

## MACHINE GUNS SENT BACK TO FRANCE TURN INTO STONES

PARIS, France, August 19—Three hundred and ten cases of machine guns, ammunition, trench mortars and similar whatnots left France in January of this year for Paraguay. Refused for mysterious reasons by the recipient, these items were returned to France. When the cases were opened at Havre the police discovered that the sea air had a terrific effect upon this war material—namely, it had transformed it into sand and stones.

More remarkably it had transformed it into sand and stone of the identical chemical content as those found in the Paris region. Some people in France would like to know who was the magician.

Obviously the South Americans are notoriously unreliable and possess an insatiable thirst for firearms.

### POSSIBLE NOT PROBABLE

It is possible that the war material was extracted in Paraguay.

But—here is a problem which interests a great many Frenchmen—it is also possible that the original guns and munitions never reached Paraguay; that they never left France; that the entire 310 cases merely contained Paris sand and paving stones which were being given a long sea voyage. Why?

It is impossible to answer. The government does not seem excessively interested, perhaps because the government knows where the original arms are and simply will not tell.

### SOCIALISTS ARE EXCITED

La Surete Nationale (federal detective force) insists that the substitution was made in South America. But the French socialists are excited.

They note that the original arms shipper, named Brandt, is inscribed in the Fiery Cross organization of war veterans.

They think they know that the Fiery Cross organization has for some time been collecting minor arsenals in various parts of France, where rabbit shooting is not good enough to warrant the need.

They suspect that these arms are being kept for what some people might call civil war. They even whisper that the whereabouts of these arms, say for instance in the town of Melun, (near Paris) is known to the police. They cannot really understand why the French police—as jealous as any in the world—do not do something about the matter, since private arsenals are not presumably assembled for purely peaceful purposes.

### DETECT OTHER 'DETERIORATIONS'

These same socialists even seem to detect a sort of regular deterioration of merchandise of this sort in France. A load of pottery sometimes hardens into machine guns, for instance and then the machine guns fade into cigarettes.

It is all very mysterious—unless perhaps one remembers the findings of the federal investigations of the armament industry in the United States and similar facts revealed in Great Britain.

Could it be that the French, too, possess a branch of what is euphemistically called the armament ring?

## Relighting War Clouds in Far East

It is a long way from Abyssinia in eastern Africa to Outer Mongolia in eastern Asia. It is doubtful if either country is more than dimly aware of the other's existence. Yet both are faced with national crises strikingly similar in character and fraught with considerable danger to the future peace of other parts of the world.

Thanks to Italy's importance in European affairs and Mussolini's theatrical measures, the Abyssinian predicament has become well known throughout the western world. But the remoteness of Outer Mongolia and the absence of any conspicuous western interest in its affairs have deprived the Mongolian situation of much of the attention it deserves.

The Japanese army in Manchuria is making passes at Outer Mongolia resembling those which Mussolini made in Abyssinia six months ago. In each case agents of a strong aggressor profess to have been injured while pursuing dubious activities within the borders of the country whose territory is coveted, and in each case attempts at conciliation have been summarily rebuffed. Japan has not concentrated troops in so menacing a manner as has Italy, but it is in position to move faster in Asia than Mussolini can in east Africa. There is one important difference in the two situations. The civil government in Tokyo is not clamoring for war as Mussolini is. Still, the Japanese army in Manchuria is a law unto itself and if it chose, could compel the home government to back up a military campaign in Mongolia, as it obtained reluctant civil support for its campaigns in Manchuria and north China.

The recent Japanese ultimatum to Outer Mongolia differs significantly from those successfully directed against the weak governments of China and Manchuria. For Outer Mongolia though smaller and weaker than certain other remnants of the old Chinese empire, occupies a peculiar strategic and political situation. It is an important flank of the defense system of the Soviet Union and the chief protegee of Russia. A blow at Outer Mongolia is, in a sense, therefore, a blow at the Soviet Union.

Technically Outer Mongolia is independent, but its government is patterned on that of Russia, its leaders are under Russian influence and it is probable that Russia supplies it with part of its means of defense. Should Japan achieve domination over Outer Mongolia, it would be in a strategic position to strike at the Lake Baikal region, heart of the Russian defense in the far east, and to cut most of far-eastern Russia from communication with the soviet industrial and political centres. Control of Outer Mongolia is necessary to a successful Japanese struggle with Russia for domination of the far east.

Does Japan's ultimatum demanding the right of permanent residence and free circulation for its military and political agents in Outer Mongolia and permission to construct telegraph lines for independent communication with the Japanese authorities in Manchukuo signify the beginning of that crucial test of strength? Will Russia permit its ally to be conquered and its flank to be exposed in this dangerous fashion without striking back? Moscow directly refuses to indicate

## TWO TORY ELECTION STORIES ARE TIMELY

A good political story is told of the late Lord Birkenhead. In his capacity as Conservative candidate before his elevation to the Lord Chancellorship, he was addressing a provincial audience. In the midst of his speech some one in the gallery threw a cabbage at him. It fell on the platform at his feet. He stooped down, picked up the vegetable and, holding it in his hand, observed: "I regret that in the excitement of the moment, one of my Liberal opponents has lost his head."

A companion story is a new one recently related about the late Sir John Macdonald. In his declining years, when the Old Chieftain was at the height of his popularity, he was speaking at a political meeting in Eastern Ontario. His audience was composed almost entirely of intense admirers. The only exception was a single Grit, seated about the middle of the hall. In the course of his address, the old Prime Minister paused to drink a glass of water. The solitary Liberal in the hall took advantage of the opportunity to call out: "Oh, go to Hell!"

Pandemonium broke out in the crowded auditorium. Sir John's admirers yelled with rage against the interloper who had insulted their idol. The Old Chieftain, however, merely set down his empty glass and smilingly held up his hand to quiet the turmoil. The storm gradually died down till absolute stillness prevailed, whereupon he remarked: "Ladies and gentlemen, this is the first time I ever received an invitation to Liberal headquarters."

The faculty of repartee, the ability to make a quick "come-back" from the platform is often more effective in winning elections than any number of four-hour speeches.

whether its threat to wage war if one inch of soviet territory is invaded applies to Outer Mongolia. It has been so worried about the danger of attack from the west that it has tolerated all sorts of annoyance on the eastern frontier. But recent Japanese activities at strategic points in soviet waters, plus the threat of Outer Mongolia, profoundly alarm the Russians. They have strong military forces in the far east and have about completed the double-tracking of the trans-Siberian railway, which links eastern and western Russia.

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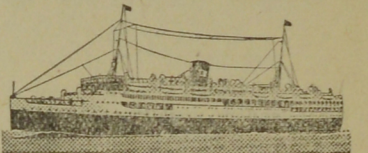
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## "I'm Astounded - Absolutely!"



## Confessed Mr. Picobac

Dressed in his Sunday best, Mr. Picobac was paying his first visit to the Canadian National Exhibition.

Halting for a moment to chat with a salesman in a tobacco and cigarette booth with whom he had formed a passing acquaintance, Mr. Picobac surveyed the passing throng.

"I've been to fall fairs before now", said he, "— plenty of them. Down in Essex Centre we have a fall fair every year—but nothing like this. I'm astounded—absolutely astounded."

Mr. Picobac had just finished a pipe and was now contemplating another.

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