

Comment  
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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:-

For ten days history, apparently, has been standing still, or at best limping. Today she's marching with a quick step that promises to turn into a gallop. The zero hour is practically on <sup>Europe's</sup> ~~our~~ doorstep, ~~so to speak.~~

The most sensational happening of the day was that ringing speech by Premier Mussolini. Twenty million Italians dropped their work, left their farms, factories and offices to gathered in the public squares of every town and village in the peninsula to listen to the words of the Duce, words that introduced a new ~~and probably horrific~~ chapter in the annals of the world. And this is what the stentorian ~~his~~ voice of the Black Shirt chieftan said:-

"For many months the wheel of destiny and ~~of~~ the

impulse of our calm determination has moved towards the goal. In these last hours the rhythm has increased and nothing can stop it now."

And then the Duce's voice rang out in bitter ~~ix~~ irony: "When," he mocked, "in 1915 Italy threw in her lot with that of the Allies, how many cries of admiration, how many promises! But, after the common victory, which cost Italy six hundred thousand dead, four hundred thousand lost, one million wounded, when peace was being discussed around the table, only the crumbs of a rich colonial booty were left for us to pick up. For thirteen years we have been patient while the circle tightened around us at the hands of those who wish to suffocate us."

With passion in his voice Mussolini then cried:- "We have been patient with Ethiopia for forty years. Now it ends!

Then he came to real point -- that ominous word - sanctions. "Until there is proof to the contrary," shouted Mussolini, "I refuse to believe that the authentic people of France will join the supporting sanctions against Italy.

And he went on - still more to the point:- "And until there is proof to the contrary, I refuse to believe that the authentic people of Britain will want to spill blood and send Europe into a catastrophe for the sake of a barbarian country unworthy of ranking among civilized nations." But, what will he do about sanctions - if League acts? He answered that too:- "As to economic sanctions, we shall answer with our discipline, our spirit of sacrifice, our obedience. To military sanctions, we shall answer with military measures. To acts of war, we shall answer with acts of war."

And then he added solemnly:- "Let me repeat, in the most categorical manner, the sacred pledge which I make at this moment before all Italians today, that I shall do everything in my power to prevent a colonial conflict from taking on the aspect and weight of a European war."

And then he concluded, eyes flashing and bulging, leaning over the balcony, his voice like a trumpet:- "Italy, Italy! Entirely and universally Fascist! The Italy of the Black

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Shirt Revolution! rise to your feet! let the cry of your determination rise to the skies and reach our soldiers in East Africa! It is the cry of justice and of victory."

Which means, **F** the Duce announces personally and publicly that he's going ahead with the war in Africa - probably right away. It may be on now.

## FOLLOW LEAD

It was not surprising that the effect of the Duce's words on Italy's mobilized populace was tremendous. Each paragraph of his dramatic rhetoric was interrupted with roars of cheering that could be heard over the short waves right here in the U.S.A. - and around the world. When he finished the blaring of military bands, the banging of tocsins, and the thunders of applause, made a pandemonium of noise such as is seldom heard.

Never before, since the world was born, has a great leader on the eve of a war, been able to speak to all his subjects at the same time.

The Duce talked to all his people as Julius Caesar used to address his war worn weary legions in Gaul, as Germanicus used to harangue the diciplined soldiers of the Empire sweeping into Germany.

Now let's examine what else happened. First of all, Ethiopia's Emperor today lodged a formal charge at Geneva that Italy had begun hostilities, had already invaded his country. He presented

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this as a formal protest and appealed for protection to the League, which ~~Frank H. Simmons in this week's SATURDAY EVENING POST describes as the "poor old Humpty Dumpty of Geneva."~~ "Italian troops", says Haile Selassie, "have crossed the frontier near Assab, not far from the border of French Somaliland." In return, the Italian government denied the Ethiopian charge, saying that there has been no movement of Italian troops in East Africa. Nevertheless, the King of Kings has officially announced a general mobilization of his wild warriors.

Then again we <sup>hear</sup> ~~learn~~ that fighting has actually begun. This report comes by way of Paris and is not confirmed. This first clash is supposed to have taken place between a division of Twenty-five thousand of the Duce's forces and the fierce tribesmen ~~of the Danakil~~, near a place called Mussa Ali.

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Another item, not warlike, but significant!— Stocks took a quick tumble on the Bourse, the Paris exchange. The sharpest drop was in Suez Canal shares and those of Egyptian companies. But all international stocks, banking, securities and industrials, took a fall. And it's not surprising to learn that wheat went up to the limit in <sup>our own</sup> ~~the~~ western grain pits. If it hadn't been for that five per cent limit imposed by law, it would have driven still higher.

And, another bit from war frightened Europe:- There was a hasty meeting of King George's Cabinet Ministers at Number Ten Downing Street today. It followed immediately upon a visit paid by Foreign Minister, Sir Samuel Hoare, to the King himself.

John Bull is standing by. He clings firmly to the Covenant of the League of Nations and proposes to enforce sanctions on Italy.

Another bit of news from Paris makes the situation tighter. If there's any clash between Italy and Britain in the Mediterranean, that is, a clash provoked by Italy, France will be on England's side once more. However, as we have heard, Mussolini has vowed to do his utmost to prevent his colonial scrap from spreading into a general European Armageddon.

And that comforts the British government. But the Ministers are worried about two other problems. First, what will Uncle Sam do in case those sanctions are imposed? Second, what of Hitler?

## ROOSEVELT

As for the U.S.A., the President spoke up on that today. He devoted the climax of his speech at San Diego to the ominous topic. He took the opportunity to restate with loud emphasis America's policy of neutrality. "The two most menacing clouds that hang over us, he said, are "malice domestic and a fierce foreign war." To this he added: "The American people can have but one concern and speak but one sentiment; whatever happens overseas, the United States shall and must remain un-entangled and free." And the cheer which greeted this showed conclusively the reaction of his listeners.

The President also seized this long expected opportunity to defend his Administration against his critics and to give an account of his stewardship. After reminding us of conditions in which he had taken office, he said: "We changed a gold standard that had become, not the assurance of a sound economic life, but a straightjacket which pressed upon and paralyzed the nerve centers of our economic system." He then declared that as the result of his efforts, bank deposits throughout the country have been increased by ten billion dollars, more than ten per

cent. Also, that the Federal Reserve System's policy has brought about a reduction of interest rates. And he said further that the federal government was now in a position to prevent any disastrous expansion and contraction of credit.

He then summed up the measures, aims and ideals of his social program, saying:- "The goal for which we are aiming is that we may live in security of the spirit, peace of mind, and a confident looking forward to the future."

80,000 people heard him at the San Diego Fair.

## PRESIDENTS

There's food for many a lively squabble in a statement made by the President of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women. The lady who holds this formidable sounding position has thrown her hat in the ring with a statement that there are more women fit to be President of the United States than there are men. <sup>It</sup> There's a nice topic for argument to throw into the household ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> dinner time. <sup>I suppose many of you are at dinner!</sup> Miss Lena Madesin Phillips, the lady in question, was told that twenty-five political experts in Washington had taken a hundred hours to think up four men who might be president. Miss Phillips, instead of taking a hundred hours, took five minutes and ~~replied~~ rattled off the names of an even dozen women fit to walk into the White House not as First Lady of the Land, but as First Gentleman of the Land.

And here they are. First, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. Second, Madam Perkins, Secretary of Labor. Third, Judge Florence Ellinwood Allen of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals. The list includes several other ladies of whom we have or have not heard. For instance, Ruth Hanna McCormick, daughter of the wiley

## PRESIDENTS

Mark Hanna, herself once a Representative from Illinois. Also Mary Beard, an author, sociologist, and so forth. Ruth Bryan Owen is also on the list, as well as Josephine Roche, the first woman to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

But that's not all. Miss Phillips has another slant to throw at us poor men. Says she: "I can go on indefinitely, but I wouldn't want to hurt the feelings of the men, poor dears."

WOMEN

53'  
The august Supreme Court of Florida has handed down a decision which will be read with cheer by some husbands. It was over a divorce case. The husband claimed the little woman had been cruel to him. And this is what the Solomon of Florida said in reviewing the case: "No greater cruelty may be inflicted on a man than that which is inflicted by a contentious, unreasonable and nagging woman." The justice who wrote the opinion declared further: "A nagging woman makes a man's life unbearable by a continuous indulgence in fault-finding, threats and accusations."

~~Perhaps that Court is joining in the campaign of New York's~~  
~~Mayer LaGuardia for more and better silence. And I'm going to~~  
~~contribute some more and better silence myself, saying~~

~~SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.~~

## BASEBALL

The real story of the big show in Detroit this afternoon is told in nine goose-eggs, the zero score made by Mickey Cochrane's fense-busting Tigers against the amazing pitching of Lou Warnecke. A shut-out in a World Series. That puts the cub-throwing ace in a class with Dizzy Dean, who inflicted the same outrage on the Tigers at Navin Field on October ninth last year. Also, with Fred Fitzsimmons who did it to the Washington Senators on October Fifth, Nineteen thirty-three. And with Smoky Joe Wood and other bygone heroes.

No matter what the future holds for Lou Warnecke he will never again have as big a thrill as when in the World Series he shut out those Tigers.

WOOD

A new invention in Russia comes just too late to do any good to either of the warring nations. It's a new method of treating wood with chemicals. The Red general staff announces that it renders any kind of wood five times as hard as steel armour plate.

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The importance of this process is in the construction of aircraft. For wood, when so treated, though it becomes five times as strong as steel, remains as light as ever. The Soviet engineers have tried it out with machine guns. At a distance of two hundred yards the bullets barely dented the surface of wood treated by this solution. What is more, it cannot catch fire. Experiments show it to be absolutely non-inflammable.

In other words, the Red army now has the means of rendering its airplanes immune to anti-aircraft fire.

## FOOD

Everybody is thinking about food nowadays, especially those who have to pay the growing bills. An interesting contrast is offered by the markets of Berlin and those of Moscow. We are told that, for the first time since the revolution, ration cards have been abolished in Red Russia. Every market throughout Soviet territory is jammed to the limit with eager, hungry women, their first chance to buy as much as their families need in sixteen years. They were lined up twenty deep around the meat counters. Every other department was thronged. Prices were cut dramatically from as much as twenty and even forty per cent. And how the people of moderate means revelled in their chance. Forty new butcher shops have been opened in Moscow and three hundred and fifty more are planned. The price of grain has gone down so much that the production of bread is tripled.

And now let's take a look at Berlin. ~~There we have a~~ <sup>Q</sup> sad picture. To be sure, women are also standing in line there. But they aren't standing in line for plenty. They are waiting hours for a scant quarter of a pound of butter a piece. The larger dairy stores didn't have any at all, only some of the smaller dealers were able to supply their regular customers. There is even a scarcity of

## FOOD

margarine, and that is available to those who are getting the dole. Pork is scarce too, and can you imagine a German being happy without his sausage? In Berlin the Chief of Police, Count von Helldorf, was on the job at the municipal stockyards himself, controlling the distribution of cattle to butchers.

What is more, nobody can tell how long this shortage will last. That makes a ~~rough~~ tough problem for the Hitler government. Even the most autocratic regime has a hard time with its subjects when they cannot get enough to eat.

This disturbance has been expected for some time. Things haven't been going any too brightly in Bulgaria, and the government was unable to improve the lot of the common people. So the farmers ganged up with discontented soldiers, but without any luck.

## BULGARIA

Wars in one part of the world, revolutions in another! The Bulgarians are the latest to get rebellious ideas. For some time a number of them have been conspiring to give King Boris the heave, and set up a republic. But they didn't conspire well enough. They were found out. So the government beat them to it by declaring martial law. At the same time the authorities arrested the leader of the Agrarian Party and many members of the Bulgarian military league. They won't have to wait long to learn their fate. Their trial by court-martial will take place tomorrow, which is surely quick action.

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ENDING

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Every so often I run across a shameless skeptic who says he doesn't believe the truth of the tales propounded by the Tall Story Club. And now I read about a young fellow of that sort in this week's SUNOCO DIAMOND, the sprightly magazine for Blue Sunoco dealers. It tells how the teacher was questioning Johnny on the subject of arithmetic.

"Now Johnny," said she, "if I lay six eggs here and five eggs there, how many will that make?"

"I don't believe you can do it", said Johnny - the skeptic.

And I'll lay an egg, unless I say,

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SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.