

THE NEWS INTERPRETED

A Commentary
On the More Important Events
of the Week.

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 Mediter-

anean 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.

News In Brief

Japs In Bad Position
SHANGHAI.—Foreign military observers believe the Japanese are in an extremely difficult military position in South Shantung Province, where persistent Chinese counter-attacks have put the Japanese on the defensive along the 150-mile battlefield.

Will Not Return Properties
MEXICO CITY.—It was learned authoritatively this week that Mexico has delivered a note to the British Legation rejecting Great Britain's request that expropriated oil properties be returned to their former owners. The note was in reply to a British protest sent last week charging the Mexican Government with moving by "political desire" in taking the properties.

New Type Cruiser Rumored
WASHINGTON.—The Navy Department has been informed that Japan is constructing a powerful "hit and run" fleet that may revolutionize naval tactics.

Despite a screen of censorship, this Government has been advised that the island empire is building a type of super cruiser that has no match from the standpoints of speed, mobility and striking power.

Not Guilty
SAULT STE. MARIE.—Vernon Spencer, of Wixom, Mich., was a free man this week-end, after a jury had found him not guilty of murdering Helen Grier at a Long Lake cabin last October 28.

Spencer showed no emotion when the verdict was announced, and the applause which rose in the courtroom was silenced immediately.

Ice Jam Breaks Up
NIAGARA FALLS, Ont.—Break-up of the Niagara River Gorge ice jam last week took a big toll of wild life, observers reported.

William (Red) Hill, riverman, said hundreds of wild ducks were crushed as they sat on the ice field. He said thousands of perch, apparently baf-

B-D

Sneezes Are Clue To Pet Allergies

Seven In Row Sure Sign That One Is Victim of Strange Infection

If you sneeze more than six times in a row, you are almost certainly allergic.

This means, the American College of Physicians was informed last week, that you need to beware of too much touching, swallowing or breathing of the things that cause allergies.

Allergy means sensitization. It includes headaches, skin rashes, dyspepsia, unaccountable swellings, watery eyes and nose, hay fever and some asthmas.

Dry Skin Good Protection
The things you must beware of contacting to excess range from good food like milk and oatmeal to horse-hair and feathers, to cosmetics and even medicines that may now and then be needed to save your life.

All this was brought out in a new point of view on the queer class of ill-named allergies, presented by Dr. Edward A. Kern, of the University of Pennsylvania. The new view is that it is now possible for doctors to say who is subject to catching one of these strange infections and to warn him how to avoid it.

Heredity, Dr. Kern said, is the first and easiest way to tell whether you are susceptible to the allergies. A dry skin, Dr. Kern said, is a good protection.

Art Of Eating

Some Valuable Points—Moderation, Pleasant Atmosphere, Rest Help Health

We are very often told how to eat and how important it is that our meals consist of a variety of foods. The proper selection of foods is the first item to be considered, and the next is to eat food in the right way after it has been selected. The following suggestions are made to cover the important subject of How to Eat:

Moderation should be practised at all times. It is harmful to over-eat, even of the proper foods. Excess does harm; it throws an unreasonable strain on the body and so tends to wear it out early. Premature old age is the common result of neglect of the watchword "moderation."

Meals should be eaten in a quiet, restful manner. Food is not readily digested when the body is tired, or when the individual is hurried or angry. A rest before meals is recommended to overcome body fatigue.

Exercise should not be taken immediately after eating. Exercise is needed by the body, but so is rest, and one of the times when comparative rest is required by the body is after eating.

Thoroughly Chewed
This same idea of rest is the reason why meals should be eaten regularly. The number of meals and the hour for meals is a matter of individual preference and custom. When meals are eaten irregularly, or when food is taken between meals, the digestive system is not given the periods of rest which it requires if it is to do its work properly. Eating between meals should be avoided. The person who requires extra nourishment should take it regularly.

Nature has provided means for the mastication of food. Food should be eaten slowly and it should be thoroughly chewed before it is swallowed. It should not be washed down with a drink before it is masticated. There is no objection to the use of beverages in moderation with meals, but they should be taken when the mouth is empty.

Moderation at all times—that is How to Eat!

fled by the heavy fog created near the top of Niagara Falls, were carried over the cataract before they were aware of its nearness.

The Papers Say

EDITORIAL COMMENT FROM HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE.

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.

Better Be Careful

Dr. W. T. Crombie, Superintendent of Queen Alexandra Sanatorium, 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.

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.

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 not entirely due to the war expenditures.—Kingston Whig-Standard.

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.

10,000 Murphys Attend Picnic

Justice Charles S. Murphy of Worcester, Mass., announced this week his annual "Murphy Day" will be held June 19 and said he expects 10,000 Murphys to show up.

And with that he started conning directories. Every New England Murphy whom he finds therein will get an invitation. Five thousand came out last summer.

THE EMPIRE

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.

"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 "propagate 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.

"Perhaps some day we will all think of armies as police forces to preserve the peace of the world and they will become that instead of forces of aggression."—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"The stock market has no more real effect on American business than the results of a dog race in California."—Henry Ford.

The BOOK SHELF

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 Baradate'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 Baradate? Then there's the thrilling climax, in which Vachell sets a trap for the murderer with himself as bait.

The characterization, 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.

Rattlesnake Liquor Rheumatism Cure

Chinese Chef at Goderich, Ont., Imports It As a Medicine

Express and customs officials at Goderich, last week handled a box marked "Live Rattlesnakes" in gingerly fashion. The box had several air holes in each end, covered with screens, but even this safeguard did not prevent the use of extreme caution.

The rattlesnakes, secured through a Chinese importing house in Chicago, were consigned to Mark See, 200-pound Chinese chef who has suffered for five years from rheumatism.

Cleaned and Dressed
It was not long after receipt of the consignment that Mark had the heads off the rattlers. They were cleaned and dressed and placed in liquor, to extract the venom. The concoction, taken inwardly, is said by the Chinese to be a sure cure for rheumatism. Mark has lost all faith in occidental medical treatments.

The rattlesnake liquor will not be ready for six months yet. The longer it is aged, the more potent it is as a rheumatic cure, it was explained by members of the Chinese colony who gathered at Goderich.

They're Duty Free
Express and customs officials at Goderich have handled many oddities, but this is the first occasion on which they have encountered rattlesnakes. Canadians can import as many as they like, for they are duty free, there being nothing in the customs tariff to cover them.

Accordeon Replaces Harp's Popularity

In Old Ireland Because Latter Is Found Too Expensive

DUBLIN.—The Irish harp—"that one in Tara's halls"—is being ousted by the piano accordion and the high duties levied by the government, according to musical authorities here.

Dublin's principal school of harp playing has just closed down owing, it is said, to the decline in the popularity of the instrument and the excessive cost of new harps and strings.

Only One Firm Makes It
The Irish harp is now made by only one firm in Glasgow and the import duty on one costing £10 (\$50) amounts to nearly 48 shillings (\$12). The rate of duty on all imported musical instruments is 33 1/3 per cent (imperial preference, 22 2/9 per cent). Teresa McCormack, principal of the school, has made several attempts to get the duty removed or reduced but says she has met with a blank refusal.

A professor of music here stated there did not appear to be any general desire to take up the study of the harp. The number of harpists in the Irish capital could be counted on the fingers of two hands.

Since the advent of the modern piano, he explained, the popularity of the harp has been falling off. People were now turning to the piano accordion.

History's Most Noted Goldrush

Motley Characters Raced to Klondike Seeking Big Fortunes

Most bizarre of all rushes, the stampede to the Klondike brought together in an unbelievably harsh environment a strange motley of characters on a mad scramble for gold, says The Timmins Press.

That magic word, swung over the telegraph wires of the nation, blazoned on the front pages of a thousand newspapers, told the story of the new land of wealth in an instant.

Wealthy Overnight
Around the cracker-barrel of village stores and in the hotel lobbies of great cities, mouths were agape at the astounding story was told. T. M. Lippy, a Seattle Y. M. C. A. secretary, had brought back \$85,000 as reward for a few months' work; William Stanley, who had labored at the forge as a blacksmith when he lived in the States, came back with a fortune of \$115,000; a Swedish workman named Charlie Anderson had cleaned up \$45,000; William Sloat, a dry-goods merchant of Nanaimo, B.C., brought out \$52,000.

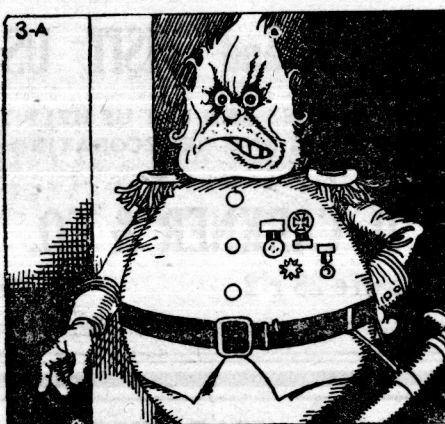
"Well, if getting six thousand dollars is unlucky," quoth the village sages, and the big-town smart guys, "guess I'll go to the Klondike and show what a lucky man can do."

Million in "Dust"
Two days later, the "Portland" steamed into Seattle harbor bearing a ton and a half of gold from the Klondike, and within a few weeks she was back with nearly half a million more in dust. With the arrival of every steamship the crescendo of excitement grew. All the stories were of success.

It seemed impossible that anyone could fail. All one had to do was buy a ticket for Alaska, scratch around in the dirt and sand long enough to fill a gunny-sack with nuggets, and come back to live the remainder of life like a king.

The rush was on.

THE WONDERLAND OF OZ



In a short time General Blug, the commander of the Gnome King's armies, appeared. This gnome was known far and wide as a terrible fighter and a cruel, desperate commander. He had fifty thousand gnome soldiers, all well drilled, who feared nothing but their stern commander, and yet General Blug was a trifle uneasy when he arrived and saw how angry the Gnome King was.



"Ha! So you're here!" cried the King. "So I am," said the General. "March your army at once to the Land of Oz, capture and destroy the Emerald City, and bring back to me my magic belt!" roared the King. "You're crazy," remarked the General, calmly. "What's that? What's that?" cried the Gnome King, dancing around on his pointed toes, he was so enraged.



"You don't know what you're talking about," continued the General, seating himself upon a large cut diamond. "I advise you to stand in a corner and count sixty before you speak again." The King looked around for something to throw at General Blug, but as nothing was handy, he began to consider that perhaps the man was right. So he pulled his whiskers and growled at Blug.



"In the first place," said the General, "we can't march across the deadly desert to the Land of Oz, and if we could, the ruler of that country, Princess Ozma, has certain magic powers that would render my army helpless. Had you not lost your magic belt you might have some chance of defeating her, but the belt is gone." "I want it," screamed the King. "I must have it! You've got to get it!"