

CONFERENCES

1.2. - Sunoco. Thursday, May 27, 1943.

Tanner

The war chiefs of the United States and Great Britain have come to an agreement and their plans are made. This was announced at the White House today by ~~the~~ President. ~~Roosevelt himself~~. The way ~~that~~ Mr. Roosevelt put it ^{was} ~~it is~~ "Complete agreement on future operations in all theatres of the war!"

It was originally planned that the president and Prime Minister Churchill should announce ~~this~~ ^{the} news in a joint statement. But later they decided that Mr. Roosevelt should do the announcing. All he said was twenty-two words, ^{giving} ~~and they gave~~, no inkling as to what ~~these~~ ^{the} plans might be; where the next blow at the Axis would be struck, or when. ^{which is} ~~after all, that is about~~ what we could expect. But, it ~~certainly~~ gives us something to look forward to, ~~the news of the first move.~~

MEDITERRANEAN

The British and American bombardments of Italy's islands have been so devastating that the Fascist Government is evacuating all civilians from Sardinia and Sicily. This is not official. It comes to us through the Tass wire service, of the Soviet Government. The message goes into details, and reports that ships are carrying civilians to the Italian mainland, from the islands, in large numbers, every day. Evacuation ~~has been~~ protected by German artillery. ^{that} And [^] the Nazi heavy guns are prepared to blow up the fortifications and equipment at the harbor at Cagliari, ~~that is~~ the big Axis naval base on Sardinia.

Right ~~spang~~ in the middle of Sardinia is a large dam upon which the island depends principally for its power supply. American ^{we learn} planes [^] have been blasting away at that dam trying to repeat the success of the Royal Air Force when it destroyed three large

power dams in Germany. It is reported that eight of our *comparatively small* Lightning planes landed a number of direct hits in the center of that dam system *which* ~~it~~ impounds the waters of Lake Tirso. At least six ~~dam~~ bombs landed on the target, maybe ten. Three of the first four hit the upper dam itself or a power station beside it. Four others landed nearby, but the first four caused so much destruction that a heavy pall of dust and smoke made it impossible to see what effect the other bombs had had. A stream of water was seen rushing *out,* ~~from the spot, which~~ indicated *ing* ~~ed~~ that the dam had been breached.

This was only part of a day of intense and constant air activity in the Mediterranean. Both British and American planes ~~went~~ raiding and bombing right and left. They report ~~very~~ little air opposition. The Italians claim that twenty-five of their torpedo planes attacked a large and heavily protected Allied

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convoy in the eastern Mediterranean. They claim to have hit ~~only~~ one destroyer. ~~The inference might be that the Italians have so few planes that they do not attempt to use them for defense, simply using them for Allied ~~positions~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ wherever they can.~~

1 1

RUSSIA

More good news from the Russian front.

The big push of the Red Army to drive the Nazi remnants out of the Caucasus is underway, with Soviet columns crashing through the Nazi defenses on a narrow front. In fact, they have pushed into the German lines to a depth of a mile and a half.

This news doesn't come from Moscow. It comes from Paris. From the Nazis. Also, the Nazi high command admits that the Soviets have begun an offensive in the Kuban peninsula -- in the Caucasus.

The Russian generals have brought up several divisions, supported by tanks. R x

Berlin claims that all attacks were driven back; but, in the next line the Nazis admit that the Russians made what they call "a local breach" in the German lines.

Perhaps we are not paying enough attention to the news from China. But those who know point out that the news from there is anything but good. A ~~sp~~ spokesman for Chiang Kai-shek's armies at Chungking reports that the Japanese offensive is moving closer and closer toward Chungking. That the Japs have ~~been~~ between seventy and eighty thousand men advancing in a three-pronged attack. That they have two hundred planes which easily gives them air superiority over the Chinese and American forces out there. Also, they have tanks, and they are using a large river fleet at Ichang on the Yangtze River and at ports further east, ~~where~~ wherewith to provision and back up their land forces.

This drive has been going on since May elevent and the ^{Japs} ~~Japs~~ have advanced sixty miles in two weeks. Evidently it was planned months ahead.

The Japs ~~have~~ also have a drive underway from Nanchang in Kiangsi Province. Which means that on the Asiatic mainland they are advancing all along the line. It looks like we'd better hurry up.

ATTU

Secretary Stimson today gave an effective answer to Japanese claims about the Battle of Attu, Tokyo reporting that our casualties have been enormous. Stimson answered ^{by} ~~and~~ giving the exact figures: a hundred and twenty-seven Americans killed; three hundred and ninety-nine wounded; a hundred and eighteen missing. However, the Secretary added, the returns are not complete. As for Japanese losses, he said they had been much, much heavier than ours.

The weather has cleared in that usually fog-bound area, with the result that four-motored Liberators and Mitchell two-motored bombers have been giving our men on Attu a great deal of help.

The American soldiers on Attu have been fighting hand-to-hand with the Japs -- cleaning up one pocket after another.

Reports have come in of much suffering from cold. And it's to be hoped that our lads have the right sort of equipment -- which they didn't have six months ago.

If the present fairly clear weather continues, says Secretary Stimson, the job of mopping up the Japs on Attu will not take long; mainly because we are now using our heavy planes.

The Secretary of War also gave out some figures today on our casualties in North Africa. From November eighth to May fifteenth, our forces lost two thousand, one hundred and eighty-four men killed. In addition, nine thousand, four hundred and thirty-seven were wounded, while six thousand, nine hundred and thirty-seven are reported either missing or prisoners of war. That means -- total American casualties of eighteen thousand, five hundred and fifty-eight.

The total of all Allied casualties in the campaign for Tunis comes to less than seventy thousand; British and French and our own.

The Axis, on the otherhand, lost a total of thirty thousand killed; twenty-six thousand, four hundred wounded; two hundred and sixty-six thousand, six hundred prisoners.

That means the German and Italian casualties
add up to three hundred and thirty-three thousand.

Former President Herbert Hoover and former Ambassador Hugh Gibson published a warning today. They urge us to drop the idea of trying to reform the whole world after the war is over. If we want to build a lasting peace, we must take the governments and social systems of other countries for what they are, not for what some of us think they ought to be.

Hoover and Gibson set forth these ideas in the first of a series of articles ¹for COLLIERS. These are a continuation of the book they published last year - "Problems of Lasting Peace." ~~of course~~ ⁷⁷What they say makes us think immediately of Russia. Before the war, our relations with the Soviets were, ^{well, uncertain,} ~~quite ticklish~~. The former President and former Ambassador point out that in order to get along with Communist [†]countries, for instance, we do not have to adopt their ideas and drop our own. They believe that we have the

greatest chance in history to establish a lasting peace
if we approach the job intelligently, bravely and
realistically. And one essential to a realistic approach
is to avoid war hates towards whole enemy peoples.
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FORTUNE POLL FOLLOW HOOVER

Fortune magazine has been taking a countrywide poll of voters, ⁱⁿ anticipating ^{on of} next year's presidential ~~election~~ ^{campaign. And,} Judging by the figures ~~obtained~~, a fourth term for President Roosevelt is in the bag. The only thing that could stop it, according to this Fortune poll, would be the end of the war before next election day. If the war is ~~not~~ ^{then} over, ~~fifty-nine-and~~ point-two per cent will oppose any fourth term for Mr. Roosevelt. *And no sane person expects the war to be finished so soon.*

One striking feature of this poll is that a majority of the people in every income bracket except the highest, want a fourth term if the war is not over. Only four point-one ~~of the people~~ ^{of those} polled by Fortune believe the President has done a poor job of running the war. Those who think he has done a good job? ~~amount to~~ Seventy and four-tenths per cent *say he has.*

The Fortune poll also discloses that post-war isolationism is out the window. A distinct majority,

fifty-six point six per cent, are in favor of having the United States join some international organization with a world court, and an international police force.

Also, and here is ~~we hear of~~ *be of much* one point that will [^] interest

^{to} _^ Messrs. Hoover and Gibson, *a* huge majority, eighty per cent of the people poll by Fortune, believe the

United States should try to work ~~xxx~~ hand-in-hand with

Russia as an equal partner not only in fighting the war

in working out the ~~the~~ whole vast
but ~~including the peace~~

problem of peace.

MACHINISTS

~~Here is a big upset in the labor world: The~~

P The
Machinists' Union secedes from the American Federation
of Labor. *All of which* ~~That~~ brings about a rather curious ~~new~~

Realignment. Only a couple of weeks ago John L. Lewis

asked the A.F. of L. to take his Miners' union into
the fold once more. *This yet* ~~It~~ has not been accomplished, ~~but~~

but there seems little reason to doubt that it will. *And*

now ~~Now comes~~ one of the oldest members of the Federation

~~she walks out of it with a bang~~

The news was announced in Washington today by
Harvey W. Brown, President of the International Association
of Machinists. The row is over jurisdiction. Ever
since Nineteen Thirteen the Machinists have been at
logger-
~~heads~~ with the carpenters' union, the operating
engineers' union, and the electric railway employees'
union. Apparently it was impossible for them to agree
where one union's lines start and the other's began.
And the federation, according to President Brown, gave
no help at all.

William Green, President of the A.F. of L. made
light of the announcement, ~~says it is just~~ ^{saying it's} temporary

and that some solution will surely be found. But, the

head of the machinists ~~is obviously pretty sore and~~ ^{seems determined,}
~~and that it can't be smiled~~
~~pretty set upon his intentions. Competent labor~~
~~away so easily.~~
~~observers report that this has caused the whole labor~~

~~movement to be in the most fluid state in years.~~

RUBBER STRIKE

Rubber tires are ^{again} coming off the production

line in Akron, Ohio, ~~once more~~ but, the striking workers

at first were slow
~~up to now have been quite slow~~ in obeying President

Roosevelt's back-to-work order. . . By noon today, less

than half of the morning shift was ~~back~~ on the job.

Some companies ~~have~~ ^{led} by no means the number of hands

necessary to get ^{up} ~~back~~ to full production. One plant was

unable to start up its machinery because so few of the

day shift in that factory had returned that it was

impossible to get things going again. However, the

managements have hopes of returning to full production

by tomorrow."

Later in the day the situation improved at

Akron. The managements of three companies reported that

their afternoon shifts were back to work almost a

hundred per cent.

GASOLINE

How about

~~But~~ the gasoline outlook? ~~grows worse every day~~
~~in the eastern states. The best that car drivers can~~
~~hope for is trying times. That's how~~ The Deputy
Petroleum Administrator ~~says it. He~~ says there is
danger ~~that~~ ^{of} the supplies ^{here} along the Atlantic coast ~~are~~
being completely exhausted, ~~and~~ ^{That} only the most drastic
measures can prevent it.

The Office of Defense Transportation stepped
into the picture today and ordered a twenty per cent cut
in the mileage of its operators and taxi drivers.
The gasoline that was to have lasted until June
Thirtieth must now last until July Twenty-fifth.
So unless there is a substantial cut in service now,
some communities will be entirely without transportation
in July.

DEBT

A midwestern Congressman declared today that before we finish with this war the national debt of the United States will probably be three hundred billion dollars. This ^{from Representative} ~~came from Congressman~~ Albert Engel of Michigan, ~~who~~ has just made a forty-five hundred mile tour of the country, ^{by some} ~~and~~ inspected ~~forty-seven~~ war plants. He expects to make a complete report to the House as soon as he has coordinated the figures he has been collecting.

Congressman Engel ~~pointed~~ ^{points} out that this figure of three hundred billions is twice the assessed valuation of every piece of property in the United States, real and personal, tangible and intangible. And he believes one tragic part of it is that very few people can begin to realize what a three hundred billion dollar debt means. For one thing, it means a debt service of nine billion dollars a year, nine billion dollars that we have to shell out every year just for interest.

TAXES

When the pay-as-you-go tax bill is passed - and that seems probable - it will not mean you can omit your June Fifteenth instalment. That has to come out anyway. But ~~h~~ you will not have to bother about the September and December instalments. Instead of that, employers on July First will begin making deductions from your pay envelop salary check. On ^(September) ~~December~~ Fifteenth, you will have to file an estimate of your probable income for Nineteen Forty-Three, also your probable deductions. That will be the basis for the sum to be withheld by employers. Then at the end of the year you have to file another return, or rather two returns, one for Nineteen Forty-Three and another one for Nineteen Forty-Four.

There is one thing all these chores will do for you. They will make you brush up on your arithmetic.

If you ~~just~~ never were good at arithmetic and have no hopes of improving, it's going to be just too bad.

MAIL

Here is a plea from a soldier at one of the fronts. "Get this straight," the soldier writes, "sometimes letters seem more important than ammunition."

Of course this is an echo of what high ranking generals have been telling us. Major General Brereton, Commander of United States forces in the Middle East said as much in a broadcast from New Delhi. And the Allied Commander-in-Chief in North Africa, General ~~W.H.~~ Dwight D. Eisenhower, ~~G.C.B.~~ declared that when you write regularly to the soldiers in the service you contribute something toward the winning of the war.

But it
Sounds more intimate coming from a man in the ranks. One of them reported that on a certain day everybody was feeling low. Then the mail came. On the following day the men of that command had to fight their second big battle and says this private soldier: "The mail made a lot of difference in the way the battle went. Because everybody went into it feeling good. They had heard from home."

Sometimes mail arrives just as dinner is ready. In such a case even food has to wait. The men in the front lines think more of their letters from home than they do of their dinner.

PETER

A case

~~A hard case~~ of young love in royal circles has caused an international crisis in London. On the male side the young lover is King Peter the Second of Yugoslavia. On the distaff side, is her Royal Highness, The Princess Alexandra of Greece, a tall, dark, pretty girl, twenty-two years old, ~~she is a~~ daughter of the late King Alexander, ^{and} niece of the present King George the Second. King Peter is at present a King without a throne, and the lady likewise is a princess in exile.

They have been secretly engaged since May of last year. It was ^{then that} ~~at that time~~ the Princess was observed to be wearing the King's ring.

Today the news leaked out that nineteen year old King Peter has upset the international appplecart by insisting on an immediate marriage with the Princess. The Yugoslav Cabinet in London is in quite a dither about it. Some of these Ministers in exile are all for

letting true love have its way. But six of the
Jugoslav ministers are violently opposed, say ^{say that} the young
couple should wait until the war is over.

What do you think, Hugh,
about true love?