Weekly News Analysis

European Crisis 'Postponed'; Delay May Be Fatal to Axis

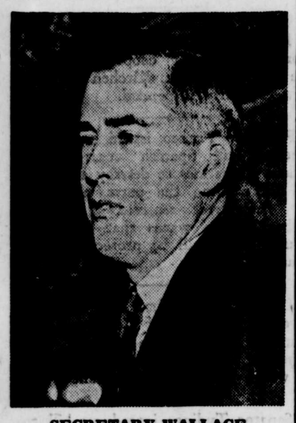
By Joseph W. La Bine

EDITOR'S NOTE—*When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst, and not necessarily of the newspaper.*

Domestic

In 1787 the constitutional convention wiped out trade barriers between states. Since then financially pressed commonwealths have sought to protect their own tradesmen and taxpayers from competition with non-residents by licensing, inspection, labeling and a host of similar regulations. By 1939 the barriers have grown so high that Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace claims it causes an incalculable economic loss to the nation. Forwarding a report by the bureau of agricultural economics, Secretary Wallace made these charges:

(1) New York city's inspection requirements bar milk and cream



SECRETARY WALLACE
He would hurdle the barriers.

from points west of the New York and Pennsylvania state lines, thereby raising prices on the metropolitan market.

(2) Trucking "wars" thrive in Arizona, Kansas, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Colorado, Georgia, Missouri, Maine and South Dakota, where restrictions are imposed against trucks from neighboring states.

(3) Many states virtually bar produce of other states by establishing unique trading, labeling and packaging regulations, quarantines, embargoes and "a bewildering maze of . . . other impositions."

Though the administration has thus far left remedial action up to states themselves, there is little reason to hope that 48 individual legislatures can work out a nation-wide system, or labor hand-in-hand to solve a problem in which each has a selfish interest. But federal intervention is broadly hinted in the Wallace report, one phase to cover interstate commerce of motor vehicles. The proposed plan: A vehicle properly registered in its home state and with the interstate commerce commission would be exempt from further registration.

Europe

The Ides of March brought disaster for Julius Caesar. The same Ides were scheduled by European observers to bring 1939 disaster to England and France via (1) conclusion of the Spanish war, (2) Italian territorial demands against France, and (3) a subsequent impasse in which London and Paris could choose between appeasing the Rome-Berlin axis or going to war.

The two major hitches in this schedule came in Spain, where Loyalists did not capitulate as expected following the surrender of Barcelona, and in the Vatican, where Pope Pius XI died. Obviously Italy could not free her hands for demands against France until she could withdraw troops from Rebel Spain. The pontiff's death brought a respectful pause in diplomatic warfare, coupled with international conjecture over the choice of his successor.

Whether the axis ever had a "plan" for March is questionable, but certainly the natural course of events would have brought a crisis. Today's most moot question in Europe is whether the unforeseen delay may not weaken the Rome-Berlin position. Speeding rearmament, forcing Germany into world trade submission, pledging aid to France, Great Britain has emerged a much stronger power the last 30 days.

One idea of the crisis-to-come has been offered by Journal Des Debats, conservative Paris newspaper. The alleged plan, which Berlin described as "ridiculous and laughable": Fascist states (Germany, Italy and Japan) would diffuse trouble for democracies throughout the world, part of that campaign being Tokyo's recent seizure of Hainan island in defiance of France. Other troubles would include Italy's Mediterranean demands and agitation against Britain in already troublesome Palestine and Syria. This done, and mobilization completed, Adolf Hitler would make a "great speech" setting forth ultimatums, shocking the world next day by making "territorial security" marches into Holland and Switzerland. This done, London and Paris would be given their choice of capitulating or watching Holland and Switzerland remain under Nazi domination.

Housing

Despite federal stimulus, home building has remained at low ebb since 1929, providing a good index of the times. In 1937 a hinted uptrend was cut short by rising material costs and labor troubles. But by the current spring U. S. housing has reached such deplorable shape that renewed building activity is inevitable.

Some idea of the industry's expectations has been voiced by L. Seth Schnitman, consulting economist and member of the army industrial college, who predicts the greatest residential building volume since 1929. Activity for the first three months of this year is 75 per cent greater than during the comparable period last year, representing total expenditures of $325,000,000.

Housing experts agree the initial stimulus was given by New York's Bowery savings bank, which recently cut about one-seventh in the interest rate for mortgage money on Federal Housing administration insured home mortgages. Picked up by other New York banks, then spreading westward across the country, the plan has given impetus to investment building operations.

England

From mid-May to mid-June, Great Britain's King George and Queen Elizabeth will be guests of the North American continent on a junket which most good Americans regard as a simple, friendly gesture. But as travel time approaches, the royal expedition is meeting with far more distracting bogeymen than Toronto's Dionne quintuplets, which are being shipped 180 miles under protest to curtsy before their queen.

From June 8 to 11 the royal party will visit the U. S. Because the entire journey was planned last winter in the heat of international chatter about "democratic solidarity," more than one anti-Chamberlain writer has tried to place the prime minister in a difficult position. A sample, by one Peter Howard in Lord Beaverbrook's Daily Express: "Now the royal visit puts Chamberlain himself on trial. If it succeeds Chamberlain goes up. If it fails he goes down."

What Englishmen mean by "success" or "failure" of the American visit was finally brought into fairly close focus, but it still remained a doubtful quantity. Probable meaning: The visit will "fail" if U. S. citizens get the impression that King George and Queen Elizabeth are making a begging expedition to gain American aid in pulling England's chestnuts out of the European fires.

Defense

Six thousand airplanes would effectively darken the sky. Nose to nose, they would reach 45 miles; wing to wing, 52 miles. To build and maintain 6,000 planes, plus personnel and equipment, would cost about $300,000,000. Authorization for such a U. S. army air force has already passed through congress and the appropriation will follow close on its heels. This done, American aviation will be in good shape. But even today both army and navy boast new accomplishments:

Army. Principal delight of Maj. Gen. H. H. Arnold, chief of the army air corps, is the five-man, twin-engined, high speed "Airacuda," designed by 34-year-old Robert J. Woods after he "consolidated" the ideas of 500 army experts and 45 civilian engineers, draftsmen and engineers. Features of the Airacuda: Tremendous cruising range, two anti-aircraft cannon, four machine guns and aerial bombs which explode like anti-aircraft shells when dropped near enemy planes. General Arnold's opinion: "It's the most striking example of airplane development of the past year, anywhere in the world.

Navy. In choppy Carribean seas some 600 navy planes—one-third the entire force — recently provided "eyes" for U. S. battlewagons solving Fleet Problem XX. One spectator, President Roosevelt, watched the conduct of these planes and reportedly asserted the U. S. had naval air forces as good or better than any other. Said Adm. William D. Leahy, chief of naval operations: "The performance was the best I ever saw. They carried out their mission without an accident."

Congress

Most Americans do not realize that the bulk of New Deal reform measures have been adopted in one form or another. But practically everyone realizes the cost of reform has been tremendous, that the public debt now stands at $40,000,000,000, that the treasury has a current deficit of $2,200,000,000. With reform achieved, President Roosevelt is willing to join conservatives in two mutually desired ambitions, balancing the budget and helping business get back on its feet.

Chief arguments concern the method. New Dealers, whose program is voiced by Secretary of Commerce Harry Hopkins, would remove oppressive taxes and hope that the resultant boom would swell federal coffers, balancing the budget without eliminating "necessary" activities. Most businessmen and many congressmen would take an additional step—economy.

Total 1939-40 budget estimates are $8,995,000,000, creating a new $3,326,000,000 deficit and zooming the public debt smack against its legal debt limit of $45,000,000,000—unless congress raises the limit. Far from willing to raise it, or even to approve the new budget, congressional Republicans have found strong support in rebellious Democrats. Their spokesman is Mississippi's Sen. Pat Harrison, who came out for a flat 10 per cent budget cut and a warning: "The country's credit is good and I don't think we have reached the debt danger point, but the stop-look-and-listen sign is up . . . A lot of this emergency stuff could be cut, and I'm in favor of cutting."

Senator Harrison has already found support in two studies:

Brookings. Surveying the new governmental reorganization bill (to consolidate and abolish executive agencies for the sake of economy and efficiency), Washington's thorough-searching Brookings institution claimed it was ill-conceived, that no economies would result. Of 132 agencies listed for reorganization, only 54 require legislative authority, and no legislation is necessary unless congress wants to "give the President authority to make laws by executive order." Suggestions: (1) Prune all present activities "rigorously;" (2) develop a "more consistent" program.

National Economy League. Reason for this survey was that "before lasting recovery and increased employment can be a reality . . . all

SENATOR HARRISON
Time to stop-look-and-listen?

doubts about national credit must be removed. The plan: Reduce next year's deficit from $3,000,000,000 to $500,000,000. Comparative budgets (000,000 omitted):

Expenditure	President's Budget	League Budget	Saving
Relief	$2,040	$1,400	$640
Public works	1,131	700	431
Social security	928	928	....
AAA	694	500	194
Defense	1,320	1,320	....
Interest	1,050	1,025	25
Veterans	539	539	....
All other	1,293	875	418
Total	$8,995	$7,287	$1,708
Receipts	5,669	* 6,142	....
Net deficit	3,326	1,145	....

*Assiumes business improvement from pared budget.

So potent are economy's new friends that the administration may well find its cautious business-wooing program a boomerang. Wading half way across the pond of conciliation when opinion favored a complete passage, Mr. Roosevelt has been left behind and confronted with charges of insincerity because Harry Hopkins—the man who started his program—would need business' support to win the 1940 nomination.

Briefly

Opposed, double movie features, by the National Motion Picture Research Council.

Scheduled, to start May 12, non-stop pickup and delivery airmail service in 55 Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia and Ohio towns.

Predicted, for elevation to the college of cardinals, Msgr. Stephen J. Donahue, administrator of the archdiocese of New York.

Won, by India's Mahatma Gandhi, a major political victory by his four-day "fast unto death."

Reversed, by Nazi Germany, an earlier order curtailing Jewish participation in business, necessitated by labor shortage.

Headliners

MARSHAL HENRI PETAIN

The "hero of Verdun" emerges from retirement to serve France in another crisis. Now 82, Marshal Henri Petain has been named ambassador to newly reorganized Insurgent Spain in an obvious gesture to win Gen. Francisco Franco's friendship by emotional appeal. Many years ago, as instructor in the French war college, Marshal Petain instructed Spain's new iron man, himself a famous Twentieth century militarist. Later, in 1925-26, Marshal Petain joined forces with Franco in leading the expedition that defeated Abd El Krim, Riff leader in Morocco. Petain also went to Madrid and negotiated an agreement with the governor of Premier Prima de Rivera.

M. Petain

Stop Asking 'What's New'?, Answer Is Too Obvious!

Rubber Glass and Rustless Iron Centuries Old; Jewish Swastika.

CLEVELAND. — King Solomon was right. Everything new is old stuff, is the conclusion of Bill McKenzie, most avid research worker in the public library, who slammed shut the covers of a book, "So You Think It's New," and began citing examples:

The flapper of not so many years back didn't start the vogue for painted fingernails. The real pioneers in that field were Cleopatra and Aspasia, girl friend of Pericles. As a matter of fact, a husband 2,300 years ago raised ned with his wife because she used cosmetics so extravagantly.

Whoever it is that gets credit for scolding girls for powdering their noses in public, is just an interloper. Ovid said many centuries ago: "A statue is never shown until it is finished."

Beauty Parlors Old, Too.

The modern beauty parlor, where women go regularly to have eyebrows plucked, their bodies smothered in mud and their hair waved, is just an outgrowth of the ancient Egyptian days. The Egyptian beauties went through the same performances—all for beauty—and they wore high heels, too.

The fellow who boasts that the glass in his car is shatter proof doesn't know what he's missing. Nineteen hundred years ago, man made glass that actually was unbreakable. The secret has been lost, so we'll have to be content with the nonshatterable material.

Garden tools, or the parts of an automobile, or most anything metal will rust in time, unless you take meticulous care of it. But 30 centuries ago the citizens near Delhi, India, didn't worry a bit about the Kutob column, made of 17 tons of iron. There still isn't a fleck of rust on it.

Early Swastika Emblem.

Fuehrer Adolf Hitler's swastika, emblematic of Nordic supremacy, was found on the fired clay of the early period from Greenland to the southernmost tip of the Americas. The ironic point in this discovery is that it appeared on pottery of ancient Hebrews.

Kidnaping generally is regarded as largely American. But that's not altogether true. Julius Caesar was kidnaped at the age of 35 and held for $40,000 ransom.

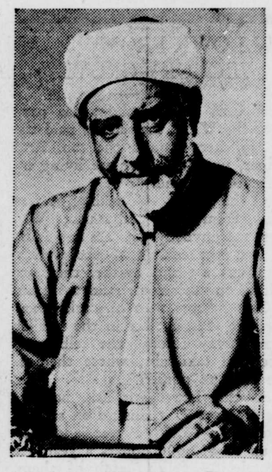
As for the first gossip columnist—a Greek chronicler in 720 B. C. reported the choice tidbit that a runner named Orsippus ran so hard in a race that he lost his loin cloth, but finished, anyway.

Hot dog stands are old stuff. They originated 1,900 years ago.

Elevators and organs certainly aren't new, either. Emperor Nero, who watched Rome burn and whiled away the moments with his fiddle, had an elevator 120 feet high and a self-playing organ operated by compressed air.

About the only thing that modern invention can claim as its own is the mechanical rabbit used at dog races. But the rabbit's inventor can't claim the original idea. The Romans had rat races and used a piece of sausage as bait for the rodents.

RELIGIOUS RULER



Sheikh El Maraghi, rector of El Azhar university in Cairo and religious head of 240,000,000 Moslems, will officiate at the coming wedding of Princess Fawzia, eldest sister of King Farouk of Egypt and the Crown Prince of Persia. He also performed King Farouk's wedding ceremony.

Diminutive Lizard Fatal To Black Widow Spider

SAN DIEGO.—In the San Diego alligator lizard, harmless but ferocious-looking reptile, zoologists of the University of California at last believe they have found a means of exterminating the dreaded black widow spider whose bite results in illness and sometimes death.

The diminutive lizard, which rarely attains a size in excess of 10 inches, is a deadly enemy of the black widow and has a big appetite for the poisonous spider and its eggs.

Experiments conducted by Raymond B. Cowles, University of California zoologist, indicate that introduction of the tiny lizards in numbers would be a means of controlling the menace of the black widow.

Cowles said the lizards had been turned loose in areas affected with the hour-glass spiders and that in a short time the poisonous insects disappeared.

CONTENTED CAT

Disdaining usual methods of transportation, this three-year-old cat often accompanies its master for short rides through London streets perched on the back of a bicycle.

Little Mite, Lost in Tall Grass, Is Captured by Black Pussy

By THORNTON BURGESS

The world is so large and I am so small I should never, no never, have left home at all.

THE time when little Mite should have thought of that was before he started. It was too late now. He had left home and the worst of it was he hadn't the least idea in the world how to get back there again. He had just had a terrible adventure, and he felt that it was a wonder that he was alive. He had climbed a tall mullein stalk so as to get a view of the Great World. The first thing he had discovered

The paw pressed him down to the ground, for you know, he was very little.

was that close beside him was a terrible great creature. He had almost fallen from fright, but had managed to hang on. A minute later something had hit him a terrible blow and knocked him way over in the tall grass. Though little Mite didn't know it, he had simply been hit by the tail of Bossy the Cow, who was none other than the terrible creature he had seen.

As little Mite lay in the tall grass trying to get his breath he wondered if ever before a Meadow Mouse had had such a terrible adventure. He blipked back the tears and struggled to his feet as soon as he could. His one thought was to get as far away from Bossy the Cow as he possibly could. Now, his father, Danny Meadow Mouse, would have known that there was nothing at all to fear from Bossy the Cow so long as he didn't allow her to accidentally step on him, but little Mite, who thought himself so smart and yet who knew so little of the Great World, was sure that she was looking for him to eat him alive.

Now, where he had fallen there was no nice little path, and he had to work his way through the thick growing grass stems. It was hard work, and it made him very tired. At last when he was almost in despair he came out on what he thought must be a great highroad. It was like the private little Meadow Mouse paths along which he had run away from home that morning, only it was ever and ever so much bigger and the grass didn't meet over it. It was the Lone Little Path that comes down from the Green Forest across the Green Meadows to the Smiling Pool, but, of course, Mite didn't know that. He gave a great sigh of relief. You see, it seemed so good to be where he could see something. And still he was a wee bit fearful. Never in all his life had he been right out in the open so. He would run out and then scamper back to the safety of the tall grass. Then he would do it again. Nothing happened, and so after a little he grew less and less afraid.

"Pooh!" said he at last. "There is nothing to be afraid of. How silly of my father and mother to insist that we should always be under something. It is much pleasanter out here."

With that he marched along up the Lone Little Path quite as if he owned it. He felt very important, and by this time had quite forgotten his terrible fright from Bossy the Cow.

"I'm all ready for another adventure," said he.

Hardly were the words out of his mouth when something quite knocked the breath out of him. When at last he could understand anything he found that he was pinned down by a great paw armed with dreadful claws. None of the claws touched him, but they were ready to if need be. Looking up, little Mite saw two fierce, cruel, yellow eyes glaring down at him out of a coal-black face. He remembered right away what Danny Meadow Mouse had told him about Black Pussy, and he guessed who had caught him. The paw, pressing him down to the ground hurt, for, you know, he was very little. He squeaked with pain. Poor little Mite! he hadn't one hope left. This, then, was to be the end of his adventures in the Great World. Poor little Mite!

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Beautiful Words

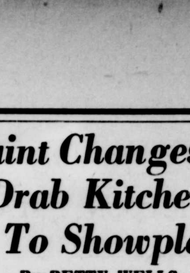
The words which Sir Walter Scott puts in the mouth of Jeannie Deans, in her memorable address to the queen, are true as they are beautiful: "When the hour of trouble comes, and seldom may it visit your leddyship—and when the hour of death comes, that comes to high and low—lang and late may it be yours. O my leddy!—It is not what we have done for ourselves, but what we think on most pleasantly."

Paint Changes Drab Kitchen To Showplace

By BETTY WELLS

Lillian J. took a notion to do her kitchen over. And before I knew she was really serious about it, she called me up and invited me to come over and have a look-see. I didn't need a second invitation—because I'm always eager to add interesting kitchens to my "collection."

If I'd had a blue ribbon, I'd have certainly pinned it on Lillian's masterpiece! In the first place, it seems so much more friendly than most modern kitchens, yet it's not sacrificed any of the modern conveniences. The walls are painted pale green and she gave the old linoleum a coat of deeper green paint—then several coats of floor varnish. The curtains are crisp and white, then across the top she lured her husband to make a scalloped valance of plyboard. This she painted orange, then stenciled peasant motifs on it. A useful but forlorn looking old chest of drawers she painted spanking white with



A painted cupboard for a kitchen.

peasant motifs to outline the drawers, then got friend husband to build shelves above it which she painted white with accents of orange. On these shelves she keeps her everyday dishes, bright pottery and some odd pieces of copper. Even her stove and refrigerator got peasant motifs painted on their gleaming white fronts. The chairs are white with orange seat pads.

But here is the crowning touch. Tillian has put in a "plate rail" all around the kitchen walls and attached a ruffle of orange cotton to it. On this she has an assortment of old-fashioned kitchen utensils as well as any unusual foreign utensils she can lay her hands on. There's an old coffee mill, for instance, and an iron waffle griddle, not to mention some bright enamel trays that a missionary-friend in Korea sent.

So now you may depend on it, Lillian's kitchen is one of the showplaces of the house. Yet it's as up-to-the-minute in equipment as anybody's—she even has an electric dish washer.

© By Betty Wells.—WNU Service.

Sisters Answer 20 Million Phone Calls

WILTON, CONN.—Two sisters, Grace and Gertrude Worthington, estimated they have answered more than 20,000,000 telephone calls during the 92 combined years they have been operators at the Wilton telephone exchange.

Grace has worked 47 years for the company and Gertrude 45, which is believed a record in the country.

Good Old Days Were Never Like This

The Pony Express was just as thrilling, but not quite as fast, according to James Donnelly, an old Indian fighter and a scout in the days of the early west, as he sat at the controls of a modern transport plane in Miami. Donnelly greatly enjoyed his first ride.

CANADA SHIPS GRAIN CROPS THROUGH WESTERN PORTS

WINNIPEG.—A survey of figures characteristic of this year's routing of western Canadian grain crops reveals that the Port of St. John, New Brunswick, and to a lesser extent Fort William have been the chief sufferers in this year's vastly increased movement of overseas grain through West Coast ports—Vancouver and New Westminster.

Reason advanced for the flow of grain to the West are many and varied. Grain experts point out that high rail rates to unfrozen ports in the East close late movements as before. Other factors, however, such as an increased market in the Orient and more favorably located stores—in regard to this winter's market—have netted the western ports a vast increase.

Although experts are careful to point out that comparative shipping figures between this winter and last do not give the full picture of the change in routing of grain, they nevertheless are clear indications.

The main argument against comparative figures between the last two western Canadian crops is that the 1938-39 yield was a normal crop —whereas the 1937-38 crop was not.

However, figures released by the board of grain commissioners at Winnipeg give at least a partial indication of why eastern shippers are becoming alarmed by the trend.

Officials point out that re-routing of the 1938-39 bumper crop to the West coast caused shipments to St. John to drop more than 400,000 bushels during one week in January, compared to the corresponding period last year. Other eastern Canadian ports, however, such as Montreal, Sorel, Three Rivers, maintained shipments considerably above identical periods in 1937-38.

Ancient Instruments on Display at Ohio Academy

Two hundred years ago in front of the pagoda of Ye, in the temple on Mount Quen Chen Chang in China hung a metal gong which today is part of the collection of antique musical instruments on display at the Western Reserve academy department of music at Hudson, Ohio.

The gong lay there unidentified until recently, when Tien Wei Yang came from Tientsin, China, to study at the academy and read the Chinese inscription on the metal drum that used to summon Buddhist monks to devotions.

Yang also inspected the characters on a small, colorful, hour glass-shaped drum in the collection and declared them not of Chinese origin, although this odd piece is oriental.

The collection also includes a teakwood oriental lute of "pipa" and a banjolike instrument which, because of its beautiful, finely inlaid sound box, is believed to be Persian.

Flies Said to Hate Blue

Flies hate blue, according to a writer in a paint publication describing the blue-tinted walls encountered in many French hospitals. Physicians and architects agree that flies have a marked distaste for blue. Talks with others who have tried the same thing all seem to confirm this queer fact and to indicate that it is the color and nothing in the chemical composition of the paint that scares the insects away. Colors used mainly have been light.

New Device Speeds Up Making of Cotton Cloth

SCHENECTADY.—The manufacture of cotton cloth at speeds faster than the eye can follow is forecast with a new adaptation of the "electric eye."

A photoelectric cell mechanism developed by General Electric engineers to detect flaws in cloth manufacture is said to permit finishing speeds as high as 140 yards per second—100 yards faster than with manual inspection.

The device is designed to locate misaligned threads, start motors of machinery to correct the flaws, and retest the finished product.

Engineers explained that it is necessary to realign threads which have gone askew, especially when cloth is to be printed, to prevent distortion of the design.

The cell's designers believed the new device also may be adjusted to other materials to speed production.

Babe, Hollywood Feline, Guards Valued Props

HOLLYWOOD.—A million-dollar cat, guardian of Hollywood treasures—that's Babe, an ordinary alley cat with not one blue ribbon to her name. Babe is one of the valued assets of Paramount, which includes millions of dollars worth of buildings and equipment.

It is this equipment that involves Babe, for she is the sole fighter against the mice and rats that attack the materials stored in property bins.

"If it wasn't for Babe, rodents would ruin the props in no time," declared Jud Weatherwax, custodian of the bins and Babe's caretaker. He thinks so much of Babe that he feeds her Grade A milk and once a week a small jar of caviar. Nothing is too good for her. And Babe shows her appreciation.

"Babe's on the job all the time, and everybody around here knows how much she's worth," says Weatherwax.