

NIPPON READY TO PRESS DRIVE

Americans Flee For Lives From Threatened Attack. Cruiser and Destroyer Stand By To Aid In Evacuation of Doomed City of Tsingtao.

Shanghai, Dec. 29.—General Iwane Matsui, the Japanese commander, threatened today to press Japan's attack 1,000 miles into China's interior. Americans at Tsingtao, on the north China coast, at the same time, were fleeing from a threatened attack by another arm of the Japanese army striking swiftly across Shantung province.

Unless the Chinese government ends "its anti-Japanese policies," Matsui warned, Japanese forces "may find it necessary" to advance to Hankow and Chungking and "may repudiate the national government of China."

Chungking, about 1,000 miles inland in a direct line from the coast, is up the Yangtze river from Hankow, midland metropolis where the Chinese government moved from Nanking, its fallen capital.

The United States gunboat Sacramento was expected here tomorrow, Thursday, with about 45 American refugees from Tsingtao. Americans, other foreigners and natives were said to be preparing to leave the city before a threatened Japanese attack.

The United States cruiser Marblehead and destroyer Pope were standing by to evacuate about 250 other Americans, some of whom were expected, however, to flee aboard small coastal steamers.

The fall of Tsingtao appeared inevitable after Japanese troops occupied Tsinan, the provincial capital, and extended their line to within 100 miles of the coast. Japanese possession of Tsinan, about 200 miles west of Tsingtao, and Weishan, halfway between, severed railroad communications.

Chinese emphasized, however, that only provincial troops were defeated at Tsinan and that strong central government forces were entrenched at Taian and Lincheng, south of Tsinan.

In Shanghai, Japanese authorities declared they were dissatisfied with efforts of the municipal council to rid the International Settlement of hidden military arms. Officials, who have decreed military law for Japanese-dominated areas, insisted there must be effective police measures before Shanghai can return to normal.

(Secretary of State Cordell Hull, in Washington, declared the United States was attempting to ascertain the full scope of military courts set up in Shanghai by Japan's army and whether they violated American rights.

(British officials at Hongkong were believed to have aimed an order prohibiting use of wireless by merchant ships in the Hongkong harbor at Japanese vessels.

(Reports from Macao, Portuguese colony near Hongkong on the south China coast, said a Japanese cruiser had shelled Wongkam island over which Portugal claims jurisdiction. Two hundred Japanese bluejackets were said to have landed on Wongkam, across the Canton river estuary from Hongkong.

(In Tokyo, Foreign Minister Koki Hirota delivered to British Ambassador Sir Robert Leslie Craige Japan's reply to a protest against a Japanese attack on the British gunboat Ladybird on the Yangtze river the same day the United States gunboat was sunk. The note was not published.)

Matsui told Japanese newspaper men "there is no hurry about future military operations so soon after the capture of Nanking."

"Our troops, after more than four months of hostilities, need a rest," the general declared. "At the same time we give the Chinese time to reconsider their attitude but if they persist in their anti-Japanese policies we will be forced to act."

Japanese planes raided a wide area, nevertheless, virtually destroying the main street of Kihwa, capital of Chekiang province since the fall of Hankow; disrupting service on the Canton-Hankow railroad by blowing up a bridge at Yingtak, Kwangtung province; and bombing Chinese hangars in Kwangtung and Anhwei provinces.

GEORGE M. WRIGHT NAMED ON BOARD

Charlotte, N. C., Dec. 28.—Robert Lassiter, chairman of the board of directors of the Charlotte branch of the Federal Reserve bank, announced two appointments to the directorate today.

Those named were: Torrence E. Hemby, executive vice president of the American Trust company of Charlotte, and George M. Wright, president of the Republic Cotton mills of Great Falls, S. C. Wright's designation was a reappointment.

Farmers' Group To Meet Here

Annual Meeting of Clinton Production Credit Association Will Be Held January 3rd.

A large attendance is expected at the annual stockholders meeting of the Clinton Production Credit association, which will be held in Clinton on January 3 at the Broadway theatre, at 11 o'clock, according to Rex Lanford, secretary of the association, who said yesterday that arrangements for the meeting are completed.

The Clinton Production Credit association serves Laurens and Newberry counties and furnishes short-term credit for general agricultural purposes to its members, and in 1937 made loans totaling \$278,000. The association now has a membership of 890 and Mr. Lanford said that it is hoped that every member will be present at the annual meeting.

Attending the meeting by special invitation of the association will be J. Edwin Tiddy of the Production Credit corporation of Columbia, who will make a brief address at the conclusion of the business session.

An interesting program has been arranged for the annual meeting. Mr. Lanford said, and much interest is being manifested by the members.

Officers and directors of the association are: C. W. Stone, Clinton, president; J. T. McCrackin, Newberry, vice-president; Rex Lanford, secretary-treasurer. Directors are: Dr. W. C. Brown, Jack H. Davis, Sr., and E. J. Sloan.

Advisory Board Holds Meeting

Several Applications Are Filed In Laurens By Would-Be Owners of Farms.

Laurens, Dec. 23.—At the first meeting of the advisory board and the personnel of the resettlement set-up here, a district representative of the tenant farm purchase loan administration Wednesday afternoon discussed in detail the main features of the Bankhead-Jones farm tenant act, with special reference to the procedure to be followed by the advisory committee in cooperation with the resettlement or farm security administration office.

Laurens county is one of the sixteen selected in this state for this first year's program. The farm advisory committee consists of Jack H. Davis, Clinton, chairman; Wallace L. Martin and J. W. Tinsley, while the local administration unit is composed of C. B. Owings, supervisor; C. S. Pinson and Mrs. Leonard Owings. C. B. Cannon, county agent, met with the two units.

Already a number of applications have been filed by farmers who would become farm owners under the provisions of the new loan act.

Citizens Federal Pays Dividend

Local Building and Loan Association Closes Splendid Year and Declares 4% Dividend.

A dividend for the six months period July 1st to Dec. 31st on the basis of 4 per cent per annum, will be paid this week by the Citizens Federal Savings and Loan association of this city. The dividend applies on all classes of shares. Investment shares dividends will be paid in cash, and those on savings shares will be credited to each share account.

In addition to the declaration of the 1937 dividend to its investors, a substantial sum was added to the undivided profit and reserve account. During the past six months the association has made substantial progress in every phase of its activity, its total assets showing a gain of more than \$40,000 during this period.

Five Top Stories In State For Year

Columbia, Dec. 28.—The five top stories of 1937 in South Carolina:

Election of Sol Blatt as speaker of the house of representatives over a candidate sponsored by Governor Olin Johnston.

Indictment and trial of four Greenville men—one a state legislator—for conspiracy to violate the anti-slot machine law.

Enactment and setting up of the public welfare department to care for the aged and needy of the state.

Slaying of Lancaster policeman and the subsequent chase, capture and conviction of his killer.

Attempted escape from the state penitentiary of six convicts, who killed Captain Olin Sanders, when their demands for freedom were not met.

A Fresh Start



1937 Best Crop Year In State In 17 Years, Says Frank O. Black

Measured by yield per acre and total quantity produced, 1937 was the best crop year in South Carolina since 1920, according to final estimates for the year announced by Frank O. Black, agricultural statistician for the United States department of agriculture. Total production was 17 per cent better than in 1936 and 31 per cent above average for the five-year period, 1928-32. Yield per acre was 10 per cent higher than last year and 17 per cent above average for the ten years, 1927-36.

The year witnessed a record tobacco crop, the second largest oats production, the largest cotton crop since 1920, the largest corn crop in 14 years, a hay crop well above that of any recent years, and production of minor crops ample for local needs.

The high yields this season were due largely to very favorable weather conditions, but also in part to an upward trend in yields of several crops as a result of improved seed, better cultivation methods, and the influence of the soil conservation program.

Due mostly to the low price of cotton, total value of crops produced in 1937 is 5 per cent below that of 1936, but well above crop values of any year since 1929. Based on seasonal prices the aggregate value of all principal field and commercial truck crops is placed at \$125,425,000, which compares with \$131,873,000 for the same crop in 1935 and the average value of \$85,823,000 for the five-year period, 1931-35. As previously announced, the value of 15 commercial crops amounted to \$5,513,000, which is 5 per cent below the 1936 value but well above average.

County Cotton Crop Largest Since 1931

The cotton crop in Laurens county this year will be the largest since 1931, it was predicted this week by cotton men when the ginning report issued by Marvin W. Sanders, census agent, showed that the crop ginned prior to December 13 had already amounted to 29,696 bales as compared with 18,413 bales ginned to the same date last year.

Figures were cited showing that the total ginnings for last year were approximately 22,000 bales, for 1935 19,000, for 1934 18,000, for 1933, 22,000, for 1932, 25,000, and for 1931 37,806.

MRS. LIGHTFOOT PASSES

Mrs. E. M. Lightfoot died last Wednesday night at the home of her nephew in Blountstown, Fla., where she had made her home the past year. The body was brought to Orangeburg where funeral services were held Friday morning from the First Baptist church.

Mrs. Lightfoot was the widow of the late Dr. E. M. Lightfoot, who served the First Baptist church here for several years as pastor, and who passed away about a year ago.

WELCOME, NEW YEAR

Welcome to you, New Year, enter newborn king—
Can you tell us something of the tidings that you bring?
Do you carry happiness enough to last the year?
Do you sing a song of joy to cast out doubt and fear?
Perhaps a balm for heartaches you bring along with you;
Perhaps a key to friendships to buoy us all year through.
We bid you welcome, New Year—our dreams we trust with you,
Forgetting ills of all the past, we start the book anew.
—Kansas City Times.

Year's Elections Few In Number

Not Many Places Filled In Period Now Closing. Candidates Face Summer Races.

Columbia, Dec. 28.—Elections were scattered in South Carolina during 1937 but the year was one of fence mending and planning by politicians who pin their hopes on the big turn over in public office scheduled for next summer.

Except for municipal contests and a few special elections to fill vacancies the general voters had little opportunity to express themselves but a major fight took place in the house of representatives when the body elected its presiding officer.

There was a large number of new members in the house when the general assembly met early in the year and discussion was rife over who would be the victor in the fight for the speakership—a powerful place since that officer names members of all committees.

Governor Olin Johnston, still stinging from defeat in his attempt to take over the highway department through use of the militia, had taken an active part in the election of legislators, urging various counties to send representatives favorable to his program. The Johnston forces centered their fight for house leadership on Representative L. Gaston Wannamaker of Chesterfield, a newly elected house member who had been an outspoken adherent to the governor. Solomon Blatt, veteran member from Barnwell, who had fought Johnston on important issues in previous sessions, bore the banner of the opposition.

The fight was fierce with both sides freely predicting victory but when the votes were cast Blatt was seated by a margin of five votes. Superintendent in the speakership election was reflected in the fact that 119 of the 124 members of the house voted.

The "antis" clinched their hold on the house leadership by electing Representative J. W. D. Zerbst of Charleston speaker protem.

In Union county, Paul E. Wilburn was elected December 21 to fill the place of Representative J. Frost Walker, who resigned to join United States Senator E. D. Smith's staff at Washington.

While elections were few in 1937 many a plan for a 1938 race was considered.

While steadfastly refusing to put himself on record, Governor Olin Johnston definitely jockeyed himself into position as the logical opponent of Senator "Cotton Ed" Smith.

Smith, a veteran of almost 30 years in the senate, stood little chance of other serious opponents for his place if pre-campaign preparations of 1937 gave any true indication.

The governor's race—also a major prospect for the summer of 1938—showed tendencies to develop into a many sided affair with few political wisecracks willing to hazard a guess so far ahead as to the outcome.

Wyndham M. Manning of Sumter, unsuccessful candidate in 1934; former Governor and United States Senator Cole L. Blease, runnerup in the same race, and H. C. Godfrey, former representative and labor department inspector, were the announced candidates for gubernatorial honors.

Representative Ben E. Adams of Columbia, foe of the relief administration; Ben T. Leppard, Greenville county senator and state Democratic chairman, and Representative Neville Bennett of Marlboro, chairman of the ways and means committee, were mentioned frequently during the past year for the same job but so far announcements from them have not been forthcoming.

SCHOOLS TO RE-OPEN NEXT MONDAY

The Clinton city schools will reopen next Monday morning after the Christmas holiday period.

Presbyterian college will resume class work on Tuesday morning.

The Thornwell orphanage schools will begin work next Monday after a ten days' vacation period.

DRIVE CAREFULLY SAVE A LIFE!

9 DEATHS from AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS in LAURENS COUNTY 1937

Let's Strive To Make This a Safe Year On the Highways.

TREND FAVORS BIGGER NAVY

President Expresses Growing Concern Over Events and May Recommend Construction of More Vessels. Nation Must Face Facts.

Washington, Dec. 28.—President Roosevelt expressed "growing concern" over the trend of world events today in advising congress that he might recommend construction of new naval vessels.

In a letter to Chairman Taylor (Democrat), of Colorado, of the house appropriations committee, the chief executive said that preliminary budget estimates already prepared called for appropriations to begin during the 1939 fiscal year (which begins July 1), two battleships, two light cruisers, eight destroyers and six submarines.

He asked Taylor to advise the subcommittee on naval appropriations he may send up supplementary estimates for an unspecified number of additional ships.

In discussing his "growing concern" the president said he referred to no specific action, or threat against this country. Despite "every conceivable effort" to halt the trend toward bigger armament programs, the president said, many nations are enlarging their armaments.

Mr. Roosevelt added that "facts are facts and the United States must recognize them."

Before the text of his letter was made public the president told a press conference he had written Taylor since his first budget for the navy department was prepared in the early autumn, the general international picture had made it possible that he might ask for more ships than outlined in that first budget.

In response to questions, however, he said the new construction, if proposed, could not be termed a preparedness campaign.

Aside from two new battleships supposed to be in the budget already prepared, the president said, it would depend on the kind of ships to be proposed in the "if" program whether new authorization legislation would be necessary.

The new program would be started immediately, but new personnel would not be required for many months.

In response to other questions, he said the new construction undoubtedly would be divided equally between government and private yards.

Asked if there were any plans to expand naval aviation, he said he did not think so.

The president's letter to Taylor: My Dear Mr. Chairman:

Confirming my conversation with you the other day, I would be glad if you would tell the chairman and members of the Naval Appropriations subcommittee the following:

The preliminary estimates submitted by the director of the budget to the naval subcommittee were prepared sometime ago and called for appropriations to commence during the fiscal year 1939, two battleships, two light cruisers, eight destroyers and six submarines.

Since that time world events have caused me growing concern. Under the Constitution the President is commander-in-chief of the army and navy and was, therefore, a very specific duty to safeguard the defense of national interests. In speaking of my growing concern, I do not refer to any specific nation or to any specific threat against the United States. The fact is that in the world as a whole many nations are not only continuing, but are enlarging their armament programs. I have used every conceivable effort to stop this trend, and to work toward a decrease of armaments. Facts, nevertheless, are facts, and the United States must recognize them.

Will you, therefore, be good enough to inform the subcommittee on Naval appropriations that after the next session of Congress has met, it is possible that I may send supplementary estimates for commencing construction on a number of ships additional to the above program?

Very sincerely yours,
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

STATE TO RECEIVE \$406,000 TENANTS' AID

Washington, Dec. 28.—The farm security administration said today machinery for the making of farm tenant loans was in operation in 21 states.

Other states now are setting up their state and county committees preparatory to receiving applications. States where receipt of applications has started and amounts allocated to those states for this year include:

North Carolina, \$527,586; Tennessee, \$416,191; Virginia, 213,967; Alabama, \$615,531; Florida, \$61,623; Georgia, \$635,003; South Carolina, \$406,165.