

# Does Europe Look Different in 1927?

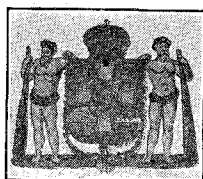
By ELBERT FRANCIS BALDWIN

The Outlook's Editor in Europe

In this article The Outlook's European Correspondent, veteran member of the editorial staff, gives his annual survey of political conditions in Europe as they appear at the opening of the new year.—THE EDITORS.

**D**OES Europe look different in 1927?

Yes. Most European countries do. Even stolid Holland does. They actually have had a change of Ministry there!

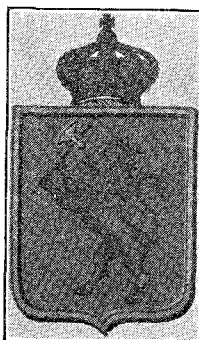


The Danes have had one too. After its two and a half years of office, they have thrown out the Labor-Socialist Stauning Cabinet, with its impossible proposal of practically complete disarmament. They have also decided to return to the gold currency standard.



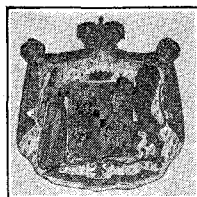
**S**WEDEN, with the proud record of being the first Scandinavian state to return to gold, also looks different, for she too has cast off a Socialist Ministry.

Chiefly in another direction, Norway is different. A few weeks ago she repealed her so-called prohibition law, a prohibition very far from being so radical as with us in America.



**P**OLAND, too, has changed. A year ago pro-Poles everywhere were fearing that Grabski and Skrzynski were overstraining national resources and initiative. Those not so friendly were already prophesying Poland's end; first, because of economic crisis; second, because of internal disunion; third, because of foreign aggressions from Russia, Lithuania, and Germany. And the crisis came with the redoubtable Pilsudski as ringleader. The crisis passed, with a Government change from top to bottom, it is true, but with the Constitution still on top.

On the other hand, Czechoslovakia has changed only in being "more so." Despite everything, President Masaryk and Foreign Minister Benes are stronger than ever.



**R**UMANIA looks different. Where the sun was shining a year ago, you now see shadow because of the King's grave illness and the regency complications. Fortunately, clever men are active and, it is to be hoped, constructive—Bratiano, Averescu, Mitelneu, Duca.



Jugoslavia has also changed sunshine for shadow. Full of years and honors, the greatest of Serb statesmen, Nikola Pashitch, has just died, an irreparable loss, and a trusted Foreign Minister had just resigned office. Who is left with a tithe of their influence?

Greece is not the same as a year ago. She returns to the Presidency of Konduriotis and, what is more, now enjoys a "Ministry of All the Talent," a curious but encouraging outcome of what seemed only another dictatorship when Kondylis overthrew Pangalos.

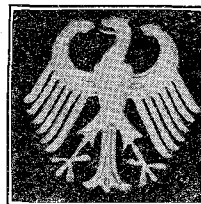


Hungary appears slightly different. A year ago the Regency suffered unduly, both under the princely counterfeit gang and the claims of rival princely candidates to the throne. Now the pendulum has swung so that the little Prince Otto, son of the late Emperor-King, has been gaining steadily in the graces of the people, inveterately monarchist and strongly Hapsburgian, no matter what the prejudices of the people who framed the Versailles Treaty.

Austria seems steadier and, so, different. Twelve months ago, to hear Herr Loebe for the Germans and Dr. Dinghofer for the Austrians, you

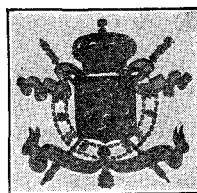


would suppose that, the Versailles Treaty to the contrary notwithstanding, a political as well as economic union between Germany and Austria was about to be officially proclaimed. Yet it has not been, and effervescence, especially of the political sort, has subsided, particularly under the astute direction of Chancellor Seipel, happily again in power at Vienna.



**G**ERMANY has decided and, I hope, definitely changed. Economically, a twelvemonth ago men were not at all sure that, under the Dawes Plan, Germany would show, not only the capacity, but especially the gratifying punctuality of her reparation payments during 1926. On the political side, Germany had, it is true, already signed the Locarno agreements, engaging never to modify her western frontiers by force, and, for the rest, establishing a juridical system, founded on treaties of arbitration. But, in the opinion of most Germans at that time, the Reichstag could not be induced to approve those agreements; certainly Germany would not fulfill their condition by entering the League of Nations; perhaps, indeed, the Republic would not survive! Yet the year has belied all these. Twelve months ago, the Locarno agreements were still in limbo. Now they have been ratified and form a real, going concern, materially and spiritually the great event of our time.

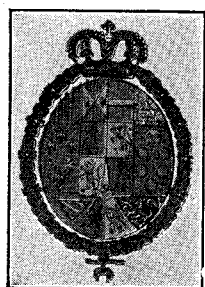
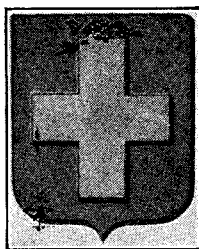
**B**ELGIUM is certainly different—brave little Belgium! While France and Italy are still hemming and hawing about the stabilization of their monetary value unit, the





Belgians, three months ago, went ahead and did it, incidentally consolidating their floating debt. Much capital, kept abroad pending stabilization, then returned. Furthermore, to show the popular trend, in one Brussels bank alone over two thousand dollar and pound accounts have been converted into Belgian money. Moreover, the predicted export trade and price crisis did not materialize, most cases of price advance being less than 1½ per cent. Meanwhile, on the Court and social side, the nation has gained a charming Crown Princess, strengthening the royal family's popularity even beyond what it was a year ago.

It seems passing strange that sober, steady-going Switzerland should not continue the same, world without end. But the contrary is the case this year. Twelve months ago, most Swiss were horrified at the steadily mounting Socialist influence; indeed, the Socialists were openly boasting of being strong enough, in a popular referendum, to obtain the people's approval of a continuance of the war wheat monopoly (a favorite device of state Socialism), despite the bankruptcy of that institution. The Socialists were defeated in the referendum last month, and the Swiss look less worried.



SPAIN is decidedly different from what she was a year ago. She has come to another turning-point and is taking a long breath. At last she has been delivered from the Moroccan cancer that was consuming her life. Never before has Spain been able to subdue the natives of the interior of her zone in Morocco, but now, thanks chiefly to French genius and material collaboration, it has been practically done. This gives the Dictator, General Primo de Rivera, a chance to pay more attention to things at home, and he actually announces a convocation next month of the National Assembly. With the restoration to the nation of some voice in her destinies, Spain will seem different in 1927 from what she did in 1926. A striking feature, Primo proclaims, will be the reservation of some forty seats in Parliament for representatives of the working classes. He would thus continue the notably good relations with the

workers' organizations maintained from the beginning of the Dictatorship.

ALSO in Italy, as is well known, a Dictatorship has practically displaced parliamentary authority. Despite this, Italy looks better than she did a year ago, for during the twelvemonth the Dictator, Benito Mussolini, has intensified his deliverance of the country from anarchy, his protection of labor, the security he has given to property, the improvement he has brought about in the public services, above all, his inculcation of the spirit of discipline, finding its particular expression in 1926 in what the Duce calls "the corporation state." The skies are certainly brighter in Italy. Exports are actually exceeding imports; in ship-building Italy now holds the world's second place and Europe's first place in hydroelectric power production and in artificial silk manufacture. Internationally, the year's most important event to Italy was the signature on December 29 of a treaty of conciliation and arbitration with Germany.



FRANCE looks and feels totally unlike what she did a year ago. With a four-cent franc again, instead of a three-cent, she seems surely coming back financially. This is entirely due to the wisdom, courage, and persistence of one man, Raymond Poincaré, now again, thank Heaven, Prime Minister. But how about France economically? Apparently she is witnessing a turnaround between finance and economics. There have been bad wheat and wine harvests, and coal is scarce. Result, higher prices. Nor has the franc's higher rate brought about a correspondingly general price reduction elsewhere. Commodities and rents cost a third more than they did three months ago. Buyers have stopped buying wherever possible. The lessened demand has in turn compelled the reduction of wages and the discharge of employees from shops and factories. Here is an added problem for M. Poincaré to solve. The year 1927 will look different to him from 1926 also because with the beginning of this new year the Government's right, granted it last August 3, to suppress or fuse posts, institutions, or services by decree comes to an end. The decrees have been drastic; as a



result, France has now more than a hundred fewer sub-prefects than a year ago, over two hundred fewer tribunals, and over two hundred fewer prisons, yet, at the same time, sees a startling decentralization of administrative authority. The dark side of the political picture continues to be the Communist menace; in Levallois and other Paris outlying *arrondissements* having Socialist mayors you may see the red flag unpleasantly prominent. In affairs outside France there are to register the successes in Syria and Morocco; above all, the conclusion of the great work of that prudent but "impenitent" optimist, Aristide Briand—Locarno.

FINALLY, England

looks different. A year ago, a jolly, rubicund John Bull—now a thin and cadaverous personage, after an unprecedented coal strike with its loss of trade and wealth. As if that were not enough, Chinese commerce, of which Britain has always had the lion's share, is now going to the bow-wows. England's changed countenance is the wryer because of the expectations that in 1927 higher taxation must be imposed to make up for loss of revenue due both to the industrial upheaval and to the trade depression as shown in the decline of exports and imports. All the same, industrial and commercial England may still walk with high head. The stoppage for many weeks of a basic commodity like coal was thought likely completely to paralyze all industries. Yet, except for the engineering and the metal trades, British industry showed its ability to carry on with a productive power far less impaired than was supposed possible. In the British Parliament, among other things, two legislative achievements deserve mention. One was the Roman Catholic Relief Bill. The Roman Catholics have long enjoyed practically all political rights. But certain restrictions on Catholic activities still remain, found in acts of Parliament from the time of Edward VI down to Queen Victoria's reign. The bill repeals all these. Then there is the betting tax. At last here is a tax for which no one need pay! For betting creates no wealth; it dissipates it. The tax should work for social good, as it already has for financial returns. Looking away from England, we find the British Empire still doing business at the old stand. The Imperial Council impressively reaffirmed British prestige and reduced General Hertzog's South African thun-



derings of independence a year ago to a sheep's docile baa-baaing. In the foreign field the most notable event for Britain has been her definite, completely

ratified entry as guaranty for the Franco-German frontier. This is an event of the very first importance to Europe and to the world.

So, as a whole, Europe looks a little different from a year ago; Europe looks more stable.

Paris, January 1, 1927.

# Where Boys and Masters Pull Together

The Sixth and Final Article on the Schools of England

By CHARLES K. TAYLOR

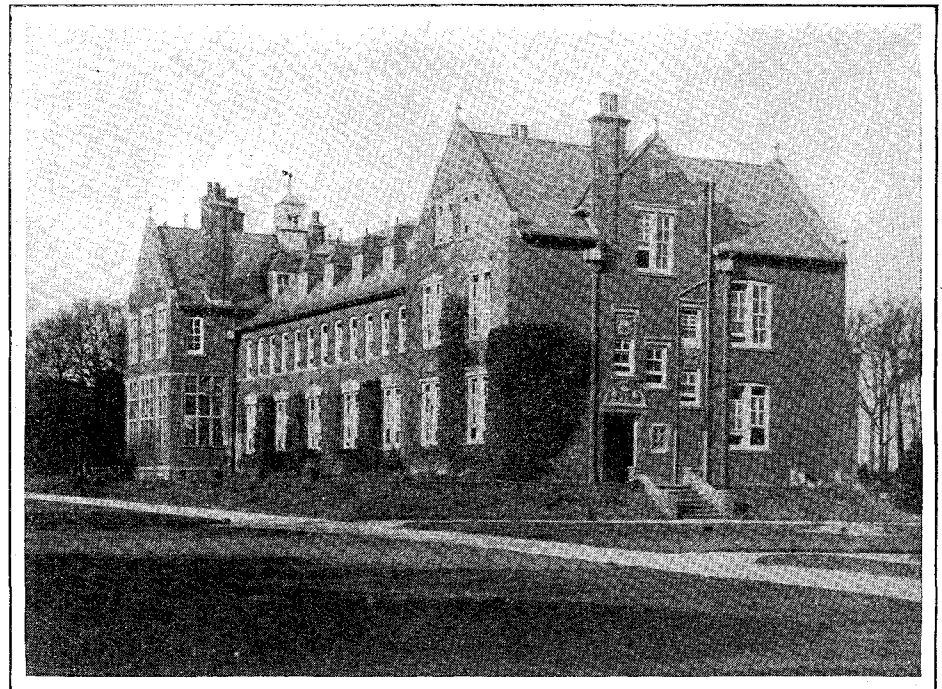
ONE warm day last July we found ourselves, the writer and his three American schoolboy cycling companions, traversing the rough wastes of northwestern Norfolk, and, with "bikes" well tarred from roads that soften disconcertingly under a hot sun, pushing our way into the charming old town of Holt, which is the seat of Gresham's School.

At the school we were seized upon by one of the most vigorous personalities of my acquaintance as the Head Master started us promptly on a swift preliminary survey of classrooms, groups of boys, laboratories, shops, music-rooms, art studio, swimming-pool, and so on. There came a general impression of sunshine, of many wide-open windows, of fresh air with a tang of the sea in it, of enthusiasm, of cleanliness, of broad grounds and fringes of woods. One soon began to sense the spirit of the place. Following that came chats with the Head Master, J. R. Eccles, and some of his folk, and, best of all, contact, in classroom, dining-hall, dormitory, and study, and on athletic fields with the boys themselves.

LET us consider the history of the school for a moment.

It was founded in the time of Elizabeth by Sir John Gresham, and until 1900 was a small affair, catering to local needs. In 1900 there came a great increase in income and endowment. Buildings were erected and a new and aggressive Head Master secured. This was G. W. S. Howson, sometimes now known as "Howson of Holt."

Howson did for Gresham's what Sanderson did for Oundle. By the practical application of unusual but psychologically sound principles he created a unique kind of school which soon reached his maximum of 240 boys, of whom 220 are boarders. Howson, intensely disapproving of those great schools in which the individual is lost in the mass, refused to accept more boys



A Gresham's School dormitory

than he could know personally. Howson died in 1919, and his able successor, J. R. Eccles, has held to this idea and has splendidly maintained and developed Howson's principles.

For the remarkable success of Gresham's Howson's personality as well as his unusual and practical theories is responsible. He developed a most successful school which not only claimed to put character development before the training of the intellect—as most schools usually claim—but he actually accomplished that end to a degree that almost challenges belief. And, logically enough, with the development of high personal character there came a natural and correlated intellectual development that has brought the school no mean reputation for scholastic attainment. After all, is it not obvious that a concentration on character and personality will develop a proper attitude toward work, duty, efficiency, promptness, thoroughness, and honesty of purpose?

No visitor could remain long in that school without becoming aware of a

most unusual tone and spirit. From both boys and masters there comes an overwhelming feeling of enthusiasm, of good spirit, of friendliness, of purpose, of hard work, and, very unmistakably, of cleanliness of mind and character.

My three boys were made very welcome and soon came into a close and friendly relationship with the boys of Gresham's. With their closer contact, and with that advantage of instinctive understanding of one another that most boys have, they felt the innate fineness of the spirit of those Gresham's boys even more strongly than I did. And it surprised them exceedingly to find that when no adults were near there was no change either in their attitude or conversation. Most boys lead a kind of double life, so to speak, one to be used when with grown-ups and the other when these latter are absent. It was very evident that there was no such attitude with these boys. They were themselves all the time, with no separate and perhaps less desirable a life of their own.