

## RUSSIA DROPS MASK; READY FOR CONFLICT

Soviet Army of 800,000 Is Efficient, Prepared for War.

BY WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS  
Scripps-Howard Foreign Editor

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—A Russian army of 800,000 men is on its toes, ready to go the moment Japan crosses the deadline, according to reports in the hands of military attaches here.

Observers make it plain, however, that they do not expect Russia to attack. On the contrary, she still is said to be extremely anxious to avoid war. But if a conflict is forced upon her, experts declare, she is prepared to give a good account of herself.

Russia's big bugaboo remains a war on two fronts—an attack by European powers in the west while she is engaged in war in the far east, 6,000 miles away.

Furthermore, Moscow officials admit, Russia will be incalculably stronger in another four or five years militarily, economically and industrially.

### Prepares in Hurry

Nevertheless, a sudden and significant change has come over Moscow. Whereas, Soviet officials never peeped when Japan took Tsitsihar, in Manchuria, last fall, they now sternly demand to know what Japanese troops are doing in the region of the Siberian border.

The explanation given by military experts is that last fall Russia was not ready, while today she is. Moving quietly and with complete secrecy behind an outward show of preparedness to Japan, she has prepared.

The red army, in paper, numbers 850,000 effectives. But to this must be added another 150,000 belonging to the "Tcheka battalions," or professional soldiers garrisoning principal cities and railways. These latter are storm troops of the first order.

Behind these 800,000 men are some 3,000,000 active reserves, plus another group of approximately 10,000 line semi-trained second and third line men—a grand total of about 13,000,000 effectives when fully mobilized.

### Ranks Fifth in Air

In the air, Russia ranks fifth among the powers—after France, Britain, Italy and the United States. Japan ranks sixth, with 1,312 planes ready for instant battle, as against Russia's 1,520.

Such is the official rating. In reality, according to French reports, Russia may rank second among the air powers. The Soviet air league is known to have raised considerable money and built an unknown number of planes for presentation to the nation in the last two or three years. For this, many German technicians have been engaged.

Similarly, Russia is said to be well prepared for chemical warfare. Not only has the government spent increasingly large sums of money for poison gas equipment, but, as has been the case with aviation, a civilian "chemical defense society" materially has aided the state.

The red army already is highly mechanized. Tractors draw its heavy artillery and much of the light. There are enormous numbers of tanks, whippets, armored automobiles, motorcycles and trains; anti-aircraft batteries, airplane detectors, range finders, searchlights, and so on, all of mobile nature.

### Preparedness Preached

Behind the red fighting machine is one of the most highly militarized populations on the globe. While denouncing militarism, Soviet officials have insisted Russia's life depends on preparedness. Thus practically the entire country of 150,000,000 people is organized like an army. Women and children, old and young, factory workers and field hands are grouped into squads, battalions, regiments, and corps.

The army is officered largely by men who have risen from the Communist ranks. This is regarded as an advantage. Whereas Russian officers of the old school had a weakness for good times behind the lines, leaving their underlings to do the fighting, the present corps doubtless would go over the top with them.

The reds, however, still have several weak spots in their armor. The single track railways across Siberia is one. Another is the inability of Russian industry to keep an army of millions supplied.

### TWO MORE JOIN RACE FOR COURT CLERKSHIP

Mrs. Shuler and Mrs. Hack Seek Democratic Nomination.

Two women have announced for the Democratic nomination for reporter of the supreme and appellate courts, bringing the total number of contenders to four.

Those who announced are Mrs. Margaret Shuler of Indianapolis, who was a candidate for the nomination in 1928, and Mrs. May Hack of Shelbyville, 1928 nominee.

Mrs. Shuler, who has been managing a patent law office here for sixteen years, is a graduate of Western College of Oxford, O., and has been active in Marion county politics.

She is vice-chairman of the seventh ward organization, a member of the Marion County Democratic Women's Club and the Business and Professional Women's Club.

Mrs. Hack is the wife of Charles A. Hack, former Sixth district chairman, and also has been an active worker.

The other candidates are Miss Emma May of Terre Haute and Mayor Jack Edwards of Marion.

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## ARLISS APPEARS IN POWERFUL ROLE

Dramatic Star Has a Satisfactory Movie Vehicle in 'The Man Who Played God,' Now at the Apollo.

BY WALTER D. HICKMAN

ONE can safely write this down that George Arliss has in "The Man Who Played God," one of his most satisfactory movie vehicles. Arliss has graced this role with some of the finest acting that he has ever contributed to the talking screen.

Just as the late Mrs. Fiske grew with the modern stage, just so does Arliss grow with the talking screen. This story is very kind to Arliss because it is a human role, telling the terrible tragedy of a great pianist who suddenly went completely deaf.

Then we have the great struggle, the pianist loses faith in God. It is only when the pianist creates a sort of miracle himself, he learns to read the lips of human beings, that he finds again faith in his God and man.

It is during this terrific struggle that the artistry of Arliss reaches its peak. I recall many years ago in Terre Haute that I saw Otis Skinner in this same role on the stage. The role was not kind to Skinner because it lasted just a short time on tour. But with the movie version, I believe that Arliss will achieve added popularity. As far as I am concerned, "The Man Who Played God" is the most satisfactory thing that Arliss has given the talking screen.

Notice the work of Violet Heming as Mildred, the woman who undergoes the terrific fight that the pianist is putting up before he learns to read lips and is able to bring joy into the lives of many people.

Also notice the work of Bette Davis as Grace. I am not so sure that I have seen this girl very often on the screen.

Louise Closser Hale is in the cast and you can be assured that she gives a good account of herself. Also take time to watch the direction and the fine camera shots.

Here is a picture that will bring real joy to the movie industry. Now at the Apollo.

### TAKING A LOOK AT "SAFE IN HELL"

It seems that the bad ladies are becoming quite frequent on the talking screen this season.

Dorothy Mackall is the bad one in "Safe in Hell." The title is box office, but the word of mouth talk about this one probably will dampen the strength of the title. Miss Mackall is cast as Gilda Karlson, a sort of a very bad Sadie Thompson who gives up her sex life when she marries a sailor.

This sailor person is quite a regular fellow and he gives Gilda a chance to go straight, but he puts her in a bad location to be a good gal. Thinking that she is a murderer, he carts her off to a far away island that does not believe in extradition of criminals. There Gilda has as her companions a terrible bunch of crooks who are sex starved. One of the pleasant birds on the island is the island hangman. He is a very pleasant companion because he steals the letters that Gilda's husband sends her.

Gilda comes mighty near leaving the straight and narrow, but she stays true to her vocation as a good gal. And how this girl does suffer. Sadie Thompson never suffered as much trying to be good.

But Gilda gets a bad break. The guy she was supposed to marry turns up alive and he starts a campaign to make Gilda break her vow. And Gilda ups and kills the guy. And then to suffer some more, Gilda ups and tells the jury when it is about to acquit her that she killed the man in cold blood.

And the camera man allows Gilda to walk toward the rope that will end her life.

Oh, my, the sort of movie stories we are getting these days. Here is a pretty sad specimen of a story. I will remember nothing of this one except the title. It is about an impossible a thing as I have seen.

Now at the Circle.

**KREUTZBERG IS AT HIS VERY BEST**

I had the feeling after leaving English's yesterday afternoon that Harald Kreutzberg was at his best. This year he has the assistance of four girls who are good dancers. They make a pleasing background for the supreme artistry of Kreutzberg.

These girls make it possible for Kreutzberg to do as his closing number a splendid dance story called "The Envied Girls."

Here is a charming dance story and is perfectly done by Kreutzberg and his dancing group.

In most of his dance numbers, I found a serious note, as the titles indicate. Such as "Angel of Annunciation," "Gloria in Excelsis Deo," "The Hang-Man's Dance on the Grave of His Victim" and others.

I believe that Kreutzberg is the one better and cast Clark Gable as a small town minister who marries Polly, a circus aerial performer. Of course, the minister almost wrecks his life because his small town congregation just will not tolerate a circus lady as the wife of their pastor. Personally, I can not fall for Gable playing such a role. The picture relies upon a clever fifteen minutes near the close of the picture when Polly, after finding that she is

at Keith's and "The Silent Witness" at the Lyric.

**CONCERNING "POLLY OF THE CIRCUS"**

Just why they put Marion Davies in "Polly of the Circus" is something I can not understand, because she just isn't suited to this type of innocent roles.

Not being content in miscasting Miss Davies, the director has gone one better and cast Clark Gable as a small town minister who marries Polly, a circus aerial performer.

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## FASCIST ARMY WILL MARCH ON FINNS' CAPITAL

Dictatorship Is Aim of  
Force; Ready to Move  
to Helsingfors.

By United Press

HELSINKI, Feb. 29.—Militant Fascists of the Lappo organization and other extreme elements prepared to march on Helsingfors today.

The Finnish army was ready to combat the uprising by force. All troops were confined to barracks.

"This is war," the chief of staff of the Lappo party forces told correspondents at Maantyla, where the Lappoites claimed to have 4,000 armed men, with from 20,000 to 30,000 more converging on the district.

If I recall, the silent version of this stage play wasn't so hot. It seems that I will have to place this one as a mildly pleasant movie. In other words, just a movie. Be your own judge, as usual.

Now at the Palace.

**TAKING A LOOK AT  
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## Four Graces of Butler U.



### 36 IS TOLL IN MINE TRAGEDY

Rescue Squads Vainly Hunt  
for Bodies of 16.

By United Press

BOISEVAIN, Va., Feb. 29.—Bodies of sixteen miners, killed in an explosion at the Boisbien Coal Company's mine Saturday morning, still were sought today.

Twenty bodies were recovered Sunday after two days of work by a group of fifty rescue workers.

J. L. Phillips, whose body was among the first seven recovered, was the father of ten children. The bodies were burned badly.

The necessity for building braciers to supply air to the rescue crews as they advanced along the shaft hampered the work.

Rescue workers have not yet reached the scene of the explosion, which occurred just before dawn Saturday.

**27 SEAMEN SAVED AS  
TWO SHIPS GO DOWN**

Vessels Crash in Dense Fog of North  
Atlantic Gale.

By United Press

NEW YORK, Feb. 29.—Twenty-seven men, saved when their ships, the Danish freighter Aggersund and the schooner, George L. Elsey Jr., went down in north Atlantic gales and fog, were aboard rescue ships bound for Gothenburg, Denmark and Boston today.

Radio reports from the S. S. American Imported told of the rescue of twenty-two men from the Aggersund by two small boats manned by British and Swedish sailors.

Great dancer of tragedy and drama that I have ever seen.

It was "Russian Dance" which caused the audience to go wild. So enthusiastic was the reception of this dance that it had to be repeated.