

COTTON

L. J. - Sumner. Tues., Apr. 9, 1935.

Current
NBC

Off and on in discussing the Italian-Abyssinian embroilment we have pointed to the meaning of cotton in these East African doings. Abyssinia is potentially a great cotton producer. Italy would like to get control of the fleecy white stuff, and the Japanese have been directing some long range ambitions at Abyssinian cotton. Today the cotton story includes Japan, but this time with reference to Brazil. Word comes from Tokio that a group of Japanese business men have just sailed for Brazil to negotiate huge contracts for cotton grown in that South American republic.

This is the international background for a spurt of activity on the part of thousands of business men and workmen in our own New England, where the cotton textile industry is facing plenty of trouble. There are of course threats of a strike among the cotton spinners. And that connects decidedly with the fact that the New England textile business has slumped considerably. Mills have been ^{torn} ~~broken~~ down to escape real estate taxation.. ^P The up-shot of it all is that the cotton question is moving on Washington.

6
^ The New England mills are staging a fight against the processing tax levied on cotton, that tax which finances the policy

of crop limitation -- farmers pay to reduce the acres they plant, so as to push up the prices of the commodity. They have been appealing to the Department of Agriculture, but haven't gotten very far. So now they are going to headquarters.

It is expected that by tomorrow the White House will be deluged with thousands of letters. *The President has just returned there.* The letter writing movement has been started at Pawtucket, Rhode Island where Samuel Slater established the first cotton mill in the United States some three hundred years ago. Every citizen who can write and can afford a three cent stamp has been urged to send a letter to President Roosevelt.

7
And the Pawtucket movement has spread to the state capitols. Word comes from Boston that today the governors of all the New England states sent telegrams to the President. And in addition Governor Green of Rhode Island sent a wire to Secretary Wallace of the Department of Agriculture asking him to come to Rhode Island presently and visit the mills and get first hand information about the plight of the people who have to make their living out of cotton. The deluge of communications ~~is~~ demanding the abolition of the processing ^{tax} because, they argue, it is having the effect of

making American mills unable to face foreign competition -- Japanese competition in particular. King Cotton they say is toppling from his American throne.

So there is the tie-up between thousands of New England letters to the President and of sundry international combinations -- the Italian and Japanese intentions toward Abyssinian cotton and Japanese plans concerning Brazilian cotton.

A.A.A. FOLLOW COTTON

48
Meanwhile from Washington comes the word that the Agricultural Adjustment Administration is likely to make drastic changes in the present crop ~~re~~ reduction program. The A.A.A. has handed close to a billion dollars to the farmers in compensation for crops in cultivated acres. But now, the recent droughts and dust storms, added to various other economic factors, have made it apparent that a change is needed. Not, however, that the A.A.A. intends to abolish crop reduction. ~~cut out the cut~~ In fact, Five hundred and fifty million dollars will be paid to American farmers taking part in the program during the spring and summer of the current year.

But the latest word indicates that the new policy will be selective, reduction limited to certain crops and certain sections of the country. The A.A.A. is likely to put through ^a ~~the~~ scheme of ~~crop~~ reduction by regions. Certain areas will reduce, while other areas will take on weight, to use a feminine figure of speech. ~~Methodical~~
Crop reduction
~~planting of a few acres~~ would seem to be superfluous and meaningless in those parts of the country hit by drought and ^{the} ~~a~~ dust storm^s. So, the farmers will be paid for leaving their acres lie idle, only in the more favored regions, which have not been hit by the disturbance^s of nature.

RELIEF

The administration had a head start in planning for activity along the four billion eight hundred million dollars work relief line even before President Roosevelt had signed the bill. -- Yes, before the bill had finally been passed by Congress, the gentlemen in Washington had been working out a program for spending the money. That's why the plans have been announced so promptly.

Today Secretary Ickes of the Department of the Interior made public the first general outline of the way the biggest appropriation ever passed by Congress will be put to work to fight unemployment. Mr. Ickes said that under the big P.W.A. administration there will be forty-eight little P.W.A.'s. That is to say a substantial public works administration will be set up in each of the forty-eight states. These state organizations will be modeled along the lines of the National organization in Washington.

The purpose of the forty-eight miniature P.W.A.'s is to de-centralize the huge task of devising projects that will get the money and put the jobless to work. This will avoid too much

dependence on what is often a remote bureau in distant

Washington. The state B.W.A's will, presumably, have a close range view of local needs.

WAR PROFITS

Congress has been exceedingly busy at the task of taking the profits out of war. It was busier than ever today when the Lower House passed the McSwain Anti-War Profits Bill. The vote was 367 to 15. The bill now goes to the Senate.

By the time the Representatives got through with the bill it was loaded with amendments -- amendments inserted in the face of the opposition of the administration. That business of tacking riders on to ^{a bill} ~~the law~~ often causes fights and confusion and sometimes changes the meaning of a ^{prospective} law from "Yes" to "No". In this case, with all the amendments tacked on, the McSwain Anti-War Profits Bill is still positive and precise in its simple purpose. That purpose ^{being} to impose a one hundred percent tax on excessive earnings made by the manufacture of war materials in time of war.

WALL STREET

Wall Street spent a good deal of time today discussing the new Stock Exchange administration, because it seems quite definite that Charles R. Gay would become President of the Exchange. In fact certain. No opposition to him. He's nominated for a one-year term. Heretofore a nomination has always been the equivalent of an election, and there's no reason to suppose it will be any different now.

A voice from here and there is heard making the comment that it is no real change, the same conservative regime as heretofore. But this is contradicted by the general consensus of Wall Street opinion, which is that the new president will represent quite a change in the powers that be in the Stock Exchange.

OCHS

Newspapers all over the land today wrote long columns, eulogizing Adolph Ochs, the deceased publisher of the NEW YORK TIMES. His success story is eventful and amazing - and yet newspapermen say it boiled down to seven words. Adolph Ochs built his career on the motto nailed to the TIMES masthead - "All the News that's Fit to Print." And he expanded those seven words into journalistic triumph.

And the newspapers are talking about another good old subject. Every time those two renowned presidential rivals are together, Herbert Hoover and Alfred E. Smith - it's news. The former President got a big cheer from the crowd as he left the Waldorf to join his old friendly enemy Al in a gigantic Salvation Army appeal for funds at the Seventh Regiment Armory. Old political enemies brought together by the Salvation Army!

SIMON

What the Governor of North Carolina said to the Governor of South Carolina wasn't surrounded with any more secrecy than what Hitler said to Sir John Simon. There have been rumors and half statements. But today the cat is out of the bag, the entire cat, whiskers, tail and all. The whole truth. The British Foreign Secretary gave a full and explicit statement in the House of Commons today. What the Reichsfuehrer told Sir John comes under four headings - army, navy, aviation and colonies.

Army - Hitler declared that Germany wants an army equal to that of any of the other Great Powers. Coming down to figures, he stated that Berlin proposed to muster thirty-six divisions ~~during~~ numbering five hundred and fifty thousand men, fully armed, fully equipped.

Navy - Germany will be satisfied with a fleet thirty-five per cent as large as England's. As the British navy ranks with the American, at the top, thirty-five per cent of it figures a considerable power on the sea.

Aviation - complete equality. Hitler wants an air force as big as the French and the British. We have already heard how

he told Sir John that Germany's sky fleet already equals the British.

Colonies - The Reichsfuehrer made no outright and specific colonial demands, but indicated that Germany would not be happy and content until she got back the colonies she lost in the World War.

So that's what Hitler said to Sir John Simon. And it was plenty, plenty for Sir John to listen to and plenty for the conference at Stresa to debate. In Hitler's attitude, the statesmen of Britain, France and Italy will be confronted with so hard a nut to crack, and such a big one, that they may succeed only in breaking their own teeth.

And they are not so optimistic at the League of Nations either. I notice an interesting analysis by my old newspaper colleague, Webb Miller, European news authority. He has made a survey of armaments and attitudes in the various centers of world politics. And he says the officials of the League of Nations consider the present conditions only slightly less dangerous than immediately before the World War.

And Webb Miller adds that the big boys of Geneva believe that the belligerent preparations all over the world are producing a state of tension which places Europe at the mercy of any incident.

General Erich Ludendorff. Let's ask the question, and see what questions pop forth.

Germany today... Ludendorff. Yet for years he was in the deepest poverty, considered rather obscure. He had saved quite a considerable fortune, but lost it all, and he went to work to make good out of loss. The story was that he carried a pistol in his country home, ready to shoot any Frenchman or Jew he happened to see. But today Germany counts forth the name of Ludendorff. And in the chorus there are two voices which arouse curiosity, the Hohenzollern name and the Nazi voice.

The World War was the time of glory for Quartermaster General Erich Ludendorff. Yet he is the new leader. The night general quartermaster was a first-class...

The... The answer is that the Kaiser never... Ludendorff and Ludendorff... the Kaiser...

LUNDENDORFF

A curious air of enigma surrounds that birthday celebration in Germany today. One feels that all sorts of hidden meanings are concealed in the Seventieth Anniversary of General Erich Ludendorff. Let's pose the problem, and see what questions pop forth.

Germany today heaped lavish honors on the grizzled head of Ludendorff. Yet for years he was in the deepest shadow, in poverty, considered rather cracked. He had saved quite a comfortable fortune, but lost it all, and on what? A scheme to make gold out of lead. The story was that he carried a pistol in his country home, ready to shoot any Frenchman or Jew he happened to see. But today Germany shouted forth the name of Ludendorff. And in the chorus there are two voices which arouse curiosity, the Hohenzollern voice and the Nazi voice.

The World War was the time of glory for Quartermaster General Erich Ludendorff. Yet one thing was lacking. The mighty general was never made a field marshall.

Why not? The answer is that the Kaiser never liked him. Hindenburg and Ludendorff resigned. The Kaiser asked

Hindenburg to stay, but didn't mention Ludendorff. Hindenburg resumed his command. Ludendorff was let go. And this broke the friendship of those two World War Siamese twins.

What do we find today? The former Kaiser sends Ludendorff a note showering him with birthday congratulations. And among the leaders in the militaristic birthday celebration at Ludendorff's home is the former Crown Prince. Why?

Now let's go to the Nazi side. Ludendorff was one of Hitler's earliest and most powerful supporters. They were together in the renowned and absurd Munich beer putsch which ended in such a fiasco. But they quarreled; and the General turned bitterly against Hitler. With the triumph of the Nazis, the World War hero remained out in the cold, snarling, powerless, scarcely more than a discontented ghost.

Then suddenly, several weeks ago, the Minister of War made a speech deluging Ludendorff with words of praise. It was reported he might be given a prominent place in the rebuilding of the German war machine. It was said that the dignity of field Marshall, withheld from him during the World War, would be

granted now and that Hitler would attend the Ludendorff birthday party.

Today's festivities were most spectacular, but two things did not happen. Ludendorff was not made a field marshall, neither did Hitler join the pilgrimage to his home. What's behind that? They say the terms Ludendorff insists upon are too stiff for Hitler to accept. And two prominent groups in Germany kept out of the celebration:- the Catholics and the large Protestant organization that is not tied up definitely with the Nazis. Ludendorff is an extremist among those Nazis who call for a return of the ancient heathen myths of Germany. That's the move to reject Christianity as being a non-German religion of Jewish origin.

Ludendorff blasted these ideas forth once more in a pamphlet issued on the eve of his birthday.

Of late the Nazis have been going easy in their quarrel with religion, both Catholic and Protestant. They don't seem to want any more trouble. So perhaps it is Ludendorff's doctrines of Neo-Heathenism that stand in the way of his joining up with the Berlin regime.

WEATHER

The poets tell us that spring is a magical time of the year, with balmy breezes and greening of growing things. That's what the poet tells us. But the news says, "Poet, you're a ~~lix~~ fibber."

From the middlewest come stories of snowdrifts. Not a white Christmas, ^{but} it looks more like a white Easter. And as for spring, in the middlewest, it's blizzards and fur coats.

58
In California it's worse - rain, enough record-breaking rainfall to have caused eight deaths. Floods, ~~caused by the~~ torrential downpour^s, with thousands of people ~~flooded~~ ^{washed} out of their homes, and hundreds of square miles turned into an inland sea.

In Mexico the word is "wind". Three people killed and a score injured in a sudden violent tempest. It blew hard enough to turn over a railroad train.

The ^{of the U.S.A.} Eastern Seaboard has been pounded all day by a heavy northeasterly gale: - ~~and that has~~ ^T the same old meaning - storm at sea, ships in distress.

8 1/2
Right now a rescue story is being enacted at a point four hundred miles east of Cape Race, Newfoundland. Distress calls through the day from the British freighter TOWER BRIDGE, ~~formerly~~

Thirty-five men aboard. The ship pounded by giant waves -- filling up, in danger of sinking.

Distress calls brought the usual response, ships to the rescue. The S.S. Newfoundland was only twenty five miles from the foundering freighter. She immediately steered a course in the raging seas to the scene of danger. And two other vessels did the same, the freighter MANCHESTER PRODUCER and an unidentified American ice patrol boat.

The latest report gives us the familiar heartening picture:- A rescue vessel standing-by, fighting for the lives of the crew aboard the storm battered wreck.

And as night comes down upon the sea here's good luck to all who ride the storm - and --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.