

# News Review of Current Events the World Over

**Crisis Nears in Italo-Ethiopian Embroglio—Mussolini Defiant, Great Britain Ready—Committee of Lawyers Hits Labor Relations Act.**

By EDWARD W. PICKARD  
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**MATTERS** in Geneva were rapidly approaching a crisis—a crisis for Italy and Ethiopia, for European peace and for the League of Nations itself.



Benito Mussolini

The Italian cabinet, in which Mussolini holds eight portfolios, announced in Rome that Italy would accept no compromise and would not retreat from the course it has laid out in East Africa; that its military preparations were being intensified, and that its forces were adequate "to respond to any menace whatever."

Still more important, in the light of developments, was the cabinet's announcement of strengthening its military forces in Libya, where General Balbo has been establishing a strong line of air reports. This colony borders Egypt on the west, and there was immediately a lot of speculation as to whether Mussolini planned to attack the British empire in that region. Italian forces in Libya have received reinforcements of 40,000 men with tanks and field artillery, and are much stronger than the British forces in Egypt. If economic sanctions were imposed on Italy, Mussolini might well reply by threatening Great Britain in that quarter, by invasion and by arousing the native population to revolt.

Premier Laval's speech before the League of Nations was exceedingly clever but did not clear the situation sufficiently. While he gave assurance that France would abide by the league covenant and fulfill its obligations, he hinted that his government would demand in return that Britain enter a definite engagement to carry out the program agreed upon in London on February 3—an air Locrano with automatic enforcement and the conclusion of Danubian and Baltic security pacts.

One after another the nations represented in the league announced their support of the British stand against Italy. If the British do not back down—and that seems unlikely—and if Italy persists in its adventure, the league will be called on to apply article 15 of the covenant. This requires the submission of any dispute, likely to lead to a rupture, to the council which must then try to effect a settlement. The council also will adopt as its own the report of the committee of five, which has failed to find a solution acceptable to Italy. The parties to the dispute are obligated to keep the peace for three months in any event, which would prevent an Italian campaign before the rains set in again in Ethiopia.

If in the next three months either side accepts the council's decision, the other party is automatically outlawed if it starts a war at any time in the future. In that case, the penalties against an aggressor as provided in article 16 must take effect automatically.

It is believed in Geneva that the penalty easiest to apply would be a general boycott of all trade with Italy. In that case the course followed by the United States would be all important. The European statesmen feel confident that they can count on President Roosevelt, once a war breaks out, to interpret cotton, wheat, and other raw materials as war material and under the American neutrality legislation forbid direct shipment to Italy and Ethiopia.

"Take a look at this," virtually said Great Britain to Italy as she massed a great fleet of powerful warships in the Mediterranean. Many of them were at Gibraltar, others at Malta and Alexandria and yet others at the entrance to the Suez canal. Practically the entire north Atlantic fleet was concentrated in the inland sea, and there was a chain of fighting vessels all the way from there to China—and every one of them was ready to defend the supremacy of the empire. The royal air force, too, was fully represented at the naval bases, and the shore garrisons were reinforced. This was John Bull's reply to Mussolini's defiance, and it might well give him pause.

"UNCONSTITUTIONAL" is the verdict of the American Liberty League's committee of 53 lawyers on the Wagner-Connelly labor relations act.

"It is our belief," said the opinion, written in the form of a brief, "that the statute unnecessarily and arbitrarily infringes upon the individual liberties of the employer and the employee and is therefore invalid."

This is the first of a proposed series of opinions on recent federal legislation by the committee of lawyers. It was formulated by a subcommittee consisting of Earl F. Reed of Pittsburgh, chairman; Harold Beacom, Chicago; Harold J. Gallagher, New York; D. J. Kenefick, Buffalo; Harrison B. McGraw, Cleveland; Gurney E. Newlin, Los Angeles; Hal H. Smith, Detroit; and E. Randolph Williams, Richmond, Va.

Copies of the opinion were sent to all members of the full committee and

dissenting opinions were invited, but none were offered.

Raoul E. Desveraine of New York, chairman of the general committee, denied that it was "packed with Republicans," but he did not explain why no labor lawyers and no attorneys with New Deal leanings were appointed to serve.

Among the members of the committee are James M. Beck, nationally known constitutional authority and former solicitor general of the United States; Bainbridge Colby, secretary of state under President Wilson; John W. Davis, Democratic candidate for President in 1934; Joseph B. Ely, former Democratic governor of Massachusetts; Ralph M. Shaw of Chicago, former head of the Association Against the Eighteenth Amendment; James A. Reed, former United States senator from Missouri, a Democrat, and George W. Wickersham, chairman of President Hoover's commission on law enforcement.

Frank E. Morrison, American Federation of Labor secretary, said: "This committee simply represents the views held by special privilege and big business, which have always opposed every piece of legislation introduced in congress and the states to bring a little more happiness into workers' homes."

A. E. MERCKER, who used to be secretary of the Interstate Early Potato committee, has been made head of the potato section of the Agricultural adjustment administration, and his troubles are just beginning. Control of the potato crop is considered a natural sequence in the policy that is being followed by the AAA, and, like other parts of Secretary Wallace's agricultural plan, it is supported earnestly and as seriously condemned.

Among those who oppose potato control is Porter R. Chandler of Genesee, N. Y., a gentleman farmer. He has advertised extensively his intention to grow and sell potatoes in defiance of the federal potato control act and invites prosecution.

Now, co-operating with Mr. Chandler, comes Norman C. Norman, a New York jeweler who some time ago defied the Jewellers' code. He sent to the gentleman farmer an order for six or more bushels of "strictly illegal potatoes," and the order was filled at once. Norman suggested that the potatoes be routed through New Jersey to make the offense interstate, and offered to make more than one purchase, "as it is my understanding that the second purchase will entitle me to go to the penitentiary."

WHILE all the nation was celebrating Constitution day, the citizens of Pennsylvania went to the polls and voted overwhelmingly against the calling of a Constitutional convention for the purpose of "modernizing" the state's basic law which was adopted 61 years ago. Since the proposed changes were to have a decided New Deal trend, the Republicans looked on the result of the referendum as a victory of national significance. The revision was strongly supported by Governor Earle and the state Democratic organization and also by organized labor.

New Mexico voters turned down a proposal to boost their property exemption to \$2,500, along with four other suggested amendments to the state constitution.

WHEN the new Philippines commonwealth is formally born on November 15 in Manila, with Vice President John M. Garner officiating as its godfather, Manuel Quezon, for 20 years the leader of the fight for independence, will be inaugurated as its first president. In the recent election he and his entire ticket were victorious. The defeated rivals for the presidency were Emilio Aguinaldo, who led the rebellion against American rule years ago, and Bishop Gregorio Aglipay. They were virtually snowed under.

Sergio Osmena was elected vice president, and victory of Manuel Roxas, Quintin Paredes and Camilo Osias assured the new president ample leadership in the unicameral national assembly, where he also will have a clear voting majority.

Quezon's term of office is six years and his annual salary will be \$15,000. The commonwealth will be a ten-year prelude to complete independence from the United States. Quezon, who is largely of Spanish blood, is fifty-seven years old. He has numerous friends and acquaintances in the United States and for a long time has been a frequent visitor in Washington in his endeavor to gain independence for the island archipelago.

RESOLUTIONS adopted by the Iowa Farmers' union in convention at Des Moines demand that President Roosevelt dismiss Secretary of Agriculture Wallace from the cabinet and halt "the program of hunger." The AAA was called "infamous, worthless and vicious."

MARRINER S. ECCLES, head of the federal reserve system, has been re-appointed by the President, and so will be chairman of the board that will put into operation the new banking reform law. Later the President will name six other members of the board. Mr. Eccles is the exponent of the theories that monetary control must be from a "national viewpoint," that the government should spend heavily in bad times to create employment and expand credit, and that it should tax in good years to reduce debt and prevent excessive accumulation of income.

PAID advertisements in weekly magazines of national circulation are now being used by the treasury to promote the sale of baby bonds. The aim of the campaign is to interest small investors in these bonds, the smallest of which sells for \$18.75, with a cash maturity value of \$25 in 10 years.

SIX hundred members of the German reichstag, all fervent Nazis, met in special session in Nuremberg and at the demand of Reichsfuehrer Hitler passed two laws bearing down hard on the Jews in the reich. The first of these new statutes prescribes prison sentences as penalties for marriages between Jews and citizens of German or kindred blood, and declares such marriages void if performed in a foreign country. Extra-marital relations between Jews and Aryans also are punishable by prison sentences. Jews are forbidden to employ women under forty-five years in their households after January 1, on penalty of imprisonment. Jews are not allowed to hoist the national flag, being limited to the Zionist blue and white emblem.

The second law provides that only a person who "belongs to the protective association of the German empire and is especially obligated to the reich" may be a citizen of Germany. This citizen must be of German or kindred blood and show that he is willing to serve the German people. Thus Jews and Germans of whom the Nazis disapprove may be excluded.

Hitler also put through a third law establishing the Nazi Swastika as the national and trade flag of Germany. The war ministry was instructed to adopt a war flag of black, white and red.

In his address to the reichstag Hitler said that by the laws adopted he hoped to deliver a fatal blow to Communism and Jewry.

THE Committee of Jewish Delegates has appealed to the League of Nations on behalf of the Jews of Germany, declaring that "the conscience of mankind will not tolerate that Jews should be degraded in this century as pariahs."

CHANCELLOR HITLER'S remarks about Memel aroused President Antanas Smetona to putting out the first interview he has granted in six years. In it he declared that Lithuania, relying to the utmost on the legality and justice of her stand and action in Memel affairs, is ready at any time to defend her position before the permanent court of international justice.

But should an effort be made to disregard legality and justice, in favor of force, Lithuania is prepared, stated President Smetona, to "defend Memel with all the means at her command."

Continuing, President Smetona said: "Memel is to us an economic necessity, not a political issue. We are too small a nation to engage in political bargaining, as we are too small a country to engage in contra-propaganda. Our only point is that Memel, containing Lithuania's only seaport, is an essential part of Lithuania. And the freedom and preservation of Lithuania is to her people a precious thing."

DEATH came to Jules Cambon, one of France's "elder statesmen," at Vervey, Switzerland. He was ninety years old and had lived in retirement since the close of the world war, though he was frequently consulted by high officials of France. His brilliant career—as a diplomatist covered nearly 50 years. He served as ambassador in Washington five years.

COMPTROLLER GENERAL McCARL in a formal opinion held that there is no legal authorization for the federal government to pay out any funds for the construction of a furniture factory at Reidsville, W. Va. This has been a project especially favored by Mrs. Roosevelt. It was intended originally that the factory should make furniture for government offices and give employment to transplanted coal miners. A year ago McCarl refused to sanction an allocation to the factory from recovery funds. Then congress turned on the project on the ground that it discriminated against private industry. McCarl says the Department of the Interior went ahead with letting contracts for the construction, nevertheless, and the building is about 80 per cent completed.

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## SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL By Carter Field

Washington.—Latin-America seems to be following the example of the administration with respect to utilities—particularly utilities owned by the same general interests in the United States so vigorously attacked by President Roosevelt.

Mexico's president has called for government ownership of telephone, telegraph and railroad lines—the last an extra added feature, not on the New Deal agenda. Chile is making trouble for American and Foreign Power, having caught it trying to smuggle funds out of Chile back to American investors. And so it goes all the way down the line from the Rio Grande to Cape Horn, with just a few exceptions, notably Brazil.

Senators just back from Cuba report that not only is there little likelihood that the Cubans will be able for some time to come to pay interest on the big bond issues floated for public improvements, but there is little disposition to pay. Privately these senators think this particular investment has just been wiped out, as far as American bondholders are concerned.

Tops of literature containing the attacks made on American holding companies in the utility fight have been circulated through Latin-America. It is blamed by some students of the situation for stirring up the present movement. Central and South American officials figure that it gives them a splendid excuse for stepping in, nationalizing the utilities, and keeping the profits—if any—in their own companies instead of sending dividends back to the United States.

Latin-American officials are quoting glibly from the attacks sponsored by the administration, demanding why their people should be taxed to pay dividends on watered stock, and to pay service charges by holding companies out of all proportion to the service rendered!

### Coercion Not Expected

They feel confident that no strong arm methods will be used to coerce them, or to protect these American interests if the plants are taken over by the government. Further, they feel that the Roosevelt administration will not be harsh about it if the values fixed in the condemnation proceedings are very low indeed. In fact, they think it would be rather difficult for Secretary of State Cordell Hull to frame a strong argument against valuations so low that the American investors would think they were being murdered.

But that isn't all the gloom from the investor's standpoint. Plans fairly under way in some of the Latin countries contemplate making payment for such utility plants as may be taken over by governments in bonds, issued of course by the government, federal or local, which takes the plant over.

No stockholder in any of the big American companies with investments abroad would throw his hat in the air over the idea of taking payment for anything in bonds of the foreign country concerned. Market for any such bonds is at a very low ebb, without much prospect of improving. American investors have taken such a beating on foreign bonds in the last few years that they do not banker for any more.

All of which presents a very gloomy picture indeed to a good many American shareholders. And bondholders.

It is a repercussion of the administration's policy, which was not foreseen by anyone. It is made possible not only by the domestic policy inside the United States with respect to utilities, but to the strong stand taken by the administration in denouncing "dollar diplomacy," and making it perfectly clear that ill treatment of American investors is not necessarily a matter that might lead to warships.

But there is another complication. Great Britain has a good many similar investments. She has railroads in Mexico, which may be taken over. And whenever the present trouble between Italy and Ethiopia is over Britain may be much more interested in what happens to her investors than the American government is in its.

Which would bring the old Monroe doctrine up for another dusting off.

### Textile Troubles

A net loss of \$438,062.92 despite the largest sales in the company's history, nearly \$29,000,000 while taxes amounting to \$1,874,765.62 were paid, is alleged to be typical of the entire textile industry. This is the report of the Pepperell Manufacturing company, with headquarters at Biddeford, Maine, regarded as one of the most successful textile concerns in all New England.

These operating results, Treasurer Russell H. Leonard said, are "typical of the industry as a whole for the same period" (fiscal year ended June 30 last), and moved him to ask the stockholders "wherein lie the reasons for an essential industry remaining profitless under a governmental plan presumably dedicated to its rehabilitation?"

Overproduction, Mr. Leonard said, was the major difficulty of the cotton textile industry and the primary cause of its losses. He said that consump-

tion of cotton textiles has not been far below normal.

"This economic principle was, in fact, at work in our industry for some years," Mr. Leonard's report continued. "But the National Recovery act upset the working of this principle and facilitated—indeed encouraged—increased production. Paradoxically, shortening the weekly running time to 40 hours expanded the output. Because the overhead costs of a mill on one shift of only 40 hours weekly operation became increasingly burdensome, mills running one shift per week were forced to increase to two shifts in order to compete with mills already on a two-shift basis."

A single shift of 50 hours, Mr. Leonard contended, could supply all the consumptive needs of the country.

This statement is highly interesting in view of the fact that the American Federation of Labor is even now preparing to do battle in the next session of congress for a 30-hour week law, a fight which it abandoned in the last session because the Federation for its own reasons was much more interested in concentrating on the Wagner Labor Relations act.

### Great Handicap

Mr. Leonard also paid his respects to the AAA and processing taxes.

"The market prices of cotton goods during the year were so low," he said, "that it was not possible to pass all these taxes on to our customers. This recovery measure therefore was a great handicap to recovery in our industry."

"The floor stock taxes and processing taxes paid by this company since the agricultural act went into effect have amounted to about \$4,000,000.

"Spindle capacity must be reduced or production of existing capacity controlled," Mr. Leonard continued, "if the industry is to become even reasonably profitable over an extended period."

"Possibly some method to solve the latter problem may yet be devised, but it becomes increasingly difficult, after surveying the maze of such experiments under the National Recovery act, to determine how even governmental planning, or planning under the sanction of the government, can make uneconomic principles work for any extended period. It is difficult for even an omniscient government to thwart economic law! Assuming that two shifts of 40 hours weekly were continued, the soundest solution that has come to our attention would be to eliminate the surplus spindle capacity. There is some disagreement as to what this amounts to, but the figures are probably around six to seven million spindles out of a total in place of about 31 million.

"A great deal has been said about the industrial problems of New England and inability of its manufacturers to compete with those in some other sections of the country in production of cotton textiles. It is certain that they cannot compete indefinitely unless the total costs, including labor, are on a competitive basis. The solution of the problem lies with the people of New England. If it costs more to produce a yard of the same cloth in Maine than it does in the South, then, eventually, the goods will be produced in the South."

### Guarding Roosevelt

The shooting of Huey Long is expected to result in much more elaborate protection being forced on President Roosevelt by the secret service, whether the President likes it or not.

Present protection, officials say privately, is excellent against cranks, and has proved satisfactory for the most part because as a rule that sort of danger to Presidents comes only from cranks. The man who killed Huey Long may have developed a persecution mania, but he is not classified as a crank under the standards considered when officials are protected.

As a matter of fact, while no secret service official would say this publicly, they do not believe the shooting could have happened—that way—if secret service operatives had been on the job instead of Senator Long's bodyguard.

Had Baton Rouge been Rome, and had Long been Mussolini, the attacker could not have been in the chamber through which Long was passing. It would have been impossible. In fact, best judgment of our own officials, who have studied Mussolini's protective service, believe that he could be killed only by a rifle fired from a considerable distance.

This writer attended a session of the Italian senate, back in 1927, which Mussolini attended. The writer rode to the building in an American embassy car, with the late Warren Delano Robins, then counselor of the embassy, and later minister to Canada.

Although the embassy shield was on the door of the rather distinctive car, guards about the senate entrance were not only nervous but impatient when the chauffeur attempted to stop.

### How Italy Does It

The first consideration of Mussolini's guardians was that this street must be kept open. No chance for the first car to start a block was tolerated. So even an embassy car, driving up to the normal entrance to the diplomatic gallery of the senate, was not permitted to pause. Shouted directions, more or less menacing, kept it moving.

Thus we traversed three streets leading to the chamber. Every one of them was lined with soldiers, police, and men so obviously plain clothes operatives that the most inexperienced of crooks would have recognized them for what they were.

Moreover, on the roofs of the houses lining these three streets, men were on guard. It is an old Latin custom. It goes back through the ages. And it is very effective.

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### CARE OF THE TEETH

"By the time most persons, are old enough to think much about it, they have been brushing their teeth for years. So they take the method for granted and continue to swish the brush around with a fine display of action but with no thought; and frequently the only remaining virtue of the brush is that of long and faithful service." This is the comment of David W. McLean, D.D.S., who writes on "The Art of the Tooth Brush" in Hygeia and outlines the proper method of tooth brushing.

The operation of tooth brushing should require not less than three minutes for each jaw, three times a day: 03 rising, after luncheon and before retiring, and the last is the most important of the three.

Dentifrices to be used on tooth brushes should be regarded as cleansing agents and not as medications or cures.



Same Thing  
The meaning of tantamount is equivalent.



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