

SIZE OF SOVIET AIR FORCE KEPT STRICT SECRET

Foreign Powers Able To Make Only Rough Estimate—Enough Told To Gain Healthy Respect Of World.

MOSCOW (AP)—One of the most highly rated factors in the European arms situation—the Soviet air force—remains, while the nations size up each other's military strength, considerable of a mystery. Foreign air attaches can estimate its size only roughly. The public knows no details of its strength. Yet the wings of Red Russia inspire respect and in some quarters forebodings.

The one well known fact about the fleet does not detract from its prestige. That fact is that the soviets have been concentrating for years on developing their might in the skies. Where power to direct the whole activity of a people is vested in the state, the state can be expected to obtain appreciable results.

Impressive shows staged. Lest anyone doubt that results have really been obtained, soviet leaders every now and then drop pointed hints. They say just enough to excite the imagination, stir popular pride and keep the rating high. On the rare occasions when the air force is on display they stage an impressive show.

For the rest, factory doors are closed, access to military hangars is had by the select few and precise figures are never made public. He who goes in search of data on the red air force finds in the end that he can do no more than average up estimates and guesses.

The average places the total number of machines at more than 2,000—possibly 2,500. A fast, light fighting plane, of which some 400 are believed to be in service, is the force's most efficient known weapon. Bombers are thought to total 600 or more. There is a great supply of reconnaissance machines, serviceable but reputedly slow.

Mass production facilities are as much a mystery as the fleet itself. There is no doubt that they have been developed to a respectable extent, but only rough guesses can be made as to the number of ships that could be turned out and how soon emergency production could get into swing.

Motor Production Vital. Parties interested in the subject base their doubts not on the Russians' ability to produce the planes themselves, but on facilities for mass production of motors. Official secrecy being what it is, however, they do not exclude possibility of surmises.

Although a large number of machines are concentrated in the far east—200 at least, observers believe—the bulk of the force remains where it could be quickly brought into play on the European front.

Announcement was made recently that soviet experts had succeeded in adapting ordinary automobile motors for powering planes. Planes to run on such motors can be manufactured and operated cheaply, it was stated, but their speed would be limited to about 70 miles an hour. Their principal value would be for training.

Parachute jumping and stratosphere flying are two fields in which the bolsheviks experiment constantly. The state has sponsored tests of rocket motors, which soviet scientists think eventually will prove the proper means of propulsion above the atmosphere.

Millions Of Synths Jump. Towers for parachute jumpers have been erected in various parts of the union and recently an order was issued which obliges millions of young men and women to make at least one jump this year. Already some 400,000 Russians have experienced the thrill of a jump—by far

the largest number of any country in the world. Stories have come out of Russia that the air force can transport a whole army division over an enemy line and drop it in parachutes, but there is no confirmation of them here.

FRANCE PUSHING TELEPHONE USE

PARIS (UP)—France's energetic and enterprising Minister of Posts and Telegrams, Georges Mandel, has had another of his practical ideas. Mandel wants France to become more telephone conscious and is offering a cash bonus of 25 to 50 francs to any post office employee who adds a telephone subscriber to the present list.

The minister noticed that the number of telephone subscribers in France was small in comparison with other countries. The United States has 17,246,000, Great Britain 2,109,000 and Germany 1,960,000, while France only has 1,300,000. The percentages are, United States 13.94, Great Britain 4.6, Germany 4.5 and France 3.

As the subscription rates in France compare favorably with other countries, Mandel believes that the French public should become telephone users. He added that the French were not aware of the advantages offered to telephone subscribers.

No charge is made for the installation of telephones, the instruments are rented at a very small cost.

Since the post office employees are answerable to him he has decided to take advantage of the fact and at the same time give them an opportunity of making a little extra money.

SPORT SLANTS
By PAO

Tommy Armour is of the opinion that Lawson Little will not only successfully defend the British amateur championship he won last year, but will win the British open as well.

If any man should know about Little's game, it is the wiry Scot. Armour spent many hours teaching the British and American amateur titleholder to get plenty of "bite" and to spin out of his iron approaches.

Armour insists that Little's game is as fine as that of any pro in the country. If the young giant were to make the swing from coast-to-coast with the pro golfers he would be certain to hold his own, if not top the best of them, Armour opines.

With but very little practice before he arrived at the Augusta national club for the Masters' tournament, he stepped out and hit even par, 288, to top the list of amateurs and finish well up among the pros.

Little himself feels that he has more control over his long iron shots and consequently is shooting with greater confidence. Today he is shooting for the pin, whereas in the past he was satisfied if his long shots found the green.

He is still a terrific driver. With the exception of Jimmy Thomson there is hardly a man in the world who figures to outdrive the broad-shouldered Stanford university student.

Ears Open to Pro Offers. Shortly before Little sailed for England he was asked if he entertained any thoughts of turning professional.

"That's something I hate to answer," he replied, and then added, "I'd prefer to see how I make out in the two amateur championships and the British open this year."

"You know," he continued, "I would like to teach golf. I think it's great fun to point out mistakes to other people and teach them to hit the ball in the groove."

"I have two more semesters at Stanford before I graduate, and when I finish I might go in for writing golf—I like to write. As a matter of fact I took three courses in journalism at college last year."

All in all Little left the impression that he could be tempted to desert the amateur ranks by a pro offer, but that it would have to be a mighty big.

One Way to Score Well. It appears that the ladies have some very definite ideas about the game of golf that are entirely their own. Listen to the case of Mrs. Leo P. Federman.

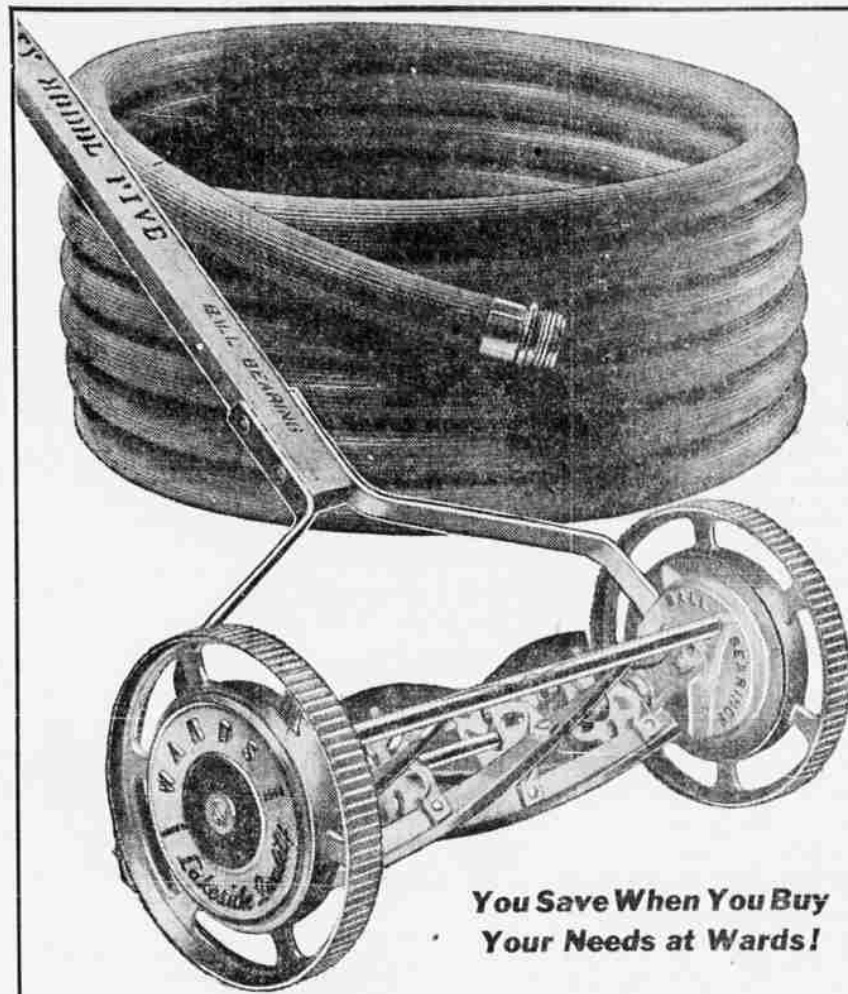
Mrs. Federman, one of the leading woman golfers in the east, tore up her card at the 18th green because she needed a five for a 90 and did not get it. Right then and there she decided that the Piping Rock tournament would have to struggle along without her presence.

All of which is in line with Mrs. Federman's plan not to turn in any cards showing a score higher than 90. Behind all this scheming lies the fact that the Metropolitan Golf Association attempted to give her a handicap of three on the strength of one card she turned in last year showing a score over 90. Mrs. Federman insisted that she should have a handicap rating of one stroke and no more.

There will be no arguments next spring for Mrs. Federman will see that no scores of 90 or more are turned in.

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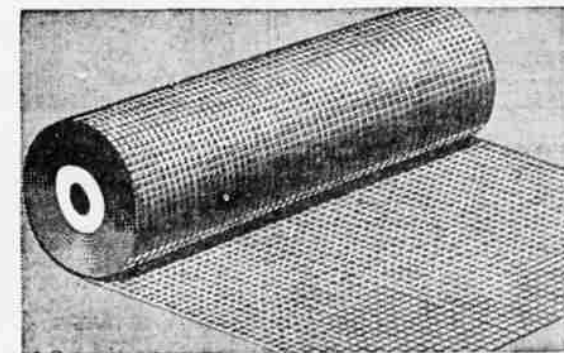
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