News Parade

Commentary on the Highlights of the Week's News . . . By Elizabeth Eedy

WATCH FRANCE: France has often been called "the key nation of Europe." Now, as never before, this designation is apt. For the eyes of all European governments are watching the shifts and changes in the French Cabinets these days, and foreign policies of many countries are modified accordingly.

An article in "Current History" points out that, since the National (Chamberlain) Government of Great Britain is a Government of the Right or Conservative elements, it is greatly to its interest to have a government of the Right in France, too. Hence the break-up of the French Popular Front, coming simultaneously with the resignation of Leon Blum, Leftist Premier, last week, was cheered mightily in London.

In Berlin, too, the fall of the Blum Cabinet was hailed as the opening of a new era, with French policy more favorably disposed toward Germany. A likelihood of the early drawing away from the Franco-Soviet pact by the new French Government was also cause for rejoicing there, strengthening Hitler's hand to make faster work of Czechoslovakia (or Alsace-Lorraine or Danzig or Lithuania).

At home in France the nation was apparently not so pleased. Leon Jouhaux, French labor leader, claiming followers numbering six million, was furious at the forced break-up of the Popular Front, threatened a general strike of all industry. Socialists and Communists alike, who together form the largest bloc in the Chamber, cried "Down with the Daladier Government!" The former would not lend the government their support when invited to do so; the latter were excluded as being too extreme for a Centre or Right government.

For a moment, then, France was close to revolution which was kept from coming to a head by the realization that "another 1789" in France would precipitate a general European war. Why? Because civil war in France would create a situation there directly comparable to the situation in Spain; the armies of Hitler and Mussolini would undoubtedly plunge into the conflict and there you would have it.

The new government is representative of only a small section of the French people, with pressure being brought to bear on it from both the Right and the Left. The crisis is still on; France will be worth watching for the next few weeks and every new development will be significant.

CONSERVATIVE LEADER: Every day in every way the list of prospective candidates for leadership of Canada's Conservative Party is growing bigger and bigger. Sometimes rumor augments it, later to be denied. At present five candidates are prominently mentioned: Arthur Purvis, former Chairman of the National Employment Commission; Hon. Dr. R. J. Manion, former Minister of Railways and Canals; Hon. J. Earl Lawson, once Minister without portfolio in the Bennett Cabinet; Denton Massey, Toronto M. P., and Sydney Smith, President of the University of Manitoba.

WHAT HITLER MAY PROPOSE: The foreign affairs commentator who writes under the pen-name of Augur reported last week in his private service to London subscribers that Germany would propose a sensational deal for extensive territorial acquisition when Chancellor Hitler visits Premier Mussolini in Rome next month.

Augur said Germany would ask a free hand in gradual absorption of the Danubian region as far as the Black Sea. In exchange, it would offer to help Italy eventually to take from France the rich strip of French territory along the Italian border including the Savoie region and the Mediterranean port of Nice; the Mediterranean island of Corsica, and the North African possession of Tunisia.

PRESIDENTIAL SETBACK: President Roosevelt's administration staggered under an overwhelming blow dealt in the United States House of Representatives last week when a number of Democrat members "crossed the floor of the House" and voted with the other side against the President's Government Re-organization Bill. The issue was one of increasing Presidential powers to permit long overdue reforms to be made in the executive branch of the government.

Observers say the defeat in such a manner of the Re-organization Bill means a big drop in the prestige of the President, that it will mark the beginning of a nation-wide struggle between F.D.R. and his "big business" critics.

READY IN AUGUST: The long-heralded transatlantic air service on a twenty-four-hour schedule between New York and Foynes, Ireland, will start this summer, perhaps by the first of August, it was officially announced from New York last week. (Passengers and mail will be carried—commercial flights must wait till later.) According to the schedule, two planes will take off simultaneously from opposite sides of the Atlantic, an Imperial Airways "pick-a-back" plane from Ireland, a Pan-American Airways Boeing seaplane from Port Washington, N.Y.

South America Progressing More Rapidly Than North

Australia Plans Research Course

Institutions On Aeronautics to Cost Million Dollars

Hon. R. G. Casey, federal treasurer, has announced Australia will set up aeronautical and engineering research institutions at a capital cost of $1,000,000.

The establishments will be based on recommendations contained in a report by H. E. Wimperis, former director of the British Air Ministry at Farnborough.

Mr. Casey said the Wimperis report directed attention to the need for creating a chair and department of aeronautics, with a reader in meteorology, at one of the universities. This would ensure a supply of aeronautical engineers for military and civil aviation.

Experimental Work

An establishment equipped for experimental work in wind-tunnels for engine tests, and for the physical tests of aircraft instruments and other apparatus, would cost $572,000 with an annual maintenance cost of about $50,000, Mr. Casey estimated.

In addition, capital cost of building and equipment for a national reference standards laboratory at Canberra would be $320,000, with a maintenance cost of roughly $40,000.

News In Review

Fear War With Russia

TOKIO. — The danger of conflict with Soviet Russia is increasingly claiming the attention of Japanese leaders and the public.

Persistent rumors of preparations —lacking official confirmation — and bellicose statements on both sides have intensified public anxiety.

In informed quarters it was understood Japan recently moved some regular army units from China battlefronts to Manchoukuo to man the border of Manchoukuo and Soviet Siberia.

Chinese Prepare Push

SHANGHAI. — Chinese said this week they were preparing a gigantic drive toward the Yangtse River in an effort to retake Nanking, the capital they lost to the Japanese Dec. 11.

New victories along the Tientsin-Pukow Railway and Taierchwang fronts were seen by the Chinese as an inspiration for the new offensive. A strong Chinese force along the Tientsin-Pukow line was reported ready to strike out toward Pengpu, about 100 miles north of Nanking.

Consider Next Move

BERLIN.—Chancellor Hitler's next step was debated this week in the wake of the greatest vote of confidence ever accorded him.

His creation of a greater Germany by annexation of Austria March 13 drew the approval of more than 99 per cent. of the nearly 50,000,000 persons who voted in the April 10 plebiscite.

Germans speculated whether he would be inspired to take rapid action on other Nazi "unfinished" business.

Would Spend $5,000,000,000 More

WASHINGTON. — A potential $5,000,000,000 program of spending-for-recovery took more definite form this week when President Roosevelt and his advisers agreed to ask the United States Congress for increased relief appropriations.

They also canvassed the possibilities of broadening the Federal Government's present housing activities, such as the United States Housing Authority's program of clearing slums and building homes for low income groups.

Sent Down For Five Years

NEW YORK. — Richard Whitney, bankrupt broker and former president of the New York Stock Exchange, was sentenced last week to serve from five to ten years in prison for grand larceny.

Whitney, whose brokerage firm, Richard Whitney & Company, failed on March 8, had pleaded guilty to two indictments charging first degree grand larceny in the misuse of securities entrusted to his care by the New York Yacht Club and members of his family.

In Some Respects, Says Senator Webster, Who Declares That Interest In the Southern Continent Is Growing Day By Day.

The importance of the nations of the South American continent is today being increasingly recognized by European powers and by the United States, Senator Lorne C. Webster said at Montreal last week in recounting the impressions made on him by a 60-day 15,000 mile visit to that continent.

The unsettled European situation is largely responsible for this new attention to South America, Senator Webster believes; the new attention being exemplified by German, Italian and more recently British radio broadcasts directed at South American listeners. Everywhere in South America representatives of the various world powers are engaged in fostering closer commercial and political intercourse with that continent.

Thoroughly Modern

In some respects, the Senator found, South America has passed North America in development. For instance South America has a regular Trans-Atlantic airplane service, carrying passengers, mail and perishable express. Some of the universities of South America ante-date North American institutions as McGill and Harvard by as much as a hundred years. Good roads are much in evidence throughout the continent, and thoroughly modern motor cars, railways, radios, moving pictures, etc., are to be found.

"Much of the South American native population is being Anglicized by movies made in the United States and Britain," Senator Webster revealed, "with the younger generation learning the language quite well by this means."

The Younger Generation

"The same younger generation is developing an intense nationalistic spirit, a spirit very much in evidence in other parts of the world," the senator found, "and young leaders are rising rapidly through the continent."

The colorful historical background of South America, and the many attractions it has to offer, give it great potentialities as a tourist mecca, according to the Senator. "Names like Morgan, Raleigh and Captain Kidd, Drake and the Spanish Main, are brought vividly to mind by South America," he said, "and their association with the lands visited lends a distinct fascination."

Poor Things

Some girls marry and have nothing but their husbands to show for it.—Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

VOICE of the PRESS

CANADA THE EMPIRE

THE WORLD AT LARGE

CANADA

Morning's the Time

A watch that is wound in the morning will last longer. The tightly wound main spring will stand the shocks and jars of day better than a loose main spring. For the same reason people are fresher and do better work in the mornings. By night they get run down.—Windsor Star.

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Better Be Careful

Dr. W. T. Crombie, Superintendent of Queen Alexandra Sanitarium, London, Ontario, and noted authority on tuberculosis, has an unpleasant thought for us. If proper tests were taken, he asserts half of the population of Canada would be shown to have tuberculosis. Not that they should be in sanitaria, decidedly not, but they should protect themselves against care and overwork lest they find themselves there. — Canadian Magazine.

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A Big Attraction

Every effort must be put forth by the authorities at Queen's Park to conserve and increase the game fish and wild life in general in this province. That the great Northern Ontario playgrounds and fisherman's paradise are the main attractions to American tourists who left something like $295,000,000 in this province in 1937, is evidenced in the constant stream of inquiries flowing into the Canadian Travel Bureau each spring. —Guelph Mercury.

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Canada's War Debt

As shown by the Canada Year Book the war and demobilization expenditures of Canada up to and including the fiscal year 1920 totalled $1,670,406,236. In the next three years, 1921-23, there were further expenditures of $23,000,000 odd and since then there have been additional small items chargeable to war. These figures apply only to actual war expenditures. To get the cost of the war there would have to be added to them the large, continuing, outlays for pensions. From 1914 to 1920 the gross debt of Canada rose steeply from $544,391,369 to $3,041,529,578. This enormous increase was chiefly but not entirely due to the war expenditures.—Kingston Whig-Standard.

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Those Royal Commissions

The Ottawa Journal laments the now familiar orgy of royal commissions which has marked our Canadian political scene in the past few years . . . .

But it is a splendid way for a government to skate around responsibility; it is assumed that by appointing a commission they have "done something about it."

The list of commissions in the past few years would be an impressive one. Whether the price of clearing the air in some cases was worth the cost is an open question. Yet one might well wonder where the responsibility of politicians in action begins and where it ends—or if the royal commission is going to become a convenient vehicle for holding electoral support.—Hamilton Spectator.

THE EMPIRE

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Inconsistency

The whole of Hungary's agricultural labor market has been disorganized. Why? Because Germany has engaged 20,000 Hungarian agricultural laborers for work in East Prussia.

Yet Germany still keeps up her demands for colonies, saying that she needs to find an outlet for her surplus population. — London Sunday Express.

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"It Has No Parallel"

Those in Canada who cherish the freedom of speech, writing, and public meeting guaranteed by the Constitution are much concerned at the "Padlock" Act recently passed in Quebec. The measure has no parallel in a British Dominion. One clause declares it to be illegal for any house to be used to "propogate communism of bolshevism by any means whatsoever," though it is to be noted that in no part of the Act is any attempt made to define these pernicious doctrines . . . Among elementary principles of British constitutional government are freedom of speech, of the press, and of public meeting, subject to the limitations of the criminal law; the right of a man to a fair trial in open court if charged with an offence; and the freedom of the home from arbitrary search. All of these are violated by the new Act, and the anxiety of liberal opinion throughout Canada at the reactionary nature of the measure can well be understood.—Manchester Guardian.

Expert Visions "Flivver" Plane

Forecasts Mass Production of Airplanes for Private Owners' Use

Dr. Alexander Klemin, head of New York University's school of aeronautics, this week forecast mass production of "flivver" airplanes within five years which would incorporate revolutionary safety devices for the private owner.

In an article in the "Quadrangle" undergraduate publication, Dr. Klemin said developments making for greater safety would include an abolition of rudders to simplify operation, improved air brakes and devices to make "stalling" and "spinning" impossible.

The prices of the "flivvers", he added, would be down to those of popular automobiles. Vehicles may be made, he said, which could be used either as airplanes or automobiles.

Tricycle Landing Gear

He characterized as the most promising safety development the tricycle landing gear which simplifies landing. Another encouraging factor in modern light plane design is the elimination of rudders, inasmuch as the novice pilot has a hard time coordinating his hands and feet in using ailerons, elevators and rudder, Dr. Klemin found.

Lateral control, as in some present day experimental types of planes, would be achieved by aileron operation.

The service costs of the "flivver," the article concluded, would be no greater than on the average automobile, and hangar rent would approximate garage rent.

New Coal Furnace Runs For Weeks

Without Attention to Fuel Supply, Ash Removal or Damper Setting

The head of the house, weary after a season of coal stoking, can look forward to another winter when he won't have to fire the furnace more than once a fortnight, the Mellon Institute reported this week at Pittsburgh.

Dr. E. R. Weidlein, director, at the end of the Institute's first year in its spacious $6,000,000 home, told trustees of the development of anthracite heating equipment that operates "for weeks at a time" without attention.

He told, too, how 218 scientists had spent $1,062,830 in the year on scientific research on things ranging from shirt collars to dish washing.

Pointing to the possibilities of combining heating plants with other household utilities, and of using basements for recreation and other purposes, he said:

Installations of anthracite heating equipment are now operating for weeks at a time, without any attention whatever to the fuel supply, ash removal, or damper settings."

Says Stratosphere Has Possibilities

Harnessing and Storing of Atomic Energy Are Among Them

The great potentialities to be derived from the exploration of the stratosphere, among which the harnessing and storing of atomic energy was, perhaps, the most important, were discussed by Squadron Leader John A. Sully, until recently commanding officer of an R.C.A.F. squadron at Winnipeg, in addressing the Kiwanis Club of Montreal last week. The speaker expressed the view that the conquest of the stratosphere was but a matter of time.

Purposes of the explorations being made in the stratosphere, said Squadron Leader Scully, were many. Scientists were trying to discover what the changes in air pressure and temperatures were at that level in comparison with sea level, and what was the wind speed, believed to blow steadily from the east. Efforts also were directed to finding out what the electrical conductivity of the air at stratosphere height was for broadcasting purposes and for the navigation of air machines.

Would Revolutionize Industry

The explorers also were interested in discovering all they could about the sheet of ozone which was supposed to envelop the earth at a great height and which stops or "dampens" the ultra short-waves which scientists say would otherwise destroy all life on earth. The effect of the rarefied air of the stratosphere on radio signals was another problem waiting

"Most important consideration of all, however," the speaker said, "was that the discovery of how to harness and store atomic energy would completely revolutionize industry, and would probably be the salvation of civilization when the earth's present stock of coal and oil came to an end."

British imports last year totalled $5,148,560,000, a high record of many years.

Construction is so extensive in Colombia that a shortage of materials is threatened.

Guards along the Russian border are using dogs to detect trespassers.

The BOOK SHELF

By ELIZABETH EEDY

MURDER ON SAFARI, by Elspeth Huxley.

A new type of murder story came into being last autumn with the publication of Elspeth Huxley's "Murder at Government House," which was at once a satire on high official life in Chania colony and a cracking good thriller. All-round fun. Now Mrs. Huxley has done it again with "Murder on Safari."

Vachell, the Canadian sleuth who tracked down the killer of Chania's Governor, is back, too, with some even stranger problems to solve. Can a herd of buffaloes prove the alibi of Rutley, Lady Baradale's conceited chauffeur? Why did the elephants take alarm and move mysteriously away? Who put walnuts on the improvised coffin containing the remains of Lady Baradale? Then there's the thrilling climax, in which Vachell sets a trap for the murderer with himself as bait.

The charaterization, the witty style and the swift-moving action of the plot grip the reader's interest from the first page to the last, and vividly re-create, from the writer's first-hand knowledge, the sights, sounds and smells of the African wilds in which the scene is set.

Murder on Safari, by Elspeth Huxley, pub. by Reginald Saunders, Toronto. $2.

To Stop Avalanches

By planting thousands of alder bushes on the upper slopes of the Alps, the Swiss Government hope to check avalanches.

These tremendous falls of snow, which rush down the mountain sides at express speed, have caused heavy loss of life and great damage to property in years gone by. The object of planting the bushes is to hold the snows in the upper Alps and so check the first movement which gathers force as it rushes downwards.

Chinese pigtails are being used in making textiles in Bradford, England.

A Delightful Surprise for London (England) Couple

It isn't every British subject who finds his King and Queen at the door in answer to a knock. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Whitaker, old age pensioners (at the right) had that delightful and surprising experience in their London flat, March 29, just as they were preparing for tea. At the left, the King and Queen, during the teatime chat.