

Tues. Oct. 19 43 - Chicago.
(add Miners) C.I. - Sunoco.

The latest is a Washington statement that the government is likely to seize the Alabama coal mines. Or rather, reseize them. The pits were taken over at the time of the previous coal strike and then were later returned to their owners. Now the new labor disturbance is likely to result in a reseizure, thinks Washington.

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(Follow Italy)

A major storm of war would seem to be brewing in Italy--- if the following reports from neutral sources are true. One is from a Swedish newspaper, which states that the Nazis have concentrated thirty divisions of troops in northern Italy, and are planning a huge counter-attack. This is designed, in the boastful words of the Nazis---"to cast the Allies into the Mediterranean."

The story relates that most of the concentration of troops and equipment was intended for the Russian front, but was diverted to Italy. ~~Spanish~~ Specific mention is given to several panzer divisions, which had been ordered to the southern Ukraine. And the statement is made that one of the reasons for the German defeats in that area has been the absence of these divisions---now in Italy.

From Switzerland we have a statement that the total German strength in all of Italy consists of fifty full divisions, and that some of these have been taken away from the Russian front. And the general report on Nazi strategy is to fight a delaying action, and slow down the allied advance as much as possible, until the major forces that the Germans have assembled are ready to strike.

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2--Follow Italy)

Such are the stories of a threatened storm of battle in Italy, although how much truth there is in the rumors we do not know.

Another kind of prognostication was made in London today by Field Marshal Smuts, the premier of South Africa. He is one of the most important and one of the best informed of Allied statesmen, and he declared today in a measured statement that the Allies will be ~~winning~~ closing in on Hitler's European fortress by Winter, that there will be a grand assault by all forces, and that in this the United States will play a leading role. So that prognosticates another storm of battle of still greater scope---a grand assault on Hitler's fortress Europa, within a comparatively short time.

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ITALY

The word from Italy is--a general advance all along the hundred mile battle front, the Allies surging forward everywhere. Twenty three towns and villages captured, the Germans on the retreat to a new line, which apparently will be based on the river Garigliano.

The entire valley of the Volturno has been cleared that sector along which the conflict raged for many days. General Clark's fifth army has forged across the lowlands along the river, and is driving through mountains. The weather is bad again, rain and mud, and American troops are bringing supplies and equipment forward by mule pack.

Meanwhile, to the East, on the other side of the range of the Apennines, General Montgomery's Eighth Army is forging forward.

(Air war)

Hanover and Berlin. Those were the two targets for last night. Heavy bombers hit Hanover, that German city which includes one of the greatest areas of Nazi war industry. The weather was overcast, and not too much of the destruction on the ground could be observed accurately---But R. A. F. fliers today stated that through holes in the clouds they could see the glare of fires fifty miles away.

Berlin was battered by mosquito bombers, those medium craft which, fly so swiftly and bomb at low level. The mosquitoes blasted Berlin with a rain of bombs.

In all of last night's aerial operations, seventeen bombers were lost---a comparatively light figure.

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(Conference)

The Moscow conference began today, with all the formalities of diplomatic tradition. First Soviet Commissar Molotov paid formal calls to American Secretary of State Cordell HULL and British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden. These calls were in the nature of routine politeness. And then later in the day the three foreign secretaries got together for their first joint meeting. All is in an atmosphere of friendly cordiality, with Moscow expressing optimistic hope of large results.

Soviet circles continue to express the belief that the conference of foreign ministers will concern itself principally with the establishment of a second front, which Russia^a urgently demands. Also---there was another repetition today of the notion that the Soviets will not consider any discussion of their borders after the war---no questions concerning their acquisition of the Baltic states and much of Poland. The hint was given in a Soviet government newspaper, which described the Red army as fighting for territory that includes a part that used to be Polish.

Japanese)

Bitter opinions were expressed today concerning Japanese-Americans; -California opinions. A senate fact finding committee is in Los Angeles, hearing testimony concerning Japanese-Americans who were evacuated from the Pacific coast area and sent inland. What about returning these to the coast? Today Mayor Bowron of Los Angeles and District Attorney Hauser told the committee that a return ^{of} Japanese-Americans to their state would precipitate what they called---"a massacre." The Los Angeles district attorney stated: "Service men who fought the Japs tell me they will not hesitate to kill any Japanese they see here or anywhere else. And," he went, "I have letters from three organizations informing me that their members have pledged themselves to kill any Japanese that comes to California now or after the war."

The mayor of Los Angeles declared that the news about Japanese atrocities has aroused such enmity against people of the Japanese race that it would be unsafe for these to return to California--- even in the peace time to come.

(Prisoners)

over in Europe today there were two groups of men that presented a striking contrast. They were British and Germans--- disabled war prisoners being exchanged. The point of exchange is Gothenburg, in Sweden, and there ^{some hundreds of} ~~six hundred and twenty five~~ British prisoners of war have arrived from Germany. That is, all are British save ^{a few} ~~one~~ American. They are ^V ~~are~~ veterans of Dunkirk, Greece, Crete, North Africa, Dieppe---all disabled, some without legs or arms. They are overjoyed, hardly able to believe their good fortune, hardly able to grasp the joyful fact that they are free from German prison camps and on their way home.

At the same time, from a Scottish port today sailed a shipload of Germans, soldiers captured in battles, Nazi fliers shot down in sky fights. They started on their way to the Swedish point of exchange, and seemed not at all overjoyed with the prospect of returning to beleaguered and bomb-torn Germany. They looked depressed and dejected.

One hint to explain their disconsolate mood is to be found in a story told of returning British from Germany. On their trip through Naziland they caused riots at railroad stations---by tossing

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2--Prisoners)

from their train quantities of red cross cigarettes. The Germans at the stations scrambled wildly for the smokes, with even German officers joining in the free-for-all grab for the cigarettes.

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(Churchill)

British prime Minister Churchill spoke today of what he called "Unfair and probably unauthorized statements." He was referring to the charges made by the five ^{U. S.} senators who visited the war fronts. Will the prime minister reply to the senatorial allegations concerning the doings of the British? No, he says he will not engage engaged in what he calls, "wordy warfare." In the house of commons today, Churchill made the following measured statement: "I've come to the conclusion that there would be no advantage in His Majesty's government partaking in this wordy warfare---especially at a time," he added, "when British and American armies are engaged shoulder to shoulder in battle."

As a supplement to this, the British chancellor ^{of} of the exchequer, Sir John Anderson, denied that the British are playing tricks with American lend-lease material. He stated: "Our arrangements do not result in our deriving any improper advantage from lend-lease."

Among the charges emanating from the ~~same~~ five senators, one was that the British transferred American lend-lease to other countries, making it appear that the goods were British. The

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WILSON

While in Chicago today I decided to try and get an answer to a question that all of us are asking:- How about the meat shortage? And how much are we going to have this coming year, for civilian consumption?

Many years ago - a newspaperman out here, I covered many a story at the Chicago Stockyards. So, I figured I might still find my way round, and get an answer to the meat question.

In fact, the first time I went abroad on an expedition I was financed partly by three men who had fought their way to the top in the meat-packing world: Arthur Meeker, then head of Armour, Henry Veeder, one of the dominant figures at Swift and Company, and Thomas E. Wilson, founder of Wilson and Company. When I didn't have a dime they backed me, on an expedition.

Well, Arthur Meeker and Henry Veeder are no longer on the scene. So I went looking for Thomas E. Wilson. Finding him out of the city, I hunted up his thirty-eight year old son, Edward F. who is now the President of the

huge Wilson packing concern.

I wish I had time to tell you the story of how the elder Wilson, from a checker on the Burlington Railroad, fought his way to the top, until now he is one of the dominant men of America; also, of how his only son, EdwardF., is succeeding him - because he has the same stuff, and comes out of the same mould, as his Dad. And of how they are playing a big part in feeding our army, our Allies, and our nation here at home. It's a great story, but I haven't time.

EdwardF. Wilson probably knows as much about the world's meat supply as any man. And he says that next year we will produce twenty-five and three-quarter billion pounds of meat - one and three-quarter billion more than this year. And that the boys in service and lend-lease to our Allies, will take about thirty-three per cent; and that here at home we will have for civilian consumption approximately seventy per cent of the meat we normally eat; and seven per cent more than we have had this year. So that sounds like good news.

He also told me, and showed me, how far more efficiently meat is now prepared for our forces overseas. In the last war it all went over in bulky, clumsy carcasses. This time it's all de-boned and packed in fifty pound card-board cartoons, divided into roasting and frying meat, meat for stews, and for hamburger. Yes, and prepared so that every soldier and every officer gets the same sort of a piece of meat at a given meal. In World War I the mess sergeants got the best. And the last man in line - he, poor chap, got a sad looking piece.

They also showed me the dehydrated meat and potatoes that now goes into delicious dehydrated hash.

What it formerly took ten ships to carry, they now can carry across the seas in one ship. And that's one exceedingly vital way to help win this war.

Maybe this is a more diabolical war than any in the past, but this time the boys have a far, far better and wider variety of food than ever before.

By the way, at Wilson's I heard that the Russians have bought two hundred million pounds of our meat, canned and prepared in a form that they call Tushonka. They came out here and said: "Washington tells us we can have anything we want. And we want pieces of pork about two inches square, with 1 bay leaf and two peppers in each can."

The packers tried to tell them it was inefficient and uneconomical to cut it into chunks two inches square. To which they replied: "Washington said we can have what we want. And we want pieces two inches thick, and one bay leaf and two peppers in each can." And no matter what arguments were given to them they would say: "Yes, that's fine. Washington tells us we can have what we want. We want one bay leaf and two pepper~~s~~ to each can." And they got what they wanted. They got their Tushonka.