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Military sights and sounds are foremost in the news tonight. There were war planes over Berlin today. That's the way Hitler told the people that Germany had renounced the Versailles Treaty and was re-arming, restoring her old militarism. Yes, it was a ~~xi~~ graphic and mighty significant way of telling the people: ~~that~~ -- squadrons of warplanes flying low over Berlin, fully armed, with the panoply of war, combat planes bristling with machine guns, bombers that seem ready to be off on some bombing raid. Germany is forbidden by the Peace Treaty to have a fighting air force. But there was the fighting air force overhead, roaring over the city. At Versailles the Allied statesmen said that Germany should have not one single warplane. But Hitler had ~~squadrons of them winging before the eyes of Berliners today~~

~~xxxxx~~ Less of a spectacle but much more important is Hitler's announcement to Germany to fortify the Rhine. That's another thing forbidden by the Versailles Treaty; that poor treaty certainly is getting kicked all over the map. The Allied statesmen at Versailles decided that Germany should not be permitted to have any military establishment along the Rhine.

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A zone of disarmament was decreed along that river. Today it's just another bit of treaty law for the Nazi government to toss into the wastebasket. Berl in points out that France has her border most heavily fortified and invites France to eliminate her own border armament and declare a neutral frontier zone. If not - Germany is going to reply with Rhine frontier fortifications of her own. You can guess how much chance there is of France blowing up those enormously expensive forts she's been building for years. Which makes it certain that Germany will go ahead with her third deliberate and open violation of the treaty in the last couple of weeks.

In France today's militaristic action took the form of an okay by the Finance Committee of the Chamber of Deputies. The Finance Committee put the seal of its approval on a measure to spend more than a million dollars to encourage Frenchmen to



enlist and re-enlist in their country's army. The money will be paid in bonuses to ~~the~~ men who will join up voluntarily, ~~such~~ enlistments <sup>as</sup> do not come within the scope of the regular military conscription.

In England His Majesty's government today asked the House of Commons to boost the money that is spent on fighting planes. The project is to increase last year's sky defense budget by eighteen million dollars.

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While Hitler's war planes roar over Berlin the British Government demands -- let's make our sky fighting fleet bigger.

In the field of statecraft the most salient fact is that Britain's diplomatic partners against Germany are bitterly and loudly dissatisfied with the British protest to Germany yesterday. The French complain it was much too mild. They are annoyed that England merely ~~contended~~ contented herself with telling Hitler that Germany was wrong to re-arm. ~~ix~~ There should have been suggestions of action, say the French, a threat of positive measures in the face of Germany's open violation of the Versailles treaty.

The complaints against England are far more drastic in Moscow. Communist newspapers ~~will~~ declare that England has capitulated to Germany, has tamely surrendered to German defiance.

However, there are some surmises that England's mildness may be wiser than the fire-eaters suspect. Some say that ~~London~~ London did a bit of telephoning to Berlin before launching that formal and rather sedate note -- and that British statesmen got advance reassurances from <sup>Hitler</sup>~~Berlin~~ that Germany will make concessions to ease the whole situation. According to this line of thought Sir John Simon's visit to ~~the German capital~~ <sup>Berlin</sup> on Sunday will result in Germany's agreement to do some of the things the former Allied Powers desire. ~~The~~ Chief among these is Germany's return to the League of Nations. England and France had been eager for this for a long time, with the feeling that if the Nazi government ~~settles down and~~ accepts the peaceable and talk-it-over ways of the League, why things will calm down.

Meanwhile Paris is going to send her own protest to Berlin. Judging from the dissatisfaction of the French with the British note, the French note will be a great deal more forceful.



But the most exciting angle to be observed in Paris concerns Russia. With Germany back in world affairs as a fully armed military power, all sorts of new meanings are injected into that Franco-Russian military understanding which was talked about so much quite a while ago.

France now looks more than ever to the Red army as a possible Eastern ally in a second World War. And Red Russia is even more emotionally concerned about this. The Communists in the Kremlin believe that Germany intends to use her new military force in the East. They <sup>see it as</sup> ~~mayxxxxxxxx~~ a line-up between Germany and Poland, with those two nations matching against Russia and stuffing themselves with large slices of Russian territory. And sensational rumors are flashing around Moscow, linking Germany and Japan. One report is that the Japanese minister of war is going to Germany to negotiate a military alliance. And the thought in the background is that Russia's danger is in the possibility of a double attack by Germany and Japan simultaneously.

Now about that other great European power-- Italy.

Here we find some complications of the liveliest sort. One bit of news from Rome is that Italy will chime in with her own protest

to Berlin about the new German militarism. But the real

fascination of the subject takes Italy's glances southward to the

~~xx~~ tropics, to East Africa. Germany re-arms -- repercussions

in ~~xxx~~ Abyssinia, where the Italians say the war drums are sounding tonight,



## ITALY

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The nation that is left in the most peculiar position by all the international hubbub, is Italy. Weeks ago I couldn't help expressing the wonder about Italy throwing her military forces into a large African venture with the European situation in a ticklish state right at her doors. This question seemed to have been cleared up by apparent signs that Mussolini had come to an agreement with France, stabilizing ~~the~~ European <sup>politics</sup> ~~situation~~ and leaving Italy without any particular worries in Europe. Of course that still left the possibility that something might happen to upset that stabilized European <sup>lineup - something that might</sup> ~~situation~~ which would leave Italy with a large military problem on her hands in Africa and dangerous complications at the gates of the Alps, all at the same time. And that seems to be precisely what has occurred - with Germany tossing the whole European lineup into an intricate diplomatic turmoil.

Instant repercussions <sup>came from</sup> ~~were observed in~~ Africa. Today ~~comes word that~~ the Emperor Haile Selassie of Abyssinia ~~has~~ again appealed to the League of Nations. He once more calls upon the League to intervene in <sup>that</sup> a dispute along the frontiers of Ethiopia and the Italian African colonies. And in his communication to

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Geneva, the King of Kings makes it clear that he no longer considers <sup>tendering</sup> ~~making~~ those apologies which Mussolini demands. He declares he will not humble himself to the government of Rome because of frontier incidents for which he should not be held responsible.

And the Lion of Judah, back there in Addis Ababa, tosses something of a diplomatic bombshell by giving the League what is virtually a formal notice, that Mussolini's idea is to get his hands on cotton concessions in Abyssinia. He intimates that Mussolini is holding the threat of war over <sup>Ethiopia</sup> ~~his head~~ in an effort to force <sup>that country</sup> ~~him~~ to give Italy control of Abyssinian cotton.

This certainly brings into the open an angle that has been hinted at from time to time. In threats of war, there is nearly always an economic background, and in this case there is all sorts of significance in the fact that Ethiopia has enormous cotton growing possibilities. It is known that Japan is interested in this, and would like to get Abyssinian cotton concessions. The Italian textile market has already been suffering from the competition of cheap Japanese products, and if Nippon got hold of



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Abyssinian cotton - that Far Eastern competition would be all the more acute. On the other hand, if Mussolini could get ~~control~~<sup>control</sup> of the east African cotton production, it would enable Italy to do some tall competing of her own. <sup>¶</sup> The inference of it all is that one factor in the grand disturbance between Mussolini and the King of Kings is Italian-Japanese textile competition. That supposition ties in logically with the Emperor of Abyssinia's statement to the League of Nations today, <sup>¶</sup> and to this - one can add further rumors that Japanese commercial and industrial ambitions in Ethiopia have been bothering England. <sup>¶</sup> This they say explains England's consent to Italian ambitions in East Africa.

There is one point in the Abyssinian situation that has another kind of interest. It is Haile Selassie's reference to border incidents for which he should not be held responsible. Word from East Africa indicates that the trouble out there is ~~caused~~ by savage tribes on the warpath, tribes over which the ~~Emperor at Addis Ababa has only the most nominal control.~~ There are said to be constant raidings by war parties across the Abyssinian border into the British province of Kenya. But then the British understand that the Abyssinian government is not

## BELGIUM

Amid the various other discordant sounds from Europe, comes a metallic clinking, somewhat out of tune - the clinking of gold, in a sour key. The story might well be told by foreign exchange figures showing a precipitated drop of the Belga, the Belgian unit of currency.

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The Brussels cabinet has fallen, and the impact has shaken the gold situation. Premier Theunis and his Ministers have resigned, as a result of a long standing argument concerning gold - the question of whether Belgium should stay on the gold standard or take its money off the basis of the yellow metal. The Cabinet of Premier Theunis supported the gold standard, arguing that since most of the nations of the continent are on it, Belgium too should keep its metallic faith.

There has been a swift series of events, each of which has hit the Belga, and knocked its value lower and lower. First off, financial experts of the Brussels government got together with French bankers to discuss the money policy of the little kingdom. That raised a quick doubt about the way Belgium would swing. On top of ~~what~~ came the announcement <sup>that</sup> the Belgian government <sup>was</sup> placing



a partial embargo on gold, forbidding the yellow metal to be taken out of the kingdom. This step seemingly was taken to prevent a Belgian banking panic. Next - came the word that France had refused to extend a loan that the Belgians were trying to negotiate. Every one of these incidents in turn caused a drop in the value of the Belga.

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And today came the latest event, the resignation of Premier Theunis, who has been supporting gold. Foreign exchanges throughout the world reacted immediately. And the Belga, which has fluctuated between thirty-five and forty-four cents, at once dropped off ten points.

WASHINGTON

Two Congressional themes are echoed from Washington this evening. One is - bonus. The other is - work relief.

Congress is all set to go to work on the Veterans' Bonus Bill. It has two proposed measures to pick from. One is the Patman Bill, the other the program outlined by the American Legion. No matter which of the two Congress chooses to consider, the idea will be pretty much the same, the disbursement of some Two hundred million dollars to the ex-service men.

The dopesters in Washington say that the House of Representatives is certain to show a big bonus majority. That <sup>is</sup> assured because of the campaign promises the individual members made to the veterans when they were elected last November. They promised the former soldiers they'd vote for an immediate payment of the adjusted compensation certificates; now it's up to them to make good.

<sup>TP</sup> The situation in the Senate is more doubtful.

~~For~~ But there's no doubt about the President at all.

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He's dead set against all pro-bonus arguments. I was about to say - pro-bonus publico, but that wouldn't be correct Latin. The President says it isn't correct finance either. He will veto the



bill and will give the same reasons that were advanced by Presidents Harding, Coolidge and Hoover - that the government cannot afford it.

On the subject of work relief, we find the President eager to have the Five billion dollar bill go through, and administration leaders are sounding hopeful trumpet calls predicting the passage of the Work Relief measure by the end of the week. There seems to be no further disturbance about the troublesome prevailing wage amendment. The President seems definitely to have downed the contention that relief workers should be paid as much in wages as ordinary labor.

The one battle that was in the offing concerned the Adams Amendment. This proposal by Senator Adams was to scale down the President's original figure by one whole lot. The Adams' Admentment suggested that Two billion dollars should be lopped off the Four billion, eight hundred million, the figure written in the bill right now. But the Administration leaders in the Senate said the bill didn't have a chance. Nor did it. It was beaten today.

## BUZZARD

The best horse thief in America has gone to his eternal reward. In the Philadelphia Eastern Penitentiary, Abe Buzzard, of the horse stealing Buzzards, has departed for the promised land. And if there are any horses in that promised land, they'd better look out! Abe was eighty-five. In the cell next to the one he occupied for so long, his brother Joe Buzzard, aged seventy-five, is grieving and lamenting. "Abe was the best dern horse thief this country ever had". That's the way Joe Buzzard eulogizes the dear departed. And in the Welsh mountain section of Pennsylvania, they're discussing the merits of the celebrated horse thief who spent fifty of his eighty-five years in prison. He was the leader of a gang of three brothers, Abe, Joe and Ike. They were called the Three Buzzards, and became a legend.

History relates that when the Buzzard boys were children, their father was killed in the Civil War. Their mother remarried, upon which Abe, Joe and Ike took to the hilltops. There were a number of other children in the family, but they disappeared in the anonymous nothingness of respectability. The Three Buzzard Boys lived as a gang of outlaws, stealing chickens, farm products, clothing - and especially horses. In their long career they were



frequently arrested. How long they stayed arrested depended on the jail. If it was a good jail, with plenty to eat and pleasant surroundings, they served their sentences, and commonly got religion while doing so. If they didn't like the food and companionship, they escaped.

Some people might say they came to a bad end, but the three Buzzards regard it as a good end, a good jail. Abe was arrested fifteen years ago for stealing chickens, but he never was so good at chickens. His genius was for horses. After that he made his permanent home in the Philadelphia Eastern Penitentiary. Two years later, Joe Buzzard strayed into New Jersey, where the state troopers got him for stealing something or other. His only defense was that they had plenty more on him in Pennsylvania than they had in New Jersey. So his plea was that they take him back to Pennsylvania so that he could be sent to jail there and join his brother Abe in the penitentiary. And that was duly accomplished. The history I have consulted doesn't say what happened to Ike Buzzard. Maybe he got discouraged because he couldn't compete with brother Abe in horse stealing. So that's the story of the three Buzzards - and -- SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.