

Weekly News Analysis Beck Visit, Czech Border Tiff Point Probable Nazi Course

By Joseph W. La Bine

Germany

Two events on one bleak January day, one at tiny Munkacs, Hungary, the other at lofty Berchtesgaden, Germany, gave puzzled European observers the key to future plans of the Rome-Berlin axis. The events: Berchtesgaden. To Adolf Hitler's Bavarian eyrie came another visitor, Poland's Foreign Minister Joseph Beck. Colonel Beck was frightened because: (1) Germany has shown outright hostility by fomenting revolt in Polish sections of the vast Ukraine; has been busy Nazifying Lithuania's Baltic seaport of Memel; has Nazified the free city of Danzig and made other threats at closing Poland's precious "corridor" to the Baltic; (2) because one of Poland's allies, France, re-



POLAND'S COLONEL BECK
He sought and found security.

fuses to help her in wartime; (3) because another ally, Russia, is far away and would be of questionable assistance.

Colonel Beck left Berchtesgaden after discovering he had much in common with the master of Europe. Though unannounced, the conference results are quite discernible. Having been granted security at Germany's mercy, Poland will play an important role in the Reich's campaign to create a Ukrainian republic, also serving as a rear guard while Berlin turns its attentions to helping Friend Mussolini win Mediterranean territorial concessions from France. Poland will lead in forming a band of armed, neutral states from the Baltic to the Balkans, protecting Germany from Russia. Poland will permit a German railroad and highway from East Prussia to Germany proper, across the Polish corridor. Most important, Poland will probably lead in Pan-Ukrainian agitation, serving as a "front" nation for the Reich.

Munkacs. Bad blood has stood between Czechoslovakia and Hungary since last November 2, when a German-Italian commission remarked the southern boundary of Carpatho-Ukraine (Ruthenia) and gave added territory to Hungary. Unpopular with Germans and Czechs alike was one Italian demand, that strategic Munkacs be ceded to Hungary. Munkacs is a key city in Germany's plan for vast Carpatho-Ukrainian fortifications, slyly planned as a threat to keep Russia intimidated while the Reich turns its attentions to winning concessions from France and Great Britain, both for itself and Mussolini.

When Czech-Hungarian hostilities broke out at Munkacs, the inspiration was obvious. This time using Czechoslovakia for a "front," Hitler was stirring up trouble which will lead to a re-demarcation of the Czech-Hungarian frontier, bringing strategic Munkacs back into his power. This done, the Reich has only to placate little Hungary. Then the chain of pro-German states will extend from Baltic to Balkans.

These things happened just as British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain left for Rome, where observers expected him to make a deal with Mussolini. The probable deal: France would give Italy Suez canal rights and joint use of the Djibouti-Addis Ababa railroad. In return Italy would guarantee security for British shipping in the Mediterranean, also helping settle Britain's Palestine headache. But with Hitler more than turning his eyes westward, this could be interpreted as only the beginning. After helping Mussolini win his demands, the Reich will probably demand gigantic economic and financial concessions from the democracies, even going so far as to demand return of World War reparations. Mulling over these prospects, European democracies have good reason to fear 1939's eleven remaining months.

Races

Germany originally planned to finance deportation of Jews by making foreign powers buy her goods. The plan: Jewish emigrants would trade their money for—or be financed in the purchase of—German export products. This plan won little sympathy from either Britain or the U. S., but it at least offered a

basis for negotiation by which the intergovernmental refugee committee could deal both with Germany and Italy. Since Italy's Jewish persecution is far less severe than Germany's, President Roosevelt contacted Premier Mussolini shortly after January 1, asking him to urge more leniency on Chancellor Hitler. Also suggested was the settling of Italian Jews (who must leave by February 1) in Ethiopia.

A week later, as Prime Minister Chamberlain left on his "appeasement" journey to Rome, it looked like President Roosevelt had inadvertently given the Rome-Berlin axis another weapon to hold over Democracy's head. Smart Mussolini, probably on advice from the even smarter Hitler, was willing to discuss the Roosevelt program with Mr. Chamberlain. Observers thought he would agree, but only if Mr. Chamberlain hastens French capitulation to Italian territorial claims. Meanwhile George Rublee, American director of the refugee committee, left for Berlin to negotiate with Hitler, apparently willing to consider a modification of the Reich's program to blackmail democracies into accepting unwanted Jews.

Interesting as a sidelight was the announcement of an Italian repatriation commission, whose duty is to make 10,000,000 racial Italians return from foreign countries, partly replacing the Jews now being ousted. But the drive's real purpose is to give Italy an uncomfortable surplus population, thereby backing her territorial claims in Africa.

Spain

Just before Prime Minister Chamberlain left London for Rome (See GERMANY), Premier Mussolini sent orders to Spain's Rebel Generalissimo Francisco Franco. The orders: Start an immediate major offensive, aimed to show Mr. Chamberlain that Loyalist Spain is collapsing and should therefore be sold out.

Aided by Italian troops, also by Italian and German planes and guns, General Franco started driving into northeastern Catalonia two days before Christmas. A fortnight later his offensive was sprawled over a 100-mile front, creeping slowly and painstakingly toward the coastal city of Tarragona. Though he boasted 300,000 troops, though his attack resembled the World War's Verdun, the showing was still too unimpressive to make Mr. Chamberlain jump through a hoop.

What made matters worse was news from south central Estremadura, where Loyalist Gen. Jose Miaja's Loyalist army had made a spearhead advance of 50 miles in five days, capturing rich mining lands on which General Franco depended for buying war materials abroad. Thoroughly angry, Franco ordered removal of his famous "radio general," Gonzalo Queipo de Llano, famous for his lusty broadcasts from Seville. Then he took steps to protect the Loyalist objective, the Seville-Salamanca railroad



GEN. JOSE MIAJA
General Franco lost his mines.

which connects northern and southern Spain. The only Franco recourse seemed to be withdrawal of thoroughly tired troops from the Catalonia front, which undoubtedly meant a loss of the bloody gains Rebel Spain has made in that sector since Christmas.

Medicine

Bright and dark sides feature Surgeon General Thomas Parran's annual report on the nation's health:

Dark Side. Some 40,000,000 U. S. citizens cannot provide for medical care during serious illness. About 360,000 more hospital beds are needed. Only a few states have satisfactory programs against pneumonia and cancer; tuberculosis and malaria are also serious. Venereal disease control appropriations must be increased immediately.

Bright Side. Death rate fell from 11.3 per thousand in 1936 to 10.9 in 1937, then to 10.8 in 1938's first six months. Infant mortality fell from 57.1 per thousand live births in 1936 to 54.4 in 1937. Most contagious diseases are decreasing.

Chief causes of death in 1937 (as usual) were heart diseases, cancer and other malignant tumors, pneumonia, cerebral hemorrhage and softening, nephritis, and accidents (except automobile) and tuberculosis.



By LEMUEL F. PARTON

WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

Operatic Star, Suggests New Line of Export

NEW YORK.—This writer, encountering Frederick Jagel of the Metropolitan Opera at luncheon the other day, quizzed him about his season at Buenos Aires, from which he recently returned. He thinks cultural penetration of South America might be more effective than our trade and diplomatic missions, in which he is inclined to believe we aren't getting anywhere.

South America has long had the idea that we were a nation of hard-boiled money-grubbers. Any credible performance in the arts, he believes, will be our best line of export. He said he found the Argentines most generous and appreciative hosts. Once they find you haven't an extra ace in your cuff and you measure up to their standard of propriety, they wear their hearts on their sleeve.

Incidentally, Mr. Jagel's singing makes audiences weep, but no one meeting him ever feels sorry for him. He is a businesslike, compact Brooklynite, formerly an actuary with the Mutual Life Insurance company, long before he took his perch in the old red plush aviary, where, on occasion, he still hits high C. As an actuary, young Mr. Jagel, charting other careers, began to think of his own career. He tossed his insurance job out of the window, found a backer, sang in movie houses up and down Broadway and proved to all and sundry that he had a voice. He studied with Portanova in Milan, in "La Boheme," he hit Rodolfo's high C with a bull's eye that greatly improved Italo-American relations. He sang for four seasons in Italy, before making his New York debut as Radames, on November 8, 1927. He knows about 40 roles, and 26 of them he can sing offhand and on the slightest provocation.

With the precision and clarity of a man trained in business, he tells you of the superiority of our South American competitors in their specialty of quid-pro-quo trade economics. Hence, his talk of "cultural penetration" isn't just ivory tower stuff. If Secretary Hull could sing as well as Mr. Jagel can talk in international trade, he, too, would be in the Metropolitan.

Mr. Jagel thinks we have the making of a grand musical renaissance in this country, with talent, teachers and a fine national appreciation vastly enhanced by the radio.

Mystifier Says Mystagogy Just 'Ain't So'

THE amiable white magic of John Mulholland once enabled me to deal myself four aces against another's four kings, which, of course, revived faltering hopes of the existence of kindly elves with whom Mr. Mulholland was wired in and whom he could summon in behalf of his friends. But now one of the cleverest magicians in the country—the cleverest, to this none-too-seeing eye—publishes a book, "Beware Familiar Spirits," in which he banishes all tricks and makes all magic just manual dexterity and technique. It isn't exactly a debunking book. It leaves the door open for faith in the occult, if you think you have evidence, but, as to prevailing mystagogy, he reduces it to fraud or to honest self-deception, aided by slow eyesight.

He sold school books and was a teacher of dramatics and industrial arts at Columbia university, before he became a full-time magician and vice president of Society of American Magicians. He has performed and lectured in about 40 countries.

Nobody, anywhere, ever had more fun. He likes to shepherd four or five friends through a subway turnstile, with one nickel, making it reissue from the slot each time and click through the next man. That brings the change dealer roaring from his den, Mr. Mulholland hands him a half-dollar, the wayfarers take their train, and then the dealer finds he has an aluminum disk with a rabbit in a silk hat on it. He usually screams and butts his head against the wall. But, in each case, the subway already has its full count of sound nickels.

As to the above poker hands, it happened at a luncheon table of five or six men. Mr. Mulholland sent for a new deck of cards and asked me to shuffle them and deal four hands. It couldn't have been a trained deck. It was thoroughly shuffled. Mr. Mulholland never touched the cards, standing with his back turned a few feet away, and never said a word. The hands fell as he ordered, the orders apparently issuing silently from the back of his head.

Consolidated News Features, WNU Service.

Trailer Couple Ends 36,000-Mile Jaunt



Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Alsop recently ended a 36,000-mile journey by land and water from their home in Auckland, New Zealand, when they arrived in Florida. They have lived for 12 years in their completely equipped trailer, visiting Samoa, Africa, Canada, England, Norway, Sweden and Iceland. Mr. Alsop is a retired architect who worked and studied hard while he was young, according to his story, so that he and his wife might later indulge their wanderlust. They are each 67 years of age.

Newsboy Guest of Metropolitan Opera



George Malaiko, 54, Toronto newsboy, has frequently attracted attention by selling his papers attired in dress clothes and top hat, all set for the opera when his papers were sold. This year he lost his money in the stock market, and offered a year's subscription to anyone who would finance a trip to New York where he could hear "Don Giovanni." The trip was arranged by Edward Johnson, general manager of the Metropolitan opera, and Richard Crooks, leading member.

PRINCE'S BIRTHDAY



Because of the national emergency the customary birthday banquet for Crown Prince Akhito Tsuguo Mo Miya of Japan was dispensed with recently when he became five years of age. The emperor and empress received congratulations for him.

WEDDING BELLS



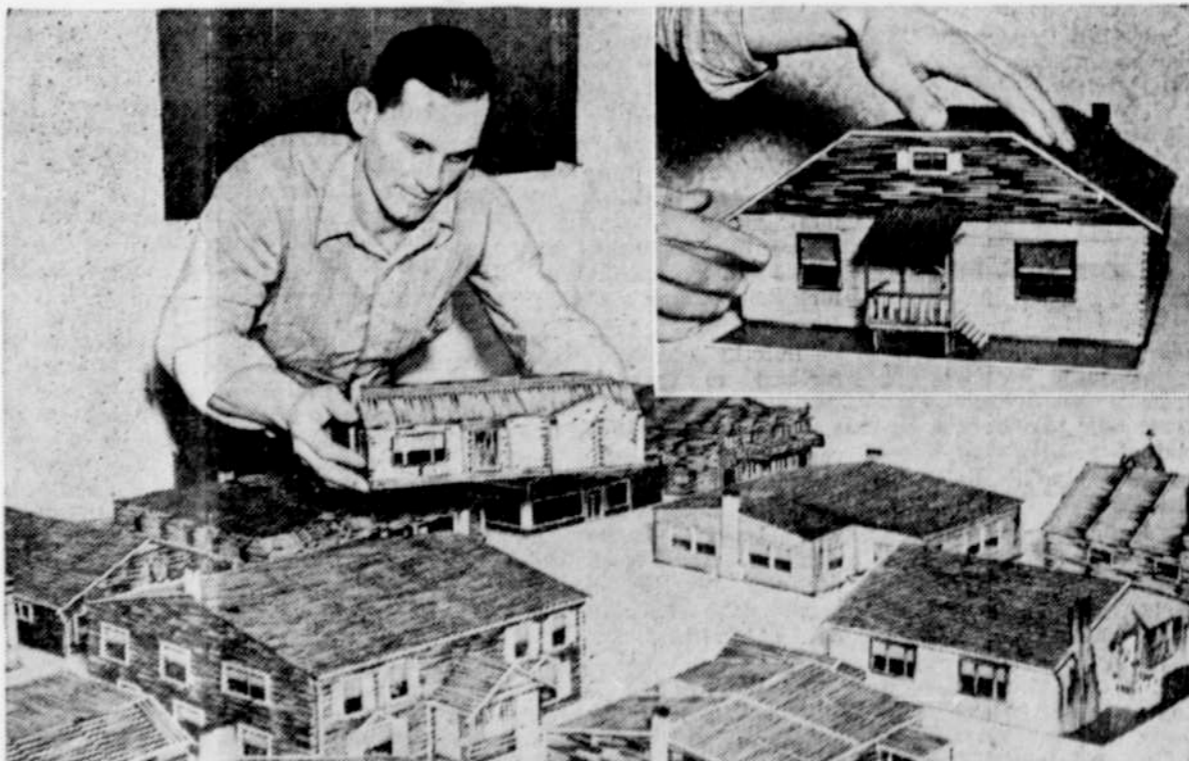
Miss Nancy Bell Fairchild, granddaughter of the telephone inventor, Alexander Graham Bell, was married to Dr. Marson Bates of the Rockefeller foundation in January. The wooden receiver, placed next to the telephone, first used by her grandfather, is shown in contrast to the modern and more efficient instrument.

Dizzy Dean Says He'll 'Mow 'Em Down'



Louder than ever, Dizzy Dean predicts the Cubs a pennant cinch for next year. Now that his ailing shoulder is back in shape, he is confident of his ability to "mow 'em down." His boasts had rather a familiar ring to Bob Lewis, traveling secretary for the Chicago Cubs. Doctors, however, have stated that he is all set to pitch.

Matchstick Artist Builds Miniature Village



Jerry Taro, 25-year-old St. Louis truck driver, spends his spare time building villages of matches, using matches, a razor blade and glue as construction tools. He colors his "homes" by burning the matches to different shades, getting strikingly realistic effects. An average of 1,000 matches are used for each building. Inset shows a one-and-a-half story bungalow, the size of which can be estimated by comparing it with his hands.

Ask Me Another A General Quiz

The Questions

1. Was John Witherspoon the only preacher who signed the Declaration of Independence?
2. Are there as many Indians in the United States today as there were at the time of the Battle of the Little Big Horn?
3. Who was the first Roosevelt to come to this country?
4. What is a digamist?
5. Is a knot or nautical mile longer or shorter than a land mile?
6. How much floor space is there in the Merchandise Mart in Chicago?
7. Can a steamship whistle cause icebergs to break off from the Arctic glaciers?
8. When did women first color their fingernails and wear them long?
9. Are there any diamond mines in the United States?
10. How do birds' bones differ from the bones of most other animals?

The Answers

1. Yes.
2. There are more Indians in America today than there were in 1876, the year of the battle.
3. According to genealogists the first Roosevelt to come to this country was Claes Martenzen van Roosevelt, in 1640.
4. Anyone married legally the second time.
5. The land mile is 5,280 feet; the nautical mile is 6,080 feet, or 800 feet longer.
6. The Merchandise Mart contains 4,000,000 square feet.
7. The vibrations set up in the air by whistles have been known to do it.
8. In the days of Salome and Cleopatra, women stained their nails with henna. Under the social regime of the Chinese empire, fingernails worn several inches long and covered with gold cases were a symbol of the aristocracy who did not have to work with their hands.
9. There is one at Murphreesboro, Ark. There are diamonds elsewhere in the country, but development of the territories has not been considered worthwhile.
10. Many of the bones of birds are hollow, thus reducing their weight and aiding them in their flight.

CHECK YOURSELF FOR THESE COMMON SIGNS OF ACID INDIGESTION

<input type="checkbox"/> Heartburn	<input type="checkbox"/> Sour Stomach
<input type="checkbox"/> Nausea	<input type="checkbox"/> Acid Headache
<input type="checkbox"/> No Appetite	<input type="checkbox"/> "Gas"
<input type="checkbox"/> Tired Feeling in Morning	<input type="checkbox"/> "Logginess"

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