-calling and husband-calling contests, as well as a soft-drink drinking contest, will be conducted for the merriment of older persons.

A nail-driving contest and a rolling pin-throwing contest, for women, will be held. Various other contests will also be held.

Also, during the afternoon a softball game is to be played between Sparta High School and a Sparta town team. An old-time Bull-Pen game will be played by men over 40 years of age.

All livestock and poultry exhibits will be entered and judged Saturday morning.

F. H. Jackson, secretary-treasurer of the fair organization, in an interview with a TIMES representative, stressed the desire of officials that everybody take ex-(Turn to page eight, please)

The Piney Creek Agricultural fair is to begin

—tomorrow (Friday) and continue through Saturday, September 24, at Piney Creek High School. Fair

officials request that all exhibits, except livestock, be placed by 1:30 o'clock Friday afternoon, as the exhibits will be judged Friday afternoon.

Farmers and those connected with the school are busy preparing for the fair, and it is expected that competition for the many cash prizes and ribbons offered will be strong.

There will be no box supper held, as was formerly announced, due to the fact that there is no room large enough available.

The Agriculture class of Piney Creek High School attended the Galax Fair Friday and Friday night. The class attended the State Fair in Raleigh last year.

The fair is sponsored by the Vocational Agriculture department of Piney Creek High School.