

would be no more king, and no less, after the coronation; but an ancient sanction was invoked, behind which the cabinet could take shelter, the sanction of the wedding at Canterbury, which the bishop there was got to say could not be solemnized if Mrs. Simpson were the other party at the altar. This dubiety turned out to be the British constitution; in other words, the will of the British cabinet, Mr. Baldwin's *si-señor* men.

The extremist action the British cabinet has taken in preservation of what is known in history as British liberty, since it forfeited the American colonies, and stocked Canada, just then won from the French, with refugee monarchists, at great expense to the exchequer, rather than yield the crown a thimbleful of real authority over the empire. As much was said at the time, often, in the fiery debates, and of course, as much came to pass. Cromwell—but who is he who follows Baldwin, who does not deprecate that commoner Cromwell?—had not ridden and had not fought in vain. It is merely an aside that the Church of England was founded by Henry VIII to sanction royal divorce—it gave it to him from Catherine of Aragon because all her babies from Henry died in infancy and Henry felt there was a hex on the house. That was the British constitution then, and the church's part in it, but state and church have other views of the proprieties nowadays: Catherine was from Spain and England wanted no tie-up with Philip; and besides, the plunder from the church in England, where feudalism had built up its vast and pleasant estates, was rich.

What then persists in the British constitution, what is persistent in it? Just this: the crown and the monarch whose head it is on are symbols, nothing more, of traditions the British like to maintain for old times' sake, and grandeur of present times they take just pride in. During the whole period introductory of Edward's abdication, the cabinet consorted with the press to the end that Edward should not reach the people through their newspapers and reviews: he could no more do this than Charles I could have a fair trial. And it was all quite right, as well as *right* in the political sense. The British cabinet is Britain's government. Edward had a case of his own, but as king he could not enforce it after the cabinet took a stand against it: for Baldwin to have wavered then would have implied that the cabinet yielded in authority to the crown, something the cabinet never does and never dare do.

Some blame British liberals for not aligning themselves with Edward and forcing the government to seek sanction in a general election. These critics not only do not know how religious Britains are, even sanctimoniously religious, but they do not see that no liberal victory could be based substantially on an understanding raising the royal authority above that of the cabinet and the Commons which would mean a change of the constitution. Crowns go on from monarch to monarch, Edward had but to doff his for George to make it his own—by cabinet choice, bear in mind—but cabinets go only so long as the people endorse them: they eminently, though sometimes lugubriously, represent the will of Britain.

So Baldwin was right, except it may be questioned seriously whether he should have ever raised the issue. That seems to have crowned his bumbling as a premier. If the British people think it has cost them too much, out he will go in an early election. Meantime, all there is to it is that the British crown has received another lesson as to its real place in British law.

Contrary

Let's be contrary. Let's put our back against the wall and face the political wise men of the world, as we make this daring statement:

There is a good chance that the frightful World War which the experts claim is inevitable may not happen after all.

To make a remark like that is indeed, as the graphic phrase of the day has it, going "out on a

limb." For all the high-brows and the broad-brows and—may we coin one?—all the scare-brows of the international scene disagree on only one item of the sure-as-fate death grapple, and that is just when it will start.

And yet there are definite, dramatic and powerful factors at work to prevent this certain world horror. Some of these agencies are subtle, some even under-cover and difficult to pin down; still, with a little peering and pulling, they can be hauled out into the light of day.

In the first place, this coming World War is a war for which every one is prepared, and—to reverse the logic—a war for which all contestants are ready is a war that doesn't happen. That is because no nation will attack another unless it believes it possesses an advantage over the opponent. Which means it thinks itself better prepared.

Note this: the psychology of an attacking nation is the same as that of an individual bully.

(Please turn to page 41)

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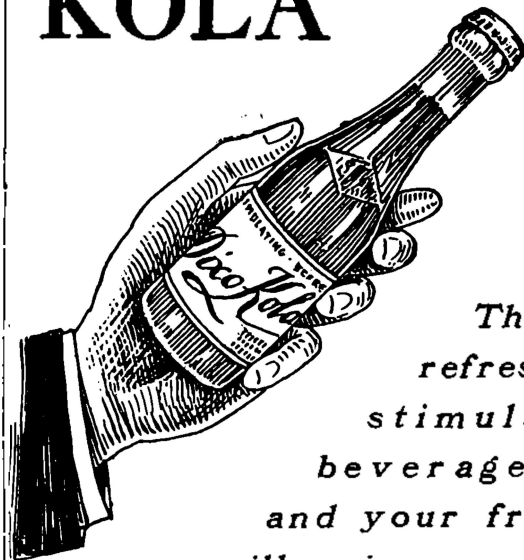
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(Continued from page 38)

and other regions produced a very depressing effect upon most dealers and producers, with the result that large supplies were offered in all local markets except Davao at a time when there were no foreign buyers. The natural consequence of such a situation was a rapid decline in prices, and the market closed with every indication pointing toward still lower prices.

The situation in Davao was quite different from the northern markets, as production there continued on the low side, and buyers went on paying the peak prices throughout the whole month of January.

*Prices of Loose Fiber in Manila
Per Picul*

| December 31st | January 31st |
|----------------|----------------|
| | Nominal |
| CD..... P28.00 | CD..... P30.00 |
| E..... 23.00 | E..... 24.50 |
| F..... 21.00 | F..... 21.50 |
| I..... 19.00 | I..... 19.00 |
| J1..... 16.50 | J1..... 17.00 |
| G..... 16.75 | G..... 16.00 |
| H..... 15.50 | H..... 14.50 |
| J2..... 16.00 | J2..... 14.50 |
| K..... 15.25 | K..... 14.00 |
| L1..... 14.75 | L1..... 13.50 |
| L2..... 13.00 | L2..... 12.00 |

*Prices of Loose Fiber in Davao
Per Picul*

| December 31st | January 31st |
|---------------|---------------|
| F..... P22.50 | F..... P23.50 |
| I..... 21.50 | I..... 22.00 |
| S2..... 20.00 | S2..... 20.50 |
| J1..... 20.50 | J1..... 21.00 |
| G..... 19.00 | G..... 19.50 |
| H..... 16.00 | H..... 16.50 |
| J2..... 19.00 | J2..... 19.50 |
| K..... 16.75 | K..... 17.00 |

What is . . .

(Continued from page 36)

Circulation, \$5,568,099,785, equivalent to Per Capita 43.79

On January 31, 1934, the President of the United States proclaimed the new United States standard gold dollar to be 15-5/21, that is, 15.23809 grains 9/10 fine, equivalent to \$35 per fine ounce troy. The Assay Commission (1901) reported that the fineness of gold coined in the U. S. Mint was from 0.899 to 0.901; silver 0.8982 to 0.9009.

Contrary

(Continued from page 11)

The bully relies on two weapons—his superior equipment and a surprise assault. Both of those factors seemed to be on the side of the attacker in the War of 1914; neither is possible for this freely predicted sure-as-sin melee in 1936-7—or pick-your-own-year.

With the surprise attack an impossibility, and with all the major nations about equally prepared, it's a good sensible bet that no belligerent will dare to fire the first gun until it feels it has shot ahead of its rivals in the armament race.

So it may be that this "absolutely positive massacre" will be fought out by ships that are launched but do not shell, by planes that fly but do not bomb, by men who march but never out of their own back yard.

Another strong antiseptic working on the germ of war is the matter of alliances. The various lineups among the nations change as rapidly as the lineup of a football team in the last quarter. If the geographical boundaries of the countries of Europe shifted as rapidly as do the opinions and agreements of their leaders, the map would resemble a whirling roulette wheel. And you may be sure that so long as this bewildering, tricky, ever-changing alignment of pacts, loyalties and "friendly" agreements continues, there will be no frightful World War.

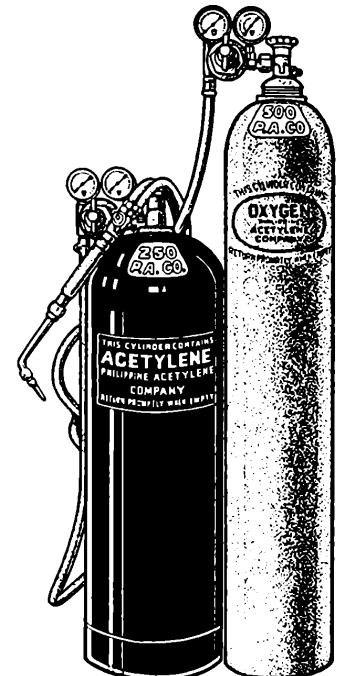
A third agent putting in some quiet but mighty lies for peace is the ever-swelling tide of world prosperity. All the nations are on the commercial upgrade, some faster than others, but every country now has not only more hope but more cash. When you add to this pleasant picture the prospect of a stabilized world currency; started by the recent devaluation of the franc, you have even more practical reasons for a sane belief in no horrible World War. With surging prosperity and harmonious world money—which many economic analysts claim is the fundamental difference between war and peace—it is possible that the only serious international conflict will be a matter of tariffs and raw materials.

A final and perhaps most vital reason for believing that this "frightful World War" is not inevitable is its own propaganda. That is, the very picture of coming horror will prevent its coming. We have been told so long, so colorfully, so plausibly, that the next World War will be frightful and destructive beyond anything the earth has ever seen that we believe it. And the more we believe it, the more we are told how deadly and destructive it will be, the more we are shown that no nation will escape—the less likely is such a war to occur.

So, still out "on a limb," we repeat: the "ine-

vitabile" war is not inevitable. It is possible—even though at present it does not seem probable that preparedness, shifting alliances and horror propaganda may postpone the actual clash until returning prosperity and stable money-exchange quietly but surely turn the war of guns and blood into one of trade and tariffs.

(Reprinted from *World Digest*.)



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