

## Prof of the week

We had better keep our powder dry—Van Royen



DAILY NEBRASKAN staff photo.

By Bob Aldrich.

With his relatives and friends in the direct line of fire of the Nazi war machine, Prof. William Van Royen, assistant professor of geography, is watching with more than the usual attention happenings in The Netherlands. Born in Utrecht, Holland, about the size of Lincoln, Dr. Van Royen is thoroughly familiar with the effect of European wars on small nations. As a youth during the first World War he heard the rumble of German big guns across the French border.

Hitler's collection of highly industrial nations may be, in the final analysis, the dictator's downfall rather than his triumph in Dr. Van Royen's opinion. What Germany needs, he says, is increased agricultural resources and the countries which have fallen to Nazi rule are mainly industrial with dense populations. That means more mouths to feed, more industry—of which Germany already has too much—and the necessity of looking around for still further conquest to supply food needs.

Where Germany will look, Dr. Van Royen doesn't know but he thinks many Americans are living in a "fool's paradise" when they laugh at possibility of German conquest on this continent. "Perhaps they will have to turn either to South America or Africa," he says.

### Save our wind.

But we "might as well spare ourselves the wind it takes to talk about it," he remarks. "Nothing we can say will make the slightest difference with what goes on over there. However Rauschnigg may be right in his book when he says Hitler plans to conquer the world. At least, we had better keep our powder dry."

Pointing to a huge map of The Netherlands on his office wall, speaking with his slight Dutch accent, Dr. Van Royen explained the defense situation. "Many people have a mistaken idea about flooding Holland. Only the southeastern area is low enough to be flooded. There are also water defenses farther north. But here"—he pointed to the greater part of the country bordering Germany—"there is practically no defense except for the armies." (Lack of resistance in this sector has born Dr. Van Royen's statement out.)

He is not surprised at the turn of events. "For the last eight years I have been telling my classes the blowup is due. I was in Europe in '38 and it looked bad then. I left just before Czechoslovakia was taken over. Last Christmas I was at The Netherlands legation in Washington. I was so sure it was going to happen but they didn't think that it would come. They thought they would at least have time to get some children out."

After attending the university at Utrecht, Van Royen took two years of graduate study in geography at Clark university in Worcester, Mass. Before Nebraska he was connected with The Netherlands chamber of commerce in

New York for a couple of years. He came to Nebraska in 1930. It was his first experience in teaching.

### Little chance for Dutch.

He speculates on Holland's chances. "The Finns at least had their forests in which to retreat. In Norway they have mountains for some protection. But the only way to find shelter in Holland is to stick your head in the North sea. In other words, there isn't any."

Disregard the northern projection of Holland, stick 80 million people into Nebraska, and you have a fair idea of density of population there. In some places it is comparable to China. To make matters worse, there is very little rock with which to build bombshelters and concrete ones are not nearly so good.

He used to live ten miles from the Kaiser's retreat but never saw the exiled ruler. "I saw his second wife," he recalls. He says the Dutch tolerated the Kaiser but never welcomed him. In fact, feeling between Dutch and Germans has never been warm.

As far as foreigners attempting to wreck America from within, Dr. Van Royen thinks "the communists are pickers in comparison to the Nazis. The Dies committee should be more concerned about Nazis stirring up trouble in America and less about communists who are a small minority."

Taking a moment in the midst of concern with Europe to talk of himself, Dr. Van Royen admits to authorship of some 14 books and articles and a host of breifer items and reviews on geography. "We annoy our students with this," he says, referring to a bulky copy of Fundamentals of Economic Geography done in collaboration with Prof. Nels A. Bergston.

He despairs at the hatreds existing between nearly all European nations. He found an example of Italian dislike of France once in Italy when, inquiring directions, he spoke in his college French. "I could feel the temperature in that room go down to zero." A by-stander explained in Italian—which Van Royen can understand but does not speak well—that it was obviously the French of a foreigner who had learned it in school. "Then they became very friendly," he says.

### Il Duce imitates.

Mussolini had a hard time working up a case against the Jews. Il Duce imitates Hitler in

## YMCA advisory board to elect six new members

Six vacancies on the YMCA advisory board will be filled at a meeting of the city campus cabinet May 21. Two faculty members and two professional or business men will be elected to the board, while the ag campus cabinet will also choose two members from the ag faculty.

A summary of the year's activity will be made, and a plan for contacting freshmen next fall will be discussed.

The advisory board, to be chosen May 21, will elect officers May 25, and consider the budget request to be presented to the Community Chest. Robert Howard and Elton Newman will give reports of Y activities during the year.

## 'Model T of aviation'...

## Pursuit ship rests in cellar of mechanical engineering

By Ralph S. Combs.

With the importance of modern aviation in warfare being stressed day after day, we marveled at the flimsiness, the wobbliness, the un-stableness of the ancient relic of a plane used by the army in flying days of the past—an old single-seat, V-type eight cylinder motor pursuit ship—in the basement of mechanical engineering building.

This "model T" of aviation was given to the mechanical engineering department by the army. The

army stipulated when they gave the plane, that it must not be flown (as if it could be). And so today, it rests in the cellar alongside half a ruined army training plane, and amid propellers, motors, instruments and souvenirs of ancient aviation.

### We marveled.

We looked at this plane today. And we marveled. Compared with war planes in use today in nearly every civilized nation, this archaic ship with its salt-cooled exhaust valves and its approximately 24-foot wingspread is a baby. We looked in wonderment at this ramshackle crate (they were called crates in those days). We stared and wondered how pilots of the last World War managed to keep them in the air, let alone try and fight an enemy ship.

The Curtiss-built plane with an Hispano-Souza engine has a wingspread of 24 feet; its gasoline tank holds 31 gallons, with a five gallon reserve; its motor was water-cooled; an intake valve just above the propeller shaft provided the air-power to work the supercharging mechanism. Truly, it was a pioneer.

### Hard life.

The fabric was torn. On the wings, on the fuselage, on the tail-assembly, dust and holes and rips were evidence of a hard life. The story of a life of wear and service and hardships were related by these marks. We couldn't find any bullet-holes. Perhaps there had been some. If there had been, they must have been patched. Perhaps no enemy slugs had ever ripped their way thru this particular plane now buried in the basement of M E building.

Tires were gone. The bare wheel-rims rested on the concrete floor. The rubber must have rotted and fallen away. The tires, when they had been on the wheels, were probably solid-rubber, and did not do much to ease the jolt of a landing.

### Rust eats.

The engine-hood was gone. The cylinders, the spark-plugs, the entrails of the battered motor were exposed. Rust had grown on the metal of the motor. Rust had eaten where oil no longer protected. The motor, even in its best days, had been none too good when compared with the motors of today's planes. When compared with the mighty, multi-horsepowered motors of the fighting planes of Hitler, of Stalin, of Churchill, of Reynaud, of Uncle Sam this motor was about as powerful as the engine that runs a washing machine. Top speed for an old plane like this was about 100 miles per hour, but they seldom flew faster than about 85, except when in a power-dive.

## Reich produces 80 percent of country's foodstuff needs

By Mary Bell Haumont.

In spite of Germany's efforts since 1934 to achieve national self-sufficiency in foodstuffs, she produced only about 80 percent of her total requirements in 1938, which was the same proportion she produced from 1909 to 1914. Although nearly complete self-sufficiency has been reached in the supply of sugar, potatoes, bread grains, cabbage, carrots, plums, and cherries, the German production of meat, edible fats, and oils remains far behind normal requirements.

### Populace undernourished.

According to official German statistics of 1937 and later developments, Germany entered the present war with a large proportion of its population already inadequately nourished. This fact alone probably will not cause much trouble during the first year of the war but Germany's staying power and the health of those not receiving special rations may be seriously endangered in a longer war. Patriotic Germans may feel noble sending an important part of each day's rations to their soldiers at the front for a while, but hungry people sometimes forget to be noble.

Conquest of other European

countries won't help much, either, because the acreage for all winter and spring grains is much below normal over much of Europe and parts of Russia. Reasons for the decrease are the severe winter, a late spring with serious floods, and mobilization. Floods were unusually severe in the Danube basin, and field work had barely begun by mid-April. The Danube countries probably will plant a large acreage to corn and other late crops.

### Official reports.

In Russia, only 5 percent of the total plan had been seeded by April 10, according to official reports. This is apt to be serious for both Germany and Russia if they would decide to join forces against Sweden or the Balkan states, for Russia would need her field workers for soldiers, and Germany would need Russian grain. In France, Belgium, and Holland, a reduction in winter grains has not been made up for by spring seedings because of the late spring and a labor shortage due to mobilization. Newly-captured Denmark also reported that her grain crop probably will be below normal, because of the severe winter.

## American...

## Collegians think government should give medical aid

By Student Opinion Surveys  
AUSTIN, Tex., May 17.—A great majority of American college students, 83 per cent, is of the opinion that the government should provide medical care for those people who cannot afford it themselves.

That is what interviewers for the Student Opinion Surveys of America from one end of the country to the other discovered in this week's scientific poll of college attitudes.

The survey points to a uniformity of opinion in every section of the country, but there is a slight difference between two classes of students, working and non-working. Those who earn all or part of their college expenses, and who therefore belong in a lower-income group, are more inclined to believe that medical insurance is a function on the question asked:

Do you believe the government should be responsible for providing medical care for people who are unable to pay for it?

Working Non-  
All Students working

everything. Germans look down on Italians and visa versa.

America? "We are the richest nation in the world. We have the majority of the world's supply of coal, iron, oil. We have most of the gold and we had better keep an eye on the safe."

"We are dependent upon the Dutch East Indies for our rubber supply. The average person doesn't realize how much we need rubber in industry. Also, most of our tin comes from there. If Japan takes these from England, what will we do? There is no use burying our heads in the sand over these matters."

Yes	83%	85%	81%
No	13	11	15
No opinion	4	4	4

Frowned upon by the American Medical association, the idea has often come up, especially since the new deal and its relief and social security agencies have come into existence.

Among the general public the feeling has been almost identical as among students, for the American Institute of Public Opinion, even as far back as June, 1938, found 81 per cent answering yes to the same question above.

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