

# CURRENT HISTORY

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★This issue is the first in which *Current History* appears in a new home. The magazine is much larger than ever before in its quarter-century history. When the magazine was first issued during the war, it seemed then to be the perfect size. It was compact and easily handled. But now styles in magazines are changing. *Current History* has chosen to go the way of the full size because it offers a better opportunity for a more effective presentation, making use of maps, charts, graphs and other illustrative material.

★The cover shows Mr. Hitler in his best bargaining mood. The editors were going over a wide variety of pictures of Der Fuehrer for the photographic section (page 73) when the report came that England and France were ready to give in and let Hitler have some of the colonies taken away from him under the Versailles Treaty. Hence the photo, in which Mr. Hitler seems to say, "It's good you didn't decide to call me on that hand. You see, gentlemen, I had four aces and a deuce." (International Photo)

★One of the new features of the magazine is *Letters-to-the-President*. Yes, the letters have actually been sent to the White House. And many people will be surprised to learn that if the President sees them at all, he will see them for the first time in *Current History*. For Mr. Roosevelt's mail is the largest in Washington's history, and it takes a large staff of people just to open the letters, let alone read them. (Page 18.)

★Another new regular feature is *Latin-American Notes*—notes on events in Central and South America. The editors feel that this feature will fill a long-felt need by presenting a comprehensive and continuous picture of nations whose importance to the United States is not measured by the present news coverage.

★Just what the present war means to Japan and her chances of complete victory are lucidly explained by **William Henry Chamberlin** in *Japan's Stake in Empire*; Mr. Chamberlin is the Christian Science Monitor correspondent in Tokyo, and Little Brown have just published his latest book, *Japan Over Asia*.

★**Captain Andrew Tolstoy** (*Post-Mortem on an "Incident"*), a graduate of a famous Russian military school and a relation of the great Russian novelist, contributes a piece of work worthy of any Sherlock Holmes in investigating the responsibility for the "incident" that started the Shanghai conflagration.

★Switching to an entirely different field, we come to **Joseph Jastrow's** penetrating and original analysis of the burden imposed upon the community by those who cannot carry their weight in society and what can or should be done for them (*The Wise Man's Burden*). Dr. Jastrow, whose conclusions will start some weighty pondering, is a prominent psychologist, author, and lecturer. A former president of the American Psychological Association, he has recently been lecturing at the New School for Social Research.

★In the current craze for dictatorships, little attention has been paid to a flourishing one in our own backyard—that of General Trujillo in Dominica. Perhaps that is because so little information can be obtained about it. However, **Carleton Beals**, whose latest book, *America South* (Lippincott), has cemented his reputation as a leading authority on Central and South American affairs, draws aside the veil of silence and reveals a riotous scene and a leading figure in whom Dr. Jastrow might well be interested (*Caesar of the Caribbean*).

★Amidst all the cries about "boondoggling," "government extravagance," and so forth, it is refreshing to get a straight, cool, statement of just what the W.P.A. is and what it has done. No one could speak with more authority on this subject than **Corrington Gill** (*W.P.A.*), the Assistant Administrator of this enormous project.

★There has been almost as much emotional controversy concerning Palestine. **H. G. Wells**, who needs absolutely no introduction, and whose range of knowledge is peerless, has set himself to put *Palestine in Proportion* in a brilliant and provocative essay.

★On their return home, the ladies of the "Flying Caravan," who have sought to bring peace to this continent, will find **Genaro Arbaiza's** open letter (*Arming the Good Neighbors*) waiting for them. Mr. Arbaiza has been a frequent contributor to *Current History* and other periodicals, and the ladies in question will find his advice discouraging, but weighted with authority and, what is more, vitally interesting.

★"America's Best Union," the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, which just surprised the nation with its amazingly substantial balance sheet, is the subject of the fifth of **Herbert Harris's** series on Labor in America.

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