

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

DREW PEARSON & ROBERT ALLEN

GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says:

WASHINGTON.—Mr. Hitler hasn't liquidated England, but he has pretty well disposed of the predictions of military "experts" as to what turn the war will take and how soon this or that campaign will start or finish.

It is not Hitler alone who has made this war-casting business dangerous. It is also the almost complete lack of dependable facts and the puzzling conflict of rival war bulletins from London and Berlin. Making a prediction carries even more hazards than sports writers' dilemmas on the outcome of an evenly matched football game or a prizefight. There are no hotter spots.

This column has had fair luck in this dangerous military field of crystal gazing. For a special reason, it is going to shoot the works on another guess with all fingers crossed, and the desk piled high with rabbits' feet.

Mr. Hitler is not going to dispose of England this year. He probably is not even going to try a lightning-war invasion by land or, if he does, it will not succeed.

As Napoleon did, when he stood on the channel just before Austerlitz, he may suddenly shift the war to the south and smash Gibraltar and the Suez or something else unpleasant to the British empire, but I have a strong hunch that the record of 874 years since William the Conqueror is not going to be broken now by whatever name Hitler will take in history.

It is more than a hunch. To risk an army across the great wet ditch of the channel, the Nazis must have clear command both of the air and those narrow seas and beach heads for a considerable distance inshore. The channel itself might be cleared by fixed shore batteries that would keep naval vessels at a distance, but British counter-batteries could make landings in force difficult if not impossible, unless the back country is completely dominated from the air.

It isn't. I don't know why the Germans, with their supposed overwhelming air superiority, didn't use it to reduce British air-power to impotency—since any quick decision depended mostly on that. They didn't. Doubtless the reasons were good. Most of their reasons have been good. I'm not guessing about that. I'm only guessing that in view of the rapidly advancing season of fogs and rough weather and all the other considerations I have mentioned, Mr. Hitler is going to eat no meals in London, this year.

There are other guesses—maybe better ones. One is that he actually prefers the fogs as a sort of natural smoke-screen for attack. Another is that with most of Europe in his clutch, he is prepared to offer the British empire a peace so firmly buttressed and asking so little of Britain that she can't refuse. I just don't happen to trail along with those guesses.

I didn't make my own guess for the chance of being right at the risk of being wholly wrong. I made them because I know the barometric character of our public opinion. A good deal of our almost panic urge to prepare is due to our being told that our national life depends on the British navy; that it is in immediate danger of being lost, scuttled or transferred to Hitler; and, above all, the monstrous absurdity that the Atlantic ocean is no longer an obstacle.

I don't agree with these extreme views, but I do agree that our defenses are deplorably weak, that we must get into a position to defend ourselves with reliance on nobody else—and that we aren't doing it.

My fear is that, if the present popular pressure is greatly relieved, by a demonstration that Hitler can't hop even the British channel—much less the Atlantic ocean—we are likely to lapse into a lethargy as dopey as our immediate past.

The whole of recent history should prove how silly and perhaps fatal that could be. Let's keep on going regardless of the momentary fluctuations of the news from Europe's war.

REGISTER MEN NOW

The basis of any successful system of equitable selection is the universal registration and classification of our whole manpower into about seven groups in accordance with their relative ability for military training and service with the least possible interference with desirable domestic, educational, industrial and agricultural relations.

You can't do anything intelligently and scientifically in the way of determining quotas, exemption and deferments or final selection until you have that information.

To debate further steps before we have it is ignorant and futile.

I don't know how long it will take this fumbling, blundering generation to do that preliminary job. In 1917, we did all that it requires in 90 days. I doubt if that record can be beaten or even approached. In any event, that essential process if started now will overlap the election and leave us infinitely better prepared to decide.

The solution is easy. Quickly pass a simple bill authorizing the registration and classification of all men between 18 and 60.

Sham Battles Give Boys Strenuous Workout



Below is shown an infantry group of 400 West Point cadets marching on the new Storm-King by-pass, for a week of sham battles in the Orange county hills, New York. Fifteen hundred cadets with anti-tank guns and cavalry scout cars, simulating tank cars, participated in the sham battles. Upper right: West Point cadets man the guns in a combat car during maneuvers. The combat car is equipped with 50-calibre machine guns and two guns of 30 calibre. Upper left: A well camouflaged scout car of the Twenty-first Reconnaissance company of New York city is shown near the road in the vicinity of Pyrites, New York, scanning sky and road for invading "Black" forces marching down the St. Lawrence valley.

Child Refugees Met by Marshall Field



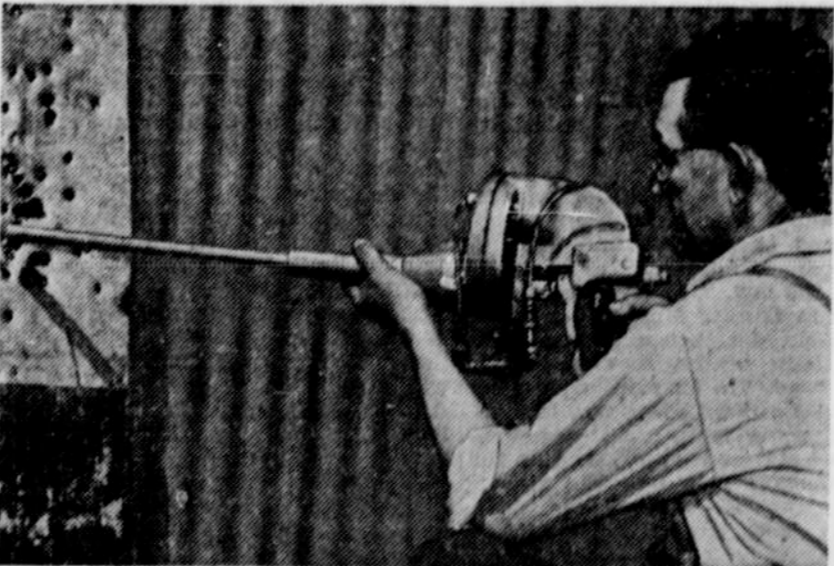
Left: Marshall Field, chairman of the committee for the care of European children, gets acquainted with Gwendolyn Kell, 6, of London, and Geoffrey A. Newbold, 6, of Middlesex, as the children arrive on the Samaria. Homes are available for them, and according to all indications, they were happy because of the hospitality extended to them. Right: Bunks were at a premium, and at times during the voyage some of the 138 refugee children from Great Britain slept in lifeboats. Clyde and Trevor Davies (shown) are so doing. They were sent to a home in Boston.

President Roosevelt at Maneuvers



The situation in the nation's biggest peace-time army maneuvers is explained to President Franklin D. Roosevelt by General Hugh Drum at Norwood, New York. The President, who is seated in his car, and the general carefully go over a map of the terrain over which the maneuvers were held.

Fires 10,000 Shots a Minute, Silently



Put through a test by its two inventors, William Hale and Durand Beam, this rifle fired 10,000 shots per minute—with absolutely no noise. The rifle operates with compressed air. It reduced three-inch oak planks to kindling and turned airplane armor plate into steel mosquito netting. It resembles a sub-machine gun, and when it starts firing the barrel gets cooler instead of heating up.

To Arouse America



Artist James Montgomery Flagg is shown beside the poster he has just completed as a contribution to the work of the "Wake Up, America" committee, of which he is a member. Aims of the committee are physical and moral preparedness with mightier force, and the preservation of peace in the Western Hemisphere.

Succeeds Wallace



Claude R. Wickard, who has been nominated by President Roosevelt to succeed Henry Wallace as secretary of agriculture. A nomination by the President is tantamount to appointment.

Pretty Flowers Fill Crocheted Baskets



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FLOWERS in simplest stitchery fill these easily crocheted basket edgings. Take your pick of pillow cases, towels or scarfs.

Pattern 6681 contains a transfer pattern of 12 motifs ranging from 5 by 15 to 2 by 4 inches; chart and directions for crochet; illustrations of stitches; materials needed. Send order to:

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Enclose 15 cents in coins for Pattern No.
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Ask Me Another A General Quiz

The Questions

1. Why is Colorado called the Centennial state?
2. To what type of road did a Scotch engineer give his name?
3. What two great Oriental cities were founded by the British?
4. What is the most widely used word in the world?
5. What is the line that follows "Lives of all great men remind us"?
6. What is the name given to the present royal house of Italy?
7. Which of the United States has the greatest water area, California, Minnesota, or Michigan?

The Answers

1. It was admitted into the Union in 1876, the Centennial year.
2. Macadam.
3. Hongkong and Singapore.
4. "Amen" is believed to be the most widely used word, being employed by 1,000,000,000 Christians, Jews and Mohammedans.
5. "We can make our lives sublime."
6. Savoy.
7. Minnesota.

WOMEN IN "40s"

Read This Important Message!

Do you dread those "trying years" (35 to 42)? Are you getting moody, cranky and NERVOUS? Do you fear hot flashes, weakening dizzy spells? Are you jealous of attention other women get? THEN LISTEN—These symptoms often result from female functional disorders. So start today and take famous Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. For over 60 years Pinkham's Compound has helped hundreds of thousands of grateful women to go "smiling thru" difficult days. Pinkham's has helped calm unstrung nerves and lessen annoying female functional "irregularities." One of the most effective "woman's" tonics. Try it!

Limited View
Who stays in the valley ne'er sees over the hill.

That Nagging Backache

May Warn of Disordered Kidney Action

Modern life with its hurry and worry, irregular habits, improper eating and drinking—the risk of exposure and infection—throws heavy strain on the work of the kidneys. They are apt to become over-taxed and fail to filter excess acid and other impurities from the life-giving blood. You may suffer nagging backache, headache, dizziness, getting up nights, leg pains, swelling—feel constantly tired, nervous, all worn out. Other signs of kidney or bladder disorder are sometimes burning, scanty or too frequent urination. Try Doan's Pills. Doan's help the kidneys to pass off harmful excess body waste. They have had more than half a century of public approval. Are recommended by grateful users everywhere. Ask your neighbor!

DOAN'S PILLS

VIGILANCE COMMITTEE

ADVERTISING is a great vigilance committee, established and maintained in your interest, to see that the men who aspire to sell to you will always be worthy of your trade.

WASHINGTON.—It is interesting to note the manner in which certain congressmen have consistently squelched attempts to investigate the state department's co-operation with the British tin trust and certain U. S. business firms to prevent the United States from acquiring sufficient supplies of tin.

With Japan now able to seize the Dutch East Indies and the Malays, the United States may have her tin supply cut off in a few weeks' time. Yet up until recently, the state department played in with the British tin monopoly, did nothing about the situation.

Now Sol Bloom, energetic chairman of the house foreign affairs committee, has introduced a resolution to investigate the tin situation. But he faces the vigorous opposition of Representatives Cochran of Missouri and Faddis of Pennsylvania, both Democrats.

Interesting fact is that Congressman Faddis comes from Pennsylvania's twenty-fifth district, in which is located the Standard Tin Plate company, which is tied up with Continental Can and long has done business with the British monopoly.

Also Representative Cochran comes from St. Louis, where the National Lead company operates the St. Louis Smelting and Refining company. National Lead owns part of Patino Mines, which is the keystone of the British tin monopoly. Until recently National Lead has lobbied against all efforts to establish tin smelters in the United States, thus making this country independent of the British tin trust.

JOIN THE ARMY

With the biggest ballyhoo in 25 years, the war department is entreating young men to join the army. By billboards, radio, movies, every conceivable publicity device, even including paper matches, the department is spending \$28 a head to get recruits for the fighting forces.

And this will continue, regardless of the new conscription measure. This recruiting is for the regular army, to bring it up to a strength of 375,000. Conscription, on the other hand, aims to get roughly a million men for a one-year training period, to form a trained reserve.

The publicity drive is getting results. It yielded 23,444 in June, a new record for peacetime. The July figure surpassed the June figure, and August, in turn, surpassed July.

The cost of \$28 a head for enlistments is low compared with other years. In 1930, the department paid \$56 for each recruit; in 1931, the figure was \$66. Today recruiting is on a "mass production" basis, also a lot of the publicity is obtained free of cost.

For instance, express trucks, railroads and chain stores are carrying posters free of charge, while 350 trade associations are making a gratis display of preparedness slogans. Radio stations are donating free time for transcribed "Join the army" programs, and 15,000 billboards are pasted with recruiting posters at half price.

Most novel device is the mobile recruiting station, a truck and trailer specially designed to carry a recruiting sergeant and staff about the countryside, park in the town square, and sign up youngsters for the army. Twenty-seven mobile "stations" are built or building, two or three for each corps area.

Result is that voluntary enlistments are proceeding at the rate of about 8,000 a week, which should mean that the regular army will fill its quota of 375,000 men before snow flies.

GETTING TOGETHER

Bushy-browed John L. Lewis and shrill-voiced William Green still are glowering at each other, but the A. F. of L. and C. I. O. members of the Labor Advisory committee, appointed by Defense Commissioner Sidney Hillman are co-operating with real harmony.

Their weekly Friday afternoon meetings with Hillman are like a happy family. The labor chiefs address one another by first names and lean over backward to iron out differences between their organizations. Illustrative of the good feeling is their sly jesting about A. F. of L.-C. I. O. peace.

At last Friday's conference, R. J. Thomas, head of the C. I. O. United Auto Workers, happened to take a seat on the A. F. of L. side of the table. Wisecracked Dan Tracy, energetic A. F. of L. electrical workers' chief, "Aha, pulling a little peace stuff on us, eh!"

All the laborites joined in the laughter.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Friends of Henry Wallace think he may come back into the job as secretary of agriculture between election day, November 5, and inauguration day, January 20. This means Claude Wickard would step down again.

In the senate conscription debate Sen. Alex Wiley, Wisconsin, isolationist, gave this thought: "We don't have to take any ideas from the Nazis. They may have their blitzkrieg, but we have our intuition."