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G. R. THOMPSON

BRITAIN DRAWS CLOSER TO ITALY AND GERMANY

LONDON, Aug. 17—The question uppermost in the minds of diplomats, statesmen and lesser politicians of Europe this week comes to this: "Is England changing her foreign policy?" The rather unique courtship which is going on between London and Rome would seem to indicate that she is, and that the tendency is toward a closer understanding with Germany and Italy and a somewhat more distant relationship with Soviet Russia and France.

Hitherto the foreign policy of the British government if it can be said to have had any clear-cut policy, has been co-operation with France, defense of the Low Countries and membership in the League of Nations. The League was shot out from under Britain, not without her own conniving, by the unpunished Japanese aggressions in Manchukuo and the almost unpunished conquest of Ethiopia by Italy.

Belgium recently has completed a backdown from the 'substitute Locarno' agreement, thus leaving England to hold the bag of responsibilities without rights.

France complicated the situation by making an alliance with Soviet Russia, which was never popular here. This succeeded in making England a left-handed ally of the Soviet and endangered her position of honest broker and peacemaker between the warring ideologies. It drove Germany and Italy into a more or less close embrace and brought Japan in on the side of the Fascist dictators. All this was painful enough to England without the next series of happenings in a Europe which had become very jumpy over Spain.

Russia began her purge of generals, thus making it questionable if she could put her army into the field in event trouble suddenly arose. On top of that French finances grew exceedingly sour and the political situation became unstable. Premier Leon Blum was beaten and the British wondered if Paris could take to the streets. Those were very nervous days for the British especially when the two German naval incidents of the Deutschland and the Leipzig took place in quick succession.

Offhand it looked as though British foreign policies were in a bad way, with the League gone and her two constant allies in throes of internal crises while Spain burned. The situation seemed to call for action of a radical sort.

The first intimation of it came when the news broke that Baron Konstantin von Neurath, the Reich Foreign Minister, had been invited to London to discuss outstanding matters between the two nations. One saw, in effect, the beginning of a great trapeze swing, at the end of which Britain would do a double somersault from the hands of France

to the hands of Germany. But then it was announced from Berlin that Von Neurath was not coming. The 'catcher' was not there.

Treading on air, the British performed a vertical turn and caught France's hands again before it was too late.

Thus, while the team remained intact this time, there was that uneasy feeling on the part of Britain that some day France would weaken and let her down most terribly. It was still necessary to look around for a place to grasp.

For the time being, France seems to be doing nicely and Russia seems to have recovered somewhat, but the British Foreign Office does not deal in the present. It must look forward to next year, or to the next decade. Some insist that its eyes are fixed on nothing less than a century, but that is stretching things.

From a long-range standpoint, it would be unwise to bet on France and Russia, not having internal blow-ups. For the matter of that, it would appear that the Japanese right now are utterly convinced that Russia cannot do anything militarily about China.

It is necessary that Britain should not make any mistakes about her allies. If there is any question about them, the demands of simple prudence are that she either look around for new allies or make her peace with any likely aggressor as long as she is in an unready position. There is no call for England to ally herself actively with the Fascist nations but it would be very easy and simple to buy her peace with Germany and to come to an understanding with Italy about the Mediterranean for at least as long as it took her to complete rearmament.

German diplomacy for many years has sought to detach France from England and the game of Reichsfuehrer Adolf Hitler has been to get a guaranty of safety on Germany's western frontier while the world was being made safe for Nordics on the eastern and southern frontiers. England could give a hands-off guaranty and buy peace for the next two years at least. It is extremely doubtful that France would move to help Russia or the Little Entente if Britain had contracted to keep out.

The present move toward making up the quarrel between England and Italy has included a friendly letter from Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain to Premier Benito Mussolini, to which the Duce replied in a note delivered by Count Dino Grandi, the Ambassador here. This move probably was the first step in an understanding not only with Premier Mussolini but with his fellow dictator, Hitler.

It should give England two years of peace. In the meantime, she is getting ready as never before for the Armageddon to end Armageddons. Ition to carry a big stick.

U.S. TOURISTS LIKE TO POSE WITH MOUNTIES

LONDON, Ont., Aug. 17—The popularity the new Federal building here is enjoying with United States tourists is not because it's a nice place to post a letter, but because of the mounties.

Armed with cameras, droves of visitors from the United States have gone to the sixth floor and begged the red-coated Royal Canadian Mounted Policemen, who usually are working in shirtsleeves, to don their "get their man" uniform and sit on a horse for a photograph.

Some of the tourists said Federal building officials advised them the best pictures could be obtained at, say, Toronto. "Go down there," they will say, "and the boys not only will sit on a horse, but also on a cow."

"Pigs Is Pigs" Again As Boom Hits London Area

LONDON, Ont., Aug. 17—District farmers with good-sized litters of pigs in the barnyard smiled broadly today and continued to "fatten 'em up."

Today bacon hog prices climbed to a new high for eight years on the local market.

London packers said the latest market prices for live hogs stood at \$10.75 and dressed hogs, \$14.35 a hundredweight.

Increase in prices is due largely to a hog scarcity in the United States, caused by drought and corn shortage last year. Partial failure of the grain crop in Ontario last year resulted in higher pig feed prices.

she has two years, she probably can be so ready that she can sit in a dictator's seat herself.

One important Britisher said to this correspondent some time ago: "If only we can get by until 1939 we don't care much what happens then. Let Germany or Italy start anything then, and we won't leave enough of them to breed."

If I seem to intimate that England is playing a double game of talking peace so she may the better prepare for war, it is no more than all the others are doing. It is a desperate game all are playing, and the measure of their deviousness is the measure of their fright.

The present weakness of England in the air and in anti-aircraft defense is well known to the ruling classes. They can be trusted to walk the very lightly until they are in a position to carry a big stick.

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SHOT FLEEING OFFICER, BRIGADIER RECALLS

General Crozier in Memoirs Tells of Agony of Young Subaltern Who Bolted From Mad German

LONDON, Aug. 17—Brig-Gen. Frank Percy Crozier, in a book of military memoirs, entitled "The Mef I Killed," today disclosed he killed a British Officer who fled from the enemy on the western front during the Great War.

The General, who has since become a pacifist, declared that from a "strictly military point of view, I have no regrets for having killed a subaltern of the British infantry."

He wrote the shooting occurred on the St. Razeel Road. "It was a desperate emergency. I had to shoot him myself along with the German who came running after him. Never can I forget the agonized expression on that British youngster's face as he ran in terror, escaping from a ferocious Hun whose passion was a madness and who only saw red."

Crozier added that on another occasion he ordered his troops to train their rifles and machine-guns on panic-stricken Portuguese soldiers for

the same reasons. At the time, he said, the order had been "to hold the line at any cost. There were British soldiers there, the last of a remnant. Panic spreads so easily, and a running man is a dangerous madness."

General Crozier, now 58, had a long military career. He served in the South African War at the turn of the century and later in Ashanti, Northern Nigeria, and Zululand before retiring from the army in 1908, when he went to Canada.

He lived there from 1908 to 1912, holding the rank of Captain in the Canadian forces. When the Great War broke out he joined the Royal Irish Rifles as a Major and in 1916 became Brigadier-General commanding the 119th Infantry Brigade.

After the Armistice he served with Lithuanian army against Germany, against Soviet Russia and on the Polish front. He is an Honorary Major-General of the Lithuanian Army.

He is noted for hard-hitting books on the army, including "A Brass Hat in No Man's Land."