Weekly News Analysis

Fear of Foreign Entanglement Brings Return to Isolationism

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

Since President Roosevelt's "quarantine" speech at Chicago in October, 1937, U. S. public opinion has veered sharply and outspokenly against dictators, meanwhile making new friends for France, Britain and China. Washington's traditional policy of isolation and neutrality has well-nigh gone by the boards, thanks to Nazi Jew-baiting, Japan's threat to U. S. interests in China and dictator inroads throughout South America. Most heated U. S. speechmaker against Adolf Hitler has been Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, whose tirades presumably reflect White House sentiment.

Long-awaited reaction against foreign entanglement took root only a month ago when congress discovered the administration was sponsoring military plane sales to France and Britain. Today the issue of isolation is growing by leap and bound, not only as a question of foreign policy but as a political football headed for the 1940 presidential election. In less than one late February week enough shots were fired to constitute a definite trend:

"Wicked Dictatorships." To Pittsfield, Mass., went William R. Castle, assistant chairman of the Re-

REPUBLICAN CASTLE
More concentration, less chatter.

publican national committee, once U. S. envoy to Japan, later a Hoover undersecretary of state. Said Mr. Castle, before a 40 and 8 (American Legion) society: "There is still so much work . . . to keep this the best possible country . . . that our officials would do well to confine themselves to this task instead of spending so much time talking about wicked dictatorships and the dangers of war. We certainly want none of their philosophy . . . but . . . if that philosophy is what other nations want it is not for us to attempt to prevent it."

Nye Again. An irreconcilable pacifist, North Dakota's Sen. Gerald P. Nye saw red when he learned of the French-British plane sales, rushed to his office and drafted a bill. Its gist: Military and naval officers could bar export of any planes developed in the U. S. until they determined that the craft are not needed exclusively for American defense.

One reason for the bill was testimony that Mr. Roosevelt had ignored high military-naval officials in making the foreign deal. Another reason is Senator Nye's fear of an ultimate U. S. desire to sell planes to Germany, Italy, Japan or any other nation, thus producing a "vicious circle." Next day it became apparent the "vicious circle" had already been created internationally. A member of the civil aeronautics authority reportedly told the senate military affairs committee that Germany was willing to sell fighting planes to—of all nations—France. Reasoning: France would thereby become dependent on foreign plane factories, committing national suicide in case of war with Germany.

Foreign Trade. Among important loans of the federal-sponsored Export-Import bank was one to China for $25,000,000, financing sale of 1,000 trucks for obvious military use. Fearful lest this constituted a dangerous commitment, congress thought twice when the Export-Import bank—due to expire June 30—came up for two years' extension. Argued Michigan's Rep. Jesse P. Wolcott: "This bank can get us into a situation which may involve us in any European or Asiatic conflict . . . It is a dangerous thing to have this power lying around." Argued Ohio's Sen. Robert A. Taft: "The government shouldn't be in the export business." Passed by the house after vigorous debate, the extension bill could expect a chary reception by the senate.

Meanwhile the U. S. chamber of commerce lifted its eyebrows over a report that 25 American industrialists would join a British-German cartel to regulate competition in world markets and offset a threatened trade war. The state department knew nothing about it and was far from enthusiastic.

But—. While one branch of U. S. opinion obviously swung to isolation, another branch stuck out its neck by virtue of a long-standing, thoroughly accepted American creed, the Monroe doctrine. Illustrating how any U. S. interest in South America leads to international complications in the world of 1939 were two developments: (1) The civil aeronautics authority prepared to fight German, Italian, French and Dutch air services for supremacy in South America; (2) Dr. Raul Ribeiro, Brazilian economist, offered U. S. capitalists a chance to invest in a mining development project for his country, with possible exchange of Brazilian ore for American-made munitions.

Europe

All European crisis since 1930 have been started by scheming Italy and Germany. With Europe well on its way to another nervous breakdown scheduled for mid-March, signs now indicate that Britain and France, lovers of peace and the status quo, may at least be blamed—if not responsible—for the spring crisis.

Underlying every potential European development is the Spanish war, whose early termination will leave Italy free to pursue Mediterranean territorial demands against France. This, because a Franco victory in Spain is an Italian victory, giving Il Duce more Mediterranean power. It would jeopardize not only France's colonies, but Britain's "lifeline" to the Far East.

By now the Paris-London "axis" has at least three reasons to decide on an aggressive course which may decide Europe's future:

(1) Unconfirmed but persistent reports of French-Italian clashes on the Libya-Tunisia border *(see map)* jibe with announcements that Italy's Libyan garrisons are being increased. Tunisia is one French territory specifically demanded by Italy, unofficially. Reports say Fascist troops penetrated Tunisia at a spot 25 miles southeast of the first French fortified zone, just as Italy's Marshal Pietro Badoglio visited Libya to inspect frontier

LIBYA AND TUNISIA
Is this the next battleground?

forts. Meanwhile Rome reports indicate 1,000,000 men will be under arms this spring.

(2) Germany has started mobilization for annual war games, accompanied by renewed grumblings against "war scares" by western democracies.

(3) Chancellor Hitler, Premier Mussolini and Generalissimo Franco are scheduled to meet soon for a decision on Spain's future, and, presumably, the future course of an enlarged European Fascism.

Viewing these three developments the British parliament has approved an extra $2,000,000,000 armament appropriation, starting a new international munitions race which Prime Minister Chamberlain admits might "lead to the bankruptcy of every country in Europe." At the same time London has agreed on plans for an expeditionary force to help France in case of war. Meanwhile both London and Paris have been making desperate last-minute efforts to win Franco.

German-Italian reply to these "warlike threats" will probably be to hold their troops in Spain until France grants African concessions. Thus perplexed, London and Paris must either use a whip lash, thereby provoking a new crisis, or permit the most serious blow to democratic prestige thus far inflicted. If they planned the latter course there would be little justification for today's frenzied rearmament.

Asia

Japan's thinly veiled ambition is to drive westerners out of China. Until this year the white man was oppressed only insofar as he stood in the way of Tokyo's marching armies. But Japan looks covetously and angrily on such prosperous developments as Shanghai's international settlement, Britain's Hong Kong crown colony and France's Indo-China. Already Hong Kong has been isolated by Jap conquest of Canton, her gateway to China. More recently British territory along the Hong Kong-Canton railroad was bombed. Farther south Japan seized independent Hainan

PREMIER HIRANUMA
Is International Settlement next?

island despite an agreement with France. This accomplished, munitions shipments into China through French Indo-China might be blocked.

Latest and craftiest Japanese plan is seizure of the Shanghai international settlement, only non-Jap area left in the city and an unwilling haven for Chinese guerrilla warriors. In the past 18 months 88 political murders have been committed there, most victims being puppet Chinese governmental officers in Japanese pay. Latest victims were Chen Lo, foreign minister for the Central China government in Nanking, and Marquis Li Kuo-chieh, grandson of China's great statesman, Li Hung-chang.

Life is cheap in the Orient and loss of a few puppets would be small for control of the Shanghai international settlement. Though backed only by rumor, there is growing belief that Chinese murders may have been "planted" by Tokyo as an excuse to march in and keep peace, conveniently setting an important precedent.

Whether true or not, the belief jibes with retaliatory action taken in Tokyo. Up before a turbulent meeting of the diet rose Lt. Gen. Seishiro Itagaki, minister of war, to declare he was "convinced of the necessity to take an effective measure of self-defense" in the international settlement. Later, in extraordinary session, the cabinet placed official approval on such action when Premier Baron Kiichiro Hiranuma declared the terrorism "compels Japan to take fundamental measures to maintain peace and order."

Meanwhile Premier Hiranuma could see that his newest drive to close China's open door would meet stubborn resistance. From London came bitter protest against the Hong Kong bombing. In Shanghai the international police redoubled their efforts and prepared to resist a threat on the settlement. To the south, at lazy Haiphong, Indo-China, France was angry enough to junk her Japanese agreement just as Japan had junked it, opening her gateway to supplies for sorely pressed Chinese troops.

Business

U. S. efforts to reconcile heavily taxed business have proceeded since "Uncle Dan" Roper was replaced as commerce secretary by Harry Hopkins. After initial promises Mr. Hopkins settled back in silence for two months of study to learn what made his heretofore ineffectual department tick.

Some hint of more reconciliation was contained in President Roosevelt's pre-vacation remark that business need fear no more taxes. More hint was found in the speech of Secretary of War Harry Woodring, who stepped from his military shoes to tell the Democratic Women's National council that he hoped soon to see an end of "spending and taxing" if private business will take the initiative.

Even before Secretary Hopkins left for Des Moines to make his "policy speech," Washington knew pretty well what an obviously revitalized commerce department intended to do. Main points in the Hopkins program: (1) Develop the heretofore unimportant business advisory council; (2) promote re-employment to slash WPA rolls; (3) study taxes and their effect on business; (4) attempt to succeed where the labor department had failed, in settling the feud between the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

People

Tom Mooney, recently pardoned labor leader, has been admitted to a San Francisco hospital.

● **Capt. Fritz Wiedemann,** Adolf Hitler's personal adjutant and new German consul to San Francisco, has as his announced purpose the "promotion of good will."

PEACE?

RIOT — Resigning because France failed to ratify a 1936 treaty granting the land independence, Syrian Premier Jamil Mardam Bey touched off street clashes.

REVOLT—While President Oscar Benavides was away Peruvian Interior Minister Gen. Antonio Rodriguez attempted to seize the government, was slain.

REBELLION—Held responsible for 220 deaths in eight months of race rioting, Ba Maw's cabinet was ousted in Burma, replaced by a coalition government.

REPERCUSSION — Fighting terroristic bombings by the outlawed Irish republican army in Eire and Great Britain, Eire's parliament authorized the death penalty for the perpetrators.

When Nazi Storm Troopers Terrorized Jews

During the sporadic wave of attacks on the Jews in the Third Reich in 1938, members of the Nazi party frequently made pictures of the persecutions and sold them in shops as souvenirs or gave them to friends. When the attacks were banned, all pictures were ordered confiscated and destroyed. These pictures, purported to have been made by Nazis, recently arrived here. The man pictured at the left is being compelled to take a broom and sweep the street. When he resisted them he was forced by Storm Troopers to climb into the wheelbarrow. Another suspect was made to push him through the streets.

Tiny Meadow Mouse Is Sorry As He Runs Away From Home

By THORNTON BURGESS

MITE, the littlest and smartest and most headstrong of the four children of Danny and Nanny Meadow Mouse, had run away. Yes sir, he had run away from home. For some time he had planned to do it, and now he actually had done it. It wasn't because he was unhappy at home. It wasn't because he wasn't loved by his father and mother and brother and sisters. The fact is he was so small and cute and smart that he was very much loved by all of them. The reason he had run away was simply because he wanted to see the Great World, and he believed himself so smart that he could do it without getting into danger. You see, he had a very good opinion of himself, had little Mite, such a good opinion of himself that he thought he knew more than Danny Meadow Mouse and used to turn his head to hide a smile when Danny would tell how dangerous it would be for one of them to so much as

"I—I wish I had stayed at home," he sobbed.

peep out from the shelter of the pile of old cornstalks in the middle of which was their home.

"I don't believe it is dangerous at all," said Mite. "I guess I'm smart enough to keep out of danger, anyway. And if I should find trouble all I've got to do is to turn around and scamper home again."

So he had watched his chance, and when no one was looking he had slipped out along one of Danny's private little paths. He scampered along it as fast as ever he could, fearing that he would be seen and called back. He took the first path that branched off and followed this until this branched, and here he turned off again. By this time he was quite sure that no one had seen him, and so, of course, that no one was following him, and he began to enjoy his freedom. It was very delightful and cool down there, with walls of grass stems on either side, and with a green roof where the grasses met above the little path and through which the merry little sunbeams crept here and there.

Every few minutes Mite stopped to sample tender, young, juicy grasses, and once, to his great delight, he found a strawberry. Later he caught sight of a fat cricket just disappearing around a turn in the path, and with a little squeak of excitement he started after it. But when he got around the little turn in the path the cricket was nowhere to be seen. Mite hunted until he was tired. Then he sat down to rest.

"I guess," thought he, "it is about time I started back home." Right then and there he received the first of many frights which were to be his before he should again see the dear old home under the pile of old cornstalks on the edge of Farmer Brown's cornfield. Yes, sir, he received a fright, a very great fright. He didn't know where home was! He, Mite Meadow Mouse, who was so smart and clever, had lost himself the very first thing. He had come along so many paths that he couldn't remember which was which.

Right away little Mite did the very thing that most people do when they find that they are lost—he began to run. Yes, sir, Mite began to run as hard as ever he could. He didn't feel tired any longer. All he could think of was getting home, and he acted as if he thought that just running would get him there. Now, of course, it would have got him there if—if he had been running in the right direction. But he wasn't, and so the faster he ran the further he got from home. And as he ran, little Mite cried. Yes, sir, he cried. He suddenly felt very, very small and so dreadfully lonely. Those dangers he had so foolishly laughed at now seemed very real and near. Jolly, round, bright Mr. Sun had hidden behind a cloud, and so no merry little sunbeams brightened the little path. And at last the little path ended. Little Mite sat down and cried. He just couldn't help it. "I—I wish I had stayed at home!" he sobbed. "I wish I hadn't thought myself so dreadfully smart."

© T. W. Burgess.—WNU Service.

Belgian Commission Orders Flanders Towns Re-Named

Flemish Spelling Emphasizes Fact That Belgium Is a Bilingual Country.

WASHINGTON.—Ypres, the Belgian town in West Flanders known to thousands of American and British soldiers during the World war as "Wipers," is henceforth to be written, Ieper, its Flemish spelling, according to news dispatches from Brussels.

"Ieper is one of several towns in Flanders whose names have been reported changed by order of the royal Belgian commission of names and dialectics," says the National Geographic society. "Other towns and their new titles are: Louvain, now to be called Leuven; Bruges, Brugge; and Courtrai, Kortrijk.

"This change of names from French to Flemish emphasizes that Belgium is a bilingual country. The Flemish portion of Belgium is the northern and western parts of the country, and the French, or Walloon, is the southern.

Long Important City.

"Dating from the Ninth century, Ypres reached the zenith of its power in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth centuries, when it was famed as a manufacturing center with a population of 200,000. Clothmaking was introduced into Ypres toward the end of the Eleventh century. It soon became the chief industry of the town and the reason for its phenomenal growth, and accompanying wealth.

"Ypres ranked with Bruges and Ghent as one of the most important industrial cities of the Middle ages and vied with them for prestige. Rivalry between them became so intense that jealousies, plus the losses due to the great plague of 1383, finally led to their industrial decline. By the end of the Sixteenth century there were not more than 5,000 people in Ypres.

"Important monuments to the greatness of this once prominent city were the magnificent Cloth hall and the beautiful Cathedral of St. Martin.

"Surviving the ravages of time and strife, these two great monuments of man's ingenuity were reduced to ashes and rubble during the World war, when the region around Ypres became a bitterly disputed battleground.

War Brought New Fame.

"However, this war, which took away its old glory, brought to Ypres new fame and world attention. It has been called the 'Martyr City' and the 'Holy Ground of British Arms,' because of the thousands of British soldiers who died here. On the edge of the town a memorial has been erected to them—the Menin gate. Dedicated in 1927, this arch has engraved on its sides the names of the 56,000 British soldiers whose graves are unknown. Each evening at dusk a bugler sounds the 'last post.'

"Ypres has been partially rebuilt, 4,000 men being engaged in the gigantic task.

Hooked Rugs Practical For Any Nursery

By BETTY WELLS

"THERE'S a baby on the way in our family," writes Charlotte R., "and I'm wondering about the nursery. We have a very sunny room available but I have few ideas about color except that I like ivory woodwork and I expect to have a chest of drawers painted ivory. The bassinet I'm planning to paint blue and line with pink quilted satin, then drape with lace."

"We will build in a window seat on the south wall with a place for toys underneath. On either side of the window seat I want shelves and closed compartments with a pull-down table and a pull-out desk-shelf.

"Now for my questions—what color and pattern of wall paper? Should a nursery border paper be used, or would you move the molding? What rug would you advise (floors are hardwood)? What covering for easy chair? What style lighting fixture? What color and fabric for window seat cushion (which will have a zippered seam)? What colors for extra cushions?

Fixing up a bassinet.

Should inside of built-in shelves and cupboards be painted a contrasting color—blue, for instance? What about window shades and curtains?

"In one way I want a conservative, useful nursery; then again, I have a yen for something beautiful and striking. Hope you will help me get together with myself!"

Since the room is so cut up, I'd say that a plainish cream paper would be best since you're having cream woodwork. Then have the nursery border—I think I'd raise the molding though and have the border below it.

Hooked rugs are all right for a nursery—so are washable cotton rugs. Though I personally prefer a large rug in a nursery, something plain in effect that won't show foot marks but large enough to cover the floor pretty well. A rug like this is easy to keep clean and warm to play on—yet it won't slide out from under you. This in soft blue would be pleasant and versatile; then have the easy chair and the window seat pads in flowered chintz (washable and pre-shrunk) with plain blue for the extra cushions. I'd have as simple a light fixture as possible and paint it the color of the walls. Yes, I'd like the cupboards painted blue inside. And how about window shades made of the same flowered chintz as you have on the chair?

© By Betty Wells.—WNU Service.

Freak Animal Is Puzzle; Has Cat Head, Hare Legs

DALTON, MASS.—Mr. and Mrs. James W. Hagar were surprised when a strange animal hopped into their dooryard. The forepart of the Hagar's new pet resembles a normal tiger cat, and has cat's paws. But the rear part has long, double-jointed legs which cause the animal to hop like a rabbit. A short tail and long, furless ears complete its unusual features.

Two Famous Indians Meet Down South

Bob Feller, strike-out king of the American league and prodigy of the Cleveland Indians, meets Larry Napoleon Lajoie, right, one of the greatest second basemen in the history of baseball, and former Indian. Lajoie won a place in baseball's hall of fame at Cooperstown, N. Y.

Dog Finds Way Home From Texas to Pacific

HANFORD, CALIF.—Bones, the pet Boston bulldog of Milles Fuller, is believed to have made one of the longest treks ever known to return to its master.

Bones disappeared last September. Later it was ascertained that he had been taken to Odessa, Texas, by transient cotton pickers. Recently the dog showed up with badly swollen feet and clawed at the door for admission, evidently having made the entire trip from Texas to California on foot.

PRUNES FURNISH ADDED SPICE TO LIVE STOCK DIET

WASHINGTON.—Live stock bored with the "same old hay and oats" have been presented by science with a new appetizer. News reports of experiments at the University of California disclose that ground prunes, added to hay, add both "appeal" and nourishment.

"Any increase in demand for Uncle Sam's prune crop would be welcome news to growers," says the National Geographic society. "Many tons of plums that might have become prunes were left unharvested in 1938 because of low prices.

"Turning smooth-faced plums into wrinkled prunes is a beauty-process-in-reverse that has become in recent years big business in the United States. In 1938, the prune-growing states of the Pacific coast, where the industry centers, produced approximately 237,000 tons of this dried fruit. The preceding year, when the rest of the world had disappointing prune crops, the United States again reported a slightly better than average yield.

"Prunes are not made from just any species of plum selected to lose—through curing and drying—what beauty parlors call the 'firm contour.' Only special varieties, sweet and solid, will cure, instead of spoil, under the processes of dipping, rinsing, grading and sun-drying through which the fruit must pass from the time it is picked, thoroughly ripe, until it is packed for transport.

"Less than 50 years ago Uncle Sam was a big prune importer, buying them at the rate of some 60,000,000 pounds a year. Today, owing to West Coast plum orchards, the United States annually sells abroad nearly four times that amount. The first big plum orchard was planted in America in 1870.

Colleges Spend Millions On Their Research Work

Top universities of the nation in research expenditures are California, Chicago, Columbia, Harvard, Illinois and Michigan, according to a survey in the report of the national resources committee.

In the group spending between one and one-half million dollars and two million dollars a year for research are Cornell, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Yale.

In the one million dollar to one and one-half million dollar bracket are four schools: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, New York university, Ohio State university and the University of Pennsylvania.

Spending between $500,000 and one million dollars yearly for research are: Duke, University of Iowa, Iowa State college, Johns Hopkins, Missouri, Nebraska, Northwestern, Penn State, Princeton, Purdue, Rochester, Rutgers, Stanford and Texas A. & M.

Has Plague of Gulls

Silver gulls have been developing their swarms to the proportions of a plague along the coasts and in the harbors of North Germany. Attempts to reduce their numbers with shotguns have not been successful; the gulls soon learned what shotgun range was and stayed just outside it. Attacks on their nesting grounds have not been entirely successful. Parties raided rookeries last spring, destroying more than 26,000 eggs.

Women Reverse Tables; Aim Jibes at Male Hats

CHICAGO.—A women's organization combating "taxes that penalize the consumer" reversed the tables and—for a change—told men something about men's hats.

Instead of swallowing the male jokes about feminine headgear, women of the National Consumers Tax commission retaliated with a study showing 107 taxes—local, state and national—boost the price of men's felt hats by 11 per cent.

Levied originally against fur producer, leather band, ribbon, lining, binding, hat and box makers, transporters and retailers, the taxes are passed on by each to the consumer, stated Mrs. Kenneth C. Frazier, NCTC president.

"The women, at least, are doing something about it. Organizing in local groups from coast to coast, they are showing the men how standards of living are threatened by the hidden tax burden on practically every purchase."

Ohio to Preserve Modern River Galleys

MARIETTA, OHIO.—Four handmade galleys, which carried a band of modern "pioneers" down the Ohio river last spring in re-enactment of the sesqui-centennial of the journey of the first settlers into the Northwest Territory, have become the property of the Ohio State Archeological and Historical society and will be museum pieces.

The flatboat, Union Galley, 50 by 15 feet, and complete with cabin and fireplace, is to be placed permanently here, and one of the pirogues also will remain in Marietta. Locations will be sought for the others.

Re-enacting the trip of the first settlers of 150 years ago to minute detail, the present-day group hiked and drove oxen from Massachusetts to West Newton, Pa., and built the boats by hand and floated on the Ohio river to Marietta, landing last April to bring the Northwest Territory celebration to a climax.