

# *Current* HISTORY

AUGUST 1936

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## LOG *of* MAJOR CURRENTS

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### *AT HOME:*

MEASURED by such precepts as were in vogue up to the great War, or even during the Coolidge era, the trend of American political thought is definitely progressive, or liberal, as some prefer to call it. In the five platforms thus far presented, it is difficult to find more than hints of that stand-pat-ism about which we have heard so much. Most of the so-called radicals are given a fair, if not always a sympathetic, hearing, while most conservatives appear willing to consider advanced ideas. A Communist leader is given time on the air; the Socialist platform gets good publicity; and the Republican Party comes out for old-age pensions, marketing cooperatives, and the wholesale buying of land for public use.

The speed and revolutionary character of mechanical progress has trained us to tolerate startling innovations. As a matter of record, we have experienced one of the greatest revolutions in human history during the last hundred years. Moderately old men can point to greater changes since they were children than occurred during

some periods of a thousand years in the past. Horizons have broadened with bewildering rapidity, shaking faith in many ancient landmarks and sometimes spreading the human intellect to a point of shallowness.

The notion that political change is made necessary by mechanical change grows more and more dominant. On every hand one hears the assertion that statecraft must borrow not only its policies but its ideals from industry. It has become a virtual obsession with us Americans to see a thoroughgoing analogy between the industrial and political systems. We seek inventors to improve government just as they have improved machinery. But—and this is where the analogy comes to a dead end—we expect them to do this without a scientific background or the application of scientific methods.

To put it another way, mechanical progress has come from the bottom up, from study and experimenting by individuals, or small groups of individuals. But we are expecting political progress to come from the top down, and through experiments which involve nation-wide credit and nation-wide risk. If, and when, mechanical experiments failed, as they often have, the public

was not injured. That explains why the public has suffered so little from the failures and gained so much from the successes. It would be just as well perhaps to keep this thought in mind with regard to political experiments.

Political changes are inevitable, of course. We cannot hope to advance without them. The all-important question, however, is whether to blunder into them on a grand and dreamy scale, or to fall back on the slow, exacting, scientific processes which have accomplished so much in the field of mechanics.

While the general character of necessary political changes is often indicated beyond the shadow of a doubt, they include a technique which cannot be appreciated, much less applied, without painstaking care. Take the relief problem, for instance; it is perfectly obvious that when a highly organized industrial system throws millions of people out of work through no fault of their own, we have little choice but to provide them with the necessities of life. But how to do this without destroying confidence and self-respect, without creating a permanent factor of dependency and a permanent social burden, is a different and a vastly more perplexing task. Naturally enough, we find ourselves hopelessly befuddled over the question of how to reduce relief through gradual reemployment. We were totally unprepared for the problem. We had no idea that it could, or would, arise. We lacked anything like a comprehensive grasp of its nature, much less of the practical ways in which to meet it, and we still lack anythink like accurate information as to its size or source. We do not know within a million how many unemployed there are in this country; how many of them should be classified as employable; how many of them have held, or would like to hold, permanent

jobs. There is such wide disagreement as to facts, which ought to be easily obtainable, on the part of those who are supposed to know, that the average man finds himself badly confused and that pure guesswork enjoys about as good a rating as official statistics.

### *Courts and the Constitution*

An unscientific attitude toward politics, statecraft, and government accounts for the constant development of unexpected situations and the weird improvising of programs to meet them. The utter inability to foresee what is just around the corner is, perhaps, the saddest commentary on American leadership and American public opinion as they have been produced by the most expensive educational system in this world. As a people we seem totally unable to guess what will happen next, even though it come about as a natural consequence of what we have been doing. One could cite innumerable examples in point. Three months ago, we were assuming that the Constitution and the Supreme Court would be paramount issues in this campaign. We took it for granted that the Democratic Party would resent those smashing decisions by which important phases of the New Deal were outlawed and would demand relief by way of Constitutional amendments, or curbs on the judiciary. We took it for granted that the Republican Party would express unequivocal loyalty to the Constitution as it had been interpreted by those decisions. No doubt such sentiments existed among the rank and file of both parties, but the official utterances are so tame and compromising as to be almost meaningless.

The Democratic Party pledges itself to go forward with the New Deal, with the half that has been scrapped presumably included, but without strongly



THE GRIM REAPER

—United Feature Service

or specifically challenging Constitutional limitations as established by the Supreme Court. The Republican Party, while glorifying the Constitution and the Supreme Court, is quite content to follow a candidate who declares for an amendment to the former, if adequate laws to protect women and children cannot be enacted without it.

Average people find it hard to see how the New Deal can be preserved or resurrected without expanding powers of the Federal Government, either by Constitutional amendments or a more liberal construction of Constitutional provisions by the Supreme Court. Average people are rather surprised at the lack of more definite expressions on this issue. Rightly or wrongly, they attribute this lack to the pussyfooting which has come to play such a prominent part in practical politics and which causes most of the platforms and pronouncements to be treated with indifference, if not skepticism.

*Old Man Weather Intervenes*

A third party, a labor war, and a drought—all unlooked for—served to complicate, if not to alter, the political outlook. This is particularly true of the last. White-hot weather has bleached not only the grain crop, but the program of crop control through subsidized reduction. Those who hope to adjust supply to demand by paying farmers to plant less, find themselves likely to be caught short. Buyers are hedging, sellers are holding, and city consumers are waiting anxiously to see how much more bread and meat are going to cost.

Such a condition can hardly fail to affect opinions and votes. It were profitless to rehash the gloomy reports and statistics which have been decorating the front page of every great newspaper. Millions of bushels of wheat, corn, and rye have withered beyond recall. An untold number of farmers



DON'T LET IT RATTLE YOU!

—Christian Science Monitor

have lost, not only a season's work, but their cash reserves as well. No less than 130,000 families which honestly tried to be self-sustaining, and who supposed they had become self-sustaining, are compelled to accept temporary relief. Small wonder that Secretary Wallace speculates in the possibility of a changing climate.

Farmers fortunate enough to dwell in regions of adequate rainfall can depend on good prices and ready markets. Some of their prosperity, however, will come at the expense of ruined neighbors. Nature has done more than her share in helping to balance conditions between agriculture and industry. Barring some miracle, there will be little cause to worry about overstocked grain-bins and exportable surpluses. This is the second time within two years that Nature has furnished us with a grim reminder that she can be depended upon to curtail crops every so often and that scarcity needs no human assistance.

### **Labor Troubles**

Should steel be organized? If so, should the organizing be done on a craft, or on an industrial, union basis? Is organized labor about to split over this issue, or can a common meeting-ground be discovered?

On July 6, John L. Lewis, recognized leader of the industrial union movement, made an address over the radio in which he called upon steel workers to organize, warning them that industry would "provoke strife and bloodshed" in an effort to prevent such organization.

On July 7, William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, made a statement in answer to Mr. Lewis's speech, declaring that Mr. Lewis and his organization were attempting to thwart the unionization of steel workers by causing a rift in the

ranks of the A.F. of L. The C.I.O. (Committee for Industrial Organization), he said, had achieved nothing since its inception last November, "except division, discord, and confusion in the ranks of organized labor."

Mr. Lewis replied that the executive council of the A.F. of L. had no plan to organize the steel industry, and that the instructions of the last two conventions to start such organization had never been carried out. He also said that it was not yet too late for the A.F. of L. members to join with the C.I.O. in its present campaign to unionize the steel industry.

"If the A.F. of L. council chooses to join with the corporations composing the American Iron & Steel Institute, in fighting the C.I.O. now engaged in this major effort," said Mr. Lewis, "the shame of such a dishonorable action will lie on the heads of Mr. Green and his irreconcilable associates."

On July 8, Mr. Lewis refused to appear before the executive council of the A.F. of L. where he had been summoned to show cause why the industrial unions that are following his leadership should not be suspended or expelled. For the moment such action appeared to create a breach between the two factions which could not be repaired. Moderate labor leaders, however, realizing the calamity such a breach implied, hastened to throw their influence on the side of reconciliation. They were assisted by a spokesman of the Roosevelt Administration, but were equally apprehensive of the political consequences. While the storm still rages, it looks as though a way might be found to prevent an open and irreparable break between the A.F. of L. and the industrial union movement.

Among the more important unions threatened with suspension next November unless they abandon the C.I.O.

are: the United Mine Workers, with a membership of 540,000 (Mr. Green himself belongs); the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union, with a membership of 225,000; the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, with a membership of 155,000; the International Typographical Union; the Hat, Cap, and Millinery Workers International Union; the Oil Field, Gas and Refinery Workers; the United Textile Workers of America; and the Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers union.

Thus we come to a three-way struggle which, however it turns out, is bound to create more or less discontent in the ranks of labor, as well as in the field of industry. The controversy between those favoring trade unionism on a craft basis and those who prefer to see it on an industrial union basis has probably reached a point where it cannot be settled without a showdown. It is unfortunate, of course, that this show-down should come at a time when the energy and resources of



MEN OF IRON

—NEA Service

the entire nation need mobilization for recovery. That, however, appears to be the usual American approach. As a people, we seem unable, or unwilling, to meet perfectly obvious issues until forced to do so by some emergency.

### ***That Third Party***

William Lemke, one of the stormiest petrels in Midwestern politics, caught both Republicans and Democrats off guard by tossing his hat in the ring as a Presidential candidate at the eleventh hour. Leaders of both parties were aware of various dissenting or diverting movements, but there seemed to be too many and too great a variety for anything like cohesive organization. It is possible, of course, that such a condition still exists, and that Mr. Lemke's entrance will prove just one more abortion in the field of politics. It is difficult to see how he can hope to gain anything of permanent value for himself or for his associates, but with the avowed backing of Father Coughlin, and the possible backing of the Townsendites, as well as of the late Huey Long's Share-The-Wealth movement, he might easily divert enough votes to determine the national election.

Assuming that most of the votes going to Mr. Lemke will be at the expense of President Roosevelt, Republicans are inclined to regard his advent as a Presidential candidate in the light of a Heaven-sent blessing. Democrats, on the other hand, are obviously worried in spite of their efforts to belittle its effect. No one expects it to carry more than one or two States, if any, but everyone is trying to guess how many votes it will attract—particularly in doubtful States. It is essentially the old agrarian movement over again; the Greenbacker, the Populist, the non-partisan leader reasserting themselves. It is for inflation, or fiat money; for

the mobilization of public credit on a grand and risky scale; for economic adventures which make the New Deal seem colorless and insipid. But seventy years of campaigning on such issues have built up a considerable following throughout the Midwest which, coupled with the support it may derive from other and newer appeals, is something to reckon with, particularly in sections where the line-up between the two old parties is fairly even.

### ***Toward Recovery***

No matter how more or less extraneous issues are dragged in, the real debate in connection with this campaign will be on the question of recovery. How much of a gain have we made, and to what can it be attributed? Administration spokesmen, of course, will argue that we have made great gains and that the New Deal should be blessed with a large share of the credit. Republicans will argue that recovery began when certain phases of the New Deal—particularly NRA and AAA—were outlawed by the Supreme Court.

Secretary Roper estimates that the national income will reach sixty billion dollars this year, which would represent an increase of twenty billion dollars, or 50 per cent, over 1932. His estimate is based on tables and methods of computation which the Department of Commerce have employed for several years. There is no reason to suppose that he is far wrong. The steady improvement of retail trade, farm prices, employment, payrolls, dividends, and production all indicate that we have made substantial progress in getting out of the depression. It is rather ridiculous to assume that this could have been done without the co-operation and support of millions of people, and that any one factor should be glorified as exclusively responsible. As a matter of common sense, all

classes, even those which seem to oppose specific plans and programs, have contributed something of value. Business men who accept governmental advice or regulation against their judgment and who did the best they could under conditions which they did not approve; laborers who continued to

work for wages which they regarded as unjustly low; courts that disapproved measures in such a way as seemed to place them in opposition to recovery—all these and many more have helped, not only to clarify, but to better, a difficult situation.

It is not true that the New Deal was



KEEP HIM ON THE JUMP

—Christian Science Monitor

wholly injurious, or that the invalidation of some of its more important phases was wholly beneficial. It is not true that we made little or no progress until May 1935. It is not true that either the Administration at Washington or the Supreme Court did, or could have lifted this country out of the quagmire by themselves. It is not true that every experiment was unsound, or that drastic measures were unnecessary, even though they had to be abandoned.

The very fact that we have continued to recover both when the New Deal was fully in force and after much of it had been scrapped leaves no doubt that there has been a genuine mobilization of constructive forces throughout this country, or that the vast majority of people have helped in that mobilization. We can, of course, differ as to specific policies, but not to such an extent as implies the inability of the American people to act sensibly by themselves. We cannot glorify this or that program to such an extent that implies general helplessness. The average citizen is well aware of this and gives scant attention to political extremists whose arguments and assertions insinuate that he and all his neighbors are unable or unwilling to help themselves.

### *Cost of the New Deal*

The Federal debt has increased approximately \$13,000,000,000 since President Roosevelt took office. Many people are inclined to accept this as indicating the cost of the New Deal. Meanwhile, cash in the Federal Treasury has increased \$2,200,000,000 since President Roosevelt took office. Treasury spokesmen feel that this should be

deducted, leaving the net increase of Federal debt, or New Deal cost, at \$10,800,000,000.

♦ ♦ ♦

### **The way some Republicans figure it:**

Net increase of Federal debt—  
\$10,800,000,000.  
Add for bonds guaranteed by  
Government—\$4,700,000,000.  
Cost of New Deal—\$15,500,000,-  
000.

### **How some New Dealers figure it:**

Net increase of Federal debt—  
\$10,800,000,000.  
Subtract profit through devaluation  
of dollar—\$2,000,000,000.  
Subtract loans to be repaid—\$2,-  
000,000,000.  
Cost of New Deal—\$6,800,000,-  
000.

All of which leaves out some very important items. To begin with, the New Deal is still an unfinished job, and the books cannot be closed or even balanced at this time. Certain phases of it, such as relief, whether direct or indirect, aid to farmers, and credit for business must go on. Added to this, many cities, towns and States have been induced to borrow and spend in order to get their proportionate share of New Deal benefits. Some of them are committed to projects barely begun at this time.

In the final analysis, however, the question is not what the New Deal has, or will, cost but whether we are getting our money's worth. Was it necessary to spend such vast sums and have they been spent in the most efficient way? The average citizen is vitally interested in these two questions, particularly with regard to relief.



CHOPPING BLOCK

*Executioner, to his victim:—"You needn't worry, you'll soon be out of pain, but as for me, I'll never hear the end of this."*

—*Evening Times, Glasgow*

## ABROAD:

LEAGUE OF NATIONS sanctions imposed against Italy nine months ago were ended on July 15. This was the formal and expected confirmation of the abandonment of Ethiopia to her fate. It was also a warning to all other small nations that their security stands only insofar as it happens to coincide with the interests of the Great Powers. Above all, the end of sanctions amounts to the candid admission that the League of Nations, in its present composition and in the spirit by which it has been actuated, is helpless against international gangsterism.

That is the measure of the failure of the League—or rather of its members. The extent of its success is that, for the first time in human history, a defeated sovereign, bereft of his kingdom by conquest, was able to stand

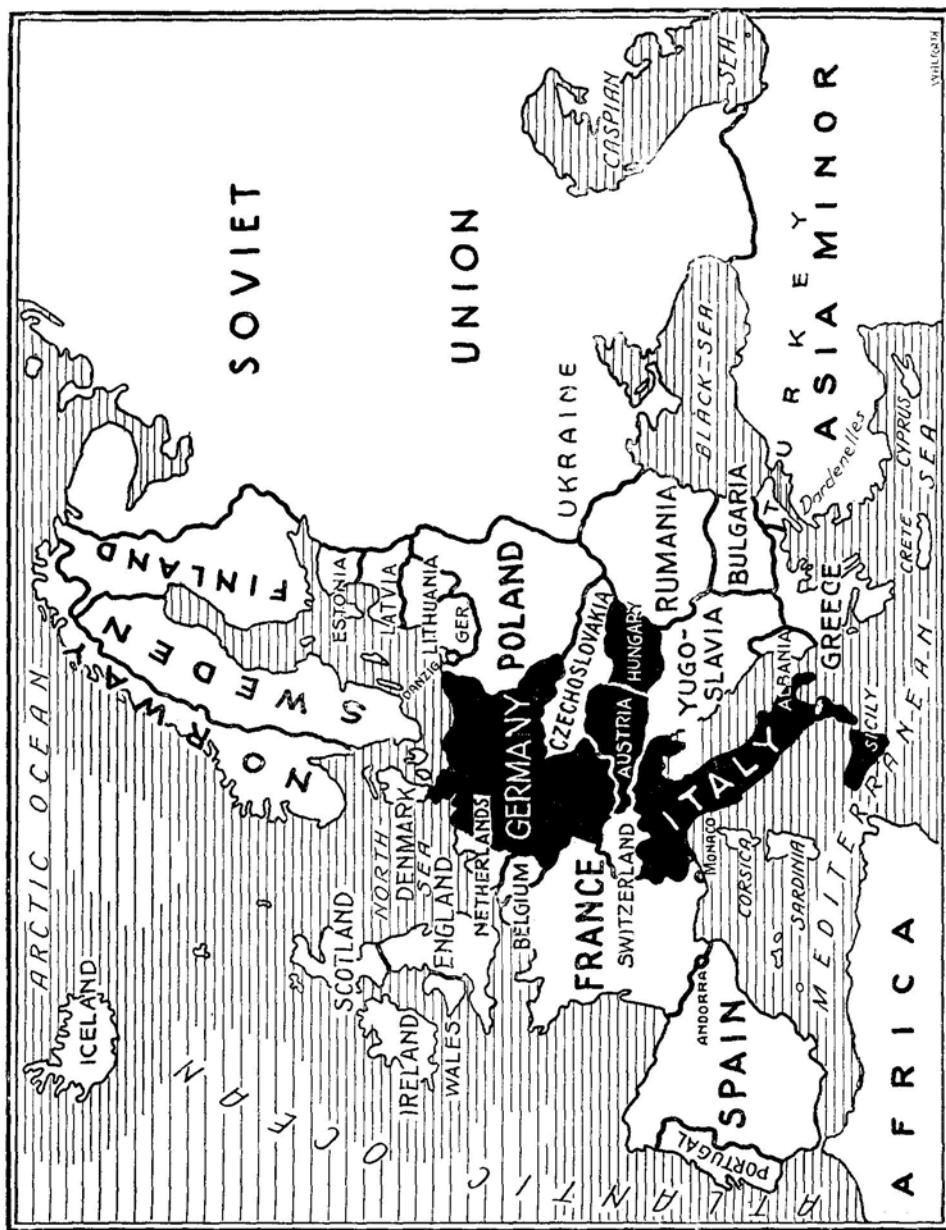
before an organized body, representing the nations of the world, and state his case. Thwarted at every turn, Haile Selassie had but one chance to speak. But he asked the squirming delegates the question that hurt: "What measures do you intend to take? What reply have I to take back to my people?"

He spoke, not only for Ethiopia, but for all the small nations and all who hope for peace. He received no direct answer, nor was one necessary; silence, in this case, was eloquent.

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### Gagging an Emperor

There is talk of "reforming" the League and turning it into what M. Litvinov describes as a combination of debating society and charitable institution. The Emperor of Ethiopia will



LINING UP IN CENTRAL EUROPE: the areas in black show potential alliance.

be able to tell the sponsors of this plan what the League will amount to as a forum of discussion.

Judged by the principles to which League members claim to subscribe, only one nation had a clearly justified case; only one statesman of all those connected with the Italo-Ethiopian situation emerged with an enhanced reputation, free from accusations of hypocrisy, equivocation, and cowardice. The nation was Ethiopia, the statesman, Haile Selassie.

Nevertheless, every attempt was made to prevent the latter from laying his case before the Geneva Assembly. Shortly before Anthony Eden told the British House of Commons that there was no longer a native government in Ethiopia, messages from the temporary administration left there were addressed to the Emperor, care of the British Foreign Office. Entrusted to the English monopoly, Cable and Wireless, Inc., they were routed by Italian Eritrea instead of Khartoum. Obviously, their embarrassing arrival was prevented.

In Geneva, attempts were made in the Committee of Credentials and the Steering Committee to deny the Emperor his right to speak, but they were spiked by Yugoslavia, Great Britain, and France. Then the Radio Broadcasting Company of Geneva stated that it would be unable to broadcast the Emperor's address unless he signed an agreement to say nothing inimical to any nation. When the Emperor did speak, it was only to be jeered at by Italian Fascist hoodlums in the press gallery. Finally, the Steering Committee transgressed the rules of procedure and shelved the Ethiopian resolutions calling for votes on the principle of transferring territory by force, and on a loan for the purpose of further resisting Italy.

In strong contrast were the popular

receptions accorded to Haile Selassie on his arrival in London and Geneva. They emphasized his moral victory; he was right when he told the League members that "God and history will remember your judgment." But that will not help Ethiopia today.

### *Whose Blame?*

All attempts collectively to apply sanctions are necessarily difficult. With that qualification, however, the Italo-Ethiopian test case for the League was virtually a set-up. Italy was known to be in financial straits; climate and conditions of warfare materially aided the sanctionists. It seemed that the League would gain a new lease on life through curbing Italy and then attacking the problem of the distribution of the world's resources—the policy laid down by Sir Samuel Hoare in September.

For the fiasco which followed, all nations are in a measure responsible; and insofar as their responsibility was greatest, France, and especially Great Britain, are primarily blameworthy.

It is apparent that conservative elements in the British Cabinet never sincerely believed in the principle of collective security and have effectively frustrated the efforts of those colleagues who attempted to carry out a League policy. But the British National Government is open to a graver charge than that of blundering. It has not only failed to execute a specific popular mandate, but, in effect if not in motive, it has taken a policy clearly laid down by the most pacific people in Europe and discredited it by half-hearted application. In other words, the National Government has led the way in creating circumstances in which the nationalism, imperialism, and rearmament near its heart fit the logic of the situation. For this reason, the storm of protest in England, led by Lloyd George, the Labor Party, and

Viscount Cecil is far less effective than it might have been otherwise.

### *Britain's Woes*

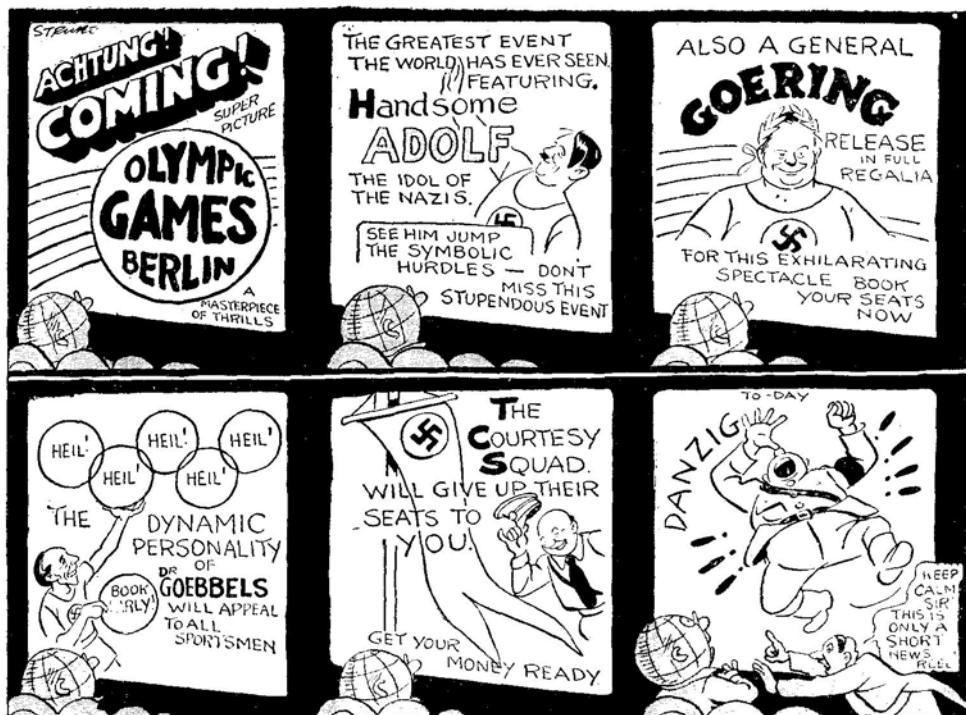
If there is a recording angel appointed to keep tab on the conduct of the world's statesmen and diplomats, he will mark down Haile Selassie for a reward in heaven; for it is certain that the Lion of Judah will not receive his due on this earth. And if there is such an angel, he has apparently decreed that the British Cabinet's sins of omission and commission shall be visited upon it here and now. Elected on a platform of a bigger and better Empire, the National Government's failure to curb Japan in Manchuria and Italy in Ethiopia has brought direct

retribution in the form of a grim series of Imperial woes.

### *Dominions Disagree*

In 1914, the British Dominions answered the first call to arms. Since then, they have gained their independence and achieved a national status which was sealed by the Act of Westminster in 1931. The League Covenant has taken the place of British dominance as the obligation calling for common action.

In July, the Covenant was repudiated. With the exception of South Africa (whose attitude was determined by a domestic racial problem), the British nations declared themselves in favor of lifting sanctions. How-



COMING EVENTS

—*Daily Express, London*

ever, it is evident that, like South Africa, their decisions were determined essentially by sectional considerations. Even if the Covenant is revived, Great Britain favors only regional military sanctions; which, obviously, would not obligate the Dominions.

The British Government would like to gain assurance of dominion support through an Imperial defensive and offensive alliance, and the Imperial Defense Committee has met. But it is certain that the Dominions will not bind themselves unconditionally to go to war with Great Britain; for example, the Premier of South Africa has stated that anyone still holding to such an idea should go back to the nursery.

Consequently, as Great Britain casts about for allies, she will have to rely on mere traditional association as assurance of Dominion support.

### *Imperial Lifelines Snarled*

Great Britain's short route to the Indian Ocean and the Far East, via the Suez Canal and the Red Sea, has always been a vital Imperial link. Since Mussolini's conquest of Ethiopia, it has been severely threatened. Egypt and the Sudan are squeezed between Italian forces; and the discomfiting fact has just been discovered that, a year ago, France ceded to Italy Doumeirah Island overlooking the southern entrance to the Red Sea and now in the process of fortification. Troubles in Palestine, aggravated by the Italians, have been further accentuated by the new French Government's consideration of abandoning the Syrian mandate; and Palestine is not only the outlet for Iraq's oil, but a focal point for Imperial air communications. Worst of all has been the revelation that the airplane has outmoded British naval supremacy in the Mediterranean.

Consequently, England has been

forced to turn to the longer route to the East—that via the Cape of Good Hope. Negotiations were undertaken with South Africa to permit construction of a naval base at Cape Town. That Dominion, however, was intent upon driving a hard bargain. The conditions she laid down were reported to be that: South Africa should not be obliged to participate in any British war; England should bear the cost of the base; the British native protectorates, Bechuanaland, Swaziland and Basutoland, should be handed over to the Union; and the Union should be allowed to share any Portuguese colonies that "fell on the market." The last-mentioned, it is reported, would be shared with Germany, whose agents are attempting to undermine the Salazar regime in Portugal.

If Great Britain is intent upon regaining her prestige as "an imperial and an oceanic" power—to use Sir Samuel Hoare's words—it is equally evident that the expansive ambitions of Oom Paul have been resurrected in the Union of South Africa.

### *Europe Dividing*

June and July saw the unmistakable progress of attempts to weld the traditional "iron ring" around Germany. Even more marked were Hitler's efforts to break through the eastern links of this chain of actual or prospective alliances.

There are two schools of thought in Germany regarding the *Drang nach Osten*. One favors northeasterly extension of Nazi influence by way of Poland; the other prefers the idea of penetration to the southeast by way of Austria, the Little Entente, and through to the Ukraine.

Both concepts have been pursued so effectively that, in July, they provoked serious reactions: in the north, the League dispute over Danzig, and in

the south, a proposed Italo-Russian alliance to checkmate German designs. The Nazis must decide in which direction they would next try their strength, but meanwhile, in their efforts to break through the encircling alliances, they

have strengthened the determination of the *status quo* forces.

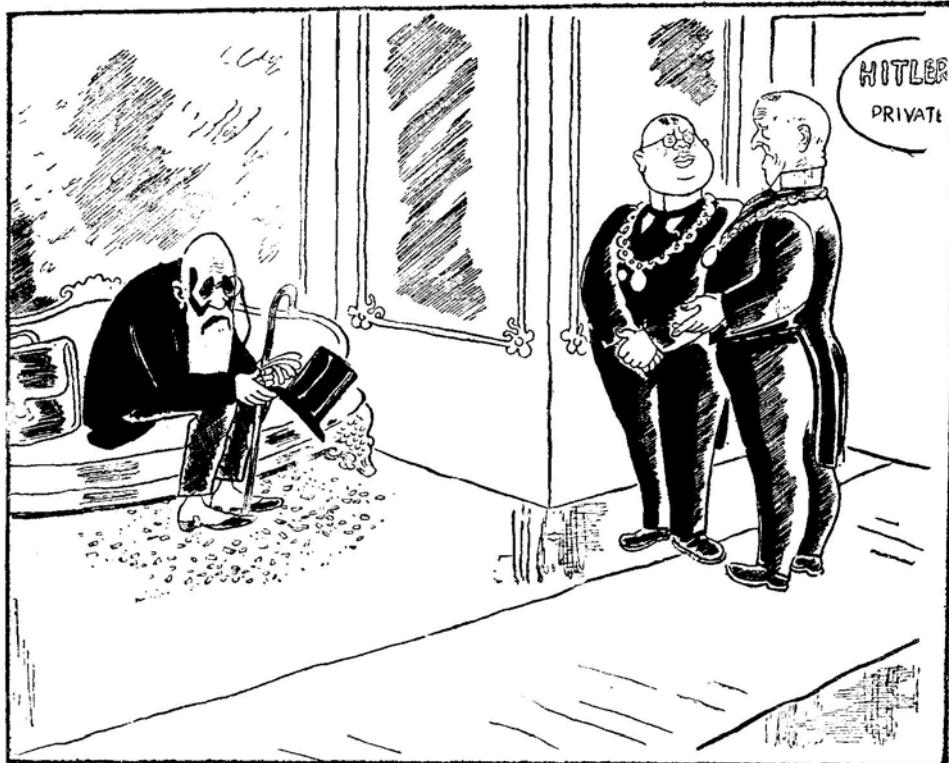
#### Danzig and Poland

Germany presented the League with another test when the Nazis in the Free



DANZIG IN THE DARK

—United Feature Syndicate



## AT THE GERMAN FOREIGN OFFICE

*"There is still that Englishman in the ante-room waiting for a reply to the questionnaire."  
"Um . . . er . . . so . . . give him something to read."*

—*Il Travaso, Rome*

City of Danzig defied the League administration and appeared on the way to a *putsch* after conducting a reign of terrorism.

Although the League held firm against Herr Greiser's vehement attacks and gratuitous insults, the success or failure of Nazi ambitions in Danzig depend upon circumstances nearer the battleground itself.

While the elections of 1933 gave the Nazis control of the Volkstag and Senate, there has arisen a strong anti-Nazi "People's front", which claims a majority of the almost exclusively German population of the city, and which is prepared to rely upon its own strength as much as upon what support it might receive from the League.

The second factor which is causing the Nazis to think twice before they embark upon any precipitate steps is the attitude of Poland, a country which Herr Hitler sincerely desires as an ally. At present, Poland hangs in an uneasy balance between the German and the Franco-Soviet camps. Internal politics are divided between the Generals and the Colonels. The former, supported by the industrial groups are pro-French, anti-Nazi, and democratic; but the Colonels, backed by the large landowners, are fascist in outlook and pro-Nazi. Today, the Generals hold the reins and the Prime Minister is their representative, although Colonel Beck holds the foreign portfolio.

The latter has favored Nazi Germany and has been cool towards the League. Yet the Polish balance of power is such that a Nazi coup in Danzig—especially since that port commands its Polish rival, Gdynia—might well have the direct result of driving Poland into the anti-German alliance. That is an eventuality which makes the Nazis hesitate.

### ***Bad Debts in the Balkans***

There is a Machiavellian ingenuity about German economic penetration throughout Central Europe and the Balkans, to further which Dr. Schacht went on tour in mid-June. Briefly, German importers place large orders for the raw materials upon the export of which these countries depend; the goods are delivered and then the importers find, to their regret, that exchange restrictions prevent payment in cash. There is nothing to be done about it save that the exporter should accept German commodities, preferably arms, in return.

The fruits of this policy are that Germany has supplanted France, especially, and Italy as the dominant economic power in southeastern Europe. For instance, she now accounts for 48% of Bulgaria's exports and 54% of her imports; she has increased her purchases of Rumanian oil sixfold since 1933; the French share of Yugoslav exports has dwindled to almost nothing; and Italian trade with Yugoslavia has been cut off by sanctions—all to the benefit of the Reich, which has also been awarded substantial contracts for the construction of heavy industries in Yugoslavia.

It would be naïve to see no more than economic motives in all this. Nazi political influence has grown correspondingly, and, in its disruptive effect upon the French-inspired Balkan and Little Ententes, threatens to remake

the map of Europe as it has been known since 1919.

### ***Little Entente Weakens***

The Little Entente continues to stress its unity, but its faith in France as a guarantor of its security has seriously diminished. Berlin is trying to foster in Rumania a union between the German elements, which are predominantly Nazi, and the Right Wing, which has been materially strengthened by the merging of the Agrarians into the Christian-National Party. The Nazis and the Rumanian Right find a common basis in the anti-Semitism which is rabid in Rumania. Berlin's influence is powerful; the leader of the National-Peasant Party has claimed that 60 Bucharest newspapers are subsidized. Should these two groups be united on a Nazi platform, the present even balance in the Government between the pro-French group (led by Foreign Minister Titulescu) and the pro-Germans (Right-Radicals), would undoubtedly swing in favor of Germany.

But if the possibility of a Nazi Rumania, surrounding Czechoslovakia and opening the way to the Ukraine, gives the French camp gray hairs, Yugoslavia is equally a source of worry. Hitherto, that nation has leaned on the Little Entente and an alliance with Turkey. Both these props imply relations with Moscow. But the Soviets have not yet been officially recognized; French prestige has fallen since the Ethiopian war; German trade has increased; and Yugoslavs are beginning to wonder whether the Reich would not be a better protector against Italy than the French alliance.

### ***Checkmate in Austria***

While the Nazi drive to the southeast seemed to be running on schedule,

at least in Yugoslavia and Rumania, it encountered a sudden stumbling block in Austria.

Rumors of every kind were accentuated by Chancellor Schuschnigg's silence regarding his intentions. His interest in the Hapsburgs was well known; yet it was obvious, in view of the warnings issued by the Little Entente, that restoration of the monarchy would throw central Europe into chaos. It seemed entirely logical that the Nazis should secretly favor Otto, in that the results of his return would play directly into their hands. On the other hand, lengthy conferences between the Austrian Chancellor and the German Minister, Von Papen, lent to the suspicion that a deal would be made with Germany, to whom some observers virtually conceded Austria.

If those who suspected a German deal were right, its eventual nature was unexpected: Schuschnigg, backed by Mussolini, openly defied Hitler, and held out for German recognition of Austrian independence and non-interference in her internal affairs. What is more, he won his point.

There are two annexes to the treaty: one is that Austria should maintain an army sufficient to guard its independence—a provision aimed against the Little Entente; the other is the assurance that restoration is not a "topical problem."

### *Fascist Bloc vs. Stresa Front*

There were two reasons for Hitler's unexpected mood of sweet reasonableness over Austria: A fear that his designs on southeastern Europe would provoke an Italo-Russian alliance, and hope that he might join Germany and Austria to Italy and Hungary in a bloc which would divide France and Russia.

There remains the fact that the basis of the Austro-German treaty is the

recognition that both are Germanic nations. Some observers see in it a peacefully achieved *anschluss*. That feature will not be to Mussolini's liking, and, again, Germany and Italy are rivals in Yugoslavia. The Russians, on their part, have reason to fear for the independence of Czechoslovakia, with which they have a treaty of mutual assistance. Nor is there any indication that Hitler has abandoned his ambitions towards the Ukraine.

Italy and Russia consequently have a substantial common interest in opposing Germany in the southeast. Nevertheless, the threat of a fascist bloc has given Mussolini a trump card in negotiations for the revival of the Stresa front. Great Britain has already postponed discussions of the "reform" of the League until autumn, by which time Italy will have had time to consolidate her position in Ethiopia. Under the circumstances, England might find it difficult to refuse an Italian request for a loan for that purpose. All told, this much is certain: *il Duce* is in a position to exact a handsome price for any assistance he might be persuaded to lend against Germany.

### *Russia Goes Liberal*

While M. Blum was trying to discover whether he would go down in history as the French Kerensky, the French Giolitti, or the man who took France from the clutches of the "200 families" and gave it to the people, the Soviet Government, generally branded as one of the ranking tyrannies, took a long step towards its avowed objective of a democratic socialist state.

The highlight of the new constitution is the provision for a House of Representatives, to be elected by a secret ballot, the franchise extending to all citizens, male and female, over 18 years of age. A second chamber, the House of Nationalities, is to be



FELLOW SUFFERERS

Negus: "Times are bad for the colored races,  
Mr. Louis."  
—Il 420, Florence, Italy

chosen by the Provincial Councils. The two Houses jointly are to elect the Council of Commissars, the Presidium (31 members) and the President. Judges are to be popularly elected and, together with police officials, are to be responsible to an Attorney General appointed by the Houses.

Although this projected political organization is similar to the British and the American models, only its operation will reveal the extent to which Russia has been democratized. There will be only one party and no opposition in the American sense; "constructive criticism" is to fulfill that function. Nevertheless, the mere act of voting insures at least a modicum of free speech and free discussion, and the airing which the new proposals have been given in the press and the Communist organizations indicate a genuine desire to propagate these principles.

It is apparent that the Soviets, con-

fident in the belief that the national house is securely in order, feel that the time has come to loosen the restrictions on political liberty. And the announcement of the new constitution was nicely timed to woo the friendship of the democratic powers.

#### *Far East*

Just as there might have been a different story to tell about the British Empire had England been faced by a united Europe, so Japan has followed the principle of "divide and rule" with respect to China. That much considered, the degree of national unity which Chiang Kai-Shek has been able to maintain has been remarkable—the more so in that it has been maintained by military force, rather than by economic reconstruction.

The Canton Government, however, has always been nominally, rather than actually, subservient to the Central Nanking Government, and the uprising of the South was not, as Chiang Kai-Shck preferred to believe, a "rebellion", but a civil strife between rival war lords. Although ostensibly directed against Japan, the bid for power made by Kwangsi and Kwantung was so patently to Tokyo's interest that Nanking charged it was fomented by Japan as a pretext for further "intervention." The Japanese military attaché at Shanghai admitted that the Kwangsi forces had had Nipponese advisers, and his counterpart in Nanking tactlessly stated that "Japan, of course, sells munitions to whomever will pay for them." The further accusation that Kwangsi had been loaned \$1,500,000 was not confirmed.

More than 1,000,000 troops faced each other through the provinces lying to the north of Kwangsi and Kwantung—Fukien, Kiangsi, Hunan, and Kweichow—while Chiang Kai-Shek

stalled in order to repair the railway line from Nanking to the scene of hostilities. As the plenary session of the Kuomintang drew near, however, Kwantung called off hostilities, serious defections were reported in the Kwangsi ranks, and the threat of civil war seemed to have subsided, leaving Chiang Kai-Shek in the saddle.

### Question Marks

For the time being, Chiang Kai-Shek and his policy of passive resistance to Japan had won an unexpectedly easy victory. But the future asks several leading questions.

There is a rising flood of anti-Japanese sentiment in China. As Japan has defined herself as the "bulwark" against communism, will she prove to be that religion's best friend by forcing Chinese Nationalist sentiment to align itself with the Reds as Japan's only determined opponents? Again, Chiang Kai-Shek's semi-fascist government must suppress this antagonistic movement by force. Where is he going to obtain the money to sustain his government while the important revenues from the North China customs are cut off? Is the explanation to be found in a Sino-Japanese anti-communist pact, reported in the Hongkong *Telegraph*? Or is the Nanking Government banking on the supposition that the Japanese cannot afford further peaceful penetration and realize that forceful invasion would throw China into a chaos of desperate resistance which would make it valueless as a region to be exploited commercially? Finally, the United States has invested in China some \$250,000,000, and England, more than \$1,000,000,000. The Nanking Government represents, not only the Chinese army, business men, bankers, and the ruling agrarian class, but also the foreign interests. In fact, a writer in the *New Statesman* and

*Nation* makes the assertion that, "If the Chinese Red Armies had received as much material help as the Kuomintang has from Europe and America, the hammer and sickle would now be floating over China." The fall of the Nanking Government is against the interests of England and the States. What part are they playing or what action do they propose to take?

### Pan America

Pan American nations continue to cool off in their enthusiasm for the League, either from motives of indifference or disgust.

Following the examples of Brazil, Guatemala, Paraguay, and Costa Rica, Nicaragua resigned. Mexico withdrew its representative on the steering committee, as a token of disapproval of the way in which that body was trying to sidetrack embarrassing Ethi-



CHINESE

"Good morning, General, what do you wish?"  
"Bring me my diary. I have forgotten whom  
I intended to declare war against today."

—Il 420. Florence, Italy

opian resolutions. Chile threatened to retire from Geneva unless the League was so reformed as to make the imposition of sanctions voluntary. (It looks as though her conditions of continued membership will be realized, but membership in that kind of League would not make much difference anyway.) Argentina came forth with a flourish, demanding that the League observe the Stimson doctrine of non-recognition in the Italo-Ethiopian case, and the Argentine delegate made a lofty but vague speech. This piece of pacific bravado was somewhat marred by the fact that Argentina did not exercise her right to second, and force to a vote, the proposed Ethiopian resolution concerning non-recognition.

During this time, the projected American "League of Nations", up for discussion at the still-forthcoming Buenos Aires conference, was making little more progress than its Genevan inspiration. Washington has declared that there will be on the agenda only those subjects which it is unanimously agreed should be discussed. As Chile has turned her thumbs down on the American "League of Nations" item, it appears that Pan American nations which do not like Geneva will have no alternative to which they may turn.

## SCIENCE

**A**LLERGY" is a comparatively new name to the medical world, embracing a multitude of minor irritations—the result of man's sensitivity to specific fruits, fish, flowers, weeds, dirt, and vegetables. Of all so-called allergic diseases, the most dramatic is "hay fever", an ailment which is not induced by hay, nor is it a fever. Approximately 4,000,000 Americans are afflicted by one or more pollens blown about by the wind from the mid-



OTTO TO THE RESCUE

*Mussolini: "Listen to me, John Bull, or I will throw Otto at you."*

—Mucha, Warsaw

dle of March to the end of October. Periodically a "cure" is announced capable of alleviating or completely eliminating the sniffling affliction.

Recently another "cure" was proclaimed from St. George's Hospital, London, where doctors have succeeded in electrically implanting a therapeutic drug into the nasal tissues. By applying gauze soaked in zinc salt solution to the irritated membrane and using a slight electric current, minute particles of ionized zinc are injected into the nasal tissue. Combatting hay fever in this manner the doctors exploit a technique evolved early in the century by Dr. Stephane Leduc, French physician. The method is sound, but the explanation of how and why these ionized zinc particles check and, in some instances, seemingly eliminate hay fever stops far short of being accepted without challenge. The St. George experimenters state that the metal injected into the nasal tissues precipitates proteins

which action directly results in desensitizing the afflicted body to all pollens.

Dr. Walter Walzer of the Brooklyn Jewish Hospital dissents with equal assurance, claiming that far from inducing a curative action the ionized zinc cauterizes and deadens the tissues, and in some cases, after continued use, causes complications, such as inflammation of the sinus. Experimental authority supports both the English and American theories. For more than ten years, Americans have experimented with this type of therapeutic treatment. As recently as February 1936, Drs. Samuel Garfin and Samuel Pearl of the Boston City Hospital reported that they had effected extraordinary cures in cases where hay fever was complicated with rhinitis and asthma.

The most generally used treatment for hay fever is pollenosis therapy. After testing the skin to determine which pollen irritates the sufferer, immunization is effected through a series of injections of the specific pollen. Although this cure is reliable in many cases, neither doctors nor patients will admit its general efficacy.

Other remedies for so-called allergic conditions are being brought to the attention of the public. Included with lobsters, strawberries, and eggs, cow's milk is a prime offender against the digestive organs of certain sensitive individuals. Babies, in particular, are unable to digest it without dilution or other modifications. Business men have exploited this idiosyncrasy so extensively that hundreds of prepared baby milks are now offered for sale. Enthusiastic advertising men proclaim that some of the concoctions are so palatable that a discriminating infant prefers them to mother's milk. Doctors are not so sanguine about eliminating mother from the formula for the care and feeding of infants.

Doctor I. Newton Kugelmass states: "There is no substitute for breast milk, and there can be no single formula for the universal feeding of infants." Despite this statement, however, the doctor endorses cow's milk if it is specifically adapted to the individual baby. He favors "adapting the formula to the infant and not the infant to the formula."

Following this not-altogether-new line of experiment, Dr. Kugelmass has discovered that each baby poses a specific problem, the solution of which hinges on determining the physiological conditions of digestion. Further, the Doctor has discovered that simple physical proportions are enough to indicate what milk modifications are necessary. For all purposes, including dietary, babies are categorized as "linear" or long-bodied, "medial" or evenly proportioned, and "lateral", or broad-bodied. After studying 500 infants, Doctor Kugelmass learned that the linears produced more gastric juice than the laterals and, as a result, were subject to fewer digestive disorders. As a rule, laterals require one-to-one dilution of cow's milk, medials a two-to-one dilution, while linears require three-to-one dilution, with 10 percent carbohydrate and vitamins D and C included in all concentrates.

Coupled with the requirements of different body-builds, allowances must be made for predisposition to disease. And on examination it would seem that only rare babies are normal in this respect. Of the 500 infants that Doctor Kugelmass studied, 65 percent were allergic (unable to take certain foods without an accompanying illness), 30 percent were neuropathic, and 5 percent lymphatic (pale and listless) and hydrolabile (variable in body fluids). But, despite these formidably named conditions, mothers are assured that it is as easy to ferret

them out as it is to determine a baby's build. To restore normalcy, the allergies are fed evaporated, vegetable, or goat's milk, the neuropathics thick-feeding, acid-feeding, or evaporated milk, and the hydrolabiles acid or evaporated milk.

W. O. Frohring of Shaker Heights, Ohio, also has a solution for the allergies who cannot normally digest milk. He operates on the theory that casein, albumin, globulin and other milk proteins are the chief offenders. Since heat changes protein, Frohring heats pasteurized milk in air-tight containers for two hours at approximately 240 degrees F. Apparently the chemical change in the proteins under heat makes the treated milk acceptable to allergic babies. With the addition of a little sugar and lactic acid, the milk thus prepared will not curdle.



Dr. Robert James of the Westinghouse research laboratories has devised an ultra-violet ray lamp which kills micro-organisms (molds, spores, and bacteria), the chief cause of meat, cake, and bread spoilage. To meet the requirements of butcher and baker, Doctor James has developed half a dozen different lamps which destroy the germs without destroying the product.

Special lamps placed in a meat storage chamber radiate ultra-violet rays that check the development of spores and bacteria. Ordinarily beef must age in a temperature of 35 degrees from six to eight weeks before it is fit to sell. Employing the ray equipment, Doctor James raises the storage temperature to 65 degrees and reduces aging time to four or five days. Packing companies should have little difficulty in visualizing the profit accruing from this treatment of beef. An added advantage is the increase of moisture in the air which prevents meat from losing upward of 35 per cent of its weight by evaporation. Doctor James claims that eight lamps, operated at a minimum cost, will protect 1,400 pounds of meat from micro-organisms, while higher temperature speeds up the aging process.

For the baker's problems, Doctor James also has a solution. Although some mold spores survive high oven temperatures, the greatest contamination occurs when bread or cake is taken out of the oven to cool. By equipping a wrapping machine with an ultra-violet lamp and allowing both cake and wrapper a five-second exposure to the irradiation, Doctor James has been able to increase the mold-free life of the product about thirty-six hours.



# AUTHORS *in this ISSUE:*

**Dorothy Waring** (*An Interview with Otto*) began life in Montgomery, Alabama; the year, she states frankly, was 1900. The Horace Mann School, next the Columbia School of Journalism, began her education. Short stories occupied her for several years after that. Soon, she became editor for the Macaulay Company, book publishers, and while with them "ghosted" two novels and suffered all the woes of humanity as contributor of a "problem" column for a magazine. She hunted information for the Congressional Committee Investigating Un-American Activities; took a position with the British General Press as political correspondent; and finally produced the book *American Defender*, which was published last year. *Hitlerism, The Iron Fist in Germany*, by "Nordicus", was her publishing venture; the book received good notices, but in 1932 Hitler seemed unimportant. The work was thought to be making a mountain out of a molehill—an opinion which has since undergone certain revisions.



**Wallace S. Sayre** (*Major Party Platforms of 1936*) made his debut in the June CURRENT HISTORY with *Political Groundswell*.



**Frank C. Hanighen** (*The Latest French Revolution*) wrote *Propaganda on the Air*, which appeared in our June issue.



**David Goldberg** (*The Holy Land Looks West*) is listed in the Who's Who of American Jewry as a rabbi and journalist, although he recently gave up the former. He was born in White Russia and received part of his education in the Imperial School for Survey in that country. Emigrating to the United States, he continued his secular studies at the Polytechnic of Fort Worth, Texas; the Texas Christian University, and the University of Chicago. During the World War he was commissioned as the first and only chaplain of the Jewish faith in the United States Navy, and he is a lieutenant in the Naval Reserve today. As a journalist, Dr. Goldberg was formerly editor of the *Texas Jewish Herald*, and now writes for the *Boston Globe*. He is author of *The Debacle of Religion in Russia*, and of *Sussman Sees It Through*, the latter having won the plaudits of the press as a cool, impartial survey and philosophic study of the Jew in Soviet Russia today.



**H. R. Ekins** (*Chinese Puzzle*) appeared in the May and June issues of CURRENT HISTORY.



**Lord Strabolgi** (*Battleship's Doom*) was the Right Honorable Commander J. M. Kenworthy, M.P., ex-officer in the British Navy, before he succeeded to his father's title. He has written a great deal on naval subjects, including a book,

*The Real Navy*, which was published in London in 1932. He has contributed in this country to Asia and other publications.



**J. H. Landman** (*Sterilization*) is an internationally known expert on this subject. His book, *Human Sterilization* (Macmillan Co.), is recognized as the leading treatise of its kind, while his work generally in the field of eugenics and sterilization has won him a fellowship in the Association for the Advancement of Science.



**W. Walter Crotch** (*Will Austria Go Democratic?*) writes from Paris, where he is editor-in-chief of the International Press Bureau. An English author and journalist of long standing he contributes to the British reviews—such, for instance, as the *Quarterly*, *The Nineteenth Century*, *The Contemporary*, *The Fortnightly*, *The National* and *the English Review*. He is recognized as an authority in the broad field of international politics, but Central Europe has been his particular study.



**Krishnalal Shridharani** (*Tagore*) is the author of six books in Gujarati, one of the principal languages of India. Born in Bhavnagar, in 1911, he was a student at Mahatma Gandhi's university at Ahmedabad, and was one of Gandhi's companions on the famous march to the sea in 1930. Mr. Shridharani subsequently completed his college work at Tagore's international university, and, coming here, received an A.M. and M.S., the latter from the Columbia School of Journalism.



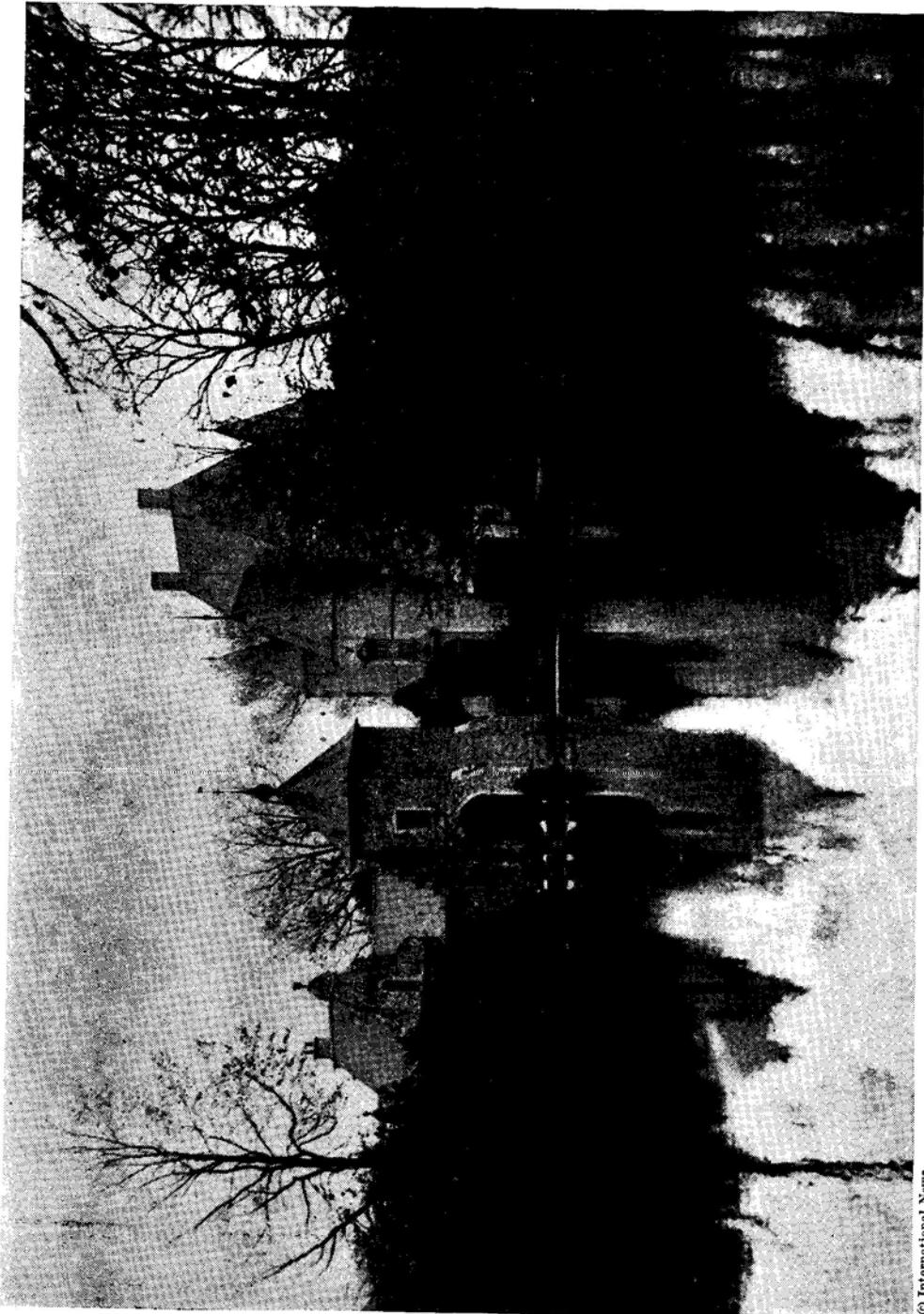
**Duncan Aikman** (*Tugwelltown*) began a newspaper career on the Pacific Coast. Subsequently, he became Washington correspondent of a Los Angeles paper, and frequent contributor to the *New York Times*.



**Albert Handy** (*Taxes in the Soviet*) is a former newspaperman, at present lecturing on taxation at New York University. He is author of *Inheritance and Other Like Taxes* (Prentice-Hall) and *New York Estate Tax* (Matthew Bender & Co.), in addition to numerous magazine and newspaper articles on the subject.



**Johannes Steel** (*Leon Blum*) was associated with Germany's Department of Commerce as economic adviser before the advent of Hitlerism. He met Leon Blum before the latter's rise to power, and he speaks of him as one of the most forceful personalities of our day. Mr. Steel was formerly foreign correspondent for the *New York Post*. He is author of *The Second World War*, and has contributed articles to leading American publications.



WHERE ARCHDUKE OTTO WAITS: The chateau at Steenokerzeel.