



Washington Digest

NATIONAL TOPICS INTERPRETED

By William Bruckart

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Washington.—Congress, again, has gone up to the jump. It faltered on the neutrality question. True, congress has re-enacted for another year the neutrality law that was put through under pressure a year ago but it did not have the necessary courage to go into that question and work out anything of a permanent character. The result, I am convinced, is that as soon as there is any excuse whatsoever, neutrality for the United States will be nothing but a shell.

I do not know, nor do I believe anybody can tell at this juncture whether the United States ought to embark on a rigid policy of isolation from affairs of the world but that is a question that is subordinate at this moment. The point is that congress, a year ago, made a great show of neutrality and put on a second stage performance only lately with the same theme song. Since it has backed away from the real issue it begins to appear that the original action was but hollow mockery; that the politicians moved a year ago with the thought in mind that they would not have to go on record so soon and that they could make the country feel it had elected statesmen. But, instead, their course has led them to the point where a decision had to be made—and they have dodged it.

One of the reasons why this neutrality question has become so important is the combination of circumstances that has developed in Europe. Those maneuvers have put our congress on the spot and it, like so many previous times, again has wavered.

It is difficult to forecast what is going to happen in Europe but there are certain signs and portents that may not be ignored. History, as we all know, has a habit of repeating itself and it promises to repeat itself in a hurry this time.

Let us look at the European picture. On the one hand we have an alignment of France and England and probably Russia. On the other, we see Hitlerized Germany, Austria and Italy. There has been nothing more tangible thus far than a baring of fangs. That is, no overt acts have been committed but it always has been the case that the snarling and showing of teeth has provided the setting, the atmosphere, for more serious accusations. It may never happen that Germany or Austria or Italy will take steps which France or Russia could regard as an invasion of national rights and then, again, any one of them at any time may accidentally or deliberately do some minor thing that would provoke hostilities.

The chief significance of the reported alignment of Italy with Germany and Austria is that the Central Powers, as they stood in 1914, have been augmented by the strength of Fascist Italy. It means that the Germany of 1914 has access to the North sea and the Mediterranean instead of just the North sea as occurred 20 years ago.

Coupled with that fact is the condition of a better defense for the Central Powers. If the agreement between Germany and Italy sticks, Germany has only the western and Russian fronts to maintain. It allows for a more compact military program because, instead of guarding against Italy on the south, Germany has an ally in that direction from which sources of supply can be established.

The fresh understandings worked out between France and England really are nothing more than a restoration of the arrangement that existed in the World war. The British, on the surface at least, have no compact with Russia but the French have a very definite agreement with the Soviet. It seems likely, therefore, that if hostilities should break out again, the British and the Soviet will have no difficulty in establishing a pact of mutual help.

As a sidelight, it seems to me that the new developments rather turn the spotlight on the policies of Pierre Laval, former French foreign minister. M. Laval, it will be remembered, was ousted because of alleged pro-Italian policies. He sought for months to maintain friendship between France and Italy because he feared to do otherwise would result in alignment of Mussolini with Hitler. The bulk of the French parliament disagreed with

him, however, and M. Laval was replaced by Foreign Minister Flandin. Now, Europe has seen the prompt desertion of Mussolini from the French side and his alignment with Hitler.

So, the old picture has been put together again in Europe with the only change being the placement of Italy on the opposite side of the fence from where that nation stood in 1914. But let not the fact that the alignment differs only because of Italy's position be minimized. It is the most important of the combination that has developed in Europe.

The new situation, insofar as Great Britain is concerned, means that in case of a clash in the Mediterranean between the forces of Mussolini and the British there will be French support. It means, therefore, that Mussolini hardly dare disturb the concentration of British warships around the Suez. To do so would call down upon his head not only the shells of the British fleet but those of the French as well.

For the French, the revived understanding with Great Britain gives support against the slow flow of Hitler lava into the Rhineland which was demilitarized by the Treaty of Versailles at the end of the World war. The French are very touchy about the Rhineland and any attempt by Germany to fortify that territory makes French nerves very jittery. It is only natural, then, that the French look upon the agreement with London as an assurance of security in event Hitler should strike in the Rhineland.

Through it all, foreign advices indicate that British fists are gradually being doubled up against Hitler. This is true notwithstanding the fact that the new King Edward VIII is trying to be friendly with Germany. Foreign dispatches and private advices explain that there is a notable recurrence among the British of discussion recalling Germany atrocities in the World war. Slowly but surely throughout England the old hatred is arising.

On the northern frontier of Germany there is a new line of steel. The Communist state of Russia looks with disfavor upon the Nazi. My information is that it would take very little to provoke trouble there.

Altogether, the situation is one where, if a stone rolls down a mountain side, it could very easily become the detonation cap that would explode an ammunition dump.

With these facts in mind, one can understand readily the gravity of the relations between the United States and the rest of the world. One can understand as well why congress was rather anxious to avoid legislation of a broader scope in international affairs than already was operative. Yet, this does not alter the fact that if congress had no intention of establishing a real neutrality policy, it should not have embarked on a course designed to that end. It was either engaging in a game of fooling the public a year ago or it has just now demonstrated a most cowardly attitude.

Now, to get back home, we observe a maneuver by President Roosevelt to link North and South American nations into a new agreement. While none of our officials will say that this move has any connection with European development, I believe that observers generally are of the opinion that it has an important bearing on the situation beyond the Atlantic. It ought to be helpful in keeping the United States out of that mess or, if the future forces us into it and, in the meantime, there is a sound arrangement worked out between nations of the western hemisphere, their combined strength ought to put an end to European strife more quickly than if those European nations were left to fight it out alone. In other words, if Mr. Roosevelt can work out a binding agreement between all the nations of the western hemisphere, they can exert a tremendous influence.

This influence will carry further than on the homeland of any of the countries now involved in the European case of jitters. It possibly may extend to the point of becoming the balance of power in the settlement of colonial disputes between the central powers and the newly re-established allies.

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OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Brief Resume of Happenings of the Week Collected for Our Readers

Albany—For the first time since organization of the Oregon League of Cities, Albany is now a full-fledged member, as the result of action by the city council.

Umatillo—Deer and wild fowl are surviving the cold weather fairly well in the Umatillo national forest. Snow is five feet deep at Summit and two feet along Meacham creek.

Ashland—An unofficial survey discloses that 76.6 per cent. of Ashland citizens are jaywalkers in the downtown district. A recent ordinance prohibits crossing streets outside the pedestrian lanes.

Dufur—Cherry acreage in Wasco county has increased several hundred per cent. during the last 25 years. From \$18 acres in 1909, the acreage has grown to 3827 acres. The cherry tonnage now amounts to 3800 annually.

Silverton—The Down family is down on its luck. Bud suffered an injured foot while playing on the school grounds. His brother Bob hurt his finger. Then their father, Al Down, lost all his belongings in a fire that made 100 persons homeless at Knappton, Wash.

Cottage Grove—The miniature silver thaw which hit this section did not discourage the flora. Spring beauties have been reported sticking their heads up through a thin layer of ice. Daffodils, already well out of the ground, are merely waiting for a little encouraging sunshine.

Stayton—The digging of a trap well to reach a source of mountain water is submitted to the Salem officials as a solution of the city's water problem by A. D. Gardner of Stayton. The well would be located in the old Santiam river bed four miles southeast of Stayton.

Bend—Indications are that there will be between 35,000 and 40,000 acre feet of water in the Ochoco reservoir this coming season, when snow now blanketing the Blue mountains of central Oregon melts. Glen Cox, manager of the Ochoco irrigation district, reports. The water content of the Ochoco snow is reported to be the heaviest known in years.

Salem—Road oils totaling approximately \$100,000 were purchased by the state board of control from eight oil companies, the business to be distributed on the "basis of taxes paid in the state and ability to deliver at various points". Purchase of the oil on the taxation basis was declared a new policy of the board and was recommended by the state highway department. Bids of the eight companies were identical.

Salem—Millard D. Rodman, Culver, youngest member of the house of representatives at the regular and special sessions of the 1935 legislature, has resigned as representative from Crook and Jefferson counties to accept a federal job. Rodman will be associated with the U. S. department of agriculture. The state department was undecided whether it would ask the counties to appoint a successor, or merely wait for the next election.

Medford—A band of outlaw horses led by six wild stallions has created such a problem in the little Applegate district that the Jackson county court was asked to approve a roundup of the rovers. Stockmen and forest service representatives signed the petition for the roundup and agreed to pay the expense. They said the wild horses, numbering between 75 and 100, trample down range grass and alfalfa fields, eat the rock salt left for range cattle, kick the life out of sheep and young stock, and constitute a general rangeland nuisance.

Ice Cave Too Warm—Workmen cutting a barrier in a lava cave near here made an unusual complaint. It's too hot. The cave, filled with icicles in the summer, becomes uncomfortably warm in winter.

"Not for Rent" Signs Out—Milton-Freewater—An acute shortage of houses has developed in these twin communities as a result of increased industrial activity. One man has gone so far as to display this sign on his house—"Not for Rent".

12,000 Fleeces Sold—Portland—Frank Clark, wool buyer for Hallowell, Jones & Donald of Boston, confirmed the purchase of 12,000 fleeces at Shaniko, Oregon, at 25 cents a pound. The initial trading last year for similar types of wool was around 17 to 17 1/2 cents a pound.

what Irwin S. Cobb thinks about:

Kidnaping Laws.

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF.

—Do you remember the feverish, almost hysterical eagerness to make kidnaping a capital offense which swept legislature on legislature—Missouri and California and other states besides—after the Lindbergh baby was stolen? You must remember; it wasn't long ago.

And now will some bright little boy or girl tell the rest of the class just how many kidnapers, who were tried, convicted and condemned under these laws, have been legally put to death since then?

And does anyone seriously believe that anywhere in the Union, Bruno Hauptmann would today stand appreciably closer to the electric chair, had not child-murder been added to the other hideous crime of child-stealing?

We're a great people for laws—not for enforcing laws; dearie me, no, we're much too tender-hearted for that rough stuff—but just for having nice ornamental laws on the statute books.

Let's see how many more we enact before the spring thaw comes.

Old "Uncle Wilbur"

SO THE ex-kaiser is getting on toward eighty. It seems only yesterday when I was one of three American correspondents with the invading German forces in 1914. Among ourselves we wanted to be able to refer freely to our imperial host without giving offense to anybody in his army. So we twisted Emperor Wilhelm Hohenzollern into "Uncle Wilbur Hennebury of Chambersburg, Pa.," and went about speaking of him as one to whom we were indebted for diverse favors but whose policies and methods frequently were open to criticism.

To the world today he's the wood-chopper of Doorn; to the suppressed royalists of the Vaterland he's still, I suppose, the all-highest. But so long as I can remember those mad days in Belgium and France, he'll be "Uncle Wilbur," a good fellow while he had it.

Maybe if he hadn't figured his divine right was better than the devastating left hook of world opinion he might still be the all-ages heavyweight champion of European royalty. And there might be more European royalty than there is.

Wrestling As an Art

EVERY time I go to a so-called wrestling contest, I say to myself that, if only we revived the ancient Roman sport of matching gladiators to murder one another publicly, no building anywhere could hold the multitudes that would flock to the blood-lettings.

It can't be the posing, posturing, cheap acting, deliberate fouling, obnoxious hippodroming, the fixed victories and the faked defeats that bring the crowds swarming about the mastodontic masters of the manly art of self-potense, these blubber-laden practitioners of the pleasant science of mayhem.

All the cruel agony can't be make-believe, all the seeming suffering isn't rehearsed beforehand. That's what makes the business pay. The creak of the dislocated ankle and the brisk snap of the splintering knee-joint, the scream as a brutal thumb gouges at a tortured eyeball—it's so much music to the popular ear.

That reminds me I must see about getting my tickets for this week's bouts. I hear the house is sold out. That's no way to treat a regular customer.

Stiffing the Urge

IT'S almost time for the master tailors to announce that this year men will wear bright colors. They do that regularly and nothing ever comes of it except vain longings for us, poor cowardly worms that we are. Being a race of 'traid-cats, we'll go right on encasing ourselves in garments suitable for pallbearers at a Dunkard funeral.

I'm typical of the whole thwarted male species. My impulse is to go pick out something suitable for a fancy vest and then have a whole suit made of it. Right now I've got my eye on a nobby checked pattern in black and white squares that would make me look a good deal like a marble-tiled entry hall. But will I indulge my stifled natural cravings? Don't make me laugh! It's not one another's scorn we fear. It's our womenfolk. Well, if you were a hen and the poor foolish rooster had surrendered to you all his gay feathers, along with most of his other perquisites, would you give 'em back to him?

IRVIN S. COBB.

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End of World Idea Stale; Planet Collision Unlikely

We are never deeply alarmed over the annual, sometimes semi-annual, predictions that the world is soon coming to an end (it is a wornout way of attracting attention to oneself, too). The only manner in which the world can reach annihilation is by some great convulsion among the planets. The mathematical system of the universe must have been worked out long ago, or we should see in our day at least one or two collisions of worlds whirling through space. But they do not collide; and they have not collided since the morning stars sang together.

They are a perfect example of perpetual motion, and, therefore, the deathless inspiration of those earthly souls who think that if perpetual motion can and does prevail in the scheme of cosmos, they can discover the secret. Persons who predict the end of the world are unscientific individuals with indifferent reasoning powers.—F. H. Collier in St. Louis Globe Democrat.



Much in Little
It is in the perfect poem that its writer knows when to stop.

A Three Days' Cough Is Your Danger Signal

No matter how many medicines you have tried for your cough, chest cold or bronchial irritation, you can get relief now with Creomulsion. Serious trouble may be brewing and you cannot afford to take a chance with anything less than Creomulsion, which goes right to the seat of the trouble to aid nature to soothe and heal the inflamed membranes as the germ-laden phlegm is loosened and expelled. Even if other remedies have failed, don't be discouraged, your druggist is authorized to guarantee Creomulsion and to refund your money if you are not satisfied with results from the very first bottle. Get Creomulsion right now. (Adv.)

Need for It

A man who paddles his own canoe soon wants a larger craft.

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If you are suffering from constipation, sleeplessness, sour stomach, and gas bloating, there is quick relief for you in Adlerika. Many report action in 30 minutes after taking just one dose. Adlerika gives complete action, cleaning your bowel tract where ordinary laxatives do not even reach.

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WEAK WOMEN



Mrs. John Wright of 4th and Cedar Sts., Junction City, Ore., said: "A few years ago I had headaches and pains in my side, back and limbs. I started taking Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and noticed a big change. My food seemed to be doing me more good. I soon felt strong and well again." Buy now! New size, tabs, 50c. Liquid \$1.00 and \$1.35.