

right to make it would be upheld by the United States Department of State. And in doing so President Borno would be making a reasonable assumption, for it is hardly to be supposed that our State Department would deny to another country the right to exclude an American legislator on grounds virtually identical with those which the Department of State had applied to a legislator of Great Britain.

### The New Rector of the Sorbonne

THE death of M. Paul Lapie, the Rector of the Sorbonne, in Paris, left open a position which might have been expected to arouse a large amount of political discussion before a successor could be chosen, for the Sorbonne is more than an educational institution—it is an important center of French political and public thought. But the vacancy was filled in less than two weeks by what appears to have been a unanimous choice; and M. Sebastien Charléty moved from the University of Strasbourg to the University of Paris.

M. Charléty, equipped by service as Director of Public Education in Tunis and as Director-General of Public Education in Alsace-Lorraine after the war, finds himself in a position held for the first time—and that quite unofficially—by Abélard in the twelfth century, when the fame of the great savant's teaching brought scholars by thousands to the school in the shadow of the Cathedral of Notre Dame. A small institution this at first, attached to the church as a matter of course, and with a faculty that could easily live on the "Ile de la Cité." It was not long, however, before the Left Bank was needed for housing space for the teachers, as students poured in from all over Europe. Here each taught in his own home, liberated to a great degree from ecclesiastical supervision; but for their own interest instructors formed a corporation with their students. What we know popularly to-day as the Sorbonne takes its name from Robert of Sorbon, chaplain to Louis XI, who, moved by the poverty of many of the students, bought some houses near the Palace of the Cluny in 1253, and there lodged and fed many of the poorest, in which pious task he was abetted by the King.

The students were thus gradually led to organize in various ways. First, they elected a rector to represent them when their interests brought the "Universitas," or "Corporation," into contact with other organizations. Then they formed the four "Faculties" of Liberal Arts, Law, Medicine, and Theology. The final step was the grouping of the stu-

dents according to nationalities: Normandy, Picardy, England, and France. "Hospitia"—dormitories for national groups—became known as "colleges." Though they were established with no idea of utilization as teaching units, it soon became evident that the colleges provided an excellent means of having students study under supervision. When, therefore, teachers also took up their residence within these walls, the college took form as we know the institution to-day.

### Shifting Balances in Europe

THE nations at Geneva have been treated to the spectacle of Dr. Stresemann, Foreign Minister of Germany, presiding over the Council of the League of Nations. In negotiations with M. Briand of France, Sir Austen Chamberlain of Great Britain, and M. Zaleski of Poland he has found it possible to settle two difficult disputes—one by provision for an Inter-Allied military patrol in place of the French patrol of the Sarre coal basin pending the plebiscite which is to decide its final disposition, and the other by an agreement on principles to determine what children may be allowed to attend German-language schools in Poland. The German Nationalists have been howling behind his back in Berlin, but he has explained his policy to President Hindenburg, and it is probable that it will secure the necessary support.

While this peace-making has been under way at Geneva, Italy has disturbed many of the Foreign Offices of Europe by ratifying the treaty of 1920 with Rumania, by which Bessarabia was annexed to Rumania from Russia. It is understood that the final agreement with Italy was reached in return for petroleum and trade concessions; and there has also been talk of British anti-Russian influence with the Italian Government, which British officials have denied. The importance of the Italian action at the moment, however, is not so much in its effect on Russia—despite the significant plea of Germany's spokesman at Geneva for resumption of relations with Russia—as in its effect on the Balkans. It dangerously strains the so-called "Little Entente" between Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Rumania.

Being Slavic states, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, although anti-Soviet, tend naturally to sympathize with Russia. The King and Queen of Yugoslavia have departed suddenly and in secret for Rumania, apparently to learn the diplomatic meaning of the new move. And among the consequences of Italy's ratification of the Bessarabian treaty, al-

though it is already recognized by France, are these:

Increasing rivalry between France and Italy in Central Europe and the Balkans.

Stronger tendencies in France, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia for an understanding with Germany, and eventually Russia.

Closer relations between Italy, Hungary, and Rumania.

Increasing activity on the part of Italy in Albania, the next-door neighbor of Yugoslavia to the south on the Adriatic.

A revival of Russian activity in the Slavic states of the Balkans, along the lines of the old Pan-Slav policy.

Where all this regrouping of forces may end no one now can tell; but any one who remembers that trouble started in the Balkans in 1914 cannot help having some concern for "the peace of Europe."

### Cæsar in Somaliland

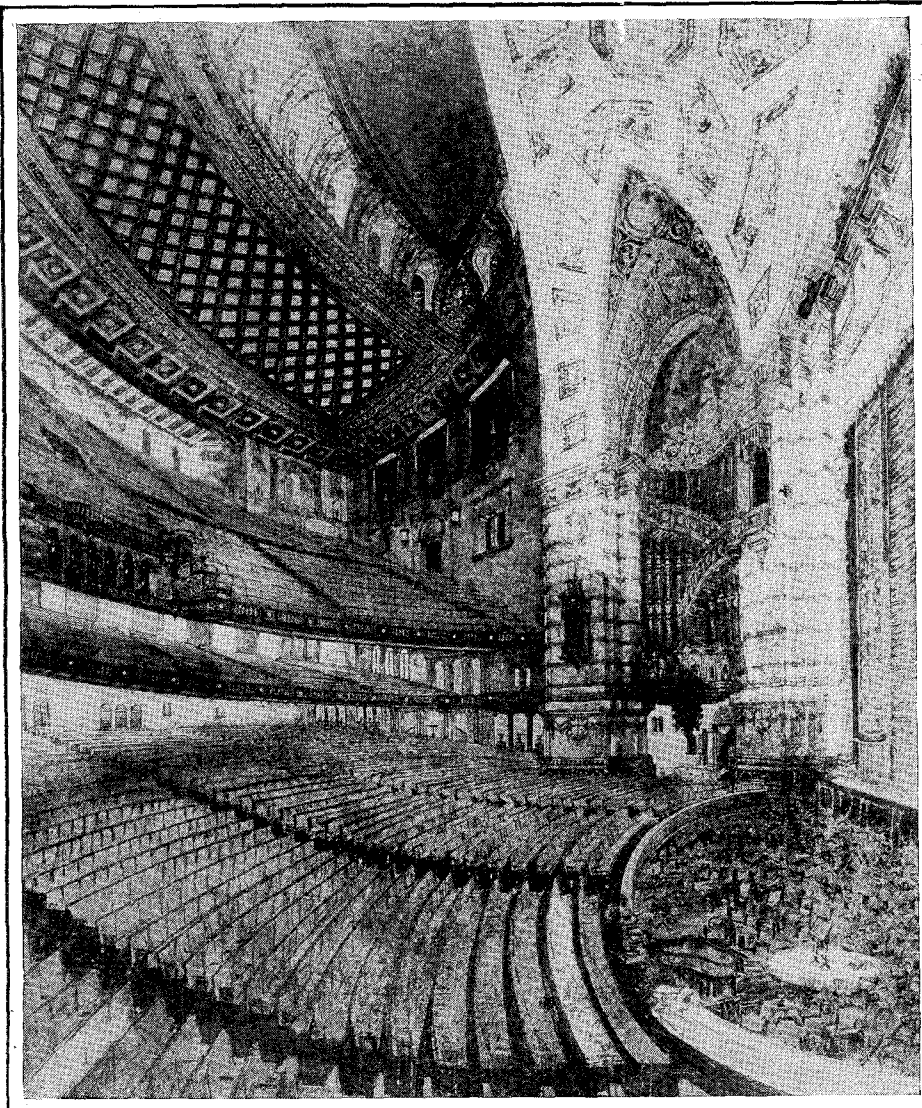
A NEWSPAPER despatch from Rome announces the final subjugation of the remaining independent tribes of Italian Somaliland. Somaliland, divided between Britain, France, Italy, and Abyssinia, is the easternmost part of Africa, constituting a triangle protruding between the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. Italian Somaliland is the Indian Ocean coast and hinterland portion of the triangle, with a short segment abutting on the Gulf of Aden east of British Somaliland. The southern half of Italian Somaliland has been a crown colony since 1910; but the whole country has been an Italian sphere of influence since late in the last century.

The land is sparsely settled and poor in natural resources. The foreign population, almost all Italians, is small. Nevertheless the Italian civil government of southern Italian Somaliland has built more than 2,000 miles of roads and a short section of railroad.

With the advent of Fascism's aggressive colonial policy came the determination to bring all of Italian Somaliland directly under Italian sovereignty. The Somalis of the northern region, stalwart warriors, resisted stoutly. But finally, according to the despatch from Rome, the "rebels," with their leader, the Sultan of Mejertin, a refugee in British Somaliland, have formally surrendered their firearms. The movement to subjugate them began in 1925. This news focuses interestingly with the Italian revocation of every degree of self-government in the North African colonies.

In America, three seas away, it is difficult to see the advantage of occupying a poor land against the will of its inhabi-





A Cathedral of the Movies, enormous, Neo-Hebraic-Ultraistic

tants, who are "rebels" merely because they resist foreign conquest. Perhaps Italy will justify her occupation. If so, she will have to justify it by making the lives of the Somalis better and freer and the territory they occupy more useful for the world.

### The Japanese Earthquake

THE forces of nature have dealt hardly with Japan recently: first, the almost overwhelmingly disastrous earthquake of 1923; then, a fortnight ago, another series of heavy shocks which, though not comparable in effect to the earlier quake, killed about 2,500 persons and caused material damage estimated as exceeding \$50,000,000. The 1927 shock was not much less forceful than that of 1923; but, whereas the earth movement two years ago took its toll from crowded Tokyo, this year's quake was localized in a rural region two hundred miles west of the capital. Even the near-by large cities of Osaka, Kobe, and Kyoto were reached only by shocks which did comparatively little destruction. The earth-wrenching was spent in laying waste by force and fire a number of small towns. The plight of the home-

less, the injured, the bereaved, was aggravated by cold, rainy weather, which followed the earthquake.

Geologically, Japan's islands are "new" and unstable. Their foundations are straining and must seek equilibrium. Earthquakes afford relief to that condition. Indeed, the most recent one was not unexpected, since the most violent earthquakes are known to be followed by quakes of decreasing intensity before a period of equilibrium.

Internationally, Japan's grievous natural misfortunes bring her the sub-diplomatic sympathy of the world. The first earthquake, and America's response to it, might be considered to have completed the defeat of Japanese-American misunderstanding. When Florida suffered last year from its hurricane, Japan reciprocated with contributions for the sufferers. Only a few days before this latest earthquake twelve thousand dolls dressed by groups of American girls were ceremonially received throughout Japan as gifts for the annual doll festival—a new channel of approach to inviolable good will. Now, in the new emergency, Japan has capably inaugurated relief work. But the American

Red Cross stands ready to add help from America if the superimposed burden proves heavy for Japan.

### Roxy's "Cathedral"

PILGRIMS and strangers in the great metropolis point frequently with pride to their Main Street ways. But they have taught New York a lesson in hospitality and other matters. Broadway now welcomes the visitor with electric signs, and flashing lights direct and counsel him. One such blast of illumination will guide him to America's latest marvel, the "Cathedral of the Movies," alias "Roxy's." With fitting pomp and propagandist frills, the "Cathedral" opened its wide doors last week. It is not, as some might think, a modern temple of religion, but—like the Paramount, also recently opened, on Broadway—a theatric fane. Bells clanged, flags waved, and a tone-poem was played as the biggest, gaudiest, and most advertised structure of its peculiar kind extant opened.

With invocations, dances, symphony, and, as a special novelty, an interpretation of the "Suwanee River," six or more thousand charmed and innocent New Yorkers attended the grand dedication of the new Cathedral, not to Art, but to the genius of "Roxy"—Mr. S. L. Rothafel. The President of the United States blessed his enterprise from a mighty screen. The Mayor beamed down from one of the boxes. As they passed through a large outer hall, the happy seat-holders, who had paid eleven dollars each for the privilege, trod gently on a carpet weighing, according to "Roxy's" press agents, two tons and valued (by the press agents) at one hundred thousand dollars. A draped prophet, perched atop of a tall pedestal, recited verses—at one point slightly mispronouncing a good English word—and said, loudly, "Let there be light."

Then, at the bidding of the master who had conceived and built the Cathedral, there was light. Let loose, as if by magic, it flooded the musicians in a vast orchestra, half-blinded a conductor (the most artistic feature of the show), and, incidentally, allowed a much-awed audience to see that the Cathedral had been planned, by a minor master, in what, by those press agents, is described as the plateresque (why not plateresque?) mode, but which to some appeared a Neo-Hebraic-Ultraistic style, with suggestions of the supposed golden glories of King Solomon's Temple, coy hints at the Moorish, and reversions to the Italian Renaissance. Broadway no doubt will gasp in wonder at the "Cathedral of the Movies." So may outsiders. After all, the great P. T. Barnum is not dead.