

# THE NEWS

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1927

## SECURITY ON THE RHINE

(By Prof. W. K. Hancock)

In 1922 M. Poincare, then Prime Minister of France, had a regular Sunday diversion. He would take a train to some provincial town, would a few memorials, and deliver an oration full of menaces against Germany. Thus he kept alive a state of mind which in the following year found its inevitable expression in his speech when France occupied the Ruhr.

The British maintained that this "sensation" went beyond the Treaty of Versailles, but British arguments had no effect upon a headstrong ally. More effective was the fall of the franc, which after another year brought M. Herriot to power and caused the withdrawal of French troops from the Ruhr.

France was convinced that she should not pay the economic price for security of M. Poincare's brand. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, who was then English Foreign Secretary, seized the opportunity and secured an agreement between England, France, and Germany, known as the Dawes plan. The natural sequel to the Dawes agreement was the Locarno Treaties, and the natural sequel to those treaties was a vast plan for economic co-operation between France and Germany put forward last year at Thoiry.

Locarno and Thoiry together meant that France was seeking security by a new road. Politically she seemed to have decided that a guarantee of her western frontiers by Germany and England was more real safety than fortresses, strategic railways, and the mobilisation of the nation for war. Economically, she found that it did not pay merely to seize the Ruhr coal which she wanted for the iron mines of Lorraine. Then the passive resistance of patriotic Germans had ruined that plan, and the steel magnates of France insisted on an alternative scheme—a deal with their German rivals. This changed state of mind has borne fruit already in a European steel trust from which only England stands aloof.

This new policy of co-operation will be associated with the name of M. Briand. But the domestic policy of the colleagues of M. Briand was even more fatal to the franc than had been the foreign policy of M. Poincare. Last year the country looked to M. Briand, who must return to the France of financial chaos. He returned, and while economists gasped incredulously the franc recovered.

But would M. Poincare be content with this state of affairs? Would he be content to accept the supremacy of M. Briand in foreign affairs, allowing France to forget those rancorous fears and ambitions which he had kept at bay for almost three years before?

Last week something happened within M. Poincare. He was snowed away by an statistic resurgence of instinctive fears and suspicions. He was inveigling a Paris war memorial, and found himself repeating the same warnings and menaces which had come so frequently from his lips in 1922-3.

M. Poincare replied, almost immediately: "We wish to stand by Locarno." He said, "But France cannot do this both in the Ruhr. She cannot do these things between the lines. Those who love peace and those who love France will regret the appearance of the old Adam in M. Poincare and hope that he will return quickly to the grave or the life of a dream where he belongs. But first let us understand. From the seventeenth century to the present time France has continually and steadily nursed the ideal of a natural frontier, the old frontiers of Gaul—the sea, the Rhine, the Alps, the Rhine. And the greatest of the Rhine. Unless we hold the Rhine, the Frenchman has said, "we are continually open to invasion from Germany."

The argument might seem absurd if it were not a disarmed Germany is needed by armed nations. It is a fact that the Rhine is a barrier in the past and early practice is considered when Germany was still a collection of separate states. Never since has it been so far forward and be-

Revolutionary Period  
The greatest historian of French policy in the Revolutionary period, Sorel, maintains that even the wars of Napoleon, even the march to Moscow, were defensive—an attempt to guard the Rhine frontier. In 1923 I was told again and again by villagers in the evening round little village inns in Brittany that if France had not occupied the Ruhr the Germans would have been already in Paris. This was childish and absurd, but it was a paraphrase of what the people read every morning in the newspapers, and of what they had been trained to think for centuries.

It is difficult for Australians, who have no frontiers, and have prospered under the protection of the British Navy, to realise the intensity of traditional fears and hatreds among European peoples. But let us imagine that Australians suspected an outside threat to their policy of protection or to that of a White Australia. The psychological reaction would be similar to that of the Frenchman who is haunted by dreams of an undefended Rhine. We would be terrified for our security, and at once arm to guarantee it.

**Old Methods Wrong**  
The Germans believe that the Rhine is "not a French frontier but a German river." While the French remember 1870 and 1914, the Germans can never forget the deeds of Louis XIV. and Napoleon, the schemes of Polignac and Napoleon III. Thus on both sides there is fear. No security that can be won by the old methods. While they endure there can be only armed peace and the ebb and flow of fortune in war.

France must realise that Herr Stresemann is right; that she cannot have both the Ruhr and Locarno. She must realise, further, that one Locarno Treaty is worth a hundred Ruhr inspections. There is reason to hope that she will do this. As the economic federation of Europe progresses adventurous Polineism will be discarded, not because it is wicked but because it is obsolete.

ADV 7-7-27

### RESEARCH LABORATORIES.

In connection with the operations of the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, laboratories for research work are to be built shortly at Victoria Drive, Adelaide.

REG 7-7-27

The following appointments in connection with the Adelaide Hospital have been announced—Honorary physician, Dr. C. T. G. Wilson; honorary gynaecologist, Dr. R. E. Magarey; honorary dental surgeon, Mr. S. J. Joyner; honorary clinical physician, Professor C. S. Hicks. The following appointments to the hospital are also announced—Honorary physicians, Drs. C. T. G. DeCrespigny and D. R. W. Cowan; honorary radiologist, Dr. H. C. Nott; honorary assistant physician, Dr. A. R. Southcott; honorary dermatologist, Dr. F. H. McKinn; honorary assistant pathologist, Dr. R. Thorold Grant; honorary dental surgeons, Messrs. J. L. Eustace, G. Hardy, A. P. R. Moore, L. S. Rogers, and F. M. Swan.

REG 7-7-27

In the Executive Council on Wednesday Dr. W. Ray was appointed a member of the advisory committee to co-operate with the council of the University of Adelaide and the Adelaide Hospital Board under the provision of the Hospital Act, 1921, during the absence of the Director of Education (Mr. W. T. McCoy, B.A.), who is on a world tour.

REG 7-7-27

It is understood that Professor A. E. V. Richardson, Director of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute will shortly leave on an important mission to London.



### PAINTING IN OILS OF SIR LANGDON BONNYTHON

Portrait of Sir Langdon (member of the council of the University of Adelaide) which has been placed in the council room. The artist was Mr. W. B. McIntosh, the well-known portrait painter, of Melbourne.

NEWS 5-7-27

### Research Work

"Onlooker," Adelaide—1 was pleased to read that Mr. S. M. Bruce (Prime Minister) and the Hon. R. L. Butler (Premier) had visited the Waite Research Institute. I was under the impression that neither could have been aware of the work which is being done by the Waite Institute, Roseworthy College, University School of Mines, and the Government Analytical Department.

My reason for having come to this conclusion was because it had been reported that the Government was about to incur much expense in more or less duplication of work now being done, and that the Premier has put an increase upon the cost of Government works relating to production. It seems to me that provision has been made for this already by private enterprise, established institutions, and former Governments.

In these hard times Governments might spare taxpayers a great deal if they decided to find money for the duplication of any work already being done, or provided that at small additional expense could be easily performed in present institutions under competent management.

The public expects great results from the work undertaken by the Development and Migration Commission. I trust that Mr. Bruce will order the publication of a balance sheet showing expenditure including salaries and travelling cost—on the one side, and value to the community on the other. It is selected young farmers had been each paid £2000 to start in the country probably greater service would have been rendered to the community.

convener of the associated schools' sports she has done much to promote a healthy spirit of competition in inter-school games.

The past few weeks have been a round of inter-school Presentations were made to her by the associated head mistresses of various schools, and by the girls of St. Peter's. A farewell was tendered her by the Lovewell Club and her friends gathered at a social last night.

Miss Berry is a daughter of the late Rev. Joseph Berry, and a sister of Mrs. P. H. Nicholls.

ADV. 8-7-27

### RESEARCH LABORATORY.

Discussing the fact that tenders are being invited for the erection of a research laboratory on Victoria Drive, Adelaide, Professor Brailford Robertson yesterday said that the Commonwealth Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research had decided to undertake extensive investigations on the nutrition of stock, principally sheep at present, with a view to assisting the pastoral industry. The laboratory being built represented one portion of the programme of research. The laboratory would be designed to test the mineral deficiencies of various Australian felders, and also their nutritive qualities. A special attempt would be made to ascertain the effect of the excess of certain minerals such as magnesia, on the other requirements of the animals, since in many parts of Australia the problem was one not only of the deficiency in certain minerals, but also of their excessive quantity, especially magnesium and potassium. In addition to the laboratory researches, experiments would be carried out with hand-fed sheep at the Waite Institute, and with sheep fed under ordinary conditions. Comparisons would be made between the growth of animals on field stations with those at the laboratory. Thus it was hoped to ascertain the precise nature of the deficiencies in the pasture in various parts of Australia. The knowledge might be conveyed to St. Peter's College through the practical means of supplementing the pasture, either by treatment of the soil, by the production of other plants, or by licks of artificial foodstuffs. By one or other of these means it would be possible to correct in some instances existing deficiencies.

### TEACHER TO TOUR

Miss Berry Leaves Tomorrow  
Miss Winifred Berry, M.A., Dip.Ed., will leave South Australia tomorrow on a tour of the Mongolia for a two years' tour of duty. For 11 years she has been a school mistress at St. Peter's College, and was recently awarded a travelling scholarship by Adelaide University.

She has had a distinguished career as an educationist, and has done yeoman service for the scholastic and sporting service would have been rendered to the community.