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BECKONING ITALY BACK TO LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Great Britain and France are fast liquidating the unfortunate snarl into which they got themselves over the Ethiopian fiasco. The British are withdrawing their naval treat from the Mediterranean. The French have served notice on Italy that they are no longer bound by any pact to open their Mediterranean ports or offer other comfort to the British in case of an Italo-British war. Both of these Western democracies are rapidly reaching the pre-Ethiopian accord that the support of Italy is a sine qua non to settled peace in Europe, and are acting accordingly.

The real interests of Italy are all with France and Great Britain. Her frequent gestures of amity toward Germany have never been anything more than the desperate devices of a proud people sent to Coventry by its natural friends. This is plain enough when we consider the basic causes of uneasiness, that might flutter the doves of Rome. They are (1) the absorption of Austria into the German Reich; (2) the appearance of the aggressive and powerful German nation on the Brenner Pass; (3) the revival of the German ambition to thrust eastward through the Balkans, thus excluding the Italian ambition to dominate this same area; (4) the creation of a German-led bloc stretching from the Baltic to the Aegean that would fence Italy off from eastern expansion. The Germans already have Poland, and are angling very skillfully for Roumania and have—through the economic devices of Dr. Schacht—secured quite a grip on Greece and Jugoslavia.

Nowhere do the Italians clash naturally with either the French or the British. They did want Tunis, but that dispute has pretty well died down under operations of French policy. The quarrel with Great Britain over Ethiopia was always artificial. An enlarged hinterland on the Red Sea can be no such menace to the British lifeline to India as has been created by even the threat of establishing a new enemy in the middle of the Mediterranean within a few minutes' bombing distance of Malta. If this threat can now be removed by British and French diplomacy, much of the mischief wrought by the abortive sanctions "war" over Ethiopia will be cancelled.

We have been hearing that Mussolini and Hitler are reaching an agreement over Austria. Its independence is to be guaranteed for three years. Three years is a short time. Germany will not be ready much sooner to challenge the world. If Hitler has made this concession, his action is probably due to the fact that the removal of sanctions and the pending removal of the anti-Italian naval pacts have threatened to take Italy out of the market and, ally her definitely with the Stresa Powers. Hitler would naturally seek to keep her at least neutral. So he drops the threat that most immediately alarms her.

But the fundamentals are still there. Germany will certainly never give up her hope of incorporating the Austrian Germans in the Reich. Italy can never allow it if she can possibly prevent it. No two Great Powers can peacefully seek to dominate the Balkans at the same time. It was the effort of Austria and Russia to do precisely this thing that brought on the Great War. Italy's natural home is with France and Britain. The Ministers of both these nations who

many years ago proposed to join with her in fixing spheres of influence in Ethiopia knew this and acted accordingly. The British Ministers as a whole knew it during the recent troubles and were ready, pat, with their plan when oil sanctions threatened to plunge us into war. Their studied avoidance of war, under great provocation, shows how well they knew it.

But the modern Minister in Great Britain has his troubles. He is not in the happy position of a Palmerston or a Salisbury or a Rosebery who flourished when foreign policy was not a party issue in British politics. But what are they to do when the Labour organ and the Liberal organ in London combine to inflame public opinion against the Ministers because they have sought peace and Italian support by permitting the French to drop their naval guarantees and reducing their naval strength in the Mediterranean? The News Chronicle actually brings it as a railing accusation against the Minister that they "condone Italian aggression in Abyssinia in order to obtain Italian support against Germany." That is, they accept a fait accompli and try to get some profit out of it.

On top of this, Derby elects an anti-Government member to replace 'Jim' Thomas. Labour and Lloyd George made the lifting of sanctions the chief issue. If Derby voted that this action was wrong—which may well be in doubt—then Derby voted for an Italo-German alliance and an early war out of which it is by no means certain that the embattled democracies would again emerge victorious. But when leaders mislead, what can be expected of the almost totally uninformed voter?—Montreal Star.

C. N. R. TRAINS TRAVEL LIST

MONCTON, N. B., July 13—The number of extra sleeping cars operated over Canadian National lines from Montreal to the Maritimes from the first of July to date to take care of the extra train travel eastbound at this season of the year is considerably in excess of the same period last year, according to traffic officials of the Railway. The heavy movement of passengers eastbound usually commences about the first of July and continues on through out the month. Commencing with August, train travel begins to get heavy in the opposite direction, culminating in a heavy westbound movement the latter part of that month and the first week in September.

Several Tuna Fish Caught Off the South Shore, N. S.

LUNenburg, N. S., July 13—Several tuna have been caught off Lunenburg Bay, on the south shore of Nova Scotia, already this season and it is expected the big fish will be quite plentiful along this shore within the next weeks, according to G. O. Baker, Canadian National Railway agent here. Following a world record catch two seasons ago by a prominent Chicago sportsman off Liverpool, increasing numbers of sportsmen are visiting these waters and are making good catches.

POLAND FACES SLICING: FOURTH FOR KINGDOM

Borders Once Extended From Baltic to Black Sea and Near Rhine Into Russia, Prussia and Austria.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 13—Poland once was the mightiest kingdom in Europe. Its borders extended from the Baltic to the Black Sea, and from near the Rhine far into what now is Russia. The Cossacks were vassals of the Poles.

Then came long periods of disintegration, interspersed with spasmodic resurgences. Mazed in the cauldron of European politics and warfare, Poland suffered three separate partitions, Russia, Prussia and Austria dividing the territory as one would cut a cheese. There were reconstitutions of the kingdom but the last and, seemingly, final partition came more than a century ago. But nothing in history is final, and at the Versailles peace conference and largely at the insistence of President Woodrow Wilson, the Republic of Poland rose again as an independent nation.

Now there is taking place what might properly be called the fourth partition of Poland. It is a partition within the state, a partition of the rich and the poor, the rich supported by a semi-fascist dictatorship, the poor kept in their places by the direct destitution in all Europe. This may not appear a geographical partition, but actually there is, within Poland, a geographical partition. An area extending along a strip varying from 100 to 200 miles wide, over against the border of Soviet Russia, and 1,000 miles long, reaching from the southern boundary of Lithuania to the northern boundary of Czechoslovakia, has been designated as the pacification area. It is in this area that the greatest poverty and the greatest unrest among the very poor exists.

Although the Communist party in Poland has only 16,000 members, with half of them in jails or concentration camps, there are estimated to be some 2,000,000 sympathizers. The Polish police are tireless in ferreting them out. Because of the sympathy of so many for the active communists, they are difficult to apprehend. When police descend on a village to arrest a suspected communist, he is hidden or his presence denied. To combat this, the police have adopted the system of common responsibility. If the communist agitator is not delivered, the whole village is lined up and every fifth person, man, woman or child, is severely beaten and then imprisoned. On one known occasion soldiery fired machine guns into a

village delegation, consisting chiefly of children, led by a woman teacher. Twelve children and the teacher were killed and many wounded. The people were not permitted to bury their dead. Thus the pacification proceeds.

Such and many other kindred incidents and facts are revealed by John L. Spivak, American reporter, in his book, "Europe Under the Terror." In explaining his mission to one from whom he sought information on Polish conditions, he said that what happens in Europe will have a profound effect on what happens in the United States—politically and economically.

While Mr. Spivak has investigated conditions in other European countries, especially those under dictatorships, he found the most abysmal distress in Poland. Brzezink is a city given over almost completely to the manufacture of garments, largely for the export trade. When, as the writers say, God blesses them, they have work. The work is piecework, and done in their homes. The blessed work means an 18-hour day and the pay will run as high as one zloty or 30 cents for that day. Every member of the family works, the children beginning at 5 to 7 years. A 15 year old lad will sometimes have the stature of one of 6 or 7 years, so confined has he been to his task.

Findings of Spivak

It must be understood that this is not the independent recital of this newspaper or of this writer. It is a report upon the findings of Mr. Spivak who armed himself with a trunkful of documentary evidence. That there is another side to every picture must always be borne in mind. Mr. Spivak did not confine his investigations and interviews to the poor. He had as many interviews, if not more, with highly placed government officials, owners of mines and mills and factories. One important factory owner told him of his sorrow at seeing his country in so lowly a state, but he explained, it was a question of who should starve, the employers or the employees and, as he said, the law of self-preservation has not ceased to function.

All agreed that they wished for better conditions, but how to obtain them was a problem, they had been unable to solve. Mr. Spivak was told that it was believed by Polish rulers and employers that when Great Britain and America emerged from the depression, Poland would recover.

Meantime, Mr. Spivak learned of a case at Brzezink which reflects the despair. A man, working at his sewing machine, suddenly had a hemorrhage from the lung disease, an occupational disease of the industry, falling forward on his machine, dead. It cost his wife three days' wages to make good the cloth the blood had damaged.

Salt and Matches

The peasants are not better off. Mr. Spivak found one engaged in splitting matches. With remarkable skill, he took an ordinary match, split it in two with a sharp knife and then

which was seeking free schools, split each half. He explained that matches were a government monopoly and so high priced the peasants could not buy them. They resort to primitive flint and stone. This becoming known, a government decree was issued making it an offense to use flint and stone to make fire. So the peasants had to buy the matches, but they learned to make four out of one. If caught at that, they were punished.

Another peasant asked by Mr. Spivak what he would like above all other things as a splendid luxury, answered yearningly that if he could have salt with his potatoes he would be well pleased. Potatoes constitute the chief diet. Bread is a luxury. There are peasants in Poland who have not tasted meat in a year.

While in Italy and Germany there are few strikes, strikes having been made illegal, in Poland there are constant strikes. There were fourteen major strikes in one city in a year. The Poles have invented a new kind of strike. It is called the occupation strike. Instead of quitting the factory, mill or mine, the strikers remain on the premises and their wives bring them food. This prevents the strike breakers from taking their places. The scheme has been fairly successful, the authorities fearing that failure of a settlement would precipitate a revolution. American newspaper readers probably recall the strike in the Klimentow mine in which some 2,000 miners refused to return to the surface until their demands were met.

There is not the persecution of Jews in Poland that exists in Germany, but there is some persecution. It is not confined to Jews. Ukrainians and White Russians, within Poland borders, are included in oppressive measures.

ADVANCE GUARD OF VIMY RIDGE PILGRIMAGE OFF

VANCOUVER, B. C., July 13—Advance guard of many thousands of Vimy pilgrims left here by special Canadian National Railways train yesterday afternoon to arrive in Montreal Thursday morning where they embark on their historic journey to Europe. Sixteen cars will be required to carry the British Columbia delegation number 275 pilgrims on the Canadian National Special. While the principal centres of the province have contributed heavily to the movement a score of towns and hamlets in out of the way places are represented, demonstrating the interest in the pilgrimage. With the party were eight Seattle residents, ex-Canadian soldiers now American citizens. The repatriated and their comrades started their journey to the stirring strains of the pipe band attached to the Vancouver Canadian National Railways and Steamships branch of the Canadian Legion.

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