

SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL By Carter Field FAMOUS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT



Washington.—American admirals and naval aviators of course are all hoping that Great Britain and Italy will not become involved in a war—but if they do, they will be watching with great interest to see how Mussolini's terrific air force comes out with the superior British navy.

Britain's attempt—regarded as certain if she keeps on her present course—to blockade Italy, and close the Suez canal will as surely be followed by attempts by the Italian air force to bomb the British fleet out of the water.

Which is highly interesting to Gen. William Mitchell and naval aviators, on the one hand, and practically all American admirals, on the other, they have been fighting this question of how important the air force was, and primarily whether a battleship can live against an air attack in force.

Mitchell's part in his wordy encounter is chiefly remembered because he refused to recognize any limitations on his public utterances. It will be recalled that he was finally court-martialed and convicted in 1925 after he had denounced the high command as guilty of "treason." Hardly anybody could be found to agree with that word "treason," whether they agreed with Mitchell on the idea that battleships were obsolete or not.

But on the main points of the fight a great many military aviators, both army and navy, agreed absolutely with Mitchell, always recognizing that he purposely made his attacks as sensational as possible so as to attract public attention.

Naval aviators, in particular, however, have been gazed ever since by the mechanics of the navy's promotion system. Every so often a board of senior officers considers the list of officers of various ranks. It picks out those it considers eligible for promotion. All promotions are made from this list. The selection board is changed every time, but if an officer is passed over twice, normally, he might just as well give up. He will not be promoted. His career is ruined.

Why They Are Mum

Now remember that virtually all the admirals believe in battleships, and regard airplanes, for the most part, as mere adjuncts. And remember that a given percentage of younger officers in any grade must be passed over in the selection processes. And it becomes clear why very few aviation enthusiasts in the navy speak their minds in public. They cannot afford to antagonize the men who will be passing on their eligibility for promotion.

But if worse comes to worst in the Mediterranean, the ability of the airplane and the submarine to crush the surface ships will be demonstrated beyond any power of argument, or the old battleships, so dear to the admirals, will vindicate their faith in it.

Incidentally if the admirals win, it will be just too bad for Mussolini. Their contention has always been that the airplane was splendid for scouting, and annoying the enemy—much as the cavalry used to be in Civil War days, when Jeb Stuart raided all the way around the federal army, which was highly spectacular and profitable in captured supplies, but did not change the character of the war very much.

After everything else is swept away in the fighting, the admirals contend, the battleships will still be floating, and still able to hurl destruction-dealing broadsides. Their masts will have been torn away by bombs dropped by planes. Their hulls will be leaking in various compartments from torpedoes fired by submarines. But they will still be on the job, and—here is the brunt of their argument—nothing else will.

If they are right, Italy will be blockaded—the Suez will be closed—Mussolini will be unable to send supplies to his African legions. If they are wrong, nobody knows what the answer will be. Always assuming that in the early clashes the tremendously superior Italian air force crushes the British air force.

Cotton a Trouble Maker

Cotton is apt to produce tense diplomatic situations again, with fears that the United States may be forced into a world war, just as it did in the early days of the 1914 conflict. It will be far more important than wheat, for the simple reason that the United States this year has no wheat of consequence to sell. In fact, it will probably buy some from Canada. Copper may be the runner-up to cotton as a trouble maker, thus curiously enough effecting a possible combination of the West and South in another political alliance.

This situation is far more serious than the news from Washington or anywhere else has indicated. It is glossed over in the word "sanctions" in reports from Geneva, Paris and London. Stripped of diplomatic language, consider just what it will mean if France, as Washington expects, goes along with Britain in applying league sanctions to Italy.

It means nothing else but a virtual blockade of Italy. Not just for goods declared to be contraband of war, but everything. It means that the United States, even in its own ships, could not send a pound of cotton or a piece of machinery or a basket of food to Naples and Genoa. It means that every American ship traversing the Mediterranean would be crossing a war zone, with all the possibilities that act involves.

Which presents a very tough nut for President Roosevelt to crack. Either way he moves means trouble, either foreign or domestic.

Save that he has made it clear he has no intention of seeking to put the United States in the League of Nations, President Roosevelt has stuck rather closely to the Woodrow Wilson policies. Two of these were freedom of the seas and international co-operation for the preservation of peace. On the last, of course, Wilson was willing to go the whole way. He opposed a senate reservation to Article X, saying that article was the "heart of the covenant" of the league. Article X was the one which promised that every league member would contribute armed forces to enforce league decisions. It is still a part of the league covenant!

May Have to Choose

But the point is that Roosevelt will be forced to choose, unless the Italo-Ethiopian situation clears up most unexpectedly, between two of those policies. He may choose freedom of the seas, and insist on America's right to trade with Italy even if the league proclaims a blockade under the guise of sanctions. Or he may choose co-operation to preserve peace.

The first would lead to an extremely dangerous international situation. It might easily involve the United States in war. Even the contention that we had the right to trade with Italy would put this country in a curious and difficult diplomatic hole. For it would be contended by league members that their action would force peace very shortly—that Italy could not possibly continue her aggressive war if blockaded—cut off not only from supplies from abroad but from supplying her forces waging the war. Hence that the action of the United States would be the one thing that made possible the continuance of the war the world is so anxious to avert.

To take the other course would cause vast resentment among those anxious to see the price of cotton boosted, and the surplus of cotton which has been hanging over the market since the Hoover days, sold at a profit.

If this seems unlikely, one has only to remember 1915. Great Britain put cotton on the black list. She knew it was being used to make explosives. But even before this official act she was interfering with shipments. So Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia made a long prepared speech coming very close to demanding war against Britain, on the side of Germany.

No New Taxes

President Roosevelt has definitely decided that there are to be no new taxes until after election. There are two motives for the recent budget statement attacking critics and saying there is no need for new taxes.

1. Politics. The President has learned of the increasing tax consciousness of the ordinary citizen, and of concern even by farmers as to where the money would be coming from to finance the New Deal. He is also concerned about the worry of business over tax prospects. For example, he has been told that one consideration holding back investment in new enterprises is the "play safe" attitude of rich men who are not willing to gamble when the government promises to take so large a proportion of the profit if they win, but does not help on losses if they lose. Change in the income tax laws, which permit deduction of only \$2,000 for net losses in one year, is part of this.

2. Soldier Bonus. The President laid great emphasis on the point that this happy situation of no more taxes, despite gloomy prophecies by critics, can be attained only if there are no new expenditures. He was hitting directly at the soldier bonus, and at courts which will pass on the processing taxes.

He can play both reasons at the same time in January, when the bonus comes up in congress, by using the tax consciousness of the people as an argument to congress not to override his certain veto of bonus legislation.

Present study of the available figures indicates that the President is "holding out" about half a billion dollars, which will be unused on July 1 next, and, as congress provided for the availability of the four-billion-dollar fund for two years, this half billion can be used in the fiscal year beginning on that date.

Copyright.—WNU Service.

Crescent City



Many New Orleans' Paving Stones Came From Europe.

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

LOUISIANA to the average layman means New Orleans. Wherever the visitor goes in Louisiana, he starts from and returns to the metropolis of the Delta state. He may find it necessary to travel over many states to match in some measure the varied features and resources of Louisiana; he will travel the length and breadth of the land and yet never encounter another New Orleans.

To the business man, it is a great port, second in the United States in tonnage of foreign imports and exports; to students it is the seat of three splendid educational institutions, Tulane, Loyola and Newcomb; to the artist it furnishes a rich field for work.

One can imagine that after the astute and adventurous French Canadian, Jean Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville, had selected the site for the future city of New Orleans in 1718, he said to his engineer and city planner, Le Blond de la Tour, "Let's have a cup of coffee while we discuss the details of our new settlement."

At any rate, few affairs of importance or otherwise have been discussed in New Orleans since that historic date except "over a cup of coffee." Here, as in the Near East, business seems to function more easily to the accompaniment of sips of the bitter, black, "French drip" than in any other way, and the most harassed executives will pause for ten minutes in mid-morning, leave their offices and go to the restaurant or the hotel in the same or the next block for a cup of coffee—nothing more.

After a few weeks in New Orleans the visitor is led to wonder how the great two-million-dollar coffee terminal is able to handle the imports of the brown berry for the state's own use, much less provide for the "every third cupful consumed by the nation."

They All Drink Coffee.

On the top floor of one of the most progressive banks in the state—and in countless other establishments, no doubt—there is a special kitchen and dining room to which the employees retire when the bank doors close to the public at three; after their cup of coffee they return to their desks. In one big manufacturing plant every workman brings with him each morning a small coffee pot, which he deposits under the pet steam-leaking hot water drip-drip-drips constantly. He provides himself with small quaffs of the beverage throughout the day.

But coffee is not New Orleans' sole contribution to gastronomic indulgence. In no other city in the country is a visitor within the gates invited to dine oftener or more lavishly than here. The Creole tradition has handed down for 200 years the French respect for food and art in its preparation.

In the old French quarter, which looms so large in the life of New Orleans, but which in area occupies only a few blocks in this city spreading over nearly 200 square miles, there are half a dozen restaurants whose reputation is nationwide. Their appointments are not lavish and they are modest in size, but when, for example, one of the Alcazar welcomes you to his establishment—there are two branches of this family of famous restaurateurs, each a bitter rival of the other—and you ask him to plan your dinner, you will feast upon dishes over which the original Lucullus might have gloated.

The visitor's first impression of his table is that it has a peculiarly "bare" appearance. Then he realizes that salts and peppers and sauces are conspicuous for their absence. When you are served with, let us say, some of those marvelous baked oysters on shells imbedded in salt crystals to keep them hot, and garnished with a mysterious spinach concoction, you may be sure that they are seasoned exactly to the taste.

Of course, if you have a "boorish" taste, and require more salt, or more tabasco, or more whatnot, you may have it for the asking, but it will not be flattering to your vanity to catch the fleeting glint of contempt in the eye of your server.

In its physical aspects and prob-

lems, New Orleans is unique among cities of the United States. It has been built in a vast crescent which the Mississippi describes here, 107 miles from the South Pass outlet into the Gulf.

This crescent gives the city special advantages, in that it affords an almost unlimited river frontage for shipping; but it also handicaps the metropolis of the South in a way that only exceptional engineering genius has been able to overcome.

Practically the entire city lies below the mean level of the Mississippi, and in times of occasional extreme high water the river surface is as much as 22 feet above some sections.

Such conditions not only make necessary the maintenance of great levees to keep the river water out of the city, but entail tremendous problems in disposing of rain and seepage.

Drainage Is a Problem.

To meet these natural handicaps, a corps of engineers has designed a unique drainage pumping system. Experts come from all parts of the world to study its operation. So heavy is the burden which a long, hard rain imposes on the vast network of pipes upon which New Orleans sits, that the pumps must have a capacity of seven billion gallons a day to lift the flood waters out of the city into Bayou Bienvenue and Lake Ponchartrain. In comparison with the entirely separate water supply system, the drainage system could pump enough water in three days to supply the whole city for a year.

The sewage of New Orleans, discharged into the Mississippi below the city, 20 feet below mean water level, requires still a third and independent system, whose modern development has come since 1907. And in the story of its installation lies one of those romances which one encounters on every hand in this city, to which a gifted local historian has so aptly applied the title, "Fabulous New Orleans."

The sewage pumps originally designed for the system developed only 50 per cent efficiency, whereas contracts specified 60 per cent efficiency. The contracting manufacturers, in defense, declared that no pump could be built that would meet the requirements.

Just when this impasse had been reached, a young engineer, recently graduated from Tulane university, appeared on the scene with a set of drawings and specifications for a revolutionary type of pump. He succeeded in convincing the authorities that it might do the work.

And the best part of the story is yet to come: The young engineer, offered many times his then modest salary to go with various manufacturers and municipalities, preferred to remain and help to solve other engineering problems for New Orleans.

Difficulties for Builders.

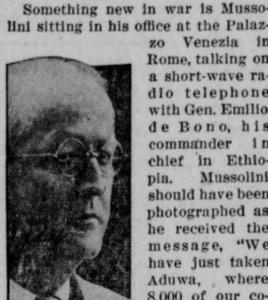
The geographical location of New Orleans presents difficulties to architects no less than to water-works and sanitary engineers. The land upon which it rises is the soft alluvial soil brought down through the centuries by the river. There is no bedrock upon which to establish heavy structures, yet the city's skyline is serrated with lofty spires, domes, and airy rectangles. When a big building is projected in New Orleans, instead of steam shovels and blasting drills, a fleet of pile drivers goes into action. Huge creosoted timbers are sunk side by side on the site. In the case of foundations for towering office buildings, hotels, and auditoriums, and apartments, these piles are often 80 feet long. Each pile, after being driven down to the ground level, is countersunk to a depth of 10 or 20 feet. Then the top soil is scraped off and the substructure begun on its 80-foot-thick wood foundation.

Few visitors who come under the spell of New Orleans are inclined to think of the city in terms of merchandise and manufacture. Here one finds so much that is matchless in its mellowness that solid statistics are as a dull appendix to an absorbing volume of romance and adventure.

The very stones of the pavements, many of them brought from abroad, have their fascinating story to tell.

BRISBANE THIS WEEK

Mussolini at the Phone
Who Is the Man?
No Fear in Vatican City
A Shot at a Bird



Arthur Brisbane

Something new in war is Mussolini sitting in his office at the Palazzo Venezia in Rome, talking on a short-wave radio telephone with Gen. Emilio de Bono, his commander in chief in Ethiopia. Mussolini should have been photographed as he received the message, "We have just taken Aduwa, where 8,000 of our colonial troops, 6,000 of our Italian troops, were killed 40 years ago, and Italy humiliated." That was a proud moment in Mussolini's life.

After Mussolini gets the news by radio-telephone he telephones it to the Italian king's summer residence.

For a change from war, consider this incident. Before the entrance to the "Recess club" frequented by Wall Street's "Who's Who," stood George C. Haigh, banker; Matthew S. Sloan, who used to run New York's electric light and now runs the "Katy" railroad, a learned friend of Mr. Sloan's and this writer.

Mr. Sloan said, with finality that marks greatness, "Mr. Blank," mentioning the name of a well-known Republican candidate, "will be elected in 1936." Your narrator buttonholed the first man passing, a Wall Street denizen, well dressed, asked him "Who is Mr. Blank?" mentioning the name of Mr. Sloan's candidate.

"Never heard of him, don't know who he is. Who is he?" the pedestrian replied and went on. Of the next ten, nine would have said, similarly, "Never heard of him," but all ten would have heard of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Republicans must take somebody whose name is known if they can find him; falling that, they would do well to select him now and see to it that his name is known before election day comes around.

Despite possibilities of widespread bombing of cities if "that war in Europe" should come, Vatican City, ruled by the pope, does not consider anti-bomb defense necessary. Osservatore Romano, representing the Vatican, denies reports that shelters against air raids would be provided in Vatican City. It says:

"The Holy Father has reason to believe that the dome of St. Peter's, regardless of whatever the occasion might be, is the most inviolable defense, firstly, because of the celestial protection of the Prince of Apostles, for whom the dome is the sacred sign and symbol, and because its mass indicates so clearly the holy place, respected and venerated during the most obscure centuries."

That the magnificent building erected by Michelangelo, with his priceless statues and paintings within it, would be respected by even the most barbarous invader seems certain.

Little things start big things. Doctor Potter, formerly professor of political science in the University of Wisconsin, one of an international committee of four that tried to settle a quarrel between Italy and Ethiopia in 1934, says that Italy has good ground for complaint against Ethiopia, and that a soldier's casual shot at a bird probably caused the present trouble.

Mr. Joseph E. Uihlein, an able citizen of Milwaukee, who takes information with him on his travels and is therefore able to bring information back, returns from England with the impression that, despite greatly improved conditions in Britain, English and other Europeans are expecting something unpleasant to happen. What it is, where it will start, what will cause it, nobody is prepared to say, but there is a feeling of apprehension, a vague anticipation of some catastrophic event.

The President assures the nation that on this occasion America will not meddle with what does not concern it.

What will the United States do about selling food to Italy, if, through "sanctions," the League of Nations tries to starve out the Italians, as Germany was starved?

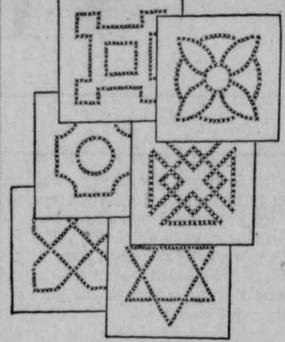
Mussolini spoke to twenty million Italians gathered in Italy's public squares, and to the people of the world. You could not mistake the meaning of that voice.

Newspaper men, gathered near the radio, said: "His voice made the shivers run up and down our backs, although we could not understand a word of it." Shivers do not often run up and down those backs.

© King Features Syndicate, Inc. WNU Service.

CROSS-STITCH QUILT BLOCKS

By GRANDMOTHER CLARK



Cross-stitch is about the simplest thing in handwork. Little girls make their stitches in cross-stitch. These six-inch blocks are stamped in cross-stitch designs on white muslin and little girls to grandmothers will enjoy making them into everything from small doilies to pillow tops, scarfs and bedspreads. Easy to carry around, working one at a time and then assembling into article wanted when all the squares are finished.

Outfit No. 46-4 consists of 6 of these six-inch stamped squares and will be mailed to you for 10 cents.

Address Home Craft Co., Dept. A, Nineteenth and St. Louis Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

Inclose stamped, addressed envelope for reply when writing for any information.

World's Most Famous Babies Eat Oatmeal

The Dionne Quintuplets, wards of the King, eat the same cereal that is eaten by millions of babies who don't get their names in the papers—oatmeal. The Canadian government chose a staff of special experts for the care of the Quints. And these experts, their scientific knowledge endorsing the instinctive choice of mothers the world over, have chosen oatmeal for the cereal of the famous five.

Oatmeal, eminent medical authorities agree, has an abundance of everything a child's cereal should have—body-building minerals, muscle-building protein, and the supremely important Vitamin B for keeping fit.

Food science says that Vitamin B is the best safeguard against those dangerous enemies of childhood—nervousness, constipation, and poor appetite due to lack of that vitamin in the diet.

Monday Morn

Haven't you felt at times, that you would like to sleep as long as Rip Van Winkle?

TROUBLE, TROUBLE

Harry Sheehan, Kansas City (Mo.) railway station clerk, has hay fever and an artificial leg. A careless smoker threw a lighted cigarette into Sheehan's trouser cuff, the one on the wooden leg. Sheehan couldn't feel the heat or smell the smoke, so half the leg of his trousers burned off before he knew anything was wrong.

Week's Supply of Postum Free
Read the offer made by the Postum Company in another part of this paper. They will send a full week's supply of health giving Postum free to anyone who writes for it.—Adv.

Draw One

Sweet apple cider contains about the same food value as fresh apples.

Don't Guess But Know

Whether the "Pain" Remedy You Use is SAFE?

Don't Entrust Your Own or Your Family's Well-Being to Unknown Preparations

THE person to ask whether the preparation you or your family are taking for the relief of headaches is SAFE to use regularly is your family doctor. Ask him particularly about GENUINE BAYER ASPIRIN.

He will tell you that before the discovery of Bayer Aspirin most "pain" remedies were advised against by physicians as bad for the stomach and, often, for the heart. Which is food for thought if you seek quick, safe relief.

Scientists rate Bayer Aspirin among the fastest methods yet discovered for the relief of headaches and the pains of rheumatism, neuritis and neuralgia. And the experience of millions of users has proved it safe for the average person to use regularly. In your own interest remember this.

You can get Genuine Bayer Aspirin at any drug store—simply by asking for it by its full name, BAYER ASPIRIN. Make it a point to do this—and see that you get what you want.

Bayer Aspirin



COME ON BOYS

MAKE SOME NOISE

IT'S CRINKLY, SWEET

A TREAT TO EAT

HURRAH, HURRAY I SAY, YOU SAY

GRAPE-NUTS FLAKES!

ONCE you taste Grape-Nuts Flakes, you'll cheer too! The flavor is something grand—and it's nourishing. One dishful, with milk or cream, contains more varied nourishment than many a hearty meal. Try it—your grocer has it! Product of General Foods.