

There's every intimation from London tonight that Prime Minister Chamberlain is about to declare for conscription. Every sign indicates that he will ask the House of Commons to decree compulsory peace-time military service. There's insistent report that the Cabinet made its decision this afternoon and that Prime Minister Chamberlain informed King George to that effect - he had an audience with the King this afternoon.

Conscription will be a tremendous innovation for Great Britain - to have a conscript army, every man doing military service, the way things are in the militaristic nations on the continent. France is understood to have been urging this on the London government, urging it insistently. Paris wants London to have a big trained army ready to fight in France at a moment's notice. This to make up for the tremendous preponderance of man-power the Axis nations have. The French population is a little over forty million, the German population nearly eighty million, the Italians about forty-million. Hitler and Mussolini have man-power to outnumber that of France by three to one.

Great Britain, with ^{forty-six}~~thirty-five~~ million people, can offset that a good deal.

There's no indication that Parliament will turn down the Chamberlain conscription - though the National Labor Council today went on record as being unalterably opposed - saying the working class is dead set against army service for all.

GERMANY FOLLOW BRITAIN

Chamberlain's conscription decision was reported to have been encouraged by a snub ⁱⁿ ~~at~~ Berlin. Nazi sources declare there was no snub to His Majesty's Ambassador, but British sources in the German capital ^{say} ~~declare~~ it was an unmistakable ^{ing} affront. Sir Neville Henderson returned ^{ing} to Berlin after he had been withdrawn because of the Hitler seizure of Czechoslovakia. The Ambassador ^{going back} ~~returned to Berlin~~ with a special peace message for Hitler, a message designed to make representations to the Nazi Fuehrer before his scheduled reply to President Roosevelt's peace proposal. Britain reported to be urging Hitler not to reject the Roosevelt ~~suggestion~~. Sir Neville Henderson trying to see the Nazi dictator and unable to get an interview with him. Not even able to see von Ribbentrop, Hitler's Foreign Minister - Ribbentrop too busy. If that doesn't sound like a snub, what does?

Why should the Nazi chiefs act like that? We have an intimation from Berlin that Hitler is angry about the return of the recalled Ambassador with the British message. He is said to regard it as an attempt to throw a monkey-wrench into the machinery of his reply to the President of the United States.

And the Nazis say that Hitler won't change the reply he ^{is}~~was~~
drafting, British message or no British message.

All of which stimulates London to go ahead with
preparedness, conscription, training of man power - and armament,
always more armament.

BRITISH BUDGET FOLLOW GERMANY

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War preparation was the dominant theme in the annual budget presented to ^{the London} Parliament today. Sir John Simon, Chancellor of the Exchequer, gave to the House of Commons the figures for what His Majesty's Government plans to spend during the next fiscal year. First of all, armament - nearly three billion dollars to build weapons of war, the biggest peace-time expenditure for defense in British history. ~~But what interested London most keenly was not the spending figures, but the tax figures.~~ ^{IF} There was a sigh of relief when the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that, in spite of the huge spending for armament, there would be no increase in the basic income tax rate - the rate that most Britishers have to pay. Extra money will be procured by taxes on a variety of products - like automobiles, motion pictures, tobacco.

GOERING

In the land of the Nazis, Air Marshal Goering is known as the man of many uniforms. He has a whole dazzling array of them, and loves to appear in one brilliant military creation after another. Goering is also a ponderous and portly sort of warrior - his last quoted weight was two hundred and twenty-four pounds. He has recently returned from Italy, where he was elaborately entertained by Mussolini - and the painful word now flashes that Goering has got to have all his uniforms altered, they don't fit him any more. No, he hasn't gotten ~~any~~ fatter, he ~~has~~ got thinner. In Italy he reduced. Well, what's the matter? ^{no starch in} ~~with~~ Mussolini's spaghetti?

BRITISH AMBASSADOR

Tonight the newly appointed British Ambassador to the U.S.A. calls for a grand alliance against aggressors. London gives us various personal bits about the new Ambassador, the Marquess of Lothiana. He has been described as a member of the so-called and much denied Cliveden set, named after Lady Astor's estate at Cliveden -- a group supposed to be pro-German and in favor of coming to terms with Hitler. Yet the Marquess of Lothian went on record recently with a blast against the Nazis in the House of Lords - declaring that Hitler was out to conquer the world by force. And, His Lordship is immensely in favor of British-American collaboration. He's widely known to Americans as Phillip Kerr, secretary to Lloyd George.

The Marquess is a bachelor, and his three sisters will alternate as hostess for him in official Washington. He declared today that there was a great advantage in being a bachelor, said it enabled him to devote more time to the serious side of his work. But His Lordship also expressed the opposite opinion - "No doubt," said he, "the right wife would be a great help." So it's the old case of - yes and no. Anyway, His Lordship, the Marquess of

Lothian, the new British Ambassador to the United States, is a most eligible bachelor. His age is fifty-seven, which some regard as a most susceptible age.

KING

The imperial crown of Great Britain is a gorgeous thing to look at. I recall how at the coronation nearly two years ago, the crown was a magnet for all eyes - with the glitter of gold and jewels. It had been supposed that Canada would see that dazzling symbol of empire during the forthcoming royal visit, but today the word from London is - No. There must be a suitable and majestic occasion for the King to wear the imperial crown - no mere reception or formal ceremony. ^{It wouldn't do on a} ~~No~~ trip to the New York World's Fair, ^{on} a drive down Broadway or a visit to the White House. The British monarch wears the crown only when officiating at some great act of state. ^H The plan had been that King George the Sixth ^{sh} would wear that highest symbol of empire at the prorogation of the Canadian Parliament - when the sovereign or his representative, the Governor-General, ends the parliamentary session. But the word in London now is that the Canadian law-makers will ^{have to} stay in session all through the royal visit - kept on the job until the King and Queen have left for home. That being true, there'd be no reason to bring the imperial crown along.

The royal visit provides us with an odd note from Washington today - Scotland Yard is stern with the First Lady of the Land. Yes Scotland Yard, of detective renown, so famous in mystery stories. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt today told the newspaper men that Scotland Yard sleuths are already making arrangements to protect the King and Queen during their American visit - and a large part of the protection is secrecy. The First Lady said she could not show the reporters the White House rooms Their Majesties are to occupy. (She explained that she herself didn't know what rooms they'd be - even though she had made plans and announced them.)

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A while ago she gave out the statement that King George would have a bedroom, dressing room and bath at the northeast corner of the White House, while the Queen would have a suite which in times past was used as White House offices - the very place where Abraham Lincoln signed the "Emancipation Proclamation." That was her tentative arrangement, but she hasn't been allowed to confirm it. Scotland Yard has said - Shush! Secrecy, nobody must know, not even the hostess herself!

MRS. ROOSEVELT

In her press conference today, ^{the First Lady} ~~Mrs. Roosevelt~~ spoke of affairs in her own family, and here's one thing she said with philosophic resignation: "I ceased long ago to worry about things that are not true." Such was her comment on reports that two of her sons are soon to be divorced from their wives.

One of the sons named is Elliott. The First Lady said that she recently visited Elliott and his wife at Fort Worth, Texas - and everything seemed to be okay. The other son, - Franklin Jr, a couple of years ago ~~he~~ married Ethel duPont in one of the notable weddings of the season. Mrs. Roosevelt said today that she traveled from Boston with Son Franklin, Jr. last Saturday - and saw no sign of divorce *in the office.*

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And so she remarked - "I've ceased long ago to worry about things that aren't true."

REORGANIZATION

The President's reorganization plan was submitted to Congress, and it follows along the lines predicted last night. The principal recommendation is the creation of three new federal agencies - each to unify various and separate agencies which are in operation now. One big bureau to combine all activities connected with Social Security. Another to amalgamate government work relief projects like the P.W.A., W.P.A. and the Public Building Department of the Treasury. The third to handle all federal lending activities like the R.F.C., Home Owners Loan Corporation and Federal Housing Administration.

That's ^{just a} ~~a~~ ^{very} general notion of the reorganization plan, which the President estimates will save from ~~fifty~~ fifteen to twenty million dollars a year. It will go into effect unless Congress specifically disapproves.

The President presented his reorganization with portentous words - said it was designed to make democracy work, strengthen democracy in peace or war. "In these days of ruthless attempts to destroy democratic government," declares the President, "it is boldly asserted that the democracies must always be weak

MEDECINE CHEST

Today President Roosevelt received a curious gift -- a medicine chest, ~~which could hardly be called up-to-date.~~

~~It is~~ more than a century and a ^quarter old; and in dim days of the past ^{it} was in use at the White House. In the war of 1812 a British Army captured Washington, and burned the White House.

A British purser aboard ~~the~~ "H.M.S. Devastation" took part

in the White House devastation, and carried ~~it~~ away, ~~a bit of~~

— as a bit of loot.
~~loot~~ that medicine chest. Thereafter he took it with him

on all his adventures, sailing aboard British warships. He emigrated to Canada, never parting with the medicine chest from the White House. He left it as a memento in his family, and it descended to a grandson -- Archibald Mains of Ottawa. Today this grandson of the man who helped burn the White House has returned the medicine chest to the place whence it came -- has returned it to the President of the United States.

LABOR BOARD

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Last summer President Roosevelt made an appointment to the National Labor Relations Board, and then never did send^d the appointment to the Senat^e for confirmation. There was a lively senate opposition to the man he named - Donald Wakefield Smith. The American Federation of Labor attacked Smith, and it is said that there were enough Senate votes to defeat him if his name were presented. This antagonism to the presidential nominee ~~nomination~~ tied in with the congressional fight against the Labor Board and the Wagner Act, under which it was created.

Is President Roosevelt pressing the Smith nomination?

Not at all, just the contrary. Today he named another man to the Labor Board to take the place of Smith. He's William M. Leiserson, an experienced labor conciliator. It looks as if the Senate will okay him without much trouble. *Some say it's a presidential* ~~And it may be that today's~~ *backdown. Some say it may* ~~appointment will~~ tend to pacify some of the opposition to the

N.L.R.B. and the Wagner Act.

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COAL

In New York a man took over a job today and described it as -- "a very difficult task." He's ~~xxxx~~ John R. Steelman, Federal mediator, and he has plunged into the difficult task of trying to end the labor deadlock in the soft coal industry. Today he went into a ^{joint} ~~plant~~ conference of mine owners and the mine union. He was trying to get the three hundred and forty thousand soft coal miners back to work -- an urgent task.

~~Today the Pennsylvania Railroad announced it would have to lay off temporarily a lot of employees -- some twelve thousand it was estimated. They call it a furlough -- caused by the soft coal ^{tie-up,} ~~strike,~~ Soft coal ~~representative~~ represents forty percent of the railroad tonnage and twenty-five percent of its revenue, and the labor trouble has cut down shipments so much that the railroad is declaring a temporary lay-off.~~

DiMAGGIO

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A marriage announcement was made in Hollywood today, and a dazzling blonde made it. Her name is Dorothy Arnold, described as a movie actress, a radio singer and night club warbler. She says she's to be the bride. But who's to be the bridegroom? The answer takes us to the diamond, not a diamond ring - the baseball diamond. Joe DiMaggio, Jolting Joe of the New York Yankees - they say that he's about to lead a blushing bride to the altar.

PONS

Arthur Casper of San Bernadino, California, is a Lily Pons fan - and what a fan! He wrote several letters to La Pons at her Norwalk, Connecticut, home, and got no reply. But that did not deter him - it seems to have encouraged him. He packed his bags, and traveled all the way across the continent.

From New York he took a taxi to Norwalk, Connecticut, which cost him twelve dollars. At Norwalk he went to the home where the soprano lives with her husband. He buzzed at the front door, and got no reply. He went to a side door, which he found open, and walked right in, a suitcase in each hand, just moving in.

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Lily Pons was not at home, but her mother was - and Madame Pons was indeed astonished when she looked down the stairs and saw Casper with his two suitcases. ^{He} "What are you doing here?" cried Madame Pons.

"I am looking for Lily," Casper replied. "I am one of her public, I'll follow her to the end of the earth to talk to her."

Madam Pons had her wits about her and she told Casper to go to the kitchen and she'd get some coffee for him, and at the same time whispered to a servant to call the police.

8 1/2
So Casper the fan had coffee with the mother of his idol. He told her some more about how he'd follow Lily to the end of the earth, ~~to talk to her~~, to which Madame Pons responded with a most proper admintion - didn't he know that Lily was married and had a husband?

"What difference does that make between friends?"

Casper replied grandly.

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Just then the cops walked in, to which Casper exclaimed, in soulful disillusion: "I cam^d all the way from California to see Lily and the police pounce in on me!"

The police not only pounced in, but are also holding Casper on charge of trespass, and he'll learn that the proper

59 1/4
Lily Pons's
thing for an ardent fan is to buy tickets for the Metropolitan Opera - at seven dollars apiece - and s-l-u-t-m.