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Alleghany County
Formed in 1859
Area, 209 sq. miles or 133,760 acres
Elevation, average, 2,700 feet.
County Seat, Sparta, population, 652
County Officers:

Clerk of Court A. F. Reeves
Register of Deeds T. M. Gambill
Sheriff and Treasurer DeWitt Bryan
Coroner Dr. B. O. Choate
Surveyor J. C. Sparks
Superintendent of Health Dr. B. O. Choate
Superintendent of Schools W. C. Thompson
Superintendent of Public Welfare Lillie Ervin
Farm Demonstration Agent R. E. Black
Chairman Board of Education T. Roy Burgess
Chairman Board of Elections Amos Wagoner
Game Warden and Forest Warden R. D. Gentry
County Attorney R. F. Crouse
County Commissioners: V. B. Phipps, Chairman,
Mouth of Wilson; Mac D. Wagoner, Whitehead,
and J. C. Gambill, Independence.

Destruction of Wildlife

Sometimes our Alleghany farmers wonder just how much "rights" they have on the property which they have paid for and supposedly "own." In our issue of October 17 was printed a ringing letter from Jim Kent Andrews, protesting against the wanton destruction of partridges or quail, and pleading for the enrichment of our county wildlife by allowing the quails some chance.

Now we have a little story from another former Alleghany farmer which we can only hope will help to restrain the enthusiasm of the exterminators.

"Last week an incident that left a farmer in this community feeling bitter and revengeful. He had two coveys of quail in a river bottom field. He likes quail to eat, and also likes to hunt when game is plentiful, but he is not an extermination enthusiast. Hearing shooting one afternoon he investigated, and found men with their bird dogs and guns banging away at his quails, killing and maiming the birds he loved and had tried so hard to protect.

"These men had not asked permission to hunt on his land, and evidently considered they were doing something 'smart' and 'putting one over' on the farmer. But facts are facts. They were simply 'stealing' something the farmer valued very highly, and will find very hard to replace. He feels that if he would invade their premises as they had his he would be indicted. Wonder if they had thought of their 'act' in this way. Hope they have, and will be a little more honest and considerate when next they go on a 'stealing' expedition."

Viewing the Broad Front

The Axis' spokesman continues to boast of the dreadful doom that is about to befall Britain and all other powers which dare to oppose German-Italian-Japanese ambitions to create a new and revolutionary "world order." But in much of the present boasting there is a hollow and discordant note. For it is a plain fact that today the dictators are winning most of their battles on paper instead of on the field of action.

The war, in other words, is not going well, from the Nazi-Fascist point of view. Germany has apparently abandoned hope of invading England—a move which, according to Hitler's original calendar, was to have been completed months ago. Her air attacks go on, and they do much damage. But there is no evidence to indicate that the plane can win a war or break the morale of a proud and determined people. In the meantime, English plane production, buttressed by imports from this country, moves steadily forward toward the day when Britain will be

Germany's equal in the air. Nazi raiders and submarines have sunk an immense amount of British shipping. But Britain's merchant marine is still vast, and is being added to almost daily. And new British warships, including one or two 35,000-ton super-dreadnaughts, have lately been commissioned.

Greatest fiasco has been that of Italy. One expert recently observed that Germany alone is stronger than Germany and Italy together, and that may very well be true—Italy is one of the least self-contained of nations, and Hitler must keep supplying her with materials which he could use to advantage at home. On top of that, the military experts are shaking their heads in amazement over what they regard as the almost incredible stupidity of Mussolini's much-bemedaled general staff. The invasion of small, poorly-armed Greece is a vivid example. Italy attempted to use blitzkrieg tactics in a rugged, mountainous country in which there are few roads, and she started in the worst possible season. It was inevitable that her losses would be tremendous. In the meantime, England has been able to establish air and naval bases on the Greek islands which are of immense importance in cementing her hold on the Mediterranean.

The British air attack which disabled three Italian battleships and a number of lesser craft is one of the major victories of this war. It means that the Italian fleet lost close to half its effectiveness so far as the surface vessels are concerned. And that, in turn, means that Britain can release ships from the Mediterranean to hunt down and engage the German raiders which are operating in the mid-Atlantic.

Watch Africa now—the next showdown will probably come there. More and more of French Africa has disavowed the German-dominated Vichy government and is throwing in with the "free French" cause led by General De Gaulle. Mysterious General Weygand is now in Africa. He was sent there by the Vichy authorities to hold the colonies. But reports leak out that Weygand may have an entirely different plan in mind—that he may join De Gaulle or, at least, keep the part of Africa he controls out of an alliance of any kind with Germany. If he does that, it will be a blow to the Axis, which must conquer Africa as a main step in its program for destroying the life-line of the British Empire.

Also watch the Far East. There is quiet on the surface there at the moment, but turbulence underneath. Japan has been withdrawing great quantities of troops from China. Some fear she will use them in a foray against French Indo-China and the Dutch East Indies—or, if worst comes to worst, against the Philippines. Ray of hope is provided by Far Eastern experts who insist that Japan knows she is far too weak to provoke us into war, and that she will back down if we maintain a strong and unyielding policy.

Other Editors' Comments

On The Way Out?

Italy's generals and admirals are falling like ten pins, being kicked out rapidly, whisks, medals and gold braid all going into the trash heap because somebody made a mistake in ever going to war with Greece. They are the scapegoats because Mussolini started a mess he doesn't know how to finish.

He may fire his commanders by the score, by the gross, establishing the order of Ignoble Roman Scapegoats, Unlimited, but in the end he will be the one who must go. This old goat himself is probably on the way out. His axis partner to the north doesn't move a finger to help him.

Il Duce duped the Italians into entering war with France, England and Greece. They didn't want any war; they are now a non-warlike people. Caesar has been dead for centuries. They want wheat and macaroni and olive oil and butter. They have little of those. One of these days the Italian empty stomach will explode and blow away Il Duce.

The Italian stomach can't digest scapegoats but it can take out its wrath on Old Billy himself, the man with more brains in his stomach than in his head.—Charlotte Observer.

The Hickory Grove Low Down

Old Nero fiddled around, and let his town burn down—and got his name in our history books. But the Romans paid for Nero's fiddlin'. Nero had the fun and the Romans paid the bill. I guess it was in Rome where the old slogan got started about if you dance and cavort you got to pay the fiddler.

But anyway, we are not so many jumps behind the Romans. We been leavin' the running of everything to our Boys down there on the luxuriant Potomac. And brother, we sure are gonna get some fiddlin' bill.

But I see faint signs of coming out of our coma. When the bosses down in Wash. say to the Boys there, "here, you fellers, you better all go on home"—and the fellers don't go, that is news. That is grounds for optimism.

But even if Washington was to burn down, like Rome, we would keep on running I reckon. My neighbor, Henry, he says, "Jo, we would be better off if half the town did burn down." Henry's quite a card.

Yours with the low down,
JO SERRA

Scanning The Horizon

PEACE WITHOUT APEASEMENT

There was a vote on a proposal for peace in Britain's House of Commons the other day. Should England continue the war or should she negotiate for some "convenient" peace? Of course, the men who introduced the peace motion did not expect it to win. They hoped to use the motion as a sort of barometer to get an idea of the country's peace sentiment. And they got it! 341 to 4 was the decision handed down by the members of the Commons. This all-but-unanimous vote favoring the continuance of Britain's present war policy emphasizes the fact that although this war makes real peace more attractive than ever to the Britons, they would rather be bombed daily than have a false "convenient" peace.

England's millions knew well what Major Clement R. Attlee, Labor Party Leader, meant when he said that the alternatives are not war and peace, but "war and what kind of peace." They have not forgotten the valiant but futile effort for peace made by one of their statesmen at Munich. They also remember the peace their Government made when Ethiopia was ravaged without provocation by Il Duce's dragoons. Still fresh in their memories is the Third Reich's occupation of the Rhineland; and when "non-intervention" spread the tares of despotism and destruction to Spain. The British Lion had even played ostrich and buried its head in the sands of appeasement while allowing Czechoslovakia to be gobbled up by Hitler's hungry Huns, hoping that totalitarianism might possibly be satisfied with part of Europe. But now the people of the Empire realize that such hope was only wishful thinking.

At long last the British people got fed up with a kind of "peace" which required a shutting of the eyes not only to the new barbarism within the Fascist countries, but to the spread of its ideology into one country after another. It came to the place where England's over-strained tolerance gave way. After all they were no fools. This repeated backing down to secure peace had to stop. The continual breaking of pledges made the Britons feel there was no security, no decent promises. The device of the "last territorial claim" wore out, and after the seizure of Prague the people forced their Government to cease making Munichs. They wanted only real peace.

Today the people of Britain are displaying to the world the high value they place on "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." They have resolved that there can be no peace for Democracies until totalitarian tyrants are dealt a knock-out blow. And on this resolve the Britons have taken their stand.

NO SUNSHINE FOR MUSSOLINI

On the sunny peninsula of Italy all is not so sunny for a certain Signor Mussolini since Field Marshal Pietro Badoglio resigned as head of the Italian army and Admiral Domenico Cavagnari, navy chief, followed suit by adding his name to the "retired" list. As if to cap that for a double-trouble climax, riots were reported in three Italian cities last week, believed to have resulted from a growing lack of faith in Mussolini's present foreign policies, which are leading the nation into major disasters. The Italian people who were duped into believing that the invasion of Greece was blitzing along as per schedule, have recently experienced a rude awakening. Throughout the country the murmurs of internal disension are increasing. These rumblings possibly may be the beginning of a national unrest and eventual overthrow of the Fascist form of government. British military experts are of the opinion that the Premier is in the toughest spot of his entire career. There are whispers that Benito is losing his iron grip over the people. If all this be true, it is probable that his two major political blunders—the declaration of war against France and England last June, and his current Greek fiasco—are largely the cause of present feeling in Rome. Mussolini's bargain basement purchase of an alliance with Germany is daily proving to be no bargain at all. The victory he thought would be so cheap and sudden is revealing itself as long and costly—if victory comes at all. It is agreed in authoritative circles that the surprising quality of Greek resistance, the British blockade, and the increasingly effective R. A. F. bombings are softening Italy to an astonishing degree. And that is why the sun isn't shining for muscle-man Mussolini these days.

STREAMLINED U. S. NAVY

By June of 1941 America will have one of the largest peace-time armed forces in training in all its history as a nation. The new program calls for one-million four hundred-thousand men under the colors at one time. This new streamlined, high-powered, up-to-the-minute army is the result of a sober realization of the United States Government that we must be ready for any contingency that may arise.

Army heads have been keen on-lookers at the European ring-side. They have been studying the methods of modern warfare as employed by the warring nations. Tactics and tanks, blitzkriegs and bombers have all been carefully observed, and valuable lessons learned in up-to-date military operations. All the new models of the last two war-wasted years have been tested and their best features adopted. Having taken stock of the recent world wars, the Army proceeded to pull all its old structure to pieces and to build an entirely new one. Three leading models were put on the dissecting table—the German Army, the Japanese Army and the British Army. Both the German and the British machines are strongly represented in the new fabric.

But all this remodeling of our army is not necessarily a sure indication that we are being precipitated into World War II. On the contrary, it is America's best insurance against war. Such a remodeled, mechanized army is our security against the invasion of our shores. It will help to discourage any territorial designs the dictators may have on the Americans.

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