

Review of the History-Making Events of the World

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Situation in Europe Is Still Threatening

SIXTY thousand German troops in the Rhineland that was supposed to be demilitarized. Practically the entire French army in and behind the vast system of fortifications along France's eastern frontier. The French government, backed by the other signers of the violated Locarno treaty and by the little entente, Poland and Russia, demanding that Germany withdraw her troops from the Rhineland or that sanctions, economic and possibly military, be imposed by the League of Nations. Great Britain trying hard to keep the peace, reproving Germany, supporting the French demands in great measure, but urging that Hitler's proposal of new non-aggression pacts be given consideration. Reichsfuehrer Hitler reviewing his forces in the reoccupied territory and receiving the loud plaudits of the inhabitants for restoring their military sovereignty.

That in a nutshell was the perilous situation in Europe as the representatives of the Locarno nations and the council of the league assembled in London to consider what to do next. Foreign Minister Pierre-Etienne Flandin of France was there with the full support of Premier Sarraut for his demands that immediate action be taken to bring Hitler to time. He was represented as "almost convinced" that a "preventive war" now would be preferable to "carnage two years hence," and in Paris it was disclosed that France counted on having at her disposal, from her own forces and those of Russia, Poland and the little entente, a potential army of about 40,000,000 men. It was said 8,000,000 could be mobilized in 48 hours and 31,000,000 were trained reserves; and that 8,000 airplanes and a million tons of warships were ready.

The Franco-Russian treaty came up in the French senate and was ratified by a huge majority. It is this pact that Hitler gave as his excuse for remilitarizing the Rhineland, asserting that it was a violation of the Locarno treaty, being aimed at Germany. It is the final link in the "iron ring" around the reich which France has been forging.

Great Britain, France, Belgium and Italy, signers of the Locarno treaty, agreed that Germany had violated that pact and the Versailles treaty and referred the matter to the council of the league. But Britain, still striving to find the peaceful way out of the row, was averse to the immediate imposition of sanctions, and naturally Italy, herself suffering from that form of punishment, felt the same way. Foreign Secretary Eden of England continued his efforts to persuade Hitler to withdraw the troops from the Rhineland pending discussions, and urged upon Flandin the advisability of considering the German chancellor's proposal of a 25-year peace pact.

Co-operation with the British for peace, the league council invited Hitler to send a representative to its meeting. His reply was considered "unsatisfactory" by the British and enraged the French. He said, in effect, that he would send a representative to the council's deliberations only on condition that the other powers meet it there on a basis of full equality and promptly considered new treaty negotiations to replace the Locarno pact.

French Premier Sarraut and his cabinet, according to officials in

Paris, at once instructed Flandin to fight to the bitter end for the punishment of Germany, deciding that it would be better to take such a stand, even if it "wrecks the league," rather than bargain away "the nation's just right" by accepting Hitler's proposals for a new Locarno. Sarraut was reported to be ready even to quit the league, taking France's allies with him, if the council did not accede to his demands.

At first the British government's response to France's demands for full support against Germany was ambiguous and not satisfactory to Sarraut and Flandin.

The British statesmen seemed so calm in the crisis that there was reason to believe they knew in advance what Hitler intended to do. When Flandin and the other Locarno signatory representatives arrived in London, the attitude of the British cabinet changed and grew decidedly stiffer.

Germany's "army day" celebration was much quieter in the Rhineland than had been planned, owing to the tense situation. Troops at Frankfurt were inspected by War Minister Werner von Blomberg and there was a speech by Hitler; but the military parades and other features were canceled. Elsewhere in the reich the day was duly observed, but the feeling of anxiety was general and unconcealed.

The Frankfurter Zeitung, which like all German newspapers is under close government supervision, published a warning that Germany may repudiate her foreign debts if she is penalized for the rearmament of the Rhineland.

Leftist Riots in Spain Arouse the Army

SINCE the recent elections in Spain the riots staged by the leftists have been growing more vicious daily, and after disorders at Logrono in which a number of persons were killed the Spanish army was aroused to vigorous protest. Premier Manuel Azana was told by the officers that unless his new left government adopted measures to stop the wide-spread violence the army would take the maintenance of order into its own hands. Gen. Carlos Masquelet, minister of war, was said to be in sympathy with the army's demand.

Azana held a heated conference with Francisco Largo Caballero, president of the Socialist party, and is said to have told him that he believed revolutionary Socialists were responsible for most of the disorders, demanding that the violence cease immediately. Largo insisted that the Socialists be permitted to demonstrate, but finally gave in to the premier and issued orders to all Socialists to behave themselves.

Despite strict censorship imposed by the governor of Logrono it was learned that incendiaries there set fire to six convents and churches, four rightist centers and a rightist newspaper.

Prince Serge Mdivani Killed by Polo Pony

PRINCE SERGE MDIVANI, one of the more or less famous brothers from the Russian province of Georgia who have married so many American heiresses and movie actresses, was killed by the kick of a polo pony at Delray Beach, Fla., during a game with Cecil Smith's Texan team. Only five weeks before the prince became the husband of Louise Astor Van Alen, and she and

her mother witnessed the fatal accident. Serge was divorced by Pola Negri and Mary McCormic, and then married Miss Van Alen, who had divorced his brother Alexis. The latter was killed some months ago in a motor accident in Spain shortly after his marriage to Barbara Hutton ended in divorce. The third of the brothers is Prince David, former husband of Mae Murray.

Destruction by Floods in Eastern States

SPRING thaws and heavy rains created a serious condition throughout the northeastern states and as far southward as Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and in the Maritime provinces of Canada. The number of reported deaths was not great but many cities and towns were threatened by great ice packs that were swept down the swollen rivers, and vast areas of the countryside were under water. Textile mills and other industrial plants were forced to close down and railway traffic was handicapped.

Britain Names Inskip to Co-Ordinate Defense

PROCEEDING with its great rearmament program, the British government has named Sir Thomas Inskip, attorney general since 1932, to be the co-ordinator of the entire scheme, giving him a newly created cabinet post. This selection by Prime Minister Baldwin was a surprise. It had been thought the place might go to Winston Churchill, Neville Chamberlain, Alfred Duff Cooper or Sir Samuel Hoare.

Sir Thomas is known as an "anti-jingoist," is sixty years old and always is calm and unruffled in the house of commons or at the bar. It will be his duty as defense co-ordinating minister to synchronize activities of the army, navy, and air services.

Legal Measures to Stop Seizures of Telegrams

CHIEF JUSTICE ALFRED A. WHEAT of the District of Columbia Supreme court checked the telegram-seizing activities of the Black senate committee on lobbying. He granted the Chicago law firm of Silas H. Strawn an injunction restraining the Western Union Telegraph company from giving the committee copies of the firm's telegrams.

The judge said the subpoena served on the telegraph company by the committee, calling for copies of telegrams "goes way beyond" the committee's powers.

Next day William Randolph Hearst, newspaper publisher, began a fight in court to keep an original confidential telegram out of the hands of the Black committee.

Davis Sent to Europe to Study Conditions

CHESTER C. DAVIS, head of the invalidated AAA, is not going to administer the soil conservation program devised as a substitute. President Roosevelt announced that Mr. Davis would leave soon on a trip to Europe to make a special study for the government of economic conditions bearing on the agricultural plans for the country. Critics of the administration immediately assumed that Mr. Davis and Secretary of Agriculture Wallace had disagreed and that the former was being gently edged out of the picture. This Mr. Wallace warmly denied, asserting there had been no friction and that he had deep affection for Mr. Davis.

In announcing the assignment, Mr. Roosevelt said: "In requesting

him to make this study for our government, Secretary Wallace and I have had in mind the distinguished service Mr. Davis has given American agriculture, especially during the last two and one-half years. As administrator he has been directing governmental efforts which, to a considerable degree, were made necessary by changes in the European outlets for American farm products.

"Information to be gathered by him at close hand as to the precise nature and extent of these economic changes abroad is expected to assist greatly in developing American farm programs."

New York's Building Service Strike Ends

COMPROMISE brought to an end the two weeks' strike of building service workers in New York and thousands of elevator operators and other employees returned to their jobs in some 2,400 apartment houses and business structures. The settlement provided for immediate re-employment of all strikers and arbitration of wages and hours, and it was hailed as a "great victory" by James J. Bambrick, head of the local union and leader in the strike.

Arbitration of minimum wages and maximum hours was begun under Ferdinand A. Silcox, chief of the United States forestry service. Wages and hours are to be fixed at the end of each of the next three years on the basis of prevailing economic conditions.

In signing a three-year contract with the realty advisory board, representing the employers, union leaders abandoned their demand for a closed or preferential shop. Building operators, in their turn, agreed to reinstate all strikers instead of insisting on the retention of 15 per cent of the replacement workers hired during the strike.

Cummings Is Winner in Dispute With Ickes

IN UPHOLDING the conviction of Leonard Walter McIntosh, chief clerk of the department of public works of the Virgin Islands, on a minor theft charge the federal circuit court of appeals at Philadelphia ruled that the federal Department of Justice has complete control over the district court and the government attorney of the islands. This was a victory for Attorney General Cummings over Secretary of the Interior Ickes, for the latter's department, using the suit as a test case to determine control of the civil affairs of the Virgin Islands, had asked that the conviction of McIntosh be set aside as unjustified.

Death of Earl Beatty, British Navy Figure

EARL BEATTY, commander of the British war fleet in 1916-18 and afterward first lord of the admiralty, died in London after a long illness at the age of sixty-five. Rising from a sick-bed to attend the funeral of Earl Jellicoe last November, he predicted that he would soon follow his colleague. Lord Beatty had a meteoric career as a naval commander and displayed his ability in the battles of Heligoland Bight and Dogger Bank, and especially in the battle of Jutland where he commanded the first battle cruiser squadron. His wife, who died in 1932, was Ethel Field, daughter of the Chicago merchant prince, Marshall Field.

Hopkins Denies Demands of Workers' Alliance

COMMUNISTS and radicals who appeared as representatives of the Workers' Alliance of America went before WPA Administrator Harry Hopkins and made a series of demands that were all coldly turned down by that gentleman. These included the dismissal of

Victor F. Ridder, New York WPA director; no cut in the 3,500,000 persons on works relief, and full union pay and union hours for persons on relief and pay for sick leave. They also demanded that all employed, whether or not on relief rolls, be given WPA work.

Franco Makes Paraguay Totalitarian State

COL. RAFAEL FRANCO, who became provisional president of Paraguay after the recent revolution there, has set up a totalitarian government modeled after German Nazism and Italian Fascism. He issued a decree which declared the state and the "liberating revolution" of February 17 as indivisible and banned for one year political, labor, or other unions which "do not emanate explicitly from the state."

Paraguay, the government asserted, will be purged of "endemic, demagogic, industrial, and sectarian evils." The official statement places in the "liberating army" the principal source of authority.

The aims of the new government, the decree said, will be the construction of a new, strong Paraguay and constitutional reorganization for a future republic.

Franco's government was formally recognized at Asuncion by diplomatic representatives of the United States, Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Uruguay, Great Britain, France, Germany and Spain.

Measure to Broaden Trade Body Powers

POWERS of the federal trade commission to investigate unfair trade practices will be greatly broadened by the Wheeler bill approved by the senate interstate commerce committee. It is vigorously opposed by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, the National Association of Manufacturers and the American Newspaper Publishers' association. The measure would:

Make "deceptive acts and practices in commerce" unlawful in addition to "unfair methods of competition" specified in existing law.

Expressly give the commission authority to proceed "upon its own initiative," as well as that of the President, or either house of congress as now provided.

Include persons and partnerships as well as corporations within the scope of the commission's authority to investigate business practices and conditions in interstate and foreign commerce.

Redefine "documentary evidence" to include "books of accounts, financial and corporate records," and make such records subject to commission subpoena.

England's Bachelor King Hints He May Marry

GREAT BRITAIN is interested and pleased to learn that King Edward VIII may abandon his state of bachelorhood and take unto himself a wife. This was revealed when the king authorized these lines in the message submitting the civil list to the house of commons: "His majesty desires that the contingency of his marriage should be taken into account so that, in that event, there should be a provision for her majesty."

Five princesses of Europe are considered most eligible to become Edward's spouse. They are Irene and Catherine of Greece (whose ancestry is Danish), Juliana of the Netherlands, Eugenia of Greece, and Kyre of Russia, daughter of Grand Duke Cyril of Russia who is pretender to the Russian throne.



M. Flandin



Sir Thomas Inskip



Manuel Azana