

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Franco-British Peace Plan Collapses and Hoare Resigns— Benes Elected President of Czechoslovakia— Christmas Pay for WPA Workers.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

IF IT really was intended to bring about peace between Italy and Ethiopia, the plan proposed by British Foreign Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare and Premier Laval of France turned out a dismal failure.



Sir Samuel Hoare

The storm of opposition to the scheme which would give Mussolini two-thirds of the African country as a reward for stopping an attack that was denounced by the League of Nations, brought the British and French governments to the point of collapse. To save the Baldwin cabinet, Hoare resigned on the eve of a parliamentary battle in the house of commons, and it was believed the government thus would be able to win a vote of confidence. Hoare was made the goat for the entire ministry shared the responsibility of the peace plan.

In Paris Edouard Herriot, member of the cabinet without portfolio, resigned as president of the powerful Radical Socialist party whose support is needed by Laval to maintain his majority in the parliament. Herriot's action, in the opinion of some observers, presaged Laval's early downfall.

Hoare's position became untenable when he learned that the peace plan was about to be buried at Geneva. Capt. Anthony Eden, probably never enthusiastic for it, practically repudiated the scheme in a public meeting of the league council. Laval also spoke more reservedly, declaring that even if the plan were rejected, the council must continue to seek conciliation. After the session, however, he admitted to French newspaper men that the plan, for the time being at least, is dead.

The council received from Addis Ababa a note in which Emperor Haile Selassie bluntly accused Great Britain and France of having violated the league covenant by seeking "to impose upon Ethiopia a predominant control by Italy with the certain aim of entrusting to Italy the administration of the capital and a large part of the territory. The League of Nations in consenting to lend itself to such dissemination would violate article X of the covenant."

In view of all the opposition and of Mussolini's hint that he would reject the proposals, the league council killed the plan entirely, softening its action by formally thanking Great Britain and France for their "preliminary efforts" toward peace. A permanent committee of 13 councilors—all but the Italian member—was named to study the Italo-Ethiopian crisis.

Dispatches from the front said a great battle was in progress in the Takkaze river sector and that the Italians, after repulsing a strong attack by the Ethiopians, were retreating with a vigorous counter-movement. A large force of natives was reported to be ambushed in a mountain pass, and the Italian officers declared few would escape. Losses on both sides were heavy.

WHEN Thomas Masaryk, founder of Czechoslovakia and president of the republic since its creation, resigned because he was eighty-six years old and weary by his labors, he recommended that the parliament elect as his successor Eduard Benes, who was Masaryk's co-worker for establishment of the republic and has been its only minister of foreign affairs. This advice was followed, Benes being chosen by a vote of 340 out of 440 votes. There were 24 votes for Prof. Bohumil Nemej, leader of the pro-Fascists, and 76 abstentions. The Sokols, organization of sportsmen, and the war veterans, supported Benes unanimously, and his victory was hailed as a triumph for democracy.



Eduard Benes

A general reorganization of Czechoslovakia's diplomatic representation abroad will follow the election of the new president. Jan Masaryk, son of the former president, will be recalled from London to act as chief of Benes' chancellery. The minister in Washington, Dr. F. Veverka, is scheduled to move on to London.

Benes, who is fifty-one years old, has had a brilliant diplomatic career. One of the ablest strokes was the creation of the little entente, whereby Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia and Rumania stand together in central Europe. He also achieved an alliance with France.

UNLESS Eugene Talmadge, the fiery governor of Georgia, changes his mind, the Democratic national convention isn't going to be the mere Roosevelt renomination love feast that administration supporters had intended it should be. Talmadge went to Washington and there boldly announced that he would be a candidate for the Presidential nomination. He declared the Democrats would lose the election if they put Roosevelt at the head of their ticket again, and de-

nounced the President as an "usurper" in the party.

The governor also announced that a convention of the "southern Jeffersonian Democracy" would be held in Atlanta the last week in January for the purpose of formulating a program to battle the New Deal and President Roosevelt.

He added: "The southern border states have 300 votes in the Democratic national convention. It takes but 367 votes to block the nomination of a President. We are going to bring a lot of delegates to that convention."

CLEVELAND is the place and June 9 the date selected for the Republican national convention of 1936. The national committee heard arguments on behalf of Chicago, Kansas City and Cleveland, and then decided on the Ohio city, largely for political reasons. Gov. Alf Landon of Kansas and Col. Frank Knox of Chicago both being potential candidates for the nomination, it was thought wise to hold the convention in neutral territory. Ralph E. Williams of Oregon, vice chairman of the committee, was made chairman of the committee on arrangements. Delegates to the convention will number 997, or 157 fewer than in 1932.

The national committee concluded its session with an invitation to conservative Democrats to join with the Republicans in the effort to oust the Roosevelt administration.

FRANK C. WALKER, one of President Roosevelt's strongest supporters, has resigned as executive director of the national emergency council. He will retire to private life, but it is understood he will return to the service of the government as soon as his personal affairs permit. This is taken to mean that he will be appointed postmaster general when James A. Farley relinquishes that post to take over the President's re-election campaign, probably early in the new year.



F. C. Walker

Lyle C. Anderson, who has been solicitor for the NEC since last May, was named to succeed Walker and is already in charge of the council. In his letter of resignation to the President Walker said that he regretted that some of the men in business and industry were impatient with New Deal recovery programs but expressed himself certain the great mass of the country was wholeheartedly behind the President.

WORKS Progress Administrator Harry Hopkins issued an order that made happy about 3,500,000 workers under his unit.

"I desire that every regular WPA pay check earned be in the hands of the worker by Dec. 24," Hopkins said, in telegraphed instructions to state program directors. "The law does not permit advance payments, but no effort should be spared to deliver checks due by Christmas eve."

"Overtime work by administrative employees handling pay rolls should be ordered where necessary and courier service should be arranged if necessary to overcome transportation delays caused by congestion in the mails."

President Roosevelt entered on a new round of conferences on the relief program to be provided for in the budget for the fiscal year beginning next July 1. New Deal officials associated with relief were summoned to the White House to offer suggestions for keeping the relief program down so that the administration can point to budget balancing efforts in the 1936 campaign.

Plans for organizing the Civilian Conservation Corps on a smaller but permanent basis were discussed with Robert Fechner, CCC director, and a group of cabinet officers.

POPE PIUS conferred red hats on sixteen new cardinals in a public consistory at St. Peter's in Vatican City. Four others received their red hats at their nunciatures. These twenty bring the sacred college to within two of its full numerical strength for the first time in many years.

THE board of directors of the Knights of Columbus made a tart reply to President Roosevelt in their dispute over our government's position in respect to the alleged religious persecution in Mexico. It concluded with the assertion that Mr. Roosevelt was responsible for the government's failure to follow a long line of precedents "founded upon established American principle."

DESPITE the riotous opposition of students and other youth of Peking, the Hopel-Chahar political council, supported by Japan, took over the affairs of the autonomous North China provinces, with Gen. Sung Cheh-yuan as its chairman. That gentleman in his first official announcement declared the opposition demonstrations were being promoted by communists, against whom he would take drastic action.

General Sung said he would do his best to promote good relations with neighboring countries "which treat us with equality and reciprocity" (Japan and Manchukuo). He declared his intention to "revive China's traditional virtues, and to develop and spread oriental culture."

JAMES A. REED, former senator from Missouri and long one of the more prominent Democrats, is another who will not support Franklin D. Roosevelt for re-election. He said in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, that if the President were renominated he was prepared to vote for the Republican nominee provided the latter is pledged to stand by the Constitution and American fundamentals.

DICTATOR of Venezuela for twenty-seven years, during most of the time president of the country, Gen. Juan Vicente Gomez died in Caracas of an old malady at the age of seventy-eight years. The cabinet named Gen. Eleazar Lopez Contreras, minister of war, as provisional president to hold office until his successor is elected by congress. While Gomez boomed in salute, Gomez was buried on the anniversary of his assumption of power.



Gen. Gomez

In 1909, on that day he executed a coup d'etat by which he seized the government while President Cipriano Castro was in Europe seeking health. During his regime there were many incipient revolts but he crushed them all with an iron hand; and even when the presidential chair was occupied by others his control of the government was absolute.

Among Gomez's greatest contributions to Venezuela were the establishment of friendly relations with foreign nations and peace within the country, the building of a fine system of automobile highways, and development of natural resources.

He made the most of the great petroleum deposits at Lake Maracaibo, granting many concessions to foreign oil companies, but placing an export tax on oil. The industry in Venezuela grew until it now holds third rank in the world.

MC GILL university, the famous Montreal institution, under its new president, Arthur Eustace Morgan of England, is enlisting in the youth movement. Twelve of its professors who are over sixty-five years of age have been notified that they must retire at the end of the present school year.

Resentment against the action was indicated. Prof. Stephen Leacock, head of the department of political economy, humorist, and writer, who was one of those affected by the retirement order, made this terse statement: "I have plenty to say about the governors of McGill putting me out of the university. But I have all eternity to say it in. I shall shout it down to the mud."

IN A special election in Michigan's Third Congressional district Verner W. Main, Republican, was victorious over Howard Cavanagh, Democrat. Main is tentatively in favor of the Townsend plan but attributed his victory to opposition to the New Deal. The result was nothing much for the Republicans to crow over, for the district is normally heavily Republican.

THE eighth of the reciprocal trade agreements has been concluded with Honduras. It was signed at Tegucigalpa but must be ratified by the Honduran congress and confirmed by President Roosevelt. The agreement provides for duty reduction on 17 commodities exported by the United States to Honduras and assurance against increases on 20 others.

Among the concessions by Honduras on United States exports are reductions in duties on smoked hams, shoulders, bacon, and sausages, and on canned meats, except salted and corned beef, by from one-third to one-half; reduction of the rate on butter by two-thirds; lowering the rate on evaporated milk by one-half and those on condensed and dried skimmed milk by one-third. Rates on dried fruit items are lowered by from one-third to three-fourths; on canned fruits, vegetables, and fish by from two-thirds to three-fourths. The rate on cotton shirts is cut 50 per cent and there are substantial reductions in rates on denims, cotton hosiery and other textile items.

PLUTARCO ELIAS CALLES, one-time "iron man" of Mexico, has returned there from his exile in California with the apparent intention of disputing the rule of the country with President Lazaro Cardenas. In order to prevent a military coup against the government, Cardenas dismissed Gen. Medina Veytia as chief of the military zone of the Valley of Mexico and Gen. Joaquin Amaro as director of the national military school. Both were among the supporters of Calles, as were five senators who were previously expelled on charges of rebellious and seditious activities.

The administration's next move was to oust four state governors.

SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL

By Carter Field

FAMOUS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT



Washington—There is more unanimity—in private conversations among both Democrats and Republicans, New Dealers and reactionaries—that the silver policy of the United States government is weirder than on any other controversial subject, probably.

There is not so much public criticism of it, for various reasons, mostly concerning the electoral votes of certain strategic western states.

But the truth is that no one explains it satisfactorily, probably because it is rather difficult for anyone to explain something he does not understand, and the only two persons credited with understanding the silver policy are President Roosevelt and Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau. Neither of them does any talking, if one excepts the occasional retort of Morgenthau that he is "still buying silver" and is "carrying out the mandates of the silver law."

The most intelligent theory as to the actions of the administration runs something like this:

First, it was forced on the administration. Had it not been accepted, the probability is that congress would have rushed through some other inflation measure. It is not impossible that congress might have forced the use of printing press money to finance governmental needs, and pay the national debt, as many advocated.

Second, having accepted the silver law, the idea of a tremendous profit to the treasury developed in the minds of Roosevelt and Morgenthau. They had just made a profit in gold for the treasury of something like two billion, eight hundred million dollars. Incidentally six hundred million is still in the treasury, and two billion was converted into the famous but mysterious equalization fund, about which, like the silver policy, nobody knows anything except Roosevelt and Morgenthau, and they won't tell.

Profit Looked Good

So the idea of making a profit on silver of about two billion, to be made by buying and commanding silver cheap, and revaluing it later—as gold was revalued—at a much higher price, was very appealing.

Up to this point, as a matter of fact, there is no doubt about the precise accuracy of what happened. Now comes the more nebulous part.

Having conceived the idea of a big profit, obviously the more cheaply silver could be bought, the greater the profit would be. So every now and then Morgenthau would act as though the silver buying policy had been abandoned. This always resulted in the price of silver falling, and from the standpoint of accumulating a lot of silver at a low price, everything was splendid. With the slight exception that the government has nearly always, since the policy started, paid more for newly mined silver produced in this country than the world price.

But as a result of his clever stratagems to convince world silver holders that the price was not going to advance, the world gradually came to the conclusion that the whole silver price boosting objective of this government had vanished. So the world, believing the price of silver would fall as soon as the silver experiments of the United States were concluded, began to dump silver.

With the result that if the United States tomorrow abandoned its whole silver policy (which it positively will not) the result would be a rather heavy loss to the treasury on its silver operations to date.

Whereas, if Morgenthau had complied with the spirit of the silver law, and kept up a brave front of forcing the price of silver up, the world would not be dumping silver now, but holding it for the alleged objective mentioned in the silver law—\$120 an ounce.

Substitute for NRA

President Roosevelt is still convinced that there must be a substitute for NRA. Further, he is still convinced that an essential part of the advance program is to convince the American people that business cannot work out a satisfactory substitute—that it must be imposed by the government.

This is the status despite the obvious fiasco of Maj. George L. Berry's conference, which was far from satisfactory to the President. In that the major did not succeed to anything like the desired extent in simulating an impression of fairness.

No one inside the administration criticizes Major Berry's motives, nor his advance plan. There is a good deal of undercover criticism, however, of his lack of tact in handling the situation that developed.

Critics admit that they do not blame Berry for his frame of mind when the big meet was called to order. They know all about the preliminary meetings of groups of business men, the obvious desire of a great many industries to sabotage the whole movement, and the fact that many had actually come with more intention of stirring up trouble than of aiding in any conciliatory agreement or co-ordination of the various viewpoints.

So when several of the business representatives started the fireworks, they typified for Berry the spearhead of the whole force he was fighting

against, and he lashed out.

It would have been much better, critics point out, had Berry restrained his feelings, and, after reminding the conference that nothing was on the agenda for this meeting but his outlining speech, then announced the meeting adjourned, but invited those who wished to talk to organize their own meeting and go ahead.

This would have left the business representatives who wanted to obstruct free to talk their heads off, but no particular harm to any administration objective would have been done.

Feared Speeches

Berry's own objection to this course was that speeches would be made at such a meeting, which might have "stolen the headlines" in the next day's papers. His critics admit this, but insist that the net result of the speeches would have been to show more conclusively than anything else could possibly have done the difficulty business representatives would have had in getting together.

Two courses are now open to the administration, and decision as to which will be followed will be made by Mr. Roosevelt himself.

One thing is absolutely essential to either course. The face of Major Berry must be saved. He is far too popular, especially with American Federation of Labor leaders, to permit of anything else.

One course would be to allow Major Berry to take all the letters he has had from business men of various shades of opinion, work them out, and finally produce a report recommending specific legislation for a substitute NRA.

Despite widespread objections to the whole idea of NRA on the part of many business men—especially since prices have begun to rise—plenty of justification could be produced in these letters in Major Berry's possession for such a course.

It is true that some of the letter writers have since changed their minds. A great many business men wanted some form of NRA restored while prices were still low. They wanted some form of government protection against chiselers. Now that prices are rising, the danger to their own selfish interests is not so frightening. So they would like to get rid of government interference and supervision, now that they no longer need, as they see it, its protection.

Hoover Va. Borah

Will Herbert Hoover's strength at the Republican national convention be sufficient to stop William E. Borah's nomination if the Idaho Lion gets going good?

That question is being asked in many political circles, both Democratic and Republican, since the recent radio blast of the veteran lone wolf of the American house of lords. Particularly since, in preaching the "doctrine of plenty as against the doctrine of scarcity," he goes right to the heart of the problem which is the chief concern of every Republican anxious to get his own party in power, and to get Franklin D. Roosevelt out. To wit: the problem of what to offer the farm belt in place of the much denounced AAA farm benefits and processing taxes.

As a matter of fact, up until that speech, you could not find a Republican in Washington who really believed Senator Borah had a chance for the nomination. This was true despite the paucity of available timber for the G. O. P. nomination, and despite the fact that Borah has been running first in nearly every poll taken, beginning with that of Robert H. Lucas many months ago.

Borah was simply set aside for two reasons. One was his age. He will be seventy-one on June 29, next, just after the convention adjourns. The other was the strong group of individuals high in Republican ranks who object vigorously to his nomination.

Herbert Hoover is in a way the head and front of this group, but it is very large, and important. The opposition of those composing it is based on two things, Borah's political and economic philosophy, and what they call his "undependability."

A very prominent magazine editor has told many Republican leaders of his own negotiations with Borah for a long series of articles. The fees for the articles were to be huge. There was no limitation on what he could say—no attempt to dictate policies. Borah, the editor says, was frankly attracted by the money and the opportunity to reach such a large audience so easily. But he reluctantly declined the offer.

His explanation is the whole point. One article might be all right. Two might be right. But over such a period of time as was involved, he was likely to change his views so radically that the later articles might contradict the earlier!

It is this, rather than Borah's political philosophy, which today causes most of the opposition on the part of Republican leaders to Borah. It so happens that many of them would swallow his economic views without gagging if they could depend upon him, once in power—on the theory that anything would be worth trying to be sure of throwing Roosevelt out.

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STAR DUST

Movie • Radio

By VIRGINIA VALE

NOW it's William Powell who threatens to shake the dust of California from his feet and take up his residence in England, and all because of taxes. He says that 75 per cent of what he makes goes that way, and that he'd like to hang on to more than 25 per cent of what he earns—which seems reasonable enough. So it looks as if he might spend six months in England and six here, and if that means that we will see him in fewer pictures it's bad news indeed. He's at the height of his popularity at present—and after seeing him in "Rendezvous" I think you'll agree with me that he should be seen more often. It's one of those pictures that just must not be missed. Of course, the gossips are inclined to wonder if this means that the romance between Bill and Jean Harlow is definitely over. Others say that he's liked Europe, always, and has wanted to live there.



Wm. Powell

And I recall meeting him for the first time, years ago, when he had just returned from a European vacation. At luncheon, in his hotel suite, he was tastefully clad in a black silk lounging robe with flashes of red about it—the three women interviewers, all accustomed to film stars though they were, were just a bit goggle-eyed when they first caught sight of that dashing robe. But Powell was so thrilled over Florence, (Florence, Italy, not a girl!) that he couldn't think of anything else. He wanted to live there. Perhaps he still does—maybe that's one reason for this threatened departure.

Rudy Vallee's not going to make that picture, "Lucky Me"; soon't go to California because his wife would start legal trouble all over again.

Pert Kelton, whom you've seen in several pictures—her next one is "Annie Oakley," with Barbara Stanwyck—made all Broadway laugh the other day. She'd been known there as a stage actress, a brunette; she reappeared as a blonde, as guest of honor at the weekly luncheon of a group of motion picture men, and this is the story she told, which everyone present has been telling ever since. Mrs. Morrow, years ago, had asked the elder J. P. Morgan, an old friend, to tea. Before he arrived she took her daughters, then very small girls, aside, and warned them that they were not to say anything about his nose—a very large, bulbous nose. They weren't even to stare at it. They were just to come in and speak to him, and then excuse themselves and go upstairs.

Came the day, with Mr. and Mrs. Morrow chatting with Mr. Morgan. The eldest daughter came into the drawing room, said "How do you do?" to Mr. Morgan, very politely, and left. In came Anne, who was to grow up and become Mrs. Lindbergh. She said "How do you do, Mr. Morgan," very pleasantly, was told by the elderly financier that she'd grown amazingly, and then she excused herself and started for the stairs. At the foot she paused, fascinated eyes on his face. "Well, good-by, Mr. Morgan," she said. And again, half-way up, still gazing at his face. "Well—good-by, Mr. Morgan," and he replied, cordially, "Good-by, Anne."

Mrs. Morrow, so goes the story, was on tenter hooks. If only the child would go on, without making some awful reference to his nose! At last Anne disappeared from sight. And Mrs. Morrow, turning again to the tea table and picking up a cup, was horrified to hear herself saying, "Mr. Morgan, do you take cream and sugar with your nose?"

"The Adventures of Frank Merriwell" is a picture that's guaranteed to make old-time movie goers feel older than ever. For three of the young men connected with it are House Peters, Jr., Wallace Reid, Jr., and Allan Hersholt, son of Jean.

ODDS AND ENDS . . . Al Jolson says he's not superstitious, but he wouldn't start his new picture, "Singing Kid," on the 13th . . . Freddy Bartholomew is spending his time getting acquainted with the Great Dane that will appear with him in "Little Lord Fauntleroy" . . . 20th Century-Fox will call Fred Allen's new picture "Town Hall Tonight" . . . They do say that Constance Bennett is being awfully nice to newspaper reporters, for a change, since her contract wasn't renewed . . . Patsy Kelly's to be starred . . . There'll be no more "Buck Rogers" on the air after December 16 . . . Leslie Howard's daughter, who broadcast with him so successfully last spring, may make a picture for Paramount.



Stanwyck