WHITHER BRITAIN?

Shortly after his departure for Germany at the end of 1937, the suggestion was made that Lord Halifax was going to see Goring, not merely to save the bacon, but perhaps to swear solemn oaths to a free hand in central Europe. This aroused a rather comic storm of protest in the press, but the fact remained that on the statement's return, official press agencies were made to the effect that the mission had “not proved fruitful.” In view of the hearty acclamation with which the Nazi goons greeted it, little delight in the control of the “peace” mission is not difficult to guess. In the judgment of British students, even the recent Nazi coup in Austria, Hitler’s threats to Czechoslovakia, which he now no longer even pretends to conceal, and Britain’s apparent unconcern in face of both, it seems far from fantastic to suppose that the Fascist drive to the East and the landing of German forces in Central Europe was a subject of at least one of the meetings.

Then with appalling suddenness Mr. Anthony Eden’s resignation comes as a bolt from the blue, white and blue. The next step after Germany was Italy, but unfortunately for Mr. Chamberlain, the goodwill mission to Italy did not proceed as smoothly or as fast as had been supposed. There have been those who claimed that the contradictions involved in the policy of the Conservative Cabinet ultimately show themselves; but there can be very few who foresee how sharply and suddenly that state of affairs would be altered. Mr. Anthony Eden and his resignation show clearly what those contradictions are.

Since 1917, the British Government has been faced with the unwelcome presence of nations who were at once both a threat to the undisturbed possession of the British Empire, and an attempt to prolong the already overripe age of the Capitalist world of society; whose desperate recklessness was a constant embarrassment and whose debts were an alpine. These solutions were possible. Either H.M. British Government might by judicious negotiations, and political prestidigitation sacrifice part of the British Empire to Bolshevism and foreign powers, or it might, from within the League of Nations, shoulder its full joint responsibility with the other democracies in resisting fascism, thus hastening its inevitable collapse; or it might search for a lamb to lead to the slaughter.

THIS NEW DIPLOMACY

The first possibility was unpleasant, but a possibility: the second was definitely unthinkable, for what social order would be more likely to follow the collapse of Fascism than some social order?

It is, therefore, the scheme of the British Conservative Party.

The third was a more likely possibility and there can be little doubt that this is the only effort towards which the best efforts of British diplomacy have been directed over the recent months, from the time Lord Halifax’s mission to Germany, up to the recent Cabinet split.

After all, British diplomacy has long been concerned to weaken the link between France and the U.S.S.R., and little though our diplomats may be the presentment of the Anglo-German Commonwealth and the task of England and Germany in their ill-fated African Empire. There must be no more room to discuss. A similar mission came for a showdown in 1937, and the British delegation refused to take part.

It was upon the question of the choice between the first and third alternatives that the Cabinet split.

According to Mr. Anthony Eden’s view the time had come to call a halt in the present bullying of Fascism. The Spanish Civil War had taught him a lot. The “life line to India” via the Mediterranean was no more, the British Empire at Germany in Africa. Britain’s claims, on the one hand, and Italy’s African Empire, on the other, the grave in the eyes with which they are faced today. Given that the League idea of settling disputes on the basis of justice is impossible with its present membership, it is likely that the League must necessarily concern itself with those arrangements for the sacrifice of the weak to the strong.

The war showed the imperialist ambitions of the Fascist powers in Spain. The question which had to be faced was how far Britain would be willing to let them go. Mr. Eden said “No further.” Mr. Chamberlain hasn’t made up his mind yet.

The issues stand clear. Mr. Eden refuses to sacrifice the British Empire to Fascism. Mr. Chamberlain regards the benefit of the Lord Halifax mission as the avoidance of Socialism, and greater than the dangers to the British Empire involves. You can still divide dividends from both. “The Empire is British, but Britain is a little less than a brain. Mr. Chamberlain had his way. The changeover is complete; Lord Halifax has appointed Mr. Eden. The pre-Fascist elements are temporarily well seated in the saddle. The question which concerns you and me is, when will they turn the horse’s head? Towards General H., or towards Berlin-Rome-Tokyo?

The Cabinet reshuffle contains several possibilities. At first appears that the issue of Fascism or the British Empire is a question of whether the Conservatives can be led by a wedge which would cleave the Conservative Party in two. It is likely, however, that the loyal-headed chieftains of individualism and freedom of thought have no tears to shed at the loss of one whose opinions are those of their own, and the possibility of a serious split within the party is disappointingly small.

The effect on the electorate, however, is more problematical and it remains to be seen how it will be. It is not the usual occasion to which the enormous propaganda resources of our rulers will be successful in overcoming the natural indignation against a composed which elected the government on the assumption that the League of Nations and Collective Security would be the foundation of British foreign policy.

The general opinion, no doubt, will be that instead of telling Halifax to go to Hitler, Hitler should be told to go to Halifax.

A. H. S.

EXTRAVAGANZA

SHOWS SELECTED

Mr. Allan, Director of this year’s extravaganza, when approached by the ‘Times’ last week about the possibilities of a musical comedy, said that the Selection Committee, after much discussion and private submission, had chosen the following for this year:

1. "Banned from," a curtain-raiser
2. "The Invincible," a leading feature

Mr. Allan further said that to date this year’s extravaganza were all of a particularly high standard and that an attempt was being made to draw to the extravaganza.

Mr. Allan said that he was fully aware of the fact that the present situation was not only in the extravaganza but also in the general world. If anyone questions the opportunity for the Evangelists to continue their activities, let him examine anyone who has had anything to do with the Evangel functions, and decide for himself within the next few years.

"Cabinets" will run for four nights, starting Friday, September 25th. Post-production meetings will be preliminary to the production of the show and a hope to discuss further details of the year’s show next week.

N. Z. U. S. A.

A STATEMENT

Association Headquarters are in New York (Times Square, Telephone Smith 5-3650). All communications should be addressed to the Executive Head or the following:

SALIENT

THE COMPETITIVE UNIVERSITY

In an age in which the most urgent need in all human activity is cooperation, is surprising to learn that the University should still lay great stress on the individualistic attributes of originality and independence. Yet perhaps this need not surprise us, for it is the natural outcome of an individualistic conception of society and_ laying of economic values.

The bungalow and semi-automated thesis-writing at the University that a man is a member of a large organization. In the midst of the organization, he may be by no more significant link than the organization as a whole. This is the view that the students of the University think of. He must have authority to keep his fellows and to exert his will, untrammelled by constraint, and the more a student’s individual contribution, the more highly he is prized. The unaided and self-determined student is the focal object of this conception of the individual. But the student must also be capable of functioning as a part of the group.

UNIVERSITY LIFE

In the story of individualistic life has always been a battle with the Red Pyramid, and that battle is, in its way, a battle for the individual’s life. The individual is a unit, a thing apart, a thing above all. He must be free to live and to die as he chooses, and the more he can do this, the more highly he is prized. He must be able to live as he chooses, and the more he can do this, the more highly he is prized.

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