Old Sore Spot, **Memel Makes Trouble Again**

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

Recent elections in Memel, Lithuania, resulting in reported Nazi party victories, swings the busy European news spotlight to another German-border sore spot.

Lying along the northeast frontier of East Prussia (now cut off from the rest of Germany by the "Polish Corridor"), Memel territory is an irregular sliver of land covering an area of about 1,000 square miles. In general a farming and cattle-raising region, it has



Map showing Memel's strategic position as a Baltic outlet for Lithuania, also its contiguous position to German

population of about 150,000 people and includes the long-contested and vital Baltic port of Memel-"Klaipeda" to the Lithuanians.

Given up by Germany under the Versailles treaty, Memelland was administered by the Allied powers for several years after the World war. In 1924, following Lithuania's action of the previous year in taking detenland, where German populaover the area, Memel territorywith certain autonomous rightswas legally ceded to that country in a League of Nations pact signed by Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, and Lithuania. Since then Memel has periodically rated news space as one of Europe's problem chil-

An International Football.

Such dramatic events as it has seen since the war, however, are mild compared with the bloody past of this strip of land on the crossroads of international history.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

Another link in Uncle Sam's

bond with Africa's only inde-

pendent republic was forged

commerce and navigation

with the "Black Republic" of

the United States some 40

years before the Civil war, Liberia

has long been a "protege" of the

United States. Although established

as a free and independent republic

in 1847, this West African country

has, in its turbulent history, more

than once turned to the larger re-

public for "aid and comfort." Its

flag, constitution, and government

are patterned, with certain reserva-

tions, after the U.S. model, while

an American receiver heads the

commission in charge of customs

Zebra Antelope Size of Small Goat.

A ragged patch of land on the

under side of the great west African

shoulder that bulges into the Atlan-

tic ocean, Liberia is about the size

of Ohio, with a population estimated

at more than a million and a half

Christian, Moslem and pagan Ne-

groes. As the last stop of the con-

tinental curve on the sea lane be-

tween Europe and South Africa, this

state occupies a strategic geograph-

ic position. Furthermore, the "Grain

Coast" (so-called from its one-time

trade in pepper, or "Grains of Para-

dise,") not only boasts one of the

more healthful climates for this part

of the world, but a wealth of nat-

best side-show oddities.

Colonized by freed slaves of

Liberia.

Liberia, Uncle Sam's Protege,

Tightens Bonds with Sponsor

More than 700 years ago, before the town of Memel was founded, its site was a battleground between Lithuanian tribes and invading Teutonic Knights, a military and religious order of German crusaders. Destroying the Lithuanian fortress which stood guard against Baltic pirates, the Knights built their own stronghold, following it with the town of "Memelburg."

As an early trade center, Memel grew and prospered, but found little peace. In the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth centuries, it was attacked and burned time and again in a three-cornered tug-of-war between Lithuanians, Poles and Teutons, the latter winning out in the Peace of Melno in 1422.

For a short time in the 1600s, the Swedes called Memel theirs; later it was occupied by Russian troops. After sacking and burning the town they left it to the mercy of a deadly plague. But the stubborn city again struggled to its feet. As a thriving Prussian town, it became, until the World war, Germany's northernmost Baltic port.

Lithuania's Window on the Sea. Today Memel is the Lithuanian republic's only good port. Modernized by the government, with new wharves, warehouses, docking machinery, grain elevators, and cold storage equipment, the old city has been given a new lease on life, not only as a timber center, but as a general transit port for foreign and domestic trade. Regular shipping service links it with British, Polish and Latvian ports: rail and airplane lines connect it with Berlin and Mos-

Much of Lithuania's commerce flows through Memel, including imports of textiles, coal, machinery. and cement; and exports of bacon, butter, eggs, lumber and skins. To its protected harbor, which, unlike many other Baltic ports, never freezes over, nearly 1,400 ships came in 1936.

A Non-Melting Pot.

Sandwiched between East Prussia and Lithuania, both the territory and town of Memel are mixtures of German and Lithuanian influence. Like that other border region of Sution is largely centered in the cities. with the Czechs in the country, Memelland's Teutonic concentration is urban; the Lithuanians are predominant in rural districts.

Memelland has not only Lithuania's sole port but also four-fifths of its already limited seaboard with a teeming fishing industry. While Memelland is not especially fertile, particularly in the sandy regions near the shore, it holds the lower and navigable section of Lithuania's chief river, the Nemunas, a vital economic artery of the country.

A general view of the main

street of Monrovia, capital of

the African republic of Li-

beria, during the military pa-

rade featuring the inaugura-

Found in Liberia, for example, is

the zebra antelope, no bigger than

garb of broad black stripes on a

Two species of Liberian shrew (a

molelike creature with velvety fur)

are peculiar to the country; while

out of "Alice in Wonderland" itself

is a local version of the dormouse.

a small rodent whose habit of going

torpid in cold weather may have

had something to do with his sleepy

characterization at Alice's famous

Untapped Economic Wealth.

Liberia has been called the "Gar-

den Spot of West Africa," blessed

with the "good earth," dense trop-

ical forests, mineral deposits-and

that modern essential to a world-on-

Its well-watered soil is capable of

producing a lush growth of coconuts.

a good grade of coffee, considerable

cocoa, cotton, and rice. Its pasture

land is well suited to the raising of

diamonds are found there, as well

much of this potential wealth is as

as copper, zinc and iron.

150 miles of motor road.

bright brown coat.

tea party.

wheels, rubber.

recently with the signing of a tion of President Edwin Bar-

new treaty of friendship, clay, early in 1936.

NATIONAL **AFFAIRS**

Reviewed by CARTER FIELD

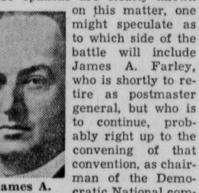
President Roosevelt makes clear the real battle facing the New Deal is the fight for the control of the 1940 convention . . . Inquiry into whole silver policy is demanded . . . Roosevelt jolts "peace at any price" lobby.

WASHINGTON .- The real battle confronting the New Deal, as President Roosevelt made crystal clear in his Jackson Day speech, lies in the fight for control of the 1940 Democratic convention. It seems a long time off, to those not accustomed to get interested in politics until the closing days of a campaign. But the convention is just one year from June, the selection of delegates begins one year hence, and the scheming to pick and control those delegates is already under way.

Most of the fire in Roosevelt's Jackson Day speech, it will be noted, was against the outside elements that have infiltrated the Democratic party and are now seeking to control it. He wants all the Tweedledees to go join their Republican brethren, the Tweedledums, and let the New Dealers run the Democrat-

But there were a great many men and women in the audience at the Mayflower hotel, some of them show in the photographs taken of the President-they were so close to him-who are not going to cooperate on the side of the New Dealers in that battle.

Leaving entirely aside those whose opinions are clearly known on this matter, one



James A. Farley

man of the Democratic National committee, and as chairman of the New York State Democratic committee.

Farley's Influence Blocks Candidacy of Jackson

It must be recalled, to grasp the importance of this, that it was largely Farley's influence that prevented what would have been the most spectacular step toward picking a New Deal successor for Roosevelt. It was Farley, against Roosevelt's strong desire, who stopped the nomination for governor of New York of Robert H. Jackson. It so happens that this step now turns out not to have been very important, as far as Democratic presidential candidacies are concerned. For it is the consensus of political judgment that if Jackson had been nominated Thomas E. Dewey would now be governor of New York. It would have been only by getting elected governor of New York, and making a fair record at Albany, that Jackson could have obtained the start toward the White House desired for him by so many New Dealers, including the President himself.

So the chief significance of the blocking of Jackson's nominationassuming that Dewey would have beaten nearly any one except Herbert H. Lehman-is that Farley was willing to oppose the President's plan for building up a 100 per cent New Dealer for the presidency, and that he could find sufficient strength. even against the desires of the President, to make that objection stand.

It would seem reasonable to suppose, therefore, that Farley, with much the same backing he had last summer, will be able to prevent the selection of delegates from New York who could be swung solidly to any other out-and-out New Dealer. For instance, Harry L. Hopkins.

a small goat and made up in prison Subsidy Price for Silver Causes Many Red Faces

There are a good many red faces as the result of the continuance of the present subsidy price for silver mined in the United States. Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr. is among those who thought the price should be reduced, and ex-

pected it would be. Senator John Townsend of Delaware has introduced a resolution providing for an inquiry into the whole silver policy. The natural inference would be that this would be shelved, but there are several senators, even on the pro-silver side, who would like nothing better than to have a thorough public airing and discussion of the government's silver

Actually, of course, the treasury, with the approval of the President, has flagrantly ignored the law. It is a crazy law, and this writer begoats, sheep and cattle. Gold and lieves that the President and Mr. Morgenthau should be commended for not obeying it. But it should be Yet, with the exception of the vast | repealed if it is not to be obeyed. rubber plantations worked under As a matter of fact, it would have concession to American interests. to be repealed very shortly if the treasury should make a really consterile as buried treasure. In an scientious effort to obey it. Howarea of some 43,000 square miles. ever, the proceeding would cost the ural resources, and some of nature's there is no railway, and only about taxpayers of this country a good

is one-fourth of the value of all the gold and silver held by the governshall reach one dollar and twentynine cents an ounce.

The law was passed back in 1933. Very shortly the treasury started buying silver, on the world market. When it began the world price of silver was forty-five cents an ounce. By prodigious buying, and with many speculators all over the world convinced that the U.S. treasury would be able to do just that to the world price, the asking price gradually advanced. It went above eighty cents.

Only Persons to Profit Have Been Foreigners

Then the treasury abruptly stopped the tremendous speculation. The only persons to profit, to any extent, had been foreigners. In the first place all silver then above ground in the United States had been nationalized and was bought by the government at fifty cents an ounce. 'In the second if an American bought silver in some foreign market-and some did-the speculator was taxed 50 per cent of his profit. This was a special tax on the transaction, and of course was in addition to any income tax. Incidentally an investigation was started to discover who was speculating in silver. Names of wives of senators and all sorts of bigwigs were discovered. The investigation was dropped.

Without treasury bidding up, the price of silver promptly dropped back to where it had been before the buying campaign started. In fact it went below that, and is now hovering around forty-three cents. So that the treasury not only has a tremendous loss on all the silver it bought abroad during the buying spree, but has a loss of seven cents an ounce on all the silver it took over from American citizens.

This huge loss, augmented by the subsidy price paid for silver mined inside the United States, which has just been continued until next June, when the law expires, does not show on the treasury books. The treasury does not admit the loss.

'Peace at Any Price' Lobby Is Jolted by President

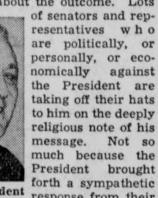
President Roosevelt jolted the old 'peace at any price' lobby considerably with the first part of his message. It so happens that the extreme pacifist movement in this country has always been rather closely associated with religion-or rather with church organizations. One line in the Bible which this

group never liked to hear quotedthough it has been thrown at them many times by irate members of the senate and house naval and military committees, not to mention sundry generals and admirals-is Christ's statement that He came not to bring peace, "but a sword." Roosevelt, some researchers assert, is the first important public official in 1900 years who made a public statement supporting that particular statement of the Savior.

But the President makes a strong and rather convincing case for the argument that religious freedom, in fact religion itself, is dependent upon democracy, and goes right on from there to prove that democracy is dependent upon defensive arma-

It is a queer and, to the peace at any price crowd, a very annoying argument. They prefer texts like "turning the other cheek" and "the meek shall inherit the earth" and others glorifying the virtues, and efficiency, of non-resistance. They prefer the attitude of the early Christian martyrs, who died in physical agony but spiritual exaltation to the thought of a bright and shining sword to defend their religious freedom.

On Capitol Hill, however, there is no doubt about the outcome. Lots of senators and rep-



religious note of his message. Not so much because the President brought forth a sympathetic

The President response from their religious souls as because he provided them with what they regard as a perfect alibi for the next cam-

Perfect Alibi to Hand to Pacifists Back Home

When they are reproached by the pacifists back home-and most of them have peace at any price elements in their districts and statesthey can point out that not to vote for big army and navy appropriations is to endanger religious freedom in this country.

Most of them intended to do just that anyhow, but now they can do it with considerably less worry. In fact they think the President's address may stifle in advance a lot of the opposition they might otherwise have had from the good folks who believe in the virtue of non-resistance. And how it does help them with future speeches. The President has already harrowed the ground for them. He has provided a theme for letters to constituents which will -or so the boys now think-remove a lot of rocks from the path to their own renomination and re-election.

@ Bell Syndicate.-WNU Service.

many billion dollars before the repeal would ensue.

The point is that the law directs the treasury to keep on buying silver until the amount of silver held

ment—or—until the price of silver shall reach one dollar and twenty.

ADVENTURERS' CLUB

HEADLINES FROM THE LIVES OF PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELF!

"River of Death"

HELLO EVERYBODY:

Here's a yarn of two men who followed a dog-almost to their doom. One of these men was Fred Rowan of Pelham, N. Y. The other was his friend and hunting companion, Bat.

Fred was working down in Costa Rica in 1922, as overseer of a banana farm. Bat was another young American who also worked on the plantation. On New Year's morning, the pair of them started out on a hunting trip, taking along Bat's dog. And that mutt led them into the worst spot either of them had ever been in in their lives.

The dog, Fred says, was a brainless animal, untrained and more trouble than he was worth on a hunting trip. They had crossed a bridge over a river, struck into the tropical jungle along a well known trail and had been hunting for an hour when the dog ran off into the underbrush and, a few moments later, set up a terrific yelping.

Bat yelled: "Come on-the pigs have him!" And the two men were off the trail, crashing through matted brush to save the dog from the wild pigs of the region which would tear him to pieces in no time. They plunged into low, swampy land and found the dog. To Fred's disgust there were no pigs. The cause of all the commotion was a little motheaten swamp squirrel.

Rain Drives Them Toward Higher Ground.

At that moment it started raining, as only it can rain in the tropics. Hastily the two men started back in what they thought was the direction of higher ground. "But," says Fred, "we couldn't see more than 30 feet ahead through the dense vegetation, and soon we were hopelessly muddled. All day long we tried this direction and that, but to no avail.



He covered the crossing with a big automatic rifle.

Stumbling over vines and roots, we floundered helplessly in that tropic swamp. Late in the afternoon we came out on a bit of solid ground beside the river. We tried to head upstream, but ran into another swamp. We made our way back to the high ground and all night we huddled there, cold and wet, with the rain dinning in our ears. Dawn found us wretched with hunger and thirst, for with all the water around us, none of it was safe to drink. Across the river we could see waving banana leaves. Over there would be trails, and a trolley line leading to the railroad. If we could only get across."

But to get across that river meant swimming-and the river was full of alligators. On the other hand, it would be almost as bad to go back into the jungle. In front of Fred's eyes was a picture of a native he had found a month before. He had been lost for 13 days and when Fred found him he had gone into his last sleep-a shrunken body covered with torn and festered skin. Even alligators would be better than that.

It was Bat who decided Fred. Bat was just over an attack of fever, and he was the weaker of the two. "Stay here and rot if you want to," he croaked. "I'm going across the river." Fred felt the same way about it. He told Bat to go ahead-that he'd stay on the bank with a rifle and "cover" his crossing with his big automatic rifle. Carrying the lighter rifle-a .22-Bat called his dog and plunged into the water. He made steady progress, and no alligators showed their noses above the surface of the stream. But Fred was relieved when at last he climbed up on the other bank.

"Bat motioned to me to come along," says Fred, "and with a sick feeling I made a few simple preparations. My rifle was much too heavy and awkward to hold, so I unlaced my belt half way, threaded it through the trigger guard and refastened it around my waist. This permitted the barrel to swing between my legs and gave me freedom to kick. As I entered the water it occurred to me that Bat was covering my approach with a .22 full of water. A .22 wouldn't even dent an alligator's tough hide. But by then I was out in the current and swimming."

Fred swam steadily. He was making it. And then, when he was a scant 15 feet from shore, something struck him a terrific blow in the small of the back. At that moment, Fred had visions of a big, scaly snout poking at him before making the final grab. An alligator! Panic seized him. He threw up his hands and screamed, "Oh my God!" And as he did so he got a glimpse of Bat's face above him-and horror was written all over it.

He Crawled Ashore and Fell Face Down.

"I thrashed madly in the water," he says, "and as I did so I felt bottom with my knees. I crawled ashore and flopped face down on the ground, gagging and retching with nausea. I lay there for a while, and then Bat helped me to my feet and steadied me while I took the rifle off my belt."

As they started to walk away, neither man spoke. Nothing was said about Fred's terrifying experience. Darkness had fallen again. when, after much stumbling they came to the trolley line that led to the railroad. Just before midnight they came in sight of the winking lights of their plantation camp. They took some whisky and a stiff dose of quinine apiece-and went to bed.

The next morning Fred got up and began taking stock-and got the surprise of his life. When he came to examine his rifle he found that the barrel was split from the muzzle almost up to the stock. Then he asked Bat a few questions-they hadn't spoken of that swim across the river before-and found out all about that "alligator" that had given him such a scare the evening before.

That alligator just didn't exist. It was the gun that had given him that poke. "The motion of swimming," Fred says, "had pushed the catch off 'safety' and the drag against the belt had pulled the trigger. The cartridge, exploding under water, created a terrific recoil which drove the stock of the gun into the small of my back. Bat had seen what took place, and thought from my cries that I had been shot. Hence the expression of horror on his face. And I, of course, thought it was because something had attacked me. My mind had been too dazed to realize the folly of swimming with a loaded gun." And another folly Fred says he'll never repeat is going to the rescue

of a half-witted dog.

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Tiny Islands in the Pacific Jarvis island is on the equator in

longitude 159 deg. W., while Palmyra island is 6 deg. N. and in lonislands in the Pacific, with an area British possessions; Whitaker's Alnection with transpacific air routes. | Legion.

Ship Island, Military Post Ship island in Mississippi was re-

served for military purposes by the executive order of August 30, 1847. gitude 1621/2 deg. W. Both are tiny In 1861 the island was occupied by Confederate troops. In September, of about 11/2 square miles each. 1861, the United States naval forces Palmyra is uninhabited. The States- took possession of the island. The man's Yearbook lists them among present works on the island were commenced in 1862. Ship island was manac (British) acknowledges them | used as a base for military operaas American. They are coral atolls, tions in the gulf from that time on. of some value for coconuts and It was sold in 1933 to the Joe Graguano, but more important in con- ham post, No. 119, of the American

CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

TIMBER WANTED

Early American 'Bowl'

Nothing new under the sun are California's famous Rose Bowl and its companion football bowls in other parts of the country. At Pechal, in Yucatan, Dr. A. V. Kidder and his colleagues of the institution's division of historical research found a peculiar elliptical mound, broken only in four places, as if for entrances. When they dug away the covering earth they brought to light a series of 20 steps running up to a high wall. The seating capacity is placed at 8,000. The court inclosed by this ancient grandstand is more nearly square than a modern football field. It is approximately 225 by 250 feet. Its use can only be conjectured; perhaps it was for athletic contests, perhaps for religious ceremonials.

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