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LONDON LETTER

By Gregory MacDonald

A sequence of momentous happenings last week may have crowded into the background what was, for British national life, a most significant event. King Edward visited at the Glasgow shipyards the mammoth liner, "Queen Mary," showing his usual knowledge of detail in a tour of the vessel which covered a total walking distance of seven miles. On board ship he more than once lost touch with his entourage and was found talking with engineers and workmen. He also displayed a particular interest in the third class quarters. But the surprise of the Glasgow visit was the King's unprepared visitation of the slums which mark in Glasgow so great a contrast with the luxury liner.

The popular imagination was caught by his visit to the slum home of a blind man. "Who is there," said the blind man when he heard a knock on the door. "It is your King. May I come in?" Courtesy was, however, mingled with observation and realism, for the King told one woman that her rent was slightly high; and he was heard to remark that, bad as the conditions in Glasgow might be, he had seen worse in Durham. The result was that the authorities in Glasgow immediately hastened their plans for sweeping away the slums (which have recently been brought to the public notice by the novel of a slum-dweller, "No Mean City"). Presumably Durham will also benefit. The visit was a significant one. The King called attention to injustices at home which may well be remedied before we go crusading against injustices abroad. He also suggested that social and economic activities will be the mark of the new reign. The Polish broadcaster was right when he titled King Edward "the social worker" at the conclusion of the first royal broadcast.

For the rest, foreign affairs take precedence as usual, but it is ironical now to observe that the tense mid-

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GERMANY'S ACTION ON THE RHINE

By Wickham Steed.

"This is the price France must pay for M. Laval's policy" said a prominent Englishman on Saturday on hearing of the German occupation of the demilitarised Rhineland zone and Herr Hitler's denunciation of the Locarno Treaty. He meant that if M. Laval had firmly supported Britain and the League of Nations last September in seeking to restrain Italian aggression in Abyssinia, the League would have won a great triumph, Fascism would have been discredited, and German Nazism shaken.

It is true that instead of welcoming the tardy British espousal of the principle of collective security, France then obstructed League action, sought to drive a bargain with the British for the future support of collective security against Germany and allowed her press to indulge in violent anti-British propaganda. British public feeling was thus estranged from France more seriously than at any time since the Franco-Belgian occupation of the Ruhr in 1923. The damaging conviction grew up in British minds that France cared little for the principle of collective security against war save when that principle was likely to operate in favour of French security.

The belated French promise to join in withstanding the threatened, Italian attack on British Fleet positions in the Mediterranean did not avail to fill the gap between the French and British viewpoints. Trading on this fact, Herr Hitler multiplied his approaches to British public men and, especially in view of the Franco-Soviet pact, sought British goodwill. Failing to shake the British opinion that the Franco-Soviet Pact was compatible with the Locarno Treaty, disturbed by the British decision to strengthen national defences, and worried by the growing severity of the German economic and financial crisis, Herr Hitler decided upon the spectacular stroke that should arouse the enthusiasms of the German people.

Britons recognise the undeniable skill of Herr Hitler's action. Recognition does not blind them to the gravity of the crisis it has brought about. Nor do Herr Hitler's vociferations of Germany's peaceful intentions or seductive offers to conclude peace pacts with France and Belgium, and return to Geneva alter the awkward truth that the one-sided German repudiation of a treaty originally proposed, freely negotiated and voluntarily signed by the German Government, must cast doubt on the value of Germany's signature to any future international engagement.

The British Government might not did swallow without pulling a wry face Herr Hitler's repudiation of the Disarmament Clauses of the Versailles Treaty nearly a year ago. Last August Mr. Stanley Baldwin and his colleagues even condoned that repudiation by concluding the Anglo-German Naval Agreement which offended France so deeply as to explain in part M. Laval's reluctance to back British advocacy of collective security against Italian aggression. But Herr Hitler's violation and denunciation of Locarno is much harder to swallow. So despite outward composure, British Statesmen are privately pulling a wry faces indeed.

Their embarrassment comes not only from the likelihood that France will propose economic and financial sanctions against Germany. It springs also from Herr Hitler's attacks on Soviet Russia. Though Nazi propagandists in London have been busy trying to persuade the British public to regard Nazi Germany as the strongest bulwark of Western civilisation against the Bolshevik peril, many cool-headed Britons do not believe that Russia is the greatest international danger and suspect Herr Hitler's anti-Russian diatribes are due to his knowledge that the Red Army is now a formidable

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LONDON LETTER

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week situation has been swept away by something more like reality. We shall probably never know whether Mr. Eden's surprise adherence to the oil embargo—deflected by M. Flandin's insistence on an offer of peace—would have been followed up by the full weight of Imperial authority. Abyssinia is now an affair of lesser importance, perhaps even in the eyes of Signor Mussolini. But it can be said that Great Britain at large expected Mr. Eden's firmness as little as France did. It can be said as well that the oil embargo would have been a most perilous policy—not only if it developed into a Mediterranean War, but also if it caused a rush of capital to the United States and an immediate rise in wheat prices. One of the prime factors for this country to remember is that the world's stocks of wheat, which exist principally in Canada and Australia, are the lowest since 1928. In Canada they are the lowest for four years. In the world, outside Canada, they are the lowest for nine years. Any increase in price is a danger for the British industrial market, where wages and cost of production have to be kept low for the sake of competitive export. The oil embargo was, therefore, a most critical proposal.

But Herr Hitler's Reichstag speech drove all that from the popular mind—and in any case the populace has no inkling of the economics of wheat. This London Letter is written before the British Government has formulated any reply to the German action in occupying the Rhineland. All that can be said is that presumably the Cabinet will underline its obligations under the Locarno treaty, while the concerted activities of collective security will be decided at Geneva. The actual news in Saturday's happenings was received with mixed feelings in England. As people read the papers, they remembered 1914. Yet it cannot be denied that many felt an odd sensation of relief: each new political crisis seems somehow to be a nearer approach to reality after years of political unreality. The majority may still regard war as inevitable. They do not regard it as imminent, unless diplomacy is now handled in a provocative and blundering fashion. It may be a correct interpretation of England's present feelings that practically only the *Daily Telegraph* is outright in condemning Herr Hitler. The *Times* regards his stroke as an opportunity for rebuilding Europe. The Left Wing papers, which have been extreme for months past in their demands for collective security, League actions and sanctions, are unanimous now in accepting the *fait accompli* as a move forward towards peace.

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Perhaps this may be accounted a surrender. Herr Hitler's denunciation of Locarno was accompanied by positive proposals, by an acceptance of the territorial clauses of Versailles (excepting Austria) and by observations which appeal to the ordinary man as common sense. By a paradox, the rearmament of Europe went side by side with the moral disarmament of Europe. Not even the German man in the street wants war. But perhaps most important of all, the German action took place just when Moscow and the Left Wing forces were swinging into power all over Western Europe. He has, at least, checked the most dangerous aspect of the Italo-Abyssinian dispute. If the Left Wing papers admit the fact, they have also admitted defeat. That means a severe blow to Moscow's policies. By the same token it may mean the return of M. Laval to power. But the great question, in England and everywhere else, is: "Does Hitler mean it?"

VIENNA

Central Europe's extreme nationalism has brought about a revival in national costumes, Hungary and Croatia having revived their traditional dress and Austria flaunting the national costume of the provinces in town of late. Even King Edward VIII. of England sometimes wore peasant costume during his stay in Austria last year. Leather shorts and white jackets, with the green, brown or red trimming were much favoured by the men at the last Salzburg Festival.

Now the Alt-Wiener Bund has gone a step further and invited a famous artist Ladislav Czettel, to design suitable dress for men and women, the provinces keeping their local costumes but Vienna having its very own. The new designs, based on patterns worn about a century ago, are interesting and becoming.


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Over two million, two hundred thousand zlotys have been collected for the memorial statute of Marshal Piłsudski.

THE ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

The Economic Conference, under the Chairmanship of the Vice-Premier, E. Kwiatkowski, in which over three hundred leading businessmen and officials participated during a three days' session ending March 2, was the greatest economic debate ever held in this country.

This Conference was called by the Government, and met after a long period of preliminary work. The purpose was that the Government wished to exchange views on the most important current problems so as to arrive at some definite conclusions which would be embodied in a comprehensive plan of action. In particular, such a plan would have to consider ways and means of expanding business activity, decreasing unemployment, assuring profit to business enterprise, eliminating State interference with private business, reducing the tax burden, etc.

After hearing key speeches on the first day, the Conference then divided itself into four Commissions: Banking and Finance, Taxation and Public Charges, Foreign and Domestic Trade, Private Initiative and the State.

The last day was taken up in hearing the reports of the various commissions. The Conference closed with the understanding that the Government will prepare a line of action based on the debates and conclusions. What this will result in is yet to be seen. At this time, we shall confine ourselves to surveying briefly the essentials agreed on at the Conference.

The Commission on Banking and Finance concluded that interest rates should be lowered, and that the competition between State and private banks should be eliminated. To this end it was suggested that the interest payable on deposits by State banks, be substantially lower than corresponding rates of private banks, that short term commercial business be left entirely to private banks, and that the State banks be similarly subjected to taxation. It was further recommended that the procedure for the collection of debts be simplified, that an active bond and stock market be encouraged, and that industry and commerce be provided with adequate credit facilities. In so far as the capital market is concerned, it was thought that State controlled financial institutions should invest part of their funds in long term securities, thus improving the standing of this class of investment on the market.

The commission on Taxation and Public Charges concluded that the tax burden must be lightened as it has become unbearable to private business. It was specifically pointed out by the Commission that the following steps should be taken at once, — substantial reductions and exemptions in land

taxes, industrial licenses, turnover tax, exemption of the purchase price of automobiles from the income tax, the lowering of the realty transfer tax, stamp tax, and indirect consumer's taxes. It was recommended that the system of taxes be conditioned by the financial possibilities of the taxpayer, that the activities of municipal bodies be curtailed, and the taxing privileges limited, that the compulsory sickness benefit, retirement, old age, accident and other plans be thoroughly reorganized so as to lower the burden of these insurances on private business.

The Commission on Foreign and Domestic Trade divided itself into two sub-commissions, each to handle one aspect of trade. For foreign trade, it was suggested that domestic raw materials should be protected by tariff, that the importation of needed raw materials should be facilitated through lowering the tariff, that agricultural products intended for export should be standardized to improve their competitive value abroad, and that the various State agencies for promotion of foreign trade should be united.

For domestic trade, a thorough study of national-wide distribution was recommended, and that the eastern sections be granted special rebates in purchasing products from the industrialized western sections.

The Commission on Private Initiative and the State concluded that the Government should leave to the needs of private business the open capital market, that new private investments should be privileged as to taxation, that State enterprises be undertaken, be examined, some liquidated, others curtailed, and that no new enterprises be undertaken by the State and that the remaining State institutions be taxed and operated on the lines of private business. It was not considered economic for the State to rescue weak enterprises, thus hampering the natural economic adjustment in production and commerce. Public works should be well planned in advance, should not drain the capital market, and should have some economic end in view.

These, briefly, are the results of the Economic Conference. We shall wait with impatience for some practical application of these theses. —A. B.

On Monday, March 16, at 6:30 p.m. the Polish American Chamber of Commerce will hold a memorial meeting in honour of Mr. Leopold Kotowski, founder and first president of the Chamber. Mr. August Zaleski, Mr. John C. Cudahy, American Ambassador, and Mr. S. Arct will speak. Immediately following the memorial meeting, the yearly meeting will be held, at the same place, Rynek Starego Miasta 31.



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Two aeroplanes, piloted by students, were pressed into service to drop food supplies on the grounds of the Polytechnic on Tuesday to supplement what was being smuggled past police cordons to 3,500 students, voluntarily occupying the Polytechnic buildings. Several weeks of protest against high tuition fees culminated in this "blockade", and all higher centres of learning in Warsaw were closed. Police surround the buildings, and all streets leading to the Polytechnic Square were closed to traffic. No violence was reported.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1936

Art, Music, Literature

"Blok" Exhibition at the I.P.S. (Królewska 13).

The United Plastic Artists' Bloc was created in March last year. Comprising some former artistic groups such as Lad, the Warsaw School, St. Luke's Brotherhood, etc., and individual craftsmen of all sorts: painters, engravers, designers of fabrics, furniture, and sculptors into one organization with the sole object of promoting art in life, good technique and the continuance of our great artistic tradition. It stands for the development of each artistic individuality without favouring any particular trend and not opposing any existing one. "Blok" has held exhibitions in the province (Łódź) and organized excursions abroad for its members. Lectures and discussions are held at its headquarters, Czackiego 12, Warsaw.

With such praiseworthy, albeit somewhat hazy, notions no wonder their production is extremely varied. The general level is high — as usual in I.P.S. Though there be several beginners among them, they seem to do better than their elders as represented, for instance, by Pruszkowski in a number of good little pictures. We are thus shown Lad's geometrical design fabrics, sculptures of Kelewa, Kary, Kuna, etc., in wood, granite, metal and other material; the Virgin in a hieratic Egyptian style, the metal Artar and the picture of the Christ at the Cross as interesting attempts at treating these subjects in a deliberately modern-primitive fashion (the latter in two predominant colours and

THE COMEDIE FRANCAISE IN WARSAW

On March 5 and 6 the *Teatr Polski* was host to a troupe from the Parisian *Comédie Française*, which, under the auspices of His Excellency The French Ambassador to Poland, M. Leon Noel and of the *Association Française d'Action Artistique*, gave two exhibition performances. On this occasion the Warsaw Theatre public had really its first opportunity to see and appraise the character and the manner of playing produced by the foremost stage in France, as well as by a theatre unique in its kind.

The *Comédie Française* or *The House of Molière* as it is called, is Europe's oldest theatre giving uninter-

roughly hewn shapes); further modelled portraits, animals, "The Deer", bas-relief brass and the engravings: woodcuts, etchings — besides pencil-drawings of heads — of the greatest diversity of interpretation. From O. Chrostowski's intense black-and-white minute ex-libris to Pakulski's very lightly drawn and light-coloured "spacy" autohithographies.

But there are chiefly oilpaintings (or temperas) of very kind. Chołodn's small Brittany landscapes are very attractive in their sober scarcity of detail which only serves to render some well-chosen broad outlines the more suggestive. As to eclecticism, suffice it to say that besides the archaic Flemishwise manner of Podoski's "Nurse" there is the "Child with Flower" of Zielenkiewicz where the shape is drowned in pastel-like applications of paint, beside the "kapist" or Polish neo-impressionist form of Mrs. Sołtan, the very precise decorative illustrations of Rogowska or Roszkowska (women seem to stand foremost in painting as well as in literature in Poland), besides the realistic conceptions of Frydrysiak, the utterly fantastic compositions in yellows of Kubicki's Maidens, Weis's luscious landscapes, trulent with colours the straight horizon lines and quiet silver tones of Arzyżanowska's seas. . . Cybis is there with his pure drawings and smooth tint and the Seydenbeutel brothers exhibit, as usual, samples of their rich and dense workmanship in oils of which their portraits are certainly not the worse. We have Plużański's extraordinarily rendered masses of buildings as well as crowds of people most precisely drawn and shining in varnish, also Poreyko's river picture in a dim twilight of mist. . .

This time again it is, generally speaking, the research of colour that prevails, and noteworthy results are being achieved by our Polish artists in that respect.

rupted performances. It was founded by order of Louis XIV in 1680 to unite the dramatic and comedy troupes scattered all over France after the death of Molière, and to give them the benefit of the royal and state protection that would lead to uplifting their art. From that time the *Comédie Française* has several times changed its quarters in the process of its development until it may now be called a living collection of French theatrical literature. The iron repertory of the *Comédie Française* includes some 150 plays (an undreamable number for other stages) ready for presentation at any moment and appearing periodically on the boards. These form a splendid review of French dramatic literature, from Molière, Corneille, Racine, through Beaumarchais, Musset, Marivaux, Hugo, Sardou, to the contemporary dramatic writers.

From this cursory summary it is clear that the activity of the *Comédie Française* surpasses the scope and possibilities of any other theatre in the world and justly deserves the care and patronage it receives as an especially valuable artistic centre.

THE COMPANY

Naturally, its broad purposes and functions require a special company of players. These are organized in the *Comédie Française* as *sociétaires* or *permanent members*, and *pensionnaires*, the candidates for permanent membership engaged for definite periods of time.

The remuneration of the artists is often less than that obtainable in other theatres, but the opportunities and rôles offered in the *Comédie* are enough to attract many of the greatest actors on the French stage. Broadly speaking they are divided into two groups, comic and dramatic; it is rather the former that performed in the *Teatr Polski*.

THE PLAYS IN WARSAW.

The two evenings of French theatre in Warsaw presented us successively with French poetry and prose by their most typical spokesmen as far as regards comedy.

The first performance was that beautiful subtle play of Alfred de Musset *On ne badine pas avec l'amour* and the simple, sincere, one — act play, *Les Grands Garçons*, of Paul Gervais, the modern French poet.

The second day saw *Le jeu de l'amour et du hasard* of Pierre de Marivaux and *Les Fourberies de Scapin*, one of Molière's last plays combining the clean-cut, well-drawn characters of his latest work with the full-throated humour and simple plot construction of his earliest plays. In a word, the *Comédie Française* in

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M. G.

PRESS REVIEW

The reaction of the Polish press to the sensational coup of Hitler is best illustrated by the comments of "Iskra" which writes:

The significance of the present events is so great that Polish policy must follow the development with the utmost interest. It must do this not because they have brought new elements into Polish-German neighbourly relations, but because it is a question of the fundamental arrangement of political relations in Europe, in view of which the Polish Government, in spite of the reserve of its foreign policy, cannot remain indifferent.

The writer says that Polish policy has always sought for practical and clear solutions in the present times of international complications.

Hence it will not be difficult to fix the line of its conduct which will doubtless be based on defined and publically announced bases, and not on complicated formulas and paragraphs which have brought obscurity in recent years into international life.

The English press is, on the whole, calm as regards the Hitler situation. Its attitude is, more or less, as follows:

The Germans have undoubtedly violated the Versailles Treaty and the Locarno Pact whereby the violation of the latter is worse than violating the former for they have broken with their own voluntarily accepted obligations. Great Britain is bound to go to the help of France. Belgium has decided to cooperate with them in endeavouring to exercise a tranquilizing influence. Great Britain cannot consider the step taken by Germany as an "unprovoked act of aggression" as foreseen in the Locarno resolutions, and will treat the German move merely as a negative step, proving the incapacity of Germany to keep its obligations. Great Britain would like to take advantage of Hitler's proposal as a basis for discussion on the theme of the stabilization of European peace, seeing especially in Germany's readiness to return to the League of Nations a very desirable factor for the re-establishment of this stabilization.

The French press demands an energetic and decided position from its Government. Some of the journals express fear as to the position of Italy and England. *Echo de Paris* finds that

the position of London still remains enigmatic. It is true that there is talk of a favourable change in mood in authoritative English circles, but till now these rumours have not found confirmation.

All the same, the French press warns against too hasty decisions. Saint Brice in the columns of the *Journal* writes that before taking any decision, the propositions made by Chancellor Hitler concerning a non-aggression pact for twenty-five years with France and other states ought to be studied thoroughly before any decision is arrived at.

In Czecho-Slovakia the situation is also watched with the greatest of interest. The *Lidove Noviny*, a journal closely connected with the Foreign Office, writes

As a Czecho-Slovak-French guarantee agreement and a German-Czech arbitration agree-

ment were concluded in connection with the Locarno Pact, the German decision touches Czecho-Slovakia not only on account of the general results in European politics, but also as a direct participant in the Locarno agreements. Therefore the German note and Chancellor Hitler's speech will be specially studied in Prague. The Czecho-Slovak Government will remain in the closest touch with the French Government, and the Governments of the remaining allies.

Kurjer Polski writes that the present European situation, the weakness shown by the League of Nations, dissonances between France and England in connection with the course of African affairs, — all points to

The declaration of Hitler not calling forth in Europe such consequences as could be of direct danger to Germany. It is difficult to foresee at present how the Locarno powers will react to the German gesture, but it is not at all excluded that we are, at this moment, standing before a long series of conferences which, who knows, may end in a new organization of Europe. The news of the somewhat favourable reception by England of Hitler's proposal, seems to confirm this supposition.

The writer concludes that Germany will know how to turn European chaos and disorder into the best advantage for herself, and supposes that the day of March 7 will certainly be again a day of great triumph for the National-Socialist régime.

Polska Zbrojna has an article on the need for the reconstruction of industry in Poland, and for building roads and transport facilities without which there can be no adequate defence of the country.

Machine guns, aeroplanes and cannon are only a small part of modern arming. A no less important factor is the building of a network of roads, efficient and many-sided means of transport, and above all a strong and well organized industry able to produce everything

necessary for the defence of the country, and also an agriculture assuring food sufficiency.

Hence the author concludes that the problem of the industrialization of the country is the centre of the political economy of the State from the point of view of the defence of the country.

Goniec Warszawski writes that the question of finding new funds for strengthening the defence forces takes first place.

The whole community understands this. All admit that Europe is entering on a new chapter in its history, and that only nations which can make the highest efforts will issue from this epoch free and strengthened.

Kurjer Warszawski, referring to the student's strike, considers that, although the form of the manifestation is not happily chosen, it nevertheless shows distinctly that something is not as it should be, —

that this something demands deeper investigation into the difficult situation of the youth — The question of fees in the higher schools awaits re-consideration by the authorities.

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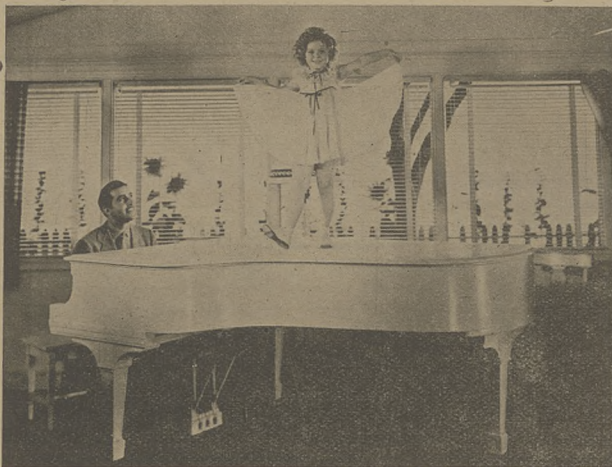
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adv



Shirley Temple, the marvel of the Cinema world, performing a tap dance on a baby's grand. A scene from "Curly Top", at present at the Cinema "Europe", a 20th Century Fox-Film.

THE RHINE

(Continued from page 1, col. 3)

ble military proposition. People in London would like to know more about relations between Berlin and Tokio before taking Herr Hitler's protestations at their face value.

The truth is that Britain, like France, is now presented with a heavy bill for past short-sightedness and mistaken policies. For a decade the signs have been pointing towards the present crisis unless British statesmen would make a resolute stand against war as an institution and link disarmament firmly with the efficient organization of collective security. This was the object of the Geneva Protocol of October 1924. Instead of accepting its principle and amending its defective terms, as Lord Cecil and even Sir Austen Chamberlain desired, the British Conservative Government rejected it wholly — and found itself compelled within a few months to put the Locarno Treaties in its place. The main Locarno Treaty or Rhineland Pact which Herr Hitler now denounces contained — as France may soon discover — too many loopholes to be a very solid guarantee of the demilitarized zone. Besides it bound only Britain, not the Dominions and India, to help the aggrieved party. It made German membership of the League a condition of its validity; and however strong may be the legal argument that multilateral engagements cannot be unilaterally destroyed, the fact is that Locarno presupposed the continued presence of Germany at Geneva. When Herr Hitler left the League, he wrecked this postulate, doubtless deliberately.

As an arrangement for regional security Locarno might have held good if Britain and France had everywhere acted in a spirit of collective security against war. But they did not seek seriously to restrain the Japanese aggression in Manchuria in 1931; they turned down Secretary Stimson's proposals early in 1932 — incidentally fostering Signor Mussolini's belief that the League could not and would not effectively oppose or repress aggression. Having thus undermined international confidence in the League, Britain entered the Disarmament Conference unwilling to subscribe any watertight arrangements for collective security and condemned the Conference itself to futility.

The majority of British people watched this process with deepening resentment. Lord Cecil's peace ballot showed last year how the current was flowing. The Government did not understand its strength despite the enthusiasm aroused by Sir Samuel Hoare's Geneva speech last September — and only guessed what had happened when a wave of national anger drove Hoare from office and nearly

smashed Baldwin last December. The British people are ready to run risks for the outlawry of war. They are ready also to approve the measure of rearmament in the service of collective security, but they are not ready and unwilling to be led by the nose into a warlike predicament which they feel statesmen of vision and courage could have avoided.

The present outlook is unpleasant. As things stand, Signor Mussolini seems the likeliest to profit by Hitler's Locarno escapade. Unless Britain and France should show an improbable firmness, the oil sanction will be shelved indefinitely and the other sanctions weakened. Efforts may be made to patch up a peace with Abyssinia — though it is unadvisable to forget that the Abyssinians still have a word to say. Italy's financial plight remains disastrous. No gain of Abyssinian territory can improve it or add to Italy's weight in Europe. Germany's economic and financial condition is hardly better. The occupation of the demilitarized zone strengthens Hitler without curing the deep-seated German unrest which remains the gravest source of European ills.

What the morrow may bring no man can say. Herr Hitler's argument that, having regained full equality, Germany now wishes to work with other nations for peace rings hollow in untrusting ears. Nevertheless for other reasons than this it may contain some element of truth which it is unwise to overlook. The position of France has been defined logically and forcibly by Premier Sarraut. On the issue of Herr Hitler's action in the Rhineland the French case is unanswerable. On the wider issues of European, and perhaps world peace, an ampler logic seems requisite. This ampler logic Britain may furnish if her Government understands and translates the desires of the British people. A policy of weak compromise might divide the nation from top to bottom. Notwithstanding the estrangement of British feeling from France by M. Laval's conduct, it seems the elementary duty of the British Government now to uphold the sanctity of international engagements freely entered into by Germany and not to condone behaviour that threatens every possibility of confident co-operation between governments. If ever, now is the time to establish a peace front of overwhelming strength in support of the fundamental principles of international good faith and against the pernicious doctrine that might makes right.

I believe this position can still be defended. Failure now to hold it might spell ere long irremediable disaster for the civilised world. If stoutly defended and held, the way may be opened for the frank treatment of legitimate grievances and aspirations in a peaceful atmosphere. But weakness cannot provide the solution.

COMÉDIE FRANÇAISE

(Continued from page 4, col. 3)

these four works succeeded in presenting in compact form the greatest virtues of French comedy writers.

THE STYLE.

These Warsaw performances gave evidence that the actors of the *Comédie Française* have many indisputable values in their playing. The first and greatest is perhaps the splendid purity of their diction and the beauty of their spoken word, — a virtue well worth imitating. The second may be regarded as the extreme attention to the aesthetic side of the characters portrayed, the complete mastery of the art of gesture carried sometimes to such a fine point of harmony with the spoken words as to appear artificial. Under the third we must include the very swift tempo of the action without at the same time losing any of the finesse or crowding out the details; and lastly the wide range of possibilities, the rather pathetic, somewhat declamatory treatment of the poetic works, the naturalness and verve in Molière, and the unaffected simplicity so indispensable in modern plays.

The one defect in the company's playing was the lack of true feeling; this lack was covered up (as well as might be in purely external stage effects) but was still easily recognizable.

THE PLAYERS.

Of the artists, Mlle. Germaine Rouer and Messrs. Denis d'Ines and Jean Weber made the most favourable impressions. Mlle. Germaine Rouer is an actress of great artistic penetration and subtlety, which together with her very pleasing personal appearance makes her perfect for playing the heroine in the plays of Musset and Marivaux. Her work in both her rôles was excellent testimony to her true talent and insight.

Mr. Denis d'Ines showed himself to be a first rate character painter. His discreet comedy and underplaying as *Geronte* in *Les Fourberies de Scapin* give a good indication of what a treat it would be to see him as Harpagon in *L'Avare*. His work as the baron in *On ne badine pas avec l'amour* and as Monsieur Pélissier in *Les Grands Garçons* gave him further opportunity to show his wide range, whether it be in comic or sentimental parts.

Mr. Jean Weber in playing the handsome young hero was able with his all-round abilities to avoid falling into the stereotyped pattern so easy to assume in such roles, and together with Mlle. Germaine Rouer made a very charming love duet in *On ne badine pas avec l'amour* and in *Le jeu de l'amour et du hasard*.

Of our remaining guests M. André

Brunot was especially noteworthy for his abundant natural humour as *Scapin*; and M. Lafon won the audience with his rollicking joviality as Argente in *Les Fourberies de Scapin*. Mlle Jeanne Sully is adapted more to the role of a merry young second-lead than to sentimental or lyric parts so that her best work was as Camille in Marivaux's comedy.

The episodic roles were played by: Meses. Jane Faber and Marcelle Gabarre, Messrs. Pierre Dux, Claude Lehmann, Echourin, M. le Marchand and others.

OUR IMPRESSIONS

The impression left by the artists of the *Comédie Française* was a highly favourable one. Perhaps the style of acting is a bit foreign to us and does not therefore reach as deep as the realistic naturalism of our own artists who strive to live their rôles; it was difficult therefore at times to accept the superficial, emphatic but none the less interesting playing of the Parisians. It is impossible, however not to praise their skill in their particular manner of acting, their high culture, and once more their exquisite diction.

Our French guests were very enthusiastically and heartily received by the Warsaw public, — tickets for both evenings were sold out long in advance, and the packed house did not hold back its expressions of appreciation and good will. Wreaths and flowers were in abundance, and receptions were given for the company both by the French Embassy and the *Society for Cultivating Theatrical Art in Poland*.

Arno

Broadcasting on Poland in America

Under the auspices of the Polish Institute for Collaboration with Foreign Countries, a speech of Mr. Z. Klimpel, former secretary to the Polish Embassy in Washington and at present on the staff of the Polish Institute, has been broadcasted in the United States. In an informal talk Mr. Klimpel gave a general outline of the part played by Poland in the world, emphasizing the fact that Poland is an old country and should not be identified with the nations which have been newly created after the Great War.

This speech served as an introduction to a series of talks intended for the purpose of making Poland better known in the United States.

The Chamber of Commerce has appointed a sub-commission to undertake the formulation of plans for building a permanent sample hall in Warsaw.

MOSCOW

Like that of Lenin and other distinguished citizens of the Soviet, Pavlov's brain will be dissected and preserved. In their Pantheon here, these great brains stand on shelves in bottles duly labelled. Lenin's brain has a larger bottle than the rest and occupies a place of honour. Professor Economo has a similar collection of brains in Vienna, graded according to weight (average male 1367 grammes); generally remarkable persons have heavier brains, Kant's weighing 1650 grammes. The record, however, has been set up by an epileptic idiot, whose brain weighed 2850 grammes, so we may all take heart again.

Pavlov was perhaps the last great "bourgeois"; for him there was no revolution; he went regularly to church and had a governess for his grandchildren, criticised the Government freely and kept all his habits and opinions in his comfortable Leningrad home. All this the Bolsheviks allowed and so measured their esteem incalculably beyond all the help they gave the great man in his work for science.

The Easter vacations will be from April 8 to April 14.

* * *

In connection with the curtailing of transit facilities across Poland, Germany is solving its problem by introducing truck fleets, composed of a tractor and three or four trailers, to transport goods across the corridor. It is said that a special firm has been organized in Berlin to handle this sort of traffic.

* * *

The textile strike in Łódź and vicinity now embraces over one hundred thousand workers. The Chief Labour Inspector is carrying on conversations with representatives of both sides, and it is hoped that the strike will be liquidated shortly.

* * *

A Polish Centre has been established at Oglethorpe University in the United States. A special hall has been set aside to be used as an exhibition room of Polish commercial products, etc.

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PARIS

The Arc de Triomphe celebrates its centenary this year. Though begun in 1806 by Napoleon, who intended it as a monument to the glory of his army, after the battle of Austerlitz, the great Arch was not completed and inaugurated until thirty years later. It cost the State over nine million francs.

It is no wonder that the substructure took four years to complete, for the stonework goes down forty-five feet below the Place de l'Etoile. Above ground, the Arch is 140 feet high.

With his usual impatience, the Emperor demanded that the Arch be ready for his wedding with Marie-Louise, so a provisional structure, the same size as the present monument, was quickly run up. Architects were always disputing over the monument proper and by 1814 it was only three-quarters built. With the restoration of the Bourbons the structure was threatened with demolition, but it was only stripped of its scaffolding, to stand like a Roman ruin until, in 1823, Louis XVIII decided to have it completed. More architects and more quarrels ensued and at last a new man finished the job at high pressure on the accession of Louis-Philippe.

The four sides of the monument are covered with fine alto-reliefs, the finest being that facing

North, by Rude, symbolising the "Départ" of 1792. The other large groups signify the Triumph of 1810, by Cortot (South), Resistance and Peace, by Etex. The figures in the great frieze running round the top, over six feet high, represent the departure and return of the French armies and beneath the arches are inscribed the names of the generals present at the various battles, those killed on the field being underlined.

The handsome Arch has suffered badly at different periods of its existence at the hands of friend and foe alike, notably perhaps at the fall of the Second Empire, while the Commune raged in the City; it was calculated that for three weeks ninety shells were fired at it daily. With the restoration of law and order the Arc de Triomphe had to be completely restored.

To reach the summit of the Arc 273 steps have to be climbed.

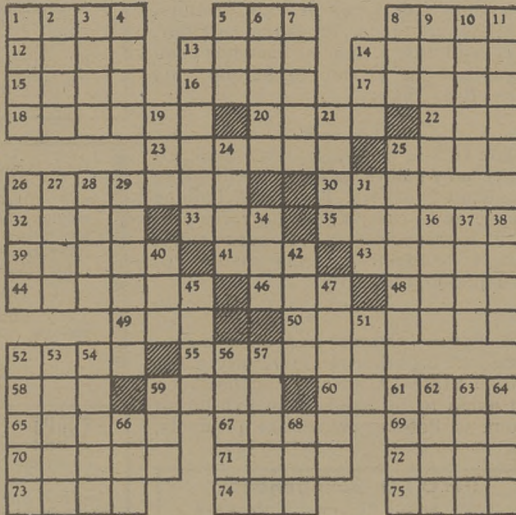
* * *

As reported last week, a certain Gerini had been arrested, and he had stated that was a deserter from the Italian Army in Abyssinia. Closer investigation, however, has disclosed that he is one Franciszek Gaebauer, and a Czech by nationality. He is being detained while further investigations are being made.

CROSS WORD PUZZLE

HORIZONTAL

1—A minor under court protection, 5—Taxi, 7—Sharp, sibilant sound, 12—Genus of maples, 13—The moon goddess, 14—Restore, 15—Set of three, 16—Kind of lily, 17—Relative, 18—Peg used in a game of bowls, 20—Roster, 32—Mexican rubber tree, 23—To yield a point, 25—Formerly, 26—Imaginary monster, 30—Addition to a house, 32—Mechanical repetition, 33—Mister, 35—Viewed through a keyhole, 39—Correct, 41—Policeman (coll.), 43—Convex molding, 44—Fatal, 46—To pay court, 48—Gaelic, 49—Japanese sash, 50—A fore-and-aft sail, 52—Leading player, 55—Muster roll, 58—Sunburn, 59—Solemn declaration, 60—Stinging herb, 65—Malicious burning, 67—Lay hold of, 69—Operatic air, 70—Confer, 71—Mahometan chieftain, 72—Batters, 73—Southern wildcat, 74—Color, 75—Trivial quarrel.



VERTICAL

1—Electrical unit of power, 2—Land measure, 3—Bridle strap, 4—Let fall, 5—No-account dog, 6—Old womanish, 7—Area drained by a river, 8—Domestic fowl, 9—Contract, as a debt, 10—Barter, 11—Sugary, 13 Transatlantic steamers 14—

Groove, 19—Anger, 21—Stair, Poker term, 51—Exist, 52—The 24—Pertaining to a layman, theatrical profession, 53—Linen, 25—Odd number, 26—Stuff, ger, 54—Earliest converts to 27—The genus mankinde 28—Islam, 56—Aquatic mammal, Roman road, 29—Wise counselor, 31—Constellation, 34—57—Disgrace, 59—Canadian 33—Noisy quarrel, 36—Kind of 61—Old sailors, 62—Snare, 63—meat, 37—Otherwise, 38—Performer, 40—Small lump, 42—66—Indian of Tierra del Fuego, 41—Italian money, 47—68—Young goat.

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"Captain Blood"
American Production

BALTYK

"Break of Hearts," Katherine Herburn
American Production

CAPITOL

"Dodek na froncie," Adolf Dymasz
Polish Production

CASINO

"Modern Times," Charlie Chaplin
American Production

EUROPA

"Curly Top," Shirley Temple
American Production

FILHARMONJA

"Mazur," Pola Negri

MAJESTIC

"Chu Ching Chow," Anna May Wong
American Production

P A N

"Pan Twardowski"
Barszczewska, Brodiewicz
Polish production.

RIALTO

"La Maternelle"
French Production

STYLOWY

"Private Lives" Norma Shearer, Robert Montgomery
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