

WORLD AFFAIRS

Good Evening Everybody:-

Today's news makes the theme of European crisis more prominent than it has been in a long time. Yesterday's protest from Jugoslavia to the League of Nations was a mere preamble to the more sensational developments of today, although of course that South Slav denunciation of Hungary is serious enough in itself.

It is causing all sorts of anxiety, with the Hungarian delegation to the League of Nations speaking up in loud tones. "Very well", shouts Hungary, "Jugoslavia wants an investigation into the assassination of King Alexander. Let's have the investigation. We want it too. So bring on your investigators." The Hungarians are not only angrily denying that they were in any way responsible for the international crime, but declare that Jugoslavia's accusations are merely intended to cover the real causes, the real blame.

Who and what are really to blame? Why the bad internal situation in Jugoslavia, claim the Hungarians. Jugoslavia is backed up by Roumania and Czechoslovakia, Hungary by Italy.

There's the lineup - sinister, maybe.

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Well, right on top of that, the French War Budget for next year was presented to the Chamber of Deputies in Paris. There was a bristling sensation today in the lofty hall where the French Parliament meets, when Leon Archimbaud arose to speak. He is the Reporter for the Finance Committee. That just about corresponds to our Director of the Budget. He presented the government's bill of military expenses for the coming year, and in doing so, he declared that the great Red Army of Soviet Russia would fight in alliance with France. The nation at which this Franco-Russian military combination is directed is Germany, of course. "Russia", declared Monsiur Archimbaud, "has a strong and well-equipped army, which she offers us in case of conflict with Germany." And he painted a picture of the red army and its millions thrown on the side of France. He declared that this was the only means of maintaining peace in Europe. Later on high French government officials made discreet denials and qualifications of the sweeping declarations by the enthusiastic budget Reporter, but the

sensation was created nevertheless.

We have been hearing for some time about an alliance between France and the Soviets. Now it is out in the open, in the most emphatic form - a military alignment of the French army and the red army.

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The discussion of the new military budget continued by bringing into high prominence the French claims that Hitler's Germany in rearming, at an enormous rate, in defiance of the Treaty of Versailles. The French deputies had vividly in mind significant information that has come to the League of Nations - Germany is immensely increasing her air force. It is a commercial airfleet, to be sure, but they say the civilian planes are so constructed that all they need is to stick a machine gun into each and it becomes a regular military fighting ship.

So what did the French Chamber do in response to that budget statement of a Franco-Russian military understanding? They immediately voted an emphatic yes to the military budget - four hundred and twenty-seven million dollars for armament.

That's thirty million dollars more than the French are spending for military expenses this year.

There is word in addition that France is putting through a two year program of compulsory military training for all civilians. This restores universal conscription in France to what it was before the War. It was noted in Washington not so long that one of the leading French correspondents in the national capital was recalled to Paris for military duty.

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With a glare of the limelight on Soviet Russia's policy in Europe, we have a much less conspicuous item concerning her position in the Far East. No, it's not so conspicuous; but, it's mighty significant. All discussions about a possible fight between the Soviets and Japan inevitably take note of the Trans-Siberian Railway, Russia's sole line of communication with her Far Eastern border. One of the strongest arguments brought up in favor of Japan's chances of a victory points to the fact that the railroad is only a single track line. And that does sound like a weak joint in the armour, a feeble link in the chain - an immensely long single track railroad in the terrific

transportation pressure of modern war. The latest bit of news tells that the Soviets are going to double track the railroad. Moscow announces that they are going to build a second railroad line, running north of the present Trans-Siberian tracks, so that if one is blocked or a section of it destroyed, the other track will be there to move troops and munitions. Part of it is already double-tracked!

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This leads us to Japan - to another budget. The Ministry at Tokio has voted a program of national expense of which the army and navy get forty-six per cent, nearly half. The military and naval expenditures come to a total of more than a billion yen. Two hundred and seventy-nine million dollars. This huge military financial program did not get by without an argument. Some of the Ministers raised their Far Eastern eyebrows at the immense sum of money, pointed mildly to the deficit the Mikado's treasury is already facing, and asked amicably where the cash is to come from. The peppery War Minister, Senjuro Hayashi, immediately threatened to resign. Admiral Osumi, Minister of the Navy, chimed in that his resignation

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would be ready too if the objections continued. They won out after an all-night session. The Cabinet voted for the budget - a billion yen, for the army and navy of the flowery kingdom.

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You can hardly talk about Japan these days without also talking about ratios. Yes, and here's a new one. Two-two-two. Heretofore those naval ratios have featured the figure five. Now it's two. And the figures give the key to the idea, a general, drastic cut in naval strength, and the proportion of the cut from five to two. The two-two-two would mean naval equality between the United States, Great Britain and Japan, each with a much smaller tonnage but an equal tonnage.

The idea emanates from the Japanese. They want a big navy, but are willing to take a small one if the other two great naval powers will be content to have their own fleets just as small. It boils down to the fact that Japan is willing to cut her own warship squadrons considerably if Uncle Sam and John Bull will cut theirs a good deal more. It isn't likely that the plan will get very far, with the naval delegates gathered around their conference table in London. But it emphasizes again Japan's insistence that she's equal to any nation on earth.

PINERO

A veteran and a patricarch of the dramatic stage has passed - with the death of Sir Arthur Pinero, today. He preceded the dramatic school of George Bernard Shaw and John Galsworthy, paved the way for them. He approached playwriting with a methodical plan.

He once told me at the old Waldorf here in New York, that from boyhood he had an ambition to be a playwright, but he felt the play should be written from the actor's point of view. So he put aside his writing plans and became an actor. For seven years, without writing a line, he acted on the stage, until he felt that he had mastered the actor's point of view. Then he wrote, "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray", which established his success. And he followed it with a stream of social dramas, fifty plays in all.

BABIES

Over in Yugoslavia there's a man who can't tell his son from his great grandson. The two of them look just alike^{to}. They are exactly the same age, though they are granduncle and grandnephew.

Todor Markovitch is a sturdy ~~patriarch~~^{patriarch.} His third wife *has just* presented him with a son. ~~Just~~ An hour later another baby boy was born - to the wife of Todor's eighteen year old grandson. Yes, Todor's son and great grandson ~~born~~ were born on the same day, and they got the infants mixed up and can't tell them apart.

So, as it stands now, those two young fellows won't know which one should call Todor papa or great grand~~pa~~^{papa.}. They won't know which is to look up to the other as granduncle, or down on the other as grandnephew.

We've been hearing various stories about mixed-up babies, but this Yugoslavian mix-up is the strangest of all.

ROCKEFELLER

It's an old story about Caesar and Napoleon not being able to get through their own sentry lines, and that classic was reenacted today at the Fine Arts Exhibition at Rockefeller Centre, New York. ^{D.} John ~~Rockefeller~~ ^{Vr.} ~~himself~~, who with his own and his father's millions financed the great development, tried to get in and was almost thrown out. The doorman stopped him; wasn't listening to any explanations.- until one of the officials ~~of the Fine Arts Exhibition~~ intervened. Then John D. Rockefeller, ~~was~~ was allowed to enter the exposition at Rockefeller Centre.

RELIEF

A new idea in the field of unemployment relief is appearing in Washington. It is along the ~~idea~~^{line} of giving private industry more opportunity to reemploy labor, and touches upon the President's plan for persuading manufacturing concerns to renovate their factories and put in new machinery.

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The reasoning is that if the government stopped taxing corporations for a certain length of time, the corporations could use the money thus saved to finance factory improvement, and ~~thus~~ put men to work. The plan, in specific details, is to exempt companies from the present thirteen per cent tax on corporate income.

The Administration figures that in that way private industry would spend the money to employ the jobless while at present the government is using the corporation tax money on its own projects for employing the unemployed. Let private industry do what the government now is doing, and enable them to do it by omitting taxes.

HOUSING

There seems to be sharp split in administration circles on the subject of housing improvement. Secretary Lckes is on one side of the fence with his declaration:- "We cannot sit around indefinitely waiting for private capital to come in." Those are his words. Housing Administrator Moffett, however, is on the opposite side. He's in favor of having private capital finance the government housing program and is ready to start a campaign to line up private agencies to do the financing.

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An article ^{written for} ~~in~~ Collier's ~~Weekly~~ shows that more private money than ever is flowing into house improving and points out that seventy per cent of the housing money is spent for labor. But there are still sixteen million homes in need of repairs - a large field for financing and for reemployment.

CEDAR OF LEBANON

We have all heard of the cedars of Lebanon, the cedars that King Hiram of Tyre sent to Jerusalem for the building of King Soloman's Temple. But I never knew until today that there was a huge cedar of Lebanon in this country, just one.

While in at the Bowery Savings Bank I learned that this historic tree is in danger. It is in the town of Flushing, on Long Island. It was brought to this country years and years and years ago, and has grown until now it is so big that it takes four or five men with their arms stretched out, to reach around it. But, it has just been struck by lightning. The people of Flushing fear that it will die. The question is, can a tree that has been ~~ax~~ split through the middle by a bolt of lightning, survive?

While in at the Bowery Savings bank I also learned something else interesting. That bank happens to be celebrating its centenary -- one hundred years old. And it's the largest savings bank in the world, with its nearest competitor ninety-eight million dollars behind. It first opened in small quarters down on the old bowery. ~~Today its home on Forty-second Street, in the~~

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Savings banks are not privately owned. They are mutual affairs; and the law forbids them to take risks with their money. All earnings go to the depositors. The present head of the Bowery Savings Bank is Henry Bruere. Mr. Bruere told me that he thought the remarkable thing about savings banks in this country was that they grew to such gigantic proportions in an era when the American nation was growing so rapidly that most people were eager for large returns instead of for the solid security of savings banks.

John was sentenced to a month in prison, and now has been ordered to be deported. At Ellis Island he made an ardent appeal before a special board of inquiry. The board plans to refer the case to Washington, but there's not much chance that the decision will be reversed. And it's altogether likely that John will soon be on his way back to his native Latvia.

Maybe on the shores of the Baltic he'll defend President Roosevelt's administration as flawlessly as ever -- or maybe not.

PAINTING

It seems there ^{is} such a thing as too much patriotism. Or, in any case, if you're going to be a fiery patriot, devoted to the Stars and Stripes, you'd better become an American citizen first. Don't support the Government and Administration too enthusiastically, or they may deport you.

That's what John Sniuske is up against. He's the young Latvian, who a month or so ago threw acid on a painting that made satirical fun of the New Deal, and utterly destroyed it.

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VANDERBILT

The Vanderbilt case entered a new phase today. It was certain of course that Mrs. Gloria Morgan Vanderbilt would appeal from the decision of Judge Carew which took little Gloria ~~xxx~~ Vanderbilt from her.

Today the mother ~~xxx~~ scored the first legal point in the complicated appeal maneuvers. The Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court granted her an order allowing her to appeal from the decision of Judge Carew. This merely clears the way for the appeal battle which is due to be fought all along the line of the courts.

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Neither side has been any too well pleased with the compromised decision, which gives little Gloria Vanderbilt ~~x~~ into the custody of her aunt, Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney, ^{save for weekend} ~~save for week-end~~ visits which the child was to make to her mother. Both factions of the family regarded it as a rather inconclusive ending, dividing the child's time between the bitterly hostile factions. Yes, it was a compromise, which as usual pleases no one, and now the appeal which Mrs. Vanderbilt has launched will start the case with all its scandals on a dragging way ^{through} ~~to~~ the higher courts.

BALD

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At Lincoln, Nebraska, a Doctor George Carlson tells us that if your head is bald it's because your eyes are strained. He explains that eyestrain deprives the nerves and muscles of the head of energy, energy that should go to the roots of the hair. So when you strain your eyes, you take ~~energy~~ energy from your hair and you get bald. Then you strain your eyes some more trying to find a hair or two on ~~the~~ ^{your} shiny pate, and that makes it still more ~~bit~~ bald. So it's quite apparent that the way to avoid baldness is to avoid eye strain. The complete and perfect way to avoid eyestrain is to go blind. So if you are threatened with baldness get somebody to scratch your eyes out. Married men take note.

Well, if eyestrain causes a bald head I wonder what voice-strain would cause? ~~from an over exertion of the vocal chords?~~

Maybe an over-activity of the vocal chords might cause lumbago,

~~or~~ or fallen arches. It alarms me so ~~that~~ much that ~~I had better~~ ^{I'm going to hurry}

59 1/2 up and say -- SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.