

AFRICAN WAR SHIFTS EUROPEAN ALLIANCES

(By a Staff Writer of The Christian Science Monitor)

Italy's undeclared war with Ethiopia is shifting Europe's diplomatic chessboard into new and sometimes unforeseen combinations. Policies, which seemed a few months ago to be relatively fixed—Italian-British friendship, French acquiescence in Rome's African adventure, League of Nations hesitation to apply sanctions—change rapidly under the impact of events.

Great Britain

Italian imperialism in Ethiopia stains traditional British friendship for Italy on several counts: Potential menace to British interests in the Sudan and Egypt, watered in part by the Blue Nile arising in Ethiopia; possible Italian control of sea routes to India and Far East; and Italian flaunting of the League of Nations.

Both for imperial and idealistic reasons, Britain has therefore taken a strong stand at Geneva and Paris against Il Duce's Ethiopian adventure.

France

French policy, pivotal in Europe because of relations to Germany, Soviet Russia and Central Europe, appears swinging definitely away from Italy toward Britain. Paris at first acquiesced in Rome's designs on Ethiopia, largely to preserve Italian friendship, won after years of discord—only last January. Premier Pierre Laval, then Foreign Minister, followed his triumph at Rome by negotiating the Stresa conference in April. There, France, Italy and Britain formed a united front to preserve peace in Europe. The obvious intent was to meet the threat of a rearmament Germany, which on March 16 had finally repudiated the Versailles arms limitations.

The Stresa front soon began to crack. Britain on June 18 signed a bilateral naval limitation treaty with Germany, thereby alienating French opinion for a time. Italy's aggression in Ethiopia and defiance of the League coupled with Britain's show of force, has swung France back toward Britain.

Reasons: Paris faces the prospect of a rearmament Germany. Security is the prime aim of French policy. British friendship, and armed support if possible, weigh more heavily than Italian aid. Britain, moreover, strongly sustains the League of Nations relied on by France to hold Germany in check. When Italy—always lukewarm and often hostile toward Geneva—became openly bitter against Britain and defied the League in order to invade Ethiopia, France had a double reason for swinging in line with London.

Germany

Berlin bristles with question marks in the coming Europe.

Will it support or hinder League sanctions? On October 21 its two-year notification period of withdrawal from the League ends. As a great industrial power free from League ties, Germany might help Italy weather economic penalties—if—National Socialist policy reserves its lukewarm, even suspicious attitude toward Rome.

The key to German distrust of Italy is Austria. Italy supports an independent Austria, while Germany desires Anschluss. If Rome's armies should become seriously involved in East Africa or with European powers over a considerable period, it is be-

lieved Germany would push secretly or openly for control of her southern German-speaking neighbor.

Indications of a German-Polish bloc, with satellites, are seen in recent visits between Berlin, Warsaw, Vienna and Budapest. The aim appears to be an entente against the French system of alliances, which encircles Germany and Poland by means of understandings with the Little Entente and Russia.

Austria

Vienna's divided house leans three ways on the nation's future. Prince Ernst von Starhemberg, leader of the Austrian Heimwehr, is openly pro-Italian. Austria's decision not to support League sanctions appears to indicate the dominance of his diplomacy at the moment. A large body of opinion favors Anschluss with Germany, while others—possibly the majority—stand for an independent Austria.

Whatever develops from the East African war, Austria appears as the potential European tinder box following Il Duce's colonial aggression. France is not likely to sit idly by while Germany absorbs Austria. Neither can the Balkan and Austro-Hungarian succession states be expected to accept the prospect of a Germany recouping its war losses.

Hungary

Budapest, like Vienna, has indicated unwillingness to join in sanctions against Italy. Moreover, recent visits of Premier Julius Gombos to Reichsführer Hitler at Berlin, with "hunting trips" by other German and Hungarian statesmen, hint a growing understanding. Hungary, therefore, seems falling in line with a possible German-Polish bloc.

Little Entente

Czechoslovakia Rumania and Yugoslavia, almost encircling Austria and Hungary, express through their Little Entente the determination to keep territories carved from Austria-Hungary and Germany in the peace settlements. Nominally pro-French, they are supporting sanctions against Italy, even though Italy has stood for an independent Austria. Yugoslavian hostility toward Rome is intensified by the prospect of Italian aggression along the Adriatic if its East African imperialism succeeds. With a combined population of some 50,000,000, the entente is a sizable weight in the balance between possible blocs of great powers.

Poland

Germany's strength in Europe, likely to gain if Italy becomes involved in Africa, tends to draw Poland closer to the Reich.

Russia

The Soviet, anti-Fascist even more than anti-capitalist, since Fascism is seen as capitalism's massed threat to advancing Socialism and Communism, support sanctions against Italy. Moscow's friendship for France is strengthened.

Spain

Conclusion of a commercial treaty with Italy at this moment indicates Madrid's desire to remain on friendly terms with its powerful Mediterranean neighbor. But Spain remains relatively neutral, liable to fall in line with Britain and France in any final crisis.

MAN WHO ONCE OWNED CANADA

Writing with regard to the recent anniversary of the day in 1621 when King James granted to Sir William Alexander the territory which is now Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and part of Eastern Quebec, Fred Williams, historian, reviews the marvellous career of this remarkable Scot. He was born about 1567; he died in London in 1640, known and honored by all men, lord of unparalleled dominions, but nevertheless a penniless bankrupt. He was descended from Somerled, Lord of the Isles, in the reign of Malcolm IV., through a misty Highland genealogy to John, who married the Princess Margaret, daughter of King Robert II. Their third son, Alexander, was the father of Angus, who founded the family of MacAllister of Loup and of Alexander who obtained a grant of the lands of Menstrie in Clackmannanshire and settled there, the descendants assuming the name Alexander as their surname. The fifth in descent from this personage was Alexander Alexander, the father of the future Earl of Stirling and Viscount Canada.

When the court of James VI was in residence at Stirling Castle, the Earl of Argyll introduced William Alexander there, and he became tutor to Prince Henry, and afterwards to the future Charles I. He soon succeeded in establishing himself with James, and in 1603, at the union of the English and Scottish crowns, he accompanied his sovereign to the Court of St. James when he was enrolled as one of the 32 gentlemen-extraordinary of Prince Henry's private chamber. In 1609 he became a knight; in 1621 he was granted Nova Scotia, and was the first of the Barons of Nova Scotia; in 1630 he was raised to the peerage by Charles I as Lord Alexander of Tullibody, and in 1633 he became Earl of Stirling and Viscount Canada.

Poet, musician, artist, William Alexander suffered most because he was a courtier. Professor Masson has described him as "the most unfortunate Scot of his time. Better for his memory had he died as Sir William Alexander, the rarest gem of our north." He owned part of what is now Canada and a portion of what is now the State of Maine; he dared to censure and counsel kings; he inspired Milton; he was read by Shakespeare; he was beloved by Johnson. His prolific pen, which produced sonnets, plays and poems of prodigious length (his Doomsday alone ran to 11,000 lines) was exercised in intervals of court duties and statescraft of the most responsible nature, and with it he had the astounding temerity (as Arthur Mee once wrote) in an age when the divine right of kings was one of the most religiously received tenets, to declare that wicked princes might be dethroned. King James did not cut off his head or even imprison him; instead he gave him the sole right of printing the Psalms and of minting copper coins for Scotland. It was the chief ambition of King James to produce a new version of the metrical Psalms, and he employed Alexander to do the work, taking the credit for his royal self. The story is told that one day when the King and Alexander had been busy a long time with the Psalms, and doubtless weary, the king remarked:

"Menstrie, we left off at Psalm twenty-one; the next's a tough one, but fine an' short. Let's hae a try at it."

King Charles made vigorous efforts to get the new version of the Psalter adopted, but the Presbyterians would have none of it. A courtier, they said, was not well suited as a translator of holy writ, and they maintained that the new version contained doubtful doctrine and objectionable phrase.

Lord Stirling was too faithful a servant of his royal masters. He had not learned the lesson that a nation will not be driven, not even right. The potential Croesus was brought to beggary, hounded to his coffin by merciless creditors in London. His body was embalmed and sent by sea to Stirling, and there interred in the High Kirk. The old manor house of the Alexanders in Menstrie still stands, a little dilapidated, but it yet has its baronial turret, winding stairs, carved portal arch, crow-stepped gables and large well-stocked orchards and many a tourist to Scotland turns his steps to see the birthplace of the man who once "owned Canada."

INQUIRY CLEARS DIXIE'S CAPTAIN

NEW YORK, Oct. 11—The captain and officers of the Morgan Liner Dixie were absolved today of negligence in the grounding of their vessel on the Florida coast on September 2, in a report by the local steamboat inspection board.

The captain and pilot of the Grace liner Santa Barbara were charged with negligence in navigation in connection with a collision with the ambrose lightship on September 17.

HEIRLOOM DRESS MARKED BAPTISM

WINNIPEG, Oct. 12—On a recent Sunday little Barbara Ann Dawson was baptized at All Saints' church in a christening robe that has been in the family for more than 250 years. Four months old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Dawson, the baby wore an exquisite long white gown, soft as present-day mull, but much finer.

The gown was made for Barbara Ann's great-great-great grandmother, in Scotland. That little Scotch baby of 250 years ago had adoring aunts whose patient fingers embroidered a design in Scotch thistles on the soft material. The little gown has a drop shoulder neck-line. The baby's soft, pearly shoulders showed above the wee puff sleeves, last Sunday when the minister took her in his arms and signed her with the sign of the Cross.

The gown is 'handed down' as an heirloom to the oldest daughter in each generation. Barbara Ann is 'in line' for it. Now the gown travels about Canada—it came here from a cousin of young Mrs. Wawson in Saskatoon.

Three generations ago the gown came from Scotland. Mrs. Dawson herself wore it, when she was christened in St. Matthew's church, Winnipeg. Her mother, also born in Canada, wore it at her christening down East. So did her grandmother. But before that the robe was used in Scotland.

How is it kept so white? There's an old Scottish lace-maker in Saskatoon who takes care of it, mending its hand-made lace, and 'doing' it up every time the call comes from another baby.

Dalhousie Students To Vote on War

The students of Dalhousie University at Halifax will be asked to vote next week as to whether or not they would be prepared to enlist for service in case Canada should be dragged into the Italo-Ethiopian conflict. The vote will be taken next Friday.

IMAGE OF SUMMER

Pools in rocks that bore the summer's smile,
The petaled ocean and the fallen sky,
Are now as mirrors where the year goes by;
Image of summer glimmers to beguile
The haunted eye turned inward to recall
Her dancing self and our lost festival.
—Howard McKinley Corning

The final number of entries for the Dominion election race now stands at \$94, and in such a field there must be a great many dark horses. It may take nine tailors to make a man, but eight provincial premiers are more than enough to show who the next Dominion Premier will be.

"THE FORGOTTEN CONSUMER"

Although 'the consumer' represents everybody, it is a remarkable fact that he is about the last person considered in election appeals. As a wage-earner he is told that his 'standard of living' is being protected, notwithstanding that his living standard can be determined only by the purchasing power of his pay envelope, and the size of the pay envelope depends on the demand for his service. When 500,000 or 1,000,000 men and women are clamoring for jobs, the pay envelope, as every one knows, is an uncertain matter and any standard of living lacks the main element of assurance.

Thus while Mr. Bennett has been telling the consumer everywhere that, as a wage-earner, his theoretical standard of living is being maintained, he is not able to convince the wage-earner that he can adhere to any standard as a consumer. This is the reason for 'The Forgotten Consumer,' and why the Liberal campaign on this topic is causing a flutter in Conservative circles.

The answer being given to the Liberal arraignment of prices under a Conservative Government is that the cost of living has been reduced. The Conservative Organizer in Ontario, Mr. Denton Massey, backed up this assertion in Windsor by mentioning the lowered prices of butter, bacon and steak as contributing to lowered living costs. If any one wants proof, here it is, with emphasis on the deplorable condition of the farmers and other primary producers who have been obliged to sacrifice earnings and standard of living so Mr. Bennett can say the 'standard of living' is being supported by his policies.

Mr. Massey claimed these commodities are being sold for considerably

less in Canada than in Detroit. Probably he was correct. But what a commentary on the state of rural Canada! He was merely pointing out what is apparent to everyone; that any reduction in living costs has been at the expense of Canadian producers of butter and live stock. The farmer is the victim coming and going. He has to sacrifice what he sells, and when he buys, pay prices to satisfy Mr. Bennett's ideas of taxation. As a result he has been able to purchase little, and the country's chief domestic outlet for fabricated goods has dwindled.

Accordingly 'The Forgotten Consumer' includes those engaged in farming and urban activities as well. It ought to be pointed out that the Liberals are not blaming the tariff alone for the prices the consumer has to pay for manufactured articles. Mr. Bennett has raised the tariff sky high, but he has also imposed heavy excise taxes. He increased the sales tax from one to six per cent and instituted fixed valuation and nuisance taxes, all of which enter into costs which the manufacturer and dealer cannot escape. In his cost of living the consumer has to pay for a Government which levies these imposts.

The consumer has a right to a reasonable wage, and a right to demand that his pay envelope be not robbed by unnecessary taxes added by a Government to the cost of commodities.

A writer in Harper's points out that the great fairy tales are written by men. As well as some beauts that are never committed to paper.

When is a promise not a promise? After election day.

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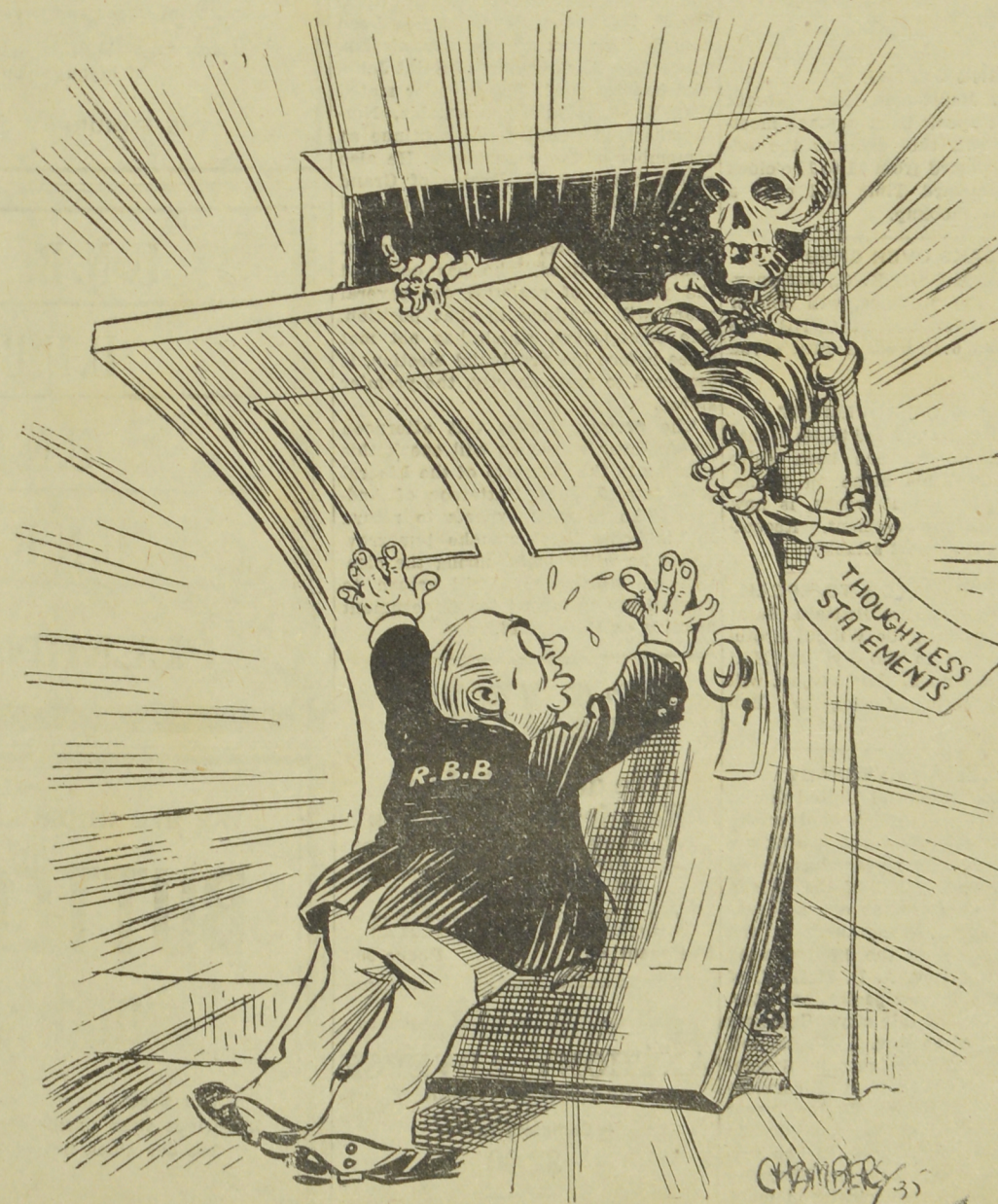
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THE SKELETON IN HIS CUPBOARD By Chambers



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