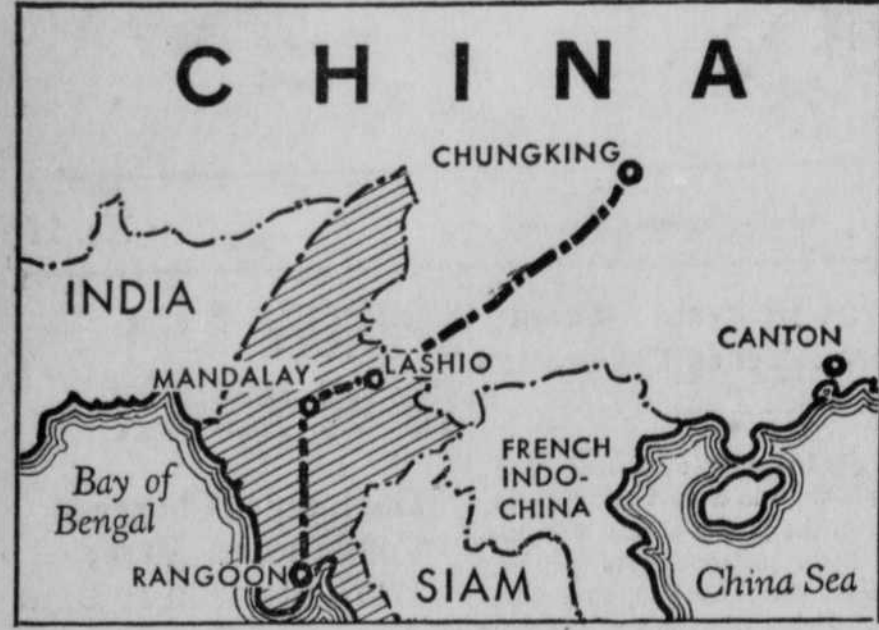


## Burma, Important British Colony, Provides 'Back Door' to China



"BACK DOOR" OPEN. Map shows the route of the recently completed highway running from Rangoon, Burma, to Chungking, capital of war-torn China. Because many of China's eastern seaports are blockaded by the Japanese this route has become an important life line for the forces of Chiang Kai-Shek.

### Recently Completed Highway Used for Shipping War Supplies.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

Burma, where demands for independence are reported to be growing steadily more insistent, is an important link in the British Empire chain.

East of India, Burma touches on the north the border of Tibet; on the east that of China proper, French Indo-China, and Siam. With fingers of land thrust into the Bay of Bengal, Burma stretches south far down the west coast of the Malay peninsula, to share with Siam the narrow and strategic land bar to the China sea which culminates in the Malay States and England's naval base of Singapore.

From Burma runs the recently completed highway that is China's vital back door entrance for supplies, now that many of her eastern ports are closed by Japanese occupation. Connecting Rangoon—halfway down the long coast of Burma—with the Chinese provisional capital of Chungking, in the heart of that war-torn country, this route covers in all more than 2,000 miles, twisting a tortuous motor path over China's high western plateaus, dipping deep into rugged gorges and rising high over mountain passes.

**Burma Route by Rail.**  
The Burma section of the route, about one-third of the entire distance to Chungking, is mostly by rail, which provides communication between Rangoon and Lashio, near the western border of China. On the way the railway passes the town of Mandalay, of Kipling romance.

Through Rangoon, as capital and chief port of Burma, flows most of the country's foreign trade, now reported to include incoming trucks, gasoline, machinery, and munitions destined for the Burma-China road as a result of the war in China. Altogether, Burma's import-export business was estimated for the last fiscal year at more than \$278,000,000.

Rangoon, accessible to river navigation 900 miles inland, is also known in the international transport field for its excellent airport, where three major lines converge. So many 'round-the-world' aviators and air-minded travelers come this way that it has been predicted that Rangoon will become to the air lanes what Singapore is to sea lanes—a "crossroads of the East."

Burma is strictly agricultural country with rich soil and plenty of rainfall. It is more fortunate than many of its oriental neighbors; for with little more than 14½ million people to support in an area of about 261,610 square miles, there is an adequate food supply of the East's chief staple—rice. More than two-thirds of all cultivated land in Burma is devoted to rice production, which provides a large exportable surplus sent not only to populous India and other Far Eastern countries but also to Europe.

A largely one-crop economy, however (of secondary importance are other products such as peanuts, cotton, millet, sesame seeds), presents problems of its own. There is need for new industries to provide more diversity and help solve the unemployment problem. Of Burma's millions, less than 90,000 now are employed in industry.

After farming, the famous teak industry is Burma's next best means of livelihood.

**Without Caste System.**  
The Burmese have developed into a group different from either Indian or Chinese, yet with traces of the influence of both. They are without the caste system and their women go unveiled. Although their main religion came from India, their dialects are related to those of the Indo-Chinese. Most travelers agree that the people of Burma are easier to understand than other Orientals; for while their manners are those of the East, they have also a frankness and direct sense of humor akin to that of the Westerner.

Yet despite geographic, racial and other differences that set it apart from India, politically Burma was divorced from the larger country

only two years ago. Today this country, as a crown colony of Great Britain, has its own senate and house of representatives, although the legislation of these bodies is subject to veto by the English governor who also controls national defense and foreign relations.

### Odd Regulations Give Protection To Auto Driver

#### Traffic Safety Rules Vary On Highways of Foreign Nations.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

While many traffic safety regulations are similar the world over, some countries have evolved unusual and even comic measures for the safety of their people. Though comic many of these rules are none the less effective.

In England there is no speed limit on highways except in the congested areas. In Bucharest authorities have recently instituted a drive for pedestrian control. A special court has been set up to try offenders. This safety regulation has been successfully used in other European and American cities.

The traffic board of Calcutta not long ago passed a rule banning a



**NOISELESS COP.** You can't blow your automobile horn in Rome, and the traffic cops don't have any whistles, but they stand on a pedestal in the middle of the street. So the old excuse about not having seen them doesn't go at all in traffic court.

dios or phonographs in automobiles as distractions to motorists and therefore traffic hazards. Officials of Riga, capital of Latvia, quieted traffic by prohibiting the unnecessary tooting of horns and ordering that all milk cans be silenced by wrapping them in sacks or straw. Americans visiting large European cities often are amazed by the lack of traffic noise due to such "non-tooting" regulations.

Several countries have adopted the use of posters as a means of reducing accidents. In Sweden posters are used to combat jaywalking. One Swedish sign warning pedestrians against jaywalking shows a hen scuttling precariously across a busy street. The sign reads: "Don't be a Laura!"

Flashing red and green signals are the usual world-wide traffic symbols denoting stop and go. However, there are found many and amusing variations in style and color. In Lisbon, on narrow streets, policemen hold up paddles painted red on one side and green on the other. In Singapore the traffic "cops" have a long horizontal, white board attached to their backs. To regulate traffic, the policemen turn not a light, but themselves!

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by CARTER FIELD

*The temper of the people of the United States is decidedly against participation of any kind in a European war . . . Conditions vastly different from those at the time of the World war . . . "Big business" confers on plan to bring about a big boom in business between now and January in hopes of refuting Roosevelt's dire predictions.*

WASHINGTON.—The greatest difference of opinion about any one important question in this country today is whether the United States can keep out of war in Europe. There is no doubt about the temper of the country. If a referendum could be held tomorrow, nearly all astute politicians believe it would go overwhelmingly for remaining neutral—or, as most people put it, minding our own business.

Moreover, there is no such element in this country today as there was immediately after the invasion of Belgium in 1914, which kept increasing until, in 1915, when the Lusitania was sunk, it reached a formidable crest.

On the other hand, there is no such division of sentiment in this country as there was from 1914 to 1917. In many states the German population openly sympathized at that time with the central powers, particularly in the upper Mississippi valley, which, as one old political leader remarked at the time, is more Teutonic than Anglo-Saxon. Minnesota, for instance, contrary to the belief of most Easterners and Southerners, has more Germans than Swedes, more Germans than Norwegians, though of course if the Scandinavians are considered as one racial group, they outnumber the Germans. Wisconsin, Nebraska and Missouri, not to mention Illinois, have huge German populations.

But today there is not much sympathy for Hitler among these German segments of our population which were so fervently pro-German in 1914-1917. Most of them still love Germany, but they do not like Hitler. There are plenty of exceptions, of course, as becomes apparent when one starts to canvass the situation, but it is very obvious that instead of the German-Americans being a solid pro-Hitler bloc they would show a substantial majority against him. Most German-Americans today would be pleased at the news of a political turnover in Germany, which would throw Hitler and the Nazis out of power. Most of them would even prefer the return of the Hohenzollerns to continuance of the present regime.

**Neutrality Laws Would Not Keep Us Out of War**  
All of which is cited to show that this country does not have to travel as far now in order to reach the point where it would plunge into the war on the side of Britain and France as it did in 1914-1917. Yet, although President Wilson was re-elected in November, 1916, on a "kept us out of war" issue, the country was in the war just five months later. So it may be wiser to be conservative in assumptions as to this country's remaining out of war in Europe.

Very few people think that the present neutrality laws, or for that matter any variation of them which anyone has suggested, would keep this country out of the war. As a matter of fact, the present law is very much misnamed. It provides against the shipment of "arms, ammunition and the implements of war" to belligerents. Yet it has never been applied to the present conflict between Japan and China.

The answer is simple. The administration believes that to recognize that a state of war exists and consequently to impose an embargo would benefit not China but Japan. The government at Washington sympathizes, quite openly, with China, not Japan, as the Nipponese are wrathfully aware. So it ignores the spirit of the law, though observing the letter. Nobody kicks much, because the whole country is almost a unit in sympathizing with China.

There is no doubt that the sympathies of the administration will be even more strongly and actively on the side of Britain and France against Germany. Hitler will know that.

#### Plan Boom in Business to Refute F. D. R.'s Predictions

Half a dozen conferences of men whom the New Dealers would call "big business" have been held in the last few days on an agenda looking to a sharp revival of business between now and January, when congress meets again.

It would be little short of a miracle if anything came of the conferences. If business revives and employment increases, it will not be the result of them. Despite the pet theory of certain radicals, business is not such a cohesive unit in its operations. As a matter of fact no big corporation, even acting alone, is ever inspired by political motives in deciding on an enlargement or curtailment of its operations.

When business expands it is always for one reason, and only one. The same is true when it contracts. There is never any doubt about the motive, whether it be based on sound or poor judgment. The motive is always profit. When business sees a chance to make a profit it expands. When it fears losses if it continues the present scale of operations, it contracts. It may make a mistake in either direction, but there is never any question about why it was done.

#### New Dealers Needn't Worry; Nothing Will Come of It

So while gentlemen with imposing names really have been conferring on this question of a manufactured boom in order to thwart the President, no New Dealer need be worried. Nothing will come of it. If the management of any particular corporation decides that by expanding it can make another 20 cents on each share during the next six months, that corporation will expand its operations. If it figures that it will lose money by continuing the present rate of production, it will begin laying off men.

One of the few exceptions in history happened in the early days of the Hoover depression, in the spring of 1930, when President Hoover induced a number of railroad and big business executives to continue just as they were going, when all the executives wanted to cut down.

But that exception only made the "rule of profit" motive surer because of what happened then. Every corporation that took Mr. Hoover's advice on that occasion suffered terribly as a result. Mr. Hoover will always believe that what he induced these big employers to do softened the blow—cushioned the decline. But no business man wants to offer his own surplus to be used as a cushion.

#### Predict Real Market Boom Following Outbreak of War

New York stock market gyrations perplex most outsiders, and the perplexity increases if one attempts to get an explanation from shrewd market operators.

Never was this more forcibly demonstrated than by what the market has been undergoing in the face of repeated war scares. Every time there is a scare the market dips. Sometimes it almost crashes. Experts agree that when war really breaks out in Europe there will be a real crash.

But the same operators will tell you that not very long thereafter there will be a real boom in the market, with a crop of "war babies" not unlike those of 1915, though the names of the companies may be different.

Moreover, the same shrewd operators will tell you that the rise of these war babies will merely be a wave on top of a tide, which will sweep the prices of most sound corporations upward. The tide will be the inevitable result, they say, of business conditions in the United States which will be brought about by the war in Europe. Almost regardless of any details with regard to what nations join in the conflict.

Their logic is something like this. The United States will be the only country in the world capable of exporting many needed products in any quantities. This goes especially of course for manufactured goods, rather than raw materials, though the demand even for some raw materials will be prodigious.

#### See Increased Demand for All Kinds of Supplies

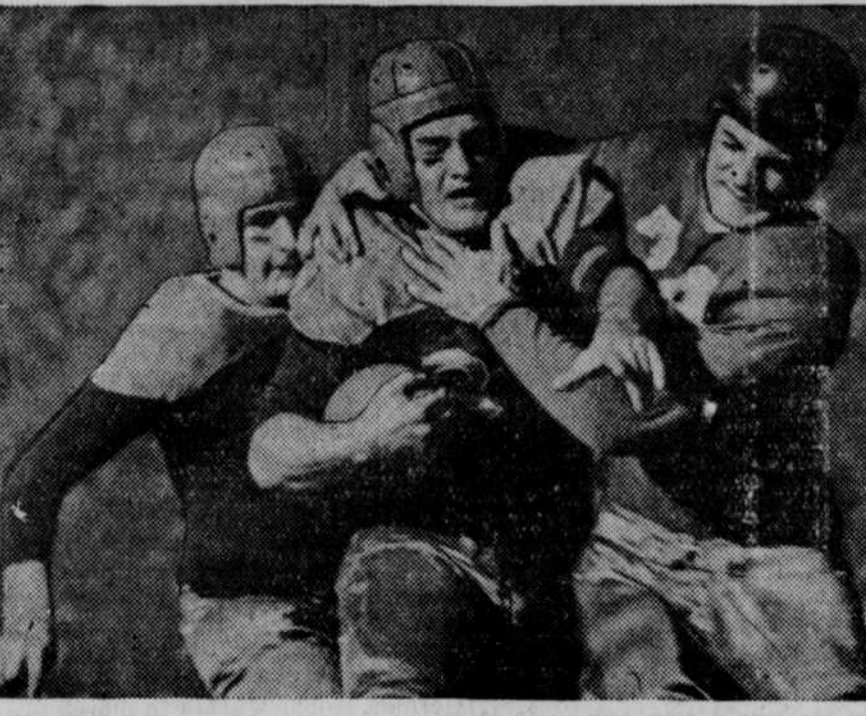
As a result of this certain spurt in manufacturing, there will be increased demand for electrical energy, for coal, for all sorts of things necessary to the manufacturing processes. This will spell enormously increased buying power on the part of a very large percentage of the whole population, including coal miners, oil workers, textile workers—everyone who participates in the production of materials not only by the factories which do the exporting, but those which supply them.

With so many lines busy, of course, the buying power of all these employees will in turn spread the prosperity into lines having no connection with the supplying of export trade materials. In short, the country will have a huge boom, very much like the one it began to enjoy in 1915 as a result of the World war.

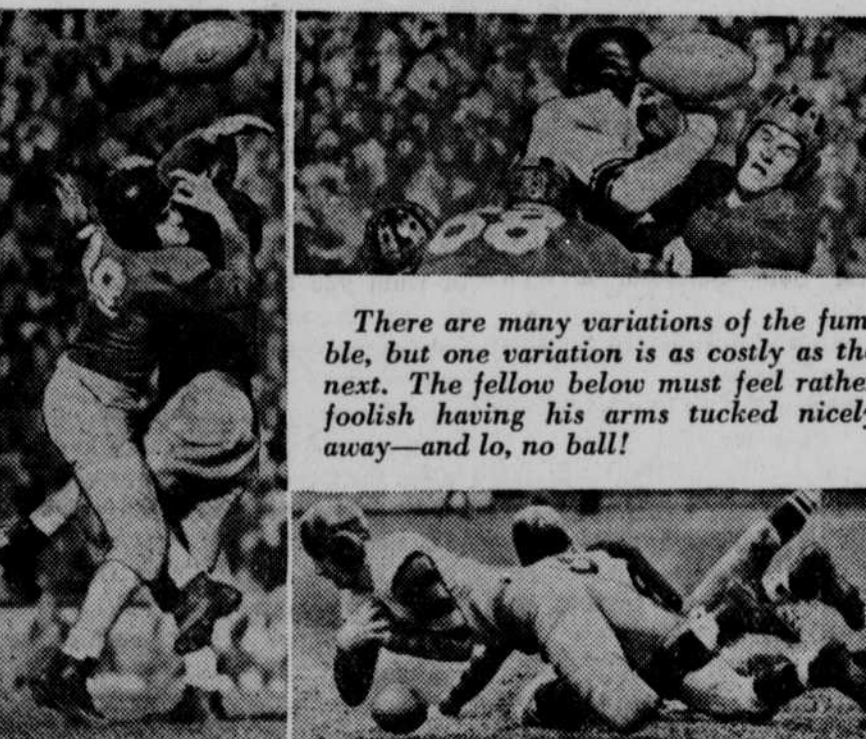
Moreover, the world demand for all sorts of United States products will be much greater than it was then because of one important change in the world situation. During the World war, the other big manufacturing country that profited enormously was Japan. It is true that Japan was on the Allies' side during the World war, but actually it did very little fighting. After its successful raid on Shantung and the German-owned islands in the Pacific, Japan virtually forgot about the war, settling down to making goods and selling them at a profit to the Allies and the rest of the world.

This time Japan will not be able to take advantage of the same opportunity, whether or not she joins with Germany and Italy in the war. (Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

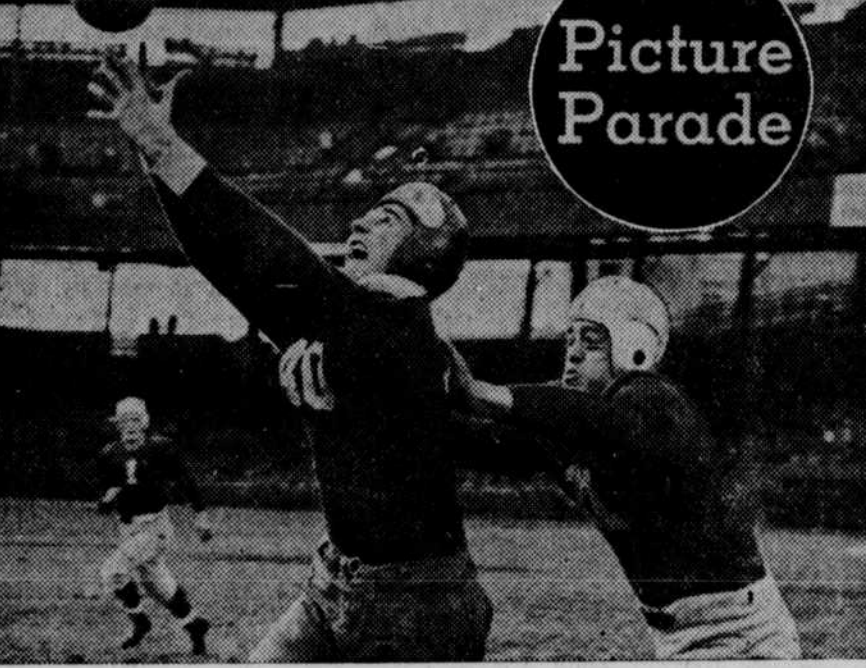
## AUTUMN SPORTS Football Is Serious Business But Here's the Funny Side



Each autumn, at risk of smashing their cameras, sports photographers get a classic assortment of pictures from the gridiron. They catch beautiful action plays, freak accidents, fumbles, penalty plays and quite a bit of rough stuff generally. The above pose, for example, is not one of endearment. Jack Williams of Santa Clara is merely using a high tackle to down St. Mary's giant, Mike Klotovich. Jack is probably saying, "Beg your pardon, Mike." And Mike answers, "Not at all, Jack" . . . maybe, but we doubt it.



There are many variations of the fumble, but one variation is as costly as the next. The fellow below must feel rather foolish having his arms tucked nicely away—and lo, no ball!



I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll shove—and blow your ballplayer down. This is one way to break up a passing attack, but don't try it while the referee's watching. The trick, preserved for posterity by your photographer, cost Georgetown a neat 15-yard penalty in its game with Hampden-Sidney last autumn. Yes, Sylvia, it's against the rules. But Georgetown won 51 to 0, anyway.



To prove football's a rough game: Left: This chap just collided head-on with a brick wall of the grandstand and is being carried off the field with severe head lacerations and a fractured wrist. No, Camelia, we don't know why he did it.



This New York Giant is soaring through air. His name: Hank Soar!

## WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By LEMUEL F. PARTON

NEW YORK.—On his record, it would appear that Gen. Edward Smigly-Rydz, Poland's strong man, might be more inclined to fight Germany without Russia's aid than with it. He made his career fighting the Bolsheviks, and news dispatches of the last few weeks have hinted that he has been considerably embarrassed at being drawn into the new apparently broken fellowship with Russia. It has been clear that being saved by Russia was the least and last of his ideas.

He is beyond doubt the ablest of Poland's military leaders, and, once the bell rings, there is no question that he can and will fight, as he proved in the campaigns to free Poland and in his forays against early-day Bolshevik Russia.

He never has quite come through as a dictator. In 1936 there was one of those "ideological" build-ups in which he was to emerge as the head of reconstructed Poland. Handsome and imposing, of dominant bearing, he looked the part, but he couldn't seem to manage the big talk necessary for the job. The best they could get out of him was something to the general effect that nobody would ever be allowed to take a single button from Poland's robe.

On August 6 of this year, when it appeared that Germany might just take the robe and leave the button, he was expected to make a sizzling speech at Cracow. His audience was howling for a knockout punch, but the speech was mostly shadow-boxing, with nothing specific about what he proposed to do about Danzig.

Fifty-four years old, with an engaging personality, he has been a popular dinner guest and holds the honorary presidency of the Polish academy of letters. The old Marshal Joseph Pilsudski, nearing the end of his life, anointed the general as his successor. He has been supremely efficient in his army job, but, as a strong man, has been somewhat overshadowed by the showier, more facile and adroit Josef Beck, the foreign minister. But fighting is his main business and knowing observers figure that, talking little, he is more apt to fight.

A MICHIGAN friend of this writer reports that Gov. Luren D. Dickinson's war on sin may turn out to be good political medicine out there.

#### War on Sin May Be Very Cute Politics

While big-town political leaders are said to be somewhat embarrassed by the aged governor's alarmed discovery of wickedness in high places, the word is that his forces have been entrenched and widened since he let loose about the drinking and dancing orgies of the Albany conference of governors. His Bible class at Eaton, Mich., is crowded to the doors and he is besieged with requests for lectures and participation in revival campaigns. Currently he tells a gathering of Chicago and Detroit "pupils" that this Albany conference was pretty much like Belshazzar's feast and that our Babylonian wasters will drag us down if we don't mend our ways.

For 25 years, Mr. Dickinson has held in fee simple the anti-sin vote of Michigan. It has held steadily around 200,000 votes, undivided in its allegiance in his repeated forays against evil, chief of which has been his still continuing prohibition battle. He is a spare, bald evangel of righteousness, his friendly eyes glinting behind his octagonal rimmed glasses when he is aroused, his meager frame shaken with pietistic fervor. He employs much of the lexicon of the late Dr. Parkhurst of New York, in assailing sin, and some of his philippics seem to voice again the pious horror of the author of "New York by Gaslight," written 60 years ago.

He is a native of New York, born near Lockport in Niagara county. His parents removed to Eaton, Mich., when he was a small boy. There he still lives, happily engaged with his Methodist church Bible class, and, more recently, with the state of Michigan and, unhappily for his peace of mind, in a bout with evil which he never knew existed before.

Shays' rebellion of 1786 jolted the big-town politicians with a realization of what a mixture of agrarian discontent and old-time religion may amount to. In Governor Dickinson's compact voting phalanx, things are something like that. His allied conservative Republican organization appreciates all this. (Consolidated Features—WNU Service.)