

The Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

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Washington, D. C. GUNPOWDER EMERGENCY

In the public mind America's National Defense Problem No. 1 is production of airplanes. Actually, however, it isn't.

War department chiefs haven't been advertising it, but their greatest worry is gunpowder. You can't fight a war without powder. And up until recently the annual powder production of all U. S. factories was only 12,000,000 pounds, which would last us a few short weeks in wartime.

In comparison, the United States produced 500,000,000 pounds of powder at the end of the last war, and had partially built factories which would have produced another 500,000,000 pounds a few months after the Armistice.

It happens that nitrate is the key to gunpowder production. Manufacture of powder is a simple and speedy process. But it is made from explosive nitrate, and nitrate production is far more difficult.

There are two kinds of nitrates, natural and synthetic. Major source of the natural is Chile. But it has two big drawbacks: (1) the desperate shipping shortage; (2) the product's inferiority to synthetic nitrate for powder purposes, although good enough for fertilizer. Use of synthetic nitrate for explosives is far more efficient, less expensive and militarily more desirable.

In the United States there are only two big producers of synthetic explosive nitrate—Allied Chemical and Dye corporation, at its giant Hopewell, Va., plant; and duPont.

First hitch was objection to the government's plan of importing Chilean nitrate, thus permitting Allied Chemical's Hopewell plant to stop making fertilizer and devote its entire capacity to explosive nitrates, if necessary.

The chemical industry fell on this plan like a ton of brick. Backed by certain army officials, it hotly denied that the nation faced a nitrate shortage. Hopewell's full facilities, it was argued, would not be needed for powder purposes.

The defense commission then turned to developing new plant facilities. Here good fortune seemed to smile. TVA still had its World War nitrate plant at Muscle Shoals.

When the defense commission moved to use this government-owned plant, it again ran into powerful opposition from big business, particularly from the duPonts, tacitly encouraged by the army. However, weeks later, the defense commission finally had its way and the plan was approved. Defeated, the duPonts did the sporting thing and offered to sell TVA latest types of oxidizers, thus expediting renovation of the Muscle Shoals plant.

TVA and defense commission heads were delighted. But their pleasure—and duPont's willingness—was short-lived. When it came to installing the machinery, duPont demanded a guarantee that it would be used only to produce explosive nitrate and never fertilizer, in which duPont is heavily interested.

This was rejected flatly by TVA, which pointed out that even if it wanted to, it couldn't accept such a restriction under the law. Furthermore, it didn't want to.

duPont remained adamant, refused to lend its machinery without the guarantee. So TVA had to go into the market, order new machinery for the government.

NO MORE HARDTACK

Hard tack, that celebrated butt of doughboy jibes, will be largely eliminated from army field rations if Donald M. Nelson, energetic coordinator of defense purchases, has his way.

Nelson has worked out a novel scheme to make U. S. army field rations the best in the world.

The defense purchasing chief and his aides have discovered a substitute—canned, irradiated bread. Large quantities of this have been ordered for the army. Hermetically sealed in small tins, suitable for carrying in a knapsack, the bread will remain fresh indefinitely.

In addition, every soldier in the field will carry a second tin of a meat and vegetable mixture containing all the essential vitamins. The two cans together will give him a balanced diet away from camp.

EAST INDIES OIL

The Dutch Shell Oil company has secretly planted with "sleeper" mines, which can be detonated at a moment's notice if the Japanese set foot on the island. In that case millions of dollars worth of holdings will be blown up or fired.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

The new TVA picture, "Power for Defense," will have a wider distribution than any film ever produced by the government. It will be shown in more theaters than "The Plow" and "The River" combined.

Brig. Gen. Raymond Lee, keen U. S. military attache in London, is now home on leave and jumps every time a plane zooms over Washington airport.

Tobacco-chewing Sen. Bill Bulow of South Dakota, sports the biggest hats on Capitol Hill.

Walter Winchell

Notes of an Innocent Bystander

The Wireless: Elmer Davis tipped off Tokyo the other round-up that a country can get hurt listening to Berlin. The last nation that played a sure thing in the war, he reminded, was Italy. War and Broadway find that the softest chump is somebody looking for something for nothing. . . . You can cheer the spirit of the Free Company, offering Sunday p. m. plays. Its aim is to slap down alien propaganda and plug for our way of life. Nancy Kelly, Burgess Meredith and John Garfield donated perfect acting to the first. But that flood of film credits at the finish will make their show a trailer if they don't watch out. . . . Sen. Gillette (Ia.) is offering a bill making the sponsors of smear handouts tell their name and address. It was the same plan advocated by Morris Ernst, with no takers, on a recent Forum.

The Front Pages: Dot Thompson kept Senator Wheeler after school because he seems to know less about English gov't than a colporteur. The Senator said Canada was a colony and that only the King can declare war—a remark that would flunk him in any history course. . . . It is sickening to learn that some of our so-called leaders are afflicted with intellectual anemia. . . . Benito Mussolini, who used to bellow about the glory of Fascism, has now been relegated to boosting the strength of Nazism. In short, he's no longer an Axis partner—just an Axis press agent. Hitler's Gayda. Gayda warns the British to give up the futile fight in Africa. That reminds us of the old gag about the gink down on the floor, bloody and swollen from a terrific shellacking. He looked up at his victorious opponent and mumbled: "Have you had enough?"

The Story Tellers: One man's idea of no reading at all is the just-published book on the Maginot Line. It's like handing a swimmer—going down for the third time—a copy of "The Life of Johnny Weissmuller." . . . Good describing of a man by Ellis St. Joseph, in Story mag: "His long fleshless frame was anonymous as a clothes tree on which hung a silk hat, frock coat, striped trousers. But the man's sharp angular face was memorable—a veritable blueprint of intelligence."

Typewriter Ribbons: Dorothy Parker: Love is like quicksilver in the hand. Leave the fingers open and it stays in the palm; clutch it and it darts away. . . . Anon: It was the kind of a show at which opportunity might've knocked, if the critics hadn't. . . . Mark Twain: There are two times when a man shouldn't gamble. When he can't afford it and when he can. . . . Simeon Strunsky: A dining room table with children's eager, hungry faces around it, ceases to be a mere dining room table, and becomes an altar. . . . Anon: Now is the time for all good Republicans to come to the aid of America. . . . Isn't it strange that Lindbergh, whose historic flight helped make the Atlantic narrower, doesn't realize how narrow it is?

The Village News-Press

(Prop. and Editor Walt Winchell.)

Ex-Gov. of Penn. Earle, who socked that Nazi over there, was a good pal of the late Dolfuss when Earle probably wanted to smack somebody for that murder, anyhow.

Our esteemed rival, Lee Wood, of Roy Howard's Bugle, got off a good one the other noon when he sent one of those collect cables to Hitler, saying: "God save the King—and God help you!"

Seems that our isolationists are mighty ignorant of history when they claim Geo. Washington refused to have any foreign alliances. How about George's alliance with the French in 1776?

If ye ed were requested to suggest who should get the Pulitzer Prize for "public service," it would certainly go to S. Boehm of the New York Journal-American for his writings which convicted Kunze and his Bundists. He got his evidence after being shellacked by them twice, too.

George Jean Nathan, the critic feller, gave a copy of his book to Kimi Toye of Japan and inscribed it: "To Kimi—One good reason why the United States should not go to war!" George sure likes the opposite sex!

Western Union, according to Len Painter of Kansas City, refused to accept a message to a Senator in which he used the word "cowardly." Telegraph folks said new Gov't rules made them liable to be sued. Since when did it become illegal to call a coward a coward, anyhow?

Mussolini's newspapers and schoolmasters want to eliminate all foreign words from the Italian language. They'll put themselves in a heckuva fix if they outlaw the German equivalent for "Help!"

Watchful Waiting Off Dutch East Indies



The Dutch East Indies, eyed greedily by Japan, is the new danger-spot in the Far East. When Holland fell, Dutch warships went to protect these colonies. Upper picture shows the fleet and air fleet at Sourabaja, naval base in Java. Below, (left) two subs of the Netherlands navy on patrol, and, (right) the first group of American-built planes of the East Indies air force on guard.

Goose-Steppers—Over There—And Here!



Left: Citizens of Padova, Italy, welcome arrival of German troops. Right: Members of the school band at Sag Harbor, L. I., goose-step by a "dictator" on "dictatorship day," when totalitarian rule was established to illustrate the advantages of living in our free democracy instead of under the rule of a dictator.

Hunting the Giant Hares of Ontario



With big drives by a hundred hunters or more on Ontario's giant hares, which weigh up to 18 pounds, legislation is sought to limit driving parties to 15 persons. In top picture a hunter aims at an unfortunate rodent, while below a couple of hunters seek the elusive hare whose speed matches the best of man and dog.

Strange Interlude in War at Sea



Although facing the triple threat of submarines, mines and bombing planes, these men of a British patrol vessel can still grin cheerfully as they watch one of their number give a shipmate a trimming. These little patrol ships are in port only for brief spells to refuel and take on ammunition and supplies.

Too Big for Army



George Fischer, of New Paltz, N. Y., who was rejected by the army because there was too much of him! George weighs 470 pounds and is 6 feet 4 inches tall!

'Shipwrecked'



Members of Circus Saints' and Sinners' Club of America must be able "to take it." Here Rear Admiral Woodward does his best with tub and paddle after "shipwreck."

Deceptive First Sight

Things are not always what they seem; the first appearance deceives many; the intelligence of few perceives what has been carefully hidden in the recesses of the mind.—Phaedrus.

FREE 4 cups of GARFIELD TEA

You'll like the way it snaps you back to the feeling of "rarin' to go" fitness and internal cleanliness. Not a miracle worker, but if temporary constipation is causing indigestion, headaches, listlessness, Garfield Tea will certainly "do wonders." FREE SAMPLE! 1c — 25c at drugstores

For Prompt Relief from Headaches without opiates or quinine. Stamped, addressed envelope brings a liberal FREE SAMPLES. GARFIELD TEA CO., Inc. Dept. 10 112 1/2 St. Ave. N.Y.C. 10 N.Y. & T. 10c-25c (See doctor if headaches persist)

One's Best Light

It pays to follow one's best light; to put God and one's country first, and ourselves afterwards.—Samuel C. Armstrong.

QUINTUPLETS use MUSTEROLE for CHEST COLDS

Mother—Give Your CHILD This Same Expert Care!

At the first sign of the Dionne Quintuplets catching cold—their chests and throats are rubbed with Children's Mild Musterole—a product made to promptly relieve the DISTRESS of children's colds and resulting coughs. The Quints have always had the best of care, so mother—you may be assured of using just about the BEST product made when you use Musterole. MORE than an ordinary "salve"—warming, soothing Musterole helps break up local congestion. Also made in Regular and Extra Strength for those preferring a stronger product.

Vitamin Makes Plants Grow

Tests made at the California Institute of Technology show that vitamin B1 gives new vigor to plants.

Political Advertising

Political advertising on the two major radio chains amounted to more than \$107,000 in 1938.

Three Wise Men

According to legend, the three wise men were Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar.

Autos in World

World registration of automobiles in the world as of 1940 is estimated at 43,819,929.

Men, Blame Marlene Dietrich

Marlene Dietrich is credited with making trousers popular for women.

Beware Coughs from common colds That Hang On

Creomulsion relieves promptly because it goes right to the seat of the trouble to help loosen and expel germ laden phlegm, and aid nature to soothe and heal raw, tender, inflamed bronchial mucous membranes. Tell your druggist to sell you a bottle of Creomulsion with the understanding you must like the way it quickly allays the cough or you are to have your money back.

CREOMULSION for Coughs, Chest Colds, Bronchitis

Nothing From Nothing

Nothing can be born of nothing, nothing can be resolved into nothing.—Persius.

She Turned Him Down!

A fellow can't get anywhere when he looks uncomfortable! And he's bound to, when heartburn, "fullness" and acid stomach bother him. Have ADLA Tablets handy for quick relief. Get them from your druggist.

Memory Clings

Experience teaches that a good memory is generally joined to a weak judgment.—Montaigne.

TO RELIEVE MISERY OF COLDS quickly use 666 LIQUID TABLETS SALTS NOSE DROPS COUGH DROPS

BEACONS of SAFETY

Like a beacon light on the height—the advertisements in newspapers direct you to newer, better and easier ways of providing the things needed or desired. It shines, this beacon of newspaper advertising—and it will be to your advantage to follow it whenever you make a purchase.