

OUR COMIC SECTION

Events in the Lives of Little Men



CRISIS MAY BRING LASTING PEACE

War Scare After Hitler's Occupation of Rhineland Subsides; Locarno Powers Plan New Peace Parley

By WILLIAM C. UTLEY

OUT of the biggest scare in Europe since the World war may come the biggest collective movement for peace since the formation of the League of Nations.

It begins to look as if the powers who were victorious in the war are ready to admit officially that the maintenance of the status quo of 1919 in Europe is not analogous with the maintenance of a permanent peace. It is just not within the bounds of common sense to expect that so virile a nation as Germany could remain forever chained by the terms of treaties designed as a sort of permanent punishment for her aggression in the late war. News of the recent League council meeting in London indicates that the powers signatory to the Locarno pact, especially Great Britain, are ready to talk security on a sounder basis.

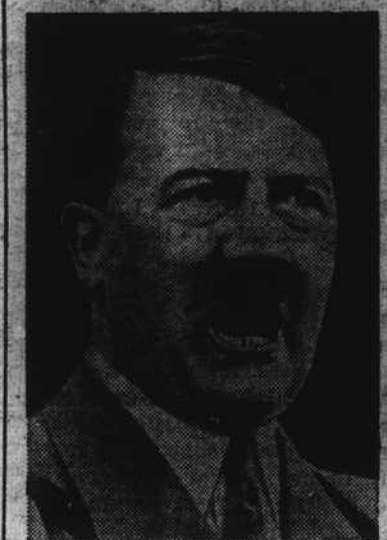
Probably no one really knows how close the French came to dropping a few bombs on Herr Hitler's soldiers who marched into the demilitarized Rhine zone in open defiance of the terms of the Locarno pact. The Reichsfuehrer says there were 30,000 of them, and France claims there were 50,000, but no matter what the true number of them, they very nearly had a great many inelegant dents put in their shiny steel helmets. Europe came dangerously close to breaking out into a great war which, if it ever does come, humanity feels, will virtually wipe out the race.

But the crisis is now over. The

invited to sit in. Whether or not Germany would be included seems to depend upon whether the Rhineland situation is straightened out in a manner satisfactory to the other powers.

In the plan outlined by Eden, Great Britain once more reaffirms her obligation and intention to render mutual assistance to France and Belgium in the case of aggression in violation of the Locarno pact. (The pact guarantees the frontiers of Belgium and France; the guarantors are Great Britain and Italy.) British general staffs, under the treaty, also consult with those of France and Belgium. Italy is not as warm to this trend as is Great Britain, and it is virtually certain that Mussolini will demand certain clarifications of the sanctions sys-

tem before reasserting Italy's obligations under the Locarno treaty. Seek Concessions From Germany. It is planned to deal with Germany in the conferences, if she will agree to several compromises. In the conferences would be discussed organization for collective security, armament limitation, improvement of economic conditions, the creation



ADOLF HITLER

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of a new pact of non-aggression for all Europe and what will be vastly interesting, the redefinition of obligations of nations under the league covenant. She will be asked to agree that the Franco-Soviet treaty be submitted to the World court for review. The court will be asked to give a decision on the validity of Germany's claim that the treaty is a violation of the Locarno pact. The phraseology of Mr. Eden's plan is at least courteous and polite to Hitler. It makes no demands, but simply "invites" him to present his claim before the court. France is said to have agreed to this as an alternative to forcing Hitler to remove his troops from the Rhineland.

France was enormously pleased with the plan, for it gave such unmistakable evidence of the strength of the alliance between France and Great Britain. When Pierre Etienne Flandin, the French minister, announced the proposals in the chamber of deputies he was cheered by four-fifths of the members. British Approval Unanimous. The British parliament was likewise enthusiastic. It responded to Eden's proposals immediately and to a man. Germany was a long time in voicing her sentiments, and as this is



French, Italian and Belgian Representatives Meet at Hasty Conference. Called Following Rhine Re-occupation.

fight did not come, and Frenchmen once more are able to sleep nights, although not comfortably, perhaps.

Hitler Blames France. Hitler, of course, declared that his country was no longer bound by the Locarno pact, in view of the fact that the French had nullified it before him by entering into the mutual assistance agreement with the Soviet.

Joachim von Ribbentrop, as the official representative of the Hitler government, explained the Fuehrer's excuse in a 25-minute speech before the league council in St. James' palace. Three hours later the council, with Ecuador absent and Chile not voting, officially went on record, by an 11 to 2 vote, as regarding Germany a violator of the treaty.

After the council meeting the representatives of Great Britain, France, Belgium and Italy (the Locarno powers) went into a huddle and came out with a plan for security which was publicly announced by Anthony Eden, British foreign secretary, in the house of commons.

Should the plan be accepted by Germany it will bring about a revival of world economic and world disarmament conferences which are not concluded, but are merely out of session for a while.

Decide on Quick Action. The plan falls into three major divisions. The first calls for immediate action on the part of the Locarno signatories no matter what Germany's attitude and behavior. The second part aims at enabling Germany to restore the faith of other nations in her integrity as a keeper of treaties. The third vision beginning new permanent security planning in a series of conferences to start probably in May.

In such a program of conferences new efforts would be made not only to preserve the peace of Europe, but that of the entire world. The meetings would not be content with merely scratching the surface of the security problem by trying to arrange settlement of existing difficulties. They would go back over all the economic and financial troubles which have precipitated most of the recent international crises, and attempt to guard against their recurrence in the future.

These conferences would not be limited to league powers. The United States and Japan would be in-

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New German Motorized Army Crosses Rhine in Direct Violation of the Locarno Treaty.

written, she still had not voiced them officially.

Hitler Defends Policy. Adolf Hitler, in a political speech at Hamburg, said: "Whatever happens we won't withdraw one centimeter from our demands for equality, not because we want to disturb European order, but because a permanent order is possible only on a basis of equality."

"We stand by our great proposals. The world has no right to ask will Germany keep its word. The world has no right to talk of honoring treaties. We can deliver an account for the period since 1919."

Speaking at Cologne, Hitler said: "There is no greater guarantee of the sacredness of a treaty in the whole world than if it is signed by this hand."

"I have re-established harmony among the factions in my country. We want the same to happen to the

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By Osborne
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FINNEY OF THE FORCE

By Ted O'Loughlin
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The Machine Age
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