

The Daily Mail

A Daily Paper For Every Home

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THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1939

CHAMBERLAIN'S TASK

Premier Chamberlain today is faced with the task of making momentous decisions. At this distance from the scene it is not an easy matter to appreciate fully the very great difficulties involved in arriving at these decisions. The British Premier is essentially a man of peace, yet he has shown the world that the peace he seeks, and the only peace with which he will be satisfied, is peace with honour and not a surrender to force.

It is very real interest to us here to note some of the difficulties which the British press see in the way of effective agreements between Great Britain and the smaller European nations which threatened, or may be threatened, by German or Italian aggression. For instance, the Economist points out that the support of the countries of Eastern Europe will not be enlisted unless they have precise assurances of support from Great Britain and France, and it holds that every engagement between Great Britain and any of those countries will have to be strictly reciprocal.

This principle has already been established in regard to Poland. The Economist further points out: "It is perfectly obvious now that the German programme involves, at some stage, a reckoning with the Western Powers. Do we wish to face that reckoning with allies, who can force Germany to fight on two fronts, or without? There can only be one answer, and we must shoulder the very heavy obligations of that answer in order to draw its benefits. The sheet-anchor of any such defensive coalition must necessarily be Russia. The doubts felt in Western Europe about the efficiency of post-purge Russia may or may not be justified. But whatever the exact degree of her strength, Russia cannot by any stretch of language be called a weakness to her allies."

There seems to be a general impression in the British press that, in the event of war, army operations would soon arrive at a deadlock on the Western Front, and that such a deadlock would not be solved by any superiority of air force. Several papers are emphasizing the supreme importance to both Britain and France of their superior sea-power, which, by reason of its mobility and its liberty of choice of field of operations, would enable relatively small forces to accomplish great strategic results.

In this connection the strategic key both of the Eastern Mediterranean and Southeastern Europe, it is pointed out, is in the straits from the Dardanelles to the Bosphorus, which would be equally valuable both for naval operations in the Black Sea and the Aegean and to assist in the military defence of the Balkan against totalitarian aggression.

As for the Navy, the latest outburst by the eminent but hysterical Herr Goebbels against "the old tubs" of the British Mediterranean fleet will be read with hearty enjoyment by all concerned. It is Goebbels at his best. Probably the German propaganda minister felt that some such effort at belittlement would be welcome at Rome to offset the news that the British and French fleets received orders to dominate strategic points in the Mediterranean. With the German fleet quite safe at home, he can afford to indulge his peculiar sense of ostrich humor. But the memories of Scapa Flow still rankle deep, it would appear.

TROUBLE AHEAD

(Toronto Star)

While Halifax has denied that it was dickering for Quebec's decorations to use in welcoming their majesties, the Ottawa Citizen vouches for the fact that New Glasgow has asked for the second hand use of Ottawa's, which would better put a nod-dry-no-buy clause in any such agreement. What decorations will look like if it rains will be just too bad for the purchasers.

OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT

Certain inconveniences arise when one comes of age, and when Canada came of age in December, 1931, at the passing of the Statute of Westminster, she was no longer able to take for granted certain British Acts of Parliament which had automatically been in force in the Dominion. Since 1932 Canada has had no adequate way of dealing with espionage or with the leakage of any official secrets. Previous to that time the Official Secrets Acts of the British Parliament had been applicable in this country, and subsequently all that the Dominion has had in the way of counter-espionage provisions has two clauses in the Criminal Code.

It has been decided that the Dominion should have an Official Secrets Act of her own, and preparations are now under way to provide her with one. The details of the bill about to come before Parliament at Ottawa have not yet been disclosed, but it is believed that, with a few differences, it will embody the provisions of the British Official Secrets Act now no longer in force in this country.

No need arises, as the result of the Government on the part of the Government, to assume that we are or ever will be overrun with spies. But it is necessary, particularly in view of the increasing part the Dominion is likely to play in the manufacture of munitions and aeroplanes, to be provided with adequate legal machinery for dealing with espionage, should it be found in our midst.

One does not need to be a scare-monger to realize that, in the event of a war in which either Great Britain or the United States were involved, Canada would at least share some official secrets, even if she had none of her own. To guard these from prying and unauthorized eyes is the merest common sense. One does not need to go about in constant fear of fire before one insures one's property against it, and one does not need to see a spy in every bush before one makes provision for guarding official secrets.

ADOLPHUS REX

Hitler has returned to the seclusion of his Berchtesgaden retreat and there is naturally speculation as to what his meditations will produce this time. Presumably it will be something spectacular, in keeping with the fiftieth birthday of this modern Napoleon, on April 20.

He might direct a thrust, physical or verbal, against Britain, which has again attained the position of being German enemy No. 1, or he might take quite the opposite tack, declare his achievements have been completed, grant pardon to such political prisoners as Schuschnigg and bring the festivities to a climax by declaring the restoration of the Holy Roman Empire. He might even don the Gothic crown, which is being presented to him by admirers around the world on that day, and proclaim himself its Emperor.

The practice of men of humble birth assuming crowns has gone out of fashion. King Zog, of Albania, was the only one in Europe who had done so in modern times, and with the power of a great emperor why bother about the name? It is true that Countess Edda, daughter of Mussolini and wife of his Foreign Secretary, was indignant the other day when not given precedence over the Crown Princess, but the ambition of his women folks create no problem for Hitler.

Yet his life dreams is to restore the ancient German Empire, which for nearly a thousand years, from 962, when Otto I was crowned by Pope John XII, until Emperor Francis II took the title of Emperor of Austria in 1806, was known as the Holy Roman Empire.

Last year Dr. Seyss-Inquart, Austria's little Fuehrer, was publicly thanked as the guardian of the Imperial crown, but the crown was promptly taken to Nuremberg, where as early as 1934 reproductions of crown and scepter were shown amidst the acclaim of a Nazi party rally.

At Wilhelmshaven, Hitler, heaping scorn on the British, said: "The Englishmen are not aware that the Hradcany (the castle overlooking Prague) was not built by their countrymen but by a German... They do not appreciate that on this historic hill, one thousand years before me, when England was a petty land the first German Emperor stood there too and accepted the homage of the Czech people." Thus he pictures himself as the successor of Otto the Great who, a millennium ago, at the age of fifty, was crowned first Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire.

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Suburban Resident: "It's simply fine to wake up in the morning and hear the leaves whispering outside your window."

City man: "It's all right to hear the leaves whisper, but I never could stand hearing the grass moan."

New Angle

"Write me a play with just one original character and I'll buy it," stated the producer.

"That's easy, said the playwright. "I'll have the hero make a hole in one and then give the golf ball to his carry as a souvenir."

"Splendid."

"In the second act his watch will stop; and when it refuses to run, he will neither shake it nor open the case to see if he can fix it."

"Capital!"

"In the third act he'll get married."

"That's the hackneyed ending."

"He'll get married; but when he buys the furniture for his home I'll have him pay cash for it."

"Wonderful."

Back To Peace

Two convicts who sawed their way out of an Ohio jail returned voluntarily. One look at the current outside world was enough.

Festive Fare

The Tramp—Beg pardon ma'am but do you happen to have some pie or cake that you could spare an unfortunate wanderer?

Lady of the House—No, I'm afraid not. Wouldn't some bread and butter do?

The Tramp—As a general rule, it would, ma'am but, you see, this is my birthday.

Valuable Information

Dr. A.—Why do you always make such particular inquiries as to what your patients eat? Does that assist you in your diagnosis?

Dr. B.—Not that, but it enables me to ascertain their social position and arrange my fees accordingly.

Simplified

Mr. Faraway—I was going to call you up last evening, but I forgot your telephone number.

Prof. Letherkink—It is 742. You can remember it easily by associating it with the year of Charlemagne's birth.

fooling Fate

Pat and Mike were obliged to halt their heavily loaded cart to make way for a funeral. Gazing at the procession, Pat suddenly remarked:

"Mike, I wish I knew where I was goin' to die. I'd give five hundred dollars to know the place where I'm goin' to die."

"Well, Pat, what good would it do if yez knew?"

"Lots," said Pat. "Shure, I'd never go near that place."

MOTHERS AND BABES IN ARMS TEST MASKS

LONDON, April 13 — The War Office did not identify the fathers and children of Salisbury who walked into lethal gas chambers to test the new "perfect" gas mask for babies, but two babies who demonstrated them before newspapermen at Holborn Town Hall have become quite famous.

Showing how to live in the kind of mask that authorities say children should regard as "toys," Winifred Barker, three weeks old, howled, and James Pochetty, two months, stuck his thumb in his mouth and grinned. The children were introduced into the respirator, in appearance a cross between a miniature iron lung and a diving helmet, head first. The fabric skirt was fastened about them snugly, and their mothers pumped air at them through a device like a small concertina. 40 strokes a minute. Both children, watched through a cellulose acetate window, fell asleep almost immediately.

In the lethal chamber at Salisbury it was found the air, pumped through a chemical filter, arrived in the helmet from gas. Mothers submitting to the experiment used the regular pig-faced civilian gas-mask. The government expects to distribute 300,000 baby helmets in about a month.

PAPA DAREN'T SPANK MAMMA

PORTLAND, Ore., April 13 — It may be all right for a man to slap his wife in Chicago, but woe be it unto the Portland husband who dares to use those tactics.

Commenting on the recent ruling by a Chicago judge who refused a woman a divorce on grounds her husband slapped her, Circuit Judge Donald E. Long of the local court of domestic relations declared:

"I think that was ridiculous. I don't think any man has the right, because he is married, to take a possessory attitude. No man has the right to chastise his wife by personal punishment.

"I only hope that the men of Multnomah county don't subscribe to the ruling of the Chicago judge and think they can get by with it in the courts here," Judge Long warned.

A former G-man and army officer, the judge has granted 3,000 divorces, most of which were uncontested, since taking over the court of domestic relations two years ago.

Canine Snob

Lady—Is this a pedigree dog?
Dealer—Pedigreed! Why, if that dog could talk, he wouldn't speak to either of us!



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Wood to be delivered to Victoria Public Hospital during the coming summer.

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FRED I. HAVILAND,
April 13, 1939 Secretary.

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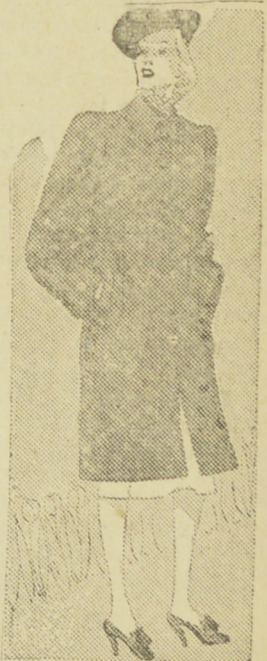
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