

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

Washington, Sept. 14.—International relations and affairs are coming more sharply to the front in all Governmental considerations. There is a strong feeling here that the situation in Europe is likely to result in actual war very soon, and probably without much previous notice. Whether Great Britain and France will be involved against Germany again is an open question.

It is also an open question whether, in that case, the United States might be involved. Our diplomats and army and navy observers who are in Europe watching the situation are sending long, confidential reports to Washington, for the guidance of the Administration.

There are many evidences that the President is becoming more and more internationally-minded, and that efforts to strengthen the friendly relations between this country and Great Britain and France are steadily being pressed. It is understood that the negotiations which the State Department has been conducting with England for more than a year, looking toward a reciprocal-trade agreement, are practically completed.

Rumors are persistent here that England is preparing to offer a settlement of her war debt to America which will be good enough for the President to submit to Congress for acceptance. If it is backed up by a general feeling that the interests of the two nations are tied together in case of another war, it is possible that Congress may accept a reasonable offer from England.

World Currencies

It is reported here that Mr. Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasury, laid the foundation, on his recent visit to London and Paris, for a revision of the monetary agreement between the three nations arrived at in 1936. The idea is that a revision of the valuations of the English pound and the French franc, in terms of the American dollar, would stimulate international trade and friendship.

The dollar has now become the international standard by which all world currencies are measured in their home countries, taking the place in world trade of the British pound sterling. There is much talk-but little likelihood of a further devaluation of the dollar.

There have been intimations received in official circles that France is almost as eager as Great Britain to pay back the money it borrowed from our Treasury during and after the World War. The dominant motive in these war debt proposals is to make it possible, if and when the expected European war breaks out, for the French and British governments to float new loans in this country, not from the Government but through the banks.

That is forbidden now by the Johnson resolution of Congress making it illegal for American institutions to lend money to governments which are in default in their war debt payments to our government.

Shifting of Naval Units

There is not believed to be any special international significance in the recent transfer from the Pacific to the Atlantic coast of a large fighting unit of modern cruisers, though this is the first time in years that an American naval force of battle strength has been stationed in the Atlantic.

Our naval strength is almost entirely concentrated in the Pacific, and the Government's outlook in that direction is a rather worried one. Japan's refusal to give serious consideration to the

State Department's protest over the attack upon an American-owned commercial airplane flying its regular route over Chinese territory is an added aggravation in a long series of "incidents" in which Japan has adopted a contemptuous attitude toward the United States, since it began its "undeclared war" in China.

How many more such incidents it would take to provoke the Administration to positive steps against Japan is, of course, conjectural, but there is a decided tension in the State Department on the Japanese situation.

Mexican Situation

Mexico appears, to Washington observers, to be asking for trouble by refusing even to consider payment for American-owned property confiscated by its government. The speech of President Cardenas, in response to the note of Secretary Hull in which demand was made for "prompt, immediate and effective compensation," was the most direct slap-in-the-face by the head of one government toward another that has occurred on this continent in a long time.

Delivered in the presence of the American Ambassador, Josephus Daniels, the Cardenas speech charged the United States with trying to impose the will of the strong upon the weak, and with having itself been guilty of property confiscation by seizing privately-owned gold and making its owners accept paper currency.

It is quite possible, some shrewd political observers here believe, that the international situation may become so acute and involve the United States so deeply as to divert public attention, temporarily, from domestic affairs.

The final outcome of the Congressional elections on Nov. 8 will, of course, give an indication of the prospects for 1940. If the trend is definitely anti-New Deal, those who have their ears attuned to the undertones of gossip in official circles say, the country may look for some dramatic act by the President calculated to impress the electorate with the vital importance of keeping control of the Government in the hands of his

friends and supporters. But in any event, Washington is preparing for a lively, entertaining and possibly violent political battle when the new Congress meets, with a growing belief here that Vice-President Garner will come out openly as the leader of the anti-Administration forces.

FROM INGLESIDE

A long custom of Inascoe & May has been broken. It was to leave a large coop of chickens in front of their store overnight. But thieves will sometimes steal even from good merchants who are not afraid to risk them. On last Thursday night their coop containing eight chicks was stolen. A car without lights was seen to move slowly along the highway about 2:30 A. M. by a man who was up at that time to investigate the barking of dogs. The empty coop was found near the road a half mile north of here a day or two later.

Many loads of tobacco, going both ways, have passed over the highway every day throughout the past week.

A fine pair of twin calves owned by A. A. Pernel are named Amos and Andy.

Mrs. H. L. Alford has returned from her father's, near Wake Forest, where she accompanied her sister, Miss Etta Woodlief, who is seriously ill, to Rex Hospital, Raleigh, for an operation.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Spencer announce the birth of a baby boy, on Friday, Sept. 9, at their home in Ingleside. The happy young couple are made happier by the advent of the little son which is their first born.

Little Miss Jackie O'Neil, of Louisburg, was the guest Saturday, of her friend and schoolmate, little Miss Miriam Rose Marks.

Mr. Bob Mitchell had a valuable mule to die suddenly in harness last Friday. The animal was

being worked with another mule to a stalk cutted. A short stop was made at the end of rows for oiling when he dropped dead. Mr. Mitchell also lost a good cow last year.

Misses Dorothy and Helen Wilson have returned as teachers to their respective schools, the same in which they were engaged during the last session. Miss Dorothy to Belhaven, and Miss Helen to the city schools at Goldsboro.

A reader of the TIMES, Miss Virginia Dickerson, who thinks she has one that would almost pass with Mr. Ripley, reports that she wanted to set a hen last week and, finding no eggs available at home or among the village residents she brought the required number of store eggs for the purpose. And, after a setting of twenty-four hours, she was somewhat bewildered and amazed, as well as the hen, to discover that

two biddies had hatched and were ready to come off. The chicks were removed and the process of premature hatching is awaited with interest. In the mean time Miss Virginia is expected to ruffle the feathers of that hen for more chicks for the next three weeks, and she may be rewarded for the trouble. The writer of this paragraph is reminded of having set a hen in the top of a barrel on twenty-one store eggs, and every egg hatched.

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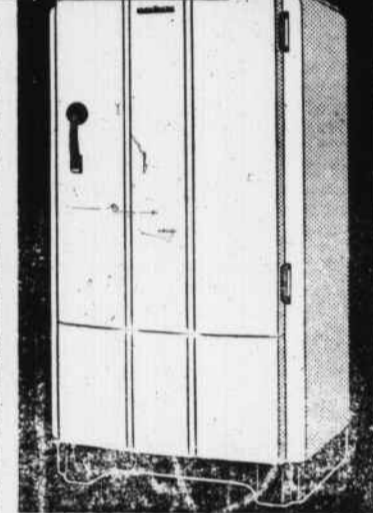
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