

U. S. CLOSES ITALY'S DETROIT CONSULATE

THE fast train goes from Guadalajara to the City of Mexico by night.

We decided that we wanted to see the country and the people. So we took the day train—an accommodation train and the most excessively polite and accommodating train you ever saw or heard about.

In the United States an accommodation train stops not only at all the big stations but at all the little stations too.

But in Mexico it stops at every small village whether there is a station there or not and at every hacienda and at every house that looks like it might contain a possible passenger and at every crossroads and sometimes hopefully where there is merely a peon asleep in the cool shade of a spreading tree.

Once we stopped where there was nothing to be seen but a rooster chasing a hen.

Doubtless the engineer wanted to know whether or not the rooster caught up with the hen.

These Mexicans are such a romantic people.

IN OUR more prudish and prosaic country there would have to be some real reason for even an accommodation train to stop at a minor way station.

On one occasion Addison Mizner, Bohemian and bon vivant, provided the reason.

Mizner was a tall and wide and rosy person full of good humor and good nature—and also generally of good food and drink.

He heartily enjoyed a good dinner as one where you sit down three or four inches away from the table and eat until you touch.

Addison often ate such a good dinner as he described—often drank one too.

He was a delightfully irresponsible individual.

He enjoyed his irresponsibility and so did his friends.

You know it takes personality to be pleasingly irresponsible and Heaven endowed genius to be irresponsibly successful.

Most of us are serious and sedate, regular and reliable because we have to be.

We do not get up early in the morning and hurry through breakfast and dash to the office, upsetting the postman on the way like Mr. Arthur Lake in the photoplay of Blondie, because we want to but because we have to.

Reliability, like honesty, is the best policy, it gets and holds our jobs.

Let us flatter ourselves too that we are the useful members of society and not merely the ornamental and superficial ones.

Just suppose when we applied for a job the boss should ask us "What are your qualifications for this position?" and we should answer "Well, sir, I have humor; I have personality; I am entirely unreliable and delightfully irresponsible."

Um! Um! Let us draw a curtain over the harrowing scene that would ensue.

ANYWAY it is established that Addison Mizner was delightfully irresponsible and that he wanted a train to stop at a way station near a small place in the country where he was visiting.

The sign at the station read with disconcerting definiteness, "Train will stop only when flagged for a large party."

But not discouraged, Mizner sent a telegram ahead to the conductor of the train reading "Please stop at Blankville for a VERY large party."

The train arrived and stopped. Mizner got aboard.

"But, sir," said the conductor, "where is the large party?"

"I am," said Mizner, "a very

Russian Army Pointed at Rumania

By GEORGE BALINT

Int'l News Service Staff Correspondent BUDAPEST, March 6.—War fears mounted steadily in the Balkans today with reports that Russia is massing huge troop reinforcements in Black Sea regions facing Rumania.

At the same time, Greece spurned all overtures for peace with Italy and Turkey was reported to have rejected an offer of a non-aggression pact with Germany.

Britain, whose severance of diplomatic relations with Bulgaria touched off new military precautions throughout the Balkans, launched a diplomatic campaign to keep Yugoslavia out of the Berlin-Rome-Tokio military alliance.

Details of the reported Soviet troop movements were lacking but they served to arouse new apprehension in Rumania, whose German-controlled oil fields already are slated as a possible target for British bombers.

The London Daily Sketch reported from Belgrade that Rumanian Premier Ion Antonescu's conference with Reich Marshal Goering at Vienna yesterday was prompted by Soviet demands for Rumanian Black Sea bases.

(This dispatch quoted high diplomatic quarters as stating that Antonescu rushed to Vienna because Russia, "in a demand of an ultimative nature," insisted that Rumania cede the bases to the Soviet union immediately.

DISCUSS PROTECTION (This version was at variance with reports from Berlin, which said Goering and Antonescu discussed economic and military questions, including "protection" of Rumania and her oil fields from possible British attacks.

At Berlin, informed German quarters declared there was "no foundation" for reports that Russia had demanded Rumanian sea bases and that this was the cause of Antonescu's conference with Goering.) German troops were still re-

(Continued on Page Six)

GAR WOOD II AND HIS BRIDE-TO-BE



JUNE PREISSER, THE FILM STARLET, AND HER INTENDED HUSBAND AT PLAY. The son of the famous racer and boat builder pictured for the first time in Hollywood with Miss Preisser was in Detroit on a recent stage tour. They're learning what the cards hold for their married life.

11 Nazi Ships Sunk in Raid Off Norway

International News Service Cable

LONDON, March 6.—British warships sank nine German merchant vessels and another Norwegian merchant vessel under German control in their raid on the Lofoten Islands off Norway on Tuesday, it was announced in London today.

In addition, the admiralty stated, a German armed trawler was sent to the bottom. The 11 ships sunk totaled 18,000 tons.

(The German version of the raid claimed it was merely a "propaganda stunt without military value." An official German communique claimed that light British naval forces had landed troops on the northern Norwegian islands after "shelling some fishing boats." The British took some German soldiers and Norwegian fishermen prisoners and hastily made off, the Berlin announcement added.)

Today's British communique said 215 German soldiers and 10 Norwegian "Quislings" were captured.

The British forces also brought back to England a number of Norwegian "patriots" who were described as "anxious to fight for the cause of freedom."

The admiralty said the "opportunity was taken to supply the local population with foodstuffs, soap, cigarettes, clothing and other comforts of which the Norwegians have been robbed since the German occupation."

"During Tuesday's raid on the Lofoten Islands," the admiralty said, "the royal navy sank nine German merchant vessels, one Norwegian merchant vessel under German control and one German armed trawler, totaling 18,000 tons."

"The largest ship sunk was a fully-laden German vessel of 10,000 tons."

"The raid was completely successful and met little opposition. One German naval officer and six German ratings were killed. The British forces suffered no damage or casualties."

"3-FOLD OBJECT"

Stating all objects of the attack were carried out with "conspicuous success," the communique added:

"The raid was planned with a three-fold object:

"First, to destroy a plant used for production of fish oil which is extremely important to Germany and is used with glycerin in making explosives.

"Second, to destroy German ships in the locality.

"Third, to take prisoners among the Germans and local Quislings."

"The raid developed early Tuesday morning. German shipping was dealt with by our light forces while Norwegian marines (units now fighting beside British troops landed."

Skidmore Denies Charge CHICAGO, March 6.—(INS)—Bespoken, dignified William "Billy" Skidmore took the stand in his own defense in Federal Court here and denied the whole list of government accusations that he evaded payment of \$198,074 in income taxes and that he was political fixer for Chicago's gambling syndicate.

"The problem now is to develop machinery for speeding up the program," Furlong continued. "The major portion of work on defense items is not done by holders of prime contracts, but by the smaller manufacturers. For example, one medium bomber involves letting 513 sub-contractors."

Colonel Furlong asked all plant owners who have idle capacity—no matter how small—to get in touch with state headquarters.

Admits Move Is Retaliation

International News Service Wire

WASHINGTON, March 6.—The United States today ordered the closing of two Italian consulates in this country in retaliation for the Italian government's recent action in closing the American consulates at Naples and Palermo.

The Italian consulates at Detroit and at Newark, N. J., were ordered closed. The order was made in a formal request to the Italian government, the state department said.

(The Italian government maintains a vice consulate here to care for the interests of approximately 135,000 residents, both Italian citizens and those of Italian descent.

(The vice consul is Giacomo Profili. He has jurisdiction throughout Michigan and maintains offices at 2323 Barlum

Tower.)

(Profili assumed his duties here Dec. 13, 1938, succeeding Dominic L. Pucci, acting vice consul. It was his first visit to the United States. He previously served as vice consul in Marseilles, France, and as secretary to the Italian

delegation in the conference at Montreux for the abolition of capitulations in Egypt. He is a Knight of the Crown of Italy and a Knight of the Order of the Nile.)

'NATIONAL POLICY'

In announcing its action, the state department made public this statement:

"For reasons of national policy it has been decided that foreign consulates in certain areas should be closed.

"At the present time the Italian government has been requested to close the consulates at Detroit, Mich., and Newark, N. J., and to withdraw the personnel."

Renato Dela Chiesa d'Isasca has been Italian consul in Newark since 1937.

The decision to close these two consulates was understood to have been based on the fact that they are considered of comparative importance with the American consulates at Naples and Palermo.

WARNING TO 3 NATIONS

The American government's action also was intended as a warning that the United States will retaliate quickly for any future closing of American consulate offices in Italy, Germany or Russia.

The Italian order closing the American consulates at Naples and Palermo was based on the grounds that those two cities were in the zone of military operations, the Italian government also forbade American Ambassador William Phillips and other members of the American embassy in Rome from leaving the city without special permission.

Lindys Going to Mexico MEXICO CITY, March 6.—(INS)—Col. Charles A. Lindbergh and Mrs. Lindbergh will arrive in Mexico City, March 10, it was disclosed today. They will stay at the Morrow home at Cuerna Vaca.

Today's Prize-Winning

BABY PICTURES

on Page 14

For Detroit Times Interesting Baby Picture Contest rules and entry blank, see page 12.

In the Times Today

Table listing various news items and their page numbers, including 'Better Health', 'Bugs', 'Cross-Word Puzzle', 'Daily Short Story', 'Financial', 'E. V. Durling', 'Hattie's Cartoon', 'Horoscope', 'General Johnson', 'Ida Jean Kain', 'Letters to Editor', 'Maxine Page', 'Paul Mallon', 'Movie Programs', 'Obituaries', 'Pattin', 'Pitfalls of Love', 'Westbrook Pegler', 'Radio Programs', 'Rinley', 'Eddie Robinson', 'Darmon Runyon', 'Bertie', 'Sports', 'Stage Screen', 'Vital Statistics', 'Want Ads', 'Winchell', 'Working Well', 'What's the Answer?', 'Women's Pages'.

Governor Hints Strike Troops

Times Staff Correspondent

LANSING, March 6.—Gov. Murray D. Van Wagoner today sent a request to the state Legislature to stay in session tomorrow afternoon after the 2 p. m. deadline for the Consumers Power strike.

While the governor declined to say what he might want of the Legislature, it was understood he wanted it in session to declare a state of emergency and call out state troops to avert the strike.

It was understood the governor would rather have the Legislature order such drastic action, if necessary.

Just what "troops" the governor planned to call out was not announced.

Whitney Promoted To Prison Cell Clerk OSSINING, N. Y., March 6.—(INS)—Richard Whitney, one-time president of the New York Stock Exchange, today was promoted to the position of "room clerk" at Sing Sing Prison.

Whitney, who is serving a 5 to 10-year sentence for grand larceny, arranges assignments of prisoners to cells under his new job.

'Hands Off' on Aid

President Denies Exerting Pressure to Prevent Ban Against Sending Another AEF

By WILLIAM S. NEAL

WASHINGTON, March 6.—With the Senate nearing a vote on a proposal to write into the lease-lend bill a ban against dispatching another AEF to Europe, the White House today issued a strongly worded statement asserting that President Roosevelt was exerting no pressure to have the amendment defeated.

The statement, formally released by presidential secretary Stephen T. Early, also proclaimed the lease-lend bill including the Ellender (AEF ban) amendment.

"The President is keeping his hands strictly off, and those around him are doing likewise."

The statement came as Democratic members of the Senate foreign relations committee were summoned into session to consider the possibility of effecting a compromise, not only on the anti-AEF amendment, but also on proposals to ban convoys.

GEORGE FAVORS DICKER

Senator Walter F. George (D) of Georgia, chairman of the committee, announced that he would favor a compromise if a practical amendment can be devised, as the Senate prepared to plunge anew into debate on the Ellender amendment.

Ellender voiced a willingness to compromise, but declared that he would not accept "just some sugar-coated words."

A poll showed a Democratic majority of 57 votes for final enactment of the measure. Majority Leader Barkley voiced satisfaction over progress and again expressed hope that the bill can be passed by Saturday night, but leading foes said that there is no chance of a final vote before next week.

U. S. Gives State 720 Million Jobs

Times Staff Correspondent

LANSING, March 6.—Current defense orders in Michigan total \$719,488,169, Col. Horald A. Furlong, state defense administrator, announced today. This figure, he said, covers all national defense contracts and expenditures up to February 1.

"Of this sum, \$580,000,000 is for army supplies and nearly \$72,000,000 for army construction," Colonel Furlong said.

"Navy contracts and expenditures include about \$14,000,000 for supplies, nearly \$2,000,000 for construction and \$6,310,000 for new ships under way in the state."

Other expenditures in the state classed as defense spending are \$1,180,000 for civilian housing, \$873,000 for sewers near cantonments, \$891,000 for vocational training classes and \$19,000,000 in loans to plants for defense manufacturing expansion.

"The problem now is to develop machinery for speeding up the program," Furlong continued. "The major portion of work on defense items is not done by holders of prime contracts, but by the smaller manufacturers. For example, one medium bomber involves letting 513 sub-contractors."

Colonel Furlong asked all plant owners who have idle capacity—no matter how small—to get in touch with state headquarters.

\$50,000 Fire Hits Plant Here

Times Staff Correspondent

A four-alarm fire discovered early today gutted the rear of a three-story cement laundry tub factory at 1366 Antietam street.

The fire was discovered at 6 a. m. by Louis Mazai, 61, of 13233 LaSalle boulevard when he arrived to open the plant for the 12 employees. His partner in the concern, Emanuel Klein, of 3253 Fullerton avenue estimated the damage at \$50,000 for building, stock and equipment.

It was the first four-alarm in weeks and a dozen pieces of apparatus including two high pressure pumps, a floodlight crew, radio car, two rescue squads and an ambulance responded.

Police—Lieut. Sam Throop estimated a major share of the damage was caused as weakened floors collapsed and dropped heavy machinery and stock to the ground floor.

It was the first four-alarm in weeks and a dozen pieces of apparatus including two high pressure pumps, a floodlight crew, radio car, two rescue squads and an ambulance responded.

Police—Lieut. Sam Throop estimated a major share of the damage was caused as weakened floors collapsed and dropped heavy machinery and stock to the ground floor.

It was the first four-alarm in weeks and a dozen pieces of apparatus including two high pressure pumps, a floodlight crew, radio car, two rescue squads and an ambulance responded.

Police—Lieut. Sam Throop estimated a major share of the damage was caused as weakened floors collapsed and dropped heavy machinery and stock to the ground floor.

It was the first four-alarm in weeks and a dozen pieces of apparatus including two high pressure pumps, a floodlight crew, radio car, two rescue squads and an ambulance responded.

Police—Lieut. Sam Throop estimated a major share of the damage was caused as weakened floors collapsed and dropped heavy machinery and stock to the ground floor.

It was the first four-alarm in weeks and a dozen pieces of apparatus including two high pressure pumps, a floodlight crew, radio car, two rescue squads and an ambulance responded.