

Today the tentative agreement between the
M
Mine Workers Union and the Central Pennsylvania
operators - collapsed, with a breakdown in negotiations.
It ~~appeared that~~^{TF} John L. Lewis and the Central
Pennsylvania group had formed a basis for a permanent
settlement, when they agreed tentatively on portal-to-
portal pay of a dollar-and-thirty-five cents a day for
the miners. But today the operators notified the
War Labor Board that the whole thing is off - and the
question goes back to the W.L.B.

All of which has an important bearing on the
possibility of another coal strike. The present truce
has only five days to go. What will happen? Will the
miners walk out again? Congress has passed a bill
outlawing strikes, a bill that would make Lewis and
his union officials liable to jail sentences if they
ordered a strike. This anti-strike enactment awaits

the President's signature - as the end of the truce

draws
~~grows~~ near, and as today the tentative agreement between

Lewis and the Central Pennsylvania operators broke down.

FOLLOW COAL

Here's the latest from Washington. Organized labor ^{has} won a victory in connection with the War Production Board. The unions have long wanted a larger voice in the decisions of the ~~W.P.B.~~ W.P.B. And now they have it with this announcement:- Two prominent union leaders have been appointed to the ~~W~~ Production Board as Vice-Chairmen. They are ^{Quinton} S. Golden of the United Steel Workers, which is C.I.O.; and Joseph D. Keenan, an official of the Chicago Federation of Labor, A.F. of L.

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt has just stated that he will not consider the idea of appointing a Food Administrator with full power over things relating to the nation's bread basket. This afternoon the President discussed food questions with several members of the Agriculture Committee of the House of Representatives, after which various legislators declared themselves in favor of a Food Administrator with complete authority, ^{They} and said that, ~~Congress would take a hand~~
~~They figured that~~ if the President refused to appoint one, Congress would take a hand.

Well, the President does refuse to appoint a single Administrator with unified control over food. He stated this to a press conference late this afternoon, and argued in support of his stand. He contended that it ^{would be absurd} ~~was impossible~~ to give to a food ~~the~~ czar so much authority that he would be able to

overrule other phases of the war effort. The President gave an example. Suppose, said he, a certain amount of transportation was necessary for the shipment of perishable food, which otherwise would spoil. An administrator with full authority would have the power to commandeer the necessary amount of transport, even though this might be urgently needed for the shipment of critical war materials, at a critical time, *which the President said can't be done,*

And the President upheld the idea of government subsidies to be paid to farmers to keep down farm prices, and hold the cost of living in check. He admitted that the situation with regard to food prices was not entirely satisfactory, but added that critics in Congress have not offered any plan that looks better than the present system - or anything better than the proposed idea of paying crop subsidies to farmers.

TAXES

This year Congress is going to start the new tax business early. The President stated recently that he is going to ask Congress for added taxation within a short time, and today congressional leaders decided that they would take up the question late in July, probably. That would give them time to consider a debate, and get a tax bill ready - so it can go into effect on January First of next year. *Just more taxes*

GASOLINE

The Petroleum Administrator stated today that we have not enough oil for our needs, and are having to bring petroleum in from beyond our borders. "We are rapidly passing from an exporting to an importing nation," said Secretary Ickes. And he added that, by the end of the year, California will not produce enough oil to meet civilian needs plus the requirements of ships and planes in the Pacific theatre of war.

Ickes made these statements to a group of Senators and Congressmen from the Mississippi Valley, to whom he talked about the need of extending the ban on pleasure driving to the middle west. (This would not be done - "merely for the sake of rationing," said he. There has been complaint that the extension of the pleasure driving ban was needless - and just for the sake of making things more uncomfortable. This Ickes denied, saying that he had what he called "no secret schemes to invoke rationing

AXIS LEADERS

Over in London there has been a grim but interesting game among international experts, a game of prognosticating -- what will happen to the Axis leaders when the Allied victory has been accomplished? What will be the ~~final~~ fate of Hitler, Mussolini, and the lesser ones?

We suppose, of course, they are to be tried as war criminals, but the experts don't take a simple view.

As for Hitler, they point out that he is an hysterical mystic, and such types are inclined to suicide. On the other hand, the German Generals might persuade their Fuehrer to play the role of a martyr.

That is -- to accept trial and execution at the hands of the United Nations, with the belief that this would be a kind of martyrdom on behalf of Germany.

The Generals might figure that something of the sort could be turned to their ^{own} advantage. A third likelihood

What are the odds for the
for Hitler would be -- assassination. ~~London experts~~
~~several possibilities?~~ London experts
are inclined to think that the chances are about even --
for Hitler to ^{end} win by suicide; trial-and-execution; or,
assassination.

For Mussolini they give a very different picture.

He might kill himself if he could muster the courage,
or if he thought that in some Hereafter he could enjoy
the headlines. But the probabilities are that the
Fascist Duce will go to some sort of exile and ~~write~~
proceed to pound the typewriter -- trying to explain
policies
the ~~policies~~ that he pursued, -- policies that led to such
disaster. ^H The London experts don't seem to think so
much of the chances of Mussolini being put on trial
and executed. Nor do they, apparently, take much
stock ⁱⁿ ~~of~~ the stories that he has gone crazy. Their
bets for the Duce are -- he will write a book. "And,"
says one Britisher, "the dreariest prospect of all is
that he will probably find plenty of publishers."

The comment on Goering is that he has already fixed things so that he can live in exile in a neutral country. He has salted away money, plenty of it, and had it transferred. ^{The corpulent} Goering, they say, is convinced that the proposed trials for war guilt will never take place, and that when defeat comes he can run away and grow still fatter in exile. ^{TP} The London experts are inclined to see just one likelihood for Goebbels -- somebody will kill him. They point out that the club-footed propagandist is particularly hated and has more personal enemies than any other important Nazi. He has lasted so long only because Hitler has protected him. When that protection is ^{re-} moved, any number of enemies will be out gunning for Goebbels.

The other Number One Nazi considered in the London game of prophecy is Himmler, the head of the Gestapo. What they give him is -- suicide. ^m Himler is

held responsible for the crimes of the Gestapo. He has been guilty of murder in virtually every country in Europe. He would have no place to go, and he knows this. Certain execution would be his fate if he fell into Allied hands, and this he can avoid in only one way -- by removing himself.

Such are the surmises London gives us on the subject about which there is so much speculation -- the ~~next~~ fate of the Axis leaders.

SYRIA

The British have closed the frontier between Syria and Turkey - and that sort of thing can have a large significance. The closing of ^a~~the~~ frontier is a device often used to mask a move of war. ^{TR} From Turkey we have the explanation that the British have acted to keep military information from getting to the Axis. In neutral Turkey, Nazi diplomats are said to learn a good deal from Arabs - Arabs from Syria and Palestine, who pick up bits of knowledge and go across into Turkey and inform Axis agents. ^{TR} This sort of thing would be particularly bad, if the 'Alies were massing forces for a possible assault via Turkey. So, it would be an excellent idea to keep Arab informants from getting through - hence perhaps the closing of the frontier, as a means for masking military moves in Syria.

MEDITERRANEAN FOLLOW SYRIA

And there are invasion signs in the North African area - so we hear from the enemy side. The Rome radio states that Allied ships are being massed in Tunisia, just across the narrows from Sicily - tonnage for a sea-borne invasion, thinks Rome. The Italians expect a landing on their shores, and maybe they are not so far wrong. ^{They} ~~The Italians~~ are warned to be ready for invasion, stand by their guns - though standing by the guns has not been an Italian habit thus far.

Another report from Axis sources tells of a big sea and air battle that is going on in the Mediterranean - in the channel between Sicily and Africa. London quotes Rome as saying that the conflict has been raging for three days. From the Allied side we hear little about this, given nothing more than the announcement of another heavy bombing blow - block busters hurled upon the Sicilian war center of Messina.

FORTRESS

Today a Damon and Pythias story comes from the battlefields of the Mediterranean sky - an account to be placed along with the antique Greek legend of the two faithful friends. In this case, there were two gunners in a Flying Fortress. One tried to save the other, and both were lost - while their companions were saved.

The Fortress, bombing a Fascist war base, was caught in a swirl of anti-aircraft fire, which knocked out one of its engines - and Nazi fighters swarmed to finish off the cripple. ~~Other Fortresses closed around their injured comrade-ship, and threw their mobilized guns fought off the fighters.~~

~~Then another wave of Messerschmitts assailed the formation, and the burst of cannon fire hit the already damaged Fortress, and disabled it further forcing it out of the squadron. Whereupon hostile~~

~~fighters dived in for the kill.~~

Aboard the Fortress were two buddies, ~~who pulled~~
~~around together on the ground and had similar jobs in~~
~~the air~~ the tail gunner and the waist gunner. The tail
gunner kept shooting until the barrels of his gun were
scorching hot, and then he was wounded - but he did not
say anything, did not let on. A group of fighters
swept past the tail of the Fortress so closely that the
waist gunner, thinking of his buddy, said: "They must
have got him; I am going back to see."

He crawled along the catwalk over the bomb bay,
and went back to the tail gunner. His pal lay
unconscious. The waist gunner gave him first aid,
applied tourniquets to his wounds and sprinkled powdered
sulfa on them. The tail gunner came to, resumed his
post and kept on shooting. The waist gunner went back to
his ^{own position,} ~~post~~ and blazed away. ~~And the waist gunner~~

There was another burst of enemy fire. The waist gunner
~~was wounded, and then another burst of enemy fire hit the~~
was wounded but
~~tail. Once~~ again he thought of his pal and crawled back.

The tail gunner was in a bad way - having sustained another wound. The waist gunner helped him, and then returned to his own gun.

By now the Fortress was beyond hope. It was losing altitude fast, falling down into the water. The crew prepared to abandon ship and take to their rubber boats. ~~when they crashed to the Mediterranean.~~ The waist gunner fired his last burst of ammunition and then, instead of joining the others to get out, he went back to the tail to save his friend - and bring him out too. The plane plunged and sank. And everybody got out safely, except the two gunners in the tail - one trying to save the other, and both were lost.

BRITISH BOMBING

Today the light air forces of Britain were busy sweeping across the channel and striking at the Nazis in France. Air battles were fought between fighter planes, and a number of Germans were shot down. ^R Last night the heavier forces had their inning -- the giant bombers. Once again they hit the industrial area of the Ruhr, bombing the city of Oberhausen. A torrent of high explosive raised havoc on the ground, while in the air, in the dark sky of night, a big air battle was fought. German air defense seems to be increasing, and Nazi night fighters were out in force. Anti-aircraft guns on the ground were busy too, and eighteen British bombers were lost.

It was the fifth day of sustained assault, what tonight's London dispatch calls "the war's greatest aerial offensive."

RUSSIA

All along the immense Russian front, action was increasing today -- with a long string of local engagements. The Russian front is seething, ^{and} looks as if it might soon explode into big offensives of the summer campaign. The aggression in this preliminary fighting is mostly on the side of the Soviets, with Red army groups attacking on such widely separated fronts as Kuban, Rostov, Kharkov, Orel, Leningrad.

BURMA

I wish I knew the
Here is a story I wish I could tell you, ~~but the~~
~~whole story. But the~~
~~news brings the announcement of only one event - an event~~
~~which, at the first glance, does not seem to offer much~~
excitement. The British Commander in India ^{has} sent a message
of congratulation to ^{the} Generalissimo ^{of China} Chiang - war leaders
are always congratulating each other.

However, what a wealth of thrill and romance
there is in the background - when we look a little closer.
General Wavell thanks ^{my} Chiang Kai-shek for the help the
Chinese gave to a British brigade that arrived in China
recently after a raid into Burma. In other words - a
brigade that sallied forth against the Japs in Burma,
and skirmished along all the way to China.

That's all we know about it, a mere mention in
the official announcement. But we can sense that here
must be one of the great stories of the war. It's a long
way by jungle route from the frontier of India to the

border of China. I myself have traveled to those remote

parts of northern Burma, and in memory can look back to

a fantasy of ^{jungle, elephant country,} ~~equatorial thicket~~, unending rivers and

^{dark and unknown mountains,} myasmal swamps, ^{villages of fierce and warlike tribes,}

The Chins - who are tall and stately and look like ~~the~~

American Indians of the plains. And the Kachins, who are

short, squat and Mongolian - ~~and are~~ formidable warriors

^{— and the head-hunting Was,} too, ~~And here and there a holy shrine with an ornate~~

~~pagoda.~~ To all that nowadays you can add - Japs. And

we have some notion of the trip that was made by that

British brigade. The dispatch calls it - "super-commando."

It must have been "super" all the way around, super-

romantic, super-thrilling - if we only knew the story.

And now, what's your story tonight,
Don?