



Naboth's Cornfield

HUNGARY, rather than Czechoslovakia, might well tempt the Nazis as the objective of their next coup. This rich valley kingdom, holding the best of the Danubian cornlands, could do much to offset the overindustrialized character of Hitler's Reich, made even more top-heavy by the recent annexation of Austria. Czechoslovakia, on the other hand, would be another Austria in this matter of adding still more urbanized industrial mouths to feed.

Hungary might well be termed the Iowa of Europe. Its resources are mainly those of a rich lowland soil and a climate that makes corn cultivation possible. Corn means hogs, and hogs mean the all-important *Fett* whose present shortage is a chronic economic headache in Germany. Corn cannot be raised to advantage in Germany; the country is too far north and the summer climate is too mild to grow and ripen it properly.

Postwar Hungary is nowhere near as large as the state of Iowa—only about

36,000 square miles as against the prairie state's 56,000. But the land is almost all tillable, and the people are good farmers. Almost equal to corn in importance as crops are wheat and potatoes, with sugar beets well up the list, and oats, barley, and rye in smaller quantities.

Geographically as well as agronomically, Hungary must be a tempting mouthful to an ambitious Mid-European dictator. It sits astride the Danube, the natural highway of the *Drang nach Osten* of prewar Imperial days. Farther downstream lie the fertile lowlands of northern Yugoslavia and the fat kingdom of Rumania—with more cornlands, and the timber and mineral resources of the Transylvanian Alps. Not to forget the oil wells!

To be sure, touching Yugoslavia would again flick a raw place on Mussolini's flank, already very sore at Brenner Pass. And if Rumania were added to the string, that would bring Naziland directly against a Russian frontier. But when you've developed a bumptious lick-creation complex, such considerations are trifles.

Hungary, and even Rumania, would probably not be nearly so hot to pick up as Czechoslovakia. Both countries are dictatorships already, both have been rather flirted with Germany of late. Hungary, and the whole eastern half of postwar Rumania (Transylvania) were once ruled from Vienna. In general, neither is anywhere so near the sensitive nerves of France as is Czechoslovakia.

So it may be Hungary next, and after that Rumania. Who knows?

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Brick and cement are in great demand in Shanghai, as the Chinese attempt to rebuild the war-torn city.

MEDICINE

Committee of Physicians And AMA Trustees Confer

REPRESENTATIVES of the Committee of Physicians and the Board of Trustees of the American Medical Association sat down together to discuss the problem of whether the two organizations are in opposition in their efforts to improve medical care.

This is evident from the fact that the *Journal of the American Medical Association* carries a statement (Mar. 12) which though it appears in the *Journal*, is critical of an editorial that appeared in the *Journal* on Oct. 16, 1937.

In this statement, Dr. John P. Peters, secretary for the Committee of Physicians, reiterates that opposition to the American Medical Association and advocacy of government control of medical practice are "foreign to the thoughts and intent of these physicians."

The false impression that the Committee of Physicians opposed the American Medical Association and favored state medicine arose, Dr. Peters suggests, from the *Journal* editorial and the subsequent publicity.

"The activities of the committee were thus made 'news' by this editorial," Dr. Peters states in the *Journal* columns. The committee had been making every effort to have its activities "presented to the public in a dignified and uncontroversial manner" when the complete draft of its Principles and Proposals became public property on Nov. 7.

"It is pertinent to note," Dr. Peters adds, "that a relatively small number of the 430 signators whose names were made public on Nov. 7 have written to the committee asking that their names be withdrawn from the list, while a considerable number have without further solicitation added their endorsements."

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