

Review of the History-Making Events of the World

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

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Mussolini Abolishes Chamber of Deputies

BENITO MUSSOLINI evidently expects another European war, and in preparation for it he announced several drastic measures on the seventeenth anniversary of the founding of the Fascist party. He abolished the chamber of deputies, substituting for it a council of guilds; and he also eliminated the country's large industries, leaving the medium and small private industries in existence. This latter move, he told the council of the 22 guilds of the corporative state, was to increase the nation's economic self-sufficiency. "When and how war will come, one does not know," he said, "but the wheel of fate turns fast."

Mussolini asserted the large industries, particularly those working for the defense of the nation, would be formed into organizations called "key industries." These, he said, "will be run directly or indirectly by the government. Some will have mixed organization."

He drew tremendous cheers from the audience, rising in the gorgeous Julius Caesar hall of the capitol building, on Capitoline hill, when he declared that with this reform, the Fascist party reached fulfillment of its purposes.

Russia and Poland Don't Trust Negotiations

EASTERN Europe, especially Soviet Russia and Poland, is distrustful of the negotiations among the Locarno powers. Russia, according to Karl Radek, authoritative writer in Moscow, is convinced she must rely for her safety mainly on her own resources for defense, and accordingly will strengthen her armed forces, already numbering 1,300,000 men. He described commitments of the four Locarno powers in regard to future action as "so uncertain that they can be discounted as not existing at all."

Suggestions offered in London for the summoning of an international conference to discuss new agreements Radek found to be "so vague" as to appear to be "nothing more than a capsule to quiet the nerves of countries for which Hitler has expressed no particular love."

The Polish government was decidedly worried by reports of secret negotiations in London behind the scenes of the conference of the Locarno powers. These reports were forwarded by Col. Josef Beck, the foreign minister, who scented a plot to secure peace in western Europe at the expense of eastern Europe by granting Germany a free hand in the latter region. Beck thought there were possibilities of revision of the Versailles and other treaties. The information he sent to Warsaw led the press there to publish bitter attacks on the course Great Britain apparently was pursuing.

Three Powers Agree to Limit Battleship Size

GREAT BRITAIN, the United States and France, the only nations remaining in the London naval conference, accepted the final draft of a new treaty limiting the size of battleships to 35,000 tons, retaining 10,000 tons as the maximum for cruisers and providing that none of that size shall be built for six years.

Norman H. Davis, chief of the American delegation, served notice that the United States would consider herself free from the large cruiser limit if Great Britain should build more than 70 cruisers.

Unsuccessful in keeping Japan and Italy pledged to naval limitation, the conferees wrote escape clauses in the treaty which would permit them to disregard the limits if Japan and other nonsigners exceeded them.

Hitler Considers Reply to Peace Proposals

REICHSFUEHRER HITLER recalled Joachim von Ribbentrop from London, where that diplomat had heard Germany condemned as a treaty violator by the League of Nations, and with him spent several days carefully planning his response to the proposals of the other four Locarno powers. Others of his advisers participated in the conferences, but there was no doubt that Hitler himself would determine the course of the reich, and from the demonstrations in his honor over the week-end it appeared certain the German people would sustain him in his decision. Going to Breslau, still accompanied by Van Ribbentrop, Hitler told a big gathering of citizens: "We will not make a single compromise in internal or external politics. We want the world to know we will never capitulate before the resolutions and formulations of others."

Declaring the world is getting itself entangled in military alliances, Hitler promised: "We Germans will not allow ourselves to be entangled because we have reconquered our sovereignty and intend to keep it." The fuhrer answered charges that his peace proposals were merely a gesture by saying: "I make no empty gestures. These were proposals to insure the peace of the world for 25 years. Let other statesmen ask their peoples to express their opinion in votes as to whether they want war or peace. Maybe then the nations will come to agreement. May God show us the right way."

Parts of the peace plan offered by the four Locarno powers that were most objectionable to the Germans were the creation of an international police zone 12 miles wide along the Rhineland frontier, and the submission of the Franco-Russian mutual aid treaty to the World Court. Foreign Secretary Eden urged Von Ribbentrop before the latter left London for Berlin to prevail on Hitler to submit counter proposals. Eden emphasized that the four power proposals were not intended to be final.

Believing Hitler would be obdurate, the French cabinet prepared a program of sanctions against Germany for proposal to the league, although Foreign Minister Flandin and others doubted that England would agree to support it. Flandin was prepared for a struggle to keep Britain, Belgium and Italy in a united front with France against German efforts to drive them apart. The four Locarno powers are agreed on a virtual military alliance if the reichsfuehrer fails to accept their proposals for a new Rhineland settlement.

Great Floods Recede and Reconstruction Begins

INTREPID citizens of scores of cities and towns in the eastern and New England states which were devastated by the unprecedented floods were digging out their homes and places of business from the mud and debris as the turbulent waters of many rivers subsided. Reconstruction and refitting began everywhere immediately, and this, as well as the relief of the suffering thousands, was aided by funds

totaling more than \$43,000,000 allocated by President Roosevelt before he left Washington for Florida.

Rough estimates were that the total dead in 13 states were 169; the homeless were 221,500, and the total property damage, \$271,500,000. The last figure probably would be tripled if one took into account the losses from interruption to industry and trade and the stopping of the wages of labor.

As the floods receded in eastern Pennsylvania and New York and in West Virginia, the distress of the people was intensified by a severe blizzard; and in New England there were predictions of further heavy rains.

Cities along the lower Ohio were threatened as the flood waters raced down to the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico, but they had had plenty of warning and were in a measure prepared. Of course many communities were submerged, but the residents had moved to higher land.

Everywhere in the devastated regions the Red Cross workers were busy with food, clothing and medical supplies, and in many places National Guardsmen were kept on duty to prevent looting. The people of the nation were responding liberally to the call of President Roosevelt and Admiral Grayson, head of the Red Cross, for a fund of \$3,000,000.

Secretary of War Dern, who had been appointed emergency flood relief head by the President, ordered the commanding generals of six corps areas to extend full aid in rescue work and the strengthening of levees, and Harry Hopkins gave authority to all WPA officials to use their workers in any way necessary in the same lines.

Dr. Townsend Comes Out for Senator Borah

SENATOR WILLIAM E. BORAH is campaigning earnestly for the Republican Presidential nomination, and has just received a big boost for his cause in the announcement that Dr. Francis E. Townsend, founder of the old age pension plan that bears his name, will give the Idahoan all his support. Repudiating President Roosevelt and changing his registration at Long Beach, Calif., from Democratic to Republican, Townsend said Borah was the only Republican candidate who "even approached" the standard of the Townsendites, although the senator has refused to indorse the Townsend pension plan as it stands.

Hitherto the Townsend organization had favored circulation of third party petitions in every state to enlist millions of people as a demonstration of strength. So the doctor's announcement is a reversal of policy. If he can induce a considerable proportion of his followers to enter the Borah camp the senator's chances may be greatly enhanced.

In a speech in Chicago opening his campaign for Illinois delegates, Senator Borah lambasted the old guard of the Republican party, asserting that in 1932 10,000,000 voters were driven out of that party by leaders who "sacrificed the party" for their own aggrandizement, and that the 10,000,000 will not come back to the old fold if the old leadership controls at the Cleveland convention in June.

Doings of the Senators and Representatives

STILL refusing to appropriate \$12,000,000 for the Florida ship canal, the senate passed the army bill carrying approximately \$611,000,000. More than half the sum goes for the military activities of the War department.

There will be no reduction in the number of CCC camps during most of the coming fiscal year, and the enrollees will be kept up to about the 350,000 mark. This was the de-

cision of President Roosevelt after a threatened revolt of Democratic representatives induced him to change his mind in the matter.

Senator Black, chairman of the senate lobbying committee, has added the Wichita Beacon to the papers whose telegrams he has seized or attempted to seize. The list also includes the Hearst publications, the Cowles papers, and the Times Publishing company of Wichita Falls, Tex.

President Goes South on His Fishing Trip

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT packed up his fishing tackle and started South for his annual angling cruise, this time on the new Presidential boat, the Potomac. He made a brief stop at Winter Park, Fla., where he received an honorary degree from Rollins college.

Mr. Roosevelt had invited as his fishing companions his eldest son, James; an uncle, Frederick A. Delano, and three mates of his fishing cruise of last fall, Capt. Wilson Brown, United States navy, and Col. Edwin M. Watson, United States army, his military aides, and Capt. Ross T. McIntire, United States navy, White House physician.

Isabella Greenway Will Retire From Congress

ISABELLA GREENWAY, the capable lady who has represented Arizona in congress since October, 1933, has announced in Tucson that she will retire from public life at the conclusion of her present term. She was first elected for the remainder of the term of Lewis Douglas, who resigned to become director of the budget, and was re-elected in 1934.

Mrs. Greenway owns and operate several ranches in Arizona and New Mexico and a hotel in Tucson, and is also interested in some mining companies. Undoubtedly she could go back to congress without opposition, but she says she wants to devote more time to her private activities.

A girlhood chum of Mrs. Roosevelt, Mrs. Greenway has been a frequent visitor at the White House during her two terms in the house.

Income Tax Collections Show Big Increase

THE Treasury reported that income tax collections for the first 16 days of March amounted to \$281,758,032, or a gain of 46.4 per cent over the \$192,429,413 in the corresponding period of last year. Practically all collection districts registered an increase.

Effort to Keep Politics Out of WPA Administration

RUSH D. HOLT, the young Democratic senator from West Virginia, gave notice that he would continue to hammer at the Works Progress administration until a senate investigation was ordered. He demanded an inquiry into all relief activities under charge of Administrator Harry L. Hopkins, and other agencies affecting relief, the RFC, CWA, and FERA.

In reply to some of the charges made, Mr. Hopkins issued this bulletin:

"No employee of WPA is required to make any contribution to any political party. No WPA employee's job will be in jeopardy because of failure to make such contribution."

"No employee of the WPA shall at any time solicit contributions for any political party, and evidence of such solicitation will be cause for immediate discharge. The question whether or not to contribute

to any political party is a matter entirely for the voluntary decision of employees.

"No person will be employed or discharged on the ground of his support or nonsupport of any candidate."

Plans Announced for Soil Conservation Program

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE WALLACE announced the establishment of five regions for administration of the soil conservation and domestic allotment act, substitute for the invalid AAA. H. R. Tolley, administrator of the new plan, said the department already has begun a field service to administer the program in various states. As under the AAA, the leading part within the states is to be played by the farmers' county and community committees.

Mr. Wallace also directed discontinuance of the four commodity divisions whose work of liquidating AAA production control programs will be taken over by the regional directors. The order leaves intact other administrative units of the AAA, such as the division of marketing and marketing agreements, division of program planning, and the division of the consumers' counsel.

McSwain and Hearst in Fierce War of Words

SEIZURE of private telegrams by the Black committee has resulted in a fierce warfare of words between John J. McSwain of South Carolina, chairman of the house committee on military affairs, and William Randolph Hearst, newspaper publisher. Senator Black withdrew the subpoena on the Western Union company in the Hearst case, but first made public what purported to be a copy of a telegram from the publisher to one of his editorial writers in which McSwain was called "a Communist in spirit and a traitor in effect." McSwain promptly read this in the house and then vigorously and eloquently defended himself and denounced Hearst.

The publisher retorted with an open letter to his editorial writer in which he said:

"McSwain is a politician of the lower order, and his extreme radical pacifism is a danger to the peace and protection of the nation, and to the safety of the men, women and children who constitute the American people."

Billion and a Half Asked for Relief for Year

ONE and one-half billion dollars will be needed to carry the Works Progress administration through the coming fiscal year, according to President Roosevelt's figuring. Therefore he asks congress to appropriate that sum. He thought it would be sufficient to care for the destitute unemployed, together with \$1,000,000,000 in unexpended previous appropriations and the \$600,000,000 carried in the budget for the civilian conservation corps and various public works.

Limitation of federal relief expenditures to this figure, however, is dependent upon re-employment of substantial numbers of the idle by private industry, the President said.

As the President's message was presented, Speaker Joseph W. Byrns revealed that Mr. Roosevelt had advised his leaders that any increase in the appropriation over his estimates must be accompanied by new taxes to provide revenue to cover the added cost.



Benito Mussolini



Joachim von Ribbentrop



H. R. Tolley



Mrs. Greenway