

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The evil and the good in tonight's Ethiopian news, comes in two dispatches. One a wireless from American Minister Engert at Addis Ababa. It reads: "Situation growing worse." The other a report that the advance guard of the Italian troops is now marching through the streets of Addis Ababa. The strange part about that is, it comes from Berlin, round about from Germany. It may or may not be true. But certain it is that Marshal Badoglio's army is at least about to fight its way into the burning ruins and savage turmoil of the Ethiopian capital. One late report has the Italian column ten miles away.

And there's news from Palestine, the Holy Land - much to the point. Haile Selassie landed there today, at the seaport of Haifa. The British warship, ENTERPRISE, carried him safely from the French East African harbor of Djibouti, to which he fled from his storming, raging, deadly capital.

All sorts of mad murderous things went on inside the mob-ravaged city of Addis Ababa. The perilous thrill of the day

the spectacle of maddened Ethiopian mobs storming the American Legation. That's what brought a flash from Minister Engert: "The situation getting worse!"

A few Americans and their native servants defended themselves desperately against the maddened tribesmen, as they tried to rush the Legation. They were beaten off with incessant bursts of shooting. Two native women were wounded in the servants' quarters of the Legation. And the Minister's wife narrowly escaped being hit by bullets. The peril of the Legation was such that Minister Engert had called for a detachment of troops from the British Embassy to save the day. The weird part of that was the way in which the cry for help was transmitted. American Minister Engert sent a radio message all the way from Africa to the State Department in Washington, asking Washington to send a radio message to the Foreign Office in London to ask the Foreign Office in London to send another radio message to the British Minister, to ask the British Minister to send a detachment of his bearded, turbaned Sikhs to rescue American citizens. That's how it was done. And now the supposition -

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an armoured truck full of turbaned troops brandishing machine guns, tearing through the turbulent streets of Addis Ababa to save the American Legation. At last reports the Americans had not yet been rescued.

Len Hammond, who was in Ethiopia for Fox Movietone gave me some explanation of this situation. Of all the legations in Addis, he says, the British have taken the fullest precautions - naturally. That's a matter of empire. The American Legation, on the other hand, had practically no protection at all, no way of taking care of refugees. Also, it is the worst situated of them all. In a ramshackle building, on the far side of town, four miles from all the other legations. The one thing it has is the finest flag pole in all Addis Ababa. That flag pole cost quite a bit of money. But not a cent was spent in making the buildings secure against attack. It's inmates have to depend on four native guards, whose reliability was questionable says Hammond.

Len tells me that the correspondents and cameramen in

Ethiopia, despite their various jealousies, did have one understanding in common. That was, that if anything happened, they'd run for the British Embassy.

The British, on the other hand, have been prepared for this emergency ever since last September. The first thing they did was to make a dugout into which they could put their women and children the moment bullets started to fly. Furthermore, they reenforced their already sizeable garrison with a hundred and fifty crack troops from the Punjab, in India. These Sikhs are under the command of white officers, the commander a Major Chartiers. The Sikhs brought with them eighty tons of munitions and equipment, including barbed wire, rifles, machine guns, machine gun rifles and two small siege guns. They also had enough rations, canned goods, to keep three thousand people alive for weeks if besieged.

Altogether, the scene in Addis today recalls the days of terror in China during the Boxer rebellion. Len Hammond, by the way, tells me that the French Minister, Albert Bodard, was in China during those anxious, bloody days. What he is

seeing now must bring back old times. Monsieur Bodard evidently had that in mind when he built his legation, which also, by the way, has been under heavy siege. He ~~was~~ constructed it on the Chinese style, a square compound surrounding the buildings. And word comes that it is in desperate peril. Talk of mutiny among the native Ethiopian servants there.

There's touch of ironic humor in one African report that comes from Rome. The irony is especially sharp, when we recall the charges of British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden that Italy in Ethiopia was the foe of civilization. For this Roman report has it that Sir Sidney Barton, the British Minister, sent an urgent appeal to Marshal Badoglio, saying: "Please hurry. Restore order and protect the lives of Europeans."

All in all, these are hours of frantic anxiety and desperate courage in the ruined, sacked and burning capital of the King of Kings.

From Rome we hear the Italians are considerably annoyed - annoyed because the French gave the King of Kings refuge in Djibuti and the British have done the same in Palestine - and

because they are receiving the dethroned monarch as Emperor.

In such circumstance, the last independent kingdom of
Africa comes to an end.

FRANCE

From Europe comes the rumbling of another huge political volcano. It's the aftermath of the French elections, the elections which leave France in the grip of the Left Wing Radicals. The effect is spreading all over the continent. ^{Perhaps} ~~But~~ the greatest *French* crisis in years, graver even than the eruptions following the Stavisky scandal. Indeed, it may be questioned whether this Left Wing victory is not one delayed consequence of the activities of the extraordinary Stavisky.

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The First and most violent reaction is on the Bourse, the Stock Exchange of Paris. Down went the Franc, lower than ever before! And with it toppled the prices of government securities. However, they bounded up again, both the Franc and securities. But that was only because the government stepped in and used its resources to peg prices.

Whether you call that ^{French} election victory red or pink, depends on your viewpoint. The Communist ⁵ says: "It's a victory for us." The less extreme Radicals say: "No, no, the reds have not control!" [#] Let's look at the actual figures. The Communists have eighty-one seats in the Chamber. The Socialists have a

hundred and fifty-one, the Independent Radicals, thirty-one.

Red or Pink, those three parties combined have two hundred more

than the Right Wing. ^{And -} The man who holds the balance of power is

Leon Blum, a Socialist. He has those hundred and fifty-one

Socialist seats in his control. The up-shot of it all will be

that France's policies for the next three years will be dictated

by a triumvirate, of which Monsieur Blum will be the most

powerful. The other members ^{being} ~~of it are~~ Maurice Thorez, the Communist

leader, and Edouard Daladier, the ex-Premier, leader of the

Radicals.

The curious feature of this business is the repercussion across the Rhine. You might suppose that it's all none of Hitler's

business. Maybe so, but it's got the Nazi Fuehrer and his

lieutenants extremely worried. He has always put himself and his

party forward as the last bulwark against Communism. Consequently,

the spectacle of a Left Wing majority on the other side of the

Rhine, a Left Wing led by a Jew, is a mighty disturbing ^{to} ~~one~~

Berlin. Whether they like it or not, the magnificoes of the

Wilhelmstrasse, will have to deal and negotiate with a Socialist Jew.

Probably the only folks in Europe who are not worried about those elections are the French people at large. They seem to be satisfied; the general feeling being that it was a protest election; the votes cast expressing the indignation of the French over the way things have been run in Paris ~~xxx~~ of late.

SPAIN

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The red cocks of revolution are crowing in Spain. From the Pyrenees to Gibraltar, these are days of terror for people of property and for the religious. The smoke goes up from burning monasteries, churches and parish schools. Priests are in flight from the smoking ruins of their houses. Monks and nuns flee in terror from looted convents. The shrieks of savage infuriated fanatic atheist mobs rise over the crackling sounds of rifle shots. Anybody who thinks of the Spaniards as a lazy, joyous people, constantly taking a siesta to the music of the guitar, will be astonished in Spain today. The country of Cervantes is going through its bloodiest, most uproarious riots since October, Nineteen Thirty-Four. Gibraltar is filling up with refugees, grandees and rich Spanish commoners, running for their lives. And the violent anti-clerical outburst is one typical of all red revolutions. The situation is complicated by the quandary in which the Spanish government finds itself. For it was a government elected by radical votes. Consequently, the authorities don't dare use strong measures.

Though I use the words "red revolution", I don't mean

that red Communism is back of all this bloodshed and destruction. The workers of Spain are Socialists, not Communists. They believe in socializing the state by the ballot, not by the bullet.

The emotion that's arousing them to all this violence is a fierce hatred of Fascism. The Spanish working man regards Fascism as the politics of the rich and powerful. Now that he has ~~put~~ the rich and powerful on the run for the time being, he is going through the usual phase, drunk with political power. The radical victory in the last election has put the workers on top. They

want Socialism, state ownership and operation of all industry, ^{and} *they want the impossible - they want it* put into practice over night. ~~Every now and then a group of workers forcibly take over a factory and run it themselves.~~

"The reign of terror in Spain" is no idle phrase.

Anti-Fascists in the peninsula are doing just what the Fascists did in Italy and Germany. Scores of men are in prison, arrested on mere suspicion of being Fascists. Others are taken into what is called "protective custody". Many of them are never seen alive again. The police report is that the prisoner was shot while being taken into that "protective custody". So far foreigners

have not been seriously molested. But they are subjected to considerable extortion. For instance, one visitor wanted to put his car ashore at Malaga, near Gibraltar, He was informed by the Dock Workers Union that he would have to pay eighteen men three days' wages "or else". "Or else" meant that if he didn't, they'd throw his car into the harbor with him in it. That cost him Sixty Dollars for a Three Dollar job. An isolated incident but, I am told, typical of what many people have to endure.

An ominous and threatening picture!

HAGOOD

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Everybody thought, with some reason, that the story of Major General Hagood was definitely concluded when he was reinstated to active service and appointed to the command of the Sixth Army Corps Area at Chicago. Instead of that, there's a surprise finish. General Hagood served just one day in command of the Sixth Area, then retired. "I was vindicated, and that satisfied me," he declared. He is going to his home in Charleston, South Carolina, to write a book. And it's a book that may stir up quite a rumpus in army circles. It will be a book with a purpose, that purpose being to show how Uncle Sam can get a better army, a better national defense, at considerable smaller cost to the taxpayer. And maybe that isn't a subject full of high explosive potentiality!

GARBO

New newspaper reporters today hurried in droves to get big interviews from a young lady named Gustaffsson, who used to be a ribbon clerk. It isn't the usual thing, of course, for the Press to break its neck for a chance to quote the opinions of former ribbon clerks. But when anybody insistently refuses to talk for publication, that makes the reporters anxious. So they flocked today to interview Greta Garbo, who for years has hidden herself behind an elusive silence, with dark glasses and the incognito of masculine clothes.

But now she has talked and posed with her langorous locks that once were blonde and now are reddish. She posed without any disguise of powder, rouge or lipstick. And she posed those famous feet too, in low-heeled oxford shoes. She refrained from saying "I tank I go home." Instead she said "I don't think it is necessary for me to see the Press so much. People ought to see and feel that which you want to express." Then she grew ~~sad~~ sad and wistful. ~~six~~ "I have no home," she sighed, "I am a wanderer." So, after the newspapermen have so long ~~ex~~ tried to get Greta to talk, that's what she had to say.

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FARE

One month from now we'll be able to travel on any railroad, anywhere in the United States, for two cents a mile. That is the order of the Interstate Commerce Commission which some railroad heads don't like. But there are quite a few gentlemen for whom even this reduction isn't low enough. Right now, they're holding a convention out at Louisville, Kentucky. The Annual Congress of the Itinerant Workers Union, the hoboes of America. The convention was opened today by Jeff Davis, who, on his own admission, is king of the hoboes. Various gentlemen of the road attended the meeting. The gist of the King's opening address was that all railroad fares should be one cent a mile. Considering that at present the bos don't pay anything, the idea seems no less than liberal.

However, that isn't all that the hoboes want of ~~the~~ the railroad chiefs. They demand de-luxe box cars with benches and bathing tanks.

Even the hoboes turning sissy! And,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.