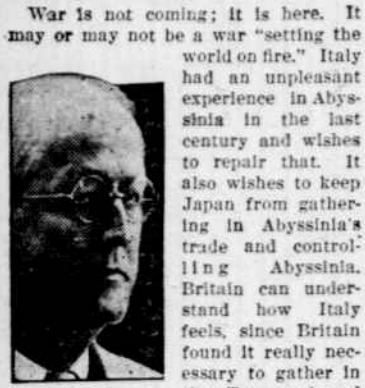


BRISBANE

THIS WEEK

Big War or Little?
LaGuardia's G-Men
She Took It Seriously
Pretty Bluebirds



Arthur Brisbane

War is not coming; it is here. It may or may not be a war "setting the world on fire." Italy had an unpleasant experience in Abyssinia in the last century and wishes to repair that. It also wishes to keep Japan from gathering in Abyssinia's trade and controlling Abyssinia. Britain can understand how Italy feels, since Britain found it really necessary to gather in the Transvaal and other vast areas throughout the world.

Italy used to send 500,000 immigrants a year to the United States. Now they are shut out. They must go somewhere. They would considerably improve Abyssinia if they went there.

Mayors of other cities will watch New York's Mayor LaGuardia fighting racketeering and crime in general. Besides training his own police force to shoot straight and "to kill," Mayor LaGuardia will get some government "G-men." If possible, from Washington, to come and set the example.

If Mayor LaGuardia, who has an honest and energetic police commissioner, cleans up crime in New York, he will deserve a statue next to that of Hercules, who cleaned the Augean stables, and a bigger statue.

Women, before and since Heloise, have taken heart affairs more seriously than men. Margaret Jordan, an Irish girl, lonely, fell in love with a Mount Vernon, N. Y., policeman, because he came from her home town. He was married, with eight children, and after he had seen the girl for two years he decided that he must reform and see her no more. He told her about this pious resolution as he sat in his police car, and did not notice that she took his service revolver from the pocket of the car.

He learned what had happened next day when told that the girl had killed herself with his revolver. It was embarrassing for a married policeman with eight children.

At Fort George Wright, tiny bluebirds built their nest in the mouth of a big cannon, and mother bluebird laid four pretty blue eggs. Our kind-hearted heroes at the fort are protecting the nest. Sentries do not come too near, cats are discouraged, and to the orders of the day Maj. George S. Clark added these kind words, "and keep an eye on those birds."

In American churches Sunday, August 18, will be a day of prayer for peace in Africa and safety for little Ethiopia, which confronts war with powerful Italy.

That is the right United States interference in foreign affairs. The prayers will reach their destination, and the Supreme Being to whom they are addressed knows what is best, and has power to arrange matters in Ethiopia as he chooses.

To pray: "Lord, possessor of omniscience and omnipotence, we leave all in your hands." is right.

To send a million young American men, and several thousand million American dollars, to meddle in hot Africa would be wrong.

The country will welcome President Roosevelt's statement that the "four thousand million dollar works relief fund" will actually be invested in such a way as to increase the nation's capital assets. Many times four thousand million dollars could be spent advantageously, if it were really invested in wise, permanent improvements.

A financial letter from London remarks, casually, "Credit was plentiful at one-half of one per cent interest." Americans that cannot borrow anything, on securities once considered good, wonder how the British manage. The American government borrows at three and a half per cent, seven times the current English interest rate, money manufactured by itself, and thus adds one hundred per cent to taxes for interest that need not be paid at all. Queer finance, dearly beloved.

St. Louis reformers say women should not sit on high stools with their feet on a rail and drink at the bar. And, reformers rejoice to hear, the saloonkeepers say: "Amen."

Reformers and saloonkeepers are right. The saloon was bad enough before women moved in to make it worse, hitching up their dresses, climbing high stools, readjusting their dresses, or not readjusting them, calling for foolish drinks to show how foolish they could be.

The Methodist Federation for Social Service, surveying the cotton area, says the AAA, cutting down the cotton crop, has added to the sorrows of the little worker that raises cotton on shares, while enriching the owner of the land. You cannot please everybody.

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WNU Service

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart
National Press Building
Washington, D. C.

Washington.—Back in 1916 before the United States became involved in the World War our government had a national debt which was regarded as large at that time. It was only \$1,200,000,000, but that was sufficient in those days to cause concern.

On the first of July, 1935, the treasury started a new set of books. This represented the beginning of a new financial year for the government. One of the items it had to enter on those books was a public debt of about \$28,800,000,000. We of today think that is a huge debt and when it is compared with the outstanding obligations of the federal government a score of years ago its magnitude seems titanic.

When the treasury closed the fiscal year books on June 30 and counted the cost of the preceding 12 months of government it was found that there had been expended roughly \$7,300,000,000. In the same period it had collected through income and other forms of taxes, including duties laid at the customs houses, a total of approximately \$3,800,000,000. This means that in the last 12 months the government operated with a deficit of something over \$3,500,000,000. In other words, its operating costs were virtually double the amount of revenue it received. This deficit together with the deficit that was created during the earlier months of the Roosevelt administration added something like \$8,000,000,000 to the national debt. President Hoover while in office added about \$4,000,000,000 to the national debt through deficits in the last two years of his administration. So there are two outstanding phases in the financial affairs of the federal government as it starts the fiscal year of 1936, which began July 1.

There is bred these questions: How long can the federal government continue to spend money like water and thus increase its public debt, and how long will the American people continue to permit expenditures by their government in excess of the revenues it collects?

They are related questions. Neither can happen without the other. But it seems to me that the time has come for taxpayers and voters generally to take note of the condition of the government's finances.

Mr. Roosevelt justifies these heavy outlays under the necessities of an emergency. He contends that when prosperity returns and business is normal, citizens will pay their taxes without complaint and that these taxes will be sufficiently large in their total production to whittle down the gigantic outstanding debt. Hence there is at this moment an urgent need for examination of the whole tax structure. This is necessary to maintain the credit of the United States. If people doubt or lose faith in government bonds, the credit of the government can be said to be impaired. No nation of self-respecting people desires that thing to happen. It has long been a recognized truism that if a United States government bond was not worth its face value, the money we have and the rights we exercise as citizens likewise become impaired in value and benefit.

Careful analysis of government finances in the last 12 months shows that federal revenues were sufficient to cover what Mr. Roosevelt characterizes as ordinary government costs. He means by that the expenses of the regular establishments of government and excludes all of the so-called emergency agencies, of which there are now some sixty-odd. This condition reveals that federal taxes are about the only item in governmental affairs of private business that have completely recovered from depression effects. Recovery has been sufficient to make the total revenues virtually the same as those received under the Hoover administration in the fiscal year of 1929-1930. It shows also that Mr. Roosevelt has not reduced the cost of ordinary running expenses of the government as he had planned when he became President.

I mentioned earlier a comparison of the public debt now and in 1916. Let us take another date, namely, 1919. At that time the outstanding debt was \$26,594,000,000. The annual interest charge on that debt was just short of one billion dollars. Today with a much larger outstanding debt, the annual interest charge amounts to only \$820,000,000 per year.

This seems almost paradoxical but the answer lies in the interest rate the government is paying. In 1921 the average rate of interest calculated on all different types of government securities outstanding was 4.34 per cent. At the present time it is less than 3 per cent. So credit must be accorded the treasury for its gradual reduction in interest rates. Ten years ago an effort was made to market securities at gradually lower interest rates. It did not succeed fully because private business was demanding capital and private business was paying higher interest rates. In the last five or six years private business has called for very little money. Government securities and the law of supply and demand operated to allow the treasury to sell

its bonds and notes at much reduced interest.

On the one hand, therefore, the Roosevelt administration has run up the public debt by about \$8,000,000,000 but has succeeded in actually reducing the carrying charge of this great debt structure by more than \$100,000,000 per year. That is the situation as of today. Restoration of business activity and the resultant demand for capital may change the market for treasury bonds almost overnight but the prospects for such business activity are not immediate.

One of the interesting things that often occurs in government affairs is the explosive effect of a single incident or a single remark by an important official. It is a characteristic of changing conditions and it is a circumstance which causes Washington observers to be on their toes continuously because they never can tell when such an incident will occur. Thus it was the other day that Representative Brewster, Republican, of Maine, a former governor of that state, arose in his place in the house of representatives and charged that the Roosevelt administration was threatening individual members of the house who declined to support the administration view on a particular piece of legislation. Mr. Brewster named one Thomas Coreoran as the administration emissary and bearer of the threats. He told details of the circumstance and informed the house that the legislation which the administration demanded he should support was the so-called "death sentence" provision in the bill to eliminate utility holding companies. Suffice it to say that Mr. Brewster did not yield.

The point of this incident, however, is that immediately there came from many quarters in the house a demand for an investigation of lobbying activities. There had been many charges theretofore that the public utility corporations were over-running the house with lobbyists in their effort to defeat the "death sentence" section. The real reason back of this sudden outburst, however, lies in dissatisfaction among many members of congress with tactics employed by the Roosevelt administration. They have taken orders constantly since March 4, 1933, but apparently they are no longer going to obey.

So the investigation of lobbying is to be started by a house committee and it will be broader than just the public utility lobbyist. If the undercurrent of information proves to be correct, administration representatives who have frequented the house chambers during consideration of the holding company bill will be placed on the witness stand to tell their story.

In the meantime and maybe as a result of the excitement over the Brewster charge, Senator Black, an Alabama Democrat, started fireworks in the senate. He is prepared to create investigating machinery in that end of the Capitol to determine what influence the utility lobbyists have exerted. That investigation also will go beyond the utility lobbyist phase. It is scheduled to dig up dirt on lobbyists for other legislation. Thus far there has been little mention of administration activities around the senate.

But, as in the case of the house investigation, it appears now that the senate investigation has a double purpose. It will be recalled that Senator Black fostered a bill requiring all lobbyists in Washington to register at the Capitol, to show their connection, to show what salaries or other compensation they receive and to make public certain types of correspondence passing between them and the people whom they represent. The gossip is that the senator's bill, although it passed the senate without difficulty, will have hard sledding in the house. Senator Black appears to be proceeding on the theory that the investigation will create additional atmosphere and public demand for passage of the lobbyist registration measure.

It was conceded that if General Smuts could force an election at that time, he would have more than an even chance of winning, but that he could not do so without stirring up

the smoldering embers of racial conflict between Boers (or, rather, the present-day Afrikaanders) and Britons, an animosity that had been admirably subdued in the preceding decades by wise government.

To youth of South Africa really goes the credit for coalition. Young men of both parties know the sentimental and romantic racial dissensions merely as historical traditions, not as real loyalties and convictions. It was they whose insistence that these differences be wiped out once and for all impressed the nation with the necessity for taking up the real business at hand—that of administering good government. As a result of the coalition, the status act, satisfactory in the main to both parties, was effected.

Boers in Opposition.
The Boer in South Africa has long opposed the out-and-out political dominance of the Union by London, as proposed by the Briton, for fear of losing his identity. South Africa is a

Is the Vast British Empire Breaking Up?

By WILLIAM C. UTLEY
KING GEORGE V's silver jubilee, now at its height in England, has formed an innocent, if world-wide, institution for propagandizing the unity and extent of the British Empire. No one, certainly, questions its extent. But there are those among the political economists of the day who at least suggest that the far-flung realm shows signs of breaking apart, and when the real test comes, if it ever does, they may be right.

Recent developments in South Africa have again made people ask whether the British Empire is breaking up," writes Fred Clarke, English educator and former representative of the Union of South Africa at Geneva, in Current History Magazine. "Without attempting to answer that question, one can have no doubt as to the importance of the status of the Union act, which received royal assent on June 22, 1934. This new law has a bearing on the whole future of British imperial unity."

The status act contains the first definite official reference of the crown to the union as "a sovereign independent state." Its accompanying seal act gives the exclusive right of use of the Great Seal and Little Seal, heretofore held by the king, to the South African ministers.

For more than a quarter of a century South Africa, politically, has been torn bitterly between two political factions as directly opposed as our New Dealers and rugged individualists. They were led by General Smuts, right-hand man of General Botha in the Union government which arose a few years after the South African war, and General Hertzog, a minister in the Botha cabinet who was removed in 1912, two years after the cabinet was formed.

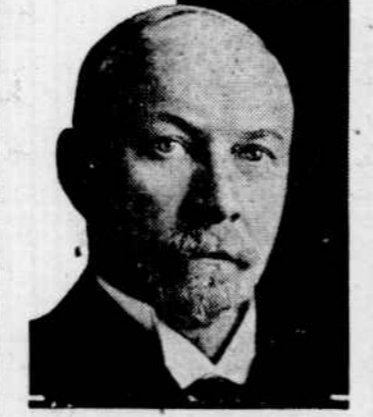
General Smuts and his faction openly considered the Union a definite part of the Empire, with British civilization and culture dominant. Hertzog sympathizers held out against the complete social, cultural and political domination of the Boer population by the British, and have always striven to make the Union a separate and independent nation.

The present status of the Union has been effected as a sort of political compromise between the two generals and their respective parties. The Union is undeniably independent now, with merely "allegiance to the crown," the string politically tying it to Great Britain. And the two parties have fused into one.

It is interesting to note that the coalition of the parties came about because their differences became so bitter after England went off the gold standard in 1931 that party leaders decided that unity and compromise would be the only means of averting hopeless internal political strife. Imagine Mr. Roosevelt and, say, Mr. Hoover, getting together before a political campaign and straightening out their differences!

General Hertzog's nationalist party, which was in power in 1931, preferred to keep South Africa on the gold standard, believing that England had stepped off only temporarily, and that maintaining the standard would help to stabilize a leading industry of South Africa, gold mining. Other interests suffered badly, and General Smuts' South African party accused the incumbents of pampering the political interests always prone to take the opposite line from the empire, jeopardizing the interests of the Union in general thereby.

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General Smuts.

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region of two separate and powerful cultures, and its people speak two languages. There is, of course, the English with which we are more or less familiar. And there is the Dutch offspring, Afrikaans.

The New Deal for South Africa pacifies both factions by fostering both cultures. Education is administered in both. Newspapers and magazines are published in both languages.

That the status act, with its admission of South Africa's virtually absolute independence, applies as well to all of the British Dominions, is implied in the fact that it includes in its preamble the Balfour declaration obtained by General Hertzog when he headed the nationalist government of 1924. This calls the Dominions "autonomous communities within the British Empire, equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another in any respect of their domestic or external affairs, though united by a common allegiance to the crown, and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations."

Further removing British political dominance from the Dominions was the Statute of Westminster, which was passed by the British parliament in 1931. It closely allied the constitutional development of the other Dominions of the empire with that of the Union of South Africa. The Balfour declaration and the Statute of Westminster are masterpieces of phraseology which carried soothing balm to both South African factions. The status act is the application of the same to the South African constitution.

Two important concessions are made to the Dominions in the Statute of Westminster. It gives the Dominion government power to amend, repeal or modify any British act which has been incorporated in the law of the Dominion. It further states that no British law may be applied to any Dominion unless that Dominion has requested the application and consented to it.

Really Independent.
The status act itself declares that no British legislation shall be considered in effect in the Union of South Africa until it is re-enacted by the South African parliament. The "chief executive" is defined as the king, who shall act upon the advice of his South African ministers.

In South Africa the king's representative is the governor-general. Neither he nor the king have any powers of veto or reservation of a bill. The governor-general may, however, simply return a bill with his opinion for further consideration if he thinks it wise. The king does not retain the power to name the prime minister and to dissolve parliament.

The case of war would be the real test. For, with the clearly worded status act, the Union of South Africa can now decide for itself whether or not to remain neutral if the empire enters a war. Says Clarke:

"It might even secede altogether, though not apparently, by legal process. Some commentators in England as well as in South Africa feel disturbed by these possibilities. But 'equal status' necessarily implies them, and legal barriers would be flimsy defenses against the strong political pressures when the time of crisis comes."

It will be remembered that when England entered the World War there was widespread dissension in South Africa, and even serious uprisings in some cases. Clarke goes on:

"Neutrality and secession are political issues, to be determined in the light of all the facts when the question arises. They are not to be determined in advance, as some of the die-hard lawyers seemed to demand, by any constitutional legislation, especially legislation under such documents as the Balfour declaration and the Statute of Westminster."

The abolition of the prerogative power of the king aroused the anguish of the pro-British faction in South Africa. This faction claimed that in the time of crisis the king was the executive head of the entire British Empire, and that he could act as he saw fit in case of a crisis, in order to keep the realm from falling apart. General Smuts was able to convince his followers that for centuries no such prerogative, if there was one, had been exercised, and that the question was not one of law, but of politics.

show is that political power or legal power are not the real bands which hold the Empire together. Experience has taught us that in time of war nations do not act on the literal interpretation of the law. The ties that bind are more substantial. In the case of the British Imperial Dominions they are the advantages of free trade within the Empire and the protection of the British fleet. The Union of South Africa would be an easy mark indeed for an invading force were it not for the protection of the greatest fleet in the world. It is extremely doubtful that the Union would ever want to forsake such a protection.

With its constitutional status now more clearly defined than ever before, the Union of South Africa is ready itself to begin expanding. It would like to annex the adjacent protectorates of Bechuanaland, Swaziland and Basutoland, which are now governed under the Dominions office in London. When the Union was formed in 1900, the constitution provided for the eventual inclusion of these territories.

Their population, however, is 99 per cent black, and they were left out of the original Union and kept under direct London protection because of the treatment they had received at the hands of the Boers who made up a large share of the Union population.

When, last year, Prime Minister Hertzog announced to Great Britain that the Union of South Africa was ready to act immediately to include the protectorates, his act drew an instant appeal from Chief Tshakedi



General Hertzog.

Khama of Bechuanaland. British administration to the protectorates has not been all that it might be, but natives and native sympathizers believe that it is better than the discrimination which might harm them at the hands of the Boers.

Native Chiefs Balk.
Unionists claim that there are no selfish reasons for annexation, for the Union has plenty of land and plenty of economic difficulty without taking on that of the native areas. Basutoland is tremendously overcrowded and conditions among the blacks are deplorable. The Union would move the surplus population over to the vast expanses of Bechuanaland, where the population is scarce, and would give the blacks land and irrigate it.

The natives and their chief are afraid of this. The reason is that the Tatit Company, Ltd., owns about 1,325,000 acres in Bechuanaland. They fear that the blacks might be exploited industrially here, that the grazing land which has been held out to them as a home land for the surplus Union blacks might be seized by the surplus whites of the Union.

Neither do they like the present native policy of the Union. The native under the protectorate of the Union, according to the Manchester Guardian, has found that "his freedom of movement is limited by restrictive 'pass' laws; his status as a worker is degraded by the color bar act to one of permanent economic inferiority. He sees his fellows through the Union compelled to relinquish settlement and to wander in search of work. He sees them barred by the native land act from acquiring land even if, despite all obstacles, they acquire means to do so."

With the constitutional differences straightened out between black and white in the Union, and with the rising of a new generation which does not feel so bitterly the inequality of the whites and the blacks, it is held that the government under Smuts and Hertzog means well by the natives.

WOMAN LEADS NAVAJOS

Mrs. Laura McCabe, at the age of forty-three, is the only woman leader among the 45,000 Navajos in northwestern New Mexico. In addition, the squaw has privileges denied white women in some states.

She owns property. Her children belong to her clan and upon her death her daughters inherit her property. She does the work, tends the sheep, shears the wool and sends it into blankets. She handles nearly all of the barter with Indian traders and controls the family's meager supply of cash.

BOYS! GIRLS!
Read the Grape Nuts ad in another column of this paper and learn how to join the Dizzy Dean Winners and win valuable free prizes.—Adv.

French Take to Baseball
American baseball is enjoying a boom in France to the extent that a nation-wide organization has been formed known as the "Federation Francaise de Baseball et de Theque." Four hundred teams are playing in various parts of the French nation.

MOSQUITOES Inject Poison

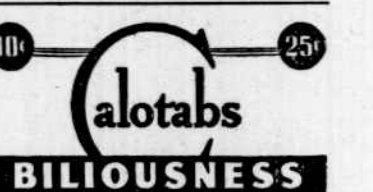
Mosquitoes live on human blood. Before she can draw your blood, however, the mosquito must first thin it by injecting a poison. This mosquito poison—Fly-Tox—is dangerous, spread serious disease epidemics. Don't take chances. Kill mosquitoes, flies, spiders with FLY-TOX—proved best by 10,000 tests. Accept no substitutes... demand

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