

# MUSSOLINI BOASTS OF ARMED STRENGTH

## INSURGENT CAPTURE OF LERIDA IMMINENT War Machine Is Ready To Defend Italy's Interests

### TROOPS MASS BEFORE GATES OF KEY CITY

#### Franco Hopes To Control Catalonia And Bring Quick End To War.

(A. P. by Guardian's Special Wire) HENDAYE, France, March 30.—Spanish insurgent commanders said tonight that the capture of Lerida, key city in the drive to Barcelona, was imminent despite stiff resistance of Government forces.

The insurgents announced that General Juan Yague's troops had arrived at the gates of Lerida and were encircling the historic city, virtually deserted by its civilian population.

Despite Government efforts to stiffen resistance in the Catalan border region, and a Government counter-offensive in the mountain country west of Teruel, the insurgent offensive rolled steadily toward the Mediterranean.

Its object was to add Catalonia, Spain's northeastern corner, to insurgent-conquered northern and western Spain, and bring a quick end to the civil war.

Military observers believed General Yague's central army and the northern forces moving eastward from Barbastro would concentrate on smothering Government troops defending Lerida while the southern corps pushed east through Gandesa toward Tarragona.

General Francisco Franco moved his staff up to the Lerida front to direct personally the three armies

### Claims Machinery Of Expropriation Working Smoothly

#### Premier Defends Arbitrary Park Act, Pledges Aid In Seed Distribution, Swats Education Reformers And Stresses Sanatorium Needs.

Contention that the Government was not using the arbitrary power placed in its hands by the Legislature in forcing settlements in connection with land expropriated for the National Park, was advanced yesterday by Premier Campbell as a reason for continuing the existing machinery of settlement which specifically withholds rights of appeal to the Courts to the dispossessed landowners. He stated that 69 out of 83 claims had been settled, that most of the other claims were "at some stage of negotiation, and therefore there was no reason to amend the legislation as requested by the petitioners.

Speaking in the Legislature on the Draft Address, the Premier indicated that the Government was planning to assist in facilitating the distribution of seed grain and providing a "credit scheme" for those unable to pay. He made no reference to the Dominion Government's refusal of the Province's request for assistance in seed distribution.

The Premier made a lengthy analysis of the claims of educational reformers for elimination of Latin, French, geometry and algebra from the common school curriculum, and expressed unqualified disapproval of such proposed changes. He stressed the value of the youth training courses to the agricultural and fishing industries and suggested, as a solution, our general educational problem, a return to the old Gram-

### RUMANIAN PARTIES ARE ABOLISHED

#### Decree Issued By New Government Is Effective Today.

BUCHAREST, March 30—(CP)—All political parties in Rumania were abolished tonight in a decree issued by the newly reorganized government of the Patriarch Miron Cristea.

The decree was considered a knockout blow to the Fascist-inclined Iron Guard. The existence of political parties previously had been tolerated but their activity was prohibited.

The new order said party headquarters must be pad-locked tomorrow, though it was stated new laws allowing the creation of organizations with limited political scope would be enacted soon.

Create Crown Council. A second government decree provided for the creation of a permanent Crown Council to be assembled by King Carol as often as he deems necessary for advice in running Rumania's authoritarian system.

The Council appointed by the King would be representative of part and present government officials, the church and the army.

Among the first appointed to the body were the Premier, Dr. Cristea, Liberal Leader George Tatareanu and former Premier Alexander Valdevoed, a Nationalist.

### Tornadoes Cause Death And Havoc In Five States

COLUMBUS, Kas., March 30—(CP)—Devastating tornadoes lashed across five states today and tonight killing at least 19 persons and seriously injuring hundreds.

The storm first tore the tri-state corner of Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri, dipped into northern Arkansas then whipped up the Illinois River Valley of Central Illinois.

Eight persons were killed in this southeast Kansas town of 3,500. A man was killed in Missouri and at least six died in a sandown storm in Illinois. Two twisters killed at least four in Arkansas.

At Jacksonville, Ill., a twister struck its way along the Illinois River Valley and brought death to four persons and injured at least a dozen.

Communication lines in the storm areas were left in a badly crippled state and accurate details of the storms' destruction were difficult to obtain.

Rushville, Astoria and south Pekin in the central and west central sections of Illinois bore the brunt of the Illinois storm.

Two were reported dead at South Pekin.

Several students were injured when a small country school was wrecked by the tornado winds; not far from Mount Sterling, a woman died in Arkansas and a man was killed in Missouri. Doctors called to Columbus from surrounding towns sought frantically to save the lives of half a dozen of the most severely injured.

### DEMANDS FAIR PAYMENT FOR OIL PROPERTIES

#### Hull Issues Statement As Mexican Government Faces Growing Difficulties.

(A.P. by Guardian's Special Wire) WASHINGTON, March 30.—The United States called upon Mexico today to give "fair, assured and effective" compensation for American oil properties expropriated by the Mexican government.

State Secretary Hull issued a statement acknowledging Mexico's right to expropriate the properties, but insisting on full compensation not only for the oil properties but also for some \$800,000 worth of American farm lands seized in recent years.

The value of the oil properties has been estimated unofficially at more than \$400,000,000. Thus Mexico may be called upon to pay something like \$500,000,000 for all the property seized.

SEEK NEW OUTLETS MEXICO CITY, March 30.—Italy, Germany and Japan were pictured in some Italian newspaper today as likely outlets for the production of Mexico's expropriated oil industry.

This solution was advanced as labor and financial complications confronted President Cardenas, who has summoned an "urgent" session of Congress to meet problems arising from his March 18 expropriation of the \$400,000,000 British and United States industry.

The permanent commission of Congress tonight set April 11 for the opening of the session. Preliminary sessions will be held April 11 to name committees to study the recommended legislation.

With the country's purchasing power nearly paralyzed by fluctuation of the peso, United States suspension of silver purchases, and a falling world silver market, it was asserted Mexico might be forced to trade with other nations similarly lacking foreign exchange.

### War Machine Is Ready To Defend Italy's Interests

#### Warns Of Aerial War Menace And Advises People Should Quit Cities Before Too Late To Escape Consequences.

ROME, March 30—(CP)—Premier Mussolini gave a detailed picture of Italy's armed strength today and declared it was ready to take the offensive, if necessary, to defend Italy's interests.

In an address to the senate, widely broadcast, Mussolini described Italy's submarine fleet as the largest in existence, said the nation's air force was among the best and pictured a possible army of 9,000,000 men—all under his own supreme command.

He declared that by arming further, regardless of cost, he intended to "assure general peace but above all our peace."

The primary purpose of the army, he said, was for defence. He added, however, that "defence must not be taken in its limited sense; often the best defence is offence."

"REJECTS ILLUSIONS" Italy wants peace, Mussolini continued, but rejects illusions and with the full force of its national energy thrown into its armed force is ready to defend its interests.

"That which has always counted and still counts among people is their war-making ability," he asserted.

Placing the horrors of civilian bombardment before the Italian people, Duce advised all those who could organize their existence in small towns and villages to move from the cities, warning them that once war began mobilization needs would not permit mass movement.

War Preparation He made it clear his advice was part of his preparation of the whole nation for a possible war.

The senate considered the war budget. Mussolini asked for no increases.

After his speech, the Chamber of Deputies created the new title of "Minister of the Empire" and conferred it upon King Vittorio Emanuele and Mussolini.

Outlining the country's armed strength, Mussolini asserted the largest naval building program in Italy's history would be completed "by 1940 or 1941, or perhaps earlier."

"Italian aviation," he said, "is among the world's best."

"I confirm to the Senate that Italy has the most powerful submarine fleet in the world."

### Relief Bugbear Of Municipal Politics Claim

EDMONTON, March 30—(CP)—From coast to coast in Canada the relief question is in municipal politics.

Mayor Andrew Dawson of Calgary today told the Rowell Commission, if the Dominion took over responsibility for relief, he felt politics would enter less in its administration.

From his own experience as Mayor of Calgary for the last nine years, he said, members of the City Council and the Mayor were under almost constant pressure from the unemployed and as a result they occasionally granted more than they should. This would not be so if the authority was farther removed.

Alberta cities received much less aid than cities in Saskatchewan and British Columbia, the Mayor continued.

He said Calgary had aid most of its relief cost as high as they were by "hooking" the taxpayer. However, he continued, the problem should be lifted entirely from the cities.

### Five Feared Dead In Mimic Battle

(A.P. by Guardian's Special Wire) HONOLULU, March 30.—A United States naval bombing plane crashed at sea today with a probable loss of five lives, lending a note of tragic realism to a mock battle for the control of Hawaii. Flying low in a heavy rain squall, the twin-engine fighter crashed off Waianae, on the northwest side of the Hawaiian group.

Witnesses said the plane struck at tremendous speed. Seven men were aboard. Three of them apparently succeeded in climbing out on a wing of the partially submerged wreck.

### DEBATE USE OF TRAWLERS

#### Nova Scotia Members Argue Issue In House.

(C.P. by Guardian's Special Wire) OTTAWA, March 30.—Last minute argument and counter-argument came in the House of Commons tonight from Nova Scotia members for the benefit of Fisheries Minister Michaud who tomorrow or next day will announce the government's decision on the licensing of steam trawlers in that province.

J. J. Kinley (Lib. Lunenburg-Quebec) spoke for the famous Lunenburg fishing fleet and urged the government to issue no more licenses to steam trawlers. Gordon B. Inoué (Lib. Halifax) spoke for the Maritime National Fish Commission, urging renewal of the licenses.

Hundreds of telegrams have been showered upon both members and the government, arguing for and against the trawlers but no official indication has been given of the government's intention.

The trawler licenses, of which there are three for Nova Scotia tomorrow, Mr. Michaud said tonight the decision on renewal of the licenses would be made tomorrow.

HALIFAX, March 30.—The subject of trawler licenses, now hanging fire in the House of Commons at Ottawa, caused sharp debate

### Probe Mysterious Foreign Station

PARIS, March 30—(AP)—French Government radio experts sought today to identify a mysterious foreign radio station which cuts into Paris broadcasts with propaganda speeches. The station, whose announcer speaks flawless French, has broadcast attacks on Premier Leon Blum and anti-Jewish and pro-Spanish insurgent propaganda during the last four days.

### BITTER BATTLE FOR RAILROAD

#### Chinese Fight Savagely To Consolidate Gains.

SHANGHAI, March 31—(Thursday)—(AP)—Ten miles of a narrow-gauge railroad today became one of the most bitterly-contested battlefields of the Chinese-Japanese war.

A long stretch of the railroad, which leads from Lincheng to the north-south Tientsin-Pukow line to Tientsin, only 30 miles north of the important east-west Lunghai Railway, some 500,000 Chinese fought savagely to hold a recently-gained advantage.

Japanese dispatches admitted that three months' drive against the Lunghai area separating conquered portions of north and Central China had met "stiff resistance."

Tientsin village itself was being ground to pieces by Japanese artillery and aviation attacks. Chinese said that in one raid alone, Japanese, seeking to open a way to suchow, eastern Lung hai junction point, dropped 200 bombs.

Farther west, Chinese admitted they retreated from Chanchwang, at the junction of the Grand Canal and the Tientsin-Pukow. Behind the lines, however, Chinese asserted their guerrilla detachments recaptured Tientsin on the Tientsin-Pukow railway 30 miles south of Tsinan, Shantung Province capital.

### Prepared To Defend Maine Interests

AUGUSTA, Me., March 30—(AP)—Governor Lewis C. Bowdoin today was prepared to personally defend Maine fishermen in Washington next week against proposals to reduce tariffs on imported fish.

The Governor said he had received showing the lifting of these proposals a large number of our fishermen and dealers out of business.

"Canadian fish," he said, "offers the most acute problem."

He said he had received signed affidavits showing Canadian fishermen had received government subsidies of 20 cents a hundred for hake and two cents each for pollock over the market price.

### Howe States Ports Will Not Suffer

MONTREAL, March 30—New tariff of warfare and other harbor tolls proposed for eastern ports will not have a detrimental effect on traffic through Montreal, Transport Minister Howe has advised the Montreal Board of Trade, it was announced at a council meeting today.

The Minister has offered to meet board representatives to discuss the matter.

### MUST PRODUCE RADIO LICENSE

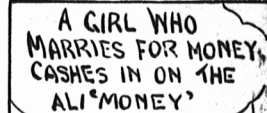
#### New Regulations Go Into Effect Friday.

(C. P. by Guardian's Special Wire) OTTAWA, March 30.—Effective Friday purchasers of radio sets will be required to produce or buy a license before dealers may deliver their purchases, according to an order of the transport department proclaimed today in an extra issue of the Canada Gazette.

The order makes it an offense for a person to install or operate more than one set in his home without obtaining extra licenses. It makes it unlawful to operate a set that emits radiations interfering with reception of other set owners.

Dealers and service men are prohibited from servicing or repairing sets unless the owners can produce licenses entitling them to operate the sets.

The order directs every receiving set before it leaves the factory shall have posted conspicuously on it a notice drawing attention to the fact it cannot be bought legally by anyone not in possession of license.



### Senate Approves U.S. Naval Program

WASHINGTON, March 30.—The United States Senate approved today a record peace-time naval appropriation of \$549,227,842 for the next fiscal year.

### France Moves To Bolster Defences

PARIS, March 30.—Parliamentary committees today approved measures to reinforce France's defences amid increasing possibility Premier Blum's Cabinet might soon be overthrown.

While Blum worked amid growing parliamentary opposition to strengthen the nation's finances, the Chamber of Deputies defence committee approved a bill to authorize construction of two battle-cruiser, seven submarines and a number of auxiliary vessels.

The Senate army, navy and air committees meeting in secret session sent reports to national defence ministers urging immediate reinforcement of armed forces.

### Investigate Canadian Cancer Serum Following U. S. Deaths

ORLANDO, Fla., March 30—(CP)—An international investigation of a serum manufactured in Canada for treatment of cancer was under way tonight following the deaths here of six women who submitted to injections of the serum in the hope of prolonging life.

Tetanus, or lockjaw, took their lives. Five other women who received injections of the drug, believed to have become contaminated were in hospital with serious cases of tetanus.

Physicians who advanced the "contamination" theory said the 11 women were treated from one bottle of "Ensol," which Dr. Hendry Connell of Kingston, Ont., has been manufacturing since 1935 as a treatment for cancer. The Orlando doctors expressed fear other patients also had been treated with drug from the same bottle, but they could not determine how many.

At the Orange County Medical Association, State Board of Health, American Medical Association and Federal Food and Drug Administration joined in an inquiry in Canada. Dr. Connell's Ensol laboratory would be examined by Federal Department of Health officials.

Plans to hold an autopsy tonight were balked when Coroner Duckworth had already embalmed the six bodies. Duckworth said he had instructed the hospitals to hold the bodies of any other victims if there should be additional deaths.

The coroner's jury viewed the bodies and recessed its investigation.

### Try Salada Orange Pekoe Blend

"SALADA" TEA

### Dalhousie Man Held While Girl Lies Seriously Injured

DALHOUSIE, N. B., March 30—(CP)—Met Harris, 20, was in a critical condition tonight with a head wound apparently inflicted by means of a hammer, and Robert Barbour, 24, was under arrest without charge.

Summoned to Barbour's home late this afternoon, Dr. Calixte Doucet found the girl unconscious from a severe skull fracture. A stained hammer lay nearby. The girl was rushed to hospital at Campbellton, where she remained unconscious tonight and was not expected to live.

Before the doctor arrived Barbour went to the office of Sheriff M. J. B. Legere. The Sheriff's brother, Napoleon, was alone in the office at the time and said later that Barbour made a statement to him about the affair. The young man was immediately placed under arrest and confined to a cell adjoining the Sheriff's office.

Barbour had been living alone at his home while his mother, was visiting her daughters at Boston. He was known to have "gone out" with Miss Harris on several occasions.

The girl attended a party last evening and shortly after four o'clock this afternoon was called to the Barbour home next to her own residence, it was said. Her mother, Mrs. John Harris, and a sister were with her when Dr. Doucet arrived.

Miss Harris is popular among the younger people of Dalhousie. Barbour, known as quiet natured, has been working part time at a paper company here.

### AUTHORS TO MEET

OTTAWA.—The annual convention of the Canadian Authors Association will be held here June 13-15.

### Stresses Armed Force

His goal since he came to power in 1923, he said, had been "to make the armed force of the nation always more efficient and always more feared."

"Italy is today practically the only country which has had experience of modern warfare," Mussolini said. Whoever would dare strike a blow at Italy's rights and interests, "will meet in the skies, on land and on the sea, the resolute counter-blow of a people entirely in arms."

Mussolini scouted as "ridiculous" a campaign carried on "beyond the Alps" to the effect the Ethiopian campaign, formation of two army corps in Libya, and participation of Italian volunteers in the Spanish civil war had weakened the country.

TORONTO, March 30—(CP)—Minimum and maximum temperatures:

Dawson	65	26
Victoria	34	56
Edmonton	26	26
Regina	22	22
Winnipeg	28	30
Toronto	30	66
Ottawa	34	48
Montreal	32	48
Quebec	32	38
Saint John	28	48
Halifax	22	38
Charlottetown	20	38

FORECASTS

Maritime east: moderate to fresh southerly winds; fair and a little milder, followed by showers at night.

High tide this morning at 10.30 and tonight at 10.56. Low tide this afternoon at 6.25 and rises tomorrow morning at 5.42.

New Moon March 31st. 2.52 P.M. Summer-time 18 minutes later than Charlottetown.

THE CAR FERRY

Leaves Borden 9.45 a. m. 1 p. m. Leaves Tormentine 11 a. m. 2.55 p. m.