

# The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

## ITALIANS BITTER AGAINST DUCE

Washington, D. C. Official and uncensored U. S. reports from Italy tell an amazing story of resentment against Mussolini. It is so strong that, according to U. S. observers, the present Fascist regime could not remain in office without the support of German troops.

Most significant of all is the fact that most of the Italian army is heartily out of sympathy with Il Duce, and Field Marshal Badoglio, ex-chief of staff, does not even attempt to conceal his criticism. Apparently Badoglio is so popular that Mussolini cannot touch him, for no attempt has been made to jail or exile him.

The sentiment of the Italian army explains in large part the recent failures in Albania and North Africa, where thousands of Italians have surrendered. On the other hand, fighting in Ethiopia has been just the opposite, with the Italians putting up a fierce resistance. This is explained by the fact that the Italian army in Ethiopia has not been in touch with conditions in Italy.

There are now more Gestapo officers (German secret police) in Rome than in Berlin. Together with about 136,000 Nazi troops, the Gestapo are also stationed in every other key city in Italy.

It is the Gestapo which has been particularly active in isolating the American embassy, with the result that Ambassador Phillips at present is able to see few people. If found talking to Phillips, his old Italian friends are warned, then arrested. Even other foreign diplomats in Italy have received Gestapo warnings not to communicate with American diplomats.

Americans, however, are extremely popular with the Italian people, who remember the efforts of President Roosevelt to prevent the war in the first place, and to keep Italy from entering the war. Also, the state department has facilitated the passage of certain Italo-Americans back to Italy. Their work has been effective.

Meanwhile, food scarcity in Italy has increased to the point where even the upper classes feel the food pinch. Poorer people are starving.

All the reports indicate that when the break finally does come in Italy, it will be an explosion of major proportions.

### AAA CORN BATTLE

Inside the agriculture department a savage row is raging between AAA advocates of acreage control and apostles of larger farm production. This time the battle is over corn.

A referendum has been set for May 31 to permit farmers to vote on wheat marketing quotas, and the dispute is whether to conduct a similar election on corn. Some of Claude Wickard's boys say corn is threatened with a price decline due to the loss of export pork markets in embattled Europe, but experts contend that pork is in for a big boom under the defense and lend-lease programs.

Inside fact is that Secretary Wickard has just about decided to call off a plebiscite among corn-hog farmers, unofficially scheduled for next fall, despite the loud demands from Triple-A boss Rudolph M. Evans, that one should be held. Evans, spokesman of the big "cash-income" farmers, has been arguing that it is just as important to control corn as wheat.

For a time he seemed to have Wickard convinced. Up to a month ago, Wickard was planning to slap a 10 per cent curb on this year's corn crop by declaring marketing quotas, with stiff penalty taxes on excess production. The matter was to be put up to corn-hog farmers in a referendum next fall.

However, Wickard now takes the position espoused by small farm champions, particularly Milo Perkins, aggressive chief of the Surplus Marketing Administration, that rising meat, poultry and dairy prices will prevent a surplus this year, since farmers always fatten up their stock when prices justify it.

Also, it is certain that a considerable portion of the huge 700,000,000-bushel carryover of corn from last year will be bought for foreign shipment under the lend-lease program. The Commodity Credit Corporation, which owns, or has under loan, about 500,000,000 bushels of the carryover, is strongly banking on this.

So it looks as if Evans, who has been warning farmers of a corn quota election this year, will have to eat his words.

### DIVIDENDS VS. WAGES

More altruistic than most big business leaders is Dollar-a-Year Man Edward Stettinius, chairman of the giant U. S. Steel corporation, which maintains cordial relations with SWOC, a C.I.O. union. Last year U. S. Steel paid stockholders \$100,000,000. This year it should pay about \$136,000,000.

But now the Steel Workers union is demanding a wage boost.

Stettinius wants to pay the additional dividends. Labor wants to get the additional pay.

# Sportlight

GRANTLAND RICE

## SARASOTA, FLA.—There is a rumor abroad that when Manager Joe Cronin of the Boston Red Sox heard that Toto, the gorilla, was

chucking things at Gargantua, her intended mate, Cronin immediately rushed to the Sarasota zoo and tried to sign Toto up as a Red Sox pitcher. For Joe Cronin, after last season, feels that he can use almost any form of animal life that can chuck things at the opposition.

Just a year ago on this fair western coast of Florida it was generally agreed that if anything happened to the Yankees, the Red Sox would move up to the vacated throne. Outside of the pitching, the Red Sox had the best team in baseball, at that time.

Outside of the pitching, the same thing is true today. But "outside of the pitching" is the same as being outside of the money. It is like being a well-dressed man, minus your pants.

A year ago Manager Cronin for veteran pitchers had Bob Grove, Jack Wilson, Denny Galehouse, Fritz Ostermueller, Joe Heving, and Jim Bagby. For rookies he had Bill Butland, Herb Hash and Mickey Harris, who had won 60 minor league games and had cost Tom Yawkey over \$100,000.

Most of the veterans hit the soapy chute, and all three of the rookies look an even deeper dive. After leading the league 37 days, Cronin began to use up his pitching staff with much lavishness, and when the crash came you could hear it 50 miles at sea.

The Yankees blew the flag, but the Red Sox were too far back to know what happened—or to care enough to find out.

### On to 1941

Measured by its infield and its outfield, by its power and its defensive field, the Red Sox still have the best club in baseball—up to the outer rim of the pitcher's box.

With Frank Pytlak catching and first-class reserves, the Red Sox look even better now than they did a year ago.

But what about their pitching? The only two veterans they have saved from the wreck of 1940 are Bob Grove and Jack Wilson. Grove will probably be good for only 20 games this season, working once a week. Wilson, loaded with potential powder, is still an enigma.

Cronin's three outside dependencies are 36-year-old Mike Ryba from Rochester, 29-year-old Oscar Judd from Sacramento, and Dick Newsome from San Diego—three men who won over 60 games last season. He should also get some help from his rookies of last year—Hash, Butland, Harris, Rich and Dickman, plus Hughson, Brown and Dobson.

This isn't, by any wild meanderings into the field of imagination, a strong pitching staff. But from the cluster of right and left arms Cronin should be able to improve on his pitching of 1940.

With enough luck he might even be able to have four or five good men ready, and if this happens the Red Sox will be dangerous people to have around—with Jimmy Foxx, Ted Williams, Bobby Doerr, Dom DiMaggio and others who can hammer over the needed runs when they count the most.

The possibilities are there, but his entire pitching string is stuffed with "ifs." It is a staff of question-mark veterans and rookies, sore arms and 1940 failures. Cronin must feel as if he were wandering into a heavy fog, minus a miner's lamp or a torch.

### The Lone Exception

The lone exception is Robert Moses Grove, the Lonaconing Lancer from Maryland.

Grove reached the ripe age of 41 last week. This is his twenty-second season—his seventeenth in the major leagues. In his day and time, Grove has won 292 ball games—for the Athletics and Red Sox—and his left arm is still hanging on. His all-time major league average is .686, which is far up in the higher brackets. In this span of time Lefty has whiffed 2,217 opponents.

He is undoubtedly one of the greatest pitchers of all time.

Last season the former speed king won 7 games and lost 6. It was the leanest year of his long career. Tennyson's brook may go on forever, but not a pitching arm. Grove now can work only once a week, or once every 10 days.

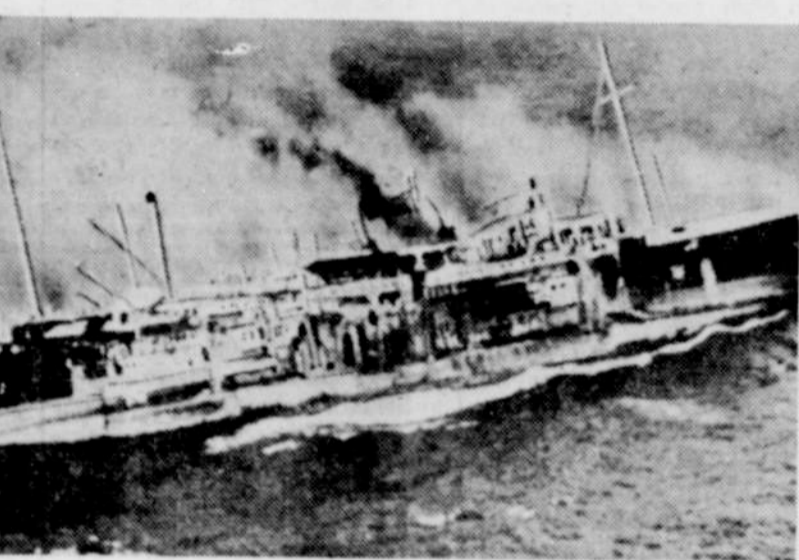
Cronin hopes the tall and willowy southpaw can win 12 or 15 games. This would border on a miracle. Exactly 10 years ago Grove won 31 games and lost only 4 for one of the greatest seasons in all pitching history. But when you add 10 years to 31 years you begin bucking the impregnable fortress known as time.

## When Ford's River Rouge Plant Closed



When the gigantic River Rouge plant of the Ford Motor company—largest single industrial establishment in the world—was completely closed by a strike of the United Auto Workers union, a C. I. O. affiliate, tying up \$150,000,000 in defense contracts. Photo shows a huge crowd of workers being addressed by Ruether and Taylor, leaders.

## Axis Ship Burned by Crew Off Costa Rica



Dramatic airview off Punta Arenas harbor, San Jose, Costa Rica, showing the Nazi freighter Eisanbach burning as she goes down. It is alleged that the fires were started by the vessel's own crew members. Costa Rican authorities arrested 120 seamen and officers, who were clapped in jail on arson charges.

## Ousted by U. S.



Soundphoto of Adm. Alberto Lais, Italian naval attaché at Washington, whose recall was demanded of the Italian government by the United States, in connection with the attempted sabotage of Italian ships in American waters.

## Takes Life



Count Paul Teleki, the premier who aligned Hungary with the Axis but fought German domination, was found dead in bed. Authorities said he shot himself.

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### Prophetic Author

Copenhagen's first bombproof shelter, built a short time ago, is on the site where Ludvig Holberg, the celebrated Scandinavian author, wrote his Epistolae in 1727. In it, says Collier's, Holbert predicted that if men should ever learn to fly they would swoop down upon and attempt to destroy great numbers of innocent people who, to save themselves, would have to take refuge in holes in the ground.

### Uncle Art Says:

WORTHWHILE friendships can always survive a quarrel. But when you bottle up your feelings they go sour. The man who never lends money has but few friends. But then, he doesn't need so many. Snap judgments have a way of coming unstuck. Don't worry when you stumble. Remember that a worm is the only creature that can't fall down. The snob's hero is the snob who snubs him. The English office boy has a new one: He asks for a day off to evacuate his grandmother who has been bombed.

### INDIGESTION

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## Major Leagues Open Baseball Season

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

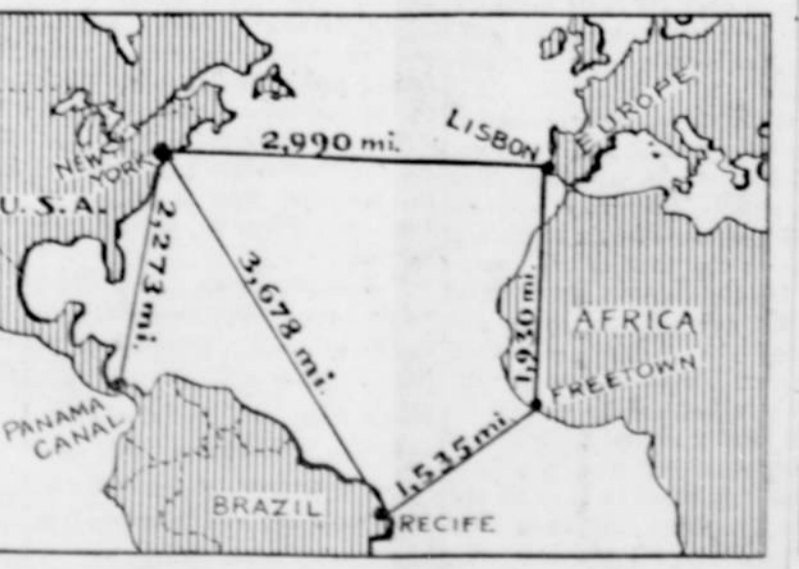
Opening Games  
New York at Brooklyn  
St. Louis at Cincinnati  
Pittsburgh at Chicago  
Boston at Philadelphia

### AMERICAN LEAGUE

Opening Games  
Chicago at Cleveland  
Detroit at St. Louis  
Washington at Boston  
Philadelphia at New York

The 1941 major league baseball season will open April 15. This year teams face changing personnel, as players are called into the army. Among leading players subject to call are Bob Feller, Cleveland Indians; Henry Greenberg, Detroit Tigers; John Rigney, Chicago White Sox; and Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox.

## Strengthen Pan-American Solidarity



Pan-American day, first observed 10 years ago, will be celebrated April 14 in every independent country in the Western hemisphere. Map shows shortest distances between points in the Americas and the Old World. With the airplane reducing these distances to hours, co-operation between the Americas becomes increasingly important.

## D. A. R. Convenes



Concluding a three-year term as president of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Mrs. Henry M. Robert Jr. (above) will preside at the organization's fiftieth congress in Washington, April 14-19. The D.A.R. has 143,000 members.

## Writers' Meet



Writers from both Americas will attend the Inter-American writers' meet at Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, April 14-24. A. MacLeish (above) will head U. S. group.