IE DCUA C1/5

Seán Lester Diary - PDF

January - July 1938
1/5/36 - 61.250 lbs.
1/6/36 - 60.600 lbs.
2/3/61/36 - 59.700 lbs.
1/8/36 - 58.900 lbs.
5/8/36 - 58.700 lbs.

(wage leave on 9/8/36)
28th January 1938 H.E.
Saw Behrendt of Danzig yesterday
and discussed the situation.

Later he told me saying "Behrendt of the Senate" wanted to call
on me & would I receive him.
I said "yes" & he came this
morning. Stuffed & rather ugly, and
smelled; and his cunning is no great shakes."

But we talked polite nothing
for ten minutes & said an errir.
I don't believe it was a genuine
impulse.

Behrendt had told me that
a month ago he noticed some
unsteadiness in Senate quarters
(this version) and eventually they
came out with a report from
Berlin that I might become the
head of the Dumb State & was much
disturbed & injured if I held
ill-felling twins. Sterling & Danzig
B. had said be thought there
might be something in this...
as he said he wanted the "come back" but that I set.
no fridges one any time
that. When I said to Burkhardt that there was nothing in it he asked me not to disillusion the Donziger!!

The hundredth session of the Council is in full swing, having been
inaugurated with a series of
Declaration of "modified qualified
loyalty" of recognition that
things are not what they might
have been.

France torpedoed sanctions in
1935-36, & GB has since declared
she accepts a definite commitment
only when vital interests are
involved. Since Belgium &
the Mediterranean, it is little
wonder that small states have
been asking themselves where
they are between the two blocks
of "Big Powers" and are anxious
to avoid obligations to act
when "Big Powers" (only then)
are interested.
I hear that Sr. Spechel, the Italian Consul General in Geneva, is being nominated to the post at Danzig. This is probably of interest, both from the Geneva and the Danzig points of view. In Geneva it may possibly enable the Government to leave Bova Scoppa here as observer with the rank of Consul General and a first-class man will also be sent to Danzig. Spechel has, I believe, the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary and it is interesting to see him chosen for Danzig which is an excellent observation post for Germany, as well as an additional point of contact with Poland and a point which affects League relations and perhaps even Anglo-German and Franco-Polish relations.

For your information.

May 1st 1938
February 1st 1938.

A good story has come out of the Council. Mr. Miclesco, the new Foreign Minister of Roumania, is an old Professor representing the new anti-Semitic Government of Roumania; he has been in the opposition practically all his life and has not got the familiar touch in international affairs. He has been here for a fortnight and showed a certain amount of timidity and hesitation while in the spheres of influence of Geneva, but he did his best to avoid any action under the "urgent procedure" regarding the Jewish petition and got reasonable satisfaction, partly because many people believed anything else would only have made the anti-Jewish campaign in Roumania even more violent. He left Geneva yesterday ostensibly satisfied, but as his train brought him further away from Geneva and nearer home his courage grew as also his fear of his reception in Bucharest. From nearly every railway station came to his Delegation telegrams to stiffen their attitude and from Belgrade came a message instructing Pella, the Minister at The Hague, who is the leader of the Delegation, to make an announcement at the Committee of 28 this morning, more or less to the effect that Roumania was going to leave Geneva and to announce her departure. Pella, very much embarrassed, first because he is the last of the Titulesco nominees in the foreign circles, and to gain time, did not know what to do. Any sort of diplomatic sickness would hardly sound a good enough excuse, so he telegraphed to his Foreign Minister reporting a complete loss of voice!!! No announcement has therefore been made yet to the Committee of 28.
The events of the last fortnight in Germany have thrown Europe again into a period of anxiety and grave doubt as to the future, even the immediate future. The fight between the Army and the Party resulting in the resignation of about 18 Generals turned out to be a complete victory for the Nazi Party and the extremists combined with the appointment of von Ribbentrop as Foreign Minister replacing old von Neurath. The Army Headquarters have been a sort of brake on the more violent elements in so far as Foreign Policy is concerned, but it seems that this brake has now been very largely removed. The disclosure of this schism in the totalitarian unity gave the impression of weakening Germany in Central Europe, but it was followed within a comparatively few days by a sudden command from Hitler for Schuschnigg to appear at Berchtesgaden. Thinking that things would not go too badly, Schuschnigg arrived and was treated, as himself said to a diplomat subsequently, in a way which he believed was impossible between two Heads of Governments in modern Europe. It appears that he was not even offered a seat during the interview but was treated like a domestic servant and was given his orders. He was told that German military action could now be carried out with much less risk to Germany than the occupation of Rhineland and that England and France would not move to help him. In the ante-room were waiting 3 Generals, the Commander in Chief and the Corps Commander from the frontier, mechanized and air-force troops were concentrated. Incidentally Hitler said to him that he had learned from Halifax that England was in complete accord with Hitler on the
London and Paris have been much disturbed; there have been Cabinet meetings in London and exchanges with the French Government. A mild request for information from the British and French Ambassadors in Berlin was badly received; François Poncet was in fact told that it was a family matter which did not concern the outsiders. It is possible a further démarche will be made.

It is clearer than ever that Italy is sacrificing her interests in Central Europe in the hope of her new Empire in the Mediterranean; this in itself is serious. If England yielded control of the Mediterranean it would be in my view the beginning of the decline and fall of the British Empire, but, I am certain that there would be war before that; and French interests are at least as great with her Mediterranean possessions.

And Czechoslovakia: they are clearly next on the list; the position of Czechoslovakia with “synchronized” Austria will be weaker than ever. The Spanish method may be used there and if demands are not complied with, an insurrection provoked.

A point to which I attach some significance is the announcement of a 100 Conservative Members of the House of Commons meeting in Committee to discuss Foreign Affairs and announcing their support for the Government in a more positive policy in Europe.

The outlook is somewhat gloomy.
February 22nd 1938.

Hitler in his speech, referring to Danzig said: "I may say that since the League of Nations has abandoned its continuous attempts of disturbance in Danzig and since the advent of the new commission this most dangerous place for European peace has entirely lost its menace" (ça, c'est un compliment - commentaire de la secrétaire). I would feel somewhat unhappy in the circumstances if I had earned praise from Hitler. The Manchester Guardian says in a telegram from Warsaw: The reference to Danzig received only a partial welcome, as the new situation in which the Free City became a matter for Berlin and Warsaw is resented by most people in Poland. The majority of Poles would prefer the Danzig problem taken again to Geneva. This feeling is stronger here to-day than a little while ago, because in Poland as elsewhere, the example of Hitler's method with Austria has caused increased apprehension.
ly dear Eden,

All my sympathy and admiration and congratulations.

When I think of the circumstances in which you took up the Foreign Secretaryship after Simon and Hoare had been there long enough to be the causes of international disasters and that you have been holding on during the most difficult period in Europe probably for the past century, the feeling of admiration is alone, but I would like to say how much also I sympathize with you in the difficult choice you had to make and congratulate you on your courage.

Looking for consolation in the situation, the only scrap I can imagine is your action will concentrate so much critical observation on the developments that the older generation, while endeavouring to bring their policy to success (and all good luck to them), will have to be much more careful than if they were acting under cover of your name. I do hope their method will bring real results, but I must sceptical as to the real value of short-sighted policy

22/5


Dear Cummings,

Thank you for sending me direct copies of your reports; it has meant that they came to me somewhat more quickly. I have been extremely interested; in view of their day-to-day nature, may I compliment you on the quality of your dispatches.

In your last note you ask for indications as to how the situation appears in Geneva and no doubt the Secretary-General will be sending you a note. My personal view is that such an event, and more particularly the declaration of the Prime Minister as to the position of the League will affect, I hope not too gravely, the future of general international collaboration in Europe. Of course what he said about collective security during the past year or so would not find either of us in violent disagreement with his estimate, but if collective security no longer exists, is overwhelmingly due to the policy of Britain and France. And, as you point out yourself, an open declaration that small States in difficulties need not expect British co-operation is a different policy to the previous public announcements that action in certain geographical areas would be certain and that other cases would be decided as they appeared.
Before the last Council meeting, when we were discussing the initiative of the small Powers, I held the view that the small Powers were justified because it was perfectly clear to me that neither England nor France were prepared to fulfill the Covenant but would like to hold the machinery intact to be used exclusively when their national interests required it, thus leaving commitment on the small Powers without any corresponding insurance for themselves.

The worse aspect of the Eden affair is that it seems to so much of the world another success for the Axis who have held the diplomatic initiative almost without challenge for the past three years and although

on the one hand this public impression may render the Government more cautious and prudent, especially as they will be without the cover of Eden’s name and reputation, there is the temptation for a Party on a political point of view to secure immediate results without sufficient regard to their value in maintaining peace two years hence. Chamberlain’s personal political prestige would seem to stand or fall by the results. A pro-League policy is an idealist factor, but I deplore certain aspects of British and French policy as being neither realist nor idealist; and in any case the moral factor in certain emergencies is of tremendous military and political importance; and from a political point of view alone, foreign policy based on the League has a hundred per cent more possibilities of winning and holding the Commonwealth cooperation, and to a certain measure also that of the U.S.A., than a policy exclusively based on immediate national interests. Short-sightedness is almost criminal in foreign policy, especially for countries which have to face a combination of the Have-nots who do not like law and order because they have so much to gain by their absence.

One hears again here and there the words “Perfidious Albion” but I cannot estimate yet whether the disillusionment in other countries will measure up to anything like that which followed the Hoare-Laval disclosures; the more balanced people I imagine have been expecting so much less since then. As for the League, one has to keep in mind that the attacks and campaign, while ostensibly directed against this Institution and while concerned with breaking down any system which would make for a united front against aggression, are in reality concerned more vitally with the influence, power and position of France and England. If the British Empire could be divided amongst the Have-nots, they would probably agree quite easily to any kind of a League. Our convictions and outlook here are not incompatible with hard-headed realism, on the contrary. For some time I myself have been convinced that the League had to mark time, principally because I did not expect its chief elements to hold a different view.
When there is something to be done within one's power, I believe in doing it with such judgment and tenacity and courage as we may possess. The machinery here as you know, is good; even from a German and Italian point of view I don't think they are justified in imagining ideological or national prejudices as affecting the impartiality and integrity of the staff, but the machinery is not being used for major political purposes and it seems likely to remain so for at any rate some time. On the other hand, the idea which is enshrined in our Institution remains I am convinced, Humanity's only hope and any other course for the world will bring another catastrophe. We may need a new spirit on the side of the Haves - I am sure we do - and of course we need a new spirit clearly on the other side, but civilisation, especially in Europe, has reached the point where, even at the price of another catastrophe, man must find his way back to a system under which there will be law and of course justice.

One meets pessimists here and there - a considerable sprinkling these days - but in the Headquarters at any rate, I find as I said, realism, courage and initiative (so far as that is open to an international Civil service). There are many amongst the Delegates and staff who support Chamberlain's action pretending to appreciate his motives and lauding his judgment; they are counter-balanced by those who regard him as a short-sighted blunderer hastening to disaster. There has been a pall of gloom and anxiety throughout Europe for some time and although it is possible that in some quarters the future may be regarded with more acute doubt, it seems possible that a deal made by Chamberlain with Italy would render the immediate prospects easier. As we have not the responsibility of decision, I am inclined to let it go at that and get on with such work as we have to do with confidence that though the League may be crippled, it cannot be killed.
March 1st 1938.

I spent $3/4$ of an hour yesterday morning with President Hoover who pre­ceded Roosevelt at the Head of the United States. He is on a semi-private tour in Europe. He is rather a charming man of about 65, widely travelled and has had an interesting career beginning work on a farm as a boy and having spent many years in China, England, Russia and Europe generally; during the war he orga­nized relief work in Belgium and later in Russia. This shrewd white-haired, square­faced old American told me that he was of mixed Swiss, Swedish, English and Irish descent. After we had talked for a time, he said that he found more explosive mate­rial laying about in Europe than there was in 1914, but the great difference was that now every one could at any rate im­agine the consequences of war and that was a safeguard.

I sat beside him also in Consul Bucknell's house and found he was an enthusiastic fisherman. The conversation became rather interesting at the table with Avenol, Stoppani, Aghnides and Gover­nor Winant (of the Labour Office). He said that American opinion was now as it had been, very keen on economic collaboration and willing to participate in allsorts of humanitarian work, but that on the poli­tical side he believed the isolation feeling was growing; the people inclined to shrink within their frontiers. This confirms the view of some other shrewd observers. He believed that the right approach of world problems at the moment was through stabilisation of currencies.
and when he found Avenol and Stoppani in complete agreement, mentioned he had proposed in 1933 that the war debts due to America from most of the European countries should be allocated to a special fund to be held in their own currencies for the purpose of stabilisation and that the United States should contribute a gold "pot" of about 500 million dollars. The control of this currency-deposit and the backing of the gold together with a promise not to inflate, would bring most countries great relief and would also check the disturbing manipulations of international commerce by the German method. Stoppani believed that Italy would be glad to join in such an arrangement, which would greatly strengthen it.

Hoover has spent the afternoon with Paderewski, near Lausanne and remarked to me that he believed Poland would be driven by the presence of two hostile dictatorships on her frontiers to develop a system based on a political philosophy of liberalism. His visit and this remark were probably associated and I am somewhat doubtful: the threat on the two frontiers is just as likely eventually to create another dictatorship.
March 10th 1938.

Frank Walters has had a talk with Lord Halifax, the new Foreign Secretary, in London, on the question of the British attitude towards the League. Halifax said that Chamberlain's speech of the 22nd of February had been greatly misinterpreted but that that misinterpretation was general; he added that a paragraph would appear in the speech to be made on the 7th of March in the House of Commons, which would restate the position more clearly. Walters pointed out that since 1936 when the sanctions policy was declared to have failed, the British were supposed to be endeavouring to maintain and rebuild the League taking into account the change which might be necessary in connection with the theory and practice of sanctions; they argued that British armament was a contribution to collective security and since that time the League position had been somewhat improved. Walters said to Halifax that the Prime Minister's speech had upset all that patient work and it would be difficult to convince Members of the League that its maintenance was still a cardinal point of British policy; if in the British conversations with Italy the attitude of Italy towards the League was left out of consideration, that would be regarded as confirming the view that London was indifferent to the fate of the League or looked at it, if not with indifference, at any rate with nothing more than inactive benevolence and now they were proposing to ask the Council at the next session - if agreement with Italy has been reached - flatly to approve of British recognition of Abyssinia. Several members of the League had recognised Abyssinia without insisting that the League should give its blessing. The feeling would be, said Walters, that they were now being asked to approve an action taken at this moment because it was of British interest to take it and that was merely the convenience of His Majesty's Government in connection with its own internal position. That would be extremely difficult; in the meantime, Italy would be encouraged to intensify her attacks on the League.

Walters spoke very well and very frankly and Halifax said he would give the difficulties a great deal of thought.
Another landmark in European history: Austria disappeared as an independent State. After the ultimatum and demands made at Berchtesgaden, Schuschnigg on his return to Vienna tried to hold what was left: "Thus far and no farther" he declared. But he had had to accept a Nazi Minister in charge of the police and of the Interior. A few days ago he announced that a plebiscite would be held to-morrow on the question whether the people wanted Austria to remain a Catholic independent State. Germany was wildly indignant and alarmed, because it was clear that Schuschnigg would have had a very large and impressive majority. So yesterday, Austria received an ultimatum that at 7 o'clock Schuschnigg must be kicked out and a Nazi Chancellor put in his place. German troops were massed on the frontier; von Schuschnigg and the helpless President of the Confederation accepted the ultimatum, announced the abandonment of the plebiscite and announced on the radio that they were yielding to force and to avoid bloodshed ordered the Army not to oppose the German troops. Seyss-Inquart became the Chancellor and the German troops marched in. English and French protests at Berlin were of course without the slightest success and the French appeal at Rome as to whether they were willing to take some action apparently led to the answer that Austria was a closed question. Von Schuschnigg's desperate appeal to Italy before he surrendered, was without response. Thus the League lost another State Member. There are of course the gravest anxiety and rumours of protective measures being taken in Czechoslovakia and even Yugoslavia which now gets a large and somewhat uncomfortable neighbour. And the Germans are on the Brenner.
Last night the Permanent Delegates, about 25 in number, gave a dinner to the Secretary-General and his Headquarters staff. I sat beside old Baron von Pflugl, Austria's Minister for many years and a relic of the old Austro-Hungarian diplomacy. It was very pathetic: he said that he did not think he would have to be killed more than once and he had suffered that when Austria was reduced to a small province encircling an imperial capital. He had expected nothing in his complete disillusionment in recent years, but said that it would at least have been humane if the Great Powers had allowed the older generation to die before allowing the younger to emerge. He had expected nothing in his complete disillusionment in recent years, but said that it would at least have been humane if the Great Powers had asked Germany to allow the older generation to die before allowing the younger to emerge.

His outlook on Europe was naturally gloomy and he remarked that for the future he had hopes that Ireland could stay outside the chaos of European civilization until the time to rebuild came, as has happened after the collapse of the Roman Empire. He was a heart-broken old man, but still holding something of the gay and brave spirit of the Austrian. I took a couple of extra glasses of wine.

I hope the so-called realist politicians are feeling satisfied.

Baron Pflugl talking to me a week ago mentioned the Crown of the old Roman Empire, which was at Vienna and had been coveted by Berlin. He said that if Austria ever came to be held there as a hope of remembrance of Austria's taking while she remained under German control.)
With a Polish army corps on the frontiers, Lithuania has accepted the Polish ultimatum to restore normal diplomatic relations which have not existed since the seizure of Vilna. It sounds a little bit comic, but the acceptance of the ultimatum has perhaps averted a European war, though one can never tell these days how far such action could be localised. I myself have not felt too much alarmed about it because I had been certain that if Poland invaded Lithuania troops from East Prussia would promptly occupy Memel "to protect the German people there".

London and Paris exerted all their influence to have a settlement made. The question arose on the pretext of the shooting of a Polish soldier who had crossed the frontier.

Chamberlain is to make a statement on British foreign policy to-morrow and will probably deal with Czechoslovakia and Spain. It is practically certain the policy will be more or less one of non-intervention in both cases.

All the results which I have first seen in consequence of the continuous retrieving and weakening of the League by French and English policy, are coming about, although there may still remain some shred of hope. It seems to me that all Central and Eastern Europe has now been definitely abandoned to Germany. The annexation of Austria will give Germany an tremendous strategical and economic strangle-hold. An effort will no doubt be made to keep the balance of power, but at most it will be for the protection of the fringe of Europe and if a war is avoided in the near future, it will probably be because Germany is getting all she wants without war, 5 or 10 years hence, master of Europe, she will be in a position to deal with the rest. The maintenance of sea-power and comparatively perhaps, air-power may constitute useful containing elements. I believe that Chamberlain had precipitated the rapidity of the developments by his policy and more recently by his declarations about the League on the 22nd of February, together with the dropping of Eden.
April 1935.

I write little or nothing in my diary... Events of the important political... so quickly as before. And elements change. 

Theodore, the new King of Greece, now Prince Carol of Yugoslavia, says to the Germans. Stupid as always, they will isolate themselves. They will have a strong resistance, the same as before. 

Despite it all, Austria was a long time for them, and Greece is now as near the German frontiers. 

The Anglo-Greek agreement has been rejected. A debate. 

But neither Britain nor Greece has really much confidence in itself. 

The war (naturally, perhaps) go well with the strengths.
Extract from a book by Major General A. C. Temperley
"The Whispering Gallery of Europe"

The Irish Free State, like many other small Powers, had a permanent representative at Geneva, and Mr. Sean Lester held the post for several years on behalf, first, of the Coastrave and then of the de Valera Governments. He is a man of great sincerity and moral courage and he did much to shape the course of the Manchuria discussions. He showed to very great advantage as a member of the Council, during the Irish tenure of the seat reserved for the Dominions, and this procured for him nomination to the uneasy post of High Commissioner of Danzig. He is now an Under-Secretary General in the Secretariat. The League is the richer for Dominion statesmen like Lester and te Water, who have believed that "somehow the right is the right" and have not failed through good and ill to be its champions.

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April 29th 1938.

I have been in Ireland for Easter just prior to the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement and the selection of Douglas Hyde as an agreed candidate for the Presidency.

De Valera has secured a very good agreement and the British have been very wise, especially in handing over the ports reserved under the 1921 Treaty without conditions. De Valera has declared that these will be modernized and put into a state for defence and has again declared no foreign country will be allowed to use Ireland as a base for attack against England. Ten million Pounds is being paid to England as a lump sum in settlement of all debts and a good trade agreement is established which will help both countries.

Undoubtedly the international situation has forced the hand of the British. Malcolm MacDonald, Dominion Secretary, being congratulated by Dulanty said that Jimmy Thomas would have personally been prepared to make as good a settlement if Cabinet policy has permitted. A very decent remark of MacDonald's.

De Valera lunched a couple of times alone with Neville Chamberlain and very good personal relations seem to have been established. After the agreement has been signed I broke my rule about speaking to the press to say the agreement would be welcome in Europe and America and would result in material and psychological benefits to both countries.

A great doubt in my mind about de Valera has been whether he was statesman enough to know when to make a bargain. He has shown it. If war were to break out, we might get a little more, but on the other hand we might lose a great deal when soldiers took command. The British are not taking so great a risk as it would seem; it is certain the Admiralty have plans both for...
a friendly and for a hostile Ireland and whatever guns we put into the coastal forts, a British battleship could from a couple of miles out of range, blow them to smithereens. I don't believe the second eventuality is at all likely; by recognizing fundamentally Irish independence and acting on it, the British will I believe have Irish support; as to what extent will depend upon circumstances and the Government of the day. Britain has secretly laid in 3 months supply of wheat and oil and the development of the Irish cattle industry for the English market will also be a sound British war measure.

There remains partition. De Valera says it is the last barrier to complete reconciliation. British opinion has been impressed and the North has had "a bad press" on the whole, but progress towards unity will be slow. I told Paddy Little, Parliamentary Secretary to the President, who was I thought far too optimistic, that the foundations only had been laid in good London-Dublin relations. 5 years may see some possible advance, but not sooner and probably later.

While in Dublin I had interviews with Sean McEntee, Minister for Finance, Sean Lemass, Minister for Industry and Commerce, Sean T. O'Kelly, Minister for Local Government, Jim Ryan, Minister for Agriculture and de Valera amongst others. De Valera was nearly my last interview and it was on the eve of his departure for London to sign the Treaty and I felt it to be in some ways the least effective. He confessed that he has been following international affairs very little during recent months; he is the Minister for External Affairs and we have been passing through grave crises, but of course he was absolutely absorbed in his Anglo-Irish settlement. I tried to sow some seed in Little's mind about the need for a separate Minister, or Parliamentary Secretary, especially now that settlement has been arrived at with London.
Some people said that as Hyde cannot last very long, de Valera is keeping the seat warm for himself. I am not so sure. Sean T. O'Kelly had been offered the job two and told me he had consistently refused. De Valera may have been pushed to a compromise by the candidature of Alfie Byrne, Lord Mayor of Dublin, who is extremely popular and deservedly so, but he is a man who would have brought absolutely no dignity to the post. And in any case an election would have been a purely party fight.

I saw Sean T. O'Kelly a fortnight before the Treaty was signed and he told me he had a printed copy of it in his desk with all the names attached; the public announcement was being held up until some satisfaction could be given to Lord Crewe who felt that Northern interests had been damaged by concessions to Dublin. He eventually got some things, but the secret of the terms were marvelously well kept during weeks and the transfer of the ports came as a pleasant surprise to the public.

After the selection of Douglas Hyde as President, I met Mc Dunphy, Secretary of the President, who told me he had expected that I would be his new Chief at one time. O'Kelly and one or two others also thought I had been in the running, but I had no ideas of the same myself. In the end they chose a man with great national service to the language and 78 years of age; something to be said for this, instead of a man still in his forties! Blythe was on the whole pleased with the solution. J. M. O'Sullivan was not; he regards Hyde, who by the way is a Protestant, as a stage Irishman and not particularly cultivated in spite of his reputation as a scholar. Blythe remarked that they were staging a play in Irish by Hyde and that he had had to correct the grammar!

I lunched with the Nuncio, Pascal Robinson, a great old man, born in Dublin, but who has served the Vatican in many parts of the world. There was no one at the luncheon, except a young Jesuit Father, son of the former Under-Secretary for Ireland; Paddy Little came in half-way through the luncheon. The Nuncio was in good form and talked a great deal; he seemed genuinely pleased with having some one to talk to who knew a little at any rate of the world. I remarked at one point how sad it was Ireland took so little interest in international affairs; they still could not see poverty, England and this was truer of the more violent nationalists. The Nuncio slapped the
Table in his enthusiastic concurrence.) He had had a bad motor accident while in a taxi in London and he said this was the first conversation he had enjoyed for months. Telling O'Sullivan and Blythe afterwards how much the old man had talked, they remarked that this was the entire opposite of his reputation in Dublin.

We went West for Easter week and I tried to fish Lough Corrib from Oughterard. The weather was brilliant sunshine, cloudless sky and windless days, so I did not catch a single trout in the Corrib on the fly; trotting produced some results, but not very satisfying. A day on Ballyhoun Lough, near Spiddal, was excellent as I got 8 fish of about 1 lb. in one afternoon on the wet fly.

In Sweeney's Hotel one night I was called out of the room and found below the new Attorney General, Patrick Lynch, who was staying in a neighbouring hotel and had heard I was there. I walked up to his hotel with him and he brought in and introduced the French Minister who was also there, Guillet; he seemed to be a likeable man. Lynch was an old Redmonder who knew de Valera a few years ago. I have no very high idea of his character and know nothing much of his legal qualification, but he is a pleasant and agreeable person.

Motorling one day through Cong, I stopped to ask a young countryman the way when the thought came to me that when I was last there in 1914 I had a young friend named Paddy Carney; I questioned him if he knew anything about him as he had gone to the United States the same year. He answered at first with a countryman's reserve, then admitted he knew of this man who was indeed a relative of his. Carney had written to me in the early years, but I had lost track of him and had affectionate memory of him. I asked the boy if he would
tell one of his sisters still there to recall me to Paddy and tell him to write to me. I had no card but asked the boy if he could remember the name. He looked at me a moment and then said "I have heard the name 'about the League of Nations' and promised to do it; curious incident after 24 years.

We looked for a house to buy in Connemara and Elsie nearly forced me to take a big XVIIIth century mansion, called "Lemonfield House", the home of the last O'Flaherties with 36 acres on the shore of Lough Corrib; its architecture is classic and beautiful and the rooms magnificent; it is embowered in century-old trees. It was sold by auction for the amazing sum of £400, but it would have taken probably a couple of thousands to put it into order. Arthur Cox to whom Elsie confided her regrets, said I had been foolish. If I had been living near the place with time to exploit it, it might have been a good speculation, but I was afraid of the commitments. Elsie visited nearly every possible house within a radius of 5 miles; some of the houses were occupied but every one welcomed her.
A month crisis our Geche/Slovak
of the Sudeten Weltech party. It looked
so grave one week and that the British
Ambassador called times at Wilhelm
Strasse to inquire into some troop
concentrations. People called up
a lot of reservists — "to be trained
in new weapons" — and Panton I saw
name Salome warning to Berlin.
Again, a display of force
was the day. The Germans, continuing
a very violent campaign against
the Czechs, drew back and denied
the mobilization at the frontier.
A story is "in that Berlin took
the British seriously when it was
reported that following armament
had been moved to the defense of the
families of the Embassy staff.

Chile and Venezuela have gone rather
to leave the League and continue
technical collaboration. Chile led the
way, as real causes not apparent
between Edwaads, ambassador in London,
made it a personal policy and
some said "Jamaicans Italian affairs".
Hans Tulli, who has resigned
to Director of the Jiao, told me
that when the British minted at
Venezuela hinted at the possibility of
similar, on the possibility of
Venezuela following Chile, he
was met with a gratification
unwritten. Chamberlain's Japen
February third.

Our Latin American mission
continues to rather bad itineraries
— New Smyth Venezuela.
Some long letters from Buckhardt in Danzig, he has the mind of a novelist and writes well. It is true that he sees himself (discreetly) in a romantic, dramatic "scene," but his observations and reported conversations are pointed as well as thrilling. His letters will some day make a fascinating book.

No reference to Ohrbeck's resignation but an account of his fight or battles to prevent "the Aryan clause" being formally applied in Danzig — most if it is in fact in operation. Greatly to regret one-on-one loving terms again.
Have got twelve trout in the Versai this year - longest 3 lbs. Alex Loveday 4; Frank Wells 3 or 4.

Mostly on May fly. Taught a little Simpsons ranchman one day, how to tie a fly, length of cast, lengths on casting, etc. After that next day I met him, he had two or three.

Then once he told me he had talked 4 or Thursday, 5 or Friday, 7 on Saturday!!!
28/6
We have bought a large lodge near Clifton, Salop, with 35 acres and fishing rights in part of Baldinbury Lough at the dam on the river, 300 little brown trout loughs. Electric light, hot water in bathrooms etc. Also the place is furnished and we have never seen it before. Andy and Ida Allen, Salop, write to me about it. It is intended as an investment and perhaps we may return to Ireland. It's not a gamble. It's going to be too expensive.
£2,250 plus £112 advance, etc.
Dec 31. This lady in Paris. Stiky medicine for eyes. Read Einstein's "Mensch, flowed!" under Babich. Has seemed more Polish, has been to Warsaw. People say Czech-Slack crisis will come in the Spring. Most, but August is also thought to be long. Don't mind. I feel more tranquil about it. A.H. has not given up but the check in May still exists.

Don Binchy, a Jesuit after four months in Rome, is writing a book on Church-State relations. Much concerned about the future. Says the "old bones" in the Vatican are really anti-Fascist. Father de Rey (9/60)
agrees with him that future staffing of the Vatican by Italians only will present material for a crisis as all young Italians are now feared as Fascists.

I see more confidence, I believe, in the long-cited capacity of "the Church."

Dan says Italy will be "drawn to war - a war of economic desperation - if she doesn't get a big loan."

Hungary shows signs of going Nazi, too. Many His are afraid of their new neighbors but the young, flounders, are affected by propaganda. Hope Italian conservatism will Hungr suggest an attempt to substitute
Hungary for the "Kali" Austria.

An en anti-fascist block
Stalo - Yugoslavia - Hungarian?

A somewhat pathetic letter from Bishop Krsulke this morning. Bishops gave him a good send-off from Danzig: the German clergy were glad to see him go as they have now a German Bishop who did not encourage the city to make much of it.

He would like to settle in Ireland but has not enough means and says his English is not good enough to preach in.
Janet has been in London. I haven't got the "inside" of the man yet.