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According to an economist, money is the people's servant. Here today and gone tomorrow.—The Humorist, London.

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## Londoner Gives Vivid Portrayal Of Conditions In England During Crisis

(Editor's Note: The following most interesting letter, written by an executive of a large London, England, department store to a Birmingham, Michigan, friend; the latter has allowed us to read it and we are re-printing it because of its unusual and vivid portrayal of conditions in England during the recent German-Czechoslovak crisis. Names have been deleted for obvious purposes.)

The letter follows:  
Many times during the past three weeks I have thought of the several friends I have in the States—wondering what they were thinking of the mess we seemed to be heading for. It was impossible in the middle of it all to send any kind of connected account. Events moved so swiftly they were on us and passed into the background before we really appreciated their significance.

In the middle of it all I did manage to dash off a few letters to those I thought would be interested. I think, but am not sure, that I did write to you.

The tension and feeling of suspense and apprehension were bad enough, almost unbearable; but added to that, each day brought many new and unforeseen retailing problems that were quite enough to cope with in themselves.

We had to do what we could to forecast, in the probable trend of events in certain circumstances and plan accordingly. This applied to finance and merchandising alike.

The staff problem suddenly became acute. One evening the whole of my display staff walked in to say good-bye to me; they had all been called to the colours. Next day, half my porters, staff also were called—and so it went on.

**War Preparations**  
On top of all this we had to make the most intensive efforts to comply with the Air Raid Precaution regulations. We had to fire-fighting precautions; bought sandbags; fitted the basement up with every possible device to make it gas proof and bomb proof; laid in complete first aid equipment; doubled the "emergency" lighting; and generally got prepared to be able to carry on under war time conditions.

It was a nightmare, there's no other word for it, and thank God it wasn't needed after all.

My experience had been enough, but must have been child's play compared to that of the directors of some of the really big stores. But, of course, was none of it, and we shall never make up the leeway this financial year.

There was a run on blankets and bedding, and we sold out completely of anything that would serve to screen windows—dark blinds, blind hollandes, and the like. People were even buying pillowcases by the hundred to serve as sandbags (the genuine article was quite unobtainable, having been commandeered).

**War Time Sights**  
Now that it is all over, it seems impossible to realize that it spread itself about eight days only. In one way, where we were in it, it seemed like eight years. Now we are beginning to sort ourselves out, gradually getting back to normal, and people are just beginning to buy the things they normally would.

A month before, it was impossible for us to imagine the things we experienced and saw; the loads of troops going through the streets; anti-aircraft guns and searchlights all over the place; all the mainline railway stations packed with people wanting to get away from London; the jettisoning of cars with luggage going West; lines of ambulances outside the hospitals evacuating patients; hundreds of army lorries at the docks waiting to be shipped somewhere; and queues of people standing in the rain at the gas mask distributing stations.

All the public parks have been closed up for a time, so that trenches for people who might be caught in a raid in the open. Gas masks were distributed as a precaution (400 million in all) but there was nothing for tiny children. We should have sent them to friends down in the West if the worst had happened.

**Fear Of Panic**  
The situation was really much more alarmed about the effects of incendiary bombs than about gas, and, above all, panic was the worst fear. You must not, however, think there was any panic—nothing more than a mild sort of "wind up" at first. There was a feeling of deep and grave anxiety everywhere, and a feeling that we were really up against it.

By now you have read all that your papers have had to say about it, and maybe are rather sick at the sight and sound of war scares; but, at the risk of boring you a little more, I am sending you a few press clippings. In them you can read, verbatim, many things you may have seen in a condensed form. In them you can see all the best and the worst of things as our people saw them here.

As you will see from the clippings, Chamberlain's actions do not receive 100 percent support, but the opposition is such a small percentage that it does not really count at all.

I think the real feelings of the "man in the street" can be summed up in one small incident that happened last week. Someone laid a wreath of poppies on the Cenotaph, and on it was a card which said, "After all, they did not die in vain. As one friend said to me, "Thank God at last the politicians are beginning to believe what we believe—that Peace matters more than 'Prestige'."

**Grim Choice**  
It's so easy to believe in the overwhelming importance of "ideals" which are really an abstraction, but when you have to visualize what the support of "ideals" and "gratitude" may mean interpreted into human lives and suffering, then it's a very different story.

Although we ourselves had no direct treaty with the Czechs and only an unwritten understanding with France, I think everyone would have been entirely unanimous about supporting them to the hilt. If we could have helped them in time, but by the time we could have done that, they would, as a nation, have been annihilated. It was a terrible choice to have to make; on the one hand, war and horror for all, and on the other hand, the abandonment that leaves the gangster all that he demands; which can be interpreted as a "deal" for us and a blow to "prestige."

I imagine that people who do not think too deeply about things will not think too well of us as a nation for some time to come, and may say that peace has been bought at too high a price. But if Chamberlain's courage really has opened the way to the beginning of a new way of settling disputes, and if this is consistently followed up in the future, then the price will have been worth paying. It must be remembered that the next time the Dictators meet around a table with our men, we shall be very much stronger and will be able to take a stronger line than was possible this time.

Much has been made of Mussolini's intervention in this case, but nothing has been said in the press, as far as I know, of the huge concentration of our warships not far off Italy during the past few weeks. This intervention was not entirely idealistic; I think it was the only "realistic" thing he could do, and he prides himself on his realism.

Roosevelt's telegrams, although they may not have been popular in the States, did a great deal of good. I am sure. They certainly expressed what millions of democrats "outside the ringside" must have been thinking, and one of them coupled that thought with a sublime appeal to Adolph's vanity. Incidentally, neither of the telegrams was reported in the German press.

Another thing that may have had some influence was that our broadcasting people suddenly started an hour's broadcast of news in foreign languages every night. As 45 minutes of it was in German, it may have done some good.

The one amusing side of the aftermath (slightly cynical, I'm sure you'll think) is that all the chief European countries concerned in the fracas are congratulating themselves on the fact that they were the ones who really settled the crisis. They each forget that had the Czechs themselves not shown such amazing discipline, restraint and forbearance, by now Hell would have been let loose everywhere in Europe.

## Farmers Get Fancy Service

Five hundred farmer guests were treated to some of the finest "wait-on-table" they ever encountered when swank members of the Monmouth County Hunt and Racing Association served as waiters and waitresses at the association's annual meet on the estate of Amory L. Haskell at Red Bank, N. J. Here Louise Ely, 19, pours coffee for one of the farmers.



Representatives of Catholic and Protestant churches, of State and of Labor combined in an emergency meeting to discuss the German religious persecutions. The meeting was held Sunday at the Naval Armory in Detroit. Speakers included Governor Frank Murphy; Dr. Edgar D. Watt Jones, president of the Federation Council of Churches of Christ in America; Rev. Edward J. Hecke, Chancellor of the Arch-Diocese of Detroit; and Rev. Joseph A. Vance of the First Presbyterian Church of Detroit, who presided.

Among the joint sponsors were the Civil Rights Association, Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor, The German American League for Culture, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and others.

cause was a quarter-engineered diabolically it must be admitted—the response from overseas had necessarily to be slow, until we ourselves were directly threatened.

What we have to find out now is whether the Munich agreement that future discussions are always to be around a table, will hold. The reliance of our people on Hitler's word is very slender. There have been too many instances of peaceable sounding words being accompanied by threatening gestures, too many talks of peace being lighted by warlike demonstrations, for us to trust him further than a yard on. Last March when the Nazis were invading Austria and the Czechs were alarmed, Goebbels said in a radio speech that Slovakia has never anything to fear from Nazi Germany.

That just about illustrates the point, doesn't it? I think this last showdown proves to us conclusively that there is no more reliance to be placed on the Nazi word than there was in Hitler's word in 1934.

**Hitler's Test**  
We all here know exactly where we stand now, and we know that Hitler's next big move may be another of the big points in the "Mein Kampf" program—conquests. When that does come up we shall see how he can stand up in a real trial of strength. So far he has only had a trial with weak and poor opponents. There's no doubt at all that his testing time is still to come, and we all know it. How it will be handled depends on the time available for us to get really well prepared and on guard.

When that day comes my first action will be to ship my wife and boy straight out to the United States, because this little island will be too hot a spot for the time being. I don't mean to be pessimistic, but to me it seems one of the really sane things to do; it would be impossible for it was in my back into my share of things here unless I felt they were really safe and out of danger.

Good night, and greetings and best wishes to you all.

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## NOTED ACTRESS AUTHORESS OF HUMOROUS BOOK

A noted member of an illustrious theatrical family is among the authors whose books are now on the shelves of the Baldwin Public Library. If you seek more solid material as they are, the library has been selected to suit a wide variety of tastes.

"Dishers and Jitters" is by Cornelia Ott Skinner who is not given to taking herself or anyone else for that matter, with undue seriousness. Her book contains bits on the awkwardness of being a parent at a children's party in the house of a strange neighbor; on the author's struggles to master Yoga; the role of a wife entertaining the traditional important out-of-town buyer and his wife. All of the episodes are as penetrating as they are amusing.

"Dr. Bradley Remembers" is a homely, humanly appealing book by Francis Brett Young. The doctor recalls events of his life and career in a small English town. The time is the late 19th century, when antiseptic was not completely accepted. The crude medical methods and conservatism of the time are shown in his recollections. Two tragedies affect him as an old man he still feels life is good, after a half century of hard work and no financial success.

"The Noise of Their Wings" is the latest book of McKinley Kantor. When a Florida cracker receives the fabulous reward which completes his disintegration, even he moves with thrilling suspense to a tragic close. The action in this economically well-written book takes place on a yacht of Florida's wild, west-coastal people, with an odd assortment of people, "Tascari and Great Movers" by Lawrence Gilman, is a new approach to this famous personality by a noted musical author. As Mr. Gilman says, "I am not concerned with Toscanini's career nor his personality as a human being, but rather with his quality as a musician. I have tried to list the reasons why Toscanini, the re-creation of a great artist, seemed unique. I wanted to make clearer the ways in which his conduct illuminates his music, the music he interprets and in turn illuminates by the greatness of the works themselves."

"Philosopher's Holiday" is by Dr. Irwin Edman, who has made philosophy one of the most popular and rewarding subjects at Columbia University. He has a faculty for taking ideas out of the books he knows so well and making them live forever in the minds of his students. He is indeed at home in the world and it is for that reason that he writes with such charm and humor and such lasting good sense about the people in it.

"The Serpent in the Garden" by Ethel M. Dell, is a new type of thriller. When lovely Gabrielle Dermot left the shelter of the

English vicarage where she had been brought up to go to the Riviera, three people awaited her, with mixed emotions. Her mother, who had left England years before with Count Gaspare Volpato, dreamed her daughter's arrival at the now-dead villa. The Count himself was eager, for he knew of her beauty and realized her value as an assistant. Pierre Randeau of the French Secret Service waited for her entrance to the inaccessible villa to round out one of the most hazardous cases of his career.

"Christmas," by John N. Then is a collection of Christmas lore; traditions, legends and customs collected for many years from all over the world.

"Economic Problems of Modern Life" is a textbook in economics by Patterson and Schultz. It may be used as the basis of a course or as supplementary problems material.

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**Thanksgiving . . . .**

Thanksgiving is a time for all good things. But it is also a time for reflection, and for a view of the future, that we may always be sure of reason for Thanksgiving. Provision to satisfy their needs gave the Pilgrims cause for Thanksgiving—and making provision for your family's future needs will ever give them reason for Thanksgiving, with you...

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