

FASCISTI LEADER HINTS AT CONQUEST

Mussolini Has Army of 800,000 War Veterans and Means Business Says "Current Opinion"

Rossini, leader of the Italian Fascists, has organized his own army of 800,000 men, most of them war veterans, and has seized the government. Premier Facta had to choose between civil war and resignation, and as the King would not stand for the government collapsed.

For a moment it was thought that the three ex-premiers, Giolitti, Salandra and Orlando, might have formed government with Mussolini, so saving the face of the politicians; but resolution had passed beyond all compromise, and Mussolini assumes power dictator, with the king as a mere head, a change so drastic that several Italian ambassadors, including Signor Ricci at Washington, tendered their resignations.

What makes this matter so grave that it concerns other nations than Italy. At first, Mussolini merely overthrew the Communists, a party broken and impotent. Next, he utilized the forces of Italy which disgusted with corrupt politics tired of groups and coalitions, and also was a domestic matter. But campaign has not ended there. He does not want a merely reformed Italy. He demands a larger Italy. It is out for imperialism. He hints conquest.

Mussolini wants a big navy, the quest in the Mediterranean. This did mean that he would refuse, as he has at present refused, to ratify naval agreement signed at Washington. A big navy costs big money.

Italy is already going bankrupt due to her prodigal expenditure. And finally Mussolini has to face the fact that he has at present only a handful of supporters in the Italian Chamber. Out of 535 seats, the Fascists hold a mere 46. This is the reason Mussolini must have an imitate election. Yet even the election may not be enough for his purpose. He has an army at his back, there is no reason to believe that he has a majority of the voters. Last against him and so are the clergy and the Catholic party.

Mussolini therefore makes an extraordinary proposal. He asks that the constitution be altered so that whichever group in the new parliament has the most members shall be immediately conceded three-fifths of the seats. To make this plain, let us suppose that Mussolini comes back after the voting with a party of 200. This would not be a majority of the House, but he would be allowed to nominate another hundred of his friends and so obtain that majority!

Such a scheme means a denial of the coup d'etat, worthy of Napoleon III. And there only remains the question whether a sense of responsibility will induce in the mind of Mussolini a sense of caution. That such is to be hoped.

Mussolini has started well. He supports the king. He restrains his hot-heads who, under such discipline, have behaved excellently. He has also devoted himself to the vigorous reform of the civil service, to the drastic collection of legal taxes and to cutting down expenditure. He realizes, apparently, that the first need of the country is solvency and that such solvency must be secured by clearing out corruption.

She—"Did you meet any stage robbers while you were out West?" He—"Yes, I took a couple of chorus girls out for dinner."



All sorts of queer vanity bags are seen these days in Paris. This one represents a Chinese figure. It has compartments for a mirror, powder, rouge and money.

AMERICA'S DEMAND AT LAUSANNE

It seems funny to the French that after all the clamor that has been heaped upon them here for their so-called pro-Turk policy, America should rise at the Lausanne Conference and make a demand that dismisses the Allies and delights the Moslem, says the Literary Digest.

In previous years one found it possible to get fairly definite ideas as to the likely course of events in the months immediately ensuing. This summer, however, the situation was muddled, complicated and obscure beyond all precedents. But out of all the chaos and contradiction there stood one supreme and baffling fact: In the council room of the world, today the most important chair is vacant!

The French and English will call a peace conference to settle or attempt to settle the questions arising out of the conflict with Turkey. Eight nations are to be invited to that conference, but in looking over the list one fails to find the name of the United States.

You may say, What have we to do with Turkish trouble? And why should we be there? Why mix in the quarrels of Europe? At Geneva, the Council of the League of Nations has been in session—all the great nations of the world assembled to consider matters of moment to the world. The United States is not there.

You cannot expect France to take a reasonable attitude toward Germany and that means a reasonable attitude toward England and the rest of the world, until France has some assurance that she will be protected against aggression. There was drafted at Versailles a treaty in which the United States and Great Britain agreed to stand behind France in case of attack by Germany. That may or may not have been a wise plan. A wiser solution may be for the nations of the world to join with France and say to France that no unjust attack shall be made upon her or upon any other nation; so giving assurance of protection by all nations of the world. I do not pretend to know what the best solution would be. But this I know, that in that solution and in that problem, the interests of the United States are very much involved, and we cannot escape them for one moment.

We ought to be present at every conference and upon every occasion when these gigantic questions are under consideration. We ought to be there not as observers, but as responsible participants. The knowledge of the peoples that we are in the game will have profound influence.

When we all sit there with our spirit of usefulness, with the known record we have for sympathy and generosity, most of the troubles will be settled without war. We can induce peoples to reduce their standing armies, we can induce them to look with a little more tolerance upon their neighbors. We, and we alone, can induce them to do those things which if done will establish real peace, which will enable the nations of Europe to get on their feet and start producing and buying again, and once more resume the advance of civilization.

The talented young Chinese diplomat, Dr. Wellington Koo, said at a dinner party recently: "Some men think that we Chinese are a very childlike and very innocent people. They think we all exactly resemble the Peking merchant of the story. 'According to this story a Peking merchant took a rather notorious foreigner to board with him at the rate of \$25 a week. Six months passed, and the rather notorious foreigner had not let his host once see the color of his money. 'So at the end of six months the Peking merchant thought the matter over very carefully, and reduced the foreigner's board from \$25 to \$12. He explained that thus, if the foreigner never paid him he would not lose so much money.'

A London Labor organ, The Daily Herald, characterizes Mr. Child's intervention as a "bland diplomatic way of announcing that America would not permit any sharing of the loot behind her back, and that when it came to oil, the Standard Oil would insist on its share." Meanwhile Lausanne dispatches report Lord Curzon, the British foreign secretary authorizing an official statement to the press that England support the American "open door" policy in Turkey and regards the San Remo agreement for the division of the Mosul oil district as null and void.

MANY VIEWS AND DIRECTIONS IN A WILL

Many directions and expressions of opinion were contained in the will of a Middle Temple Barrister who died recently in Worcester (Eng.). He directed that his remains should be cremated, holding the view that many people were buried alive. He expressed a hope that "all my children may grow up to be of use in the world, to love books and music and sewers, to imbibes liberal Christian ideas, to hate alcohol, and to observe Sundays, and that they shall always venerate their ancestors, love their country, serve God, and honor the King."

I desire my children to be educated in the matter of religion according to the teaching of the late Dr. Vaughan, Dean of Llandaff, and Master of the Temple. I also direct that my children shall be brought up as teetotalers and taught that Sunday is a day for worship and learning, and certainly not for frivolity. I hope, and as far as I can, direct that short family morning prayers shall be said every weekday, wherever the home of the children may be.

"And whom did you vote for, Miss Sophy?" "Well, you see, the Conservative candidate was simply stunningly good looking. But the Liberal had always been splendid to his family, so I marked both ballots, closed my eyes, shuffled them, put one in the box and tore up the other. Nothing could be fairer than that."—The Passing Show (London).

THE VACANT CHAIR IN WORLD COUNCILS

During each of the past four years it has been my privilege to spend a month or more in Europe. These visits afforded unusual opportunities for discussion with cabinet officers of European governments, bankers, economists and others possessed of intimate knowledge of conditions.

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G. H. Day, a poodle specialist of London, England, combing a valuable French poodle.



Charles H. Cartwright of Philadelphia, his wife and their nine children, sailing for England, where he hopes they'll be able to live more cheaply than in the United States.

EXPLANATION OF DR. KOO

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In a time so critical as this, when the whole future of a civilization, it may be, hangs in the balance, it is time for the United States to consider very seriously where it shall stand. It is unthinkable that we should long maintain our present policy of isolation. Pride, self-interest, duty—all summon us to a new point of view, and a new policy in keeping with our great traditions. It is time, I believe, for us to take the position that in some form that will preserve our national traditions and satisfy our national aspirations, which will not involve us in un-American activities, in some or other we as a people shall sit once more around the council table of the nations and bear our share of the burdens of the world.

We can trifle no longer. If we wait too long, it may be too late. Civilization is on fire, and yet we, the great Christian people, sit unmoved. We blame the other fellow for it all.

We are the big brother of the nations. We are indeed the "land of hope and glory," but we are not doing our part. We stand up in church and pray the Lord's Prayer, "Thy Kingdom Come on Earth as it is in Heaven!" Do we mean what we say, or do we refer only to the United States?

Is it not time to drop petty politics of national egotism and rise to the height of the great argument? Can we as a people continue to stand aside and aloof? There isn't a particle of doubt that when America does see the situation as she is, she will rise in the greatness of her idealism and her magnanimity and express her real self in sympathy and cooperation with a broken world. God speed the moment of that great awakening!

FOR LAUREATESHIP. One of the most intellectual women of her generation, Mrs. Alice Meynell, the poetess and essayist, died at the age of 72 in a London nursing home. She had suffered from heart weakness for many years, and had been seriously ill for the past several weeks. Mrs. Meynell had for long been regarded as our greatest living woman poet and essayist. Indeed, on the death of Alfred Austin many powerful advocates urged her right to become the first woman Poet Laureate. She was the younger daughter of the late Mr. T. J. Thompson and of the early days of education at Trinity College, Cambridge, married early and devoted herself to her two daughters. Many of her early days were spent in Italy, and one of Mrs. Meynell's earliest recollections was of being examined at Genoa in the multiplication table by her father's great friend, Charles Dickens. While yet in her early twenties—and shortly after her sister's famous Crimean picture, "The Roll Call," convinced the public that a young woman was going to be one of our greatest battle painters—she published in 1875 "Preludes" her first volume of poems. It did not at once achieve a great popular success—that was to come later when it was re-published in 1893—but it aroused the enthusiasm of such men as Ruskin and Rossetti, the former declaring that it contained "the finest things yet seen and felt in modern verse." Of "Re-annunciation," which appeared in the same slim little volume, Rossetti declared it to be "one of the three finest sonnets ever written by women." Except for the re-publication of "Preludes," with a few additions in 1890, she published no more verse till "Later Poems" in 1901. This was followed by "Collected Poems" in 1913, a little volume of but 117 pages and in 1917 she published "A Father of Women and other Poems," which contains some of her best work. She also published an Anthology of English Verse, entitled, "The Flower of the Mind," which was notable for its exclusion of Grey's Elegy. It is understood that Mrs. Meynell left about 30 poems, written in the last year of her life, while under the shadow of death that she knew to be drawing near, and these may be published shortly. Her essays would have won her a place among our great writers had she never written poetry.

SIGNIFICANT LESSON FROM ITALY ON CAPITAL LEVY

Those who clamour for a capital levy would do well to ponder over the experience of Italy. Speaking at a meeting of the Delphian coterie at London, Mr. Gilbert Beyfus observed that a capital levy, if it were practicable, would be an excellent thing. It was only because he was convinced that the proposal was absolutely impracticable and would lead to the utter-destination of the country's industry that he should attack it whenever he had the opportunity. Capital was either extremely solid or very liquid. In its liquid form the moment one attempted to catch it by a levy it slipped across the frontiers of a country to another which it found safer. In its solid form it was impossible to make a levy upon it. The impossibility of preventing capital going abroad was illustrated in the case of Germany, where they had unsuccessfully done all they could to keep German capital in the country. The material wealth of the United Kingdom was estimated at £15,000,000,000, which was vastly greater than the amount of money in the country; it consisted of the land, the houses, machinery stock, cattle,—everything down to tooth brushes. What would happen if a levy were attempted upon all that capital? How could it be valued? How many years would be occupied in the process? The difficulty came when the objects of the levy were the owners of every factory and workshop, every form of stock, or share, who would have to sell out to pay the State. If everybody was selling, who on earth would buy? One parallel showing the difficulty of transferring wealth on a large scale was the difficulty of reparations from Germany. Although Germany had vast wealth in her mines, factories and forests, we could not get a single million pounds out of her. In spite of the unemployment rife in this country today, no man or woman was starving; and only recently a Birmingham undertaker attributed his bankruptcy to "the excessively low death-rate of the past three years."

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Do you remember when "Alice Blue" was all the rage? It was named after Miss Alice Roosevelt, daughter of Theodor Roosevelt, when she was at the White House. Here she is today, wife of Nicholas Longworth, member of the House of Representatives. She is still one of the most prominent women in Washington society.



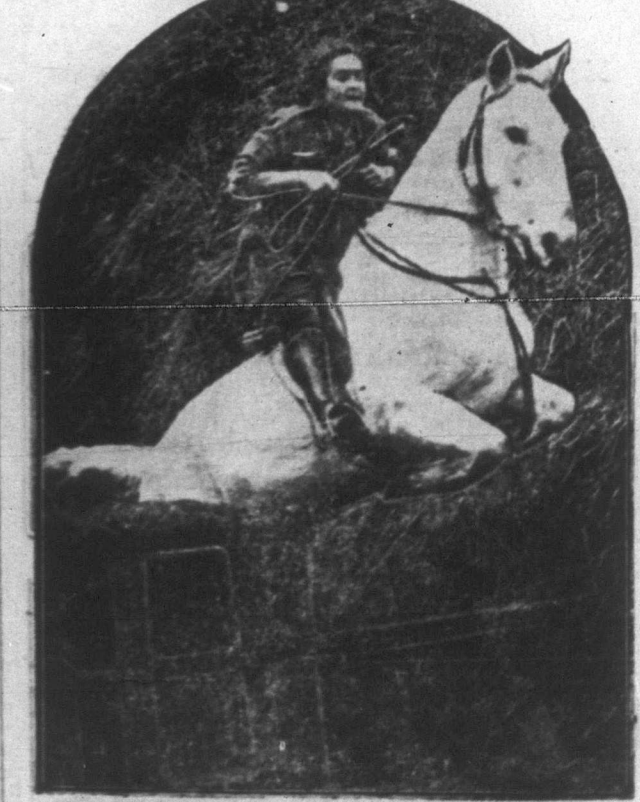
High Rotary officials after they had called on President Harding. Left to right, Knowles Cooper, president of the Washington Rotary Club; Ray Havens, president International Rotary Club, and Russell F. Greiner, past president.



Fish cooking on skewers around a brazier in Japan. The skewers are turned by hand so that the fish may be uniformly cooked.



Cable despatches have named Mrs. Gladys Underhill of Chicago as the cause of jealousy that led to the stabbing of Nicholo Bonasini in Florence, Italy. Mrs. Underhill has been over there studying music.



Mrs. Dorothy Pollow, daughter of the Hon. Mr. Justice Piggott of Allahabad, India, has opened a training school for horses at Radlett, Herts, England. She is shown here breaking a jumper to take the hurdles.

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