Weekly News Analysis

Europe Watches Tiny Ruthenia For Next Step in German March

By Joseph W. La Bine

THE DISMEMBERED CORPSE OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIA
Mr. Chamberlain wasn't interested in the funeral.

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

Europe

Died, at the age of 20, Czechoslovakia; born of World war opportunism, succumbed a victim of its own unnatural unity.

Adolf Hitler might place that inscription on the national tombstone of a nation he snuffed out. Partially he would be right. But Czechoslovakia's "unnatural unity" might have become natural had not the flames of discontent been fanned by Berlin and Vienna. Immediate cause of death was a Slovakian independence movement, but good international physicians look behind the immediate cause to make their *post mortem* decision, finding that Czechoslovakia's death agony conforms with diagnoses made throughout its short life:

Birth: On May 30, 1918, Czechoslovakia was born at Pittsburgh, Pa. Attending physician was Thomas G. Masaryk, a modern George Washington who pooled the causes of two depressed peoples. Until the war Czechs were dominated by Austria, and Slovaks by Hungary. What could be more natural than a joint independence declaration? Though Czechs dominated the negotiations, shrewd Doctor Masaryk foresaw trouble if Slovaks were mistreated. Said the Pittsburgh pact: "Slovakia shall have its own administration . . . parliament . . . courts. The Slovak language shall be official . . ." But not until November, 1938, did German pressure force the central Prague government to grant Slovaks an autonomy which had been denied because "changing conditions" demanded a solid national front. Another excuse: May 30, 1918, was a U. S. national holiday, hence the pact was not binding.

Illness. Pride may keep the patient from admitting his ill health, but sometimes the body builds physical resistance to a point where the ailment becomes unimportant. Slovakia's autonomy cry has been the Czech nation's headache for 20 years, but meanwhile both Slovaks and Czechs found enough mutual delight in their newly won democracy to keep the autonomy movement well under cover. Even this novelty can wear off, however, and by 1938 Czechs, Slovaks, Sudeten Germans, Ruthenians, Hungarians, Poles, Ukrainians and Rumanians each found cause to complain of racial discrimination. This was the era of national unity, when Adolf Hitler was "rescuing" all good Germans from foreign flags, and when Poland, Hungary and Rumania followed the leader. Throughout last summer Berlin fomented dissension among Sudeten Germans in the Czech borderlands. At Munich a defeated Prague government—deserted by London and Paris—ceded Sudetenland. A month later Poland and Hungary each took their share, but debilitated Czechoslovakia soon regained its feet. One successful medicine was autonomy for both Slovakia and Ruthenia, which gave the patient rest if not recovery. Another was the Munich pledge by Britain and France:

"His majesty's government . . . and the French government have entered into the (Munich pact) on the basis that they stand by the offer . . . of Anglo-French proposals of September 19 relating to an international guarantee of the new boundaries of the Czechoslovak state against unprovoked aggression."

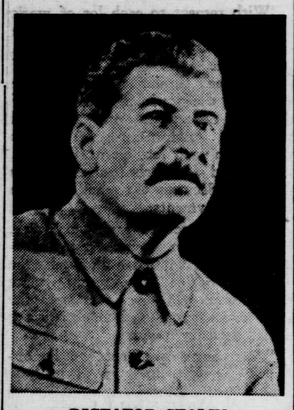
Death. *(See Map).* That Adolf Hitler hopes eventually to control Russia's rich Ukraine is no secret. Since Munich his overlordship in Czechoslovakia has aimed in that direction. Both Slovakia and Carpatho-Ukraine (Ruthenia) held the father of their autonomy in high regard, willing that he should build toward the day when German troops could use Czechoslovakia as a corridor to the Ukraine. But one weak state is easier to handle than three young upstart nations, hence Hitler preferred autonomy to independence. He also hoped Hungary would dare not grab Ruthenia to get its common border with Poland, since this might block the Ukraine drive.

Always an opportunist, Der Fuehrer made the most of overnight developments. Slovakia revolted against Prague. Carpatho-Ukraine declared its independence and was immediately gobbled up by Hungary and Rumania. Remembering that Bismarck once said "he who controls Bohemia is master of Europe," Germany forced what was left of Czechoslovakia (Bohemia and Moravia) into the Reich. Slovakia was granted "independence." The operation having been successful, the patient died as expected; Czechoslovakia was no more.

In Memoriam. Only a few days earlier London and Paris were boasting that dictator appeasement was ended, that democracy's star was rising and totalitarianism's falling. Prime Minister Chamberlain and Home Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare even proposed a disarmament parley, showing their blissful ignorance of the situation. When Prague collapsed, France and Britain blandly declared it was no concern of theirs because (1) the Czech guarantee had never been ratified and (2) anyway, this was "internal disruption," not "unprovoked aggression."

The real reason was far more cunning, though it could be interpreted only as a continuation of the modern Anglo-French disinclination to face issues squarely. Europe's democracies realize that Italy would never push her Mediterranean demands against France without German help, and digestion of his new conquests will keep Der Fuehrer busy for some time. But—most important—Germany moved its theater of activity away from western Europe and toward the borders of hostile Russia. France and Britain forlornly hope Hitler will march blindly into the Ukraine, engaging Russia in a war which might spell death for both Nazism and Communism.

But both Hitler and Russia's Joseph Stalin are probably too smart to invite such chaos. Even as Hitler



DICTATOR STALIN
Whither Hitler after Prague?

marched into Prague the eighteenth Communist congress was meeting in Moscow. Dictator Stalin sent a prominent Ukrainian delegate to the platform with this unpleasant message: "Whoever dares . . . cut our frontiers will be destroyed like a mad dog. Fascist ringleaders send secret agents to our country . . . But let them know that we will annihilate them like loathsome creatures."

Careful observers see one of three solutions, listed in order of likelihood: (1) Hitler will reconcile differences with Russia via a trade and military pact holding fearful implications for world democracies; (2) the entire Russ-German issue will be dropped, blocked by Polish-Hungarian-Rumanian unwillingness to surrender Ruthenia as a German path to the east; (3) a middle-Europe campaign will be started to nationalize all Ukraines, inevitably leading to a Russ-German war.

People

Discovered, at work in an English motor works, 22-year-old **Grand Duke Vladimir,** claimant to the Russian throne. Reason: "Russia will need our practical experience."

● Selected, as U. S. ambassador to Russia, **Laurence A. Steinhart,** now ambassador to Peru, succeeding **Joseph Davies,** who was shifted to Belgium last May.

Congress

Said Virginia's Rep. Clifton Woodrum, house economy leader who was ousted as head of the relief subcommittee: "I have not changed my belief that the amount appropriated was sufficient to carry WPA through the year. However, I am open to conviction."

Answered President Roosevelt, who has repeated his request for $150,000,000 more WPA funds: "The responsibility . . . rests . . . with congress."

Spending is the woe of most U. S. senators and representatives, yet the early March economy bloc which threatened to wreck administration financial plans has already reached an amazingly effective stalemate. Reasons: (1) by placing responsibility for an economy-inspired business slump on congress' shoulders, President Roosevelt washes his hands of the consequences, thereby causing constituent-wary legislators to backwater; (2) both the President and congress realize that while the legislative branch will fight new spending proposals, the White House can similarly exercise veto power over anti-New Deal legislation. Facts of the impasse:

Debt. Mr. Roosevelt is willing to drop his request for a boost in the public debt limit from $45,000,000,000 to $50,000,000,000. But the alternatives, offered by Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr., are little more inviting: (1) increase the bond limit over its present $30,000,000,000 to be reached by September 30; (2) borrow funds for the treasury through Reconstruction Finance corporation or other agencies not falling within the general budget's scope; (3) issue $3,752,000,000

SECRETARY MORGENTHAU
His alternatives were uninviting.

in notes and bills, all that remains before the $15,000,000,000 limit is reached on these types of securities. White House insistence on one course or the other indicates the unlikelihood of shaving expenditures.

Taxation. Though repeal of capital gains and undivided profits levies is a major congressional aim this session, the normal tax rate must then be boosted unless a substantial budget slash is effected. The new burden would fall most heavily on the smaller 153,000 firms out of some 200,000 corporations which pay federal taxes. One of the few alternatives is to lower income tax exemptions, which would mean political suicide for congressmen.

Relief. Though $750,000,000 in deficiency funds were voted in February to maintain WPA until June 30, the President has twice requested restoration of the remaining $150,000,000 on pain of discharging 1,200,000 workers. White House estimate: If the $150,000,000 is not forthcoming, 400,000 must be dropped April 1, another 600,000 May 1, another 200,000 in June. This would also have major political repercussions.

Miscellany

Probably lost by Chicago Jews, their vote in Chicago's mayoral election April 4, which is observed strictly by orthodox Jews as the first day of Passover.

Headliners

LUIGI CARDINAL MAGLIONE

The new, 62-year-old papal secretary of state is a lifelong friend and one-time classmate of the former Eugenio Cardinal Pacelli,

Maglione

who appointed him after being elevated to the post of Pope Pius XII. Ordained in 1901 in his native Italy, Cardinal Maglione immediately entered the Vatican's diplomatic service, going to Switzerland in 1918 and to Palestine in 1920 as archbishop of Caesaria. His first nunciature was in Switzerland but it was in France that he gained such appreciation that he won the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor. In 1935, when created a cardinal, he received his biretta from the hands of the French president. Since then he has been in Rome as head of the congregation of the council. His appointment to the papal state secretaryship is considered significant of the Vatican's continued strong position concerning totalitarian states, since the Italian government has registered displeasure over the appointment.

French Army Rushes Tunisian Fortifications

Keystone of the French colonial empire in Africa, Tunisia is a plum highly prized by the Italian Fascists. Should it fall into Italy's hands, the Mediterranean could be closed easily to French and British communications. Fully aware of these strategical considerations, France has been openly rushing Tunisian fortifications. On the Mareth line, near the Libyan border, France has stationed 35,000 soldiers—Zouaves and the Foreign Legion. Italian troops in Libya are reported at 60,000. At the left French troops are camouflaging concrete pillboxes along the defense line, so they will blend with the surrounding desert. Right: This is a typical native soldier serving on the Libyan border.

Odd Culture Is Found in Andes

Trial Marriage, Infanticide, Gangsterism Accepted By Inca Heirs.

NEW YORK.—Trial marriage, infanticide and gangsterism are established customs among the Quechua Indians of Peru, descendants of the proud Incas, according to Dr. Bernard Mishkin of Columbia university's department of anthropology, who has just returned from the native village of Kauri, where he spent eight months in research.

Doctor Mishkin, whose investigation into the bizarre culture of this tribe was the first in 400 years since the Spanish conquest, was the only white man in Kauri, situated in the Andes at an altitude of 14,000 feet.

Resentful of missionaries and adamant toward civilized religion, the natives of the village regard marriage by a priest as "snobbishness" and "overrighteousness," the anthropologist reported. Moreover, they are loath to take the trip to the nearest capital district which a formal marriage would require.

Instead the Quechuas countenance trial marriage every August during a celebration known as the Fiesta Santiago, which is almost entirely native in content despite the Catholic name.

Insulting Songs Mark Fiesta.

"During this fiesta an ancient Inca or even pre-Inca custom is practiced," Doctor Mishkin related. "Hundreds of beautifully dressed men and women travel to the capital district for the purpose of choosing mates. The men and women line up on opposite sides of a plaza and sing insulting songs to one another disclaiming chastity and promising infidelity after marriage.

"Actually this is the only time of the year that a woman may freely insult a man. Wives who insult husbands during any other period would receive a good beating and be thrown naked out of their home to die of exposure.

"The fiesta lasts for six days, during which time a man or woman may try a number of different mates until a suitable one is chosen. The period of trial marriage then begins and may last as long as three years before it is made permanent or break up. If the couple decides to separate there is no established procedure as to what shall happen to children that have been born in the meantime. Each case is individually settled."

Land Shortage Distressing.

In case a married couple feels it is having more children than its land can support, it resorts to infanticide. The Indians contend that this custom persists to ease the distressing problem of land shortage.

"Kauri is one of the few places in the world where infanticide is practiced on children several months after birth," Doctor Mishkin said.

Ironically, the Indians' chief concession to civilization is to be found in gangsterism, the efficiency of which "would do credit to a Chicago mob," Doctor Mishkin continued.

"Because of the land shortage, people who have been dispossessed or who have been unable to acquire land are forced to turn to robbery for a living," he said.

Nearly all work in the village is done under an elaborate system of co-operative labor called the "aine," Doctor Mishkin said. Each member of the community belongs to a work group and has the right to call upon, and be called upon, by the group for labor. This borrowing and lending of work is recorded by each individual and later repaid in kind. The women and children use the system as well as the men.

Black Pussy Cat Frightened as Mite Meadow Mouse Escapes

By THORNTON BURGESS

"Just to do some little kindness—
That is all we ask;
Just to be of some small service
Is our daily task."

EVERY morning when Old Mother West Wind comes down from the Purple Hills and shakes her children, the Merry Little Breezes, out of her big bag to play all day on the Green Meadows while she spends the day doing her share in the work of the Great World, they sing that little song while they dance the very merriest kind of a dance. Then off they race to see what they can find to do for others. They never expect to do a great deed. They are quite content to do little deeds, for Old Mother West Wind taught them a long time ago that life is made up mostly of little deeds.

This particular day there hadn't been a great deal to do. They had blown away a cloud of flies which had been bothering Bossy the cow. They had warned Peter Rabbit that Reddy Fox was trying to steal up behind him. They had carried the scent of Old Man Coyote to Johnny

He threw up his head and sniffed.

Chuck just in time for Johnny to dive into his house. Then they hadn't found much of anything to do but to play and have a good time generally. That is what they were doing when they happened to race down the Lone Little Path just as Black Pussy sprang on little Mite, the runaway baby of Danny Meadow Mouse. The Merry Little Breezes didn't know who he was. You see, they didn't know that Danny Meadow Mouse had any babies. In fact, they didn't even know that Danny and Nanny had a home together in the middle of the pile of old corn stalks on the edge of Farmer Brown's corn field, which shows how well Danny had kept his secret.

But though the Merry Little Breezes didn't know who little Mite was they did know that he was in terrible trouble and right away they wanted to do something to help him. Black Pussy would let little Mite think that she had let him go. She would even turn her head away. Little Mite would start to run and then just as he would reach the edge of the tall grass down would come her paws on him, making him squeak with pain and fright. But always she took care not to hurt him so that he couldn't run. It was great fun for Black Pussy. At least she acted as if she thought so. But to little Mite, poor little Mite, who never before in all his short life had known anything but kindness, it was terrible.

The Merry Little Breezes felt terribly. They blew angrily in Black Pussy's face, but of course, Black Pussy didn't mind this at all. They tried to find dust to blow in her face so she couldn't see and thus give Mite a chance to hide, but there was no dust in the Lone Little Path. What could they do for that poor helpless, little Meadow Mouse? Just then one of them spied something not far away. It was a dog, a little black and white dog. He was a stranger on the Green Meadows. Right away the Merry Little Breezes wondered if he liked to chase cats as some dogs do. It was worth finding out, anyway. If it had been Bowser the hound they wouldn't have bothered, because they knew that Bowser and Black Pussy are very good friends. But with this stranger-dog it might be different.

Right away some of them hurried down to where he was and they carried with them a little of the scent of Black Pussy. He threw up his head and sniffed. Then he softly tiptoed up to the Lone Little Path in the direction from which that smell of cat came. Black Pussy was just about to spring on little Mite once more when there was a sharp bark behind her. She forgot all about little Mite. She whirled about to face the dog, her tail several times as big as usual. She spit and showed all her claws.

"Run! Run and hide!" whispered the Merry Little Breezes to little Mite. And he did.

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New Scenery Makes Home More Livable

By BETTY WELLS

IT'S inventory time, darlings. Time to ring your own front door-bell and take a stranger's view of the old home place. Have you given up your decorating ambitions because you have to keep on using the same old furniture? Tut, tut . . . all the more reason why you should have a clearage of scenery. A new background will make your old things seem like new.

Helen A. got quite hard boiled about her living room recently. Tried to take off her rose colored glasses of affection for old familiar things and size up her situation. Here's what she concluded:

Dingy tan walls, droopy scrim curtains, badly fitting drab cretonne slip covers, walnut furniture that wasn't bad, not bad at all, taupe broadloom rug that would take on the character of the room.

That was a challenge. She wasn't doing right by the dearly beloved

It's time to ring your own doorbell.

furniture that had seen her through thick and thin.

She and her husband did a repapering job—choosing a plain-ish pinkish-apricot wall paper that did wonders right off the bat. New white organdie curtains very full and with seven-inch ruffles Helen made herself—also slip-covered the old sofa in a new floral sateen with a dark red ground. The same material went on a pair of easy chairs.

Helen did an ingenious thing with the old lamps. They were nondescript—some of the bottle variety, some of pottery, some with metal bases; none distinguished at all. So she just up and painted them all in a flat surface turquoise blue. Then made ruffled petticoat shades in white organdie, added accessories in turquoise, and now is at work on two needlepoint footstool tops with white flowers and turquoise backgrounds.

If you don't think that was a transformation worth making, and would rather go right on getting more frayed and dowdy in a down at the heels room, don't let me interfere!

© By Betty Wells.—WNU Service.

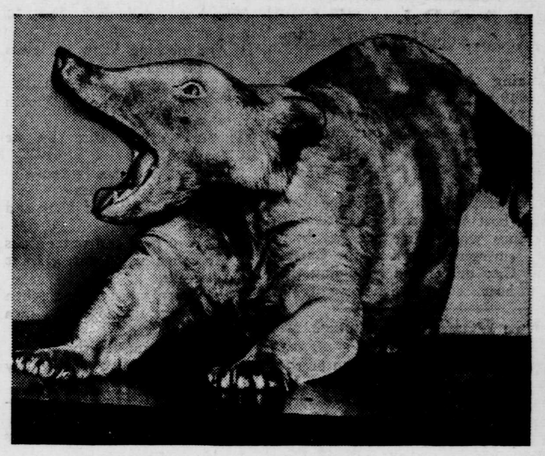
Pigeons Find Home And Assist Police

ST. LOUIS.—Police here were stumped when they recovered eight stolen homing pigeons from boys who were unable to tell where they got the birds.

Finally they hit upon a solution. They released three of the pigeons with a note asking the owner to come in and identify the others.

The pigeons flew straight to their "home" loft. Edward Parrish, their owner, claimed the five other "homers."

Jeep Proves Popular at Sports Show



An albino coati mundi (otherwise known as a jeep) enjoys a good laugh at the expense of onlookers at an outdoor show in New York. He was exhibited by Mrs. Eugenia S. Sharrock of that city, and is the only known animal of its kind in captivity. Visitors didn't know if he was bored, amused or hungry.

ONE OF ORIGINAL 'MOUNTIES' FOUND LIVING IN LONDON

LONDON.—A man who was one of the original "mounties" who established law and order in the wild northwest territories of the Nineteenth century Canada has been found living in London.

He is James H. Fullwood, 88 years old, who believes that as extrooper 160 he is the only surviving member of the three troops of the newly formed Northwest Mounted Police, which on June 13, 1874, crossed the United States border into Alberta.

They went to exterminate the Montana "bad men" who were plying the Indians with whisky, robbing and murdering them and preying on the few white settlers scattered through the territory.

So widespread had their activities become that they were endangering the peace of the dominion.

The "mounties" had orders to suppress them at any cost.

"We finally moved them off from Fargo, N. D., in a column two miles long—horses and men, cattle, farm implements and Red River carts which you could hear squeaking a mile off," Fullwood said.

"We were making for Edmonton, Alta., at the foot of the Rockies, which we had to patrol. It was a hard trip of well over a thousand miles. It took us under five months.

"About halfway along our trail we had to establish a 'crippled camp' for men and horses. Shortly after that the main body, which carried on, had plenty of meat for the first time. We were in buffalo country.

"We had little trouble with the Indians. They soon realized that we were there to protect them and they became our allies in our fights with the criminals."

Peach Blossom Watermark Is Popular in Hsueh Tao

Thirteen hundred years ago, during the Tang dynasty, a tiny Szechwanese singsong girl committed suicide because love had passed her by, recalls a Chengtu, Szechwan, China, United Press correspondent.

Behind her, according to the old Chinese story, she left a trail of beautiful poems, written on tiny slips of peach blossom paper and addressed to her many admirers who had been attracted by her famed beauty.

The girl, Hsueh Tao, did not write poems of love but only of encouragement, urging her admirers to seek greater knowledge or wiser methods of administration. She marked all her poems with a drop of water which spread into the form of a peach blossom. This peach blossom watermark is still carried on one of Shanghai's most popular brands of writing paper—the Hsueh Tao—noted for its delicate texture.

Smallest Jail Saved

The smallest jail in the world has been saved. The feudal parliament of Sark, off the coast of England, has decided not to wreck the island's two-room prison. The leaking roof will be patched, London has been advised, and a porch with a door will be added to stop islanders handing in parcels to the prisoners. In the 100 years of its existence the ancient prison has had six occupants. Only once have two prisoners occupied it at the same time.

Geologists Are Puzzled By Earth Slide in Idaho

PRESTON, IDAHO. — Geologists were puzzled over the gigantic earth slide that moved 2,000,000 tons of earth and shifted a 25-acre farm pasture 50 feet into the Bear river. A large icy-covered pond on the plot of ground affected by the slide was not disturbed. Not even a crack in the ice showed. Cattle grazing on the sliding terrain scrambled to safety as their pasture began to move.

Two small boys skating on a nearby slough witnessed the phenomenon.

"We heard a lot of popping and rumbling," 12-year-old Ivan Thompson and Francis Rasmussen said. "We looked up and saw the hill was gone—the one we used to hunt rabbits on."

Affecting an area equal to two city blocks, one corner of the perambulating pasture slid far enough to almost dam the river. After the 50-foot drop the surface of the pasture was folded like an accordion.

To Explore City Submerged in the Caribbean

DETROIT.—Plans for a 100-day expedition to photograph the "sunken city" of St. James, off the Island of St. Christopher, are virtually complete.

Robert Hall, 38-year-old Detroiter and wealthy soldier-of-fortune, will head a 25-man expedition to the coast of the Caribbean island. Included in the party are professional men and four university students.

Purpose of the Caribbean expedition, according to Hall, is to photograph the ruins of the city of St. James, which was destroyed by volcanic eruption in 1630 and has since defied photographers. The city lies under water.

Hall's expedition will carry diving equipment and underwater cameras. Since all attempts to photograph it from the surface have failed, Hall hopes to attack it from the ocean floor. Two professional divers are members of the expedition.