

## PRIORITY LIST IN WAR MATERIALS TO BE PREPARED

Gen. Marshall Says Great Strides Made in Getting Equipment Ready.

WASHINGTON, July 18 (U. P.).—Machinery for determining priorities on crucial defense orders was established in the War Department today to protect them against delays and shortages resulting from commercial and foreign contracts.

The preparation of the list of crucial materials has been undertaken by a special priorities committee headed by Lieut. Col. A. B. Johnson. Its recommendations will be cleared through Donald M. Nelson, who is the procurement co-ordinator for the National Defense Commission.

The list is understood to cover only initial, major Army and Navy requirements to be given right-of-way. The President can enforce priority of listed materials by means of a proclamation.

### Stimson Urges Training

Informed quarters doubted that such drastic steps would be needed. They believe that the National Defense Commission will simply use the list of priority materials for discussions with private industry, which will be asked to expedite them voluntarily.

Meanwhile, Gen. George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff, told a press conference yesterday that great strides are being made to get modern equipment rapidly. Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson warned that there was "a very dark outlook" for the defense program unless compulsory military training is begun.

### Seek CMTC Facilities

The War Department signed a \$25,000,000 contract with E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. for construction of a new smokeless gunpowder plant at Charlestown, Ind.—the first of a chain of munitions factories to be built with Federal funds.

Mr. Stimson, Gen. Marshall and others conferred with representatives of the Citizens Military Training Camp Association headed by Thomas R. Wyles of Chicago, yesterday.

The group seeks use of CMTC facilities during September for training between 20,000 and 30,000 more business and professional men along the lines of the old pre-World War Plattsburg Camp as a supply source of potential officers. Three thousand of these men are being trained this month.

## Pétain May Be French Chief But Laval Likely Will Be Boss

He's in Good Favor With Mussolini, Hitler for Past Actions.

NEW YORK, July 18 (NEA).—Small of stature, dark as a Sicilian, shifty as a moor hen, slippery as an eel and wily as a fox—that's Pierre Laval, who is likely to turn out to be a French Hitler in miniature.

It's true the German conquerors of France have announced that 84-year-old Marshal Pétain is to be head of the French state in place of President Albert Lebrun and that under him is to be a triumvirate composed of Laval, Marshal Weygand and former Labor Minister Adrien Marquet. But Laval is pretty likely to be boss.

He is persona gratissima with Mussolini and Hitler. When Mussolini prepared to make war on Ethiopia, it was Laval who proposed as a compromise measure that Italy take half of Ethiopia, leaving Emperor Haile Selassie as nominal ruler of the remainder. This ultimately caused his fall in January, 1936, as premier. But when Mussolini conquered all of Ethiopia and Haile Selassie became a refugee in England, Laval uttered a loud "I told you so!"

### Won Hitler's Favor in '36

He won Hitler's favor also in 1936 when he said:

"Without an accord between Paris and Berlin there can be no effective guaranty of peace in Europe."

Once more he is in the I-told-you-so class.

Laval, born in 1883, comes from a small town in Auvergne, where his father was village inn-keeper. It is significant that Parisians say of Auvergnats that they are wily, unscrupulous and with a great greed for money. They also say Laval is a true Auvergnat.

Like so many French politicians, he is a self-made man. By his own efforts he obtained an education at Lyons, Dijon and Paris and was admitted to the bar. Like Premiers Briand, Millerand and Viviani he started out as a Socialist and won promotion as a Socialist. And like them, he kicked away the ladder by which he climbed.

### Defeated in 1919

He entered Parliament as a Socialist in 1914. Even during the World War he was not violently anti-German, because he belonged to the wing of the Socialist Party which advocated peace by negotiation. He was defeated for re-election in 1919 and was out of Parliament five years.

During this period he practiced law and accumulated a huge for-



Pierre Laval... Miniature Hitler?

tune—a feat which has always puzzled his opponents.

He got his first cabinet post in 1925. By 1931 he was premier, one of the youngest in the history of the republic. At first his chief claim to fame was that he always wore a white string tie. Next he began a rapid veer to the right.

This caused the very bitter and typically French quip:

"You can spell his name L-A-V-A-L whether you go from left to right or right to left. He likewise veers either way to keep his fortune secure and his political position safe."

After falling from power—as so often happened in France—he was again premier in 1935-6.

He comes into the American picture twice. As premier he came to Washington in 1931 to discuss the world situation with President Hoover. In 1935 his cup of joy was full when his daughter, Jose, married into French high society. Her husband was Count Rene de Chambrun, a lineal descendant of the great Lafayette. Nearer in American ties, the count is a nephew of the late Speaker Nicholas Longworth of the American House of Representatives.

### RAYSVILLE HOMECOMING SET

The Raysville homecoming is to be held Saturday afternoon on the grounds of the Raysville school. A basket dinner and entertainment program has been planned.

## NAME CAPEHART CEREMONY HEAD

G. O. P. Puts Industrialist in Charge of Notification At Elwood.

ELWOOD, Ind., July 18 (U. P.).—Homer E. Capehart, Washington, Ind., farmer and Buffalo, N. Y., industrialist, yesterday was named chairman of the committee of arrangements for the formal notification of Wendell L. Willkie of his nomination for President on the Republican ticket.

He will take full charge of the ceremonies, to be held at Elwood some time early in August. Mr. Willkie is expected to make his first major campaign speech at that time—on the steps of the school at which he received a part of his education.

Mr. Capehart was named to head the committee because of his experience in handling crowds at similar events. He was host at the famed Indiana Republican "cornfield" conference at his Washington, Ind., farm in 1938 when 50,000 persons met to discuss G. O. P. policies.

### 97. NEVER IN AUTO

LUDINGTON, Mich., July 18 (U. P.).—Mrs. B. F. Smith, who celebrated her 97th birthday anniversary here, has never ridden in this state's leading product—the automobile. She is believed to be the oldest resident of Mason County.

## Real Backing



This is the way the Union League Club in Philadelphia is displaying its support for Wendell L. Willkie and Charles L. McNary in the coming Presidential race.

## WHEELER WINS MONTANA RACE

Jeanette Rankin Leads in Republican Contest For Congress.

BUTTE, Mont., July 18 (U. P.).—Nearly complete returns from Tuesday's primary election in Montana showed Senator Burton K. Wheeler, veteran Democratic isolationist, was renominated by a large margin. Mr. Wheeler, who last night withdrew as a Presidential candidate, received 68,596 votes from 1030 of the state's 1195 precincts. His opponent, Attorney General Harrison J. Freebourn, received 26,541.

In the same precincts, E. K. Cheadle Jr. led his nearest opponent by more than 8000 votes for the Republican Senatorial nomination.

Jerry O'Connell led the Democratic race for nomination to Congress in the First District, while Jeanette Rankin, first woman to serve in Congress, led in the Republican contest. Rep. James O'Connor was unopposed for the Democratic nomination in the Second District and Melvin Hoines was ahead in Republican balloting.

Governor Roy E. Ayers, seeking Democratic renomination, maintained a slight lead and Sam C. Ford, former Attorney General, was ahead in the Republican gubernatorial contest.

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