

India Gesture Has Attention

Attitude There Possibly Decisive in Italy's Eastern Thrust

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON (Associated Press Staff Writer)

While Italy presses her drive to wrest the Suez Canal from British control, Britain makes what may be a counter move. In the form of a political gesture to India, at once the richest unit of the empire and the most difficult problem for London to handle.

With India's 350,000,000 population as a reservoir to draw on for defense of the canal, the odds against Italy's great adventure would be weighted heavily against Mussolini. That may be one of the motives behind Britain's action in proffering India new pledges of ultimate commonwealth status and immediate, active participation in highest government councils in India. Yet the gesture appears to have some other, and perhaps controlling motive, because any additional fighting strength Britain hopes to gain from it could not affect the military situation in Egypt and other parts of Africa for many months.

Sea-Air Test Due

Obviously Britain counts on other factors to hold Suez—on sea-power, experience in desert fighting, skill in making effective military forces out of native troops of many races and creeds and, above all, on the waterless sands of Egypt. Any Italian offensive must conquer these sands to reach the canal.

The more a layman studies the possibilities of the Italian attack, the more it becomes clear that a test of sea power versus air power is coming. It is only by air that Italy can hope to supply her

armies and get them forward decisively against the out-numbered but firmly entrenched British defenders. British sea power balks any other form of offensive.

Presumably Italy can throw the bulk of her air force into the fight and achieve a numerical superiority as great, or possibly greater, than that which Germany is able to mass for the long-delayed attack on England. The Italian ground attack as it has developed so far on the Libyan, Egyptian front, and in British Somaliland, is brushed aside by military experts as a mere preliminary for mass Italian air action to come.

There are authentic reports of extensive Italian experimentation for just the sort of attack to be expected, with neutral observers in Italian-held territory witnessing extensive parachute maneuvers there several years ago, when that type of warfare was still a military novelty.

It will may be by such means that the Italian high command plans to pave the way for the slow advance of ground columns, or to surprise British garrisons on vital bases. Informed military men say tank warfare, or mechanized "blitzkrieg" in any form, is inconceivable in such desert terrain, with temperatures running to 120 degrees in the shade.

With so huge a task of supply and transport confronting it on its own near eastern offensive front, it is highly doubtful that the Italian high command can lend much aerial assistance to Germany in any attack on England proper. On the contrary, there are seemingly authentic reports that Germany has already contributed special types of fighting aircraft to Italy for the Suez campaign.

Sprays Peaches

UNIONVALE—Spraying with sulphur, as a brown-rot preventive measure, was in progress Monday at the C. J. Countiss four-acre peach orchard.

Metal Plant Starts Soon

Branch of Aluminum Firm at Vancouver Uses Bonneville Power

WASHINGTON, DC, Aug. 2—(AP)—Manufacture of aluminum, vital peacetime and defense material, will be started at Vancouver, Wash., early next month.

At that time a switch will be thrown in the Bonneville substation at that place and wheels of the multi-million dollar plant of the Aluminum Company of America will start turning under power generated at Bonneville dam.

A 115,000-volt transmission line from the dam to the substation has been completed, and work on the plant proper is in the final stages.

Immediately after the switch is turned, the process of converting alumina into aluminum pigs and other products will be started.

"Pig aluminum produced at the Vancouver plant can be shipped by low-cost water transportation to processing plants elsewhere in the United States, where it can be converted into forms suitable for use by the large west coast airplane manufacturing industry, which is a heavy user of aluminum," said Paul J. Raver, Bonneville administrator, who announced the time of start of production from the Alcoa plant.

The aluminum company contracted for an initial delivery of 27,000 kilowatts of power, and will increase its demand about 500 kilowatts a month until it is receiving 32,500 kilowatts. A second block of 32,500 kilowatts will be made available by January 1, 1941.

Billy Rahn Is Whole Town of Millican; Postoffice (He Runs It) Has Rushing Business; Whole Town Once Moved

By JOSEPH PIGNEY

MILLICAN, Ore., Aug. 2.—(AP)—Hardy Billy Rahn, desert dictator, has been this town's sole master longer than most contemporary totalitarians have been operating in Europe.

He has fed and clothed the entire population and exercised his will indisputably for 20 years. The town would vanish if he ever left.

Billy is the only resident of this once important waterhole, in the forsaken neighborhood of central Oregon. His town is honored by every major Oregon map and officially recognized by the postal department.

There were some rumors Millican's population has lost its stability and boomed 100 per cent since 1930.

"My brother visited me a few months last year," explained Billy, who never gets lonely in his triple duty as postmaster, storekeeper and service station attendant. "When he left the population returned to normal."

Millican, named for George Millican, a pioneer stockman, rises to fame with its one resident every census year.

Soon after the word went out that Billy was the whole town, his postoffice handled a rushing business—the biggest in ten years. Requests came from autograph hounds and freak stamp cancellation collectors. Picture agencies asked him for photographs and a national radio program volunteered expenses for a trip to New York.

The radio offer has Billy stumped. He'd like to accept but he's afraid local government would go to pot in his absence. Millican might lose its distinction without any population whatsoever and, anyway, the mail has to go through.

Life moves along pretty slowly out here on the high desert where

Norse Freighter Damaged by Fire

Explosions Follow, Vessel Is Beached; Sabotage Deemed Unlikely

NEW ORK, Aug. 2.—(AP)—Rocked by two sharp explosions after a mysterious fire which flared from stem to stern, the Liverpool-bound Norwegian freighter Lista was beached in the lower harbor today.

Federal bureau of investigation agents and the police sabotage squad investigated the crew and cargo of the American-operated ship which had been trading between New York and England.

A preliminary report by city detectives dismissed likelihood of sabotage and said the fire started in a piece of waste in the ship's engine room and spread rapidly.

The explosions came, the report said, when the flames reached a fuel tank and a kerosene tank near the engine room.

Because the vessel did not have steam up, the detectives reported, crew members were unable to develop sufficient water pressure to fight the flames effectively.

The ship still beached tonight as two fireboats pumped water into her.

No Casualties

Her crew of 34 abandoned ship and were taken aboard a tug to the government beach office for questioning. None was injured.

Marine authorities said the 3671-ton Lista was delayed three days in sailing due to difficulties in signing on a crew, a not unusual occurrence on ships bound for war zones.

The Cosmopolitan Shipping company, operators of the vessel, said she carried a general cargo for Liverpool. They denied reports

Farley Ambition To Own Business

Plans not Revealed now, but 1937 Statement Indicates Hope

NEW YORK, Aug. 2.—(AP)—James A. Farley didn't explain today, in resigning as postmaster general, what "definite arrangements" he had made for his future, but it has long been known what kind of a job he wanted on returning to private business.

In 1937, long before he was mentioned as possible future head of the New York Yankees baseball team, Farley had this to say about the sort of a job he'd like if and when he left the cabinet:

"I would want something more than a selling job. I think I would be a good salesman. In fact, I know I would. But I would like an opportunity to build up an equity in a business, so I would have something more than just a salary for security for my family."

The man who directed Franklin D. Roosevelt's election and re-election campaigns—and accurately predicted in 1936 that the president would carry every state except Maine and Vermont—commented in his autobiography, published in 1938, that public life "has been very good to me."

Then he concluded with this observation:

"The wise man steps down when he is at the top and before the going gets rough."

Two-Seat Glider Record Smashed

SUN VALLEY, Ida., Aug. 2.—(AP)—John Robinson of San Diego, Calif., national sailplane champion, set a new unofficial American altitude record for two-seater gliders here today when, with Dick Durrance, national downhill ski champion beside him, he piloted a sailplane to a height of 12,500 feet above the point of takeoff.

Robinson said that soon after the takeoff the glider caught a "thermal" or updraft of warm air, which carried the sailplane to an altitude of 10,000 feet in 45 minutes. A rise of almost 222 feet a minute. Soon after reaching that altitude another thermal carried them to 12,500 feet he said.

Girls Are Freed, Burglary Charge

SEATTLE, Aug. 2.—(AP)—Two Portland girls, Miss Maxine Names, 30, and Miss Frances Sutton, vowed they would go right home to their mothers today when Superior Judge Chester A. Batchelor gave them suspended sentences for burglary.

The girls were released on their good behavior after having served four months in the county jail. Maxine's brother, David, 21, was sentenced to 15 years in prison in the same case last April.

Woman Who Kept Lighthouse Dies

PORTLAND, Ore., Aug. 2.—(AP)—Mrs. Sarah Isabel Greenwood, 74, one of the few women ever to join the United States Lighthouse service, died here today.

She started her career in 1885 following the slaying of her husband—James Greenwood, contractor and builder, who operated several Columbia river navigation lights. Mrs. Greenwood, with five children to support, took them over and operated them for 40 years.

Early Says Steel Industry Looming

SEATTLE, Aug. 2.—(AP)—Stephen Early, secretary to President Roosevelt, said here today that one of the president's fondest hopes was to bring about the establishment of a great steel industry on the Pacific coast.

He came here for an overnight visit with the president's son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. John Boettiger.

Judge Fines Himself

PORTLAND, Aug. 2.—(AP)—Municipal Judge Julius Cohn turned the tables today and passed sentence upon himself. He paid a \$1 fine for violating the automobile parking ordinance.

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| Regular 10c—Rubber BATHING CAPS Reduced to 3c | Values to 20c—Web Elastic SWIM BELTS Reduced to 9c |
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