

## HIS AIM IS OUR DESTRUCTION Why Peace With Hitler Is Impossible

At the request of readers from many parts of the Dominion we print this summary of the talk broadcast by Sir Robert Vansittart on the morning of September 3. Sir Robert is Chief Diplomatic Adviser to the Foreign Office, and has long been recognised as an authority on international affairs. He is connected, through his first wife, with official circles in the United States.

"IN 1907 I was crossing the Black Sea in a German ship. It was spring and the rigging was full of bright coloured birds. I noticed one bird more strongly marked than the others and with a heavier beak. Every now and then it sprang on some unsuspecting other bird and killed it. It was a shrike, or butcher bird," said Sir Robert.

As a bird lover he had pondered this incident, and the thought ran across his mind, and had never left it, that that bird behaved as Germany did. He was 26 years of age at the time, and life looked good. There were 400,000,000 happinesses in Europe, but even then he felt the shadow on them, the shadow of Germany. That butcher bird's record had a parallel in the Nazi's rise to power.

### Record of History

It took three generations, however, to develop in the German people that which paved the way for the Nazis. Sir Robert referred to the Prussian wars of 1864, 1866 and 1870, of the resort to forgery to justify some of them, which

the German people thought clever, how this forgery became an integral part of the system, how by hook or by crook the butcher bird got three wars, how Germany tried to promote wars in 1905 and 1911, when France had accepted humiliation to avoid plunging Europe into bloodshed.

Then came the war of 1914-1918. What had Hitler to say of this? In his book "Mein Kampf," he said: "I sank on my knees and thanked Heaven in the fullness of my heart for being allowed to live through such times."

"But don't think Hitler is an exception," said Sir Robert. Referring to the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 he recalled how the King of Prussia had in letters to his wife "thanked God for this chance to kill thousands of Frenchmen." "Punch," had run a parody of the letter which ran:—

*Thanks to the Lord, my dear Augusta,  
We have hit the French an awful  
buster.*

*Ten thousand French we have sent be-  
low,*

*Praise God from Whom all blessings  
flow.*



SIR ROBERT VANSITTART

### Five Wars in 75 Years

During these generations the German people had been taught to regard wars as salutary and necessary. So during 75 years Europe had had five wars. Many people tried hard to believe the best of the Nazis, but it was always the worst that prevailed. The Nazis were simply incapable of peace. It was not their idea of life. Every 15 years, on an average, the Germans sought war.

The first three of these five wars had been the preparation and prelude. The fourth was a great bid and it had only just failed, and after it everyone had been so anxious to forget the war that they forgot, too, the butcher bird which had destroyed 400,000,000 happinesses, they had forgotten its cruelty, its harsh peace terms at Brest-Litovsk and elsewhere when the Germans had had the upper hand, the indiscriminate sinkings, prison camps, use of gas and cold-blooded cruelty.

Thus everything was blamed on to the Treaty of Versailles. The whining bully was picked up, dusted and put on his feet. His former victims lent him money and he merely set about preparing for his next feast on them. The Treaty of Versailles had practically nothing to do with Germany's fifth war, nor Germany's war on private life and family life, on Christian culture, the burning of books and assaults of university culture. Most of the Treaty of Versailles had been dead long before 1939. The Nazis had by then gained more in Czechoslovakia, Austria and Poland than they had lost in Europe.

### Foiled, But Not Repentant

The truth was that the Germans' long reigning in militarism had led to expansion in Europe and then the desire for world domination. The setback of 1914-18 had not been sufficient to stem this thirst for domination. The butcher bird had been foiled but was not repentant.

Sir Robert then dealt with the manner in which the Nazis had capitalised

the German blind faith in a mystical destiny and how they had plunged the world into war in which their inborn cruelty had again manifested itself in hideous destruction from the air. He gave quotations from many documents of this cruelty, how Hitler had proclaimed that he would not wage war on women and children and had promptly proceeded to do so. No one could believe him, any more than his predecessors, all of whom had been completely unable to keep their word.

How was it that the Germans had surrendered themselves so freely to such a man? The answer was that the remnants of Prussian conscience were easily satisfied by the drug of mechanical obedience to any order, however cruel. Prussianism, militarism, lust for world conquest and Nazism—that was the sequence which had made the Germans the exponents of incredible cruelty. Like the butcher bird, they complained of being attacked by someone half their size and then proceeded to devour that object.

### Outlook to Christianity

Of the Nazi outlook toward Christianity, Sir Robert quoted a remark by Hitler to Mussolini that "Christianity was the Bolshevisation of antiquity." The Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs had said, "The Führer is the carrier of a new revelation. Hitler is the true Holy Ghost." Pastor Neimöller had been clapped into solitary confinement for life for expressing concern at the honours being bestowed on a man that were due only to God. Christianity had been rejected because it was too gentle to be compatible with world domination. Jesus was an enemy because He had spoken of a Kingdom not of this world.

"Hitler is no accident," said Sir Robert in conclusion. "We are fighting against evil things which have possessed the German people for three weary generations. The butcher bird is furiously at his habit again . . . Since the fall of France the brunt of eliminating this horror has fallen on us . . . We believe we have the good wishes of all that is best in the world and we accept them. By the grace of God and for the salvation of mankind, we shall rescue the earth from these evils."

### Clouds and the Weather

Since the war began, Britons have been without official weather forecasts, for the obvious reason that such information would be useful to the enemy. However, the British Ministry of Agriculture brought out a small booklet containing hints by which the man-in-the-street might do his own forecasting by studying cloud formations. Here are some of the hints:

A yellow sunset more often precedes a rainy night than a red one.

Cirrus clouds, or "mares' tails"—white, wispy streaks—are thought to be a sign of rain or wind, but are not reliable.

Cumulus clouds, towering heaps like cotton wool, should be watched closely. If they stay together at evening, the weather will remain settled. Should they grow very big and high, expect thunder.

A halo round the sun or moon in most cases means rain within 12 hours.

## NATIONAL LEADERS: The Rt. Hon. C. R. Attlee

THE Right Hon. Clement Attlee, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the British Labour Party in succession to George Lansbury, comes of a family of soldiers. He served on Gallipoli, in Mesopotamia and in France during the last war, winning the D.S.O. and reaching the rank of Major.

Clement Attlee began his career as a lawyer. He was educated at Haileybury, one of England's famous Public Schools, and then went on to Oxford University. He was called to the Bar, went to work at Toynbee Hall, and from there graduated into local government in the East End of London. And there he met and worked with the Webbs, which was really the beginning of his Labour Party activities.

In 1922 Clement Attlee won his first seat in Parliament. Two years later he was Under-Secretary of the War Office; in 1929 he became Postmaster-General. After the 1931 elections Attlee was one of the small band of Labour members who retained their seats, and he became Deputy-Leader of the Party.

For years famous people have been predicting fame for this shy, sharp, nervous man. Most people think that he is cold and stand-offish, but those who know him speak of his warmth and understanding. Lord Cecil of Chelwood said of him: "There is in Attlee a Campbell Bannerman." Arthur Henderson always spoke of Attlee's "large hidden re-



serves." Now, at 57, he has the most responsible post of his career. His keen and caustic wit has made him rather feared by opponents, and at times, when he uses both to the best advantage, men of all parties have sensed the fire underneath. But that fire has never broken through the disciplined speech and conduct of this man who has led the Labour Party so quietly but so capably.