

U. S. ABANDONS TREATY LIMITATION ON BATTLESHIPS

Japanese Retreat; Loyalists Blow Up Dams to Halt Rebels

THE FOREIGN SITUATION

WASHINGTON—U. S. abandons battleship limits.

TOYKO—Japan ready for naval race.

SHANGHAI—Chinese say Japanese are retreating.

HENDAYE—Spanish Loyalists delay Rebel drive.

LONDON—Anglo-Irish pact reported ready.

SALZBURG—8000 Austrian exiles return home.

BUCHAREST—Political parties dissolved.

THE HAGUE—Netherlands accepts refugee plan.

U. S. MAGAZINE article disputes Duce's claims.

Britain and France Notified of Ship Policy

WASHINGTON, March 31 (U. P.)—

The American Government today formally notified France, Great Britain and its dominions of its intention to invoke the escalator clause of the 1936 London naval agreement.

Secretary of State Cordell Hull dispatched a note to this effect to the British and French Embassies and the Canadian Legation. The note to the British Embassy was also intended for communication to the Australian, New Zealand and British-Indian Governments.

Meanwhile Rep. Louis Ludlow (D. Ind.), author of the war-referendum resolution recently rejected by the house, had introduced a concurrent resolution proposing that the United States summon a disarmament conference.

While officials declined to reveal the contents of the notes, it generally was assumed it represented U. S. abandonment of the treaty limitation of 35,000 tons for battleships. This abandonment and invocation of the so-called escalator clause would plunge the United States into the international naval armament race.

It was understood that no top limit was put on the size of battleships constructed under the escalation clause.

Japan Ready For Naval Race

TOKYO, March 31 (U. P.)—

Japan will not hesitate to join in a world naval building race in the interests of her own security, Rear Admiral Kiyoshi Noda, Japanese Naval Intelligence Bureau chief, asserted today.

"If the other powers expand and become menacing to our security," he declared, "We are ready to build to the necessary levels to protect our country."

Article Says Italy's Strength Is Overrated

Times Special

WASHINGTON, March 31.—The purple word-picture painted by Premier Mussolini yesterday of Rome's new military strength loses some of its force when set against an American observer's closeup study of "Italy's overestimated power," in the current Harper's Magazine.

The author, Maj. George Fielding Eliot, formerly of the U. S. Military Intelligence Reserve and a World War fighter with the Australian forces in Gallipoli, Egypt and France, sees Italy as a week need for II Duce's ambitions or as Herr Hitler's helpmeet. Italy is pictured as invincible only in the minds of Sig. Mussolini and the Italian people.

"Italy is deficient in the raw materials of munition and has no money to buy more," he says. "She is by reason of her geographical position peculiarly vulnerable to blockade, and her Navy, inferior to that of France and hopelessly outnumbered by the British, is not strong enough to keep open her maritime lines of communications; her railways cannot take up the slack; her armies in Spain and Africa will be cut off from the mainland in case of war and lost to her; at home she cannot hope successfully to attack the French and is highly vulnerable to an attack; her air force, her most formidable arm, is outnumbered and cannot depend on secure and suitable bases outside the home territory."

Anglo-Irish Treaty Reported Near

LONDON, March 31 (U. P.)—The political correspondent of the Daily Mail said today that the draft of a comprehensive Anglo-Irish trade agreement, including modifications of existing tariff schedules and settlement of the long outstanding land annuities dispute, is ready for signing.

Three More Nations Accept U. S. Refugee Plan

WASHINGTON, March 31 (U. P.)—

The State Department today announced receipt of three more acceptances of the U. S. proposal for an international committee to facilitate immigration of political refugees from the Netherlands, Panama and Venezuela.

Belgium, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, Colombia, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Sweden and Guatemala had already replied favorably. Italy has filed the only rejection, but several nations have not yet answered.

CORRECTION

A paid political advertisement of "The Machine Busters," carried in The Times on March 28, described Mr. Frank E. McKinney as a wholesale beer and liquor dealer.

Although State House records show that Mr. McKinney formerly was president and treasurer of the Universal Beverage Co., The Times is informed by Mr. McKinney that he no longer owns or controls any beer interest, and never owned or controlled any stock in a liquor concern.

ILLINOIS TOWN STREET DESOLATED BY TORNADO KANSAS COMMUNITY WRECKED BY BIG WIND



At least 32 persons were killed and hundreds injured yesterday when tornadoes ripped through five states, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Illinois. This picture shows a street scene in South Pekin, Ill., where seven persons are known dead.



This airview of Columbus, Kas., shows the damage a tornado left after sweeping through the south-eastern Kansas town yesterday. The roof of the Highland High School (in lower left corner) was blown off. Students escaped. Times-Acme Photo.

F. D. R. Fights for Byrnes Bill; Senate Completes TVA Action

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featuring a proposal by Senator LaFollette (Prog. Wis.) to broaden the tax base.

Under Senator LaFollette's plan the exemption for single persons would be reduced from \$1000 to \$800 and for married persons, from \$2500 to \$2000. The maximum age for dependents would be raised from 18 to 20 years and rates on incomes in the lower surtax brackets would be increased.

Loyalists Check Rebels With Flood

HENDAYE, French-Spanish Frontier, March 31 (U. P.)—

Flood

waters, pouring down the Cinca River from dams dynamited by the Loyalists, slowed the Rebel advance today and delayed capture of Lerida, the Loyalist general headquarters.

Timing themselves with the Asturian "dynamiteros" who mined the dams, the Loyalists counter-attacked strongly in the outskirts of Lerida and the Rebels admitted that their advance had been interrupted.

Neither Rebels nor Loyalists, however, expected that Lerida could resist long.

Farther south the Loyalists, realizing that the gravest threat on the entire front lay in a possible Rebel thrust to the sea coast near the mouth of the Ebro River, threw into a desperate defense the two crack Spanish divisions of their Army.

Two Dams Blown Up

The famous Asturian dynamiters from the mines along the bay of Biscay coast had blown up two great dams. The first was on the Cinca River above Fraga, spearhead of the Rebel advance into Catalonia. This dam swelled the river somewhat, and according to the Rebels sent 1,412,560,000 cubic feet of water down the river.

Next the Loyalists dynamited what apparently was even a bigger dam at Barsona, on the Ebro River, 40 miles north of Lerida.

Rebels admitted that as the result of the second dynamiting the Cinca, into which the Ebro flows, had risen more than six feet at some points. When the Rebels crossed the river into Catalonia last week-end the Cinca was but knee-deep.

As the water rose, and the Loyalists calculated that its effect was being felt in disorganization of Rebel communications, Loyalist shock troops of the famous International Bridges counter-attacked outside Lerida, after a sham retreat into the city's outskirts.

On this front, Gen. Francisco Franco himself was directing Rebel operations.

Loyalist deserters poured across the border into France today.

8000 Austrian Exiles Return

SALZBURG, Austria, March 31 (U. P.)—Eight thousand members of the Austrian Legion, who fled Germany after the assassination of Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss, returned to their native land today.

AYLESWORTH NAMED TO WORLD-TELEGRAM

NEW YORK, March 31 (U. P.)—

Announcement of the appointment of Merlin H. Aylesworth as publisher of the New York World-Telegram was made today by Roy W. Howard, president and editor. The editorial and news departments will continue under the personal direction of Mr. Howard, editor and Lee B. Wood as executive editor.

Mr. Aylesworth, former National Broadcasting Co. president, succeeds Ray A. Huber, who returns to the general management of the Scripps-Howard Newspapers, from which he was temporarily detached to head the World-Telegram business office at the time of the consolidation of the New York World and the New York Telegram. Mr. Aylesworth has for more than a year been a member of the general business management of the Scripps-Howard Newspapers.

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THREE AREAS IN CITY FLOODED

Boy, 13, Is Drowned When He Loses Control of Raft; Ravenswood Hit.

(Continued from Page One)

night which preceded the high water, lightning struck the New York Central Railroad's 85-foot coal hopper at the Shelby St. roundhouse, setting it afire. Damage was estimated at \$8000.

14 Box Cars Derailed

Near Jamestown, a Big Four freight train struck a washout and 14 cars were derailed. No one was injured. One hundred feet of track was washed out.

The cars were loaded with electric washing machines, soy beans, oil and refrigerators. The locomotive and cars containing whisky and livestock passed safely over the tracks.

As the train was wrecked, a westbound passenger train from Indianapolis waited at Jamestown for the freight to pass. It was scheduled to proceed over the section washed out.

High winds accompanied the storm in some sections of Indiana, damaging farm property.

Heaviest rainfall was at Anderson, where 3.14 inches was reported for a 24-hour period.

Fair Weather Forecast

Fair weather tonight and tomorrow was forecast. The Weather Bureau predicted a heavy frost tonight, with lowest temperature about freezing.

The mercury dropped eight degrees in three hours to 50 degrees at 9 a. m.

The 24-hour rainfall here was 1.99 inches, making the year's total precipitation 11.45 inches, an excess of 2.91 inches above normal.

Other cities besides Indianapolis and Anderson reporting heavy rainfall were Noblesville, 2.84; Terre Haute, 2.86; Bluffton, 2.43; Vincennes, 2.26; Elliston, 2.01.

Fire Chief Fred O. Kennedy, assuming charge at the railroad coal tower fire after the second alarm, suffered an injury to his right foot when he stepped into a hole in the yard.

Train crews, hazarding the flaming coal, fought the fire through the burning structure, salvaged a large portion of the 800 tons of coal stored

in the wooden coal hopper. They dumped coal from the hopper into freight cars and pulled them out of the fire area.

A woman motorist, driving by the roundhouse during the storm, was the first to report that lightning had struck the tower on the hopper. She ran into the office and alerted railroad officials.

Road 66, south of Hardinsburg; Road 162, south of Jasper; Road 64, east of Huntington, and north of Milltown; Road 57, south of Oakland City; Road 145, south of French Lick; Road 245, south of Lamar; Road 157, north of Worthington; Road 58, west of El Dorado; Road 42, closed at Traders Point; Road 40, west of Terre Haute; Road 59, north of Clay City and south of Road 36, at Rockville, and at the junction with Road 43; Road 47, east of Crawfordsville; and Road 403 at Sellersburg.

Roads covered with 6 to 10 inches of water but not closed to traffic, most of them expected to be clear by nightfall, were:

Road 31, north of Seymour, may be closed by evening, also covered north of Columbus; Road 59, south of Linton; Road 45, south of Chrisney, and Road 34, covered with water in three or four places between Indianapolis and Crawfordsville.

Constantly increasing pressure on the Mexican Government to propose an equitable settlement was foreseen as officials awaited a response to the representations made to the Mexican Foreign Office by Ambassador Josephus Daniels.

These representations were supplemented by a formal statement here by Secretary of State Hull recognizing Mexico's legal right to expropriate foreign-owned property, but declaring exercise of that right carried the internationally recognized legal responsibility to make just and equitable payment for the properties seized.

Simultaneously, the Postoffice Department suspended delivery of C. O. D. mail service to Mexico. The announcement said that the measure was "routine" and not related to the Mexican-United States diplomatic crisis.

U. S. PUSHES PLEA FOR OIL INDEMNITY

WASHINGTON, March 31 (U. P.)—

Increasing concern for the United States' "good neighbor" policy in Latin America spurred Administration officials to new efforts today to settle the crisis with Mexico resulting from expropriation of oil

lands.

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