

BRITISH POLITICS

Talks of The Alleged Machinations Country-House and Newspaper is Called The "Second In The Old World"

IT is the theory of the young journalist Cockburn that in England, where country house parties and influential newspapers play such an important part in politics, the week-end parties at Cliveden made or marred the careers of politicians long before the Anglo-German issue began to dominate the English political scene.

In the spring of 1936, however, Cliveden began to be the centre of a policy and an intrigue that now cause it to be spoken of as Britain's second Foreign Office.

Its policy is said to be based on active dislike of the French, fear and hatred of all "popular" movements, a consequent admiration for the "defensive" possibilities of Hitlerism as a bulwark against Bolshevism; and joined with that a fear, amounting to panic, of a possible German attack upon Britain.

Meanwhile, Hitler, so Cockburn maintains, is astutely playing on the Cliveden Set's fears of the spread of Bolshevism to win concessions of great military and strategical value.

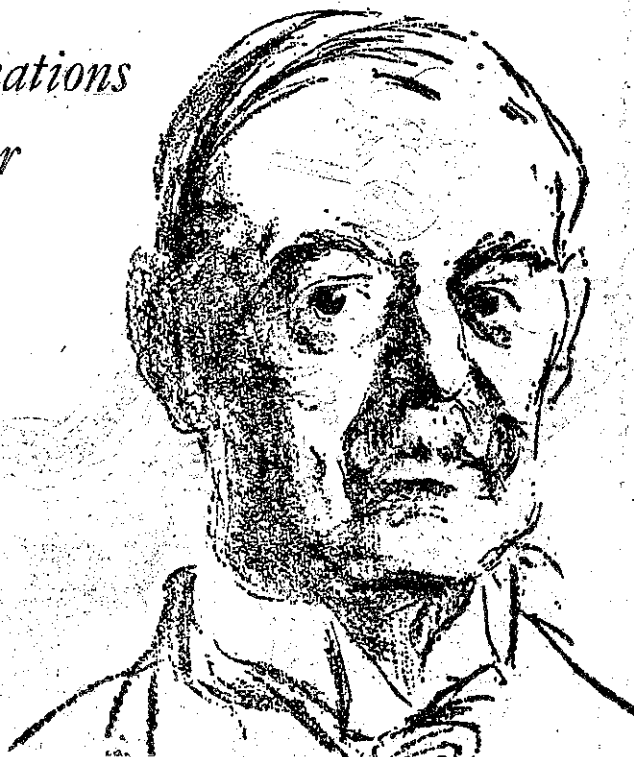
German Guns

"IT is true, for instance," says Cockburn, "that there are German guns at Tarifa, placed in a spot prohibited by treaty, dominating not only the Straits of Gibraltar but the harbour of Gibraltar itself. A British Admiral (Sir Roger Keyes) has admitted in the House of Commons that now the British Fleet would need a smoke-screen or fog to get through the Straits of Gibraltar safely in the event of war. 'But,' reply the British Conservatives, who have drunk so deeply of the subtly-mixed poisons produced by Dr. Goebbels, 'what is the alternative?' The alternative is to support the Spanish Government and help turn the Germans out of Tarifa as quickly as possible. But the Spanish Government is 'red' (Dr. Goebbels and his British friends have told us so). So we will let the German guns stay at Tarifa and we will let the German mine-owners divert all the iron-ore of Bilbao to the factories of Krupp instead of to the factories of Vickers."

ON this reasoning, according to Cockburn, the policy of the Cliveden Set is based. The Cabinet Ministers most closely associated with the set are Lord Halifax, Foreign Secretary, Sir Samuel Hoare, Home Secretary, and Sir John Simon, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

"It is difficult," says Cockburn, "to convey to anyone unfamiliar with the atmosphere of Conservative London the extent to which this fear of the spread of Bolshevism plays a dominant role. It is a pity, of course, about British soldiers being killed by the Japanese, but are not the Japanese saving China from Bolshevism?"

"It is a pity that Mussolini should be able to cock snooks at the British Navy all over the



From Parade, London.

... To catch the ears of Premier Chamberlain.

Mediterranean, but would not the alternative to Mussolini be a 'red' Italy? And so on and so on and so on ad absurdum and infinitum."

This, says Cockburn, is the true background of Anglo-German relations. This is the final key to the paradox of Anglo-German affairs.

Eden's Dilemma

AGAINST this plan of friendly relations with the dictators, Anthony Eden stood out. When Lord Halifax was sent on his mission to Hitler, Mr. Eden, after a furious interview with the Prime Minister, resigned—offering as his reason, says Cockburn, not the Halifax visit to Hitler (the real grounds), but instead stating that the feeble progress being made with the British rearmament programme gave him insufficient backing to carry out a strong line of foreign policy.



From Parade, London.

And Sir Samuel Hoare,
Home Secretary.

"AND does the Cliveden Set dictate the policy of Britain?" I asked Mr. Ratchliffe.

"My answer is this," he said. "When Mr. Chamberlain was made Premier, he took up the reins with a definite policy of treating with the Fascist Powers, to bring some sort of security to Europe. What need, then, was there for the Cliveden Set? What is all the fuss about? The Cliveden Set exists, of course, but it can scarcely be accused of dictating to Chamberlain the policy he had already formed."

"Take the position of Mr. Eden. He is earnest and sincere. He must have known his position well enough. In the previous Government, he had the support of (Continued on page 36).