

**DIPLOMATIC IMPASSES WAR NOT INEVITABLE OUR INTEREST IN CHINA TRADE PACT IN FRANCE MUST BUY IF WE SELL GERMANY'S AIR FORCE WPA AND POLITICS NO COALITION LIKELY**

Diplomatic relations between the United States and Japan have reached the point where war is inevitable if both of these powers insist upon what they consider their rights. The Japanese proclaim a "New Order" in the Far East, under which Japanese have superior rights to other powers, regardless of their treaties with China and Japan. The United States rejects this thesis and reserves all rights, refusing assent to any impairment of them. So far as the exchange of notes is concerned, the clash could not be more complete.

This does not mean, of course, that war is about to break out between the United States and Japan. It does mean very emphatically, that if the United States attempts to uphold its rights in China by force that warfare will result unless Japan abandons the present course of conquest.

If the United States, in support of her diplomatic position, resorts to other measures, such as extending financial aid to China, putting an embargo on the shipment of goods to Japan, or prohibiting the sale of Japanese goods in this country, war might be averted, but only if the Japanese accept the conditions without resort to force. It may be taken for granted, we think, that if any measure of the United States becomes effective enough to impair the Japanese campaign in China, the danger of a conflict will be great.

While the United States has not the commercial investment in China that Great Britain has, it is a mistake to assume that our interests in the Far East are less than that of the British. For generations, the United States and China, have been on extremely friendly terms and missionary activity in China has given the people of this country great interest in the Chinese. Transcending the material interests is the concern of the United States over the continued successes of aggressor nations, which foment treaties and the rights of other powers, thus leading the world to a day when force, and force alone, will become the arbiter of national developments.

It is possible, of course, that the United States may follow the course adopted in 1932, when Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson reserved American rights in Manchuria after Japan had completed her conquest of that area. Diplomatically, we have refused to recognize the new status in Manchukuo and while Japan has systematically interfered with the commercial rights of Americans in the new state, the American Government has permitted the matter to rest. If this course is followed in regard to the other parts of China, the Japanese will not be concerned with the American attitude nor care much about our "reservation" of rights in China.

The Anglo-American trade agreement, slashing tariffs in this country, England and her crown colonies, became effective on January 1. As the New Year began, warehouses in this country, England and other parts of the British Empire, were stocked with merchandise shipped in under bond to be held until the tariff reductions provided for under the Treaty became effective.

Undoubtedly, trade between the English-speaking peoples will be increased by the new pact. In England, newspapers report large quantities of electrical appliances, dental equipment, foodstuffs of various kinds, lumber, silk hosiery and other products from the United States ready for distribution there. In this country, at the same time, English merchandise was similar in storage, the largest quantities being in woolen piece goods, cutlery, dinner-ware, cotton cloth and leather products.

Of course, the cry will go up in many sections that these English goods are keeping American workmen from being employed. Those who raise this complaint do not point out that the American goods sold in England and her colonies provided employment for workers here. In Great Britain, and the other parts of the Empire affected by the new Treaty, the same cries will be raised. It will be asserted that the importation of American products prevents British laborers from being employed. Over there, just as in this country, the protests will say nothing about the (turn to page four, please)

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## Measles is very much a problem at this time

—and some facts concerning the disease are brought to the attention of citizens of Alleghany County by Dr. Robert R. King, District Health Officer.

A statement on "Measles," by Dr. King, follows:

"Measles is one of our most highly contagious diseases and is infectious or 'catching,' several days before the rash appears and for some time afterwards. The laws of North Carolina require a quarantine period of 14 days after the rash appears.

"Measles, as well as other contagious diseases, is to be reported to the Health Department by the attending physician if there is one, if not by the parents or householder, school teachers or others knowing of the disease.

"Only through good reporting can good control be maintained. Measles is particularly dangerous to the young child up to three or four years of age. These frequently have complications in the form of enlarged glands, infected ears and mastoid trouble and most often of all complications is pneumonia.

"Don't expose children wilfully to measles, for the later in life they have it the less likely they are to have complications.

"Keep your children at home for two weeks if they have been exposed, for they may scatter the disease and bring severe sickness or even death to others."

## Circle No. 1 of the Baptist W. M. U. will meet today

—(Thursday), at 2:00 p. m., at the home of Mrs. A. O. Joines, for the regular monthly meeting of the organization.

All members are urged to attend, as the year books are expected to be ready for distribution.

Mrs. Amos Wagoner is program leader for the meeting, and the topic is "The Great Commission—Our Mission," based on Matthew 19, 20.

## Sparta High School girls' basketball team won Tuesday

—night over the Mountain Park girls by a score of 12-10. The game was played in the Sparta gymnasium.

The Mountain Park boys' team won from the Sparta boys' team by a score of 12-22, in a game that was dubbed the "Rose Bowl" game. The Sparta team, however, played an excellent game, it was said.

## MRS. L. F. STRADER WILL BE HOSTESS TOMORROW

—(Friday) afternoon, at two o'clock, at the Methodist parsonage, to members of the Women's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church.

## Gov. A. B. Chandler, of Kentucky, was the principal speaker Saturday night

—in Raleigh at the Democratic Jackson Day banquet. The Kentucky executive was heard by a group of Democrats who paid \$25 each to attend. Governor Chandler urged President Roosevelt and members of Congress to reorganize the government "along sensible business lines" and to return to the states "those essential state rights that never should have been taken away."

The stocky Kentuckian, who recently was defeated in a race for nomination to the U. S. Senate, also called on federal leaders to balance the budget and decrease the national debt.

"As speedily as possible, the President and members of Congress must arrange to stop the increase of the national debt," he said, "because it is perfectly obvious that a \$9,000,000,000 budget with a \$5,000,000,000 income cannot be continued.

"It is the belief of many," he added, "that the public is desirous now for leveling off, and that our gains should be consolidated, and that Congress should reassert its constitutional obligations to supervise more carefully the finances of the country."

Chandler received long applause every time he mentioned the name of "our leader, Frank" (Turn to page eight, please)

## Congress Opens



WASHINGTON, D. C.—Speaker of the House, William B. Bankhead, calls to order the opening session of the Seventy-sixth Congress which opened on January third.

## The fight to save White Tollett from electrocution

—appeared practically lost Tuesday night, although close relatives and friends continued the fight. The tall, 28-year old Tennessean, convicted in the dynamite deaths of three small daughters of Harmon Gouge, near Elizabethton, Tenn., last January, was scheduled to die at dawn Wednesday.

Attorney Roy C. Nelson, of Elizabethton, whose wife is the former Miss Alene Cornett, of Spring Valley, in Grayson County, Virginia, assisted in the prosecution in the trials held in connection with the dynamiting cases. Sources close to Governor Gordon Browning said that despite renewed appeals for executive clemency he was firm in his refusal to rescind his former decision not to interfere with the sentence.

A delegation of 34 persons pleaded that Tollitt's sentence be commuted to life imprisonment.

Meanwhile, Warden Joe Pope of state penitentiary said he was making preparations to remove Tollitt from solitary confinement to the death house.

Two others, Ulysses Walling and Lee Walker, confessed they participated unwittingly in the dynamiting which the state contended was an abortive plot to kill Gouge, who admitted he shot and killed White Tollett's brother, Arnold.

Gouge, not at home when the blast snuffed out the lives of his daughters and injured his wife, later was acquitted of the charge that he shot the condemned man's kinsman.

Another defendant, Church Lester, also sentenced to die, hanged himself in jail a few weeks after the trial.

## A record budget was given to the N. C. legislature

—Monday night, calling for state expenditures of \$154,514,899 during the 1939-40 biennium. The legislature received the budget with Governor Hoye's recommendations that very few changes in the state's tax laws be made.

The budget compared with a recommended \$140,419,146 two years ago, when the legislature voted to appropriate \$146,985,302. Four years ago the recommended budget for the 1935-37 biennium was only \$114,428,523, but many changes were made, resulting in actual expenditures in 1935-36 of nearly \$11,000,000 more than the budget recommendations had been. The budget statement set forth that a balanced financial sheet was expected on the basis of recommendations, but it showed that the general fund would end the 1939-41 biennium with only \$39,693 in surplus while it was figured it would start the period with \$2,200,000 carried over next June 30.

Tax revenue estimates were based on the assumption that business during the entire biennium will be at the levels of 1937-38, when the state got the greatest receipts in its history.

Principal tax changes were proposals to increase the beer tax by 50 per cent., making it one and a half cents a bottle instead of one cent, and the liquor tax by nearly as much, raising the rate from 7 per cent. of the retail price to 10 per cent.

The use tax on building materials, automobiles and the like would be extended to cover "tangible personal property" for storage, use or consumption in this state" at the 3 per cent. sales tax rate, with a top limit of a \$15 tax on any single purchase.

Ice and medicines would be exempted from the general sales tax, in addition to bread, sugar, coffee, flour, meat, lard, milk, molasses and rolls, which were exempted in 1937.

The entire section on intangibles was rewritten by the budget commission, and other minor changes were made, including revisions of top rates for inheritance taxes, but they were termed negligible changes by the Governor.

## Improvement work at Sparta H. S. is suspended

—temporarily, although it is hoped that this work can be resumed early in the spring. Work on both the beautification project, under the supervision of Cary Brown, and the general school grounds improvement project, under the supervision of George Edwards, have been suspended.

In addition to a great deal of grading, the beautification project has included the planting of 21 white pines, 569 mountain laurels, 4 hemolocks, 40 bunches of purple rhododendrons, 10,987 feet of sod, and 27 1-2 pounds of grass seed.

The general school grounds improvement project included the removal of approximately 8000 yards of dirt in grading for the baseball diamond, the building of 325 square yards of concrete walks and 750 linear feet of stone walls. These walls vary in height from twelve inches to five feet.

In addition to these outstanding changes, many minor improvements have been made.

To date, these projects have cost the school \$417.26, a large percentage of which has already been paid.

The money for these projects has been made through programs sponsored by the school officials and faculty of the school. The school is grateful to the patrons and friends of the school for their splendid cooperation in all of this work, it has been said.

Most of the work done on these projects, or only the unskilled labor, was furnished by the WPA. Various features of the work that required labor of a more skilled nature were paid for out of the funds referred to.

## Denied New Trial



Howard Delp (above), who was denied a new trial in a decision handed down Monday by the Virginia Supreme Court in Richmond. He was sentenced to die early in 1935 for the murder of Chief of Police Posey Martin, of Galax. A date for his execution will be set soon.—Photo Courtesy The Roanoke (Va.) Times.

## "Bolts and Nuts" is to be given by the Junior

—Class of Sparta High School, in the school auditorium, on Saturday night, January 14. This production is a comedy in three acts.

Miss Rebecca Bolt, played by Miss Helen Truitt, inherits a spooky old tavern and turns it into a sanitarium for nervous patients. Many "nuts" come to the sanitarium and are a source of much fun. Each patient is portrayed as having a peculiar characteristic of his own, creating hilarious situations during the entire play.

Complications multiply as Rebecca searches for her deceased brother's money, which is hidden about the house.

The cast of characters follows: Benita Bolt—Rebecca's niece, Miss Marjorie Halsey; Luita Spinks—the maid who winks, Miss Marjorie McMillan; Rebecca Bolt, Miss Helen Truitt; Martha Grubb—the cook, Miss Nella Goodman; Twink Starr—Benita's fiancé, John Pugh; Dr. Hippocrates Joy—psychiatrist, Guy McCann; Henry Goober—porter afraid of lunatics, Page Andrews; Phineas Plunkett—a lawyer, Roy Choate; Miss Prunella Figg—patient with claustrophobia, Miss Elvira Wagoner; Cadwallerder Clippy—patient afraid of cats, James Caudill; Mrs. Gertie Glossop—another patient, Miss Louise Edwards; Wilbur Glossop—her darling child, Raymond Royal, and Jack Gordon—young interne, Guy Woodruff.

## Sentiment for changes in the NLR act seems

—to be gaining in Washington, D. C., although no fundamental revision is predicted. There were unmistakable signs that the American Federation of Labor had mustered strong support for its demand that the labor board be deprived of discretionary power to designate craft or industrial unions as bargaining agents. A. F. of L. leaders said they expected legislation covering this demand would be introduced this week, but declined to say who would sponsor it.

Proposals that the law be amended to permit employers to submit labor disputes to the board, a practice now prohibited by administrative ruling, also received support in expressions from some members.

Congress is assured, however, of getting one major new issue this week. That is the national defense program which President Roosevelt will outline in a special message, probably on Thursday.

## Governor Clyde Hoye gave the N. C. General Assembly a list of 19 "assignments"

—in his legislative message to the law-makers, touching on almost every phase of the state's life. Heard in silence but thunderously applauded as he finished the biennial message, the Chief Executive warned that there could be no reductions in taxes, including the sales levy, without similar reductions in expenditures, and expressed opposition to a constitutional amendment to prevent diversion of highway funds.

## Howard Delp was denied a new trial Monday

—in a decision of the Virginia Supreme Court in Richmond, a sentence passed in the Grayson County

(Va.) Circuit Court was affirmed. Delp was sentenced to die in April, 1935, for the stabbing and killing of Chief of Police Posey Martin, in Galax, on February 21, of that year.

The crime for which Delp was sentenced to electrocution was committed when Chief Martin was trying to prevent him (Delp) from escaping from the Galax jail. Delp was captured a few days later near North Wilkesboro, after an extensive man-hunt.

In the opinion handed down Monday in Virginia's high court, by Chief Justice Preston W. Campbell, of Abingdon, the court held that Delp had an impartial trial; that there was no conflict in evidence and no error in the trial record. His attorney argued at the Supreme Court hearing in November that the Grayson court erred in refusing to allow a certain instruction which would have given the jury more latitude in returning a verdict.

Official consideration of the case was prolonged by the matter of Delp's sanity. In March, 1935, a sanity jury in Grayson Circuit Court, in Independence, adjudged Delp to be sane, after a hearing, and his trial for murder was ordered and held immediately. However, after his conviction, Delp was taken to the Roanoke

## JUDGE DRAPER TO SET EXECUTION DATE SOON

Judge John S. Draper said Tuesday in Pulaski, Va., where he resides, that he would shortly set a date for the execution of Howard Delp, convicted in Grayson County in 1935 of stabbing and killing Chief of Police Posey Martin, of Galax.

The State Supreme Court of Appeals Monday upheld the trial jury's verdict.

Judge Horace Sutherland, Galax, presided at the Delp trial, but has since retired from the bench. He was succeeded by Judge Draper.

jail. Later, it was said, he became violent, and was taken to Southwestern State Hospital, in Marion, for observation and safe-keeping.

Dr. Joseph R. Blalock, superintendent of the Marion institution, said that a group of psychiatrists reported to the Grayson court within the past three months that Delp is sane.

The tragedy occurred on the night of Thursday, February 21, 1935. Delp and another man had been arrested in Galax on the afternoon of the 21st, on a minor charge. Bail was arranged by friends of the second prisoner, and Chief Martin was summoned from the nearby Bluemont Hotel, where he was attending a supper, to release the man for whom bail had been provided.

When the officer opened the cell door to call out the bailed man, Delp attempted to force his way out, also, and in the struggle that followed, Chief Martin was fatally stabbed in the neck with a knife or screwdriver. Frank Dotson, who was then a Galax town officer, was also seriously cut about the face and head, but recovered.

Delp was arrested while walking along a highway near North Wilkesboro, on Monday night, February 25—four days after the tragedy—by Marvin Evans, then a member of the Galax Police Department; Deputy Sheriff Earl Lawson, Galax, and Bill Poe, Galax, who was serving as a special officer.

He recommended revision of the state's absentee ballot and election laws, a \$5,000,000 bond issue for highways, a balanced budget and "permanent" revenue act, addition of a 12th grade to the public school system, and hours laws for industry nearer to "present standards."

Also suggested was the use of electricity instead of lethal gas as a mode of execution at central prison.

In a 20th item covering miscellaneous recommendations, the Governor urged "earnest consideration" of enlarged programs in public health, vocational education, library work and education; retirement plans for the state's employees; a permanent state position; laws for roadside improvement and beautification; a stronger anti-lynching law; and revision of judicial procedure relating to the selection of magistrates and rule-making for court.

The Governor presented his legislative message to the entire General Assembly shortly after the house and senate had adopted a resolution presented by Representative Vogler of Mecklenburg providing that the legislature hold a one-day session in his county to commemorate the signing of the Mecklenburg declaration of independence.

Representative Robinson of McDowell introduced a bill to require the dimming of automobile lights when vehicles meet on the highways.

Both senators and representatives praised the Governor's message, though some disagreed with him on his highway fund diversion and election law recommendations.

In voicing his opposition to an amendment to prohibit highway fund diversion, the Chief Executive spoke emphatically, and he devoted a good part of his message to this subject.

He reasoned that such a matter would be out of place in the state constitution and that "the effort is to regulate a temporary matter by provisions of the fundamental law." He cautioned the legislators against "legislating by petition," warning that pressure probably would be exerted for a diversion amendment.

Turning to financial matters, the Governor pointed out that through normal expansion and growth, public schools would require an additional \$3,000,000 during the next biennium if increments for teachers are allowed on a 10-year basis, instead of eight as now.

## Premier Daladier returned to Paris Sunday

—from his tour of France's Mediterranean possessions with the warning of "great tasks" ahead if her empire is to be kept intact.

His arrival marked the beginning of what may be a momentous week in the budding controversy with Italy raised by fascist press tumult for Corsica, Tunisia and other French territories.

A cabinet meeting with President Albert Lebrun presiding was called for Tuesday when, also, British Prime Minister Chamberlain and his foreign secretary, Viscount Halifax, will stop in Paris for a conference on their way to Rome for appeasement talks with Premier Mussolini.

The French parliament will reconvene the same day with a full dress debate on foreign affairs as its first business.

The return of Daladier ended brief country sojourns of Foreign Minister Georges Bonnet and other cabinet members.

The premier, who left Paris New Year's day, had toured Corsica and Tunisia, prime objects of the Italian press clamor, as well as Algeria.