

*Sumner
702*EUROPE

Good evening everybody.

There are three bristling angles in the European situation today and Germany is in the middle of them all. Let's begin with Berlin. Here General Goering was the spokesman, not as Prime Minister of Prussia, but in his capacity as Reichs Minister of Aviation. He called the foreign correspondents to him, evidently by way of contradicting the London Daily Herald story that he had been quarreling with his chief because of the leader's frankness about German rearmament.

Goering usually leaves the newspaper interviews to propaganda Minister Goebbels or to the Chief himself. The avowed purpose of his communication today was to give the world at large, through the foreign correspondents, a vivid picture of Germany's preparedness.

The Fatherland, he said, has an air force today second to none. Then he added : "Perhaps we don't have as many planes, but we have better planes and better equipment." He declined to give

figures but he admitted that secret factories throughout the Reich are working overtime turning out more planes, more guns, more ammunition. There you have, almost in so many words Germany's answer to the indignation of the other European nations at her violation of the Versailles Treaty.

What does John Bull say by way of retort? Speaking with the Lowland Scottish burr of Jamie MacDonald the Prime Minister, John Bull replies, in effect:- "Is that so? Germany is not the only country that can build more planes, more guns, more ammunition. If you want an armament race, you shall have it." Then he qualified his acceptance of Germany's challenge with another earnest appeal for peace.

The British Premier told the House of Commons for the third time that all Great Britain really wants from Germany is cooperation for the peace of Europe. To this effect he once more invited Chancellor Hitler to an ~~an~~ international conference, another talk-fest in the hope of restoring a more tranquil atmosphere on the other side of the Atlantic.

And at the same time he again took public opportunity to issue a warning that the Nazi submarine program and the airplane

program were exacerbating the fears of the smaller nations.

So much for John Bull's side of it. But what of Marianne La Belle France? And what of Russia, the bear who walks like a man? A joint answer to Germany by the Kremlin and the Quai d'Orsay comes from Paris. To be sure, it is not a surprise. We have been expecting it any time these three weeks. It is the long rumored defensive alliance between France and Russia, a repetition in new form of the old one that used to exist in the days of the czars. There is a slightly ironic angle to this modern resuscitation of that old treaty. Historians have pointed out, and Frenchmen have freely admitted, that in the days of the Romanoffs, St. Petersburg played France for a sucker, got hundreds of millions of francs as loans which never were and never will be paid. The general belief is that the U.S.S.R. is today a real military power. And once again France is betting on that belief to the extent of a defensive alliance, a treaty of mutual assistance. Under this pact France and Russia will back each other up, but only in case of attack or invasion. In other words, it is not an offensive alliance. But that doesn't mean so much. No nation ever admits that it is an aggressor.

BERGDOLL

Once again we are hearing the name of Grover Cleveland Bergdoll. Some fifteen years ago the wealth and prominence of his family caused him to be known as Slacker Number One. The fever-heated public opinion of that day was dead set against him. Now, evidently he's fed up with life in the Fatherland, even though he married a German girl and his three children were born there.

And today his wife and three children are in American for the avowed purpose of making a plea for the once hated draft dodger. The youngsters want to be Americans they say; and hope President Roosevelt will forgive and forget and let Papa Grover come home and be an American once more.

This is the most determined effort yet to procure amnesty for Bergdoll. Hitherto, the appeals have been made by his aged mother, but they've all been futile.

Some of the more obscure slackers have long long since been pardoned.

Well, the answer today is once more:- "Nothing doing in Bergdoll's case." Attorney-General Cummings announced that the rich young man who wouldn't go to war for his country in 1917 will receive no clemency from the Department of Justice. That seems to

be that. Of course, there will be personal appeals to the President, but the President always refers such matters to the Attorney-General who has today announced his attitude.

Various reasons have been given out for this rich young Philadelphian's refusal to fight. One account had it that he didn't want to have to kill the people, the kin of his own father who came to America from Germany many years ago and made a fortune in the brewery business.

But I read another story the other day in Grover Loening's book: "Our wings grow faster." In this it was intimated that young Bergdoll dodged the draft because the War Department wouldn't allow him to go into the aviation service.

As a matter of fact, he was one of the first sportsmen aviators in the country. Owned a plane of his own and had become a skillful pilot. Some of his friends said that he had offered to buy and equip his own fighting plane if the army would let him. But the military authorities replied that he would have to go ~~xx~~ through the same routine as any other American citizen who volunteered or was drafted. At that the hot headed young man became miffed and said:- "All right then, I won't take any part in your old war." So there's another version of the story.

BUSINESS

The issue between the administration and the Chamber of Commerce of the United States was played out to a clear-cut crisis today -- when the Chamber adopted its resolutions. It was known that these resolutions would be drastic in calling for a change in Administration policy. And when the President refrained from sending a message to the meeting of the business men and thereby administered a direct snub-- it was clear that the ideas of the assembled magnates would not be softened, when it came to putting them into the form of words.

So today we have the Chamber of Commerce making the most positive declarations against various kinds of government control. They don't want the Federal Reserve System to be centralized in Washington. They don't want the N.R.A. to be imposed on business by government power. They want the Wagner bill concerning labor to be changed all around with a number of alterations.

From the government side we have not only that presidential snub, but also a declaration from the white-haired Cordell Hull, Secretary of State. He spoke concerning the Administration's plans for reciprocal trade treaties, friendly

tariff agreements with other nations. He said that business interests were trying to block those plans. And this he denounced with the words "selfish and unscrupulous."

All this makes one thing spectacularly clear. The President is not in a compromising mood. He obviously has no intention of lowering his flag so far as ~~his~~ his program of social reform is concerned. If big business does not want to play ball, he'll play his own game. That seems to be the idea.

BRADDOCK

For the past four weeks old Father Knickerbocker has been startled and shocked by the Board of Aldermen's investigation into the handling of New York City relief funds. They've turned up some amazing and not too encouraging fact, revelations of red tape and confusion that were wasting dollars by the bucketful. Stories of highly paid relief officials squabbling among themselves while people in the utmost need were waiting for their money. One of the most incredible curiosities revealed was that people applying for work were told not a thing could be done for them until they were on direct relief. In other words, they had to accept a hand-out before they would be helped to get a job. Also tales of some families living in comfort, owning automobiles, on relief funds while others received a mere pittance.

The shock from this expose^e has reached Uncle Sam's ears. It has made Congressmen ask: "If this is happening in New York, what can be going on throughout the rest of the country?" So now a senatorial investigation of the Federal Relief Administration looms ahead of us.

This has been brought on partly by the policy of relief ~~administration~~ administrator Harry Hopkins in holding back federal

funds from states that do not contribute their share of the burden. Some senators are asking caustically whether there is not a background of political retaliation behind this policy. At any rate, if and when this investigation comes off, the anti-Administration crowd say we'll hear a pretty tale of huge bureaucratic confusion, waste and official wrangling. The newspapers of the country are full of this right now and are likely to be for weeks to come.

But one of the most amusing stories connected with relief was dug up by Bill Stewart, the cagey sports writer of the New York World-Telegram. Bill got a tip which led him to the relief office in North Bergen, New Jersey. There he found an index card which ought to be worth money to collectors of sports curiosities. That card refers to case Number Two thousand seven hundred and ninety six, and the name on it is James J. Braddock, dock worker. Yes, the same heavyweight James J. who beat Art Lasky at Madison Square Garden a couple of months ago. The same chap who is going to fight champion Max Baer six weeks from now. The tale came to light through a squabble between a couple of politicoes in Bergen County. One accused the other of handing out relief to the

heavyweight challenger who did not need it, after he had won the purse in the fight with Lasky. Bill Stewart of the World-Telegram heard about it went over to North Bergen and looked through the files. There, sure enough, he found card Number Two seven nine six with Braddock's name on it. But on the card he found the comment, "Off relief. Has job to knock out Baer."

It turns out that three months ago Braddock really was in dire need. There were no jobs for dock workers. He tried to get one on a work relief project but like others was told that nothing could be done for him until he went on direct relief. So he obtained enough help to pay for his rent, food and milk for his three children. Then came his job to fight Lasky. And today, at his training quarters, he is being fed and looked after as luxuriously as any race horse. If, by any chance, and it will be a long chance, he knocks out Max on June thirteenth, he will become heavyweight champion of the world, and that ought to keep him off relief for quite a long time. At any rate as the relief file card says:- "He's off relief. Has job to knock out Baer." Job is right!

RUM

Up here on the New England coast, where codfish tastes almost as good as swordfish, where fresh lobsters are fit subject for song, and the only place where you can get a clam chowder as is a clam chowder, we are hearing echoes of prohibition.

Remember the days when the Eighteenth Amendment sometimes made our relations with other nations ticklish, because of rum smuggling? Well, Uncle Sam's coast guards in these parts today reported itself back in the business of squelching a new Rum Row. The boys don't like it.

When that amendment was repealed, the United States guardsmen to a man said: "Well, thank the Lord, now we can go back to our real job of saving lives." But now they're at ~~xx~~ it again. I heard this today in the crowded lobby of the Hotel Statler.

But the heavy taxes on liquor still make smuggling profitable. And today word comes from New London, the New England base of the coast guard, that one of the Uncle Sam's ships has been obliged to seize a British oil tanker ten miles out of New Bedford. The coast guardsmen received orders by radio that this tanker should be investigated. Information had been received that

she was suspected of running liquor. So a coast guarder stopped her just as she was beating out into the open sea.

Undoubtedly this is an incident which is going to call for diplomatic wranglings. It has been at least two years since John Bull has had to question us about the stopping of any ship flying his flag.

The treasury Department, which commands the coast guard, stands firm in the matter. For months the treasury has been issuing a warning that rum smugglers were again plying off New England and also the New Jersey coast, and that it has to be stopped.

CANADA

The affair of Congressman McSwain and the indiscreet generals is over -- those declarations that the United States might some day have to seize nearby French and British islands, and those ideas of an airbase on the Canadian border. We can't help acknowledging that Mr. McSwain did the manly thing when he said publicly "I accept full responsibility."

It's evident that there is no harm done for I have just read an admirable editorial in the "Montreal Daily Star" on this serio-comic ~~xxx~~ episode. It quotes a part of President Roosevelt's statement and comments: "Well and handsomely said." The "Montreal Star" continues, "Canada and the United States thus kiss and ~~makeup~~ make-up even before a neighborly tiff has developed, and plan to live heartily side by side ever after." The Canadian editorial says further: "Canadians by and large did not treat the episode seriously and were inclined rather to laugh heartily."

Here's how, Canada, and ** SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.