

'CHEAP TRICK,' M'HALE REPLIES

Ordnance Firm Financed Privately, He Says; Questions Gates.

(Continued from Page One)
except that an affiliate, Savannah Shipyards, has a tentative one which will not be effective until the company spends another \$1,000,000 of its own money on plant facilities," Mr. McHale added.

Guarantees Notes

He explained that the company was organized in May, 1940, and had acquired plants. He said that the fall he "committed myself not only to purchase stock, but also agreed to guarantee the payment of some notes. Sometime thereafter the company received its first contract from the British Government and since then has been manufacturing armament for the British."

He stressed that payment for these armaments were received from the British Government and not from lend-lease funds.

"Despite Mr. Gates' unfounded charges, I have not sought to use my political influence to obtain Government contracts," the statement continued. "The only contract we have ever received is with the United States Navy for repairing guns, and on that contract our company lost some \$18,000."

Questions Gates

He outlined his World War record and said "I have offered my services to my country to use in any manner it sees fit."

"Mr. Gates asked me to explain my connection with Empire Ordnance Corp." Mr. McHale continued. "I have done so in the public interest. Now then, since Mr. Gates has sought to make a political issue, will he be equally frank and explain his connection with Robert Lyons and the Chain store outfit? Will he also tell about the fees that he received from the closed banks to which he was assigned by his political mentor, James E. Watson, during the dark days of depression?"

'Blackout' Here; Sun's to Blame

THE WEATHER Bureau today "divulged" information about a "blackout" in Indianapolis.

Meteorologist J. H. Armstrong warned that the sun, which rose at 7:04 a. m., will set a few seconds after 4:23 p. m.

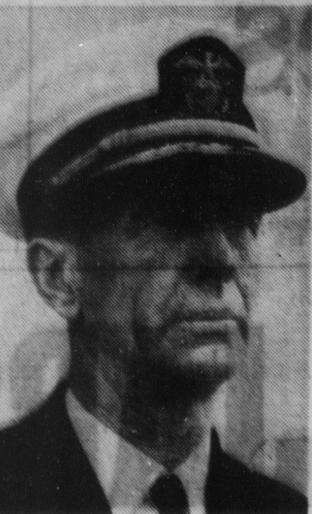
Yesterday, the sun performed the same way. Thus, yesterday and today, are the shortest days of 1941. Tomorrow "the blackout" will be about the same duration. The sun will rise at 7:05 a. m. and set at 4:24 p. m.

The minimum temperature today was 43 at 5 a. m.

Mr. Armstrong suggested that if the Germans have any complaint about Indianapolis being warmer than Russia, or the Italians objecting to it being colder than Libya, or the Japanese wanting it to be as sunny as Luzon—Well, if they don't like our weather, Mr. Armstrong says the Axis agitators can go hang.

DIAMONDS
WACHES
Eldridge H. NICHOLS
916 STATE LIFE BLDG.

Commands Fleet



G. E. WILL ADD 400 AT DECATUR

New Plant to Manufacture Plane Equipment; Set Opening June 1.

DECATUR, Ind., Dec. 22 (U. P.)—About 400 persons will be employed in a new General Electric plant to be built here adjacent to the present G-E plant, F. W. Lankeau, manager of the Decatur division of the General Electric, said today.

The plant will manufacture electrical equipment for use in the army aircraft program, Mr. Lankeau said, and is being erected under an agreement with the Plant Defense Corp.

No figures were available on the cost of the new plant. It is believed it will be a one-story building with about 70,000 square feet of floor space.

Mr. Lankeau said it was hoped that the plant would be in production by June 1.

FIVE IN ARMY BOMBER DIE

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 22 (U. P.)—Five men were killed when a B-26 twin-engined Army bomber crashed and burned yesterday soon after leaving the local air base on a practice flight.

SEEKS VICHY-U. S. BREAK

NEW YORK, Dec. 22 (U. P.)—Private advice to the United States reported today that Germany will make a determined effort after the holidays to force a diplomatic break between Vichy France and the United States.

Watch for Desperate Nazi Offensive on New Front As Hitler Takes Direct Command of German Armies

By FREDERICK KUH
United Press Staff Correspondent

LONDON, Dec. 22—Allied governments watched for signs of a desperate German offensive on a new front today, and neutral dispatches forecast a drastic new purge of the German High Command, as the result of Adolf Hitler's assumption of direct command of the German armies.

Usually well informed quarters here could only guess as to what Germans—what lay behind Hitler's dismissal of his close confidant, Field Marshal Walther von Brauchitsch, as commander-in-chief of the German armies.

Observers with long pre-war experience in Germany felt after analysis of Hitler's remarkable order of the day that the war had been brought a long way toward the "gambling stage" in which political considerations would increasingly weigh against purely military considerations.

Nobody was fooled into believing that Hitler's decision meant anything like a German collapse.

Politics always plays a big part in military as well as diplomatic decisions, but it is recognized that the Nazi regime draws its life blood from Hitler's prestige and the legend of his infallibility.

It was believed here that if Hitler felt control of the war slipping from his grasp he would be prepared to lash out in all directions, staking everything on one huge effort.

It was suggested:

That there had been a serious split between Hitler and the entire high command.

That Brauchitsch's long reported enmity for Nazi Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop had reached its climax.

That Hitler actually feared an invasion of Germany by the Russian army unless he made a supreme effort himself to stop the German rout on the eastern front.

There were many who believed that Hitler intended to strike through Turkey at the Russian frontier.

There were more who foresaw the possibility of an imminent attack on the African front through Spain and French North Africa.

The one thing on which everyone agreed—apparently including Hitler himself—was that the change in the high command was due to the beating which the Germans were taking on the Russian front, and to the grim outlook for the German armies there during the winter months.

Development which fitted into the general German picture were:

1. The proclamation by Italy of a state of emergency throughout its southern provinces, starting with Naples, the chief supply base for Africa.

2. A statement by Virginia Gayda, Italian foreign office mouthpiece, that the Battle of Libya had become a decisive turning point for the entire war. He was quoted as saying: "Italy is engaged with practically its total land, sea and air forces and their fate depends the fate of Italy." A Zurich dispatch said the statement caused a sensation in Rome.

3. A Turkish report from Hungarian sources that practically all Hungarian troops on the eastern front had returned home, withdrawn because they had inadequate winter equipment and were suffering serious illnesses.

4. Reports that Swedish volunteers in Finland's army were almost all back home.

5. Reports that the Germans were leaving Finland to its fate.

6. A United Press Malta dispatch which said it was believed there have felt himself unable to face the loss of prestige such a withdrawal would entail.

It was suggested also that Hitlerian dissatisfaction with the German army position in Libya was a contributory cause.

No one knew whether there was anything significant in the fact that the German radio closed its program last night not with its usual "Heil, Hitler," but with "Bids a cordial good night to all listeners who now want to enjoy a well deserved night's rest."

7. A high diplomatic personality at Ankara was quoted by the United Press Gao correspondents as emphasizing the possibility if not the probability of a German winter thrust through Spain and Spanish Morocco and French North Africa.

The French high commissioners to Tunisia and Morocco arrived yesterday for conference.

A United Press Vichy dispatch dis-

closed.

Nothing on Radio

8. A United Press Stockholm dispatch quoted Berlin dispatches as forecasting the removal of Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, chief of the German high command; Gen. Alfred Jodl, chief of operations of the high command, who is usually at Hitler's headquarters, and Gen. Franz Halder, chief of staff of the high command.

9. Stockholm said Berlin political quarters expressed doubt that Brauchitsch was dismissed because of the collapse of the German offensive in Russia.

British commentators saw the Russian military situation as directly responsible for Brauchitsch's dismissal, and suggested that as a cold-minded military man he might have demanded that the German armies be withdrawn for many miles more, west of the Smolensk line or even west of the Russian-

frontier.

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It was noted here that the German radio did not broadcast Hitler's decree assuming the army command and his order of the day to troops over home stations last night, so that Germans heard of Hitler's sensational decisions only this morning in newspapers.

The well-informed British Press Association said:

"It is being asked if Hitler's assumption of the supreme command is the first tangible sign of a crack between the Nazi party and Army leaders. That a rift is growing is evident from the fact that the German army in Russia is commanded by two headquarters—the general staff and the Hitler staff.

"Hitler's generals probably forced him to assume all responsibility, for none knew better than they what risks were involved in attacking Russia, particularly so late in the year.

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TROOPS PATROL STRUCK PLANTS

Ready to March Into Coast Shipyards to Prevent Work Stoppage.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 22 (U. P.)—Soldiers with bayonets fixed and rifles loaded patrolled one shipyard today and stood ready to march into three others to prevent a jurisdictional labor dispute halting \$1,000,000 worth of vital construction.

They were stationed there to prevent intimidation of workers and to escort workers through picket lines established by the United Brotherhood of Welders, Cutters and Helpers of America, an unaffiliated union, which called a strike of welders at all major California shipyards to enforce its demands upon the American Federation of

The union and Army and Navy officials disagreed on the number of strikers.

The welders voted to picket the yards of Todd-California, Richmond Shipbuilding, Pacific Bridge Co. and Western Pipe & Steel Co., where they claimed their members had been "locked out" because of A. F. of L. pressure. A. F. of L. union held closed shop contracts at the yards.

There were no attempts at interference with workers but when a strikers' sound truck appeared at the Todd-California plant, bystanders, believed to be A. F. of L. supporters, rushed it. The soldiers turned them back.

The strike threatened to spread outside the San Francisco Bay area.

A Popular Price Gift Store for the Whole Family

AYRES DOWNSTAIRS STORE

ONLY 17 HOURS to Shop for Last-Minute Gifts

Gifts Around

25c

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Infants' Gertrudes | 29c |
| Women's Lawn and Linen Hankies | 25c |
| Girls' Tuckstitch Pants and Vests | 35c Ea. |
| Girls' Rayon Panties | 35c |
| Boys' Rayon Ties | 25c |
| Boys' Shorty Socks | 29c |
| Men's Rayon Gift Ties | 25c |
| Men's Gift Handkerchiefs | 25c |
| Men's Fine Rayon Socks | 25c Pr. |
| Colored Border Hankies for men | 2 for 25c |
| Men's Gift Socks | 35c Pr. |
| Men's Hand Rolled Gift Hankies | 35c |
| Women's Novelty Weave Undies | 25c |
| "Cannon" Plaid Bath Towels | 25c |
| 5-Pc. Oil Silk Bowl Covers | 25c Set |
| Novelty Guest Towels | 29c |
| Kitchen Printed Tea Towels | 29c |

Gifts Around

75c

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Girls' Flannelette Pajamas | 69c |
| Girls' Rayon Slips | 69c |
| Girls' Wool Gloves | 69c |
| Girls' Cotton Blouses | 79c |
| Girls' Cotton Wash Dresses | 69c |
| Boys' Polo Shirts | 69c and 79c |
| Boys' Outing Pajamas | 79c |
| Children's Squealing Bunny Slippers | 79c |
| Men's Silk and Rayon Ties | 69c |
| Women's Cotton Princess Slips | 75c |
| Women's Flannelette Gowns | 69c |
| Women's Stout Size Flannelette Gowns | 79c |
| Women's Broadcloth Slips | 69c |
| "Cannon" Gift Towel Sets | 79c |
| Lace Scarf and Vanity Sets | 79c |
| 5-Pc. Crash Bridge Sets | 79c |

Gifts Around

\$1.00

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Hand Blocked Table Cloths | \$1 |
| "Cannon" Boxed Towel Sets | \$1 |
| "Cannon" Pastel Wash Cloths | 12 for \$1 |
| Haynes Gift Towel Sets | \$1 |
| Pillow Cases | \$1 Pr. |
| 5-Pc. Novelty Bridge Sets | \$1 |
| Gift Towel Sets | \$1.19 |
| 52x52 Hand Printed Table Cloths | \$1.19 |
| Chenille Bath Sets | \$1.19 |
| Round or Square Hassocks | \$1 |
| Magazine Racks | \$1 |
| Chenille Rugs | \$1 |

Gifts Around

\$2.00

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| --- | --- |
| Men's VanHeusen Shirts | \$2 |