

Broadlands News

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Italian-Ethiopian War

A few months ago it looked as if there might be an Italian-Ethiopian war. Now it looks as if there must be. Pressure and argument by the other great powers has not changed Mussolini's determination a whit—and Ethiopia answers that she will fight for her independence until her last man has met death on the battlefield.

Italy wants Ethiopia for one simple reason—natural resources. Italy is dependent on foreign supplies of raw cotton, oil, coal, iron, copper. Lack of these national essentials—which Ethiopia is supposed to possess—is hampering Italy badly.

It's the old case of a big nation going after a small one when the latter has something it can use.

Civet Cats for War

An important industry in Ethiopia is the raising of civet cats, which have a high commercial value, as they secrete a substance known as the civet of commerce, extensively used in the manufacture of perfumes. This substance in its natural state has a most offensive odor, but diluted with other ingredients is highly pleasing to the sense of smell.

Emperor Haile Selassie has ordered a speeding up of the civet cat industry to aid in supplying funds with which to buy munitions in the event of war with Italy. Tribesmen are also said to be making plans for polluting water wells before allowing them to fall into Italian hands, and the civet cats may be extensively used for this purpose, as they give off an odor almost as offensive as that of the American skunk.

While the Ethiopians are greatly handicapped by a lack of modern arms and ammunition, they are said to be quite resourceful in utilizing such means as they have to harass invading troops.

They would also have the advantage of fighting in a mountainous country with which they are perfectly acquainted, and from which it will be difficult to dislodge them.

Scouts Disappointed

Everyone will sympathize with the 30,000 Boy Scouts of this and other countries whose great jamboree in Washington, which was planned to begin on August 21, was called off through fear of an infantile paralysis epidemic.

Announcement of abandoning the jamboree, decided upon by President Roosevelt upon recommendation of health authorities and high Scout officials, was made too late to prevent many foreign Scouts from starting on their journey to Washington, but arrangements were made for entertaining them in the vicinity of New York and elsewhere.

Cancellation of the big event was made because of the prevalence of infantile paralysis in Virginia, within 100 miles of Washington. The President said his decision was made with very deep regret, but that this was considered the only safe course to take under the circumstances.

Dr. James E. West, chief Scout executive, explained the reasons for calling off the jamboree in a communication to various units

of the organization. He, too, expressed great regret at having to spread the bad news, but added: "Let's take it as Scouts—with chins up."

Two Plucky Boys

Recent news dispatches tell of the almost miraculous recovery of two boys, one in New York and the other in Atlanta, whose sheer grit and will to live did much to pull them through.

Harold Pfeegar entered a New York hospital eight months ago suffering from osteomyelitis, a serious inflammation of the bone and marrow of one of his legs. The infection spread and his leg was amputated, but his courage did not fail. While in the hospital he underwent 85 blood transfusions necessary to keep life in his body, a greater number of transfusions than any person has ever had before.

Recently he was sufficiently recovered as to be taken home in a wheel chair to celebrate his 15th birthday.

The other case was that of 16-year-old Leon Powers of Atlanta, who a little more than two months ago was accidentally shot in the abdomen with an old .32 caliber pistol thought to be empty. The bullet tore through his intestines, making 19 perforations.

At Grady hospital a surgeon opened his abdominal cavity and literally lifted his "insides" out while he stitched up the 19 holes. For nearly two weeks young Powers seemed to be continuously at the point of death, but at intervals he consoled his mother by saying: "Don't worry; I'll make it." He did make it, and is now able to be up. Doctors say his recovery will shortly be complete.

These desperate cases, as well as many others, illustrate what modern surgical skill, aided by courage and determination on the part of the patient, can accomplish.

Breaking A Racket

Immigration authorities recently unearthed a well-established racket, whereby immigrants who have entered the United States unlawfully have been "shaken down" for a sum estimated to be as much as a million dollars a year.

Briefly, the scheme is as follows: A racketeer finds out that a certain immigrant has been smuggled into this country or has slipped in in some other manner, and approaches him with an offer to obtain naturalization papers for him—for a suitable fee.

This part of the agreement is usually carried out, by means of false records, cleverly forged or otherwise faked up for the purpose. For this service the racketeer charges whatever the victim can pay, generally from \$50 to \$2,500. So far, the new "citizen" is satisfied with the arrangement, which he has voluntarily agreed to.

But this is only the beginning of the game. He is now in the racketeer's power, and through threats of exposure to immigration officials he is blackmailed into paying for protection from the law indefinitely.

The racket is now being investigated and a round-up of the criminals has begun under the direction of S. H. Kaufman, a special assistant to the attorney general. Some arrests have been made already, and Kaufman claims he has sufficient evidence to convict 10 government employees at Ellis Island alone.

Those engaged in this vicious practice are not only guilty of blackmail, but are violating the immigration laws. Either offense deserves swift and drastic punishment. Inasmuch as the government has promised immunity to aliens who will testify against the extortionists, it is likely that most of the latter will sooner or later find themselves behind the bars, where they should be.

Sidelights

Aunt Amanda Crews, 80, of Kinston, N. C., lost her temper recently, and for good reason. Some miscreant put a pinch of gunpowder in her favorite clay pipe which she had smoked for 37 years, causing it to blow up. Fortunately she was not injured.

Garland Hodson, pitcher for a Kansas City baseball team, heaved his most effective fast ball recently. When a mad dog caused a panic during a game and ran out onto the diamond, Hodson struck the animal on the head with a well directed throw, killing it instantly.

Relief headquarters of Shawnee county, Kansas, had a complaint from a woman who declared the amount given her family was not sufficient and added: "My husband and I talked it over and he said if we didn't get more he was going to try to find a job."

The heaviest bridge traffic in the world is claimed for the double-decked Michigan Avenue span in Chicago, used daily by an average of more than 34,000 vehicles. The Brooklyn bridge carries about 27,000 and the London bridge 18,000 daily on an average.

The theory of the superiority of mind over matter got another boot a few days ago. John Moraine of Montreal, with legs paralyzed for three years, had no idea he would ever walk again. But when lightning struck his home he forgot his infirmity and ran for dear life.

The Illinois Theater, Newman, is advertising some splendid shows in this issue.

Put your news items in the mail box at the foot of the stairs, if you don't care to come up to our office.

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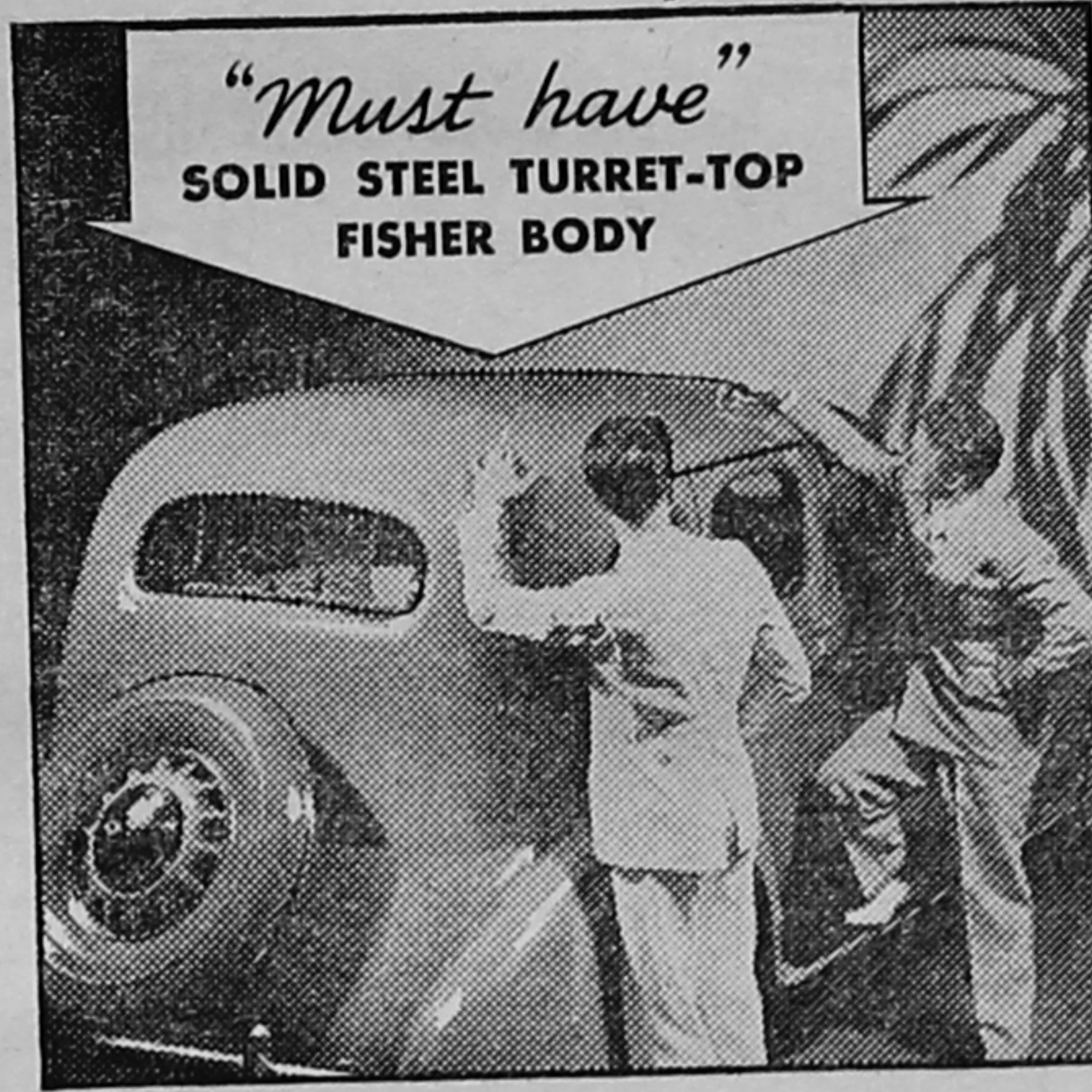
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