

THE WATER DEFENCE SYSTEM OF THE NETHERLANDS



A NETWORK OF WATER COURSES—that is Holland. The land is generally flat and low, intersected by numerous canals and connecting rivers. The highest point is Vaals, 656 feet above mean sea level, but almost half the country is below that level. The total length of navigable rivers and canals is 4,687 miles. The above pictures give an idea of the important part played by water in Holland's life, in war as in peace. Recently the Government of Holland flooded parts of the country as a preliminary to large-scale flooding in the event of an invasion. The picture on the left is Vallengdam, a picturesque island on the Zuider Zee, the largest reclamation scheme in the world. In the centre is a picture of a typical windmill near Zuider Zee, which is used to pump water from one part to another. On the right is a dyke near the Zuider Zee. These dykes are now brimful, ready to release their defensive water to enable "General Mud" to operate against invaders. Note that the surrounding country is much below the level of the water in the dyke.

Framing India's Constitution

CONGRESS DEMAND

Plea For Constituent Assembly

MADRAS, November 15.

"The lesson forced on us by the experience of two decades is that unless the British Government first accept the procedure of pledging themselves to the acceptance of agreed decisions, there can be no successful negotiations between the Congress on the one hand and the Muslim League or any other organisation on the other," declared Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, addressing a public meeting at Congress House, tonight.

There was no alternative to an assembly of duly elected representatives of the people to persuade all to follow the dictates of inherent goodwill and reason and to come to decisions.

"What the Congress has urged," Mr. Rajagopalachari declared, "is not that either the Congress or the League, or both, or any other political organisation, should be represented, but that a duly constituted electorate should send members to the Constituent Assembly, and that these should be charged with the duty and entrusted with the power to frame a final draft, so that no party organisations, or individuals at large, might thereafter raise any objections or propose modifications.

Referring to the method of reaching agreed conclusions, and particularly to the question of dealing with dissenting minorities, the speaker said it was not generally realised that the Congress wished to proceed on the basis that a majority decision of the representatives of any particular community should prevail.

INDIAN STATES

Advertising to the Indian States, Mr. Rajagopalachari said: "It is a mistake to imagine that the States are on a par with the minority communities. The States are today only Governments, not peoples. They cannot claim the status of minorities. If the people of the States take the place of the Rulers, the position may be different."

Concluding, the former Premier of Madras declared: "There is one subject on which the British, for obvious reasons of propriety, are not candid enough, they are unwilling to refer directly to the question of their own concrete interests in India, which, in the present temper of nationalism, they should be permitted to be reasonably anxious about. It is for the British to state what those interests are and what is the minimum protection they claim for them. The issue should be reduced to the minimum and stated in pounds sterling, and provided for by agreement or arbitration by disinterested judges, say, some Dominion Minister or Ministers. This could easily be made a preliminary to the constitution. I am told we can find a precedent for this in the history of Irish affairs."—Associated Press.

INDIA AND WAR

Dr. Reddy's Plea For Serious Thought

MADRAS, November 15.

While he understood perfectly the desire to have *Suvaraj*, he sometimes wondered whether they had seriously thought about the possible consequences to India in case of a British disaster, observed Dr. C. R. Reddy, Vice-Chancellor of the Andhra University, addressing the Madras University Research Scholars' Association, on "The Congress and the Muslim League". After all, Britain had been trying to preserve their frontiers for them. Whatever their attitude towards this war should be, let it be decided in the interests of the country.

Dr. Reddy said that the actions of the Congress Government had naturally driven the minorities to insist on something more effective than mere assurances and good wishes. The most vital blunder from the point of view of the Muslim League had been the attack made by the Congress on the League. A point Dr. Reddy wished to emphasise was that Mr. Jinnah wanted the Muslims to be treated on a footing of perfect equality with Hindus, because they were no longer a minority or a community, but a nation. Though they were not called upon to agree with Mr. Jinnah, the Speaker said it behooved them to understand the position of the Muslims.—Associated Press.

SCHOOLMASTER'S FATE

Ransom For Liberty, Then For Body

LAHORE, November 15.

A schoolmaster named Rahmatullah was kidnapped near Idak, on the Bannu-Miranshah Road, some time ago, and was held to ransom.

As no one came forward to pay the ransom demanded, the tribesmen beat the captive to death. A smaller ransom was then demanded for his body. His relatives paid it, and have brought the body for burial.—Associated Press.

Prisoners Released

BANNU, November 15.

Alamram and Shamlat, who were sentenced two years ago to seven years' rigorous imprisonment on the charge of attempting to murder a police sentry by planting bombs in a recreation ground, were ordered to be released by Dr. Khan Sahib, before he submitted his resignation.—Associated Press.

"INDIA HOLDS FAST TO DEMOCRACY"

Pandit Nehru's Message

ALLAHABAD, November 15.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has cabled the following message to a public meeting to be held in London on November 15 under the auspices of the India League:—

"India holds fast today, as before, to democracy, freedom and peace and condemns all aggression. If the war is for this, then the Governments must state their aims clearly, agree to end Fascism and Imperialism, support self-determination, declare independence for India, and act up to these declarations. Then all freedom-loving forces in the world will rally and establish a new order. India cannot support the preservation of Imperialism."—Associated Press.

CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE

Leaders Invited

PATNA, November 15.

Dr. Khan Sahib and Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, former Premiers of the North-West Frontier Province and Madras respectively have been invited to attend the meeting of the Congress Working Committee which will be held at Allahabad from Sunday next. The Committee's sitting is expected to last two or three days.

Mr. Rajagopalachari is expected to leave Madras for Allahabad on Friday.

It is understood that the national executive of the Congress Socialist Party may meet at Lucknow after the Congress Working Committee's meeting.—Associated Press.

Iraq Passport Regulation

NEW DELHI, November 15.

Persons intending to go to Iraq, including pilgrims travelling to Hedjaz through Iraq, are informed that, under an additional Iraqi passport regulation, no person shall leave Iraq without having his passport or travel permit endorsed with permission to depart.

Such permission will be given free of charge, and may be had from the passport officer at Baghdad, Mosul or Basra, or in such other manner as may be prescribed by the chief passport officer.—Associated Press.

Lord Baldwin, Mr. Churchill and Mr. Wiggins, President of the Employers' Federation, were received in audience by the King on Tuesday.

Defence Act Applied To British India

ACTUAL REPEAL OF WAR ORDINANCE

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, November 15.

A *Gazette of India Extraordinary* as reported yesterday, has notified the application of Chapters 2 and 4 of the Defence of India Act to British India.

The Act, which received the assent of the Governor-General on September 29, provided that, apart from the first chapter it would come into force in such areas and at such times as the Central Government might declare.

The enforcement, however, of Chapters 2 and 4 does not create a radically new situation. Actually, it repeals the Ordinance proclaimed at the outbreak of the war, and officially gazetted on September 3 by His Excellency the Governor-General.

Barring certain amendments accepted by Government in the Central Legislature, the Defence of India Act is the same as the original Ordinance and the rules appended thereto.

Thus, the notification of Chapters 2 and 4 of the Act actually suspends Chapter 3 of the Ordinance which provided for the constitution, by Provincial Governments, of special tribunals for the trial of particular offences and made rules regarding the appeal.

This is in accordance with the assurance given to the Central Legislature by the Central Government that Chapter 3 would not be enforced until and unless emergency conditions in any particular area required.

ARABIC BROADCASTS FROM ZEESEN

Nazis' Wishful Thinking

LONDON, November 15.

Almost daily assertions in Arabic broadcasts from the German short-wave station at Zeesen, that Muslim peoples are ready to rise in arms against the Allies, are described in a letter to *The Times* from the Secretary of the Colonial League as yet another example of wishful thinking by Nazis.

He says that despite the vast sums spent by the Reich Ministry of Propaganda over the past few years in attempting to alienate the affections of the Muslim world, followers of Islam in British and French Empires and also in neighbouring countries remain steadfast in their loyalty to democratic Powers. Out of a total of 210 million Muslims scattered over the globe, he adds, there is not a single community but is opposed to the Nazi creed of racial hatred and domination, alike on religious and political grounds.

In this connection he cites the Arab newspaper *Aleph* of Damascus. It writes: "We do not know to what Arab peoples Nazis refer. In no case do Arabs need defending. They are above all against Germany, against Nazism and against the aggressor. Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Arabia, Bahrain, the Persian Gulf, Yemen and the protectorates of Yemen are by word of their Kings and chiefs manifesting their hostility towards Germany. Where are the Arab countries that remain for the German Radio to incite?"—British Official Wireless.

British Parliament

LONDON, November 15.

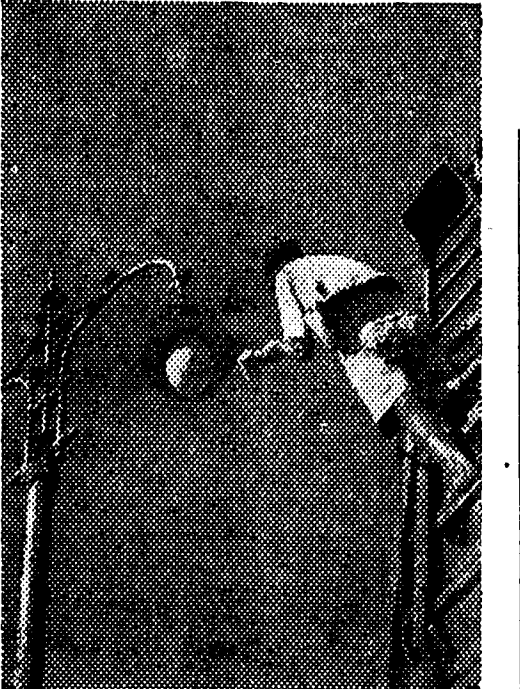
The present session of Parliament will be brought to an end on November 23. Parliament will then be prorogued until Tuesday, November 28, and a new session will be opened on that day by a Commission. The King's speech is expected in the present circumstances to be quite brief.—British Official Wireless.

The Rest Of The News

OLD OPIUM-EATING CUSTOM REVIVED

An old custom dating back to the days of the Kings of Oudh was revived at Aishbagh, Lucknow, where a large number of opium-eaters gathered to celebrate *Tar*, the second day of *Id*. Seated in small groups, they passed cups of opium round, to the accompaniment of music, and revelled in sleepy ecstasies, relating stories of the time when Oudh was ruled by Kings, and opium-eating was so popular.

Under the auspices of the Sangli State Women's Conference a Workers' Class will be run for a period of 15 days at Sangli beginning from December 1.



BLACKENING THE STREET LAMP.

Lt. E. J. Stevens, Garrison Engineer, Ahmednagar, was given an 'at home' by Mr. Haji Ismail, a member of the Cantonment Board on the eve of his transfer to Poona on Monday evening at the Camp Inspection Bungalow, Ahmednagar. Major C. G. Belcher succeeds him.

The Allahabad University Union will present addresses to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the Congress President, and Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel, when they arrive at Allahabad to attend the meeting of the Congress Working Committee on November 19.

Rao Bahadur Naraindas Mulchand, a motor dealer, has, on the occasion of his birthday, sent Rs. 1,000 and an ambulance van to His Excellency the Governor of Sind as a war contribution.

BUS OVERTURNS ON GRAND TRUNK ROAD

Eight Dead, 10 Injured

DIBRUGARH, November 15.

Eight persons were killed and ten seriously injured in a motor bus accident on the Grand Trunk Road near Makum railway station today. It is alleged that the bus was coming at a fast speed, and, following a jerk, one of the front wheels was dislocated, with the result that the bus overturned and was wrecked.—Associated Press.

Indo-Japanese Talks

NEW DELHI, November 15.

A Press Note says: The delegates of the Indian and Japanese Governments met again today and completed their review of the working of the existing protocol. At their next meeting, the examination of proposals for the drawing up of a new protocol will be begun.—Associated Press.

Ordeal Of 'Athenia' Survivor

WOMAN PARALYSED BY SHOCK

There recently arrived in Bombay a survivor of the *ATHENIA* disaster in the person of Mrs. C. E. Carter, of New Zealand. Mrs. Carter, who is in her sixties, was on a world tour when the war broke out. She was one of the 1,000 passengers who left England by the ill-fated Donaldson liner *ATHENIA*, which was torpedoed and sunk 250 miles west of the Hebrides, off the west coast of Scotland.

Mrs. Carter, narrating her ordeal, told a representative of this paper that she had just gone down below after dinner when she heard an explosion. All around was complete darkness and there was a certain amount of confusion. A member of the crew helped her up the numerous stairs and gangways to the boat deck, where there was a crowd of people including terrified women and children.

Her life-boat had already been lowered and someone shouted to her to slide down a rope. She gripped the rope but the friction proved unbearable and she let go her hold and fell into the sea.

UNABLE TO SWIM

"I am unable to swim a stroke," Mrs. Carter said, "I was wearing a heavy fur coat, but I tried somehow to swim. Then a hand gripped me and I was hauled into the densely packed life-boat like a sack of flour. Most of the occupants were women, and some young girls helped to pull at the oars.

"We were eight hours in the boat, knocked about by the heavy Atlantic waves, and practically everyone was violently sick. I can recollect very little of that terrible ordeal as, apparently, I lost consciousness for quite a while."

Mrs. Carter and others were rescued by the Norwegian ship *KNUTE-NELSON* and they were landed in Galway, in Ireland. Mrs. Carter was paralysed with shock and could not use her limbs for several days. She was in a hospital for three weeks. She had lost all her possessions, but the Rev. Gailey, a Presbyterian minister in Galway, got into touch with the High Commissioner for New Zealand in England and made arrangements for her return to New Zealand.

BARODA-BHAVNAGAR AIR SERVICE

Inauguration By Yuvraj

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

BARODA, November 14. A large and distinguished gathering, which among others, included Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Allan, Shrimant Bhadrashirao Gaekwar and several leading officers and citizens, witnessed the inauguration of the Baroda-Bhavnagar-Port Okha air service, conducted by the Air Services of India Ltd., Bombay, after it was blessed by the young Yuvraj Shrimant Fatehsinh Gaekwar, at the State aerodrome near Harni, early this morning.

Piloted by Mr. V. B. Bhat, the plane, a Fox Moth VT-AEA, which carried two passengers, Kumarshree Naredrasinh Mahida, one of the Directors of the Company, and Mr. L. M. Doctor, Managing Editor of local weekly, *Sayajivijay*, made a perfect start amidst the cheers of the assemblage and to the strains of the music by the State Military Band.

The service plane returned with passengers from Bhavnagar this afternoon.

NAVAL FORCES IN ROUTE MARCH

Impressive Parade In Bombay

Nearly 600 men of His Majesty's Naval forces took part in an impressive march over a five mile route in the Fort area, Bombay, on Wednesday morning. It was the first occasion on which British and Indian Naval ratings carried out a route march together in the city.

The day had not fully dawned when the route march began from Alexandra Dock. The strains of music played by the band of the South Lancashire Regiment brought out large numbers of citizens, some of whom were just out of bed, and they were more than compensated for the trouble by the sight which was provided. In the dim light of dawn the parade of the smartly uniformed men gave the impression of one whole mass of white moving in unison. After leaving Alexandra Dock the parade commanded by Lieut.-Commander Townshend, R.N., marched along Frere Road, Mint Road, Rampart Row, Esplanade Road and the Oval, then turned into Mayo Road and Churchgate Street, moved on to the Cooperage via Queen's Road and proceeded to Wodehouse Road and finally terminated at Apollo Street.

UNIQUE CEREMONY

Australian Minister Sworn-in In Canada

LONDON, November 14. An Ottawa message reports a ceremony unprecedented in the Empire's history. It took place at Government House, today, when Lord Tweedsmuir, the Governor-General of Canada, swore in office, as the Air Minister in the Australian Federal Government, Mr. J. V. Fairbairn, who is at present in Canada as the head of the Australian Mission in connection with the Empire Air Training scheme.

This is the first time that a Governor-General of one Dominion has given an oath to the Minister of another Dominion.—British Official Wireless.

League Budget

LONDON, November 15.

The Secretary-General of the League of Nations has proposed that in view of the circumstances the Fourth Committee of the Assembly rather than the Assembly itself should meet to discuss the budget, according to an announcement by Mr. Butler, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in the House of Commons.

The members of the League are considering the proposal which has been made on the initiative of certain neutrals in order to pass the budget.

Tientsin Racket

PEIPING, November 14.

Travellers state that the Japanese have tightened up the restrictions at the barriers at Tientsin. The blockade, which has completed five months, has developed into a "racket".

Reliable sources report that the prices for quick passage vary from a few cents for coolies to £8 for trucks laden with merchandise.—

England's Great Naval Strength

LARGE RESERVES

Contraband Control At Work

LONDON, November 15.

The active service personnel of the Royal Navy allowed for in the 1939 Naval estimates was 133,000. With reserves now serving and 50,000 men to be enrolled under the National Service Acts, the anticipated war total of British naval personnel is brought up to 229,000.

At the outbreak of hostilities in 1914-18, the war personnel of the Royal Navy was 201,000 which increased to 407,000 at the time of the Armistice. In that war, however, there were many more battleships, battle cruisers and cruisers absorbing larger complements than we now possess or are necessary for dealing with a much smaller German fleet.

In the last war the number of vessels in the auxiliary patrol increased from 745 on December 31, 1914, to 3,714 at the time of the armistice, even after heavy losses. In November, 1918, the minesweeping force alone comprised 726 vessels—110 regular naval ships, 52 hired paddle steamers of the type patronised by excursionists during peace, 412 fishing trawlers, 142 herring drifters and ten shallow draught minesweepers of a special type.

The work of minesweepers and auxiliary patrol craft of all types including trawlers, yachts, drifters and motor boats was one of the outstanding features of the last war, as it is today. These little ships are manned almost entirely by officers and men of the Merchant Navy and fishing fleets and by civilians from every profession and walk of life eager to serve afloat.—British Official Wireless.

SUBMARINE MENACE CHECKED

Fewer British Losses

Up to November 4, 54 British ships of roughly 238,000 tons, seven Allied vessels of about 48,000 tons and 33 neutral ships of approximately 94,700 tons were destroyed by U-boat action. The greatest losses to British shipping occurred at the beginning of the war, but although further losses must be expected, the average loss is steadily decreasing.

There is every reason for satisfaction about the anti-submarine campaign, as is shown by comparison of the figures of loss occasioned in the last war by the German unrestricted submarine warfare which started in February, 1917. In that month, 114 British ships, representing 280,000 tons, were lost, in March 146 of 287,000 tons and in April, when sinkings reached the peak, 450 British, Allied or neutral ships of 852,000 tons were destroyed by U-boats.—British Official Wireless.

BRITISH SEARCH OF NEUTRAL SHIPS

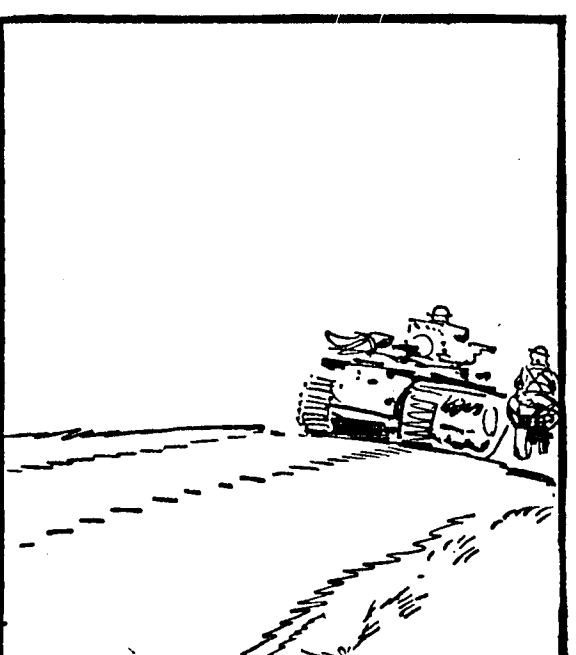
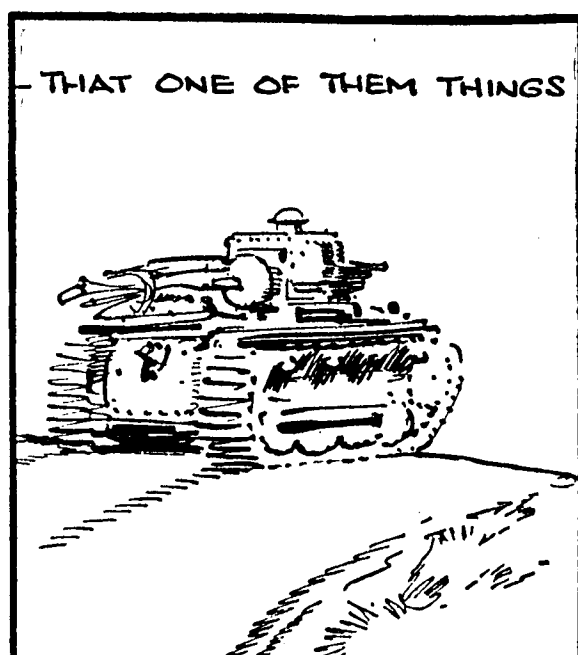
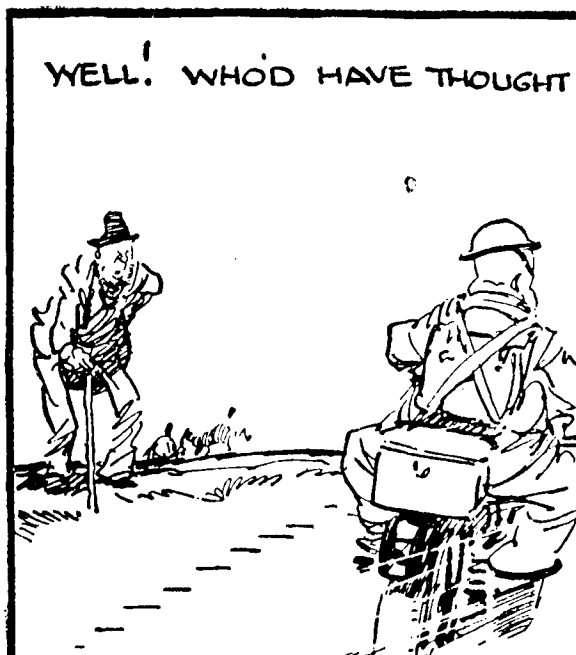
Belligerent Rights

LONDON, November 14.

In this war, Britain must exercise to the full its recognised belligerent rights. The British Government have, however, pledged themselves to seek to do so with as little inconvenience as possible to neutrals' rights, which it is intended to respect. It is with reconciliation in practice of those two guiding principles that the negotiations which are proceeding between the British Government and various neutral Governments are concerned.

The British Contraband Committee has made several suggestions to shipping lines, whereby delay may be reduced, and have, on every occasion, met with complete co-operation. The chief is a request for the ship's manifest to be forwarded to the Contraband Committee before its arrival. Again, neutral shipping lines have been invited to give an undertaking that, if the ship is permitted to proceed to the destination, the owners will agree to carry out the instructions of the Contraband Committee to hold any part of the cargo, or return it for further examination and/or adjudication by a prize court. The number of lines coming into this agreement is increasing steadily. Guarantees that cargo will not be transported to the enemy may be given by competent neutral authorities. For example, all cereals imported by Belgium, are guaranteed by the Belgian Government not to be re-exported to Germany. Such arrangements are obvious, made for great saving of time for neutral ships.—British Official Wireless.

POP



SON OF A GUN