

us and we cannot be stopped." France showed in 1931 that it was ready to go to any length, even so far as to wreck Europe, to prevent the Austro-German *Anschluss* from materializing. There is no good reason to suppose that France has changed its policy in this respect.

PRESIDENT VON HINDENBURG, the man who swore to uphold the German constitution and for years defended the republic against all political comers, is dead. The old Field Marshal von Hindenburg, the Prussian militarist, the devout follower of the monarchy and the Kaiser, has now taken his place. That he has gone over body and soul to the Hitlerites is shown by his order declaring that not only shall the black, white, and red flag of the Kaiserreich float over public buildings, but that the swastika, the hooked cross of Hitler, must fly by its side. This is a direct violation of the constitution of Weimar; it spells complete treachery to the republic; it enables Frederick T. Birchall, a correspondent of the *New York Times*, to cable that "on this day the whole Reich took farewell of the Weimar republic and the regime built upon it." "These flags," says the Hindenburg decree, "unite the glorious past of the Reich and the puissant rebirth of the German nation." So over the remains of the German republic flies not only the flag of 1914, but the personal flag of Hitler, which stands for the abolition of personal liberty, for prejudice, for reaction, for race hatred and persecution, for terror and murder—all in the name of nationalism and the "puissant rebirth" of the nation whose military threat helped to keep Europe face to face with war for generations. Poor Germany! She is apparently bound for years to pay a high price for the inefficiency and the too easygoing and generous character of the Social Democratic republic.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS is being further embarrassed by the great Powers in its efforts to discipline Japan. First the British virtually wrecked the League's program for forthright action against the Japanese by declaring an arms embargo against both China and Japan. Having done this, the British withdrew their embargo order. Now Russia, without whose cooperation the Far Eastern problem can never satisfactorily be adjusted, refuses to accept membership on the Committee of Twenty-one designated to draw up a plan of action in Japan's case. The Soviet note to Geneva broadly intimated that Moscow's refusal was based on the failure of the United States to recognize the Soviet Union. Moscow certainly has some justification for its attitude; it would seem ludicrous for these two countries to work together to solve an important international problem while the government of one country refuses to acknowledge the existence of the government of the other. The United States has formally accepted the League's invitation to cooperate in the work of the Committee of Twenty-one, but has reserved its right of independence of action. Whether this guarded collaboration will reassure the League and encourage a strong stand against Japanese aggression is doubtful. It can hardly commit its members to any clear-cut action or attitude as long as the position of Russia and the United States remains undefined. And while Geneva, Moscow, and Washington are thus feeling their cautious way, Japan continues unconcernedly about its business of swallowing China piece by piece.

THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS have been granted a change of venue for their new trial. But Decatur, Alabama, is from all reports just a larger Scottsboro. It is only fifty miles away and lies in the same belt of race prejudice and provincialism. Within recent weeks the defense has obtained a photostatic copy of a letter presumably written by Ruby Bates, a principal witness for the prosecution, in which she repudiated her trial testimony and denied that she was attacked by any of the boys accused. But Ruby Bates disappeared from her home on February 27 and may not be found in time to tell her story at the second trial. Another attempt is being made to obtain a change of venue to Birmingham, where, the defense feels, a more civilized public opinion would increase the chances of a fair trial. The defense at the same time is trying to have the indictment quashed on the ground that Negroes were systematically excluded from the grand jury. The chance of success in either of these attempts seems slight—and the mere raising of these issues will tend to increase further the racial antagonism in Decatur. The Scottsboro boys are now more than ever in mortal danger. It is likely that only the pressure of public opinion upon the State of Alabama can save their lives. We hope that that pressure will be increasingly applied, by letter, by telegram, and by widespread publicity.

THE LONG WAR between the New York theatrical managers and the stagehands' union has entered a new phase. Under present conditions, and especially during the bank holiday, there has been a tremendous increase in the number of productions which cannot survive if the regular salaries are paid to actors and stagehands, but which could continue if the overhead were reduced. The Actors' Equity Association has agreed to permit its members to act in return for a percentage of the receipts if the stagehands will accept a similar arrangement. So far, however, the union has refused to consider the scheme, and the producers are threatening to post closing notices on a large number of current productions. Under the circumstances it would seem that the union is unwise and unreasonable. It naturally fears that the proposal might be disingenuous and constitute a plan for permanently reducing the wage of union members, but the managers appear to be willing to guarantee adequate safeguards. In many cases it is a matter of life or death for the individual production. Surely stagehands as well as actors would be better off under some such profit-sharing agreement than completely out of employment.

MARIA LUISA ARCELAY, member of the Porto Rican House of Representatives and Latin America's only woman legislator, is sponsoring a bill for the establishment of birth-control clinics on the island. A year and a half ago, in his inaugural address, Governor James R. Beverley, exhibiting a courage rare in public officials, stressed the necessity for birth control. In his first annual report a year later, he called attention to the steady increase in population—more than 2 per cent in the preceding year—bringing the total up to 1,599,142 inhabitants, or 465.5 per square mile. This is more than eleven times the density of population in the United States—a comparison which does not disclose the full extent of Porto Rico's dilemma since the island is wholly agricultural and a considerable part of its land is not arable. A

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