

SERIOUS CHALLENGES TO ENGLAND FROM GERMANY AND ITALY

Explain Public Haste of England's Present Rearing

Loss of Mastery of the Seas Would Mean the End of the British Empire

England Against Italy in Mediterranean --- The Nationalistic and Military Reasons for War Exist, but Outweighed by Economic Factors

PARIS, April 20—Politicians, talking for publication, dwell on ideals and principles, but nations usually fight for power. It is necessary to bear this in mind when considering the possible causes of war in Europe. Otherwise it is impossible to reconcile a nation's acts and ambitions with ordinary common sense.

At the present time—and it has been true for more than two centuries—the dominant power of the world is England. From 1815, when England joined with Germany to defeat Napoleon (who dreamed of a united Continent) until 1914, when England sided with France to scotch the menace of German domination in Europe, there was no serious threat to British domination of the world. Now, however, serious challenges are coming from both Italy and Germany, and that explains the public haste with which England is rearing.

In 1930 Ramsay MacDonald, Labor Prime Minister of England, said England could not weaken her navy, "because the navy is us." Should England's navy cease for a minute to dominate the seas, it would be the end of the empire. England would be an island kingdom, obliged to submit to whatever fate the dominant naval power might allot to her.

Germany was almost ready in 1914, from a naval viewpoint, to challenge Britain's sea power. Many believe that if Germany up to 1917 had shown less respect for international law and had given submarine commanders a free hand England would have been defeated.

History is repeating itself today. Germany is not yet ready to challenge England on the sea, but Italy has already threatened a vital spot, the Mediterranean, which Italians call "the Italian Lake."

Dependent on England
Until the last few years Italy, dependent on sea-borne commerce for food, fuel and raw materials, has been under England's thumb, unable to have a foreign policy of her own because at any moment England might cut off her supplies. But within two years she has felt strong enough to defy England, largely because of her superior air strength, although the efficacy of air forces against naval forces has not yet been proved. It is significant, however, that England has not seem fit to accept the challenge.

I found in many of the capitals I have visited a feeling that the next war, now in preparation, will be between Italy and England for the mastery of the Mediterranean. This feeling is particularly strong in Berlin, where people are loath to believe that

it. They pointed out first of all that Italy needs a great deal of capital over a very long period to develop and exploit Ethiopia. Not until vast colonies and plantations are established will Ethiopia begin to be a real asset, either commercially or strategically. At present and for years to come it is a liability.

It is hard to see where, except in London, such amounts of capital are to be obtained, and therefore it appears almost a certainty that Italy must make terms with British bankers. But Britain's ability to supply credit—leaving strictly out of account any political considerations—depends essentially on the maintenance of the empire and the continuance of the profits which flow to London annually from colonies and dominions. Therefore—and this is the reason handed to me by Europe's banking brains—Italy will have to give iron-bound guarantees that British sea power and the integrity of the British Empire will in no way be menaced by Italy during the financing process.

If this reasoning is correct it would seem that Italy must withdraw her threat against Gibraltar and must also come to a satisfactory understanding with England regarding sea power in the Mediterranean. No solution could be acceptable to England short of a continuance of British supremacy.

The Strategy of It
Another reason for discounting fear of an Anglo-Italian war is strategic. Were Italy to become embroiled with England there can be little doubt that Germany would take advantage of the heaven-sent opportunity to annex Austria and then to demand Trieste as the price of non-intervention. Italy, in short, by challenging British supremacy at this time would be risking all she gained in the world war and all she has won since, and with relatively slim chances of success.

But by playing a waiting game Italy has nothing to lose and probably much to gain. In 20 years (if peace can be maintained) Ethiopia, with financial help, can be converted into a rich and powerful territory, which would be a great help instead of a hindrance to Italy in case of war. If peace is not maintained, Italy can watch her chance, wait until the two groups of allies have worn each other out, and then throw her weight into the scale for a high consideration.

In view of these considerations most Europeans are not granting too much importance to the famous "Rome-Berlin axis." That Hitler and Mussolini have found it convenient to join forces in Spain is not surprising, and that they both flaunt the bogey of Communism is equally understandable.

The flaw in any conceivable Italo-German alliance is the fact that each nation aspires to dominate the Danube basin. Germany considers it to be a vital necessity to her expansion. On the other hand, Italy realizes that German domination would be a pistol at Italy's head. Consequently, she insists that it is strategically necessary that she control that area. At present both Austria and Hungary are a political no-man's land between Italy and Germany, which both are watching night and day and which both are covering with the constant bombardment of commercial penetration and political propaganda.

Some military strategists believe that the struggle for the Danube basin is the most important conflict now going on in Europe and the most likely to be the determining cause of the next war. That does not necessarily imply a straight two-sided fight between Germany and Italy, with other nations either remaining neutral or else joining in on one side or the other because of friendship or treaty obligations. It is far more likely that other nations would join the fight for the sake of preventing either Italy or Germany from establishing a clear claim to the disputed area.

Neither England nor France wants to see either Germany or Italy dominating the Danube. Letting the two fight it out alone would mean giving the prize to the victor. Joining in, however, even as allies of the victor, would give them a voice in the peace negotiations and enable them to veto such a conquest.

Here we have another reason why "peace is indivisible" and why a localized war in Europe is not conceivable.

Collected to Get Organ; Now They're Collecting To Make It Play

TILLSONBURG, April 20—Several months ago natives of Belgium in the tobacco area around Tillsonburg sent to Belgium for a large mechanical pipe organ costing more than \$1,000. They obtained permission to install the organ in Tillsonburg Town Hall, where it has provided music for their dances and social gatherings every Saturday night.

Now something has gone wrong and efforts of organ men from Woodstock and Detroit have failed to remedy the defect, so the people are taking up another collection. They are going to bring an expert from the factory in Belgium where the organ was made, paying his expenses both ways.

FEAR FOR BRITISH CAPITAL IF WAR SHOULD COME

Vast Treasures of the Empire's Metropolis Should Be Guarded

LONDON, April 19—If Londoners did not acquire the idea that the metropolis in which they work and live is one of the most vulnerable places in the world it will not be for want of warning from all sorts of prophets. It is probably true to say that this opinion is taking hold more than it otherwise would because of the trouble state of Europe and apprehension as to what damage would follow air attacks in a future war. But the average person hopes that the day will be long deferred when the empire capital will have to become really mole-minded and find protection for body and treasure in the bowels of the earth. Much interest has been taken here in the transfer of the gold hoard of the United States to depositories far removed from the coastline to insure greater safety, for here in reputedly vulnerable London the principal gold hoard of the nation is tucked away in the vaults of the Bank of England, which is situated at the busiest traffic spot in the City of London. If it were decided to bury it elsewhere it would probably spell the end of the "bullion guard," the presence of troops at the bank every night, and that in itself would cause regret for the abandonment of a custom kept up since 1780, or ever since the institution was threatened in the Gordon riots. From time to time members of Parliament have asked why the detachment of guards, which arrives at the bank under an officer at 6 p.m., is required when vaults are so strong and police protection so adequate. The answer of the Government has been that the bank is, under statute, the banker of the Government; is responsible for the register of Government loans, and has the custody of the gold reserves of the country.

This military picket, a familiar sight to those who work in the city, comprises one officer and 24 other ranks. As no other banking institution in the country is provided with such a picket of regulars, and guards at that, some members of Parliament have suggested that the cost should be defrayed by the Bank of England itself. It has been explained, however, that the bank provides the officer with dinner and lodging and the other ranks with gratuities so that they may purchase refreshments from the guard-room canteen as they desire. In addition, supper is provided by the battalion supplying the picket. Those who have knowledge of the duties of the picket say the job of insuring the safety of the gold reserves of the country has a distinctly palatable side. The officer in charge is permitted to have a masculine friend share his dinner and a bottle of wine, although it is the rule that the guest should depart at 11 p.m., and the soldiers are certainly not likely to suffer from night starvation with the food that is made available for them, especially as a tankard of ale is issued with the meal. This ale is of a quality to give it renown in the city. At any rate the Cockney who sees the picket filing into the bank of an evening is disappointed.

**London to Vancouver
--- In 48 Hours**

"Around the World in Eighty Days." Remember when we read it, and thought Jules Verne the world's greatest master of imaginative fiction, or perhaps a little crazy? Yet now, picking up our paper and reading Minister of Transport Howe's matter-of-fact announcement of a 48-hour air service between London and Vancouver, we are scarcely interested. This world we live in has become so strange, it ceases to seem strange. The extraordinary has become the normal. The fantasy the reality.

Under this air service Mr. Howe tells us about—it will be with us within a year—one may lunch in Montreal and dine in Halifax—or have afternoon tea there. Or, even more amazing (if anything can amaze us now) one may dine in Montreal one evening, lunch in Vancouver the next day. Or dine in Vancouver on, say, Sunday night, have a steak in Simpson's in London on Tuesday night.

Space, truly, is being annihilated. Vast oceans which once separated continents and hemispheres are being spanned by wings, and all the world becomes our neighbor. What it will mean in the years to come, who shall say? Optimists tell us it will mean more of understanding, less of suspicion between peoples. But we wonder, France and Germany have been neighbors for a long, long time.

QUEBEC, April 20—Louis J. Beaudry has been appointed manager of the Port of Quebec, it was announced by Ralph Campney, chairman of the National Harbors Board.

Science tells us that liquor has a depressing effect. This is especially true of the foot on the accelerator.

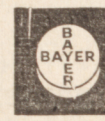
posed to ruminate: "Those blokes do themselves well." And "All's well!" is what they have to chant at intervals during the night when they do their rounds of the famous premises.

If mole-mindedness does not yet implicate the nation's gold reserves, it does many other things: from oil reserves to oil paintings; from police stations to refuges for priceless treasures. In fact, there are some advocates of preparedness who declare that it is a vital necessity for people to attune themselves to the experience of many hours under ground in case of a war. It is understood, however, that tubes and underground stations in the metropolis will not, as in the last war, be places of refuge. And, if there were time to move the treasures from museums into the country none would be consigned to underground depths in the capital. During the world war many treasures from the London galleries and from King George's private collection at Buckingham Palace were placed in the General Post Office's parcel post underground railroad between White-chapel and Paddington. There are aspects of the underground path to safety which are not meant to be revealed to the ordinary individual. There has been much talk in Britain about underground airplane hangars in Germany. But there are persons who did counter-espionage work in the war who say that one of the principal tasks of spies today is to keep an ear to the ground to learn what is going on beneath, because mole measures are often designed more to cover up the presence of munitions than of the machines of the guns from which they are dropped or fired. There has recently been much discussion here of the advisability of planning big-scale underground storage of oil and gasoline and even for the storage in vast cellars of reserve canned food supplies. The Air Ministry is constructing underground bombproof storage stations in different parts of the country. One of these "dugouts" is in an old quarry.

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At the same time, if you have a sore throat, crush and dissolve three "Aspirin" tablets in one-third glass of water. And gargle with this mixture twice.

The "Aspirin" you take internally will act to combat fever, cold pains and the cold itself. The gargle will act as a medicinal gargle to provide almost instant relief from rawness and pain. It is really marvelous; for it acts like a local anesthetic on the irritated membrane of your throat.

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