

Review of the History-Making Events of the World

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Hitler Rearms Rhineland; Other Nations Protest

EUROPE'S dogs of war were growling ominously and tugging at their chains, but those chains, being forged in England, seemed likely to stand the strain. Reichsfuehrer Hitler brought on the new crisis by his abrupt and dramatic action in denouncing the Locarno treaty and remilitarizing the Rhineland. He first informed the ambassadors of the countries signatory to the pact as to what he intended, and then delivered a ringing speech in the hastily summoned reichstag, eloquently defending his action.

At the same time Hitler was sending into the formerly demilitarized strip along the Rhine some 25,000 troops of all arms. This he declared was a "symbolic" army, and in his public utterances he asserted that Germany was not thus making a warlike move and did not desire war, but was determined to defend herself. He upheld his unilateral abrogation of the Locarno treaty on the ground that France had already violated it by making a mutual assistance agreement with Russia, which pact is pending in the French senate. To show his desire for peace, he offered a plan which includes: A demilitarized strip of German, French and Belgian land; a 25-year non-aggression treaty among Germany, France and Belgium, with Great Britain and Italy as guarantors; inclusion of the Netherlands in a system of pacts; an air pact with the western powers; a non-aggression pact with Germany's eastern neighbors, including Lithuania; and return of Germany to the League of Nations after her equality is established and her sovereignty restored.

Reaction in the capitals of Europe was quick and in some cases almost violent. Premier Albert Sarraut of France appealed to the League of Nations, asking that sanctions against Germany be applied. He also called a meeting of the signatories to the Locarno pact. In a radio address he warned Hitler that France would not stand for his action, and asserted that the reichsfuehrer's new plan was not at all acceptable. Meanwhile there was intense military activity along the eastern frontier, and within a few hours the Maginot line, that wonderful system of border fortifications built since the World war, was completely manned.

Italy's position in this squabble was interesting. Called on by France to support the protest against Germany, Mussolini took full advantage of the situation to get all he could for his own cause. He promised to stand by France and uphold the Locarno pact if the league would slacken the sanctions that were imposed on Italy as a result of her Ethiopian adventure. Poland gave assurance that she would carry out faithfully her obligations under the Franco-Polish accord; and the nations of the little entente not only promised support but warned France that if she did not bring Germany to time they might be forced to abandon their alliance with France.

Now it devolved on Great Britain, real arbiter of peace or war, to define her stand, for France demanded full support in return for the assurances she had given when trouble impended in the Mediterranean. The British statesmen refused to get excited over the affair and it was left to Capt. Anthony Eden, youthful foreign secretary, to set forth his government's position.

After consultation with Prime Minister Baldwin and others of the cabinet, Eden appeared before the house of commons and declared that any attack on France or Belgium in violation of the Locarno treaty would force Great Britain to go to their assistance. He added, however, that he was thankful to say there was no reason to suppose "the present German action implies a threat of hostilities."

Eden said he had already protested to Ambassador Von Hoesch against the military re-occupation of the Rhineland, telling him the effect on British public opinion would be deplorable.

"The abrogation of the Locarno pact and the occupation of the demilitarized zone," declared Eden, "have profoundly shaken confidence in any engagement in which Germany may in the future enter. It strikes a severe blow at the principle of the sanctity of treaties which underlies the whole structure of international relations."

Eden indicated Great Britain was willing to consider Reichsfuehrer Hitler's proposals for new peace covenants.

Belgium joined France in the appeal to the League of Nations, and a session of the league council was called for March 13.

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Seizure of Telegrams to Be Investigated

THE senate adopted a resolution introduced by Senator Borah requiring the federal communications commission to make a full report on its "alleged seizures" of private telegrams for Senator Black's committee on lobbying.

Senator Stelwer of Oregon attacked the doings and methods of the Black committee, contending the rights of citizens were being infringed. Mr. Black made a heated defense.

Koki Hirota Forms New Cabinet for Japan

KOKI HIROTA, former foreign minister, formed a new ministry for Japan and submitted the names to the emperor. He, besides being premier, takes the foreign minister's portfolio. Lieut. Gen. Count Juichi Terauchi is put in as minister of war and Admiral Osami Nagano as minister of navy. Military leaders insisted that Hirota "show a proper recognition of the gravity of the times and the necessity for renovation of Japanese foreign policy," and to this demand he yielded somewhat.

Hirota issued a statement saying that "the present empire situation requires independent and positive readjustment of our foreign relations in order to liquidate this emergency."

Hachiro Arita, new Japanese ambassador to China, told the press in Shanghai that "it is fundamental that China recognizes Manchukuo and that the other North China questions should be settled on the spot."

Power Plans of TVA Blocked by Court

PLANS to furnish TVA power to the city of Knoxville, Tenn., under a project to be financed with PWA funds were blocked by a temporary restraining order issued by

the District of Columbia Supreme court.

The order was granted on the petition of the Tennessee Public Service company which contended its \$4,000,000 investment in Knoxville would be rendered practically worthless, if the government brought cheaper power into the city.

Also in the District Supreme court, 66 producers of soft coal attacked the Guffey coal control act as unconstitutional in its entirety on the ground that it invades the rights of the states and deprives producers of their property without due process of law.

The producers signed that much of the coal mined in each individual state is sold directly within that state and does not move in interstate channels. In many instances, it charged, many industrial plants, large consumers of coal, are located close to mines because of the easily available supply.

Move Toward Peace in Italo-Ethiopian War

THROUGH its committee of thirteen the League of Nations appealed to Benito Mussolini and Emperor Haile Selassie to consent to

immediate negotiations for an end to hostilities and a definite re-establishment of Italo-Ethiopian peace. Though consideration of the proposal by his cabinet council was delayed a few days, Mussolini accepted the plan in principle as a basis for conference. It was made plain Italy would not take the initiative and would retain occupied territory.

Haile Selassie accepted the proposal without reservation. In recent days his armies in the northern sector have been routed in big battles and have lost many thousands of men, and the Italians have penetrated far toward the interior of the country; and in the South the invaders were preparing for a rapid advance.

Back of the league's appeal was the standing threat of extension of sanctions to include an embargo on oil. This suddenly brought about a situation rather disconcerting for the league. Dr. Giuseppe Motta, Swiss foreign minister, gave a warning that if the oil embargo was applied his country might feel it necessary to leave the league in order to preserve its neutrality if the consequent threatened war in Europe resulted. Motta pointed out that if Italy quit the league and hostilities ensued, Switzerland, through her membership in the league, would appear in Italian eyes as a party to a hostile coalition, and would be subject to invasion.

Big Military Program of Great Britain

BRITAIN'S government evidently believes another war is coming, and intends to be well prepared. It made public a gigantic program for increases in the army, navy and air forces and for swift mobilization of man power and industry. No official cost estimate was given out, but authorities said the total over a three-year period would be not less than a half billion dollars. The program includes these features:

Army—Four new battalions of infantry are planned. All units are to be mobilized, mechanized, and re-equipped. Especial attention will be paid coastal and anti-aircraft defenses.

Navy—Two new battleships next year and an increase in cruiser strength from 50 to 70, while five new ones to be laid down this year. Naval personnel also will be increased by 6,000, a new aircraft carrier will be constructed, and the

air arm of the navy will be strengthened.

Air Force—About 250 new war planes will be added to the home defense squadrons, bringing the total to 1,750. Twelve new air squadrons for imperial defense—that is, air forces available for transfer to danger areas—will be added, and more pilots will be recruited.

Free Rein for Al Smith in Party Convention

JAMES J. FARLEY, chairman of the Democratic national committee, let it be known that the party chieftains would make no effort to keep Al Smith out of the national convention in Philadelphia if he is elected a delegate and presents proper credentials. And once he is seated, there will be no attempt to keep him from speaking his mind. Administration leaders, it was represented, believe Mr. Roosevelt will dominate the convention so completely that no attack by Smith or anyone else on the New Deal can have any considerable effect.

President Closes Norris Dam Sluice Gates

ON THE third anniversary of his inauguration President Roosevelt pushed an electric key in the White House which set in motion machinery that closed the sluice gates of the Norris dam in the Tennessee Valley project. This signaled the completion of that part of the vast work on the Clinch river.

Death of Gen. Weigel, World War Figure

MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM WEIGEL, retired, one of the army's most reliable commanders, died in the army hospital on Governors island at the age of seventy-two. He served 44 years, through Indian campaigns, in the Spanish-American war and in the Philippines, and went to France in the World war as a captain. He was rapidly promoted through grades, to brigadier general on August 15, 1917, and to major general on August 8, 1918, when he was given command of the Eighty-eighth division, a new national army unit which he trained and took overseas. Previously he had commanded the Fifty-sixth brigade, Twenty-eighth division, a Pennsylvania outfit, at Chateau-Thierry. The brigade crossed the Marne and captured Epinal and Courpail. From July 4 to September 5, 1918, General Weigel was continuously under fire. He led the Eighty-eighth division in the final days of the war, taking part in all the operations in the Toul sector and beyond.

Heroic Army Aviator Killed in Crash

LIEUT. ROBERT K. GIOVANNOLI of Lexington, Ky., hero of the spectacular bombing plane crash during army tests at Dayton, Ohio, last October, was killed in a crackup of his army plane at Logan field, Baltimore.

Giovannoli's single seated pursuit plane lost its right wing coming out of a glide and hurtled down in a crazy spin from an altitude of less than 500 feet. It rolled over after hitting the landing field and was demolished.

Lieutenant Giovannoli was awarded a medal for his heroism in rescuing two men from the flaming wreckage of the Boeing flying fortress after it crashed during the army bomber tests at Wright field.

More Than a Billion for U. S. Defense

PROBABLY the present congress will authorize the spending of more than a billion dollars for national defense. So far the legislators have shown little disposition to be stingy in this line. The War department bill, carrying \$545,226,318, has

passed the house and is pending in the senate. Hearings on the \$549,591,299 navy bill have been completed by a house committee and the measure is being drafted. Both these sums are record breakers for peace time.

House Committee Busy With New Tax Program

CONGRESSMAN SAM B. HILL of Washington and his subcommittee of the house ways and means committee took up the heavy task of determining how the new revenue of \$1,137,000,000 called for by President Roosevelt should be raised. Treasury officials recommended that an average tax of 33 1/2 per cent should be levied on undivided corporation profits and a tax of 90 per cent on all refund-

ed or unpaid AAA processing taxes. In this the fiscal experts followed the suggestions of Mr. Roosevelt. They told the subcommittee that the proposed corporation surplus tax would yield the government \$620,000,000 annually. The President has estimated that this amount will be needed to finance the new farm program and the soldier bonus.

The so-called "windfall" tax on processors who successfully challenged the AAA in the courts, it was believed, would yield another \$200,000,000. This will be used to reimburse the treasury for losses suffered as a result of the Supreme court's invalidation of AAA. There remains an additional \$317,000,000 which it is proposed to raise through excise taxes on a wide range of farm processors.

Chairman Hill said the experts and the members of the subcommittee were agreed that the tax on undivided surplus should not apply to banks and life insurance companies.

There was wide divergence of opinion concerning this tax among leaders in congress. Senator James Hamilton Lewis of Illinois, Democrat, for instance, declared himself against it as an unnecessary additional burden on business, and indicated he would support, instead, a plan to tax the income from federal securities now exempt. Senator Borah, Republican, said that in principle he endorsed the plan of taxing undistributed earnings, while Senator Hastings of Delaware, also Republican, denounced it as "confiscatory." Senator King of Utah, Democrat, and Representative Knutson of Minnesota, Republican, were moved by the program to demand immediate cutting down of federal expenditures, and in this Mr. Borah concurred. Speaker Joseph W. Byrns and Majority Leader W. B. Bankhead professed to see no difficulties in the way of the proposed measure.

One thing that boosted the chances of the President's tax program was a report from Secretary of Commerce Roper that corporation income in 1935 was 300 per cent higher than in 1932.

Federal Reserve Board Drops Six Chairmen

THE federal reserve board announced a big shake-up that will terminate the services of six regional bank chairmen, effective April 30. The men to be dropped are Eugene M. Stevens, Chicago; F. H. Curtiss, Boston; J. H. Cafe, New York; R. L. Austin, Philadelphia; J. S. Wood, St. Louis; and C. C. Walsh, Dallas.

Three present chairmen were designated to continue until December 31. They are E. S. Burke, Jr., Cleveland; H. W. Martin, Atlanta; and W. B. Gerry, Minneapolis.



Adolf Hitler



Giuseppe Motta



Koki Hirota