

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Davis Warns Japan Against Scrapping Naval Treaty—Peaceful Agreement for Saar Plebiscite—Moley and Richberg to Industrialists.

By **EDWARD W. PICKARD**

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N. H. Davis

NORMAN H. DAVIS, American ambassador-at-large and our chief representative in the naval limitation conversations that have been going on in London, has given plain warning to Japan that if that nation insists on scrapping the Washington naval treaty, security will be endangered, suspicion created and the world forced into a costly naval construction race. Mr. Davis was addressing the American Correspondents' association in London, but his words were meant for all the world to hear, and as his speech was the first comprehensive statement of the American position since the opening of the conversations, it was regarded as of the greatest importance. He also announced, for the first time, that President Roosevelt has proposed "a substantial all-around reduction in naval armaments."

Mr. Davis said that, since no agreement for armament reduction has been reached, the United States advocates the continuance of the Washington and London treaties with their assurance of "equality of security." Asserting that the Washington pact put an end to a ruinous naval race and established "a sound basis for peace in the Pacific and the Far East," he continued:

"Only by maintenance of the system of equality of security, with proportionate reductions downward of naval strength if possible, can there be maintained the substantial foundation for security and peace which has thus been laid."

"Abandonment now of the principles involved would lead to conditions of insecurity, of international suspicion, and of costly competition, with no real advantage to any nation."

Unofficially, it is said that when Japan gives formal notice that she is denouncing the Washington treaty, probably on December 20, the United States will immediately withdraw from the discussions in London. Officials in Washington consider that to continue the conversations would be tantamount to acquiescence to Japan's demand for modification of the ratios on which the treaty is based.

No more than any other nation does the United States wish to see the revival of the race in naval construction, but the government will not tolerate the decline of our navy to a subordinate place. Recent utterances of cabinet members and of congressmen who especially have to do with naval affairs make this plain.

In his annual report to the President, Secretary of the Navy Swanson says that although the United States may reduce its naval strength proportionately with other powers, it is imperative that a navy second to none be maintained. He warns also of the dangerous shortage of personnel in the navy, saying that "ships are valueless unless manned by adequate crews of trained, experienced officers and men."

THE government of Yugoslavia has decided to expel all the 27,000 Hungarians now living in that country. The process will be gradual but relentless. Already more than 2,000 have been deported and more are being sent away daily. Hungary called the action of Yugoslavia to the attention of the League of Nations.

PEACEFUL solution of the Saar plebiscite problem seemed assured when the council of the League of Nations unanimously and gladly adopted the report of the Saar committee embodying the Franco-German agreement for payment for the mines in case the region votes to return to the reich. Leading up to this settlement were two announcements of utmost importance. First, Foreign Minister Pierre Laval of France promised that French troops would make no attempt to enter the Saar territory before or during the vote on January 13. "I desire to announce," said he "that France will not participate in any international force which it may be found necessary to send into the Saar. We cannot participate in such a force because Germany cannot participate."

Then Capt. Anthony Eden, British lord privy seal, told the council that Great Britain would contribute troops to the proposed international force, provided Chancellor Hitler of Germany were willing that such an army should be sent into the territory. When Berlin was informed of this, a foreign office spokesman announced that Hit-

ler's government would raise no objections to the plan.

All this was in effect a victory for the policies of Col. Geoffrey G. Knox, the league commissioner of the Saar, for he has long advocated the creation of an international police force for the territory.

Delegates of Italy and Czechoslovakia declared their countries would send troops, and Maxim Litvinov, Soviet foreign commissar, said he believed Russia would be willing to supply a part of the league force.

DISPATCHES from Warsaw said the Poles were amazed and alarmed by the Franco-German agreement because they feared the understanding between those two nations would be extended to include Great Britain and Italy. The foreign office hinted that in that case Poland's relations with Russia might be made closer. Poland resents being left out in the cold, for she is determined to be recognized as one of the great powers, and to play her part in the stabilization of peace in Europe.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT returned from Warm Springs to his reconditioned executive offices in Washington with the greater part of his winter program completed. It will be presented to congress in his annual message on January 3. The major items have to do with expansion of the public works administration to provide work relief, revision of the NRA and the AAA, extension of power developments, social security insurance and low cost housing, and the paring down of the budget.

MEMBERS of the Mid-Continent Reclamation association, representing 19 states, met in Chicago and perfected plans for a soil erosion and flood control program, to cost \$900,000, which the association will recommend to the federal government with a request for a survey to determine its practicability. The plan, which was developed by A. B. Hull of Chicago, involves the construction of canals and dams over an area extending from northern North Dakota through Texas to control flood waters originating on the eastern slopes of the Rocky mountains.

INTERESTING statements were made to the American Congress of Industry in New York by two of the President's closest advisers, Raymond Moley and Donald Richberg, director of the national emergency council. Professor Moley declared there is no workable substitute for the present capitalistic economic system. "Basically," he said, "the New Deal was an effort to save capitalism and, by spreading the range of opportunity under it, to enable the average man to regain a measure of control over the conditions under which he lived. It seemed to me in 1933, as it seems to me now, that this effort to save capitalism was wise and just."

"By no stretch of the imagination could the vote of November, 1932, have been interpreted as a mandate for the abandonment of the capitalistic system. Finally, even had there been such a mandate, there was and is no workable substitute for our present system."

Moley expressed much optimism regarding business. He told the industrialists, in effect, that they need have no fear of any radical change in the present economic and social order, that industry was needed to stimulate trade, bring about recovery, and that in the last analysis it would be the business men who would distribute the wealth of the nation.

Mr. Richberg admitted the NRA had not achieved all its aims in its effort to bring about industrial self-government, but insisted that its fundamental principles must be preserved in permanent legislation for codes of fair competition.

He warned the manufacturers that the permanent law must be written in co-operation with labor and consumers, as well as private business and government, so that there should be neither work-consumer regimentation by business nor business regimentation by government.

He hinted that if employers consented to legal restriction in return for increased power under the codes, organized labor would be called upon to do likewise in submitting to legislative control.

Organized labor was soundly berated by C. L. Bardo, president of the National Association of Manufacturers. He said its contribution to national recovery had been "the most widespread inauguration of strikes, coercion, intimidation, and violence that the United States has ever seen, as evidenced by strikes in Minneapolis, Cleveland, textile industries, and the general strike at San Francisco."

Bardo pledged the united opposition of the National Association of Manufacturers to the efforts of the American Federation of Labor to obtain through congress legislation imposing a 30-hour week on industry, or any other effort to "fix a rigid and arbitrary work week for all industry."

Industry's platform for recovery, which was proposed at a meeting of the national industrial council, urging return to the gold standard, a balanced budget, and other orthodox economic measures, was adopted.

LORD RIDDELL, who during the World war was Lloyd George's chief liaison officer, with the press of the world, is dead in London. He gained fame and great wealth as a newspaper publisher. As a reward for his war work Riddell was made a peer in 1918. His voice over the telephone carried the first news to England of the signing of the Versailles treaty. For some time after the war he continued to be a friend and confidant of Lloyd George. Later there were political differences, but while the close liaison ceased the two men never ceased to be friends. Lord Riddell leaves no heir and the title expires with him.

SERGEI KIROV, one of the most prominent members of the Russian Communist party's political bureau, was assassinated in Leningrad, and as he was a close associate of Stalin his death was the occasion of public mourning.



Sergei Kirov

The government announced that the assassin was Leonid Nicoloff and that he "was sent by the enemies of the working class." But it appears there is something more to the event than a mere murder. A dispatch from Warsaw said ten Red army officers had been executed as the result of a plot to assassinate all Soviet leaders at the same time.

The Moscow government denied this story, but at the same time it was putting under arrest scores of White Guards, enemies of the Soviet regime, accusing them of "terroristic action." They were tried by a military collegium of the Supreme court and sixty-six of them, including one woman, were found guilty and immediately executed.

The names of those executed were officially announced. Among them apparently were none of the leaders who had figured prominently with the White armies during the civil warfare following the Bolshevik revolution. Nor were there any names of men who have had national prominence subsequently in Russia.

The executions were carried out while Kirov's body was being cremated. He was given a state funeral and his ashes were placed in the Communists' Valhalla beside the wall of the Kremlin where rest the remains of Lenin, John Reed and other heroes of the Red revolution.

CENTRAL, western and northern sections of Honduras were devastated by a series of earthquake shocks continuing through two days. The extent of the disaster is unknown at this writing for all communication systems were crippled, but it was reported that at least three towns of considerable size, Copas, Cabanas and Santa Rita, were nearly destroyed.

PRESIDENT MUSTAPHA KEMAL of Turkey has become the idol of all the women of his nation, for, after giving them such social rights as emancipation from the harem, he has given them political rights. At his instance the national assembly unanimously decided that any Turkish woman more than thirty years old is eligible to election to the chamber of deputies, and that all women over twenty-two years of age can vote in the national elections. Thousands of women telegraphed their "deepest gratitude" to Kemal.

BUSINESS leaders of the country who are members of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States demand a reform of the government's budgetary methods. Through a referendum they have given approval to thirteen proposals to this end.

One step recommended was "a more active centralized administrative control of expenditures." This would be obtained by "broadening the executive allotment system of funds so as to include all expenditures, ordinary and emergency, and strengthening it so as to avoid the necessity of deficiency appropriations."

This recommendation for broader control by the administrative branch of the government also suggested that "when feasible" expenditures be reduced below appropriations.

In Rumania



Wedding Procession in Rural Rumania.

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

IN RUMANIA, east and west are so interwoven that it is difficult to determine where one leaves off and the other begins.

Some historians attribute the strange blending of the Orient and the Occident within the Rumanian borders to countless invasions. Each invader, whether Roman, Hun, or Turk, left his strong imprint on the nature of the people.

Though Paris may be France, Bucharest is hardly Rumania. This capital has almost nothing in common with the country. It is a gay, cosmopolitan city, often, if not aptly, called the Little Paris of the Balkans.

Its streets are crowded with smartly dressed women, officers resplendent in their colorful uniforms and gold braid, and men and women of the foreign colonies, who contrast strikingly with peasants in native dresses and gypsies in rags and tatters. Its restaurants and coffee houses, always famous for good food, are abuzz with the latest political rumors and gossip.

The opening, in the autumn, of parliament by the king is a brilliant event. For several blocks and for hours the palace guards in their bright uniforms, high patent leather jack boots, shining helmets with white horsehair plumes, stand smartly at attention until the members of parliament, the diplomatic corps, the army generals, and the king have passed.

The great moments are the arrival and the departure of the king, in an open landau. Footmen in satin breeches, long coats of brocade, and three-cornered hats, and a ferocious coachman cracking his whip at six milk-white or coal-black stallions, on whose backs ride postillions in bright red hunting costumes, add to the striking medieval picture.

Sleighride in Bucharest.

It is fun in winter to hire an open sleigh drawn by horses bedecked with bells and red ribbons, and driven by a coachman in a high fur caucula (cachoula), a tall astrakhan cap, long velvet coat, and wide girdle of metal.

There are still a few coachmen living in Bucharest who belong to a curious alien sect called Scopiti, now almost extinct. The men were allowed to marry, but at the birth of the first child they were made sterile. One sees them often driving open carriages. They are fat and their skin is like yellow parchment.

The wide avenue leading up to the Arc de Triomphe, past a pretty little race course and the golf links of the Country club, is a miniature suggestion of the Champs Elysees in the French capital. Many stately palaces and homes line its streets. Rumania has gone modern in her new houses and apartments.

There is much music other than in the cafes. Bucharest boasts of rather good opera during the winter and a really fine symphony orchestra plays modern music. The National temple is well patronized and plays by Rumanian and foreign authors are given. Once ornate, the building is now shabby, although an air of faded elegance still pervades the place.

The parliament buildings and the Rumanian Orthodox church stand on the summit of the only hill in Bucharest. Bucharest is a city of churches. From everywhere can be seen rising the rounded domes of the Rumanian Orthodox church. The people are religious, but matter-of-fact about it. Despite the Slavic influence, there is no mysticism here. Religion is simply a part of everyday life. The church is like a protective father, and they respond with simple faith.

Among the Peasants.

Around Bucharest the country is not unlike the agricultural state of Kansas. Here is a tremendous wheat and corn region. Visitors enjoy going through the villages in this fertile district. Crazy little Rube Goldberg houses, whose white-washed walls are painted in soft pastel shades and decorated with borders of flowers or animals, present an amusingly shabby aspect along the streets. Rumania is one of the few countries now left in Eu-

rope whose peasants usually dress in native costume.

The Rumanian peasant is lovable. Always gracious, courteous, and good-natured, he is industrious, yet somewhat inefficient. He works hard in his fields and forest, but always in a primitive manner, using the crude tools of his forefathers.

Many residents of Bucharest spend their summers in Predeal, at the top of the Carpathian Pass, on the boundary line between the "Old Kingdom" and Transylvania. During their holidays they have many opportunities to observe the ancient methods of work followed by the peasants.

One is particularly impressed with the native manner of washing clothes. The laundress builds a fire in the yard beneath a large iron pot, in which she puts the clothes to boil. Then, in a large wooden trough hewn from a log, she rubs and washes the garments with her hands, without even the aid of a washboard. Next, she wrings out the heavy linen with her own hands. Back-breaking work it is, but the clothes emerge spotlessly white.

Gypsies Are Numerous.

In the Danube Delta country, during the spring and summer, many gypsy camps are found. The gypsies carve out of wood huge water troughs, all variety and manner of cooking utensils, washing equipment, etc. With their wild animal eyes, scraggly black locks, wretchedly dirty, and clad in rags, gypsies are a proof of the disillusionment of reality.

Who has not conjured up some gay, romantic picture of gypsy life from afar? Yet how distressing when one meets it at close quarters! But gypsy music is beautiful. Almost at every street corner in Bucharest one encounters an urchin with his violin, ready to play for a few lei.

Winters in Bucharest are bitterly cold. Often one is distressed to see gypsy boys, half naked and shivering, begging at the street corners.

The delta country covers a tremendous area spreading between the three branches of the Danube. Most important of Danube channels is the Sulina, which carries most of the river traffic coming down from far-off Germany, Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia.

On the Danube's banks are two important ports, Galati and Braila, which receive vessels of ocean draft. Principal exports are wheat, corn, barley, lumber and some oil.

Valcov Is Interesting.

Valcov, Rumania, is more Russian than Russia. The men all wear full beards and are dressed in long velvet coats buttoned very smartly up the front, while the women in their full skirts and heads covered with bright scarfs, make a gay picture. Children are everywhere chewing sunflower seeds, the Russian substitute for gum and peanuts.

Valcov is like a tiny Venice, with its canals serving as main thoroughfares through the town. Both in the fishermen's houses and in the market places, the traveler always finds at least one lovely ikon.

Entering first an immense storage building, one sees where the fish are cleaned, sorted, packed in ice for shipment to Bucharest and other consuming centers, and smoked or salted for export. There is a great variety of salt-and-fresh-water fish, including some strange Danubian species. At the back of the storage house is a deep cave topped by an earthen mound, where hundreds of tons of ice, cut from the river and canals in winter, are stored against the summer heat.

Crossing the main canal by an arched wooden bridge, which recalls the Rialto, the traveler arrives at the large open market. Here the fishermen bring their daily catch to be sold under the supervision of the state fisheries. They go out in groups of five or six to each sturdy boat made watertight and blackened by tar. The boats set out in time to reach the fishing grounds by daylight; the fishermen say they must catch the wary sturgeon while she is still asleep.