

The Evening Star

With Sunday Morning Edition.

THEODORE W. NOYES, Editor.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
MONDAY, October 16, 1939The Evening Star Newspaper Company.
Main Office: 110 East 42nd St.
New York Office: 110 East 42nd St.
Chicago Office: 435 North Michigan Ave.

Delivered by Carrier—City and Suburban.

Regular Edition.
Evening and Sunday 65c per copy, 15c per week.
The Evening Star 45c per copy, 10c per week.
The Sunday Star 50c per copy, 10c per week.Night Final Edition.
Night Final and Sunday Star 70c per copy, 15c per week.
Night Final Star 45c per copy, 10c per week.
Collection made at the end of each month or each week. Orders may be sent by mail or telephone. National 5000.

Rate by Mail—Payable in Advance.

Maryland and Virginia.
Daily and Sunday 1 yr. \$10.00; 1 mo. \$1.00.
Daily only 1 yr. \$8.00; 1 mo. 85c.
Sunday only 1 yr. \$4.00; 1 mo. 40c.All Other States and Canada.
Daily and Sunday 1 yr. \$12.00; 1 mo. \$1.00.
Daily only 1 yr. \$10.00; 1 mo. 85c.
Sunday only 1 yr. \$5.00; 1 mo. 40c.Entered as second-class matter post office.
Washington, D. C.

Member of the Associated Press.

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this paper and also the right to publish in this paper all rights of publication of special dispatches herein also are reserved.

Industrializing Canada

British plans for the development

In Canada of a great industrial em-

pire for the production of war ma-

teriel have aroused interest of busi-

ness and financial circles on this side

of the Canadian border. According

to reports circulating in Wall Street,

Great Britain is preparing to spend

as much as three billions of dollars

on a plant and production program

designed particularly to turn out war-

planes, munitions and other military

and naval equipment, but capable of

being adapted later to non-military

needs of peaceful purpose. At least

half a billion dollars is immediately

available for launching the huge en-

terprise, it is said.

Under the tentative program use

would be made eventually of from six

to fifteen billions of dollars of re-

sources, including commercial credits,

which England and France have in

the United States. Apparently the

Canadian plans would look to the

United States for much of the raw

materials and machinery required to

start manufacture and to carry it on.

Negotiations with American motor

and plane firms toward this end al-

ready have begun, it is rumored.

Neither the present neutrality law

nor the one proposed by the adminis-

tration would prevent participation,

within certain limits, of United

States business and financial inter-

ests in such an undertaking, despite

the listing of Canada as a belligerent

in President Roosevelt's neutrality

proclamation. The existing embargo

on "arms, ammunition and imple-

ments of war," as has been pointed

out in these columns repeatedly, does

not cover the metals and many other

materials needed to make planes,

guns and shells; nor the chemicals

and cotton needed to produce gun-

cotton. Cancellation under the

President's proclamation of orders

which France and Britain had

placed in this country for planes and

other "implements of war" left cred-

its which conceivably could be used

to finance parts of the Canadian in-

dustrial establishment. The "title-

and-carry" plan embodied in the

pending Hull peace bill would not

seriously interfere with the transpor-

tation to Canada of any supplies

needed for the war factories.

The creation by our next-door

neighbor of a great allied war supply

base would be certain to draw special

attention from the German high

command. Canada, being a belliger-

ent, would be fair game for Nazi

sabotage agents and even for bomb-

ing planes—if they had ways of

striking so far from base. Before

American interests lend a hand, the

whole project should be given careful

scrutiny by executive and legislative

branches of the Government, with a

view to safeguarding the neutrality

and the security of the United States.

County Service Building

Another milestone in the growth of

Prince Georges County has been

passed with the dedication of the new

county such as Prince Georges, which is part suburban and part rural. The question of whether there should be provision for a county manager, such as Arlington has found satisfactory, naturally comes to mind. The building also suggests the recurring proposal to transfer the county seat to the populous suburban area, the question of dividing the county into two units, one rural, one suburban, and the often-studied plan to merge several of the nearby Maryland counties.

It is clear, however, that Prince Georges authorities have no intention of moving the county seat, for even as the suburban building was dedicated, the Marlboro courthouse was being enlarged. And the other questions also can safely be left to the future while county residents enjoy the welcome facilities which the new structure affords.

H. M. S. Royal Oak

"War cannot be made without running risks," wrote Admiral Mahan in one of the last articles penned prior to his death on December 1, 1914, and in which the famed author of "The Influence of Sea Power Upon History" discussed the probable course of the then barely four-month-old World War. It was in the same philosophical vein that Mahan reaffirmed the doctrine so deeply imbedded in him that "it is the unremitting daily silent pressure of naval force, . . . which has made sea power so decisive an element in the history of the world." Then venturing into the realm of prophecy, Mahan wrote: "In any case, the British fleet holds the decision in its hands, as in the days of Napoleon, if the allies persist to the end."

Mahan made that forecast in the middle of October, 1914, on an occasion not unlike Britain's crowning naval reverse to date in the present European war—the submarineing of H. M. S. Royal Oak, 29,150-ton battleship, on Saturday. A German U-boat had accomplished in 1914 the amazing feat of torpedoing in one day three British cruisers—Cressy, Hogue and Aboukir. Asked by a British friend to comment on that disaster, Mahan expressed surprise that more such attempts had not been made, conveying the idea that a supreme navy, with an immense preponderance of fleet units of all categories, naturally offers the enemy a wide choice of targets.

Britain, in that realization, is undoubtedly sitting tight today, even in presence of the Royal Oak's fate, so soon after that last month of the Courageous, aircraft carrier, for command of the sea is still hers. His majesty's fleet remains in possession of fourteen capital ships, of which eleven are battleships as powerful as, or more powerful than, the Royal Oak, while three are far more effective battle cruisers. The Germans have three "pocket" (10,000-ton) battleships, two battle cruisers, two average battleships and two capital ships under construction. British warcraft tonnage now on the stocks includes nine battleships, five of them of the King George 35,000-ton class and four of the Lion 40,000-ton type carrying sixteen-inch guns. These new vessels will be commissioned progressively in 1940, 1941 and 1942.

Losses sustained by the British fleet thus far are strategically unimportant, because of the rough four-to-one superiority in global tonnage which it retains over the German Navy. But it is, of course, obvious that even the presently "supreme" sea power cannot indefinitely maintain its advantage if it is subjected to a succession of losses like those of the Courageous and the Royal Oak. That contingency gives point to the arresting suggestions contributed to The Sunday Star by Major George Fielding Elliot. The author of "Ramparts We Watch" points out that "either the anti-submarine measures and dispositions now being used by the Royal Navy are seriously inadequate, or the Germans have developed a new technique for the employment of their U-boats; perhaps both."

It seems at least possible that the method invoked by the Germans to penetrate the special anti-submarine armored hull with which the Royal Oak was equipped—visible in the bulge or "blister" shown in recent pictures of the battleship—is the mystery weapon at which Hitler hinted when he boasted the other day of Nazi ability to thwart the blockade. But, just as it takes more than one swallow to make a summer, it takes more than the loss of one battleship to doom the British Navy either to despair or defeat. In the World War Britain lost sixteen capital ships—thirteen battleships and three cruisers. Yet the day came when the proud German high seas fleet, despite its gallant performance at Jutland, was to surrender at Scapa Flow, and later, in a grandiose suicide gesture, to scuttle itself in those waters.

The Postmasters Resolve

The National Association of Postmasters is manifesting extremely poor judgment in proposing to amend the civil service law for postmasters to "freeze" in office all incumbents.

When the Ramspeck-O'Mahoney bill to put postmasters of the first, second and third class under civil service became law on June 25, 1938, it provided life tenure for those "hereafter" appointed. Because the postmasters were serving four-year terms, on a staggered basis, it was evident that about half of the 14,000 positions affected would be filled by permanent appointees of this administration, while the rest would extend over to the next to be acted upon. That was fair and was de-

signed to defeat the charge that the law was intended to perpetuate Democrats in office. It favored the administration in power to a certain extent, because the terms of the larger offices are expiring in its lifetime, as is evidenced by permanent appointments already made at such points as New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis and Pittsburgh. From a numerical standpoint, however, it provided approximately for an equal division. For example, the first session of the Seventy-sixth Congress confirmed 3,864 postmasters for life, and presumably the figure for the second session will be similar. The others, under ordinary circumstances, will be subject to the approval of the Seventy-seventh Congress, to be elected next year. But if the resolution adopted at the recent convention here of the National Association of Postmasters is carried out, the law will be changed to confer life status now on all in contravention of the original intent to have incumbents complete the four-year terms before being reappointed permanently.

That not only would be violative of the spirit of the new law, but it would constitute a form of manipulation that could not be defended on any grounds. Further, it would encourage tinkering with the act by succeeding administrations, for if it is to become a political football, everybody will feel entitled to a kick. In the end, of course, there would be no law, and that would be regrettable, for while the present statute is not perfect, it is a tremendous improvement over the former system under which postmasterships were legal tender for party service every four years.

The National Association of Postmasters would do well to forget this particular resolution.

Democratic Discipline

Secretary Ickes, in formulating a new set of rules to govern the issuing of permits for the use of Washington's parks as public forums, approaches an old problem from a new angle.

In the past the public squares have been used as a means of reaching a wider audience by individuals of various beliefs and varied ambitions. Some have been earnest persons of missionary spirit, bent upon spreading their message to as large a segment of the community as they could reach. Some, driven by forces which they could never know, have striven to give meaning to an ethics they could never understand. Still others, presumably acting upon the guidance of conscience, have taken the opportunity granted by democratic principles to preach doctrines contrary to the beliefs which constitute the accepted standard of the Nation.

Regardless of their mission, all have the liberty to speak openly what is in their minds. Short of protection against incitation of riot or disturbance of the peace, no legal limitation can be imposed. Hence, it is conceivable that liberty itself can, with little stretch of the imagination, become its own enemy.

The regulations announced by the Office of National Capital Parks, however, offer an interesting solution. Hereafter all persons or groups seeking permits to hold meetings in the parks must apply for them in time to allow any citizens with conflicting views an opportunity to prepare an answer. Those interested in replying will be given first preference in the issuing of subsequent permits. In the words of the Secretary of Interior, speakers who use public grounds henceforth for promulgating their beliefs must "submit to the democratic discipline of open debate."

Aside from the possible psychological effects of the order as a damper on overbearing partisan claims, in view of a prepared challenge, the plan is an excellent one from the standpoint of practical, living democracy. By giving the opposition an opportunity to prepare an answer, and a pertinent time to speak, the new rule actually enhances the cause of free speech.

School War

With the opening of school in September the annual assault on the liberty and happiness of the down-trodden minors is well under way, and as usual the resistance is feeble and badly organized. The activities of truant officers cause heavy casualties, and what little success the boys have is due to no efforts of their own. Occasionally the enemy suffers a financial breakdown at weak spots on the economic front, when a school closes from lack of funds with which to pay the teachers or buy fuel. Every now and then a gleam of hope enlightens the besieged when a promising epidemic of measles begins, but the board of health almost invariably opens up a ruthless barrage, isolates the resistance by quarantine and destroys it.

Still, amazingly enough, the spirit of youth cannot be completely crushed. For instance, a bulletin from the Newark (N. J.) sector reports a chiseling attack on a stronghold of oppression known as Public School Number Three. A number of bricks have been pried from the walls, with the obvious idea of rendering it untenable by the enemy. However, the School Board of Strategy promptly met the crisis. They detailed their allies, the police, to watch out for the snipers, and then grimly ordered the janitor to hold the building and repair the damage at all costs.

It is thus obvious that even guerrilla tactics are doomed to failure and that the boys had better make peace on what terms they can.

America Held Safe From Hitler Attack

Our Naval and Air Forces Declared Adequate to Repel Invaders

To the Editor of The Star:

During the first World War we were told that the allies were fighting our battles by holding back the Germans and preventing them from reaching our own shores. Lately this talk has been revived, but how much truth is there in it?

Germany wants colonies, but the cost of obtaining and holding them in the Western Hemisphere would make it a poor investment. In the first place it wouldn't be possible for Germany to overcome us over here. Naval strategists say that a foreign navy 3,000 miles from its base would have an effectiveness of about 40 per cent. Thus a foreign attacking navy would have to be two and one-half times as powerful as our own, which would require a combination of most of the powerful navies of the world. The Germans then would have to obtain control of the British and French navies and get Italy and Japan as allies. At that, we would have the added advantages of home waters, nearby bases and land planes. Of all military or naval operations, none is as difficult as effecting a landing on hostile soil.

The only way for Germany to obtain the British and French navies would be by raising them from the bottom of the ocean, since their crews would scuttle them. The other day a British submarine was on the point of being blown up by its own crew before allowing her to fall into German hands. It is not within the realm of possibility that the British Empire, which was built up by sea power and is so dependent upon sea power for its existence, would meekly turn undamaged fighting ships over to Germany or any one else. Any one who thinks otherwise doesn't know British pride. Thus the premise that Germany could obtain other navies in order to launch an attack against us is preposterous.

As to Germany outbuilding us, that is equally preposterous. It is difficult to conceal the construction of a ship of any size, which requires several years to complete. For every ship that Germany could build we could turn out two or three to add to the reception committee. Against an aerial attack from Europe we face no threat, since all of Europe and Japan combined lack sufficient aircraft carriers. Our Navy and Army planes would outnumber them many times over and give them a welcome of hot lead. Launching an aerial attack from European shores is also impossible, because the prevailing winds north of the Equator are from west to east. West-bound planes from Europe would face head winds and would not be able to carry enough gasoline for the round trip. If they carried any bombs, then to attempt a return to Europe would be suicide, since there would be very little gasoline left in the tanks. Our fast fighters could easily outmaneuver the attacking planes. In addition, our men would be fresh, while those in attacking planes would have a long, tedious trans-oceanic flight behind them. Trans-oceanic flights to the United States would fare no better.

Persons who ought to know better shouldn't try scaring others with talk of German invasions of this country.

C. N. TRACT.

October 12.

Recalls National Heroes

Not Native to Soil.

To the Editor of The Star:

Hitler, who, no doubt, for the time being rules the most powerful single country in the world (in a military sense) is frequently referred to as "a mere Austrian," not a German at all. What of it?

Napoleon who is still the idol of a warlike France was not a Frenchman. He was a Corsican (Italian). Alexander the Great, the foremost champion of "the Greek idea" was not a Greek. He was a Macedonian. Hannibal, the Carthaginian, whom some of our colored fellow citizens claim as Africa's protagonist was not of the African race, not a Hamite. He was a Phoenician Semite.

Wallenstein, Duke of Friedland, who for some years (Thirty Years War, 1618-1648) dominated the German military scene was not a German. He was a Czech. Prince Eugene of Savoy, ever victorious commander of the Austrian Armies (about 1700) was not an Austrian by birth. He was part French and part Italian. John Sobieski, although a "mere Pole," saved the empire at Vienna (1683). The "drillmaster of Washington's Army" was not a native American. He was Baron von Steuben, a Prussian.

The leader who, with the exception of Daniel O'Connell, did more for Ireland than any two of the others, was not a Catholic Celt, he was Charles Stewart Parnell, an Protestant Sassenach. It is not where or how you were born, it is what service you do for the country that you live in. Hitler certainly has done much for the Germans. After a while, maybe, if things go wrong, the Germans may scratch their heads and say, "But look what he has done to us."

FRED VETTER.

Says Americas Should Aid Democracies.

To the Editor of The Star:

Why is there so much furor in Congress over the questions of neutrality and embargo? Why should we mildly remark "It's just too bad," when Jews and Catholics are persecuted, churches are destroyed, and children taken from their mothers to be brought up by the State? Why do we allow warplanes to destroy half-civilized Ethiopians? Why should Austria have its government destroyed and Czechoslovakia be torn apart? Why should a mechanized army march into Poland and slaughter its innocents?

Why can't the United States and all the Americas mobilize a great army, not to cross the seas, but to furnish food, clothing, medical supplies and means of defense to the victims of dictators? Also an army to guard our coasts, and a greater army of peace to raise all food possible and store the excess? To go into mines, mills and factories to manufacture needed articles; into shipyards to build the boats to carry these goods, and then with arms and convoys take them to our allies? E. M. HUSSEY.

Silver Spring, Md.

October 10.

THIS AND THAT

By Charles E. Tracwell.

"FALLS CHURCH, VA.

"Dear Sir: Birds have not been mentioned lately in your column, but we certainly have had them in our yard and field.

"First, let me mention our mockers. And they are good little mockingbirds, without a lot of belligerence.

"One sings a good part of the day, and the rest of them play tag, bathe and drink in the bird bath, search for bugs and generally enjoy their own company.

"Believe it or not, I actually counted 11 mockers in our barberry bush as they flew out, one by one.

"How they love to perch in that bush! Don't you think we have more mockingbirds than is usual for one yard?

"Next come the towhees.

"How beautiful is the male towhee. The female is almost as pretty but looks more like a small robin to an amateur bird watcher. We have a number of these sociable birds. They—with the cardinals, song sparrows, and, yes, the English sparrows—enjoy the seeds and grain I sprinkle for them on the ground.

"One lone dove joins them occasionally. The dove is not as shy as many people believe.

"Lastly come the fat bobwhites. I don't know whether my grain attracted them, but there they were one evening, 15 of them, feeding right within a few yards of our back door.

"They stayed around, not in the least nervous, and played tag with one another, calling to the others if they would linger too far away.

"Next morning they came early and played around for some time, ate under the trees, then gathered under the barberry bush to preen themselves. They seemed more like chickens than wild birds. I feel that we have a miniature bird sanctuary.

"Sincerely, G. B. S."

This column has had no bird reviews recently because the station beneath the maple has been practically deserted for several weeks.

This is due, we believe, to the fact that we permitted a band of grackles to drive away all the songsters, with the exception of the cardinals, without our realizing it.

Let this be a warning to all bird lovers not to tolerate for a second such murderers as purple grackles.

They are interesting to watch. The observer may simply count them as more material at first.

He will not realize that they will succumb, if permitted, in running away most of the other birds, then leave themselves.

Letters to the Editor

Star Neutrality Editorials

Commented by Congressman.

To the Editor of The Star:

As chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives and one who has studied this question for the past 16 years in the Congress, I was very pleased to receive the pamphlet issued by The Washington Evening and Sunday Star containing a compendium of recent editorials on the subjects of neutrality, the embargo and peace.

I have read the editorials from time to time as they appeared in The Evening and Sunday Star and I have thought so much of them because of their unbiased presentation of the true facts concerning the neutrality situation that I have inserted many of them in the Congressional Record so that they will be read throughout the entire United States and preserved as part of the official records in the Government archives.

I want to congratulate The Evening and Sunday Star on publishing these editorials in such a handy pamphlet, for I know they will be of the greatest benefit and assistance to people studying the neutrality problem.

SOL BLOOM.

September 27.

England and France Held Slow to Understand Hitler.

To the Editor of The Star:

Hitler has tricked the allies again into rejecting moderate peace terms. He asked only those terms which would allow him to stabilize himself without western interference, the smaller states allying themselves with Germany or Russia, a natural condition that should have come into being long ago. There would be no war, and Poland would be alive yet if she had accepted her natural status as a minor ally of Germany or Russia, instead of standing between them and preposterously defying both. That they both attack her was inevitable.

The allies, who caused Poland to invite her own destruction, continue in their error. They insist on interfering in Eastern Europe.

When will they understand Hitler's technic and cope with it? They seemed to understand at Munich. They granted his demand for the Sudetenland, compelling him to execute his real design by the taking of all Czechoslovakia, turning neutral opinion against him. The allies made a long stride at Munich toward waging a successful war on Hitlerism, but their next step showed that they had not really understood, that they had yielded at Munich out of weakness and not policy. Instead of making an ally of Russia at all costs, they made an ally of Russia's enemy, Poland.

Hitler then, secretly meditating the partition of Poland, offered most moderate terms for peace, hoping they'd be rejected. He asked only for an old German city and a road to it. This fair and reasonable demand being rejected, he went joyfully to the attack.

His military position now would seem impregnable. He need only sit tight behind his west wall and hammer the British fleet, while Russia eats up the British and French Empires in the East. And Italy wrings territorial concessions in Africa from the allies as the price of herphony neutrality. Hitler and Stalin are so sure of success that they are not letting Japan in on the loot; Stalin is still supporting China, as recent Chinese victories show.

If we were bandits, too, we'd join Hitler and Stalin at once and seize all British and French possessions in the Western Hemisphere. We are not bandits, but we can be long-headed and not delude ourselves as to the military position abroad. We can sit tight, keep neutral, arm to the teeth and tell the bandits

Haskin's Answers To Readers' Questions.

By Frederic J. Haskin.

A reader can get the answer to any question of fact by writing The Evening Star Information Bureau, Frederic J. Haskin, director, Washington, D. C. Please inclose stamp for reply.

Q. Was there a moratorium on the debts of men who enlisted in the Army in the World War?—C. T. C.

A. During the World War a moratorium was declared on the debts of men drafted into military service for the length of their service.

Q. When was the big flood in Topeka, Kans.?—L. S. F.

A. Floods on May 31, 1903, destroyed \$4,000,000 worth of property, rendered 8,000 homeless and caused the death of 200 persons by drowning.

Q. What is the meaning of the name "Solomon"?—E. M. J.

A. The name means peaceful and was given to Solomon because of a prophecy which foretold his birth: "For his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days" (I Chronicles xxii.9).

Q. How many souvenir postcards are sold annually?—K. M. N.

A. It is estimated that annual sales are in excess of 50,000,000 in the United States.

Q. Is there any college which offers courses in Indian languages?—K. G. M.