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WEATHER

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...ORDS FALL IN LEGISLATURE ON FUND BILLS

...ific Cuts Are Asked As Measure Goes To House

...MITTEES AGREE

...for Institutions Hard Hit in Program of Economy

By JACK WEADOCK

PHOENIX, Feb. 12.—(Special)—Establishing a couple of records, at least for a long time back, the appropriation bill of the fourteenth legislature appeared in the house this afternoon showing a net decrease from last biennium of $630,133.81—a decrease in 44 departments, an increase in only two and leaving seven they were before. The bill calls for an appropriation which is nearly $3,000,000 under the requests the appropriations committee had before them.

In a statement accompanying the introduction of the bill, Rep. Jack Sharpe, Cochise, explained that the bill was the result of the combined opinion of both the senate and house committees and of the various budgets were the basis of the majority vote in each case.

Decrease Cited

The detailed breakdown of the items, carried elsewhere in this story, will show that an amount of $ per cent decrease occurs.

Opinion on the results of the disappearance of the bill with the ...nate cuts were divided. Some members of the legislature foresaw trouble. Others believed the ...ssembly early action on the ...portant measure to be a good ...ng.

...e thing became evident—in ...ral instances there will be ...e pressure for special appro...ions, in one or two perhaps, ...ed.

...e such institution, according ...formation here tonight, will fe...ate hospital for the insane ...ve the new superintendent, ...Jeremiah Metzger. It pro...s approximately $801,000 ...e bill allows him $382,500, ...crease from last biennium's ...ge and special appropriation ...$80,000.

Hospital Needs

...f the increase he sought for ...coming biennium, Metzger ...d $1,000 a year was necessary ...habituths if the patients were ...e a proper diet. A large ...tion of the remainder had been ...r maintenance and repairs of ...dings and equipment, and for ...ary increases for attendants so ...ey would live off the hospital ...e grounds.

...The detailed figures are not ...ilable tonight it is believed that ...ddiency appropriation will be ...ht to carry the hospital ...ough until the new fiscal year ...e shortages of necessary ma...

...f the $582,500 for the hospital ...ded in for salaries, $240,000 is ...r operation, $2,000 for travel, ...,000 for repairs and replace...nt, $7,500 for capital invest...

Argument Recalled

...e argument over the hospital ...age waxed warm prior to the ...ution of the appropriation ...mittee's work, particularly in ...ch areas where statements that ...e hospital sought more than a ...ion dollars were refuted by ...orts that $318,000 worth of ...w buildings which had been ...ded were not needed and not ...t be.

...e argument is not yet ended ...Superintendent Metzger has ...n clear that he feels the pres...ation needs at the hos...the better food and the better ...ntenance facilities are man...ry and cannot be evaded. He ...s that some of the inmates ...ation camp rather than a ...ital and has indicated that ...ntends to make a hospital out ...ot let someone else run the ...ation camp."

...Representative Armstrong of ...ha, who has been pushing ...n investigation of state land ...s being used for agriculture, ...ecially those in the cotton ...ing area around Eloy and ...ndale, heard the house give ...selves a "do pass" vote in ...committee of the whole.

Stories Involved

...e resolution calls for an in...igation by a house committee ...e entire setup and will bring ...again and extend the picture ...ented in The Star a year ago ...the intricate financing of the ...e project was outlined in a ...ries of fire stories.

...ensuing read a long series of ...ers on lease exchanges and ...t that the low rental fees on ...state lands plus the govern...benefits paid to the opera...made that type project un...competition for farmers op...ng on privately owned lands. ...final house approval of the in...ion is expected.

...TAKES PRECEDENCE LEGISLATURE

...HOENIX, Feb. 12.—(AP)—A basic ...d of $6,330,664.56 for operation ...state government from July ...1 to June 30, 1943, represent...reduction of $620,133.81 un...ds of the current two-year ...d was submitted today to the ...ture. Accompanying it was ...estimate that governmental

Continued to Page 14, Column 1)

Heavy Winds Sweep Several States and Stir Up Dust Storm

DENVER, Feb. 12.—(AP)—Fierce winds, reaching 85-mile-an-hour velocity, whirled choking dust over the southwest today, smashed buildings in Colorado and New Mexico, and helped wreckers tear down a grandstand at Coffeyville, Kas.

The winds roared over New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas in a day-long siege. For a time, dust 'cut visibility to "zero-zero" in the Tyler, Texas, region.

A foot of snow fell in southwestern Colorado. Warm rains dampened much of Utah.

Big Spring, Texas, claimed the storm's "big wind" record, reporting 83-mile-an-hour gusts.

A cotton fire at Stamford, Texas, was spread from one warehouse to another. Loss was estimated at $225,000.

In Oklahoma City, traffic lights and fire alarm signals were put out of commission. Daytime visibility was reduced to about two blocks.

OSBORN'S VETO HITS RACE BILL

Raps at Solons Because Other Measures Are Not Hurried

PHOENIX, Feb. 12.—(AP)—Criticizing the legislature for failing to enact his program promptly, Governor Osborn vetoed tonight the controversial bill to lengthen parimutuel horse racing meetings, a proposal he said "would be in direct violation of the expressed will of the people."

In a veto message to Speaker James R. Heron of the house of representatives, the chief executive expressed disapproval of the "unseemly haste" with which the legislature passed the bill "while measures of great importance to the people . . . repose in committee."

The measure was rushed through the house last Friday under suspended rules and the following day, Rep. Louise Moore of Maricopa county declared she had heard rumors that "money changed hands" in connection with its speedy passage. The rumors proved groundless and the house refused to reconsider the measure. It passed the senate within half an hour yesterday.

Race Programs

The bill would authorize two race meetings a year at the state fair grounds here. Each meeting could exceed 30 days of actual racing within 75 calendar days. It also fixed breakage at 10 cents in pari-mutuel wagering.

"The purpose of this measure," Governor Osborn said, "evidently is to increase the length of time in which gambling is permitted at the state fair grounds.

"The people of Arizona, at the general election last November, overwhelmingly defeated a measure to legalize gambling in the state. House Bill No. 137 (the horse race bill) if permitted to become a law, would be in direct violation of the expressed will of the people."

Haste Assailed

"It may well be of grave concern to the people of Arizona that a measure to permit betting, except in which gambling may be indulged in, on state property, is passed through both houses of the legislature in unseemly haste, while, at the same time, measures of great importance to the people . . . repose in committee."

Among the "measures of great importance" the chief executive cited were those to increase old age assistance, to compensate for occupational disease, "particularly requiring compensation for miners suffering from the dread disease of silicosis," the children's colony bill, the water and power authority bill "and several others."

Governor Osborn noted that the horse race bill contains the provision that "to preserve the public peace, health and safety, it is necessary that this act shall become immediately operative" and observed:

"Emergency" Scoffed

"For the life of me, I can not believe that the peace, the health, or the safety of the people of Arizona can in any way, except adversely, be affected by gambling at the state fair grounds."

He concluded the message by saying:

"For the above reasons, and others too numerous to mention, I express my emphatic disapproval of House Bill No. 137."

To override a gubernatorial veto, a vote of three-fourths of the members of each house would be required. The vote on passage was 19 to 9 in the house and 15 to 4 in the senate.

PHOENIX RODEO IS TO START TODAY

PHOENIX, Feb. 12.—(AP)—The annual Phoenix all-cowboy rodeo, a four-day event which has attracted more than 200 contestants to compete for $10,000 in prize money, will open here tomorrow.

A 10-mile parade, in which some 2,000 horses will participate, will precede the first day's afternoon program. An extra performance will be given Friday night in recognition of Admission day.

Sheriff Lon Jordan of Maricopa county will head a division of 20 sheriffs and deputies from other Arizona counties. Their guest in the parade will be W. H. Thomason, 55-year-old former sheriff of Clay county, Mo.

BIG NAVY FUND IS BEING ASKED BY ROOSEVELT

Cash for Development of Defense Facilities Includes Guam

TROUBLE IS POSSIBLE

But Leaders Now Believe Advance Base May Be Approved

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—(AP)—President Roosevelt laid before Congress today a $898,392,932 program for additional naval ship construction and for bomb-proof shelters and other defenses in the nation's most farflung outposts, including the island of Guam.

Possible revival of bitter congressional protests against any move toward fortification of Guam was seen in the chief executive's request for $4,700,000 for establishment of fleet operating facilities and bomb-proof shelters for that tiny possession, less than 1,500 miles from Tokyo.

At the same time, the President asked for $8,100,000 for expansion of naval facilities and bomb-proof shelters for Samoa. Informed sources said it was the first time in history that any military development had been proposed for Samoa, which is located in the south Pacific in a direct line between Hawaii and Australia.

Harbor Is Good

With one of the finest harbors in the south Pacific, Samoa is under a naval governor but only a skeleton administrative organization has been maintained there.

Congress refused at the last two sessions to appropriate funds for improvement of the harbor at Guam after critics contended it was the first step toward fortification of the island, which they said was a needless affront to Japan.

Chairman Vinson (D-Ga.), of the house naval committee predicted, however, there would be "no trouble" this year in getting the appropriation approved.

Defense Deliveries

Meanwhile Roosevelt gave Rear Admiral Emory S. (Jerry) Land, retired, the task of providing "expeditious and effective" maritime facilities of defense products.

Land, chairman of the maritime commission, also was charged to advise the President on such subjects as Britain's desire for more merchant shipping, and on the acquisition of ships to carry United States defense articles and to act as naval auxiliaries.

Roosevelt, in a letter to Land, further informed him that he would be expected to prepare recommendations concerning the "acquisition of additional tonnage."

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AMERICA MUST PLAY NEW ROLE

Noted Editor Supports All-Aid-to-Britain Philosophy Here

"Irrespective of how the war may come out in Europe, America will have to play the role of a world leader, if future catastrophies are to be avoided." William Allen White, noted Kansas editor and chairman of the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies, declared in an address yesterday noon before the Rotary Club. It would be foolish and impractical, White declared, to send actual troops to the European continent, but, he emphasized, it is definitely to our interest to supply the weapons for the use of Britain.

In explaining his position, White said three schools of thought prevailed regarding the course our national policy should take. One school, he explained, advocates an isolation position for the U. S. and Britain, and it is made up of those who formed the No Foreign War Committee. The second school believes that aid should be given only after this country is adequately defended. That school, he said, is represented by Lindbergh, Col. Robert E. Wood, and others. The third school, to which he said he subscribed, advocates full aid to Britain to save Britain from destruction.

The Kansas editor took pains to explain that he recognized that the leaders of all of these different schools of thought were patriotic, and, if their assumptions were correct, their arguments were correct. He said he felt compelled to support the policy of giving full aid to Britain, because it was definitely to our interest to see that the totalitarian's policy would be correct if America was prepared to abandon all its foreign trade, manufacture substitutes, and impose a planned economy. "Then," White declared, "would mean regimentation and a dictatorship in America. On the other hand, if Britain defeats the war, her form of slave and totalitarian economy would make it almost impossible for us to deal with her.

"I believe in supporting England with weapons because I feel that if we do that, she can win the war and that this world will be a much better place for all of us to live in. But irrespective of how the war comes out, America and Britain will have to take definite measures to meet the situation created by the 'have-not' nations."

Great Road Fund to Aid War Efforts Is Sought By Carmody

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—(AP)—John M. Carmody, federal works administrator, proposed today that $287,000,000 be appropriated for immediate defense highway construction and the planning of post-emergency highway improvements.

He submitted the following recommendations to President Roosevelt:

1. $150,000,000 for immediate construction of access roads to serve military and naval reservations and defense industries.

2. $100,000,000 for immediate start-up of certain sections of the national highway system designated by the war department and navy department as the "strategic network."

3. $25,000,000 for construction and repair of special tactical roads designated by the war department.

4. $12,000,000 for advance planning of post-emergency improvements.

Carmody's report did not list a breakdown of how the funds would be distributed. It said, however, that $1,000,000 for highways at a number of posts, including Fort Huachuca, Ariz., had been certified by the war department as of prior importance.

BRITISH SETTLE AFRICAN EMPIRE

Union Jack Flies Over Mottoes of Rome's Former Glory

BENGASI, Libya, Feb. 12.—(AP)—The Cyrenaica is settling down under British rule, but Mussolini's Roman eagles still perch upon the pillars of this last jewel of Fascist empire.

Mottoes on the buildings extol the new Roman empire, but the Union Jack hangs from the Bengasi city hall and British and Australian soldiers walk in the streets.

Bengasi fell Friday to the British army of the Nile.

Proclamations on the walls announce that the former Italian province, which the Fascists incorporated into Libya, is under British military rule with Lieut.-General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson as governor.

All 40,000 natives and some 7,000 of the city's 20,000 Italian civilians are here, with the local government functioning. Shops are slowly reopening.

Halt Looting

The main problem has been to stop looting of Italian property by natives, and orders have been given to shoot. So far shots have been fired only as warning.

British patrols are striving to restore order in the countryside where natives have killed a number of Italian agricultural colonists, and captured a Libyan army of A 6:30 p. m. curfew has been imposed to prevent violence or sabotage, but the Italian population remains docile.

Those Italians remaining are mostly anti-Fascist or indifferent to Fascist politics. Ardent Fascists fled.

Axis planes have hammered at Bengasi every night since the British established themselves here and began converting the erstwhile Fascist base into a formidable springboard for further attacks on Tripoli and Italy.

They have been chased off with scant damage done, however.

Money Stabilized

Lines of prisoners are being marched from the Barga El Beda airdrome, 15 miles south where a British armored division cut off and captured 9,000 Italians and 15,000 attempting to escape to Tripolitania.

The value of the lira has been set at 400 to the pound sterling, making it worth about one cent instead of the official Italian rate of five cents. This rate, the British say, is based on "Real Income," or unofficial, quotations which the British regard as a better indication of the lira's real value.

Prices are mounting steeply.

CONGRESS GETS FULL CONTROL OF LEASE-LEND

Administration Sponsors New Concession on Appropriations

KNOX ASKS CAUTION

Says Destroyers Cannot Be Spared From U. S. Navy

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—(AP)—Still seeking more votes for the lease-lend bill, administration leaders in the senate today offered its opponents a surprise concession which, they said, would give Congress firmer financial control over the aid-to-Britain program.

In essence their proposal, approved by a senate foreign relations sub-committee, would require that the President obtain both specific authority and "appropriations" from Congress. Senator Barkley of Kentucky, Democratic leader, explained that first the President could ask for authority to enter into contract for the manufacture of supplies and their delivery to Britain. Later he would have to ask specific appropriations, listing the number and kinds of equipment.

No Blank Check

The modification, its backers said, would remove any basis for charges that the lease-lend bill itself was a "blank check" to the President to spend unlimited amounts in supplying defense items to countries whose defense he deems vital to the defense of the United States.

Downstown, meanwhile, there was a sharp repercussion from Wendell L. Willkie's proposal that five or ten destroyers be transferred to England each month. Secretary Knox bluntly told reporters the navy could "spare no more destroyers" and still maintain a "balanced fleet." As secretary of the navy, he said, his position was "against depleting our navy further."

The Willkie suggestion was, nevertheless, reported to be receiving serious consideration in some administration quarters, and there was much speculation whether it might not have been discussed at last night's meeting between Willkie and President Roosevelt.

In fact, Willkie told reporters in a telephone message from New York he had.

Willkie Surprised

"I was surprised to read Colonel Knox's statement. Information given to me by high authorities in the government after my testimony yesterday confirmed my views that we are in a position, without any injury to our navy or national defense, to give Great Britain additional tonnage assistance by furnishing to her additional destroyers."

The senate foreign relations committee met during the morning, and with administration forces in easy control, turned down a number of opposition amendments to the lease-lend bill. It prepared to report the measure to the senate tomorrow after rewriting one or two sections.

So clearly dominant were the forces for the bill that the opposing senators abandoned all hope of modifying the measure in committee. Instead, they said, they could come, one of them glumly reported to his supporters, was a vote of 13 to 10.

Efforts Beaten

That ballot came on a proposal by Senator Vandenberg (R-Mich) that the President be required to transfer military or naval equipment to other nations, unless he first has been written approval of the ranking officers of the army and navy. Another Vandenberg amendment, to impose a one-year —instead of a two-year—time limit upon the powers which the bill would grant the President was beaten, 13 to 10.

For the rest, the committee re-

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Rumanian Move Gives British Free Hand in Balkan Theatre

By PERTINAX

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—(NANA)—The British government has severed diplomatic relations with Bucharest. Henceforth, the Royal Air Force will be free, at any rate, to bomb the Rumanian oil fields (now in the hands of the Germans) and to strafe at other military targets. As the whole Balkan theatre steadily turned into a German camp and base of attack, plenty of opportunities ought to occur for the British pilots. But are they already in position to hammer the anvil? Have all the necessary preparations been completed in Greece?

For two weeks our more diplomatic reports (to which Prime Minister Winston Churchill alluded Sunday) have predicted that the German military machine entered Rumania, in many respects, on Bulgarian territory. Not only ground crews and other technical troops numbering several thousand men in the aggregate were ascertained to hold Rumanian airdromes and railways, but masses of workmen transported from the Reich were seen at work widening roads throughout the country particularly in the valley of the Struma river which, from the northeast, leads to the region of Salonika.

The German purpose behind all these steps is fairly obvious. Two months ago, German action in the Balkans was commonly interpreted as the beginning of a drive intended to sweep across the Near East and shake up the British power in Irak, Palestine and Transjordania. But now, as reports have changed owing to the great achievements of the Greeks in Albania and of the British in Africa.

Today, Adolf Hitler and his advisers must first apply brakes to the Fascist ground on the east shore of the Adriatic and also use safeguards against an eventual British attack in the Near East.

It might be rash to believe that the various British divisions could be shifted, in the near future, from Bengazi to another field of operation, on the opposite side of the Mediterranean. But, to account for German plans, it is enough to assume that, as weeks and months roll by, the British imperial staff will be in position to dump modern war material in Greece and in other countries ready to join in the fight.

Last year, when General Maxime Weygand, then in command of the eastern Mediterranean

(Continued to Page 14, Column 5)

Franco Meeting With Mussolini Is Mystery

Several Explanations Advanced for Conference In Italy; Petain Will See Former Pupil from Spain at His French Estate

BERN, Switzerland, Feb. 12.—(AP)—The Spanish Caudillo, Generalissimo Franco, and the Italian Duce, Premier Mussolini, conferred "somewhere in Italy" today, foreign diplomatic reports said, and it was generally supposed that Spain's part in the European war was decided.

It is expected that Franco and Marshal Petain, France's chief of state, will meet between Montpellier where on the French Riviera, near the Italian frontier.

Petain arrived today at his estate at Villeneuve-Loubet, near Cagnes, in the "free" zone of France with headquarters at Vichy.

Petain's visit was a sharp divergence in the opinions of observers as to Spain's future role, now that Franco and Mussolini seem to have settled it.

Payoff Hinted

The majority held that Mussolini called on the reluctant Spanish nationalist regime to pay off the debt of Axis help in the Spanish civil war by supply bases for operations against Britain in the Mediterranean. Some said Franco traveled to Italy to explain reasons for his reluctance to go to war.

The majority leaned to conjecture that Spain will be for a peacemaker between Italy and Britain. No one pretended to know for sure.

It was possible that Franco's meeting tomorrow with Petain, his former professor at the superior war college at Paris and the first French ambassador to nationalist Spain, would amount to little more than an exchange of courtesies.

The old marshal is understood to have requested the interview when he learned that his one-time protege would travel across France to Italy and back in a heavily guarded, 20-automobile party.

Pressure Seen

But some observers, noting the promised presence of Petain's vice premier, Admiral Jean Darlan, held that the conferences today and tomorrow indicated the Axis was still exerting pressure on France for use of her navy or bases against Britain.

Running counter to this speculation was the predominant opinion in commentators that the Mussolini-Franco meeting was "none of our affair," and that reports of a British - Italian peace proposal through Spain were a "bad joke."

The Berlin commentary, Dienst aus Deutschland, termed the meeting "only proof of the friendship and comradely cooperation of Fascist and Falangist nations."

ITALIANS BUILD THEIR DEFENSE

Counter - Attacks Costly, Greeks Declare in Athens Report

ATHENS, Feb. 12.—(AP)—A Greek military spokesman said tonight that the Italians in Albania have put a stop to their long series of counter-attacks and now are building defensive fortifications in the face of acute supply and transport difficulties.

There has been no Italian counter-attack for three days, he said, "the weather, denying Italian claims of destructive raids on Greek air bases, and the raids have been directed against the civilian populations of unimportant towns.

The ministry of home security said 20 persons were killed and 11 injured in Piraeus, the port of Athens, when a bomb scored a direct hit on a house in a crowded section of the city last night.

The ministry also said seven persons were killed and one was killed by a bomb which exploded near the municipal hospital at Larissa, Greece, during an Italian raid.

HEAVY LOSSES ARE REPORTED

From Bitolj, Yugoslavia, near the Albanian border, it was reported that the Italians had suffered heavy losses in fighting a five-day drive against the Greeks, presumably ended Sunday. The Greeks claimed hundreds killed on the Tepelenj region.

Bitter fighting was reported from the upper valley of the Devol river. In the upper valley of the Skumbi river, the war is in infantry combat.

North of Pogradetz the Greeks were said to have occupied a mile-high mountain despite strong Italian resistance.

Air activity on both sides was heavy with Greek and British planes reported bombing the Italian Dodecanese island of Rhodes, Italian bases in Albania and the inland towns of Elbasani and Tepeleni.

D. A. V. LEADER IS TO VISIT TUCSON

Vincent E. Schoeck, national commander of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War, will be in Tucson Wednesday, February 26, for a day's visit on a tour of the country for the organization, officials of the D. A. V. announced last night.

Following a radio address here to the patients at the Veterans hospital he will be guest of honor at a dinner given by the D. A. V. Other legion orders will be invited to attend.

Commander Schoeck was elected last August to his present post. He is an attorney and lives in Detroit, Mich. From here he will go to Phoenix.

Nazi Controls Seen For U. S. Armaments In Arnold Testimony

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—(AP)—Thurman Arnold, chief of the justice department's antitrust division, told the monopoly committee today that a grand jury in New York was "constantly uncovering startling instances of German control of defense industries as well as illegal price fixing among American concerns."

An investigation already has indicated, he said, that "the United States government has been charged excessive and unreasonable prices for essential war materials as a result of agreement between domestic and foreign companies, and collusive bidding on army and navy contracts."

He asked the committee to recommend to Congress an immediate expansion of the government's anti-trust activities aimed at price-fixing, collusive bidding and other monopolistic practices in defense industries and added that lack of funds was holding up investigation of at least 31 industries producing vital war materials.

"There are evidences of price increases, artificial shortages and foreign control in this field," he told the committee.

BRITISH POUND ERITREA CITIES

Italians Admit Advances Have Been Made by Enemy

CAIRO, Egypt, Feb. 12.—(AP)—British reinforcements were reported pounding down the north-south coastal plain of the Italian East African colony of Eritrea today for an assault on the besieged rail center of Cheren.

Forces advancing southward from the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan now are well past the captured Red sea port of Mersa Taclai and are within 25 miles of Massaua, chief Eritrean seaport. The middle east command announced these troops yesterday captured Elgena, inland town 25 miles southwest of Mersa Taclai and 30 miles south of the Sudan border.

Operations of besieging Scotch and Indian forces already around Cheren, 42 miles northwest of Asmara, the capital, are "developing well," today's war bulletin said, while a second column below Cheren was said to have "penetrated farther into hostile territory."

Advance Described

This map issue the latter forces which were reported to have taken 80 Italian planes, are closer to Asmara than those in the Cheren sector.

The British air weapon in the middle east delivered, meantime, heavy bombardments of the Germ dive bomber nests on Sicily—at Catania and Comiso. For five days in succession, Maltese civilians observed over their targets at intervals of 20 minutes, unloading fire and blast bombs.

Fires were seen 60 miles away (presumably from Malta, which the Germans attacked Wednesday afternoon).

Bombers Safe

At least four planes were destroyed on the ground at Catania and a hangar blasted to bits at Comiso. The British said all their aircraft returned safely.

Stressing previous Axis air losses in the African campaign, the RAF previously had announced the British had found 86 unserviceable Italian and German planes at the airport of Bengasi, Libyan city captured last Friday.

Flying low on Malta Wednesday, the Germans said three British planes were shot down.

RAF planes supported the operations in the Cheren sector with heavy bomb and machine gun assaults on Italian convoys strung out from there to Asmara, the British said, while the ground troops themselves hammered away at the Italian defenders with heavy artillery and tanks.

ITALIANS STILL HOPE FOR AXIS DRIVE

ROME, Feb. 12.—(AP)—Loss of Africanda, more than half way across Italian Somaliland to the Indian ocean, was conceded today by the Italian high command and the Fascists hung on in Africa and Albania with the hope that an Axis spring offensive—somewhere—will change the fortunes of war.

The British force, aided by warplanes, presumably drove 100 miles from the Kenya frontier to occupy Afmadu, which is but 70 miles from the sea.

The high command acknowledged, too, that a British raid on Ethiopia's Addis Ababa airport had killed nine persons and done some damage, and that the fiercest of fighting was raging at Cheren, 42 miles from Asmara, capital of Eritrea.

BULGARIAN WAR DANGER GROWS; RUMANIA READY

Nazi Troops Stand Along Border Prepared For Invasion

BRITISH GET BLAME

Axis Insists Sofia Fears Action by London to Break Neutrality

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Feb. 12.—(AP)—German troops were reported by military observers to stand nearly 600,000 strong in Rumania today—and the ice which formed the last serious obstacle to a Nazi crossing into Bulgaria was fast vanishing from the Danube under pre-season spring warmth.

This enormous increase in the accepted estimate of German strength in Rumania was based upon new information that, supplementing the 200,000 men sent into the country by the end of December, the German command recently has dispatched 25 fresh divisions, requiring movement of an average of 40 trains a day through Hungary."

From Ruse, the Bulgarian port on the Danube facing Rumania, it was reported that the river was now wholly ice-free, and German bridge pontoons were placed along the Rumanian bank.

Troops Arrive

These were among the incidents reported here, in diplomatic or other advices:

Groups of German transport planes, presumably those which flew over Hungary yesterday, landed at Bulgarian airports, the official Sofia explanation being that they merely formed part of a consignment which Bulgaria had bought and paid for.

The United States legation in Bucharest, which is looking out also for certain British interests since Britain broke off diplomatic relations with Rumania, posted signs on British buildings in English, Rumanian, German, Russian and Bulgarian, which read:

"This property is protected by the United States government."

British Blamed

Dispatches from Sofia published in various pro-Axis cities in the Balkans, announced that Bulgaria would defend herself in what is called her neutrality, thus dragging Bulgaria into the war." Concern was expressed that British pilots might fly over Bulgaria to get at the Rumanian oil fields.

British quarters here in Belgrade asserted that Bulgaria's army was massed almost in its entirety on the Turkish frontier and that the Bulgarians had planned to prevent Britain's allies, the Turks, from intervening if the Germans marched through Bulgaria to assist the Greeks.

The German and Italian ministers conferred in Sofia with Ivan Popoff, the Bulgarian foreign minister.

Also reported from the Bulgarian capital was the completed mobilization of the First Bulgarian Army Corps, to "reinforce those who are in the line along the Greek and Turkish frontiers."

Rumania Prepares

The Rumanian government prepared for what was decribed officially as "any eventuality." Workmen put sandbags about the American-British telephone exchange and other vital buildings in Bucharest. Air raid shelters were being completed throughout the city.

The Rumanian war ministry ordered the public to surrender every drop of glycerine—which is used in the manufacture of munitions.

Three hundred big German tractors of the kind used to pull heavy guns arrived by rail in Bucharest.

From Istanbul, Turkey, came news that a British military mission, which had just finished inspecting the Turkish fortifications along the Greek frontier, had begun a new tour of Turkish military establishments in Anatolia.

Rumania's precautions were understood to include a plan for evacuation within the next few days of the entire civilian population of Ploesti, the oil field town; Constanta, the Black sea port, and the Danube town of Giurgiu.

COST OF ARIZONA RELIEF REPORTED

PHOENIX, Feb. 12.—(AP)—The Arizona Board of Social Security and Welfare reported today that the state's program of old age assistance, aid to dependent children and the blind and direct relief cost $449,566.88 during January.

Old age assistance accounted for $243,096.70 of the total and was distributed among 8,698 individuals. The 2,502 dependent children received $81,094.60 and 3,966 persons were given $10,761.15. Direct relief cost $82,446.94. The cost of administering the program was $32,166.49.

KRIVITSKY CASE CLOSED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—(AP)—Police closed the case of General Walter G. Krivitsky today after they said further investigation had produced additional support for their original conclusion the former Soviet secret agent took his own life. Associates of Krivitsky had expressed suspicion that his shooting in a hotel room was the work of the OGPU, Russian secret police.

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