



Washington, D. C. — Despite Mussolini's oft-repeated claim that everything will come out right in the end, we have it from a high Italian diplomatic source that Italy's reverses in Africa have shattered the Duce's hope of post-war gain. The same sources believe that peace with France is very much desired by Italy right now, to protect her flank in Africa from attack by General Weygand's French army in Tunisia. Today, Italy, Spain and France—the partner, the neutral and the conquered—are all prisoners of Hitler's conquests. The ultimate aim of all is a common one,—to escape from the threat of the swastika.

Facts and figures for (anti) American Bundists and Reds.—People in the United States in 1939 were "better fed, better clothed, had more invisible servants in the form of electricity in their homes, had more electrical appliances to make housework easier, educated their young people better as measured by the numbers attending high schools and colleges, traveled more as measured by the number of registered automobiles and gasoline consumed, read more, smoked more, bicycled more, lived longer as measured by the death rate, more young people married and more of their infants survived" than at any time in the history of the country. This is the conclusion of a study by Professor Bernhard Ostrolenk of the College of the City of New York.

A table which supplements the analysis shows that in 1939 the population had increased 7 per cent over 1929, while consumption of milk, meat and butter was higher in 1939 over 1929 from 9 to 46 per cent. Consumption of fruit and vegetables also rose 79 per cent in the last decade. In 1940, men purchased 22 per cent more overcoats and 33 per cent more suits than in 1929. Women purchased 65 per cent more dresses. Residential consumption of electrical power was 120 per cent larger; farm consumption of electricity was 140 per cent larger; sales of household refrigerators were ahead 114 per cent, of washing machines 26 per cent, and of vacuum cleaners 13 per cent. Colleges had a 35 per cent larger enrollment, and high school enrollment was 40 per cent larger.

That Adolph Hitler aims at subordinating Soviet industry to Nazi plans becomes clearer from news filtering out of Slovakia. Since the Nazis' march into Prague on March 15, 1938, German engineers have built 280 miles of roads leading east or northeast. From the Slovak frontier near Vienna a great new highway to the Russian frontier, passing through Bratislava, is being cut. It will be 270 miles long, 100 yards wide, will take six years to build, and will cost at least 50 million dollars. Nazi super-highways today run across the protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia, and Germany also controls the railroad through Rumania to Constanza on the Black Sea.

Neutral observers who report a clouding of relations between Rome and Berlin assert that the German officers in Rome, who act as liaison officers between the Wilhelmstrasse and Palazzo Venezia, are making the Italians steadily more resentful by their uprightness. Twice on recent occasions Galeazzo Ciano, Italy's swagging Foreign Minister, has protested to Berlin, but without effect. Whispers that Mussolini asked for military assistance from his partner persist, and there is a well-authenticated story that urgent appeals for food and raw materials were unanswered by Berlin.

Another Case Of Remarkable Healing

In the Star-Times of January 30 the story was told of Perley Truitt's baby that fell against a hot stove and was severely burned. It was hurried to Uncle John L. Joines, who treated the burns in his own peculiar way, and the baby made a remarkable recovery. Now this week another and almost identical case is reported right here in Sparta. Thurmon Bennett's child, about two years old, fell against the hot stove and burned its face severely about a week ago. They took him to Uncle John for treatment, and today the baby is well and hardly even scarred. Uncle John seems to have a particular ability in treating severe flesh burns.

Gasoline taxes will cost the average American motorist \$38 in 1941.

Our world...

Britain's Progress in Africa

Cairo, Egypt.—Britain's army of the Nile wrote "the end" yesterday to the first phase of its African campaign with a report that no Italians remain in Egypt, Kenya colony or the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan "except as prisoners." All action has been in Italy's empire in North and East Africa since February 14, when the British reoccupied Kurmuk, a strategic post on Ethiopia's western frontier with the Sudan, a general headquarters communique reported.

Greeks Progress in Albania

Athens.—In hand-to-hand combat backed by deadly artillery fire, Greek forces on the Central Albanian front reported the capture of new peaks while inflicting heavy losses on their Italian foes and taking 300 prisoners.

More Greek Success in Albania

Athens.—Two Italian blackshirt battalions on the Albanian front have been virtually wiped out in the past 24 hours, suffering more than 1,000 casualties, by a hard-pounding Greek offensive gaining ground in almost all sectors, a government spokesman said.

Britain Aims Every Attack

London.—A smashing attack on Germany's vital war industries and "invasion bases" by a fleet of British bombers that left the Ruhr valley and the Nazi U-boat base of Boulogne ablaze was reported by RAF officials.

Putting Greece in a Predicament

Sofia, Bulgaria.—A Bulgarian-Turkish non-aggression statement issued here last night was interpreted by reliable informants to mean that Greece was in danger of being left out on a limb and might have to sue for peace with Italy or suffer the consequences of a German thrust against her. However, the statement clearly announced that agreement to keep the peace was reached "without prejudice to their contracted engagements with other countries," a stipulation that Greek sources said was "encouraging" for Greece.

Sailing Under False Colors Sure

Funchal, Madeira.—Survivors reaching here yesterday charged that a German sea raider flying a British flag steamed along with a British Atlantic convoy for four hours one night last week and then suddenly opened fire with all its guns on the unsuspecting ships.

Marine Base and Air Station for N. C.

Washington.—Assurance of speedy congressional action on a \$40,000,000 authorization requested by the navy for construction of a marine base and air station on the Eastern North Carolina coast was given yesterday by Chairman Vinson (D), Ga., of the House naval affairs committee.

Labor Unions Boost the Food Bill

Washington.—Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold, the government's No. 1 trust buster, yesterday told the House judiciary committee that labor union practices are boosting the nation's bill for food and housing. He testified at the opening of the committee's investigation of defense labor problems, including charges that labor strife is hampering the preparedness drive.

Carolina Utilities Annual Meeting Held Saturday

The Annual Meeting of stockholders of Northwest Carolina Utilities, Inc., was held at the Home Office of the company in Burnsville, N. C., on Saturday, February 15th.

E. A. Feldtkeller, J. W. Perry, E. W. Mullikin, G. B. Woody and George T. Robbins were elected to serve as directors of the company until the next annual meeting.

Bible Kissing To Cease In N. C. Courts

Yesterday the State Senate passed unanimously the bill which had been sponsored by Representative Fleetas Gobble to abolish kissing the Holy Bible as prerequisite to properly administering an oath in the courts of North Carolina.

For more than fifteen years, veteran legislators recalled, a bill to dispense with kissing the Bible has been introduced regularly in the General Assembly and until this session has been just as regularly defeated. It came up this time at the instance of the Junior Bar of Forsyth County and had the support of all three Winston-Salem members of the house and of Senator Gordon Gray in the upper body. Senator Gray had indicated his support of the bill the day it passed the house by a vote of 64 to 24 and the speedy approval yesterday was both a courtesy to him and complete

Newell Sees Willkie As Coming Force

A new era in American politics, with Wendell Willkie as one of the dominating figures, was predicted yesterday by Jake F. Newell, state Republican chairman.

"It looks," said Newell, "very much like Mr. Willkie is a candidate for either the Democratic or Republican nomination for president in 1944, maybe both."

The chairman made the prediction after recalling Willkie's testimony before the Senate foreign relations committee, which he termed "sincere and straight to the point."

Wilkes Puppy Joins the Army

From Columbia, S. C., comes the story of a tired, foot-sore puppy from Wilkesboro, that joined Battery A of the 128th Field Artillery at Fort Jackson.

The dog, about nine months old, scratched on the flap of Corp. George Schenk's tent and then collapsed. Schenk and his tent mates lifted the dog inside, wrapped him in blankets and then fed him hot cereal and meat scraps from the battery mess hall.

The dog wore a collar with a license number and the name Pat M. Williams, Wilkesboro, N. C., inscribed.

ALLEGHANY STAR-TIMES

OVER HALF A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF ALLEGHANY COUNTY

52nd Year. No. 26.

Sparta, N. C.

Thursday, February 20, 1941.

Methodism's Special Day Of Compassion

More than nineteen hundred Methodist churches in North Carolina will participate in Methodism's nation-wide observance of Day of Compassion on Sunday, March 2. Special sermons and services will emphasize the extraordinary world situation. It is expected that North Carolina churches will contribute \$41,000 on this day as their share in the million dollar campaign to relieve human suffering in war-stricken areas, and for special work at home. One-half of the amount will be used for overseas relief in Europe and China. Assistance to the Mother Church in Britain will take one quarter of a million dollars. The remaining fourth-million will be used in meeting the religious needs of youth in training under the Selective Service Act.

The million dollar emergency fund is being raised under the leadership of the Council of Bishops, and its use will be carefully guarded by the Emergency Commission, of which Bishop Edwin Holt Hughes, of Washington, D. C., is chairman. Plans have just been completed for Bishop Hughes to speak at Centenary Methodist Church, Winston-Salem, on the Day of Compassion.

Plans are already under way for this observance in many North Carolina churches, according to a statement by Bishop Clare Purcell, of Charlotte, in charge of Methodism in this state.

Gov. Broughton's Reorganization Plans For N. C.

Governor Broughton's plan to reorganize various state departments held the spotlight last night in sessions of the General Assembly.

Both houses received identical bills to allow Broughton and all future governors to appoint their own highway commission and their own commission chairman. The house unanimously passed, and ordered ratified, a bill to remove the state highway patrol, the highway safety division and related agencies from the revenue department. The measure would place the agencies in a new motor vehicle department.

The senate passed unanimously, and sent to the house, a bill to allow Governor Broughton and all future governors to appoint their own board of conservation and development. This measure also increases the membership of the present 12-man board to 15, and provides that all services of the department must be represented on the new board.

Methodist Woman's Society Met Last Thursday

The February meeting of the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the Methodist Church was held at the home of Mrs. Charles Castevens last Thursday afternoon, February 13, with Mrs. Inskeep as joint hostess.

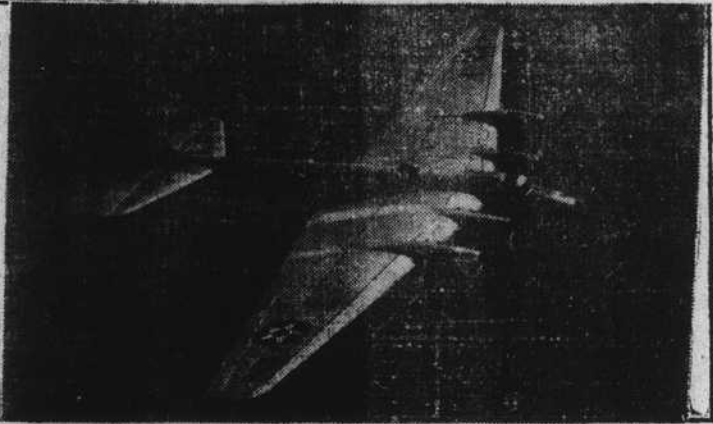
After the business was completed, the meeting was turned over to Mrs. B. O. Choate, the program leader.

The study for the hour was the work the Methodists are doing among minority groups,—the foreigners in our land. The Jews, the Mexicans and the Orientals, were considered by Mrs. Dobyns, Mrs. Mead, and Mrs. Hardin respectively. Then Mrs. John Cheek gave a very interesting talk on the work the church is doing for the Negroes at the various Bethlehem centers, and in many other places throughout the country.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 13, at the home of Mrs. R. E. Dobyns in Glade Valley, with Mrs. Black as joint hostess.

Taxes exceeding \$328 million were paid the federal government in 1940 on gasoline, lubricating oil and the transportation of petroleum through pipe lines. This is more than a 30 per cent increase over similar special petroleum tax collections in 1939.

Two Varieties Of Air Defense



America relies on airplanes for national defense and soil defense. Heavily armed planes such as the giant four-motored "flying fortress" at top help provide national defense. Planes armed only with cameras help provide soil defense. The two farmers in lower picture are inspecting a typical aerial photo map, taken from an elevation of nearly three miles and used in administering the AAA Farm Program's conservation work. Similar aerial pictures are available showing more than two million square miles of U. S. land area.

Army Recruiting Station in Sparta Post Office Today

The mobile unit of the United States Army Recruiting Service will be in Sparta, Thursday and Friday, February 20 and 21, and will establish a temporary enlistment station in the post office building for the purpose of interviewing and accepting applicants for enlistment in the regular army. Sgt. Wm. D. Montgomery and Sgt. Wilfred J. Cartwright, who accompany the unit, will have a moving picture outfit along and will show movies that depict the very latest developments in our army's mechanized forces. These pictures will be shown Thursday night at 7:30 o'clock without charge. Everyone is invited to attend.

A special effort will be made to obtain enlistments for service overseas, particularly in the Philippine Islands. Some of the special vacancies that will appeal to the young men are: the second armored division (made up of tanks and heavily armored cars) stationed at Fort Benning, Ga., the field artillery to be stationed at Fort Bragg, N. C., and the air corps school detachment to be stationed at Panama City, Fla.

The army has many opportunities to offer to young men that are willing to work and want to learn a trade. Those who are expecting to be inducted under the Selective Service should inquire about these opportunities, then consider voluntary enlistment in the regular army, and select the branch of service they desire, along with the place at which they prefer to be stationed.

Federal Aid To Georgia Definitely Cut

Uncle Sam has withheld \$504,074 in federal funds from Georgia, because that state has diverted gasoline taxes and registration fees away from highway uses. The penalty is the third and largest ever inflicted by the federal government because of diversion.

Congressman Wilburn Cartwright, chairman of the House Roads Committee, declared, "Congress cannot be expected to continue indefinitely attempts to help complete the highway system of those states which pursue the infeasible practice of misappropriating their own gasoline and other motorists' special taxes to purposes not related to highways."

Demonstration By Boy Scouts At High School

Tuesday morning in the High School auditorium Troop 53, Sparta Boy Scouts, under the direction of Scoutmaster Thomas Haigwood put on a half hour demonstration of Scouting activities such as signaling, bandaging, proper flag folding, and described various other Scout activities. Scout Commissioner W. S. Mead gave an introduction, saying this demonstration is part of the program celebrating the national Scouts 31st birthday and the Sparta Scouts first birthday. He also gave a very brief history of the interesting beginning of the Boy Scout movement. Prof. Roe closed the little demonstration with some very well chosen and complimentary remarks on the influence Scouting has in making finer men and better citizens.

National Congress Gives N. C. One New Member

The National House of Representatives approved yesterday a reapportionment of its 435 seats on the basis of 1940 census figures, changing the size of 16 state delegations but making no increase in the total number of representatives.

The action involved adoption of a new formula for allotting the seats among the 48 states. If the Senate fails to take similar action before March 8, however, the new reapportionment will be made under the method formerly used.

Baptist W. M. U. District Meeting

The Wilkesboro Division of the Woman's Missionary Union will hold its regular mid-year meeting in Elkin on next Thursday, February 27th, Mrs. E. C. James, the District Supt. announces. All officers and committee chairmen of Alleghany Association W. M. U. are urged to attend by the local Supt., Mrs. A. O. Joines. The meeting opens at 10 o'clock, and pastors and members are all invited. There will be inspirational addresses and committee reports.

Two Dentists For Sparta

Dr. M. G. Cox, of Independence, has made many friends in Alleghany County by the careful dentistry he has done for them, and now he has opened a new office in Sparta to save his friends that trip to Independence. As announced in another column he will be in his office upstairs in the Northwestern Bank building on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and will be glad to have his friends drop in to renew acquaintances and see the new establishment.

Also, it is announced that Dr. N. B. Fox, of Statesville, plans to open a dental practice in Sparta soon, probably in the office in the Duncan building now occupied by Mr. Black.

Birthday Party Surprise

A surprise birthday party was given at the home of Mrs. Belle Blevins, of Topia, last Wednesday evening, February 12th, honoring her son, Sidney, on his 14th birthday. A large number of his young friends surprised him with gifts. Games were played and everyone seemed to have a good time. Delicious refreshments of cake, fruit punch and candies were served by the hostess, Miss Sara Blevins.

Strike Settlement Does Not Settle

Negotiations for settlement of a strike which has held up production on \$40,000,000 worth of defense materials for 28 days at the Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Company plant were broken off late yesterday. Company officials and representatives of the C. I. O. had been conferring two days in an attempt to settle the strike on the basis of an agreement reached at Washington last week with officials of the office of production management.

Deaths

COX

Mrs. Mary Williams Cox, of Mt. Zion community, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. F. Shepherd, on Sunday morning, February 16. She would have been 86 years old on March 31. She is survived by three daughters, Mrs. J. F. Shepherd, of Mt. Zion community, Mrs. Jesse Taylor, of Grant, Va., and Mrs. F. S. Turmipseed, of Filer, Idaho, and by three sons, J. Roy Cox, of Mt. Zion community, Sam Cox, of California and Charles W. Cox, of Contact, Nevada. There are also a number of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many relatives and friends. Funeral services were held at Mt. Zion Church on Monday, February 17 and interment was in Mt. Zion Cemetery.

COX

Mrs. Alice Cox, of Scottville, passed away just after noon on Tuesday, February 18, and funeral arrangements were to be arranged by her son who was expected from Tennessee.

Two out of every three families in the United States own automobiles, and they are using their vehicles more than ever for recreational travel.

The average motorist pays the tax collector about 15 cents an hour, while he is operating his automobile.