

RUSSIA DROPS MASK; READY FOR CONFLICT

Soviet Army of 800,000 Is Efficient, Prepared for War.

By William Philip Simms
Scripps-Howard Foreign Editor

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—A Russian army of 800,000 men is on its toes, ready to go the moment Japan crosses the deadline, according to reports in the hands of military attaches here.

Observers make it plain, however, that they do not expect Russia to attack. On the contrary, she is said to be extremely anxious to avoid war. But if a conflict is forced upon her, experts declare, she is prepared to give a good account of herself.

Russia's big bugaboo remains a war on two fronts—an attack by European powers in the west while she is engaged in war in the far east, 6,000 miles away.

Furthermore, Moscow officials admit, Russia will be incalculably stronger in another four or five years militarily, economically and industrially.

Prepares in Hurry

Nevertheless, a sudden and significant change has come over Moscow. Whereas, Soviet officials never peeped when Japan took Tientsin, in Manchuria, last fall, they now sternly demand to know what Japanese troops are doing in the region of the Siberian border.

The explanation given by military experts is that last fall Russia was not ready, while today she is. Moving quietly and with complete secrecy behind an outward show of indifference to Japan, she has prepared against surprises.

The red army, on paper, numbers 850,000 effective. But to this must be added another 150,000 belonging to the "Tcheka battalions," or professional soldiers garrisoning principal cities and railways. These latter are storm troops of the first order.

Behind these 800,000 men are some 3,000,000 active reserves, plus another group of approximately 10,000,000 semi-trained men and three line men—a grand total of about 13,000,000 effective when fully mobilized.

Ranks Fifth in Air

In the air, Russia ranks fifth among the powers—after France, Britain, Italy and the United States. Japan ranks sixth, with 1,312 planes ready for instant battle, as against Russia's 1,520.

Such is the official rating. In reality, according to French reports, Russia may rank second among the air powers. The Soviet air league is known to have raised considerable money and built an unknown number of planes for presentation to the nation in the last two or three years. For this, many German technicians have been engaged.

Similarly, Russia is said to be well prepared for chemical warfare. Not only has the government spent increasingly large sums of money for poison gas equipment, but, as has been the case with aviation, a civilian "chemical defense society" materially has aided the state.

The red army already is highly mechanized. Tractors draw its heavy artillery and much of the light. There are enormous numbers of tanks, whippets, armored automobiles, motorcycles and trains; anti-aircraft batteries, airplane detectors, range finders, searchlights, and so on, all of mobile nature.

Preparedness Preached

Behind the red fighting machine is one of the most highly militarized populations on the globe. While denouncing militarism, Soviet officials have insisted Russia's life depends on preparedness. Thus practically the entire country of 150,000,000 people is organized like an army. Women and children, old and young, factory workers and field hands are grouped into squads, companies, battalions, regiments, and corps.

The army is officered largely by men who have risen from the Communist ranks. This is regarded as an advantage. Whereas Russian officers of the old school had a weakness for good times behind the lines, leaving their underlings to do the fighting, the present corps does less would go over the top with their men.

The reds, however, still have several weak spots in their armor. The single track railways across Siberia is one. Another is the instability of Russian industry to keep an army of millions supplied.

TWO MORE JOIN RACE FOR COURT CLERKSHIP

Mrs. Shuler and Mrs. Hack Seek Democratic Nomination.

Two women have announced for the Democratic nomination for reporter of the supreme and appellate courts, bringing the total number of contenders to four.

Those who announced are Mrs. Margaret Shuler of Indianapolis, who was a candidate for the nomination in 1928, and Mrs. May Hack of Shelbyville, 1928 nominee.

Mrs. Shuler, who has been managing a patent law office here for sixteen years, is a graduate of Western college of Oxford, O., and has been active in Marion county politics.

She is vice-chairman of the Seventh ward organization, a member of the Marion County Democratic Women's Club and the Business and Professional Women's Club.

Mrs. Hack is the wife of Charles A. Hack, former sixth district chairman, and also has been an active worker.

The other candidates are Miss Emma May of Terre Haute and Mayor Jack Edwards of Marion.

ARLISS APPEARS IN POWERFUL ROLE

Dramatic Star Has a Satisfactory Movie Vehicle in 'The Man Who Played God,' Now at the Apollo.

By Walter D. Hickman
Who played God, one of his most satisfactory movie vehicles. He has ever contributed to the talking screen.

Just as the late Mrs. Fiske grew with the modern stage, just so does Arliss grow with the talking screen. This story is very kind to Arliss because it is a human role, telling the terrible tragedy of a great pianist who suddenly went completely deaf.

Then we have the great struggle, the pianist loses faith in God. It is only when the pianist creates a sort of a miracle himself, learns to read the lips of human beings, that he finds again faith in his God and man. It is during this terrific struggle that the artistry of Arliss reaches its peak. I recall many years ago in Terre Haute that I saw Otis Skinner in this same role on the stage. The role was not kind to Skinner because it lasted just a short time on tour. But with the movie version, I believe that Arliss will achieve added popularity. As far as I am concerned, "The Man Who Played God" is the most satisfactory thing that Arliss has given the talking screen.

Not the work of Violet Heming as Mildred, the woman who understands the terrific fight that the pianist is putting up before he learns to read lips and is able to bring joy into the lives of many people.

Also notice the work of Bette Davis as Grace. I am not so sure that I have seen this girl very often on the screen.

Louise Closser Hale is in the cast and you can be assured that she gives a good account of herself. Also take time to watch the direction and the camera shots.

Here is a picture that will bring real joy to the movie industry. Now at the Apollo.

BROWN IS AT HIS BEST THIS TIME

Joe E. Brown is at his best this time in "Fireman Save My Child." That sounds funny, coming from me, because I have not burned up over the entertaining value of this man. Don't let the title deceive you, because this really is the story of a Main Street fellow who is a fire-fighter in his home town, who suddenly becomes a sensation on the baseball diamonds of a major league. Of course, when our hero goes big time he forgets his own time and falls for a Broadway gold digger. The story is pretty much mixed up, and doesn't amount to so much, but Brown puts so much hokum and natural comedy into his work that I believe you will agree with me that this is the best thing he has done so far.

Don't take "Fireman Save My Child" seriously. It is just a laugh movie and as such it wins.

Now at the Indiana.

CONCERNING 'POLLY OF THE CIRCUS'

Just why they put Marion Davies in "Polly of the Circus" is something I can not understand, because she just isn't suited to this type of innocent roles.

Not being content in miscasting Miss Davies, the director has gone one better and cast Clark Gable as a small town minister who marries Polly, a circus aerial performer.

Of course, the minister almost wrecks his life because his small town congregation just will not tolerate a circus lady as the wife of their pastor. Personally, I can not fall for Gable playing such a role. The picture relies upon a clever fifteen minutes near the close of the picture when Polly, after finding that she is dam-

Now at the Circle.

KREUTZBERG IS AT HIS VERY BEST

I had the feeling after leaving English's yesterday afternoon that Harold Kreutzberg was at his best. This year he has the assistance of four girls who are good dancers. They make a pleasing background for the supreme artistry of Kreutzberg.

These girls make it possible for Kreutzberg to do as his closing number a splendid dance story called "The Envious Girls."

Here is a charming dance story and is perfectly done by Kreutzberg and his dancing group.

In most of his dance numbers, I found a serious note, as the titles indicate. Such as "Angel in Excelsis Deo," "The Hang-Man's Dance on the Grave of His Victim" and others.

I believe that Kreutzberg is the

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FASCIST ARMY WILL MARCH ON FINNS' CAPITAL

Dictatorship Is Aim of Force; Ready to Move to Helsinki.

By United Press

HELSINKI, Finland, Feb. 29.—Militant Fascists of the Lappo organization and other extreme elements prepared to march on Helsinki today.

The Finnish army was ready to combat the uprising by force. All troops were confined to barracks. "This is war," the chief of staff of the Lappo party forces told correspondents at Maentyla, where the Lappoites claimed to have 4,000 armed men, with from 20,000 to 30,000 more converging on the district. "Within twenty-four hours Helsinki will be in our hands."

It was rumored that the insurgents aimed to set up a Lappo dictatorship although their immediate aim appeared to be suppression of all social democratic organizations in Finland.

The Lappo party, ultra-nationalist, recently made a vigorous campaign against Communists.

An ultimatum was served today on President Pehr Evind Svinhuvud. It demanded the formation of a new government pledged to the suppression of Marxism.

The district where the Lappoites were concentrated is some 100 miles north of Helsinki.

The Lappo party is headed by a farmer, named Kosola.

WED 60 YEARS AGO; ONLY 14 ANNIVERSARIES

Los Angeles Couple Married on Feb. 29 in 1872.

By United Press

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 29.—Mr. and Mrs. Orson S. Whitney, who were married sixty years ago, celebrated their fourteenth wedding anniversary today.

The couple married Feb. 29, 1872, and could only celebrate their anniversary on leap year, skipping 1900, which was not counted as such.

WAR PLANES TO ORIENT

Both China and Japan Dicker With U. S. Aviation Firm.

By United Press

NEW YORK, Feb. 29.—The United Aircraft and Transport Corporation, one of the largest makers of airplanes in the United States, is negotiating through a subsidiary, United Aircraft Exports, Inc., for the sale of aviation equipment to both China and Japan. T. H. McConnell, vice-president of the export division, said today.

27 SEAMEN SAVED AS TWO SHIPS GO DOWN

Vessels Crash in Dense Fog of North Atlantic Gale.

By United Press

NEW YORK, Feb. 29.—Twenty-seven men, saved when their ships, the Danish freighter Aggersund and the schooner, George L. Elsey Jr., went down in north Atlantic gales and fog, were aboard rescue ships bound for Gothenburg, Denmark and Boston today.

Radio reports from the S. S. American Imported told of the rescue of twenty-two men from the Aggersund by two small boats manned by British and Swedish sailors.

The Aggersund crew were taken aboard the Swedish motorship Blankaholm at 5:24 a.m. 4:30 west, several hundred miles east of Newfoundland, where the Danish vessel was in distress.

Kerosene Burns Are Fatal

By United Press

PORTLAND, Ind., Feb. 29.—Burns suffered by Howard Miller, 18, when kerosene with which he was attempting to ignite a fire exploded, caused his death twelve hours later.

Other Indianapolis Theaters today offer:

"The Music Master" at Keith's and "The Silent Witness" at the Lyric.

Four Graces of Butler U.



Here's Lit, Math, Trig and Lab. They're the four Graces of Butler university and are (left to right) Joan Boswell, Peg Lewis, Kathryn Fitchey and Maxine Jones.

And they're the Graces of the university just because they've kept their Lit, Math, Trig and Lab grades above C and coupled with their ability to high-kick can qualify as "ponies" in the Fairview Follies to be given May 6 and 7 at Caley Mills hall.

When follies night comes the spectacles and textbooks in the photo will be discarded for shimmering ballet garb and dainty dance steps.

36 IS TOLL IN MINE TRAGEDY

Rescue Squads Vainly Hunt for Bodies of 16.

By United Press

BOISEVAIN, Va., Feb. 29.—Bodies of sixteen miners, killed in an explosion at the Boisevain Coal Company's mine Saturday morning, still were sought today.

Twenty bodies were recovered Sunday after two days of work by a group of fifty rescue workers. J. L. Phillips, whose body was among the first seven recovered, was the father of ten children. The bodies were burned badly.

The necessity for building brattices to supply air to the rescue crews as they advanced along the shaft hampered the work.

Rescue workers have not yet reached the scene of the explosion, which occurred just before dawn Saturday.

LAMONT MAY BECOME SOVIET STOCK EXPERT

Commerce Chief's Son Invited to Russia for Parley.

By United Press

DENVER, Feb. 29.—A Colorado ranchman, cattle expert and son of the secretary of commerce, was en route to Russia today to aid in solution of the world's greatest cattle breeding problems.

Robert P. Lamont Jr., son of the cabinet member, was bound for Moscow, probably to become the chief livestock expert of the Soviet government.

Cattle in Russia, Lamont said before leaving, largely are poorly bred, scrub stock. The Soviets wish to instill blueblood into the veins of their herd on a gigantic breeding scale, and have sought Lamont to take charge of the operations.

Lamont has not yet decided to accept the task, but will confer with the Moscow officials. It was believed he would reach an agreement.

He is one of the outstanding livestock experts of the west.

EX-BANKER DIES IN PEN

Funeral Services Being Arranged for Walter Meyn, Hammond.

By United Press

HAMMOND, Ind., Feb. 29.—Arrangements for the funeral of Walter Meyn, former vice-president of the First Trust and Savings bank, who died in the Indiana state prison, were being made here today.

Meyn, who was taken to the prison early in February, was sentenced to a two to fourteen-year term following a plea of guilty to charges of embezzlement in connection with the closing of the bank, owned by his father, Peter Meyn.

Meyn became ill with pneumonia a few days after he was admitted to the institution.

SCIENCE WINS IN FIGHT FOR GORILLA'S LIFE

Disease Retreating From Oxygen-Filled Room in Washington Zoo.

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—N'gi is convalescent.

The disease—pneumonia or influenza—which threatened the life of the baby gorilla in the National zoo, has retreated from the oxygen-filled room in which N'gi has made his home for three days.

Today N'gi definitely was on the upgrade, eating heartily, embracing his keeper, and generally manifesting an interest in life. His temperature apparently had returned to normal.

His personal physician reported that while no one knows the normal temperature of a gorilla, N'gi's palm, which had been hot and dry, now is cool and moist, a favorable sign.

Gorilla Eats Heartily

Doctors were taking extreme care that the valuable pet should not be reinfected. They changed their clothes before entering his cage, and washed their hands before ministering to his needs. Heart disease, they said, was a remote possibility, but they had little fear of it.

N'gi, gulping great gulps of air purified with oxygen, ate heartily Sunday. The menu consisted of: Breakfast—Two bananas, one tomato and one large pear.

Dinner—Two oranges, an apple and five lumps of sugar.

Supper—Seven prunes, a pear and a head of lettuce.

And he drank during the day twelve ounces of water and two of egg nog made with port. (He doesn't like whiskey.)

Triumph for Science

N'gi's apparent recovery is a great triumph for science. He is 6 years old, and the average life span of a gorilla in captivity in this country is only 7 years. Heretofore, no way has been found to fight off the ravages of disease induced by the rigorous climate.

His treatment, which may prolong his life many years, was made possible by the Washington Herald, which arranged to have a special oxygen chamber brought from New York. As soon as he was ensconced therein he began to improve.

DELAIR GRANTED ON RATE PLEA

Light Company Given Additional Week to Prepare Case.

Hearing on the city's petition for reopening the Indianapolis Power and Light Company electric rate reduction case, originally set for March, was deferred today by the public service commission to March 16.

Commissioner Harry K. Cuthbertson, who is in charge of the case, explained the earlier date did not provide sufficient notice to the company.

The commission adopted a ruling making a municipality the unit of rate fixing in line with a federal court decision in the Martinsville case, and ordered 300 copies of the decision printed for distribution among attorneys and others interested in rate making.

Approval was given sale of a bus certificate by the Indiana Motor Transit Company to Tony Poparad for a line between Indianapolis and St. Louis and the Greyhound Lines, Inc., was granted a certificate to operate a Terre Haute-Richmond bus line.

ROYAL PAIR WILL WED

Betrothal of Alfonso's Nephew and Countess to Be Announced.

By United Press

PARIS, Feb. 29.—Another royal romance in the family of ex-King Alfonso of Spain was revealed today. It was learned that the engagement of Alfonso's nephew, the Infante Joseph of Bavaria, 23, to the beautiful Countess de Mura, 21, grand daughter of the Spanish duke of Tamarra, would be announced soon.

EARLY BIRDS GET BUGS

"Suspicious Characters" in Illinois Forest Prove to Be Entomologists.

By United Press

CHICAGO, Feb. 29.—James Allegritti, highway officer, was sent in pursuit of two suspicious characters reported in the forest preserve.

He found them—two entomologists with nets seeking butterflies and other insect life—in February.

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