

## THE ISSUE

● Joseph Beck, subject of this month's cover, is a dapper gentleman who has been called Europe's best-dressed diplomat. Colonel Beck is Foreign Minister of Poland and is frequently seen in Europe's various capitals. Purpose of his many visits is to place in Poland's hands Europe's balance of power. It is a lot of work and there is some evidence to indicate that he has not been altogether unsuccessful. **Frank C. Hanighen**, now in Europe where he expects to stay out on that line until Christmas, evaluates Beck's policies in *Poland Rides the Tiger*.

● Japan seems to be refining her censorship technique over publications coming into the country. More than a year ago she confiscated all copies of an issue of CURRENT HISTORY containing an article which presented her in none too favorable a light. Current History took up the matter with the State Department at the time and since then no issues have been banned. Nor has it been because the articles have changed their tone. Japan has apparently changed her policy from confiscation to deletion. **William Henry Chamberlin**, ace of the Far Eastern correspondents, writes from Tokyo that he invariably finds his CURRENT HISTORY contributions minus a page or two or even missing altogether. Hereafter, the magazine will be mailed to him first class, putting to a test whether Japan will molest the private mail of Americans residing in that country. The new system goes into effect with this issue, which contains Mr. Chamberlin's article, *Balance Sheet in China*.

● One would think that Japan has all she can do to handle China without getting involved elsewhere. But far from raking in her chips, she seems to feel that as long as she is going to gamble, it might as well be for high stakes. She has traded shots with Russia on the Manchukuo border (see *History in the Making*). Meanwhile, she is active thousands of miles away in South America, where she has apparently established something of an economic foothold. **Carleton Beals**, America's leading authority on Latin-American affairs, reports on this disturbing development in *Japan Tiptoes Around the Monroe Doctrine*.

● While on the subject of Fascism in South America, we suggest that you read **Genaro Arbaiza's** regular department, *Latin-American Notes*. Mr. Arbaiza, who last year was the first to report the widespread growth of Fascism among our southern neighbors, now sees Fascism as a declining force. He hopes to be able to hang out the *R. I. P.* sign within a few months.

● Early last spring, a youthful-looking man walked into CURRENT HISTORY's office and asked us if we knew what was happening in Ethiopia. We knew very little. He thought he could get the facts. Would we commission an article? No, we would give nothing but our best wishes; frankly, the possibility of obtaining a first-hand factual article seemed very slight. Four months later, **Leo Isaacs** returned with the article. He had considered our pessimism as a challenge and set out to prove it could be done. It had meant more work, more correspondence, more checking than he had ever dreamed, but he proudly produced *Italy's Two Years in Ethiopia*. It ran something close to 20,000 words, or about seven times as long as our usual articles. Revised to magazine length, the article appears in this issue.

● In a day when most nations are attempting to expand by seizure and invasion, Holland's accomplishments in wresting land from the sea take on additional and welcome

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significance. But the Hollanders have had to do more in recent years than push back the sea; they have had to overcome the threat of Fascism. **Professor Francis O. Wilcox**, of the University of Louisville, writes of their experiences in *Democracy the Dutch Way*.

● Long regarded as one of the most competent observers and interpreters of the national scene, **Stanley High**, a former cleric and at present a frequent magazine contributor, writes on crime in St. Paul. Strange things have happened in this Twin City. Long the favorite hide-out of public enemies with a low numerical rating, St. Paul has flushed the criminals out of its underworld. It was aided, of course, by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, often referred to in the movies and glamor stories as G-Men.

● Appearances to the contrary, the British are very sensitive to American criticism. Under the circumstances they'll need an extra bracer to carry on in the face of **Porter Sargent's** examination of their schooling. And he is a man who speaks with more than the usual authority. For many years he has been associated with private schooling. He is the editor and publisher of *Sargent's Handbooks*.

● There are many who contend that "it can't happen here." Others will tell you that it can; indeed, that it has. They will point, for example, to Harlan County, Kentucky, where the Government recently staged one of its mass trials in the first big test of the Wagner Labor Relations Act. **I. F. Stone**, chief editorial writer for one of the large Metropolitan dailies, contributes an article on the subject.

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