

BRISBANE THIS WEEK

Busy Dictators Hitler, Peace Angel Lie Test for Hauptmann? All Heard the Moans

Europe's dictators borrow ideas from each other. Mussolini, perhaps unconsciously, copied Riesenly, who ended violently. Hitler saw how well Mussolini's idea worked and adopted it. Dolfuss tried it in Vienna, ended badly.



Arthur Brisbane

Kemal Pasha has made a success of it thus far in Turkey, throwing sultans overboard, Mohammed, the fez, veils for women also.

Hitler, turning with a rapidity that would startle any worm, now declares himself guardian angel of Europe, offering to start a world peace guaranteed to last 20 years. That would depend on Japan and Russia.

There is a scientific test for lying. Try as he may to control himself, a man lying undergoes physical and psychological changes that a certain scientific apparatus reproduces in a "graph" when the lying begins.

Mrs. Hauptmann, her husband sentenced to death for kidnaping the Lindbergh baby, suggests that her husband be subjected to the "lie test," adding, "he would be freed instantly."

He could not be "freed instantly" because the law does not yet recognize the "lie test" as conclusive, but the experiment would be interesting. The framing of questions, which should be put in fewest possible words and as startlingly as possible, would be important.

New Jersey's Attorney General Wilentz, who brought about the conviction, would be the man to frame the questions.

Consider the principal of the Schaff Junior High school at Parma, Ohio. That principal, having decided to beat five boys caught smoking in the school building, using his microphone, ordered all classes and all noise stopped throughout the school while the five boys were "paddled" near the microphone for the whole school to hear.

The story goes, "Startled students next heard the 'Whack! Whack!' of the paddles and the moans of the culprits."

A girl baby two weeks old, smiling, pretty, dressed in pink and white, found abandoned in a New York hallway, was taken to the Foundling hospital, a sort of "pound" for lost children.

If a good-looking chow, Boston bull or Irish wolfhound two weeks old had been found, there would be a thousand only too glad to take and care for it. Our alleged cousins the chimpanzees could hardly believe that.

There are miracles of various kinds, even in healing leprosy. It can be done, as the Bible shows, by supernatural power. It can be done by science. Jacintho Moura, Portuguese chemist, in Rio de Janeiro, smashed a finger, and while suffering acute pain accidentally dipped the finger in a liquid vegetable extract that he was preparing. This vegetable liquid, obtained from a wild Brazilian plant, mixed with chalmogra oil, according to Dr. Fernando Terra, director of the Rio de Janeiro hospital, has already cured 17 lepers.

Some accidents are valuable. The injured finger showed the way to an important cure.

At Kovno, Lithuania, four Nazis are sentenced to death on the gallows for plotting to separate Memel from Lithuania. Mr. Hitler, deeply grieved by the fate of four Nazis, is said to have protested to Sir John Simon, although it is not clear what that Britisher could do about it. The opinions of two ladies whose heads were recently chopped off, by order of Chancellor Hitler, would be interesting, but will never be known. Once the head is chopped expression of opinion ceases.

Mussolini says "Italy offers the world a spectacle of calm," and promptly raises his army to 600,000 men, promising to make it 2,000,000. He says, "Let it be clear that our desire for peace is backed by several million bayonets." That is calm for Mussolini.

Congressman Patman, Texas Democrat, puts the bonus matter in few words. He says those that insist on issuing interest-bearing bonds are managing a scheme to pay "two billions to coupon clippers and two billions to veterans."

Why make taxpayers pay the two billions to "bond clippers" when it is not necessary?
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CURRENT EVENTS PASS IN REVIEW

FRANCE AND ITALY MOBILIZE ARMIES AS CONFERENCES BEGIN AT BERLIN.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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CHANCELLOR HITLER'S virtual threats of war, though coupled with protestations of peaceful intention, are having their effect in almost every nation on earth.



Anthony Eden

In his own land the result is probably one of his main objectives, for the Germans, in their loud rejoicings over the military rebirth of the reich and regaining of its old position, are losing sight of the grave economic problems which the reichsfuehrer has not yet been able to solve.

France, having decreed the enlarging of its army and the increase in the term of conscription, began moving fully half of the troops heretofore placed along the Italian frontier to the Rhine area. Premier Mussolini of Italy, as minister of war, ordered the recall of the entire military class of 1911, estimated at 220,000 men. These additions bring the strength of the army up to approximately 675,000, and when the more than 400,000 Fascist militia are included, the Italian forces number more than a million. The class of 1913, due to be dismissed soon, is being kept under arms. Mussolini made a hot speech to the nation in which he said Italy was ready "for any threat of war" and that "our desire for peace and European collaboration is based upon some millions of bayonets."

According to a Rome paper that usually speaks with authority, there will soon be held an Anglo-Franco-Italian conference to discuss the re-arming of Austria, Bulgaria, and Hungary. This has heretofore been opposed by the countries of the little entente, but it is supposed their views have been altered by recent developments.

Even in the United States the sentiment for at least adequate defense has been spurred. The senate and house conferees reached an agreement on the \$400,000,000 War department appropriation bill. The house conferees receded from a proposal to give the President discretionary authority as to the rate of increasing the army's strength to 165,000 men. The senate plan providing that the increase shall begin at once was adopted. The proposed increase, recommended by the War department as necessary to bring the army up to the "least allowable minimum" was the major new provision of the bill but it represented a gain in total appropriations of more than \$70,000,000 above last year.

As a preliminary to this meeting there was an important conference in Paris participated in by Capt. Anthony Eden, British lord privy seal; Fulvio Suvich, Italian under-secretary of foreign affairs; and Foreign Minister Laval of France. Laval sought to stiffen the British attitude toward Hitler, but Eden tried to turn him from his determination not to deal with Germany until the League of Nations has passed on France's protest of German violation of the Versailles treaty. It is understood France proposed to impose severe economic penalties on Germany but that Eden persuaded Laval that such measures should be delayed until they had been debated at the coming meeting of the powers at Como, Italy. This conference was postponed for some days to give Eden time to go to Moscow.

RESTRICTIONS on planting spring wheat have been removed by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, who fears the effect of another widespread drought. The year's first crop report showing that farmers intend to plant 17,847,000 acres of spring wheat is said to be responsible for Wallace's about face. Last year the acreage was 18,521,000 acres. The administration is convinced that the government and farmers have a duty to protect consumers against a wheat shortage, he said. Farmers will plant an additional 900,000 to 2,300,000 acres as a result of the new order, and will harvest between ten and thirty million bushels more, Wallace estimates. Spring wheat normally constitutes about one-fourth of the nation's crop. He denied that the European situation pointing to a possibility of increased sales had anything to do with the new decision. Farmers under contract who plant their full spring wheat acreage will receive full benefit payments, but in return will be required to agree to reduce production in 1936 by the amount asked in next year's contract plus the amount they would have reduced this year. There is no indication that the corn acreage control program for 1935 will be altered.

THE Belcher case, regarded as the government's strongest test of NRA's constitutionality, will be dropped, according to reports from Washington. It will be recalled that

William E. Belcher, Alabama lumber mill owner, was alleged to have paid employees less than the lumber code minimum wage, and to have kept them employed eight hours a week more than the code maximum. Belcher did not deny the charges, but attacked the constitutionality of NRA legislation. He was sustained in a demurrer by Judge William Grubb, whose recent ruling that TVA may not sell power in competition with private utilities gave scant comfort to the administration. The Supreme court's decision in the Belcher case has been regarded as very important since it would go directly to the question of NRA's validity, and would make or break government control of industry.

JAPAN steps out of the League of Nations and flanked by her single avowed ally, Manchukuo, she faces the world as the self-chosen preserver of peace in the Orient. Japan's action is the culmination of a series of events started February 24, 1933, when Yosuke Matsuoka led the entire Japanese delegation in a walkout from the league assembly. Shortly after, Japan gave formal notice of her withdrawal from the league because the assembly had censured Japanese aggression in Manchuria. She has advised other powers that she considers herself guardian of peace in eastern Asia, and that outside assistance is neither desired nor invited. In addition, Japan has embarked on an armament policy marked by denunciation of the Washington naval treaty, demands for naval parity with Great Britain and the United States, and armed forces "sufficient to defend, but inadequate to attack."

HERBERT HOOVER suddenly projected himself into the political picture, and set wagging the tongues of countless politicians and observers. In a letter addressed to the California Republican assembly, meeting in Sacramento, the former President spoke his mind with utmost freedom concerning the doings of the Roosevelt administration whose theories, he asserted, "are no longer a propagandaized millennium; they are self-exposed."

Herbert Hoover

The Republican party, said Mr. Hoover, has today the greatest responsibility that has come to it since the days of Abraham Lincoln—to raise the standard in defense of fundamental American principles; and he called for a rejuvenated and vigorous Republican organization.

Here are some of the things Mr. Hoover said in arraigning the present administration: "The most solemn government obligations have been repudiated. "The nation is faced with the greatest debt ever known to our country. "The currency has been rendered uncertain.

"The government has been centralized under an enormous bureaucracy in Washington. . . small business men have been disabled and crushed. Class conflicts have been created and embittered. "The cost of living is steadily advancing. "More people are dependent upon the government for relief than ever before. "Recovery is still delayed."

Leaders of the regular Republicans in Washington were quick to declare their approval of Mr. Hoover's attack on the New Deal. Most of them scouted the idea that he was tentatively looking toward another nomination, but the general impression was that he was in the way of becoming the leader of his party in fact as well as in name.

CONSIDERABLY mutilated, the administration's \$4,890,000,000 work relief bill finally got through the senate by a vote of 68 to 16, and was returned to the house later, to be adjusted in conference. The senators accepted an amendment by Senator Thomas of Oklahoma for a currency expansion of \$375,000,000 through the issuance of silver certificates at the \$1.29 an ounce monetary value of the treasury's silver stocks instead of the present practice of using the purchase value of the silver. However, it was confidently expected this would be stricken out in the conference. Previously the senate rejected Senator Wheeler's amendment for \$4,000,000,000 of new currency to finance the works program.

Another amendment which was adopted was that offered by McCarran of Nevada requiring senate confirmation of all officials receiving \$5,000 or more who would have charge of expenditure of the fund.

One of the efforts to specify the use of part of the huge work fund was given the approval of the food control committee of the house. It is a bill to earmark \$600,000,000 of the money for food projects in all parts of the country, and under it about 400 projects which have been recommended by army engineers would be started. The committee was told the list of projects called for expenditure of approximately \$100,000,000 in the lower Mississippi river valley and that expenditure of \$181,000,000 would "prevent the devastating floods" in that area.

BY A vote of 392 to 191, the house voted to substitute the Patman currency expansion bill for payment of the soldiers' bonus for the "sound money" plan of Representative Vinson. A bolshoverous bonus thus defied President Roosevelt's warning that he will veto immediate payment of the adjusted compensation certificates. The administration is counting on the senate sustaining the veto.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT is looking ahead to 1936. Authoritative word has reached the Capitol that he wants all controversial administration legislation cleared away at this session, so that congress can meet for a short and harmonious session prior to the 1936 Presidential campaign. Besides the relief bill, Mr. Roosevelt is said to be specially anxious to have congress pass his social security program; utility holding company legislation; a bill continuing NRA for two years; transportation regulation co-ordination; banking legislation; ship subsidy and increase in the capital of the Home Owners Loan corporation. If this can be cleared from the calendar, it may prevent any serious party squabbles that might interfere with plans to bring about Roosevelt's reelection. The White House is much concerned over rumors that congress may scrap a good part of the administration's controversial legislation.

SPRING arrived in the West with a stifling dust storm which shrouded the country from eastern New Mexico to the Great Lakes. Powdered soil whipped up from the drought-scoured prairies hid the sun, and beat relentlessly upon the senses. A dozen deaths were reported, due to suffocations, dust-induced pneumonia and traffic accidents. Freight trains were rolled to sidings, and passenger trains crept along on slow orders. Schools were closed in a number of communities in western states. Wheat prices jumped from 2 to 3 1/2 cents a bushel as winds cut into the dry Southwest, and Governor Landon of Kansas appealed to President Roosevelt for aid.

THE government is ready to sell gold to foreign nations that can offer an attractive proposition. Secretary Morgenthau announces. Recent sales to the Bank of Mexico and to Guatemala, Morgenthau points out, have cleared the way to similar negotiations with other countries, although he emphasized that no other transactions are being considered at this time. No conditions were attached to the transactions already consummated. In the dealings with Mexico virtually all her silver sales have been made to this country. "We've got all the gold we can possibly use," Morgenthau added, indicating that the government would make no further undue efforts to accumulate the metal.

WITH considerable ceremony the Soviet government transferred to Japan full ownership of the Chinese Eastern railway and thus ceased to be an opposing factor in the Japanese occupation of Manchuria. In the official residence of Foreign Minister Koki Hirota in Tokyo the sale agreement and general protocol were signed and the bargain was clinched by the payment by Japan of 23,333,000 yen to the Soviet ambassador.

MUSSOLINI'S answer to the latest note on the Abyssinian situation postpones approval of the proposal that differences be decided by an international commission on conciliations "at least until the fulfillment of direct negotiations has been proved." Il Duce made a counter-proposal suggesting that the Italian minister to Abyssinia and the Ethiopian foreign minister get together for a series of personal conferences, go over all the data, and attempt to settle the dispute without the necessity of conciliation under the direction of the League of Nations. Direct negotiations are said to have the approval of both the French and British.

CLARENCE DARROW, foe of NRA, and author of the famous report which attacked NRA more than a year ago, assailed the administration's economic theories, including the national recovery act, in his testimony before the senate finance committee. The famous lawyer whose sharp speech and fiery courtroom tactics have made him famous, denounced NRA as playing into the hands of big business to the destruction of the "little fellow." He argued that NRA attacked the problem from the wrong angle and that the real trouble lay in faulty distribution, thus assailing the theory of scarcity. Darrow swept aside statements that NRA had helped organized labor, reduced unemployment and abolished child labor, with an assertion that it would have happened anyway. "The panic put an end to child labor," he said. "There wasn't any room for it while fathers and mothers were out of work."

The suffering due to continued concentration of wealth would have gone on anyhow, he said, but added that NRA accelerated it. "I am not an optimist," he added. "I may be an idiot, but not a cheerful idiot."

THE federal tree planting project will get under way in North Dakota on April 15. The project has already been started in other states, but the major development of the program will be centered in North Dakota this year. The state has been assigned a quota of 800,000 trees for a belt 35 miles long. This is only a part of the operations which envisage a 100-mile wide belt of trees extending from near the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico. The work started March 1 in Texas and Oklahoma, and March 15 in Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota projects will be started at the same time as that in North Dakota.

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart
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Washington. — The President has placed Donald R. Richberg, his closest adviser, in the job as head of the National Recovery Administration. Mr. Richberg will be chairman of the National Industrial Recovery board which has now been enlarged to the number of seven, and it is proposed that this group, divided between labor and capital representation, will guide the policies and programs as well as the enforcement of NRA.

It may be that Mr. Richberg's appointment should be given only passing notice. Political appointments in Washington are many and the addition of one more normally would not attract attention. It appears, however, that in this particular instance considerable significance should be attached to the appointment. It will have repercussions in more ways than one.

This brings us to the question of the future NRA. As we all know NRA legislation in the house and senate is encountering rough sailing. There are so many different ideas being put forward about the principle of NRA that thus far it has been exceedingly difficult to reconcile them. Since the present national industrial recovery act expires by limitation of law on June 16, congress faces the necessity of enactment of new legislation or allowing the present law to die and the codes under it to fall apart.

Selection of Mr. Richberg on the basis of these facts then would seem to indicate that Mr. Roosevelt had picked his best soldier to fight the battle; that Mr. Richberg, being eyes and ears for Mr. Roosevelt, would be the individual to guide the President in choice of policy and that his most trusted adviser would be the man to put forward details of the proposed NRA extension legislation. The undercurrent of gossip around Washington, however, indicates something else.

In the first instance, Mr. Richberg is in bad with organized labor, and he has shown no disposition lately to make peace despite the fact that he was for years the representative of railway labor unions. Mr. Richberg it was who clashed with General Johnson and who is regarded, therefore, as indirectly responsible for General Johnson's resignation as national recovery administrator. The new chairman thus goes into his job with threatening clouds on several sides.

It will not be forgotten, either, that such valiant campaigners as Senator Carter Glass and Senator Borah, not to mention the alleged progressive, Senator Nye, are waiting for the NRA legislation in the senate. Mr. Richberg's hide will look to them the same as any other hide. It is just possible, therefore, as some observers have suggested, that Mr. Richberg may have been put out as the lamb on the sacrificial altar.

Indeed, color is lent to this supposition by the fact that Mr. Roosevelt has taken little direct interest in promoting legislation extending the life of NRA. Thus far he has said that he desired to have the extension granted, but he has not turned on the steam as he is equipped, to do, and as he has done for bills that were personal hobbies with him. It is made to appear, therefore, that perhaps there will be a disintegration of NRA as such and that the functions desired by the administration to be retained will be parceled out, some to the federal trade commission, some to the Labor department, and others of lesser consequence scattered elsewhere.

While we are discussing legislation, it may be well to consider what is being done about the program of extending credit to home owners in cities and towns through the machinery of the home loan board. The house has passed a bill which will increase by two billion, eight hundred million dollars the amount of funds available for loans of this type by the Home Owners Loan corporation. This sum was approximately a billion dollars more than the home loan board thought was necessary, but the sight or thought of so much money started the members of the house on something like a riot, so they made ample funds available.

From reports filtering through to Washington, I think there can be no question but what the home loan system has been of help in thousands of cases. Undoubtedly availability of government money in this matter has saved unnumbered home owners from loss of their property where short-sighted mortgage holders have insisted upon undue curtailment or absolute repayment of the borrowed money. Extension of the system probably has resulted also in reduction of general interest rates by private lenders of capital. If they wanted their money to work at all, they had to meet the government competition. Whether the principle of government loans is sound in normal times is another horse. Time alone can tell. The activity of congress, especially in the house, indicates that there is a demand of some kind or other for these loans in preference to private capital and that necessarily must be considered as an influential factor.

As the legislation increasing the lending power of the Home Owners Loan corporation has progressed, however, I have taken occasion to inquire into operations of the corporation which is wholly government owned. From all I can learn it stands out as the finest illustration of what politicians can do in the way of building political machines that I have seen in a score of years in the National Capital. It will be remembered that upon creation of the board former Representative "Seaboard Bill" Stephenson of South Carolina was named chairman. Mr. Stephenson, being more honest about politics than many others, announced unequivocally that appointments were going to be made on a political basis. He created quite a furore and finally found himself sidetracked. For a time we here in Washington have heard little about politics in the home loan system. It has developed, however, that politics was not dead, but sleeping.

The loan corporation in carrying out the idea or policy of decentralization did some very peculiar things, according to well authenticated reports. Actually, I am told, some young men without previous practical experience or training were supplied with copies of the home loan act, given a ticket and ordered to the hinterland to open designated regional offices. Shortly thereafter out of the thousands of employees in the home office of the loan corporation individuals were called into the office of the directing heads and were ordered to go to one or the other of the newly opened establishments. They were told at the same time that their salaries would be reduced. In addition, I am reliably informed, hundreds of them have suffered further salary reductions since they have been on their new jobs.

While all of this has been going on, the corporation set up a board of four members in the headquarters before which remaining employees in the Washington office have been called for examination. This board was announced as for the purpose of determining which of the employees should be retained. They wanted to be fair about it and wanted to keep on the payroll such of the employees as were unable to get along without the jobs they were holding. It seems, however, that that board has become an inquisitorial body absolutely without precedent in the character of examination to which it subjects the employees. The result is that few, if any, of the employees of the loan corporation entertain any belief that they can stay on their jobs with any feeling of safety.

For example, one man's experience is quoted. He was asked whether he had money in the bank, and he had none. He was asked whether any of his people were on the relief rolls, and they were not. Numerous other questions, such as the rate he paid for his board and room and the cost of his laundry were put to him. He then was asked if he carried life insurance, and his answer that he did apparently was wrong. Although he was not told directly, the inference of questions put to him was that he could live two months if he cashed in his life insurance policy. At any rate he was dismissed.

But this is not all. Included in the bill which increases the amount of funds that may be loaned by the corporation is a line of legislation that will have the effect of expanding politics in the organization. Written into that bill are instructions that the corporation shall recall to Washington all of those employees who were dispatched to new jobs in the regional, state or district offices. Of course, no one can say yet authoritatively that when these workers are recalled they will be dismissed here. That, however, obviously is the result.

Senator Gore of Oklahoma placed in the Congressional Record recently a telegram he had received and his reply to it that illustrates better than any recent incident how much courage is required by a national legislator to withstand the pressure from home. The occasion was consideration in the senate of the public works bill. The telegram received by the senator was signed by Joe A. Brown, the mayor of Hartshorne, Okla., and C. B. Lindsay, mayor of Halleysville, Okla. It follows:

"Several thousand Pittsburg county unemployed people assembled in convention demand you support President Roosevelt's four billion dollar relief measure. If you vote against measure, sentiment is, you stay out of this county next senatorial race."

The following is the senator's reply: "This will acknowledge your exceedingly diplomatic and hospitable telegram. It shows how the dove spoils the soul. Your telegram intimates that your votes are for sale. Much as I value votes I am not in the market. I cannot consent to buy votes with the people's money. I owe a debt to the taxpayer as well as the unemployed. I shall discharge both. None but the bully resorts to threats and none but the coward yields to them."

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