

Sicily Faces New Development As Result of Italian Program



Large Construction and Irrigation Projects Planned.

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

Next on the list of places for intensive development by the Italian government is Sicily. A new program—to include the breaking up of big estates, irrigation projects and large-scale construction for the future—suggests that this big island at the "toe" of the Italian "boot" is to be prodded into greater activity and productivity.

Sicily, nearly 10,000 square miles in extent, is the largest island in the Mediterranean sea. With a population of more than 400 persons to each square mile, it is also one of the most densely settled regions of Europe. Yet, it is estimated, less than 200 families own one-sixth of the land.

Although on this rugged triangular island more than 4,000,000 people live, because of large estates and the old system of absentee ownership, travelers see few farmhouses. Most Sicilians are concentrated in villages 10 or 15 miles apart.

Chief Farm Products. Sicily's chief farm products are lemons, oranges and almonds, plus cereals, figs, grapes and olives. Olives were grown on this island 1,500 years before Christ. Sicily was also an important ancient granary for the Romans.

As a source of mineral wealth, Sicily contains deposits generally believed more varied than valuable, including lead, quicksilver, iron, copper, lignite, petroleum, asbestos, salt. With the exception of sulphur—a centuries-old industry which still accounts for a large share of the world's demand—most of the minerals are found in too limited quantity to be worth extracting.

Even the sulphur industry, in recent years, has suffered as a result of the rising competition from new sources, especially in Texas and Louisiana. This decline, together with additional foreign competition in fruit-growing, wine-making,



MASTER BUILDER. Under the guiding hand of Benito Mussolini, Sicily will be rebuilt. Big estates of the island will be broken down into small tracts, irrigation projects and large-scale construction jobs are being planned by Mussolini's government.

and the tropical-products in which Sicily specialized, has added considerably to the crowded island's economic problems.

Nature's Odd Contrasts.

A land of striking natural contrasts, Sicily is a spot where catastrophe sometimes masks a blessing. From destructive volcanic eruption, for example, has come the fertile soil that promotes flourishing crops. Mount Etna—some 10,000 feet high and described by the ancients as an "awful yet bountiful lord"—is one of the world's great volcanic spectacles.

Sicily's geographic location in the heart of the "Dangerous Sea" has brought her prosperity and bitter struggle. Ruins of Greek temples and pilaeas, scattered along the coast, tell a fragmentary story of the island's "Golden Age," when Syracuse and other ancient cities

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Reviewed by **CARTER FIELD**

United States relations with Japan may be changed as a result of the Hitler-Stalin pact. . . The difference between the Russian and German governments is hard to figure out. . . To gain his maximum strength before the next election, the President needs poor business and a submissive congress.

WASHINGTON.—The whole course of United States relations with Japan may be changed as a result of the about face of the Hitler and Stalin governments. When congress adjourned Secretary of State Cordell Hull had already served the necessary six-months notice of abrogation of our commercial treaty with Japan. Not only was this action highly popular in the country, to judge from comments at the time, but it was approved on Capitol Hill by almost every faction and group of congress—from the vigorous partisans of Britain and France to the most extreme pacifists and isolationists.

Not only that, but it was obvious that if congress had stayed in session much longer there would have been serious attempts, which might have proved successful if given the slightest encouragement by the administration, to take further steps against Japan. This move might not have gone as far as was advocated by Sen. Key Pittman, chairman of the senate foreign relations committee, who wanted an outright embargo against Japan, but it might have approached it.

Obviously President Roosevelt, seeing that his first move against Japan had been so popular, might at any time have declared that he recognized that a state of war existed between Japan and China. This would have meant, under the present neutrality law, that this country could no longer ship "arms, ammunition and implements of war" to Japan. The only reason this is not in effect today is that Japan has never declared war, and because of fear that such an embargo might hurt China more than Japan this government has never officially recognized that war in the Orient exists.

Obviously, also, congress was set to take some step in this direction when it reconvenes, either in January at the regular session, or earlier if the President should call a special session.

Opposition to Closing Trade Door With China

This feeling, which has been widespread in the country, has been based on two factors. First, there is very general sympathy in the United States with China as against the aggressions of Japan. But second, Japan has been the ally of Germany and Italy, and as such has been disliked by all partisans of the "democracies." Up to the Hitler-Stalin pact this dislike was shared by the Communist element in this country also. In fact Japan simply did not have any friends in this country, and had hosts of enemies, whose feelings had been fanned by the various incidents, including the sinking of the gunboat Panay, and outrages on civilians.

But now the whole situation has been changed. There is no evidence that there is any friendlier feeling for Japan. Certainly there is no more sympathy with her aspirations to subjugate and govern eastern China. And there is certainly just as much violent opposition to her closing the door to United States trade with China.

But Japan is no longer the probable adversary of Britain and France in a world war—a war into which the United States might easily be drawn. So she is—for the time being certainly—no longer a possible enemy of the United States in open warfare in the pending emergency.

Many astute observers have long felt that war between Japan and the United States is inevitable eventually. That may or may not still be true, but in the present situation it is not a factor to be considered. Japan has already, since the announcement of the Hitler-Stalin pact, given evidence of a desire to placate Britain. Naturally she does not like the thought of Germany's giving the Soviet a free hand in the Orient. Having obtained what, according to Gen. W. G. Krivitsky and other observers, Stalin has wanted for a long time—a tieup with Hitler—Stalin may easily decide now to slap down Japan in her attempts to overrun China and encroach on territory that Stalin desires.

Poured Water on Wheels Of the Isolationist Bloc

Curiously enough the Hitler-Stalin agreement poured a lot of water on the wheels of the isolationist bloc. They are not doing much screaming from the house-tops about it, yet, but they are studying it quietly, gathering ammunition for their own battle with the White House and state department in the event that

congress is called back to Washington and the heat turned on to get rid of that embargo provision for "arms, ammunition and implements of war."

If the Stalin-Hitler pact proves to be only temporary, the isolationists will argue that it's fair warning of the danger of monkeying in power politics. If the pact proves to be durable as well as logical, producing peace by winning for the dictators just what they want without war, they will argue that Roosevelt's effort to define neutrality as a policy of preventing war is superfluous.

The immediate reaction in Washington to Hitler's coup is chagrin that the blind spot in a policy of defending democracy wherever it is attacked was so quickly and brutally exposed—reliance on participation in this policy of a dictatorship generally included verbally in the list of "democracies."

Of course this inclusion of the Soviet among "democracies" has always been a laugh to everybody except the so-called liberals. Unless one is for the Soviet lock, stock and barrel, one is not apt to consider Russia under its present government as anything but a dictatorship. Most people in this country do not approve either the Hitler or the Stalin methods of government. In fact the dissenting majority, who always wondered why the Soviet was called a democracy, have also been hard put to it mentally to understand just why those in this country who favor the Soviet have been so bitter against the Nazis, and why those who favor the Nazis are so bitter against the Communists.

Hard to Figure Difference Between Stalin and Hitler

If one eliminates the fact that the Stalin government has never been excited about what race a particular person springs from (not what religion, because both Stalin and Hitler have been rather tough on all religions) whereas the Nazis have no use for Jews, Negroes, or in fact any non-Aryans, the difference between the two governments is a bit hard to figure out.

So perhaps it should not have been such a blow to certain observers, including the United States state department, that the Stalin and Hitler governments have been getting together, despite the utmost efforts of Britain and France to bring the Soviet into their alliance against Hitler.

However, all these developments are making it more difficult for the President to get what he wants on neutrality legislation. They are cited as demonstration of the instability of the promises of European governments; as proofs that the United States will do well to keep out altogether.

Needs Poor Business and A Submissive Congress

Whatever critics of the New Deal, in or outside of business, may figure about what a boom between now and next January would mean politically to Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal, it is a very real question to the President.

The problem is that it is not a simple question. To attain his maximum strength from now until November, 1940, Roosevelt should have very poor business from now until January, then an utterly submissive congress to vote all the appropriations for government spending that Roosevelt may want early next spring, and finally a very real revival of business during next summer and fall.

The bad business from now until January is necessary in order to frighten congress into giving Roosevelt his own way when the lawmakers meet again. It is also necessary to prove to the country that Roosevelt knows much better than congress what is needed. Besides, it is necessary in order to put the would-be budget balancers and economy-minded group headed by Sen. Harry Flood Byrd of Virginia, Sen. Josiah W. Bailey of North Carolina, Walter F. George of Georgia, Alva B. Adams of Colorado, etc., in their places.

The good business that is necessary to the maximum Roosevelt strength after the new appropriations are made by a submissive congress next January is essential to provide good times so that the country will be satisfied with the New Deal when it goes to the polls in November, 1940, to elect a new President, and will vote either for Roosevelt himself, for another term, or for some candidate Roosevelt has picked.

President Believes the Old Doctrine Still Works

It is perfectly true that many of the New Dealers know little of practical politics, and do not agree with the doctrine that there must be good times if the party in power is to be retained by the voters. But Roosevelt is no tyro in politics. He knows his way around pretty well, and there is very little doubt among political observers that the President believes the old doctrine still works.

They point to the condition which was allowed to prevail during the summer and early fall of 1935. The administration so tempered the wind to the shorn lamb during that period, and for a few months prior to it, that the country had a mild boom. A great many business men decided that the Roosevelt administration was not so bad for their own profits—the only thing that influences any business man in the conduct of his business and political operations—as the Republican orators were claiming.

(Beil Syndicate—WNU Service.)



WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By **LEMUEL F. PARTON**

NEW YORK.—Back in the champagne days, when our Uncle Sam was "Uncle Shylock" in England, Sir Philip Kerr, later the

British Envoy Is Old Friend Of Uncle Sam

marquess of Lothian, did not share this disesteem. He said repeatedly that Abraham Lincoln was his political saint; he risked ostracism at his club by admitting that America did a lot to help win the war, and urged that England should at least make a token payment on the American debt.

Lord Lothian, arriving in Washington as British ambassador to this country, has traveled widely in this country, has always taken home good reports, and, as one of the most skilled artisans of empire-building and upkeep, has urged understanding and co-operation between the two nations, for the well-being of both.

"The British empire," he recently said, "is America's outer ring of security. If it disappears under Fascist attack, the United States and its Monroe Doctrine, freedom of the seas and so on would be threatened."

A brilliant writer and speaker, addressing cultural and foreign policy groups in many nations, Lord Lothian has spoken and written unofficially, his dissertations reflecting closely empire policy. There probably is no more scholarly and gifted orator of the British intellectual dominions than this handsome Oxonian, trained in South Africa under the famous Lord Milner, skilled not only in the realistic "pratiqué" of empire-building, but in its genteel histrionics.

Like Simon, Chamberlain, Hoare, Halifax, Astor, Beaverbrook and virtually all the others of the British high command in recent years, he firmly refused to believe—until Munich—that Adolf Hitler had any but pacific and constructive intentions; he shared the prevailing conservative view that German expansion would be, legitimately, to the east, and that the resurgent Reich harbored no designs against the British empire. In 1935, he visited Herr Hitler and returned with warm reassurance to his countrymen. He reported great achievements by the Nazis and indicated high esteem for their fuhrer—as virtually all his political associates had done.

He shared the shock and bewilderment of his confreres in the aftermath of Munich. He urged that no further concessions be made to Germany and that the Hitler onslaught should be met with an impregnable alliance against him. It was after Munich that he warned America against the ills with which it would be beset if Britain should succumb to a "Fascist attack."

LOUIS (LEPKE) BUCHALTER, who, it seems, after all, hasn't been away, was discharged seven times by New York magistrates.

Smooth Fellow Never Carries A Shotgun Iron

Judge Nott, of general sessions court, twice held him, as did several times, but he won, seven to six, in 23 years of tilting with judges and juries, the charges ranging through assault, robbery, burglary and homicide, as involved in fun-dressing, garment, flour, trucking and fake labor union rackets.

He has never carried a gun, and, as befits the richest of all industrial racketeers, keeps the strong-arm stuff moving smoothly, with perhaps no more than an inter-office memorandum to carry it through. Unlike his predecessors of such amateurish outfits as the Gas House Gang, he is no show-off, never wears conspicuous clothes, speaks softly and is never out in front. His gang at times has included more than 300 thirty-second degree hoodlums, and J. Edgar Hoover, of the FBI, to whom he surrenders, has put him down as a co-partner of the Barker-Karpis kidnaping gang and other equally unpopular outfits.

He was born in Essex street, on New York's Lower East Side, in 1897, one of 11 children. All his brothers and sisters are honest and respectable. No explanation of his errant ways has ever been offered. In his early youth, he formed a partnership with young Jacob Shapiro, the beginning of a long and poisonous friendship. They worked up from such small beginnings as package-snatching and mauling pushcart peddlers, and, taking on hired help, began to take over old-established crime firms, such as the Kid Dropper gang. Their first big-business outreach was when they began systematically to shoot up the leather business.

(Consolidated Features—WNU Service.)

FARM TOPICS

TATTOO MARKINGS IDENTIFY CATTLE

Breeding and Registration Records Protected.

By **DR. GEORGE E. TAYLOR**
It is important that dairy animals be properly marked for identification purposes, otherwise there is certain to be confusion on breeding as well as registration records. Ear tattoos properly put in are most satisfactory identification marks, for they remain legible during the entire lifetime of the animal. These facts have been determined in studies at the New Jersey college of agriculture.

The American Jersey cattle club has required tattoo numbers for registration for a number of years, and beginning January 1, 1940, all unregistered Brown Swiss animals must be tattooed before the application for registration will be accepted. The objection to ear tags and number neck straps is that they are sometimes lost.

In order to insure satisfactory results the following simple rules should be considered:

The inside of the ear should be thoroughly cleaned of all dirt, wax and oil so that the tattoo ink will penetrate the punch marks. Soap and water may be used, provided the ear is wiped dry with a clean cloth. A clean cloth soaked in gasoline or alcohol is very effective.

In getting ready to tattoo, be sure the letters and numbers are placed in the marker right side up and in the correct order. First try the marker on a piece of cardboard to be sure.

Place the mark in the area inside of the ear that is free from hair. Avoid crossing any large veins as a safeguard against excessive hemorrhage that might cause the ink to wash out, resulting in failure.

Be sure that the needle points are sharp and fine so that they will penetrate the ear properly. By placing one or two thicknesses of cardboard between the punch and the outside of the ear you can insure proper penetration. Apply a liberal application of ink inside of the ear and work the ink into the small holes with the forefinger after the punch is made.

There are a number of satisfactory tattoo inks, pastes and oils on the market. The following formula may also be mixed by any druggist, using 20 grams of lamp black (dry); 50 cc grain alcohol; 50 cc glycerin and 50 cc of water.

A system of both letters and numbers are often used that will indicate the owner of the animal and also the date of birth as well as the sire.

First U. S. President Used Diversification

There was a gentleman farmer of certain renown living on the banks of the Potomac who worried because his poorer neighbors always had too much tobacco on hand and not enough good food.

Their Negro hands were often not in the best of health. Records indicate that oftentimes taxes were paid partly in money and partly in tobacco, for lack of other medium. The gentleman farmer, who tended to his own place carefully, and had definite success growing a variety of crops and only a lesser portion of tobacco, called a meeting of his better-fixed neighbor farmers. They all recognized the problem of one-crop farms and were glad of a leader to change the practice of farmers in that neighborhood.

The gentleman farmer was George Washington and he started Fairfax county, just outside of Washington, on a crop-variation system that has existed to this day. In all Fairfax there is not a commercial patch of tobacco.

Negroes have a few plants in the back yard to twist into "terbacker" for their own use.

Potato Storage Pits

Properly constructed pits provide cheap but satisfactory storage for potatoes throughout the storage season. The spuds should be placed in the pit as soon as harvested but should be given only a light covering at first, says A. E. Hutchins, vegetable specialist. Care must be taken to keep them dry and well ventilated, he cautions, and when the ground freezes the covering should be increased. Pits should be made in well-drained soils. A good size is four feet deep, six feet wide, and as long as needed. Pits of the above width and depth will hold about 100 bushels for each five feet of length.

Plucking Live Geese

The plucking of live geese to save the feathers is quite common practice in many country districts. It consists of the removing of the small feathers just before moulting time. One can tell by plucking at one of the geese whether the feathers are ready to come out. Never pluck feathers from a goose when they are moist on the end. Only the small feathers should be taken off the bird and the down should never be removed.

Filet Squares for 'Modern Heirloom'



Pattern 6373

The palm, since ancient times, has inspired artists. It is no wonder, then, that this lovely square in such simple crochet uses it as a motif. A stunning cloth or spread of mercerized string—smaller articles in finer cotton—will give you handwork you'll treasure. Pattern 6373 contains instructions and chart for making the square; illustrations of it and of stitches; materials needed.

To obtain this pattern send 15 cents in coins to The Sewing Circle, Household Arts Dept., 259 W. 14th St., New York.

AROUND THE HOUSE

Cooking String Beans.—Cut string beans lengthwise into splinters. Cut in this way it takes a shorter time to cook than when cut in short pieces.

Placing the Bed.—The right place for the bed, many people seem to think, is against the wall, where it will be fairly well out of the way of the occupants of the room in the daytime. The right place for the bed is always away from the wall, so that there may be free circulation of air all around the sleeper.

Treating Wax Floors.—If dirt becomes ground into a waxed floor moisten a cloth with turpentine and rub the turpentine well into the floor until the wax is removed, then wash the floor anew and polish it.

When Shirring Cloth.—Lengthen the stitch on your machine and use ruled writing paper and stitch over. The rows will then be even.

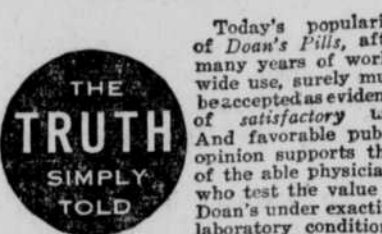
Cleaning Leather Coverings.—To clean leather-seated or leather-covered chairs boil together equal quantities of sweet oil, turpentine and vinegar. Bottle until you are ready to use it, then pour a little on a woolen cloth and rub well into leather.

To Correct Constipation Don't Get It!

Why let yourself in for all the discomfort of constipation—and then have to take an emergency medicine—if you can avoid both by getting at the cause of the trouble?

If your difficulty, like that of millions, is due to lack of "bulk" in the diet, the "better way" is to eat Kellogg's All-Bran. This crunchy toasted cereal—a natural food, not a medicine—has just the "bulk" you need. If you eat it every day, it will help you not only to get regular but to keep regular, month after month, by the pleasant means you ever knew! Eat All-Bran daily, drink plenty of water, and "Join the Regulars." Made by Kellogg's in Battle Creek. Sold by every grocer.

Give In! Love conquers all things; let us yield to love.—Vergil.



Today's popularity of Doan's Pills, after many years of world-wide use, surely must be accepted evidence of satisfactory use. And favorable public opinion supports that of the able physicians who test the value of Doan's under exacting laboratory conditions. These physicians, too, approve every word of advertising you read, the objective of which is only to recommend Doan's Pills as a good diuretic treatment for functional kidney disorder and for relief of the pain and worry it causes.

If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly remove waste that cannot stay in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of why the whole body suffers when kidneys lag, and diuretic medication would be more often employed. Burning, scanty or too frequent urination may be warning of disturbed kidney function. You may suffer nagging backache, persistent headache, attacks of dizziness, getting up nights, swelling, puffiness under the eyes—feel weak, nervous, all played out. Use Doan's Pills. It is better to rely on a medicine that has won world-wide acclaim than on something less favorably known. Ask your neighbor!

DOAN'S PILLS