

THE WAR AT SEA Will Nazi air might outpoint Britain's battlewagons?

THE WAR: Diplomacy

In early 1938 Germany's conservative Field Marshal Werner von Blomberg married blonde Erika Gruhn, a carpenter's daughter whom other Nazi officers termed "socially impossible." This month Erika Gruhn felt the news spotlight again in a British "white paper" by Sir Nevile Henderson, pre-war ambassador to Germany. Wrote he to Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax:

'I drew your lordship's attention (in 1938) to the far-reaching and unfortunate results of the Blomberg

marriage. I

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VON BLOMBERG

Belgian-Netherlands frontier were not there to enjoy the scenery. The burning question: Will 1914's route of invasion be used again?

THE NEUTRALS:

Search for Security

From Scandinavia down through the Balkans to Turkey, diplomats scurried madly after an elusive quantity called security. The reason was Russia, whose grisly head had been shoved into eastern Europe the moment Adolf Hitler opened the door. Although Moscow shipped 17½ tons of gold to Berlin (presumably Polish gold), and although German engineers were busy supervising the Soviet's new fiveyear plan, the happy wedding of Communism and Naziism seemed to the major have cost both principals a lot of disaster friends:

Balkans. Russian-Turkish talks in Moscow broke down and Foreign Minister Sukru Saracoglu left for Istanbul, presumably refusing (1) to close the strategic Dardanelles to ing to the all but Russian warships and thus consequent imperil the allies' chances to aid elimination Rumania; (2) to permit Russo-GerTHE CENTRE REPORTER, CENTRE HALL, PA.

Bruckart's Washington Digest Public Sentiment Grows Insistent To Keep Out of European Muddle

Unmistakable Change Is Going on Throughout the Country; People Make Known Their Feelings and Their Thought Is Thoroughly Reflected in Congress.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART WNU Service, National Press Bldg., Washington, D. C.

velt administration continues to sub- that the President has done nothing ordinate everything to the general subject of the European war, there has been an unmistakable change in sentiment going on throughout the country and in the capital city. It is inescapable to the merest tyro of an observer. It represents a crystallization of that foggy thing called public sentiment.

The senate has debated the issue of repeal of the arms embargo to the fullest, but the debate has fallen short of telling the whole truth. There was an entire lack of any truly great speeches. Much additional light has been thrown on the whole question of a neutrality policy, yes; but I believe the senate failed to do the job in a way that history will measure as statesmanlike. The amazing fact is, therefore, that public sentiment should have solidified so definitely in such a short time, with a verdict that says: "We will stay out of that European mess; it is not ours, and we

will not play their game." It is always difficult to describe what takes place in the matter of public sentiment, powerful as it is in the United States. But it is easy to describe the condition, the status, of national thought as represented by an overwhelming majority of the citizens. In the current case, it can be told in two sentences. A few weeks ago, the big shots of government were saying: "possibly" we can keep out of war; the present statement is that "probably" we can keep out of the war. It is a vital

difference. The reason for this is obvious. People have made known their feelings. They have made clear that whatever else they may differ about, they are determined and united on the one proposition, namely, that we must not get tangled up with Europe's power politics. Further, existence of this sentiment has been thoroughly reflected in congress and those who would willingly toss our armies into the flame have begun to get scared about their own hides.

Clark Takes Wallop at

WASHINGTON .- While the Roose- | er that is true or not, it is a fact at all to settle the lorg-standing row. Getting back to the senate debate, attention ought to be turned momentarily to the defeat of the motion to separate the arms embargo question from that involved in the "cash and carry" sections of the bill. Senator Tobey, New Hampshire Republican, proposed that the bill be split up, because there was virtually an unanimous vote in prospect for a law that would let American business sell ordinary sup-

plies to both sides of the European struggle, provided the buyers came here in their own ships, paid cash for their purchases and hauled them away in their own vessels. Short shrift was made of that mo-

tion. It was licked by more than two to one. The reason: if the "cash and carry" section were disposed of. there would be so much less interest in the arms embargo repeal that its eventual defeat would be entirely possible.

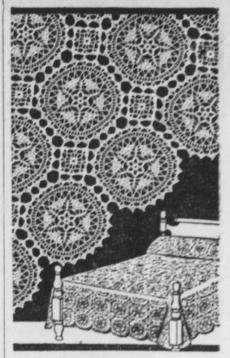
Old Party Whip Is Used To Keep Followers in Line

Which brings us back to the subject of politics. It will be remembered that President Roosevelt called for an "adjournment of politics," during the dangerous period. No one made the open charge in debate, but there were plenty of senators who felt that the President exerted pressure to keep his own followers in line. The administration's leaders were quite well aware that a titanic struggle confronted them to obtain repeal of the arms embargo if it were cut loose from the 'cash and carry'' section. So the old party whip was brought into

play

But all of the changes that have taken place in the country's thought have had one reaction in Washington that is not obvious to those living outside of the capital city. I have reported to you before how the little clique that surrounds the President-extreme radicals and men with dreams who know how they will disappear if Democrats instead of New Dealers are in control-saw

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Hasty Regrets Follow Hasty Conclusions

Jimmy came in for the second time within the week with his trousers torn.

"Go up and mend them yourself," ordered the harassed mother. Some time later she went upstairs to see how he was getting along. She found no Jimmy.

Puzzled, she came downstairs, still looking for Jimmy. She noticed, as she passed, that the cellar door, usually shut, was open. She went to the door and called down loudly and angrily, "Are you running around down there without your trousers on?"

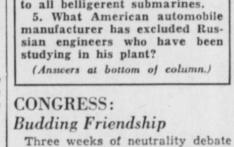
The reply came in a stern and heavy masculine voice: "No, madam, I'm reading the gas meter."



had passed before the word "fillibuster" was mentioned on the senate floor. Yet isolationists were making a fillibuster in everything but name. West Virginia's Rush D. Holt began vying with North Dakota's Gerald Nye as No. 1 speechmaker. Idaho's D. Worth Clark offered the best oratory: "If Germany is destroyed, her people will be driven into the arms of Stalin .

> . . It ill-England is a pretext behooves England and France, with their records

This holier-than-thou attitude of



4. True or false: Under an unprecedented ruling, President Roosevelt opened U. S. harbors to all belligerent submarines. 5. What American automobile

His wife's war? Hitler's entourage of the more mod- bloc; (3) to recognize the Polish erate of his advisers, such as von Blomberg . . ."

Recalled by diplomats was the general army shakeup that followed, in which Baron Konstantin von Neurath lost control of German foreign policy, and pro-war advisors fastened themselves to Hitler. It made a pretty news story: Is a woman the cause of Europe's war?

At Sea

In 1919 the proud but beaten German navy scuttled 72 warships in Scapa Flow (see map) rather than lose them to the allies. In the war of 1939, Germany remembered Scapa Flow. Day after Nazi raiders had bombed the Firth of Forth naval yard at Edinburgh, long-range airships again set out (probably from Wilhelmshaven) and unleashed the full fury of Herr Hitler's air might against Scapa Flow. Five times in four hours they struck, damaging the old Iron Duke and giving Britishers a bad case of jitters. Next day press and parliament railled at Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain for sloppy defense work. The cries grew stronger when Chamberlain revealed the Royal Oak had also been sunk at Scapa Flow by a daring U-boat.

But Britain was not idle in this battle of airship vs. warship; she was merely less communicative than the Nazis, who boasted of their conquests. Next day Hollanders reported the Emden naval base had been bombed, and possibly Wilhelmshaven. Both Danish and Norwegian fishermen scurried for cover when the foes clashed somewhere west of Skagerrak. But the sum total of war at sea, which far overshadows the western front, is that Nazi air might is humbling the supposedly invincible British navy.

(U. S. ships got tangled in the war zone. The liner President Harding was buffeted by stormy weather off the Irish coast and had to seek help from home. The freighter Independence Hall picked up 300 torpedo victims from the City of Mandalay.)

Western Front

Whether by choice or convenience, French-British troops began fighting a defensive war whose principal feature was "strategic retreat." On the 100-mile northern flank of the western front, Nazidom's fighting men opened a vicious offensive which drove allied troops back to their main line. Paris reported one part of this drive, on the Moselle and before Saarbrueken, had cost the Germans 5,000 casualties in two days. The French were apparently content to dig in, letting Germany pay the cost of offensive warfare. But they were also waiting for a clearer definition of Russia's intentions (see THE NEUTRALS). Meanwhile reports persisted that the 20 German divisions massed on the tic islands.

from Herr man domination of a Balkan neutral partition, and (4) to permit expansion of Bulgaria and Russia at Rumania's expense. Next day Turkish friendship with the allies was cemented by mutual assistance pacts whereby France, Britain and Turkey agreed to protect the eastern Mediterranean. Meanwhile Turkish troops rushed to northern frontiers. Commented irked Germany, which promptly snuggled closer to Rus-

"It can be taken for certain sia: that other states of the Balkan entente will see in Turkey's attitude a



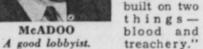
SUKRU SARACOGLU Italy also watched his work.

renunciation of the preservation of neutrality which is one of the most important aims of the Balkan states."

But Berlin could not be sure. There was every indication that Italy, which fears a Russian-inspired pan-Slavic movement in the Balk- Jews ans, would start collaborating with Turkey to preserve the Balkan status quo. Moreover the Italians knew their valued Dodecanese islands off Turkey's coast would be gone the instant Il Duce teamed up with Hitler against the allies.

More than ever, little Turkey held the balance of European power.

meet the fate of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, all victims of Russia's westward drive, the four Scandinavian powers (Finland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden) met at Stockholm to declare their solidarity. President Roosevelt sent his best wishes, having received the day before an answer to his note to Soviet President Michael Kalinin. Said the answer: "The sole aim (of Finnish-Russian negotiations) is the consolidation of reciprocal relations between the Soviet Union and Finland." There was still no official announcement of Russian "demands," but everyone knew Russia wanted naval and air bases on Finnish Bal-



thingsblood and treachery."

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The trail of

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empire is

But behind scenes there was compromise on the two most debatable points. Repeal of the arms embargo was certain, but isolationists demanded "cash-on-the-barrelhead" instead of 90-day credits to belligerents. Shippers and seaboard states demanded that proposed restrictions on U. S. shipping be relaxed. One of the latter lobbyists whose word carried weight was former Sen. William Gibbs McAdoo, now a west coast shipping executive, whose call at the White House was followed quickly by modification proposals.

Key Pittman, administration leader, called his foreign affairs henchmen into council and observers were pretty sure they'd win most isolationists with these concessions:

1. Designating areas where U. S. ships could carry all materials except arma-ment, *i. e.*, lands like Australia and New Zealand Zealand

Zealand. 2. If a U. S. vessel is destroyed with loss of life, the President would automatically stop trade in that vicinity. 3. The U. S. would not support a shipper's

claim against a foreign government if a car-go is destroyed.

4. Vessel masters would be required to give the U. S. a statement of their cargo, detailing consignees and scheduled ports-detailing consignees and scheduled portsof-call. 5. The entire western hemisphere would

5. The entire western hemisphere would be opened to commercial aircraft.
 6. "Cash-on-the-barrelhead" would be im-posed not only against foreign governments.
 but upon residents of those countries.

From such compromise, Demo cratic wheelhorses saw hope for 1940. If the President disowns thirdterm ambitions before congress opens next January, and if he avoids any new reform or spending program, observers were pretty certain the once-disheveled Democratic party would hang together until election time.

MISCELLANY:

Meeting at Washington, the international executive committee on ref ugees received an appeal from U.S Jews to consider the plight of 5,000, 000 Jews in eastern and centra Europe, including those made home less by the Polish partition. Mean while, President Roosevelt was handed a petition bearing 238,00 Baltic. Fearing that Finland might | names, urging steps to make Pales tine a Jewish haven. Next day the committee recessed for two weeks to query member governments.

News Quiz Answers

1. Al Smith Jr. is running for alder-nan in New York. man in New York.
2. Pact with Argentina. Because U.
S. manufactured products would be exchanged for Argentine farm products, allegedly working a hardship on American

farmers. 3. Brazil. 4. False—definitely! The ruling was unprecedented, however, and it bans all beligerent submarines except those forced to seek haven by force majeure— an emergency due to natural or "act of God" causes. 5. Henry Ford.

Assistant Secretary of War

I must qualify that statement that all of the big shots have toned down their remarks. Several continue to shout in an inflammatory way. The best known of these is Louis Johnson, assistant secretary of war. It is unnecessary for me to discuss Johnson's unwise statements. I can quote a real authority, for Senator Bennett Clark, the Missouri Democrat, dealt quite fully with the assistant secretray's utterances-especially that in which Mr. Johnson said that "if the United States were not fully prepared for war, it would be overrun like Poland." Of that remark, Senator Clark had this to say, during the arms embargo debate in the senate:

"In my judgment, no more idiotic, moronic or unpatriotic remark ever has been made by a man in high public office . . .

"This is the same Louis Johnson who has been flying around the country in an army airplane for the last several years, preaching the inevitability of war and the certainty of our being drawn in and drawing horrific pictures with grisly prophecies of our shores being invaded and our own land being laid waste."

But after Senator Clark had streamlined the assistant secretary of war, he proceeded to fall off into the deepest water of demagoguery by attacking President Roosevelt's selection of members of the war resources board. . To make that eagle scream in its shrillest notes, Senator Clark described it as a "Morgan-duPont board," which, to anyone who knows the facts, is a rather silly statement.

With respect to the attack on Mr. Johnson, I only wish that Senator Clark had gone ahead with disclosures so that the long-continued row in the war department could have had an airing.

Johnson Reported Seeking Job of Secretary of War

It is no longer a secret in Washington that Mr. Johnson has been trying for months to get the job of secretary of war. He and Mr. Woodfor much of the time the assistant result has been continual friction, a handicapping of department policies and a general fear among army officers. They are afraid they will get tangled up in departmental politics and every officer knows if he guesses wrong, the chances of getting top flight assignments are nil.

As can readily be seen, such a sitgovernment certainly does the nadent Roosevelt sees Assistant Secretary Johnson more frequently the head of the department, Wheth- | son side of the line.

in the possibility of war an assurance of President Roosevelt's election to a third term. They were rubbing their hands and licking their chops because they saw themselves certain to continue in their jobs, exercising great power. The lack of enthusiasm for their plans has left them with nothing to do but mope and sulk. Their strategy has been blown up under their own noses. They do not know what to do about it.

The question that now confronts the country, from a political standpoint, is whether the European war will run six months or a year or six years. The answer to the question is vital to the politicians.

It is especially important to those who would "draft" Mr. Roosevelt to run for a third term, and I think it is being studied with great care by such men as Postmaster General Farley and Vice President Garner. It is being studied with equal care by Senators Taft of Ohio, and Vandenberg of Michigan, each of whom has a whole flock of Presidential bees swarming inside of his Repub-

Farley Has Party Control Locked Up in His Own Safe

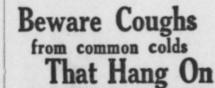
lican bonnet.

It has been noted, repeatedly, how the arms embargo debate has found many of the anti-administration Democrats aligned with the President, favoring repeal. Most of the senators whom President Roosevelt sought to "purge" from the Democratic party believe with the Chief Executive that the embargo ought to be repealed. Some few of the ardent Roosevelt supporters are standing against repeal. The interesting fact is that the intra-party row, among the Democrats, has had no effect upon the stand taken by the party members in the embargo controversy. And, thus, there has been considerable speculation whether there is to be a healing of the wounds. I think there will not be. The differences seem too deeply seated.

However, that may be, it can be said now that "Big Jim" Farley, who is chairman of the New York ring do not get along, and have not State Democratic committee in addition to being chairman of the secretary has been on the job. The National Democratic committee, has control of the party locked up in his own safe. If he chooses to align himself with the Garner-Harrison group, Mr. Roosevelt and his followers are through, washed up. If he decides to support Mr. Roosevelt again, the anti-Roosevelt Democrats will be tossed about like a straw in a whirlwind. It appears to uation in a policy-making agency of this observer as of this time that the swing of public sentiment definitetion no good. It is said that Presi- ly against anything in the nature of American participation in the European war probably will mean a than he confers with Mr. Woodring, Farley swing to the Garner-Harri-

FAITH

"THE present world situation is I showing us that men cannot leave God out of account and retain their faith in the dignity of human personal-ity and the sacredness of human liberty and human life."-Bishop William T. Manning.

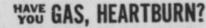


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