

GREECE

It's hard to see just how any serious international complication could arise from the Civil war in Greece. But just the same, it's the Balkans, where, according to the old tradition, nearly anything can happen. That's the worry in the news today, that the nations on the borders of Greece are mobilizing their troops. The two Greek neighbors are Bulgaria and Turkey. Bulgaria has had trouble with Greece in the past. And as for Turkey, the hostility goes back to those old days when the Ottoman Turk first appeared as a storming conqueror in Europe and destroyed the Greek empire in Constantinople.

Of course, the reason for the massing of troops on the frontiers is the fact that of the two theatres of civil war in Greece tonight, one is Macedonia, the northernmost section of the country which borders on Bulgaria and Turkey. The fear is that the hostilities may create disorder along the frontier. And there's a further angle that the weapons for the Greek Revolutionaries are said to have come from Bulgaria. So the Bulgarians are policing the border heavily, just to stop any gun smuggling.

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Meanwhile severe fighting is going on in that always troublesome land of ^{Macedonia} ~~Macedonia~~, which in the days of Alexander the Great was mistress of the world. Government troops from Athens have been driving in the face of machine gun fire, while war planes have been dropping bombs on the positions of the rebels.

The other sector of hostilities is the island of ~~Gree~~ Crete. You will recall that the trouble broke out in the Greek navy which proceeded to steam away from the mainland shore over to the island. The first reports that we had were of government military planes bombing the revolting ~~war~~ warships. And that bombing is still going on -- with the ships trying to ~~large~~ dodge the ^{missils} ~~missiles~~ from the sky.

Meanwhile Crete is in the hands of the Revolutionaries. And Venizelos, former Prime Minister and most famous of living Greeks, is supposed to be there. He is said to be the active leader of the ^{Revolutionary} ~~Revolutionaries~~ elements in Crete. Whether he's taking an active part or not, the uprising is the doing of those strong political elements that have always favored the grand old man.

ABYSSINIA

I wonder what Mussolini is going to do with those thousands of soldiers in East Africa! And plenty of other people all the way round the world are wondering about the same thing -- now that word comes from Rome that Italy and Abyssinia have patched up their difficulties.

But Italian troops are still embarking for Africa

The report specifies that the efforts to bring about a settlement between the Duce, and the King of Kings at Addis Ababa, have been successful. And, ~~that~~ the ~~core~~ ^{crux} of the agreement is a neutral zone. That's one of the things that Rome has been demanding, a strip of territory along the borders of Abyssinia and the Italian colonies, ^{from} ~~in~~ which zone the military forces of both nations will be excluded. ^H How wide is that stretch of neutral No Man's Land?

Today's news gives the figure of three and seven-tenths miles.

Italian troops and Ethiopian fighting men will be kept that far apart, to avert any possibility of further border incidents, clashes and skirmishes between forces of frontier guards facing each other.

If this agreement should turn out to be definite and final, it certainly will surprise plenty of shrewd observers, who have been convinced that the great Italian military activities could only mean

19 an enterprise of large proportions in Africa. It has been freely stated that an Italian conquest of the large East African kingdom was sure to come. It might be an outright subjugation of the country, or more likely the reduction of the King of Kings to the position of an Italian vassal. That's the old familiar way of European powers in barbaric lands.

And a feeling of wonder still persists - what about all those crowded troop ships that have been hurrying Italian regiments to East African ports? The establishment of a mere neutral zone certainly would seem to be a small accomplishment after the imposing, expensive military movements that Mussolini has launched.

Another point of wonderment is this:- The Italian-Abyssinian agreement announced today mentions the neutral zone, but says nothing much about the other demand^s the Duce made, salutes, ~~of~~ apologies and the payment of damages. Can it be that the proud Black Shirt Dictator, after starting what looked like a major campaign, has passed up those other demands of his? That doesn't have such a plausible ring. And a natural guess is that the Italian-Abyssinian agreement announced today may have more to it than was made public, might contain concessions on the part of

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Abyssinia which would be in proportion to the magnitude of the Italian war preparations. Perhaps there may be an agreement with conditions that would give Italy some large swing of influence in the old land of Ethiopia. ^{Something secret - maybe.} ~~Anyway, it's something for wondering.~~

Meanwhile - so likely seemed the prospect of a big campaign in East Africa, that war correspondents from various countries had been heading toward the troubled borders of ^{Ethiopia} ~~Abyssinia and Italian~~ Eritrea and Somaliland. And some of them had already begun to send back their dispatches from the theatre of the disturbance. These consist chiefly of singular details about the singular land, with a special emphasis on that remarkable person, Haile Selassie, who bears the ringing title of the Lion of Judah, and claims to be a descendant of the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon. We are told that the King of Kings is forty-three, with large sparkling eyes. He looks as if he were of the ^{Semitic} ~~Egyptian~~ ancestry which he claims. The Abyssinians in fact are a lordly mixed race, who rule over a nation of black tribes. King Haile Selassie is always pleased when foreigners tell him he has the complexion of a white man. In fact, he has, although it's a little swarthy. They call him the

"king with the beautiful hands". His fingers are slender and delicate, with long and tapering fingernails. He's proud of his hands, studies them admiringly or strokes his whiskers with an elegant gesture.

He likes to be a cultivated European in his barbaric kingdom. In his villa near Addis Ababa, he eats Parisian foods and selects the dishes from a menu printed in French. His army eats raw meat. When the regiments of his four hundred thousand soldiers are on the march, they ~~never~~ never carry provisions. They merely seize cattle on ~~the~~ route, which they eat raw. For refreshment they drink Tedje, a potent native beer.

For the King of Kings - Filet de Boeuf, Bordelaise.
For his fighting tribesmen - raw beef and Tedje. Yes, it would have been an interesting war! *May still be!*

GERMANY

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The sections in the British "White Paper", most interesting this evening - concern Germany. The London government has laid before Parliament a huge program for increase of strength on land, ~~at~~ sea and in the air. The White Paper is the document in which this huge new armament plan is outlined. It not only suggests what is to be done, but gives reasons why. And one of these reasons is Germany.

The White Paper appears just before a scheduled visit of Sir John Simon to Berlin, to discuss that treaty which England has been pushing, the agreement granting to Germany the principle of armament equality - in the air at least. But now Hitler has called off that scheduled ^{conference,} ~~conference~~. He says he can't talk to Sir John Simon because he has a cold. But the real reason is believed to be - German anger at the things stated in the White Paper. ^P Here ~~are~~ they are:- the document calls attention to charges that Germany is rearming, illegally, in spite of peace treaties. Then it goes on to say: "This armament, if continued at the present rate, will aggravate existing anxieties of Germany's neighbors and will consequently produce a situation where ^{by} ~~the~~ peace will be imperilled."

The White Paper pays acknowledgement to the peaceful protestations made by the Nazi government, but points to the war spirit that now inflames Germany, especially German youth, and hints that German peaceful protestations may not be so sincere. So Sir John Simon is not to be received by Herr Hitler.

ROOSEVELT

The President scored a victory today -- a definite point of success in connection with the Four billion, eight hundred million Dollar Work Relief Bill. The bill has been held up in the Senate Appropriations Committee for weeks, because of the McCarran Amendment. That's the proviso which calls for relief workers to receive wages at the prevailing rate of pay among workers at large. The American Federation of Labor supported the amendment, but the President was vehemently opposed.

It has been up to the Senate Appropriations Committee to decide whether the amendment should be tacked on to the bill when the bill is presented to the full Senate for a vote. The President has brought the pressure of his administration to bear, to persuade the Committee to keep the amendment off the bill. Mr. Roosevelt threatened to veto the bill if the Senate passed it with the amendment stuck on to it.

Today, the showdown came. The White House made a concession, letting the Senate say something about the spending of the money. And now the Appropriations Committee has handed the Work Relief Bill to the Senate, minus the McCarran Amendment.

The Committee vote was mighty close - twelve to twelve, a tie vote. But the rules are that in case of a tie, an amendment loses. It takes a majority to put it into a bill.

So, the President's demands are complied with, and the Senate will vote on the Work Relief Bill in its original form, much as it was proposed by the White House.

JOHNSON

I had the surprise of my life last night. You can always depend upon General Hugh Johnson to say something striking, and, striking is the word. It struck me right in the mid-rif. When I got up at the table in the Waldorf Starlight Roof to introduce the General, I hadn't any idea that I was about to set the stage for one of the most sensational oratorical blasts in years. It was the most blazing hammer stroke address I've ever listened to. And has it caused ructions? To attack two such powerful and flaming public figures as Father Coughlin and Huey Long, and, to do the attacking with such undisguised, vitriolic eloquence -- well, it took General Johnson to have the boldness to do that. And, it was certain to raise all sorts of violent eruptions.

It was decidedly unusual to hear the way General Johnson spoke in genuine friendliness and praise of the two men whom he was denouncing so bitterly. He was curiously amiable when he expressed a liking for the genial side of Huey Long. And he spoke in terms of personal affection for Father Coughlin. But how he lashed out!

The first comeback today was from Huey, as was to be expected. The Senator from Louisiana is not a man to suffer in

In a violent scene on the Senate Floor the silence. [^] ~~He~~ hit back with both fists. And he aimed adroitly,

picturing General Johnson as being the tool of Barney Baruch,

whom he enlarged upon with sinister strokes. ^{He fell} ~~This falls~~ back

upon the familiar legend of Baruch as the mystery man of Wall Street,

^{the} secret power on the Stock Exchange - a legend by the way which the

financier himself ~~smiles~~ pooh-poohs with an expression of amused

good-nature. The Kingfish blasted Baruch and Johnson as the

partners who had wrecked three presidents. He included President

Roosevelt as one of the three. And he's going to reply to General

Johnson's flaming radio speech with a radio reply of his own -

^{more flames!} ~~which ought to be even more flaming.~~ Because Huey certainly knows

how to burst into a blaze when he wants to. ~~I understand~~ The

reply will be made on Thursday.

Father Coughlin has said nothing. He wants time to think over last night's attack.

It isn't hard to guess the angle that Detroit's radio priest is thinking about with the greatest earnestness. General Johnson stabbed at the very heart of the question. He not only denounced what Father Coughlin had to say, but denied his right

as a priest to say it. That was the real challenge - the right of Father Coughlin to stand as a priest of the church and speak actively of politics. And that raises an age-old controversy, which goes back to the day when the first Christian bishop became a secular ruler of ^a ~~the~~ town. For centuries the question has been debated - the right of the clergy to act in political matters.

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On one hand, there's the demand that the church ^{— all churches —} should keep out of government affairs. On the other, there's the claim that the church should concern itself with all moral questions, and that moral questions are fundamental in government.

Yes, it's a dispute ages old, which General Johnson has now thrust violently into the foreground of the American scene.

ROME

With these troubles in mind, there's quick interest in a declaration by the Vatican today. However, the pronouncement by Pope Pius concerns -- nudism. The Pontiff made a general declaration against modern craving for pleasure.

"The paganized life of today," he says, "afflicts all open and attentive eyes, a life so specifically, so paganly dedicated to pleasure and to the search for pleasure."

He spoke of nudism in these terms.

"It is called" he said - "it is called with a horrible word and with horrible blasphemy -- the cult of nudity."

He was addressing a congregation of preachers who are to deliver special sermons in Lent.

"In the olden time," added the Holy Father, "nudity was in art, and in art along, and one could not say that it was in life, either in Rome or in Greece."

His denouncement was not of nudity in art, but in life.

FARMERS

Three Illinois farmers are out on bail tonight. They are charged with saying to Uncle Sam:- "It's none of your business, Uncle. We're not going to tell you what our farms are worth or how big our mortgages are." It all comes under the heading of how far the government has a right to make a man tell his private business.

The bone of contention, or rather the printed page of contention, is the agricultural census blank which the Department of Agriculture sends to farmers once every five years. This is in accordance with the farming survey required by a law which Congress passed long ago.

In Green Valley, Illinois, three farmers, John Fisher, Fred Fornoff and Phil Fornoff, refused to fill out their blanks. They objected to the questions concerning the value of their farms and the magnitude of their mortgages. So now they've been held before the Grand Jury, charged with violating the Census Act. The three farmers are determined to fight it out, and they are supported by their fellow cultivators. Today thirteen sympathetic farmers when to court ~~in~~ and put up the five hundred dollar bond needed to

release the prisoners on bail.

"People should mind their own business", say the farmers. And the best way I can take that to heart is to mind my own business and say --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.