

BRITAIN, U. S. WOO RUSSIA WASHINGTON, D. C.—Behind-the-scenes talks are still continuing between the state department and Russian Ambassador Oumansky with a view to putting relations between the two countries on a more even keel, and perhaps evolving a little teamwork in regard to Japan. But the talks aren't getting far.

Simultaneously, Sir Stafford Cripps, British ambassador in Moscow, has been doing his best to win the Russians over to the British side. If Stalin should mass his Red army near the Hitler sphere of influence in the Balkans, it might slow up the Nazi air attack upon England.

So Sir Stafford's negotiations in Moscow are a matter of life and death. However, they aren't getting far either. The Russians have been letting Sir Stafford go out on the leash just so far, then they bring him up abruptly.

Just what goes on in the mind of Stalin, or Hitler either for that matter, is like doping out what goes on in the mind of the Sphinx. But there are certain signs that Hitler is facing more and more toward the west and may have given up his old designs on the east—and Russia. There are also signs that Stalin believes this to be true.

For instance, the settlement of Germans in the new German-occupied Poland has not been successful. The Germans don't seem to like moving into Slav areas. Furthermore, the Pan-German group seems to be dominant in Berlin.

For years there have been two schools of German thought in the Berlin foreign office and the war ministry, one believing that Germany's future lay in moving into Russia, the other that it lay in dominating western Europe. At present the latter group seems to be influencing Hitler.

Their plan is to create a peasant state in France and the other Latin countries of Spain and Italy. In France they have already removed all of the machinery from northern factories—lock, stock and barrel. And it is significant that the part of France which the Nazis left unoccupied is largely agricultural; so that it will be a long time before France ever is able to come back as an industrial country.

Note—Betting inside the diplomatic corps is that Hitler will move in on Russia when he gets ready, even if he does try to dominate western Europe first.

COUGHLIN BACK AGAIN

Father Coughlin is quietly planning to stick his oar into the presidential campaign with a new radio series to begin around October 15. But he is having a lot of trouble arranging contracts with stations.

Since the controversial nature of his talks bars him from the big networks, under the National Association of Broadcasters' code, the only course open for him is to buy time on individual stations for purely political speeches. This the radio priest is now trying to do.

But he is encountering a lot of coolness among station owners. They are at a loss just how to classify his fulminations, since his political support has been repudiated by Wendell Wilkie, and he already is persona non grata with Roosevelt.

Note—Coughlin plans to broadcast by means of transcribed records over the individual stations. This is much cheaper than network broadcasting—a possible tipoff that the cash isn't rolling into his coffers as it once did.

CANADIAN PILOTS

One matter discussed by the joint U. S.-Canadian defense board at its first meeting in Ottawa was the training of Canadian pilots in the United States this winter.

Canada's severe weather makes winter training extremely difficult for aviators. As one Canadian board member expressed it, "Your worst weather conditions are better than our best." Also, Canada is seriously handicapped by lack of training planes and instructors.

The big pilot training program being conducted by the U. S. government has made it hard for Canada to obtain trainer planes and instructors here.

So the Dominion is eager to set up a large school somewhere in the U. S. South or Southwest where Canadian youths could receive flying instruction this winter. If the necessary facilities can be obtained, Canada is ready to send 5,000 men south for training.

All the costs would be borne by Canada. The only thing desired by Canada is the privilege of establishing the school on U. S. soil.

Note—The U. S. army has trained military flyers from South American countries for several years, though only in very small numbers.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

Both Annapolis and West Point, at the suggestion of the President, will graduate their 1941 classes next February instead of June.

The war department will shortly install a civilian as head of its press division—an important innovation. In the past, army officers have been assigned to this job.

Newest decoration in the office of Bill Green, A. F. of L. president, is a handsome silk flag, the gift of the American Flag association.



GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says: COMMANDEERING POWER WASHINGTON—This column has been so busy kibitzing about the conscription of men under the selective service bill that it hasn't had much space for kibitzing about the so-called "conscription of industry" or wealth—the "commandeering power" added to the Burke-Wadsworth bill.

Of course, the whole idea of tacking this provision on a selective service bill is pure political hokum. It was put there to enable congressional candidates for re-election to say to their constituents:

"I wouldn't vote for conscripting men's lives until I had insisted on voting to conscript men's dollars."

The power to take over private property for public use is as old as English law. It was called the law of eminent domain. It is practiced almost every day in peace time and is called the process of "condemnation." The only real difference in war is that it is called "commandeering."

Any important difference in the proposed legislation is only in the method for determining whether the need is for "public use." In both cases a court must determine what must be paid the owner for his property. That must be so because the Constitution itself provides that private property may never be taken "for public use without just compensation."

In peacetime condemnation the court must adjudge both that the proposed use is "public" and what the compensation shall be. In this proposed legislation, whether the property is to be taken on a rental or ownership basis, the secretaries of war or navy can determine whether the use is "public" but it is—as it must be—left to the courts to determine just compensation.

In time of war or times like these, where nearly every use in connection with armament is public, there isn't much to that distinction. The law is faulty, however, in vesting the commandeering power in the two secretaries. It should be in the President. That is another lesson of 1918. Both war and navy departments frequently commandeered the same supplies. President Wilson finally straightened that out by requiring all commandeering orders to be signed by the chairman of the war industries board.

Apart from that, the Smith or senate version of the commandeering amendment is good. The objectionable circumstance is the nature of the debate. There is no measure of "just compensation," for a human life deliberately drafted into military service is not the donation of anything to the public. It is the performance of an obligation to the public. "Just compensation," as required by the Constitution, for a dollar is a dollar. On no sustainable theory do the two relationships stand on the same ground. Neither condemnation nor commandeering are, as the politicians like to say, conscription of wealth. It is electioneering buncombe.

Finally, as our World war experience proved, while "commandeering" of some facilities like land, docks, warehouses and supplies generally will frequently be necessary as a convenient method of determining price, the "taking" of manufacturing plants for government operation very rarely happens—only once by the army at least in 1918.

The power to do so is useful for what President Wilson called "a club behind the door" in negotiation. The practice of doing so on a rental or fee-simple basis is useless and unnecessary. The government has neither the personnel nor the ability to move in and operate a private plant. The war department, for example, has all it can handle in fighting a war. If government has, as it did have in 1918, priority powers over power, fuel, supply and transportation, it has no need to take over a man's plant. If he doesn't behave, it can choke his operation to death in two weeks' time—as we threatened to do a few times in the old war industries board.

The threat was always sufficient. We never took over any plants. No matter how you slice it, this controversy is still boloney.

DRAFT LOTTERY

The next big news story on the domestic front will be the great national draft lottery. In the Civil war draft, names of young men in each county were written on separate slips of paper and put in a jury wheel at the courthouse. The order in which men's names came out was the order of their going. There was so much chance for graft and fixing in this method that, in 1917, we invented a new way.

Registration cards in each local board district were given a "serial number" after they had been thoroughly shuffled. Usually there were less than 3,000 cards in each district.

The first plan was to have 4,000—from 1 to 4,000—written on slips of paper and each put into a gelatin capsule. In the presence of a crowd and distinguished audience. The secretary of war drew out the first capsule. It contained the number 258. That meant that in each of the 4,200 odd local districts the man whose number was 258 was the first who would be called for examination.

Munitions Plant Demolished by Blast



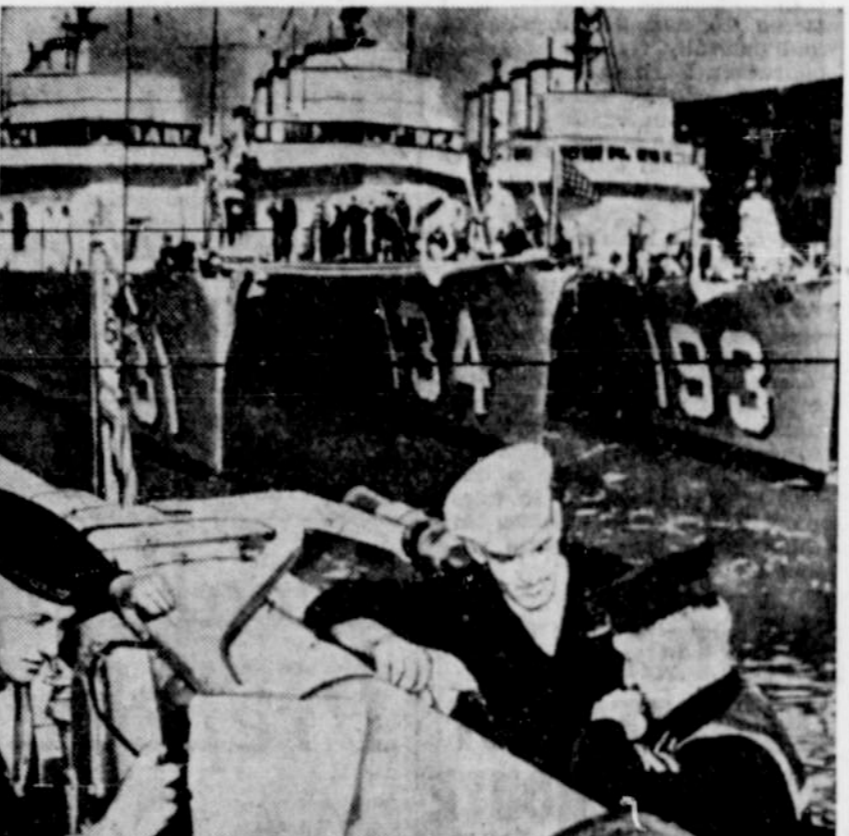
Airview soundphoto showing the damage done to the Hercules Powder company plant at Kenil, N. J., when a series of explosions literally blew the plant off the map, killing more than a score of persons, injuring many, and rocking the countryside for miles around.

Injured in Blast



This soundphoto shows Frank Frenski, right, and Frank Ferna, plant workers of the Hercules Powder company at Kenil, N. J., in a Dover hospital being treated for injuries sustained when the powder plant was destroyed by a series of explosions.

British Gunners on U. S. Destroyers



Somewhere in Canada gunners of the British navy are being instructed by American naval gunners in the operation of a secret device that is part of the guns aboard the over-age destroyers turned over to Britain. The secret mechanism has been obliterated in this soundphoto by the censor.

Hindu 'Prophet'



India's most prominent lady nationalist, Madame Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, who recently arrived in Los Angeles, predicts self-rule for India is now assured because of the breakdown of Britain's machinery in India.

Nazis Bomb Poet Milton's Tomb



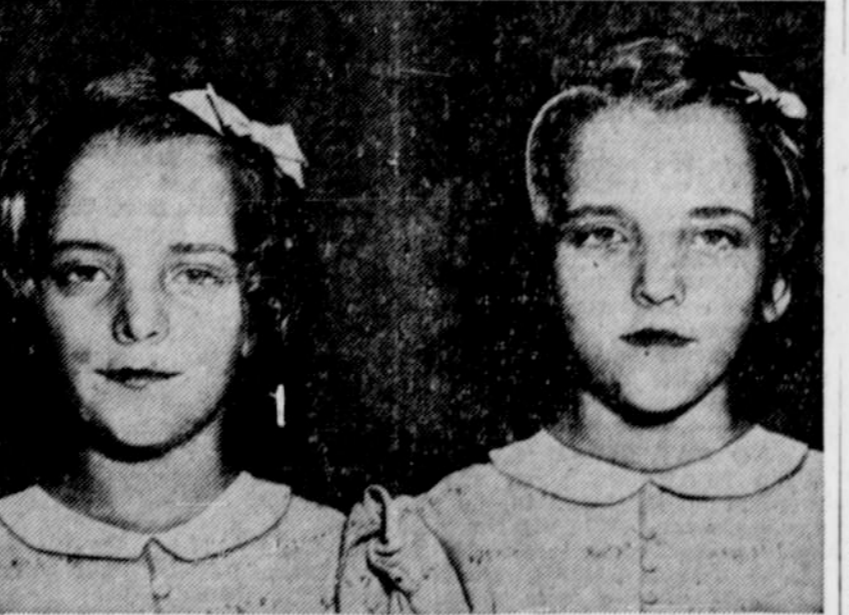
The statue of John Milton, the famous blind poet of Great Britain, is toppled from its pedestal by a Nazi bomb that fell on St. Giles, one of London's oldest churches. In the churchyard lies the tomb of the great poet, who was the author of "Paradise Lost." The interior of the church itself was also damaged by the blast.

Heroine



Miss Leonora Lindsley of New York, shown on her return to Gotham, after having been an ambulance driver in France.

Both Their Hearts on Wrong Side



The Smith twins, Bell and Nell, of Decatur, Ga., are in reverse. Their hearts are on the right sides of their bodies, instead of the usual left side. Their spleens, too, are on the wrong side—right instead of left, and their livers, too, are on the wrong side. The twins are eight years old.

Trick of Reclaiming The Discarded Chair

THERE were two of these old bent-wood chairs—both with cane seats gone and a badly scarred varnish finish. "Get them out of my sight!" their owner said, "I can't stand the thought of wood bent and forced into unnatural curves." In the end she did get them out of sight and used them too. The trick was done with slip covers made, as shown. The one you see in the sketch became a side chair for the living



room dressed in richly colored cretonne in soft red and blue-green tones with deep wine bindings. The legs of the chair were sandpapered and stained mahogany to tone in with the cover. The cane seat was inexpensively repaired with a ready made seat of plywood reshaped to fit by first cutting a paper pattern to fit the seat of the chair and then using the pattern as a guide as indicated here.

NOTE: As a service to our readers, 100 of these articles have been printed in five separate booklets. No. 2 contains 20 illustrations with directions; also a description of the other booklets. To get your copy of Book 5, send order to:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS, Bedford Hills, New York. Enclose 10 cents for Book 5. Name, Address.

To Check Constipation Get at Its Cause!

If constipation has you down so you feel heavy, tired and doped, it's time you did something about it. And something more than just taking a physic! You should get at the cause of the trouble. If you eat the super-refined food most people eat, the chances are the difficulty is simple—you don't get enough "bulk." And "bulk" doesn't mean heavy food. It's a kind of food that isn't consumed in the body, but leaves a soft "bulky" mass in the intestines. If this common form of constipation is your trouble, eat Kellogg's All-Bran regularly, and drink plenty of water. All-Bran isn't a medicine—it's a crunchy, toasted cereal. And it will help you not only to get regular but to keep regular. Made by Kellogg's in Battle Creek. If your condition is chronic, it is wise to consult a physician.

Our Patience How patiently you hear him groan, how glad the case is not your own.

WHY SUFFER Functional FEMALE COMPLAINTS

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Has Helped Thousands! Few women today do not see some sign of functional trouble. Maybe you've noticed YOURSELF getting restless, moody, nervous, depressed lately—your work too much for you—Then try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to help quiet unstrung nerves, relieve monthly pain (cramps, backache, headache) and weak dizzy fainting spells due to functional disorders. For over 60 years Pinkham's Compound has helped hundreds of thousands of weak, rundown nervous women. Try it!

Refuge in Foe When fails our dearest friend, there may be refuge with our distant foe.



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