

# CHINA TODAY! U.S. TOMORROW?

MAMMOTH MASS MEETING

## PARTICIPANTS:

**HONORABLE WILLIAM E. DODD**  
U. S. Ambassador to Germany;  
**HONORABLE DR. TSUNE-CHI YU**  
Consul General Chinese Republic;  
**REVEREND D. WILLARD LYON**  
First National Secretary Y. M. C. A. in China;  
**DR. STEPHEN S. WISE**  
President American Jewish Congress;  
**DR. CH'AO TING CHI**  
Noted Chinese author and editor;  
**ROGER BALDWIN • DR. HARRY F. WARD**  
Chairman

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## THE THEATER

IT IS a baker's dozen of years since Noel Coward's *Hay Fever* rolled us in the aisles with the spectacle of how silly the English are—and, from our Coolidge-prosperity viewpoint, they seemed very silly indeed, what with Mr. Coward's play revealing their traces of economic threadbareness and insecurity. Those touches were the only things that gave his play any real life; in the main it was just an unhindered farce of the doings of a goofy post-war English middle-class family. The goofy-family tradition in playwriting has gone marching on, reaching occasional heights in such items as *Three-Cornered Moon* and *You Can't Take It With You*. Its newest exponent is *George and Margaret*, which John C. Wilson has brought over from a successful London run and installed on Broadway.

The most interesting thing about this goofy-family play business is that all of them tread an uncertain path between farce and comedy, which is by way of saying that their material, without doing great violence to such artistic homogeneity as they possess, partakes both of the real and unreal in almost equal proportions. And when that has been said, it is worth noting that they are all concerned with middle-class families. The goofiness of these families derives in large measure from an exaggeration of what is true of them in real life, but not in any comparable measure true of working- or upper-class families: that the family group (as, indeed, each individual member of it) is pulled and pushed hither and yon by a variety of conflicting forces, emotional, economic, social, and moral. And just as *You Can't Take It With You* seems most artificial when its romantic theme tells of the successfully concluded romance between the middle-class girl and the upper-class boy, so *George and Margaret* seems most genuine when the middle-class son successfully concludes his romance with the working-class girl. And it seems clear that in each of the plays the authors are conscious of this, Messrs. Kaufman and Hart just sort of throwing in their romance gratuitously, and Gerald Savory making his largely the focus of the climax. His play is not as funny as *Hay Fever*, and is derailed by the artificial trick of seeming to point his play at the hearsay characters George and Margaret. But it is fairly funny and is likely to top most of the comedies Broadway will see this season.

One that it definitely tops is *Blow Ye Winds*, which brings Henry Fonda back from the films to the footlights. Mr. Fonda and the characterization of his role are both very good.

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Apart from that the play is on more or less on a dead level in treating the old story of the rough course of true love of a modern career woman for a man (this time in maritime dress) who has taken Thoreau too seriously.

ALEXANDER TAYLOR.

### Forthcoming Broadcasts

(Times given are Eastern Standard, but all programs listed are on coast-to-coast hookups)

"Camille." Tallulah Bankhead and Henry Fonda star in this version, Thurs., Sept. 30, 8 p.m., C.B.S.

Vilhjalmur Stefansson. The president of the Explorers' Club talks on transarctic aviation, Mon., Oct. 4, 6:15 p.m., C.B.S.

Social Adjustment. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mrs. Ogden Reid, Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia and others lead the discussion on "A Generation Finding Itself" at the opening session of the *Herald Tribune* forum, Mon., Oct. 4, 9:30 a.m., N.B.C. blue. Frederic and Irene Joliot-Curie, son-in-law and daughter of Mme. Curie, continue the discussion, at 11:45 a.m., Mon., Oct. 4, N.B.C. red; while Mary Lewis, vice-president of Best & Co.; Colby Chester, president of General Foods Corp., and Reinald Werrenrath wind it up, at 12 noon, Mon., N.B.C. blue.

A Free Press. James G. Stahlman, president of the American Newspaper Publishers' Assn.; Harold Cross, Columbia University professor of libel law; Dr. John H. Finley, editor of the *New York Times*; Alexander A. Troyanovsky, Soviet ambassador to the U. S.; Graham Hutton, assistant editor of the *London Economist*; and others lead the discussion on "The Status of a Free Press in the World Today" at the second session of the *Herald Tribune* forum, Mon., Oct. 4, 2:30 p.m., N.B.C. blue.

Explorations. Bruce Barton, Dr. Thomas Parran, surgeon-general of the U. S. Public Health Service; Dr. George Gallup, director of the American Institute of Public Opinion, and others at the third session of the forum, Mon., Oct. 4, 9 p.m., N.B.C. blue.

Proposed Government Changes. The fourth session of the forum brings to the microphone such men as Henry A. Wallace, General Hugh Johnson, Senator Vandenberg, Homer Martin, Governor LaFollette, and others, Tues., Oct. 5, 2 p.m., N.B.C. blue.

War Throughout the World. Francis Bowes Sayre, assistant secretary of state; Clyde Eagleton, professor of government at N.Y.U.; Edwin M. Borchard, law professor at Yale; and President Franklin D. Roosevelt are the speakers at the concluding session of the forum, Tues., Oct. 5, 10 p.m., N.B.C. blue.

### Recent Recommendations

#### MOVIES

*Heart of Spain.* Frontier Films' documentary on medical aid to Spain has been rightly called "pictorial dynamite."

*The Lower Depths.* Gorki's famous play of the dregs of humanity is brought to the screen by Jean Renoir with a script that Gorki personally approved before his death.

*Mayerling.* A tender and moving French film based on a historical incident.

*Baltic Deputy.* The newest Soviet film is a matchless portrayal of the intellectual during and after the revolution. Ranks with the season's best.

*The Spanish Earth.* Joris Ivens's much heralded film of the civil war in Spain is a deeply stirring document that you cannot afford to miss.

*Dead End.* The realistic drama of kids from the East Side slums comes to the screen with its impact unimpaired.

*The Life of Emile Zola.* Easily the best film of the year, powerful and profound.

## "GOINGS-ON"

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EXCELLENT CHINESE DINNER. Vital Discussion—"Will U. S. Neutrality in Chinese Situation Lead to Peace?" Speaker, Mr. Green, Co-editor of China Today. New Hankow Restaurant, 132 W. 34th St., Sun. Oct. 3, 7 p.m. Sub.: 75c. Aus.: Sunnyside Discussion Club.

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