

EUROPE AWAITS FOR HITLER'S NEXT MOVE

The following article is contributed by H. M. Paint, a member of the staff of The Daily Mail.

Since 1919, British thought has endeavored to ignore the spectre of war. The assumption has been that talking of war breeds war. Unfortunately for peace-loving nations.

Not Talking of War Does

Not Breed Peace
A surfeit of propaganda has led British Empire citizens to desert prosaic Nowadays for the pleasant land of Dreams. Our sincere but fumbling efforts to induce the militant Nazis and Fascists to join us in building Dream palaces in Utopia has a vein of rich comedy which is only heightened by the likelihood of a tragic outcome. They always agree in principle and will, perhaps, lend a helping hand when they have finished bombing and dynamiting.

Other Castles in Spain

The genuine effort of Great Britain to promote peace, restore world trade and limit armaments, has led to nothing. A postponement of war has made it inevitable. Our reluctance to fight has been read by the land-hungry world nations as the desperate effort of a decadent Empire to retain by intrigue what we no longer wish to fight for. From now on the aggressive policy of Germany, Italy and Japan may be expected to grow more apparent very rapidly.

Our Natural Aversion to War

Increases Their Boldness

All three of these nations support armies and navies at almost unbearable expense. The military caste has become dominant in all their governments. Conscription is the rule in each of these nations. This being so, the civilian population and the army must be largely of one view in avoiding a longer continuance of the burden of maintenance provided a suitable opportunity arises for the use of their arms. A point is being reached where the demand will grow more insistent each month for drastic military action.

Or Call a Halt Soon to

the Armament Race

The Japanese army has just emerged victorious from this test. The military mind in these three countries being what it is, it can hardly be doubted that results will be sought by all three governments in the near future.

Alone, it is impossible, for either, Germany, Italy or Japan to gain their ambitious objectives. Together, pursuing a common policy all things become simplified. It is argued that the divergent national aims of these nations make a common policy difficult to formulate.

This View is Sheer Nonsense

Even robbers unite to secure their booty before quarrelling over the division of the spoils. If they intend to commit a robbery they go to the house of a rich man and not to that of a beggar. The British Empire is the rich man of the world today in an industrial, and territorial sense. We are about to receive an unwelcome call from three old school-mates who have not got along so well in the world as ourselves.

Having lost touch with our old friends and having let go a lot of help lately we will likely have to assume a hospitable attitude to these callers.

For the Time Being at Least

The ambitions of Germany, Italy and Japan are almost identical in different political spheres of influence. They are in brief:

1. Expansion for import of raw materials and export of surplus population.
2. New markets to maintain their briefly industrialized economic life.
3. Victories won by their armies as window dressing for their home population before they become restive under sacrifices without corresponding results.

A union between these nations and a common policy in foreign affairs is **Natural and Strategically Inevitable**

The form of the pact between them for the suppression of Communism is artfully designed to disarm the railing class in Great Britain. It is an ostensible policy with which few would disagree if there were no other aim concealed by these apparent champions of things as they are. Unfortunately it will be used as a convenient pretext to excuse intervention in the internal affairs of almost every country in Europe.

Under the present conception of Italo-German-Japanese policy it is only necessary to foment a rebellion of either Fascists or Communists, to intervene in favor of the Fascist party. If a suitable occasion does not arise naturally, it can soon be manufactured. There is always a discontented minority in any country. Skilled organizers, arms and money can so create "a threatening situation." A revolution once begun, Germany and Italy can say that "they dare not tolerate a Communist government in a neighboring state." Help is sent, intervention is an accomplished fact. Under this beautifully simple system of

Organized International Meddling

it is possible to ensure that a government favorable to Italo-German-Japanese aims may be placed in power in any state which fails to fall in line with their wishes.

The main stumbling block to these ambitious plans is the understanding between Great Britain and France, which Hitler and Mussolini still regard with considerable anxiety. The Spanish Revolution has not achieved one of its hoped for results. It was thought in Berlin that Premier Blum, yielding to pressure from the Left Wing, would openly aid the Madrid Government in defiance of British opinion. Such a step would have opened a deep gulf between British and French foreign policy. The astute Blum

Avoided This Blunder

Hitler and Mussolini hoped also that at least a rebel victory in Spain would instal a synthetic Fascist government that would give France a Spanish frontier to protect in war time and cut off a valuable source of food supply and labor. Spain would also furnish valuable bases for planes and submarines within easy striking distance of France's communication with her African colonies. It was also hoped that a victory in Spain would stimulate the hopes of the Fascist party in France itself, and bring them into open conflict with the French Left Wing thus providing an ideal situation.

For Further Aggression

on a large scale. It is an open secret that all is not serene internationally in France. There is a feeling of feverish expectancy. Frenchmen are waiting nervously for something to happen. For the past year there has been a steady exodus of English residents of Paris back to their own country. The reason is the fear of an internal upheaval, all the more dreadful because of the uncertainty of what form it will take or from what quarter it will arise.

Civil Discord in France

will be Italy and Germany's opportunity. If the French Rightist parties ask aid from Germany and Italy in a civil war, it will be given. English treaties with France in such a situation would not demand British intervention, and the sentiment of the present British Government would be against interfering, unless the Germans threatened an occupation of the Channel Ports.

In the event of civil war in France the present mutual assistance pact between France and Russia would no longer be binding.

For this reason British citizens should watch events in the present Spanish civil war with great interest.

It is in the nature of an experiment and a Fascist triumph in Spain will tend to encourage an ever more ambitious programme first against France—then against Britain.

Britain is today the great industrial rival of Germany, Italy and Japan in various quarters of the globe. For nowadays both political and military power are based on industry.

Great Britain depends upon her sea power to control to strategic key points which protect her access to vital sources of raw materials. Her naval power enables her successfully to combat these three rival nations programmes of expansion. Destruction of British sea powers would

Provide Ample 'Spoils' for all

It is a great stake, the richest prize in the history of national rivalries—well worth a desperate gamble.

Hitler's speech of Jan. 30, claimed improved relations with Poland, Austria, Italy, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Greece, Portugal and Fascist Spain as well as the Japanese agreement. He said again that Germany wants peace with France, that Germany is prepared to recognize and guarantee the neutrality of Belgium and Holland. His speech of Jan. 30 differed in tone and matter a great deal from a speech delivered for private consumption to the German people a few days ago entitled "Our Might Will Win."

In this speech, ignoring the fact that Germany is a nation of 66,000,000 he said "we do not only need room for 80,000,000 Germans as at present. We need room for 250,000,000."

Significantly enough, the difference of 14,000,000 Germans, between 66 million and 80 million is made up of eight million Austrians, three million Germans in Czechoslovakia, and three million in Poland.

The omission of England and France from the list of nations with which more friendly relations had been established is interesting.

Hitler is probably sincere in offering to guarantee the neutrality of Holland and Belgium. Holland is too useful as a neutral country through which to import supplies in the event of a blockade and the fortifications erected on the Belgian frontier are a tough nut to crack. It would have been more to the purpose had he offered to guarantee the neutrality of Switzerland. It is held by one school of thought that in the event of united action by Germany and Italy against France, the German invasion will strike through Switzerland to link hands with the

COMPULSORY VOTE WANTED BY BENNETT

Would Save Money, But Plan Seen Impractical For Canada

OTTAWA, Feb. 3.—Right Hon. R. B. Bennett looked into the matter of compulsory voting when he was in Australia, and is convinced that it would remove some of the abuses which now exist in respect to Canadian elections.

There can be little doubt that compulsory voting would reduce the expenses of political parties and candidates in Canada, who spend thousands of dollars in ensuring that the names of their adherents are put on the list. It would also prevent to a large degree such evils as impersonation on polling day.

Since a Federal election in Canada costs around \$5,000,000 when the campaign expenditures of the major political parties and the printing of voters' lists and the salaries of officials are taken into consideration, the matter is well worth the study of a special committee of the House of Commons which has been recreated under the chairmanship of C. E. Bothwell, member for Swift Current, Sask. The committee made a good start last session, but did not have time for sufficient study of compulsory registration and compulsory voting to reach a conclusion.

In Australia, 95 per cent. of the people vote now, as compared with 59 per cent. who took the trouble to do so before compulsory voting was introduced.

The question is: Would Canadians tolerate compulsion and what government in Canada would run the risk of making itself unpopular by imposing fines? In Australia there is a fine of sixty cents if an adult citizen fails to register and a penalty of \$10 if he or she fails to vote.

There are some other objections to compulsory voting in Canada. Elections frequently are held in December when blizzards and sub-zero temperatures are not unknown in Western Canada. What Government would desire to fine a person for failure to cast his ballot if it involved going out in stormy or inclement weather?

When everything is considered, it seems likely that Canada will stick to the present method of holding elections, which is the British method. But that does not mean there is not room for reforms. Something should be done about the excessive cost of elections, not only the cost to the taxpayer but to the candidates themselves. It should not be necessary for one candidate to spend \$25,000 or more to get elected for a constituency when the sessional indemnity is but \$4,000 a year.

Pouliot Would "Fire All Tories" to Cure Depression

OTTAWA, Feb. 3.—Jean Francois Pouliot, gave the House of Commons a new recipe for solving economic ills in Canada.

"Fire every Tory who holds public office," urged the Liberal member for Temiscouata, "and repeal all legislation passed while the last government was in office. That will restore confidence and make the people breathe easier, and business will be good throughout the land."

Italian forces in the centre of France, for a concerted drive on Paris.

In any case enough things have happened lately to cause any thinking person to feel that the international situation is very grave.

Thirty thousand men have been preparing barracks and aerodromes on the Swiss frontier. Heligoland has been re-fortified. Fortifications and aerodromes are being built near the Elbe. In this connection it is interesting to recall that the nightmare of pre-war days was a possible German invasion of England from this quarter. A British member calculated the German strength in planes at 15,000. The German army strength stands already at 39 divisions of which three mechanized divisions have each 2,000 armored cars, and several hundred tanks. These figures are official and are probably underestimated to say the least.

The British Empire comprises one fifth of the land surface of the globe and approximately one-quarter of the population. In itself it contains the great market of India ideally suited to Japanese trade expansion were British rule in India destroyed. The United Kingdom and the Dominions under British preference at present are largely closed markets or more correctly restricted, in their trade possibilities to outside nations. From the viewpoint of nations hungry for trade, eager for raw materials, thirsting for control of key minerals and profitable fields for investment of capital in undeveloped territories it presents a great temptation. If we wish for world Empire we must be prepared to guard it.

"The same arts that power did gain Must it maintain."

AFTER-DINNER SPEECH RECORD E. S. FRENCH'S

The discussion was revolving around after-dinner speeches. The spokesman for the moment, in this group of business and advertising executives assembled around the board at a hotel during an informal luncheon, was a well-known lawyer.

"Unless there is some well-defined issue to be discussed," he was saying, "the less the after-dinner speaker has to say the better. Five minutes is enough to do justice to almost any occasion for no one cares about listening to long-winded after-dinner speeches these days."

A railroad executive took up the discussion at this point and ended it. Here is what he said:

"About seven years ago I was attending a dinner given in honor of E. S. French, who had just been made president of the Boston & Maine Railroad Company. There were several hundred guests and when Mr. French was called upon to say something he used these words: 'I am glad to be here, I am having a good time and I hope that you are.' Then he sat down. Afterwards somebody said that Mr. French had set a record for brevity in after-dinner speeches. A journalist was present, who knew something about Mr. French's record. He interrupted to say that Mr. French had even bettered that record previously at a big meeting of a civic group in Nashua, N.H., where he was called upon to make an after dinner speech. He responded to the introduction by saying, 'I am glad to see you all. How do you do?' That 'address' got over big and I think it probably stands as a record."—New York Sun.

FAMOUS LIMEHOUSE LOSES ITS REPUTATION

Sinister London Spot is Now Just a Grubby Slum

LONDON, Feb. 3.—Poor old Limehouse. And what's more, poor old Charlie Brown.

Man and boy, Charlie Brown has lived in the heart of Limehouse for 51 years—and he will tell you, with nostalgic tears in his eyes, that it used to be every bit as sinister and blood-chilling as every American tourist expects after reading Thomas Burke's "Limehouse Nights."

You think of Limehouse as a dark, shuddery place, down by the East India docks, with the gloom-misted Thames river, swirling silently by; queer, twisted streets and muffled voices in the fog, the reek of opium, sickeningly sweet, drifting from behind dragon-blazoned doors, a sudden piercing cry in the night and then silence—you remember "Broken Blossoms."

"It's a pity, it really is," said Charlie Brown. "There's not a shudder left in Limehouse today."

From a tough, roaring "Hell's Kitchen," where booze-doped sailors dropped through trapdoors and woke up "Shanghai'd" and glitter-eyed Chinese shrilled their sing-song curses, Limehouse today has become a grubbily respected slum district.

"There are only about a hundred Chinese left," said Charlie Brown. "and nothing ever happens any more. Nobody is tough. They may look tough, but they're not. They're just stew-bums."



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So, why not choose the improvement you want most and have it

now — to brighten the home and make winter's indoor days the more enjoyable, at the same time creating work for men who need it.

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Any contractor, supply firm or architect can help you arrange a Home Improvement Plan loan to finance the work or you can apply direct to your banker. No security or endorsement needed: you simply show that you can repay in monthly instalments, the loan is made and work can proceed without delay.



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