

# CURRENT EVENTS IN REVIEW

By Edward W. Pickard

## American Company Given Great Ethiopian Grant

FIVE days before the meeting of the League of Nations council to consider the Italo-Ethiopian quarrel Emperor Haile Selassie took a step that may complicate matters tremendously.



Haile Selassie

The "king of kings" signed and sealed a document turning over to American interests sweeping concessions for the development of oil, mineral and other natural resources in more than half his kingdom. The charter was granted to the African Exploration and Development corporation, and runs for 75 years. It was obtained by F. W. Rickett, an English promoter, representing the corporation, and the transaction was witnessed by Everett Andrews, American financial adviser to the emperor.

The emperor himself said the concession was given to Standard Oil, but officials of Standard Oil of New Jersey and other Standard Oil units flatly declared they had no knowledge of or interest in the grant. The company was incorporated in Delaware by the United States Corporation company of New York.

The governments of Great Britain, France and Italy were much stirred by this development. The British government formally "advised" the emperor to "withhold" the concession, asserting that it considered this a matter for consultations between the English, French and Italian governments. The emperor in an interview declared he did not see why a concession granted to Americans should create international complications or involve the treaty which the three nations signed in 1906. That pact creates "spheres of influence" in Ethiopia but never was recognized by the Ethiopian government.

"As a sovereign state we have the right to do anything we please in our own territory," said Haile Selassie. "The United States is not a party to the 1906 treaty in which England, France and Italy merely pledge themselves to do nothing to encroach on the interests of others. This is one of the reasons I gave the concession to Standard Oil. As the agreement is already signed, sealed, and delivered, I do not see how it can be recalled if such a thing is suggested by the British government."

It would seem that this action by the emperor has forestalled Mussolini's intentions to seize and develop the natural resources of Ethiopia, though Rickett said he felt there was "plenty of room for the duke in the general exploitation of such a hospitable land as Ethiopia without resorting to force of arms." In Rome it was unofficially asserted that the concession would not alter Italy's military program and that for the time she may welcome commercial enterprises of a neutral character undertaken in Ethiopia because the job of exploitation there is so vast and complex.

It was announced in Addis Ababa that the emperor also had granted to British and Egyptian interests a charter for the conservation of the water of Lake Tsana, the source of the Blue Nile—which is of vast importance to Great Britain. It is proposed to build a dam and pumping stations.

## Premier Laval Ready to Jump Either Way

PIERRE LAVAL, French premier, went to Geneva for the league council session with full power to act as he saw fit in the Italo-Ethiopian affair, the cabinet having authorized him to oppose sanctions against Italy if he believed that wise, or to try to persuade the council to regard Mussolini's contemplated invasion of the African empire as a "colonial expedition" rather than a war.

Laval's firm intention was to keep the friendship of both Italy and Great Britain if possible. For a time it was thought that, if he couldn't do this, he would stand with Italy, but later it appeared more likely that if it came to a showdown he would sacrifice Italian friendship for British. Herriot and some other members of the cabinet were reported to be in favor of sanctions.

Dispatches from London said it was rumored that the British government was ready to announce, on the day Mussolini starts war on Ethiopia, that it is no longer interested in maintaining the balance of power in Europe. This would mean it would not interfere if Hitler decided to grab Austria, which would be a terrible blow to the axis. The British admiralty sent its powerful Mediterranean fleet eastward toward the Suez canal and strengthened its garrison at Malta.

Mussolini went ahead with his war preparations, seemingly unconcerned

by all the opposition he has aroused. In the military maneuvers he was conducting near Bolzano live ammunition was used in the artillery firing, and one soldier was killed and two wounded by shell fragments. In a fiery speech to the soldiers, with King Victor Emmanuel standing beside him, the duke shouted:

"The world must know once again that while there is talk so absurd and provocative of penalties (sanctions) we will not give up a single soldier, a single sailor, a single aviator."

All the Italian submarines were assembled off Sicily ready to lay a defensive line across the Mediterranean from that island to Africa, and the Sicilian coast defense batteries were strengthened. The premier already has issued numerous decrees for raising the funds necessary for his adventure and to forestall embargoes.

## Neutrality Act Signed by President Roosevelt

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT signed the congressional resolution of neutrality, announcing that he approved it because it is "intended as an expression of the fixed desire of the people of the United States to avoid any action which might involve us in war."

However, he made plain his objection to the inflexible provisions of the act, saying it was conceivable that situations might arise in which these might have "exactly the opposite effect from that which was intended." The resolution calls upon the President to place an embargo on the export of "arms, munitions and implements of war" to all belligerents in the event of war, and creates a national munitions control board. The application of the arms embargo lasts only until March 1, 1936.

## Huey Long's Dictatorship Due for Investigation

SENATOR HUEY LONG crowed a lot about the success of his one-man filibuster which killed the third deficiency appropriation bill, but he didn't add to his popularity among the people who looked forward for help from the agencies that are now hampered by the failure of the measure.

Besides that, it is now admitted that his filibuster rescued the Democratic house leaders from a tight place in the matter of the cotton and wheat loans. Still further, it appears that Huey's domination of Louisiana is going to be investigated by a congressional committee. That committee probably will be headed by Representative William L. Granfield of Massachusetts, for he was the author of the elections investigation bill, which was found to contain a little "joker." This joker gives the committee such wide powers that it can probe into all the facts concerning Long's complete control of election affairs in his state and the methods by which he has attained to the position of a dictator there.



W. L. Granfield

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## Russia Again Warned About Communist Activities

RUSSIA'S reply in America's protest against the subversive plotting of the Communists in Soviet territory was a rejection and a coldly worded re-assertion of the old and more than dubious position that the Moscow government is not and cannot be held responsible for the doings of the Communist Internationale. This was considered for four days by official Washington and then it was decided to let the matter drop with another and rather milder warning. The new note sent to Moscow said:

"If the Soviet government pursues a policy of permitting activities on its territory involving interference with the internal affairs of the United States, instead of 'preventing' such activities, as its written pledge provides, the friendly and official relations between the two countries cannot but be seriously impaired."

## Mrs. Harold Ickes Killed in Automobile Accident

MRS. ANNA WILMARTH ICKES, wife of Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, was killed when an automobile in which she and three friends were riding was overturned in a ditch at Velarde, N. M. Mrs. Genevieve Forbes Herrick, well-known newspaper writer; Ibrahim Seyfullah, secretary of the Turkish embassy in Washington, and Frank Allen of Gallup, N. M., the driver, were severely injured. Allen died later.

Mrs. Ickes, who for years was deeply interested in the Indians of the Southwest, had been inspecting an Indian settlement at Tucs and was returning to Santa Fe. Before she went to Washington with her husband in 1933 she was a leader in club work in Chicago, and she served three terms in the Illinois legislature. Among the many notable persons who attended the funeral in Winnetka, suburb of Chicago, was Mrs. Roosevelt, wife of the President.

## Norris and Mullen in Row About Power Plants

SENATOR GEORGE NORRIS of Nebraska and Arthur F. Mullen, former Democratic national committeeman for that state, are engaged in a warm dispute that may cause considerable embarrassment for President Roosevelt, friend of both men. Mullen carried to the White House a hot protest against a \$20,000,000 power project which is sponsored by Norris. He is attorney for two \$7,000,000 power plants which already have been approved by the PWA, and he asserts there is no field for the enormous amount of electrical energy that would be developed by the three projects, and probably not enough water for all of them.

The first project approved by PWA was at Columbus, Neb., 80 miles west of Omaha, and situated on the Loupe river. The second was on the Platte river, 150 miles farther west, at Sutherland, Neb. Both were approved in the fall of 1933. In addition to the original grants and loans amounting to \$15,000,000, there was added an allocation of \$2,500,000 later.

In the rivalry between these two projects the same argument about the shortage of water was used, and Mullen was criticized for acting as attorney for both.

## Report That Lindbergh Baby Is Still Living

ATTORNEYS plan to Richard Bruno Hauptmann plan to seek a new trial for the convicted kidnaper and slayer of Col. Charles A. Lindbergh's first-born son on the ground that the child still lives and that they can produce him in court.

The boy, five years and six months old and "the image of the Lindbergh baby," is said to be in custody of a Flushing (L. I.) family, which took him from an orphanage and adopted him.

## Stock Raisers Urge That Tariffs Be Maintained

BECAUSE of the possibility of a continued increase in the importation of live stock and its products, an appeal in the name of more than 200,000 farmers and ranchmen, members and patrons of the National Live Stock Marketing association, was sent to President Roosevelt urging that present tariffs and sanitary restrictions on animals, meats, lard, and similar products be maintained.

In a telegram, signed by Charles A. Eying, president of the co-operative association, the chief executive was told that any concessions in the way of lower tariffs and the removal of embargos preventing diseased foreign animals from entering this country would further cripple the live stock industry, and tend to defeat the recovery program.

## Queen Astrid of Belgium Killed in Auto Crash

BOWED down by deep grief, the Belgian people laid to rest their beloved queen, Astrid, who was killed near Lucerne, Switzerland, when the automobile driven by King Leopold swerved from the road and dashed against a tree. Astrid's skull was crushed and she died almost immediately in the arms of her husband, who was cut painfully by the smashed windshield.

The queen's body, taken back to Brussels, was taken to the cathedral of St. Gudule for the funeral ceremony and then was interred in the royal crypt at Laeken, where lie the remains of the late King Albert. The services were simple, in accord with the character of Astrid and Leopold.

Astrid, a princess of Sweden, became the wife of Leopold in 1926 when he was the duke of Brabant, and the marriage was a genuine love match. She immediately endeared herself to the people of Belgium. Three children were born to her and Leopold.

## King George's Third Son Engaged to Marry

KING GEORGE of Great Britain announced the engagement of the duke of Gloucester, his third son, to Lady Alice Montagu-Douglas-Scott. The duke is thirty-five years old and is the soldier of the royal family. Lady Alice, who is thirty-three, traces her descent from a natural son of Charles II. The date for the wedding has not been set.

With his brother's marriage the forty-one-year-old prince of Wales will be the last bachelor among the king's sons.

## German Catholic Prelates Boldly Defy Herr Hitler

BOLDLY defying Reichsfuehrer Hitler, the three cardinals, 23 archbishops and other prelates of the Catholic church in Germany, issued a pastoral letter, which was read in every church, strongly criticizing the anti-religious policies of the Nazi government and intimidating that the Vatican may enforce an interdict for other nations to break off relations with Germany.

## J. A. Moffett Resigns As Federal Housing Chief

JAMES A. MOFFETT has resigned as federal housing commissioner, carrying out his long-expressed desire to return to private business. He was summoned to Washington that he would be succeeded by Stewart McDonald.



By WILLIAM BRUCKART NATIONAL PRESS BLDG. WASHINGTON, D. C.

Washington.—Through more years than most of us can remember, the U. S. senate has been the object of caustic criticism, jibe and jest because of its rule permitting unlimited debates. Time after time long senate speeches have been the object of editorial attack in one segment or another of American metropolitan newspapers. Its slow, tortoise-like methods have been held up to ridicule in spoken and written word innumerable times, and its procedure remains unchanged.

It was no occasion for surprise, therefore, when a new outburst of criticism of senate rules of procedure was launched upon us immediately after the last session of congress adjourned. Senator Huey P. Long of Louisiana, the self-styled kingfish, broke loose as he has so many times broken loose and effectively tied senate plans in a knot. He did the very thing that has precipitated criticism of the senate through all of the years mentioned above and succeeded in a one-man filibuster in blocking passage of an appropriation bill. Indeed, he was so effective in his job that he brought down on his head the wrath of President Roosevelt and all of the New Dealers who were about to realize culmination of some of their most cherished dreams.

While the Long filibuster probably should be criticized because undoubtedly there was some unfairness about it, the reason it takes on more importance at this time is because it placed so many of the New Dealers in a state of high dudgeon mentally and because it again centered attention upon these same senate rules.

By way of preliminary explanation, I believe it ought to be said that no organized body can operate effectively or orderly without first binding itself to adhere to rules of procedure that will give each an opportunity. These rules, in the case of the senate, are very old. It may be said they are antiquated and obsolete; surely some will take that view of them. But nevertheless those are the rules and the senate has been able for a good many years to produce satisfactory legislative results under them.

I do not propose here to say that they should be revised or that the present rules should be retained. But I do believe that before changes are made and before those who propose changes spread too much ballyhoo, the country should understand some of the reasons which actuate the present urge.

The kingfish spoke for nearly six hours on the closing night of the session. He could not be prevented from speaking after he was once recognized by the presiding officer. He told the senate he was battling for a government loan rate on cotton of 12 cents per pound whereas the administration was proposing to make the rate either nine or ten cents per pound. The senate had placed an amendment on an appropriation bill to carry out the idea of twelve cents a pound and had put up the proposition to the house of representatives which showed no signs of agreeing at all until Mr. Roosevelt took a hand and suggested the compromise of ten cents a pound. All that remained was a formal vote of the senate to put the administration plan into effect. Senator Long decided it should not be and he proceeded to lick the administration single-handedly by continuing his filibuster until the midnight hour when the congress was to adjourn finally.

In blocking the administration compromise, Senator Long also defeated appropriation of something like \$100,000,000 which the administration was going to use in setting up machinery under its so-called security laws, the Guffey bill for regulation of the soft coal industry and the bond created theoretically to settle labor disputes. All of these bills were pressed hard by the administration, if one had not had its antagonists in congress. They were and are strictly New Deal measures. As a result of the Long filibuster none of them can be made fully operative until congress convenes again next January and appropriates the money. So, it can be seen how the pride of the New Deal professors was wounded. It can be seen likewise why they, along with the President, did so much squawking about the Long filibuster. Senator Long was an ideal goat for the situation.

It is not my privilege nor is it within my power to say whether the legislation which Senator Long virtually nullified is so important that five months of delay is the difference between life and death in this country. Indeed, I cannot see any reason for all of the haste that is exemplified by the shouts and the criticisms suddenly brought forth because of that filibuster. The bills which were brought to final passage only a few days before adjournment had been languishing in congress since last January.

Long's experience as a student of financial affairs prompts my conclusion that failure of the \$100,000,000 issue to be fully subscribed does not mean that government bonds are a bad investment. I am inclined to the opinion that the treasury tried to drive down the interest rate too low and that most investors figured they could obtain a better return than that which Mr. Morgenthau offered them. But, after all, there is something of a warning in this circumstance. I believe the warning is that if the Roosevelt administration continues to spend and spend and borrow and borrow, it must pay higher and higher interest rates for the money it borrows. Again, that "ain't so good."

## PENINSULAR WAR RELICS

Workmen have discovered heirlooms believed to have been hidden by Queen Carlotta Joquina of Portugal to save them from looters during the French occupation of Lisbon in the Peninsular War of 1808-14. The men were installing electric lights in the ancient royal palace at Queluz, and found the heirlooms behind a panel in the wall of Queen Carlotta's bedroom.

One of the articles, an exquisitely worked altar crucifix of solid silver, weighs more than ten pounds. There are also six altar candlesticks of silver. All the articles belong to the period of King John V, 1706-1750.

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