

Military Airports By Maj. Al Williams

TIME and again Washington has been warned that if we had 10 or 20 thousand warplanes that had to be moved from the West to the East Coast, it would take an unbelievable number of days (maybe weeks) to do the job. Why? Because there are only about 250 major airports in the country capable of accommodating the take-off and landing speeds of military aircraft.

Our Army and Navy both need airports today. Many of those that have been using as bases are improperly situated from the standpoint of strategy. Major cities need rings of defense airports not nearer than 50 miles. Mitchell Field, Long Island, is a glaring example of inadequate planning. As an aerial defense base for protecting New York City against warships, its location might be justified. But if Mitchell Field is planned to defend New York City from transoceanic bombers, then it should be out on the eastern end of Long Island (about 100 miles nearer to the oncoming air forces).

Using the Emergency

The Navy, of course, was prompt in building additional air bases along our coastline. That plan has been in the Navy hopper for many years. Time after time the Army has tried to prevent the Navy Air Service from coming ashore and acquiring land bases. But service ambition aims at grabbing as much of sister-service prerogatives and functions as possible. This emergency has therefore been seized upon by the excuse needed to win new shore bases.

Our air-base situation could be greatly improved if the same rule of "use this emergency" were applied generally by the Army in building a completely modern adequate system of military airports.

The first expedient resorted to by the Army and Navy Air Services is the grabbing of commercial airports. The motive in that direction is gaining momentum. Service officers are flying around the country telling Chambers of Commerce on just what terms the Government will accept the exclusive donation of local airports, built and maintained to date by local money and municipal bonds.

Stirring Up Trouble

In fact, these officers have so far lost their perspective that they are handing out these terms on an or-else basis. Naturally, the municipal governments are nursing a grudge against these people and the organizations they represent.

There's room enough in this country, and there appears to be unlimited money to do anything. Why not force the military air services to build their own airports and cease this dislocation of commercial aviation? In themselves, commercial and private aviation are major factors in our aerial defense setup. The growth during the past few years—and mark you, before this Government awakened to the necessity for national air defense—has been phenomenal. Their promise for the future is, I believe, far and away beyond the rosiest predictions of our most gifted visionaries.

National defense in general should mean the building of adequate machinery of every type required in modern war and the training of personnel to operate it. Neither of these operations should be allowed to interfere with commercial or private aviation as it evidently inclines to do.

Inside Indianapolis (And "Our Town")

IT'S NOT GENERALLY known, but the thing that really started the investigation into William Dudley Pelley's tie-up with the Fellowship Press at Noblesville was the careless gesture of the lawyer who nonchalantly flipped 20 \$500 bills on a desk in front of Daily M. Hudler, the owner of the paper the Pelley interest was trying to buy.

Negotiations were going along for the purchase of the newspaper, but not too smoothly. Mr. Hudler had become a little wary because of all the secrecy and mystery and when the lawyer tossed out the \$10,000 in \$500 bills on the desk, the whole show was up because Daily Hudler became even more cautious.

Yea, just don't toss \$500 bills around in an ordinary business deal like that.

Yep, It's Tough on the Kids

DR. WILLIAM STAFFORD, we hear, got so much fun out of playing with the model railroad that belongs to Dr. Mitchell Taylor and his 4-year-old son that Dr. Stafford decided to get one for his two-month-old daughter. It never fails, does it? Mrs. Joe Hanna has been out teaching little Judy how to ride that new two-wheel bike that Santa brought. . . . Albert Sogemeier, clerk of the Federal Court, came out of the Federal Building the other day in such a rush he almost knocked over an enterprising reporter. A traffic menace, eh? . . . Small cut diamonds, the kind used to dress up watches and ring settings, have gone up 250 per cent in the last eight months due to the British blockade which prevents shipments from Africa to Amsterdam. We hear that many folks are investing in diamonds to hedge on expected inflation.

Not So Jolly Tars

THREE NAVAL RESERVES, togged out in natty sea-going uniforms, ambled into the men's clothing department of one of the big downtown stores. "May I help you?" beamed a salesman. "No thanks," answered one. "We're just looking—just in case." A second, though, was more definite. "We're just dreaming," he said briefly. . . . Speaking of the service reminds us of the scene in Union Station the other day around the nickel target gadget where you try to shoot down dive-bombers. A Red Cap hit a score of 210, but one chap missed one every shot. Onlookers agreed with the sad young fellow that if his number comes up he might as well get set for a siege of kitchen duty.

Bobbitt for Attorney General?

HOT TIPS AT THE State House: Arch N. Bobbitt, State G. O. P. chairman, is being talked in several places for the Attorney General job. The Republican Legislature will place the appointive powers in G. O. P. hands until 1942, when the office probably will become elective. Then there will be a scramble for the post. Maurice (Red) Robinson, the Anderson basketball star of bygone days who lost out in the 11th District Congressional race, also is expected to land a State job, probably under Secretary of State James Tuckey. He's a former Madison County prosecutor and has been eyes on the elective Attorney Generalship. Mr. Tuckey, we hear, is telling his friends that he isn't interested in the law job after his secretary term runs out in 1942.

Going 'Round and 'Round

ONE OF THE TOWN'S best-known firms was in immediate need of a young man, and the one they had in mind was working in Illinois. They placed a telephone call to his last known address and were told he'd moved to another Illinois town. Another call, and they learned he was in Indianapolis on Christmas vacation. Just then a friend of the young man who was employed by the firm passed by. "Where's so and so," he was asked. "Oh, he's sitting over there in the corner, waiting for me to get off work." . . . There has been some idle comment around Police Headquarters about the sudden pickup in fines for traffic violations in the Municipal Court. "Angie Smith, the Community Fund boss man, has himself a new house on N. Illinois St., just the Canal. . . . Big Bill Tilden, the tennis hero, has been around town for a couple of days, but what for seems to be a mystery.

Washington

By Raymond Clapper

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—No, I don't think Harry Hopkins is going to London as another Col. House, to play at diplomatic intrigue among the titles. That England, which so impressed Col. House, is about gone. President Roosevelt and Mr. Hopkins are interested in the new England that is trying to be born in this nightmarish of bombs.

It is a matter of direct interest to the United States, which has been commiserated by President Roosevelt to be an arsenal for democracy. It has already aroused political interest here, as seen in the attitude of Senator Vandenberg of Michigan. The Republican Senator, a few days ago, indicated distrust of present political trends in England. He pointed to the fact that Ernest Bevin, the labor leader who ran the general strike in 1926 and who is now second to Churchill, with a real chance of eventually succeeding him, had said that socialism would be established in Great Britain after the war. "Are we to fight for that, too?" asked Senator Vandenberg.

Talking With Mr. Bevin

It won't be important if the King has Mr. Hopkins to tea at Buckingham Palace. It will be important when Mr. Hopkins talks with Mr. Bevin and gathers a direct impression about the new rising forces in wartime Britain. Mr. Roosevelt says Mr. Hopkins is going over to see him. He is not an official status, and thereby being relieved of the necessity of wasting time on protocol dinners with stuffed shirts whose day is over. Mr. Hopkins will range around among the people who are on the way up in England, mainly those in the labor movement who are already pressing for broader war aims than Churchill has acknowledged.

Through the co-operation of British labor, which has suspended some of its rights and privileges, many changes have occurred toward meshing economic life closer into military needs. These are of particular

interest now to the United States. We probably are not profiting enough by England's mistakes, just as we have not drawn sufficient on our own in the past. Mr. Hopkins will bring back some observations and new leads for further inquiry in this field.

He goes in a special role, as a private citizen but as the man who is Mr. Roosevelt's most intimate personal friend. They see through eyes of like interests and understanding. President Roosevelt isn't content to rest on reports from reporters and embassy, which are expert in their professional observation, but which still lack something which can come only from one so intimate and sympathetic with Mr. Roosevelt as Mr. Hopkins.

England in Ferment

Necessarily there are many intangibles and matters of judgment in assessing personalities and trends, and Mr. Roosevelt's understanding of them undoubtedly will be sharpened through the observation of one so closely attuned to his own mind as Mr. Hopkins. A thoughtful estimate of the situation and probabilities in England should help Mr. Roosevelt visualize more accurately the situation with which he is dealing in this critical time.

It is most important that Mr. Roosevelt sense as accurately as he can the mental changes that are going on among the English people, for evidently during their long nights in the shelters they are thinking. They have been a docile class. Hitler has told them some things about democracy and its shortcomings that cannot be laughed off. They must be thinking about that, and about the mess the Chamberlain got them into, and the speech privileges that the few have enjoyed while failing miserably to give England the protection it needed.

Reports reaching here from various sources indicate that all of this is fermenting. Undoubtedly Mr. Hopkins will make a special effort to assess the probabilities in the struggle that is going on between the left and right in England, under cover of the desperate need for survival. This issue involves peace terms and the length of the war. Mr. Hopkins can be of enormous use to the President in sifting up the real situation.

Even so, I dream, one must have a basis of economic security, and the dream is worth little if it can not provide that. Devotion to democracy, devotion to liberty, what we call patriotism, depends upon the realization of such conditions in our country as really give us the opportunity and hope for future dreams.

I drove up to Hyde Park yesterday morning and the drive along the parkway was like a fairyland. Once out of the city, the fields and trees were covered with snow. When I reached my own cottage, the countryside was really beautiful. I had only a few hours, but two friends were spending the week-end there, so we walked up to the top of the hill after an early lunch and came back to chat in the living room, which made me almost forget that I had to make a train.

The weather had cleared and the moon shone, so I knew that I could make the 10:30 plane back to Washington. I spent the evening with a friend in New York City and the joy of listening to some inspiring and beautiful thing records. "Call for Americans," which belongs so typically to our own country, I think should become familiar to every school child.

My Day

By Eleanor Roosevelt

WASHINGTON, Sunday.—I reached New York City Friday afternoon just in time to be faced by a battery of cameras while I had my last fittings for three new dresses. Then Mrs. George Backer and Mr. John Rothschild, of the "Open Road," came to see me.

Mrs. Henry Morgenthau Jr. came in from the country so we could go together to "Flight From the West," by Edgar Rice. The casting and acting of the play are really remarkable. You feel as though you had been on the clipper yourself and met and talked with the group of people who took the flight.

As a play, it lacks something which keeps it from being really great, but as a group of characterizations, it is extremely interesting and I think that anyone who feels that he has spent an evening which is well worth while. The successful old man from Texas would be rather amusing if he were not rather terrifying. I wonder how many people really think it is smart to do business with a man who stands for everything that is opposed to the original American conception of democracy and freedom.

It seems to me a little like the doctrine: "The devil, himself, is an amazing fellow so long as I can get the best of him." Since, in business, some of us think we are abler than the rest of the world, we think it is safe to traffic with those who repre-



Workmen removing equipment from the Pelley publishing house at Asheville, N. C.

By Fremont Power

EX-NEWSPAPERMAN, ex-movie writer, ex-Y. M. C. A. secretary, ex-novelist and mystic, William Dudley Pelley has landed in Indiana apparently about two jumps ahead of a North Carolina sheriff.

W. D. Pelley, in case you haven't heard, is the founder of the supposedly ex-Silver Shirts of America, and the man who put up the money to found the Fellowship Press exactly wide open arms.

He has been fitting between here and Noblesville, a mysterious figure, though a dignified-appearing one, with his graceful goatee and gleaming eyes.

The Silver Shirts came into being one evening in 1933. William Dudley Pelley told the Dies Committee just how it happened.

"I was working late one night in my office," he told the committee, "when Marion Henderson, my secretary, came in with the Asheville evening paper. I saw eight-column headlines. Curiously, I picked it up. The date was Jan. 30, 1933. And screaming from the page were the significant words—

"ADOLF HITLER BECOMES GERMAN CHANCELLOR."

"I looked at the lines," he said again. "I sought to comprehend them. Something clicked in my brain—

"Tomorrow," I announced, "we have the Silver Shirts!"

And, presto, it seems he did. By last February, Mr. Pelley was telling the Dies Committee there were 25,000 members in 22 states, including Indiana.

The only thing Mr. Pelley forgot, apparently, was to file incorporation papers with the Indiana Secretary of State, because there's nothing on record about the S. S. of A. in this state.

CITY COUNCIL ELECTION SET

Wood and Deluse Slated to Keep Posts; 2 Topics Up Tonight.

Prefaced by a cut-and-dried election of officers, City Council tonight will take up the subject of track elevation and poultry licensing, two of 1940's holdover questions.

The election of officers has been virtually decided by a caucus of Democratic majority members held two weeks ago. Joseph G. Wood is to continue as president, with Albert O. Deluse slated for re-election as vice president. Present committees also will be retained.

Council will vote on a resolution asking City officials to propose legislation which would enable the municipality to acquire funds for South Side track elevation. The resolution was introduced by Councilman Ralph Moore, Republican, under suspension of the rules at the last meeting, after South Side civic groups renewed their drive for additional grade separation.

President Wood said results of a conference on the poultry ordinance with two groups of businessmen interested in it would be presented to the Council. A proposal to repeal the ordinance which levies a tariff on out-of-town poultry dealers is pending.

CLASSES OPEN IN CAA PILOT COURSE

Opening ground school classes in the CAA civilian non-college pilot training course will begin in the Indiana World War Memorial Shrine Building at 5 and 7 p. m. today.

Last week, approximately 70 youths sought to enroll in the second CAA course during final enrollment period at the Chamber of Commerce offices. Applicants who passed the interviewer's test have yet to survive the physical examination.

Hoosier Goings On SNAKE EYES

Gigantic Reptile 'Appears' Again; Edinburg Plans 'Blackout' Net Game

By HARRY MORRISON

THAT BIG SNAKE is back again. It's so big that the people around Cartersburg, Putnamville and Lagrange think there are three snakes.

It has been seen swallowing a weaned calf! At least, that's the story. It is supposed to have stretched all the way across a paved highway and a farmer reported seeing its head three feet above standing grain while it was crossing a field.

The snake, which the Cartersburg people call their own, appears to be half a telephone pole projecting above the banks of Little White Creek while it crawls along the bed.

And the Danville Gazette says in some instances pet dogs have been equipped with cattle yokes to prevent their being swallowed.

Or maybe someone has been seeing snakes.

A Christmas story has just been told in Muncie. Two women who live in the same apartment building there annually exchange presents by leaving them on each other's doorstep. The rest of the year they see one another only casually. They have no social contacts. And the only time they talk to one another is to exchange thanks—over the telephone.

AS IF BASKETBALL isn't difficult enough, the Edinburg P-T-A. must arrange a blackout game for next Wednesday. All the players will wear luminous suits and the lights will be out. The ball, lines and baskets will be luminous.

It is extremely bothersome to be bothered with so many automobiles that you don't know when one of them has been stolen. An Edinburg garage proprietor didn't notice one of his automobiles was missing from his used car lot the other day until police asked him about it.

He denied the loss until they produced the car. It had been stolen a couple of days before, involved in an accident and then abandoned.

INSERTED (for light relief) into the Alexandria Daily Times-



William Dudley Pelley during his appearance last year before the House Rules Committee in Washington.

effected. Fuehrer Pelley did not tell the Dies Committee.

LAST year the Silver Shirts, upon the advice of the Committee, supposedly were "dissolved." But whether the dissolution ever took place or not would be difficult to determine.

Mr. Pelley's organizations are always complex.

On Aug. 28, 1939, Robert B. Barker, investigator for the Dies Committee, described the Pelley setup in Asheville as follows:

"The organization is the Silver Shirt Legion of America, Inc. The business down there (Asheville) is Skyland Press, Inc. The building and literature are Pelley Publications. The bank account is carried under the name of Skyland Press. The express shipments go out under the name of Foundation Fellowships. (The name of the Noblesville firm is Fellowship Press, Inc.). The mail goes out under the name of Little Visits. The magazine that is published is 'Liberation'."

The purpose of the Silver Shirts is rather nebulous. In a few words, it seems to be to combat a Communist revolution inspired by Jews. That is the gist of Mr. Pelley's own statements.

That he is—or was—sympathetic with Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party in Germany is no secret. Since the Nazi-Communist pact, however, Mr. Pelley has not expressed himself on this point.

LAST year, however, he gave his personal approval to an "of-

ficial dispatch" of his organization which said:

"The only man in Europe who correctly understands the tie-up between communism and the predatory elements among the Hebrews is Hitler. He is maligned in this country because Hebrews are determined the stark truth shall not be known, and use every agency of publicity to disparage and vilify him."

"On Jan. 31, 1933—the day that Hitler came into power in Germany—Pelley came out from under cover with his Silver Shirt national organization."

"Having planted depots of his facts throughout the entire United States, enlightened police and vigilante groups, secure the cooperation of outraged Christian citizens to carry on regardless of what happens to him personally, his organization of SILVER SHIRTS is now snow-balling exactly as Hitler's Nazis snow-balled in Germany when the German people were at last persuaded to the truth."

Mr. Pelley was asked if that was an "official expression of your part of the attitude, the aims, and the purposes of the Silver Legion, as contained in this official bulletin to its members?"

"It was," Mr. Pelley said.

At first the initiation fee for Silver Shirts was \$1, to be taken as the first month's dues, and the regular dues were \$1 monthly. This dues practice later was abandoned, Mr. Pelley said, when it occurred to him that it had all the essence of a racket.

BUT while awaiting the millennium, Silver Shirts were urged to communicate with a quartermaster corps in Oklahoma City, from which they could buy silver shirts with red ls, blue corduroy breeches, leggings and a tie—all for \$10.

Publications available to the members cost money, the highest priced one being one on Jews that sold for 25 cents.

Mr. Pelley, the professional Jew-hater, is wanted in Buncombe County, North Carolina, on charges of violation of a probation order on conviction of non-registered security sales. On next Feb. 18 he is to come up for judgment on a conviction of advertising that Galahad Press, another of his publishing ventures, was solvent, was a fine business, and would be able to pay its June, 1934, dividends, whereas it was adjudicated bankrupt in May.

When a person wished to join up with the Silver Legion, he was required to state on the application his racial extraction, the exact hour and minute of his birth, "previous politics," and military experience, if any.

Mr. Pelley told the Dies Committee that the military experience might come in handy when the "revolution" came about. When it did happen, the Silver Shirts would step in, Mr. Pelley said, and he would be chief of the United States until the people chose their government in what he called a plebiscite.

That's the Mr. Pelley who recently moved into Indianapolis.

IMPROVED FARM CONDITIONS DUE

U. S. Bureau Warns Not to Expect War Boom in Prices.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6 (U. P.).—The Agriculture Department today predicted rising farm prosperity in 1941, but warned against expectations of a war boom in prices.

The stimulus to farm prosperity will come from increased industrial activity as production for national defense expands, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics said.

"Farm income will be higher this year than last, but higher costs will offset part of the gain," the Bureau said. Cash farm income in 1940 was estimated at \$9,500,000,000, the highest in 10 years.

Food Supplies Adequate

"Currently, the ratio of prices received by farmers to prices paid is about 17 per cent below the pre-World War base of 100," the Bureau said. "In September, 1939, at the outbreak of war, it was 25 per cent below the pre-World War base."

Food supplies are adequate for civilian and military needs during 1941. The only reduction from 1940 will be in meat supplies, but there is no danger of a meat shortage.

Large supplies of wheat, potatoes, citrus fruits, dried fruits, canned foods, truck crops and dairy products are in existence or in prospect," the Bureau said. "A near-record supply of feed for livestock is on farms and in storage."

Cotton Record Likely

The Bureau pointed out that acreage allotments will be virtually the same as in 1940 and that "good yields will undoubtedly increase the supply of products stored against future needs."

"The cotton mills of the country have been spinning at an unprecedented rate, and it looks now as though consumption by mills this year will set a new high record," the Bureau reported. "Cotton exports are expected to continue at a low level."

Fire After Fire Plagues Family

SHELBYVILLE, Ind., Jan. 6 (U. P.).—The home of Fred Mitchell, Noble Township, burned Saturday morning.

Household effects were salvaged and moved to his son-in-law's home in Waldron.

Exactly 24 hours later, chimney sparks ignited the Waldron residence. It burned to the ground.

FORT MAY BE SAVED

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 6 (U. P.).—Five civic and government bodies are sponsoring a movement to convert historic Spanish Fort on the eastern side of Mobile Bay into a national monument. The Fort dates from the Spanish-English war of 1779.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1—In the nursery rhyme, "Bye, Baby Bunting, Daddy's Gone Hunting," what was Daddy hunting?
2—How long after Easter is Ascension Day?
3—What does the abbreviation P. V. mean?
4—Which islands are called "The Crossroads of the Pacific"?
5—Name the three states that begin with the letter "O."
6—What is the smallest denomination of United States coin now issued?
7—Rottenstone is used mostly by a lapidary, a sanitary engineer, or a mason?
8—What are the middle names of U. S. Supreme Court Justices Hugo L. Black and Stanley F. Reed?

Answers

1—A rabbit-skin.
2—Forty days.
3—First Families of Virginia.
4—The Hawaiian Islands.
5—Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon.
6—The one-cent piece.
7—Lapidary.
8—La Fayette and Forman.

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