

ETHIOPIA

The good Doctor Coue used to urge us to say: "Every day in every way I'm getting better and better." And the motto for that Ethiopian puzzle might be:- "Every day in every way it's getting dizzier and dizzier."

The last monkey wrench to be thrown into the machinery of peace was hurled by the thin right arm of Haile Selassie. His reply to the terms arranged between Sir Samuel Hoare and Premier Laval was hot enough to burn the wires. "Atrocious!" says the Negus, "a base betrayal, a complete sacrifice of the League of Nations." Other dramatic statements of his flew through the air. Such as:- "Not one foot of Tigre Province as suggested by France and England!"

And the spokesmen for the Negus almost echoes the famous words of Patrick Henry: "Give me liberty or give me death." They said death to Ethiopians were preferable to accepting such terms.

This stern refusal by Ethiopia seems to have stimulated the murmur of discontent at Geneva into a roar. The rebellion

of the smaller nations in the League becomes more and more vocal. And caustic comments are heard from Moscow. In fact, there is a possibility today that Russia may head the body of dissenting League members at Geneva in a fight against the Hoare-Laval proposal.

And, still more criticism is being heard in England itself. "Sir Samuel had no business to commit the country to such an undertaking!" That's the cry in London and throughout the provinces. Voters are saying: "That's not what we voted you back into office for! We gave you a mandate to stand up for smaller nations against aggression. And now," they add, "you've gone back on us."

One of the hottest blasts against the Hoare-Laval proposals comes from our own articulate Senator Borah. Said he: "They clearly show that the League is merely an instrument of European imperialism." But the worst of it is, he declares, if the plan is put into effect, it would make Mussolini the most powerful figure in Europe. Then he added: "This should make us grateful that America is determined at any cost to be neutral."

But there is one part of the world where they don't feel that way about the efforts of Laval and Sir Samuel. That's Italy. At last we have a word from Rome, from the Duce himself, on that subject. It isn't conclusive, but it shows the way the wind blows. "I am exceedingly grateful", says Premier Mussolini "for those recent negotiations in Paris." And that's frank enough.

All in all today's events throw the Ethiopian tangle deeper than ever into the puzzle realm. Despite the disapproval in England, it is against the tradition of the British to repudiate their own statesmen. And, the words of the Duce indicate that Italy is favorable to the agreement. But now that the Negus has said "No", what next? Will Great Britain and France then

stand aside and let Italy do as she pleases?

(Supposing the League accepts the London-Paris proposals, and Italy agrees, will the forces of the League, including the powerful resources of France and Great Britain, be thrown in on the side of the Duce? All in all it's one of the most amazing conflicts of motives in the history of the world.)

DEBTS

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This is the date for one of the annual comedy spots in the international vaudeville show. During this week we celebrate a yearly custom as inevitable as Christmas. It's the week when European nations do not pay us their debts or even the interest on them. Excepting, of course, good old Finland which comes up to Uncle Sam's cash window every year with its conscientious two hundred and thirty thousand dollars, <sup>- in full.</sup> Of course, that doesn't stack up very high as against the one hundred and fifty-five millions which we should get, <sup>from the others</sup> and don't. Nevertheless, ~~hats off to good old Finland.~~

We are reminded of this by a note which Uncle Sam just received from John Bull. The tenor of the note is: <sup>"Beastly</sup> ~~"Beastly~~ sorry and all that sort of thing, don't you know, but we can't pay you that hundred and seventeen million, six hundred and seventy thousand, seven hundred and sixty-five that we owe you." <sup>#</sup> Of course, the other powers, great and small, will follow suit. From France and Italy down to little Estonia they will all echo John Bull. What John did not say in his billet-doux was: "I can't pay you that hundred and seventeen ~~ix~~ million odd because I have to

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spend it building war ships etc., to defend poor Ethiopia.

Maybe it's churlish even to refer to the fact but the point

remains that every power has paraphrased the once famous saying:

"Millions for defense, but not one cent for debts."

Cabinets.  
TROUBLE

We are approaching the Merry Yuletide, the season of good-will, with political turmoil, on every continent. In addition to the African mess, and the even more ominous uproar in the Far East, cabinets are toppling all over the globe. The ball opened at Madrid, with the resignation of the Spanish Premier and his colleagues. Havana is in high tension over the retirement of President Carlos Mendieta. In Cairo Tewfik Nassim Pasha called a meeting of his fellow ministers and announced that they would all hand their resignations to King Fuad tomorrow. In Prague, Premier Hodza <sup>has done</sup> ~~tried to do~~ the same. ~~But~~ President Masaryk of Czechoslovakia <sup>didn't want him to resign, but he did.</sup> ~~said "Nothing doing, you're not going to leave me in the lurch."~~ <sup>TF</sup> All of which offers a curious picture for an observer scanning the political scene. It almost looks as though these things were contagious. But actually, as we <sup>gaze</sup> at these countries, one by one, we find the background of discontent has been there all along.

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Of course the Egyptian crisis is the most important, the one with the widest potential effect. We all know what that's about. The troubles which began with the students' riot in Cairo

have developed into a serious Nationalist anti-British movement. And now apparently, the Tewfik Cabinet has joined it. That was pretty clearly indicated by the meeting between Tewfik Nassim Pasha, the Premier, and Mohammed Machmud Pasha, leader of the anti-British Liberals. The significant part of it is that the pow-wow was held at the home of Ex-Premier Nahas Pasha, the Number One Man of the Nationalists fighting Britain.

An agreement between those three leaders will make it hard going for King Fuad. His Majesty is pro-British. Indeed, the members of the Wafd say he is no better than a British puppet. The Tewfik Cabinet was also pro-British. The Nationalists described them in even harsher terms. At any rate, there'll probably be sparks flying on the banks of the Nile when Tewfik Pasha and his colleagues visit the King tomorrow.

Things aren't any happier in Havana. The resignation of President Mendieta seems to have far from pacified his enemies. They even want his successor, Jose Barnet, to resign. Senor Barnet succeeded automatically according to the Cuban Constitution. But today he find himself succeeding to a lot of trouble. The kidnapping of rich Nicholas Costano of Havana



has heightened the excitement in the island of sugar and revolutions. It has not only the entire police force, but the army, on the hunt for the missing millionaire. Cuba is rife with rumors and alarms.

The Czechoslovakia<sup>^</sup> crisis is less fraught with turbulence.

It was precipitated when President Masaryk, the grand old man of Prague, announced his intention of retiring. They ~~left~~ love him so much on the banks of the Danube, that they elected him for life.

So long as he is in office, he contrives to unite all factions.

But his impending retirement brings up the question of who shall succeed him. Unquestionably the most distinguished man, next to

Masaryk, in that republic, is Dr. Benes, the Foreign Minister and President of the Assembly of the League of Nations. But, however

highly he is esteemed abroad, there are people in his own country

<sup>who</sup>  
~~that~~ don't feel the same way about him. Hence the resignation of

Premier Hodza, ~~which Dr. Masaryk declined to entertain.~~

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## SILVER

All these cabinet crises were almost overshadowed by the terrific hubbub in the silver markets of the world. It reverberated literally around the entire globe. In Bombay and Calcutta, in Shanghai, nearer home in Mexico City, business men and financiers were aghast at the news that Uncle Sam had bought no silver in London yesterday. The situation was particularly serious in Mexico. Since the American Treasury started purchasing the metal, there had been ~~almost~~ a veritable boom south of the Rio Grande. It had also completely changed the monetary policy of China. So when our Treasury made no appearance in the London markets yesterday and did not buy the usual daily five million ounces, thousands of people in remote places became frantic. In Mexico City there was almost a panic.

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The consequence was that for hours today the world had its eyes on Uncle Sam's Treasury. Secretary Morgenthau finally eased the situation by cabling over a small order to London. It was trifling compared to our usual purchases, a mere couple of hundred thousand ounces. But they were bought at a price of sixty-one cents an ounce, so that was sufficient to stabilize the market and to ease

off many fears.

Nevertheless, it was not enough to allay curiosity. People still would like to know, "why this sudden pause? Why did the Treasury, without warning, stop its ~~xxx~~ usual purchases?" To all such questions, Secretary Morgenthau of the Treasury remains as the Sphinx. His answer is no explanation at all. What he ~~xx~~ said was: "We are still fulfilling the provisions of the Act of Congress which authorized us to make these silver purchases."

The episode has aroused considerable excitement in political circles.

Then he declared further that the Treasury's action has cheated Uncle Sam out of some twenty-eight million dollars. The drop of four cents an ounce on the price of silver has cost our Government ~~xxx~~ that much, says the chief silver senator of the United States.

REDFERN

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Now about that attempt to rescue Paul Redfern in the jungles of Dutch Guiana. Just who are the adventurous souls bent on this gallant attempt? It's sponsored by the Elbert S. Waid Post Number Two of the American Legion, at Colon, in the Republic of Panama.

At a meeting of the Post last November, some interesting information was discussed. And this time, no mere rumor or legend from the jungles. It came through the State Department and gave definite news of the exact whereabouts of the American flyer who has been missing since Nineteen-Twenty-Seven, when he started from Georgia bound for Rio. Coming through official channels, it put a new complexion on the Redfern case.

Uncle Sam's Consular agent at Paramaribo reported that the Roman Catholic Mission at a place called *Drie Tabbetjes* had received instructions to send an Indian up the River Marowyn to collect samples of Indian handicraft. Instead of sending an Indian, they sent a bush negro, one of those descendants of African slaves who murdered their Spanish and French masters in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries, ran off into the jungles, and

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established an independent community. In fact they are so strong today that the Dutch government pays them tribute out of self-protection. At any rate, this bush negro went on his expedition and returned three months later. And he said that at a certain Indian village he heard of a white man, who had come down out of the sky, with both legs broken. This white man was living in an Indian village only another three hours' march away. The bush ~~negro~~ negro wasn't interested, so made no attempt to investigate, and returned to the Coast.

This was not taken seriously at the Roman Catholic Mission. But in April this year, a sick Indian came to that same Mission, and he told about a white man living in the village of Piaiman, on the Paloemu River. The white man was crippled and could not walk. Moreover, the Indian had seen the wreck of his plane on a nearby savannah. The chief of the Indian village had helped the white man out of the wreck when he crashed, and had taken care of him since.

When the State Department report was ~~ready~~ read out at the meeting of that Legion in Colon, one of the officers said:-

"Somebody ought to go get him out." To which came the answer:-

"Why not do it ourselves?" Whereupon the Colon legionnaires organized the "Redfern Rescue Expedition Corporation." With this to finance the venture, the next thing was to choose a leader: James Ryan, a veteran flyer, over the Central and South American jungles. Arthur J. Farrell, Commander of the Legion Post Number Two, will go with him.

At Paramaribo, Uncle Sam's Consul Lawton will join them. Aviator Ryan is in New York now, completing arrangements.

*Dreea Tahbaityes*

He told me:- "On the ~~xx~~ river above Drie Tabbetjes we'll make our base camp. And from there cut our way to the village where Redfern has been located. The natives say it will take ~~ff~~ fifteen days' cutting through the thick jungle. Probably that means twenty-five days." He explained further:- "We are going to have a bush negro for a guide. That will make us safe through the bush negro country. But after that we have got to pass through the territory of a tribe that takes pot shots at you from behind trees, with poison arrows. If we get through alive we'll be in the land of the Drios, headhunters. For it's in a headhunter village *that we believe Redfern is lying.*

## HORSE THIEF

I suppose we can consider the matter settled now - that the automobile is here to stay. The horseless carriage that uses Blue Sunoco will definitely not be displaced by the return of the horse. Some of us have suspected that, but now it is final, and official. The Horse-Thief Detention Association of Pleasant Valley, New York, has gone out of business.

It was founded sixty-four years ago by public-minded citizens determined to put an end to horse stealing. It did great things in its heyday, catching many a rogue who swiped somebody's Dobbin. But now its twenty-five members have decided that the horse-thief is an extinct species of animal. There are no more except one stuffed in the American Museum. So the Horse-Thief Detention Association of Pleasant Valley has disbanded.

That leaves only one similar organization still surviving in the Hudson Valley. It's called the Cornwall and New Windsor Horse Thief Detecting Society of Orange County.

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This outfit, with the resounding name, is still out looking for cases of somebody's nag swiped, and who swiped it. Or maybe the Cornwall and New Windsor Horse Thief Detecting Society of Orange County is still looking for the Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow - and I'm looking for my headless hat, and --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.