THE NEW STATEMAN AND NATION
The Week-end Review
Vol. XXIV. No. 598 [Incorporated at THE ATHENIUM] SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1942 [Registered at the C.P.O.] SIXPENCE

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THE STRATEGICAL OUTLOOK

The new fresh German successes on the southern flank of France makes such painful reading when we consider them with our own forces and stores, our tendency may be to interpret them with excessive pessimism. We should judge that Rommel has made the ruthless attack which good strategy requires. He reached the start of this summer's campaign with inferior forces he could not defend in either the North or the South. Accordingly he is not able personally to move big forces or much armour in an advance of the Germans, on their crossing of the Rhone and on the Rhine. He must take his success in the advance of the Germans and on their crossing of the Rhine.

To take this also, we must concentrate his numerically for the defence of the great arsenal. He has checked the straight east of the Germans, and it may be equally important that the westerners have moved towards the centre of the Don by covering the Volga at Stalingrad and the Volga route can be defeated, our hopes of victory are indefinitely postponed. This is the case for a Second Front this autumn. What actually confronts us is a spectacle of dispersal, intelligible for political or sentimental reasons, but hard to justify on any military grounds. Our sea power is inevitably committed to the Mediterranean, but in the Atlantic only; but in the Arctic and the Indian Ocean also. The Allies are building up their forces, but they lose, a reckoning which takes no account of the lost cargoes. Our growing air power is largely occupied in raids on German cities, whose value is still open to debate. We have sent big British and American world-wide strategy. Unless by direct aid or a diversion elsewhere, the threat to Stalingrad may be both inadequate for this purpose, may be doubted. Every tyranny in the world has to hold down, to say nothing of the conscript army, which can betrusted, he is due for the greater volume and power of the latent revolt, than we might have expected. But it is uncertain where the japs will next strike. Perhaps at Stalingrad, Black Sea, or Stalingrad, Black Sea, or Stalingrad, Black Sea, or Stalingrad, Black Sea, or Stalingrad, Black Sea, or Stalingrad, Black Sea, or Stalingrad, Black Sea, or Stalingrad, Black Sea, or Stalingrad, Black Sea.

The result of this dispersal, to say nothing of our useless losses at Hongkong, Singapore and in Borneo, is that we have available for a European enterprise forces less formidable than we might have possessed, had we concentrated on this objective, after Russia came into the war in June, 1941. The failure to use last year the unexpected chance for a blow at the enemy where alone he is vulnerable, may be pardonable. But to fail again, in the second year, by reason of the same lack of force, may be fatal and unpardonable. Allow what is due for the greater volume of American support next year in men, ships and supplies, it cannot, on any reckoning we can make, balance the loss we are risking of Russia as an active military asset. On the other side it is rightly said that it would be fatal to make a half-hearted attempt, with inadequate forces, to satisfy the public discontent by doing something somewhere without the will or the means to succeed. That answer, as we urged last week, is immediately to give authority over all this sphere of war to an Anglo-American Staff of Combined Operations. It must include all three fighting services and also Political Warfare, which for any Continental venture, is a vital weapon of war.

The Nazi Pretorians

The secret circular, captured in Libya, in which Hitler explains to the army the special function of the S.S. Black Guard is a document of the first political importance. These picked men, all of them young, and all volunteers, of pure German breed, indoctrinated with the Nazi "philosophy," can be trusted, he declares, not to fraternise with the "proletariat" and the "underworld," while in times of "internal crisis" they can be used, as a conscript army could be, against other Germans (Volksgenossen). Every tyranny in history has had its armed gendarmes, but this force is unique, in that it is thoroughly mechnised, has had its baptism of fire at the front, and amounts to twenty Divisions with their own tanks and Stukas. Against whom is this terrific apparatus of coercion devised? Certainly against the proletariat, whether German, Czech, or Polish. But chiefly, we think, against the conscript army itself. In short, it is a Pretorian Guard. There is evidence here, stronger than the most sanguine of us would have expected, of the volume and power of the latent revolt, both German and non-German, which the Nazis have to hold down. Here is the explosive force which we have to liberate. A premature explosion would be disastrous, but it is equally true that this kind of human gunpowder can go damps and useless from neglect.

Labour and the Government

When 49 members vote against the Government and 36, including 3 front benchers, stand,
PLAYS AND PICTURES


That represents the only play of Shakespeare that is incomparably better to see on a stage than to read. Twenty lines in poetry the essence in the basket and the pinching by fairies, Falstaff's mastery of a language to communicate, are all beautifully expressed by scenes shies out of the text. Mistress Quickly and Shallow are only ghosts of themselves; even the Knight's following, however their noses may sparkle, have paled. Yet a visit to the New Theatre is always a pleasure.

Majordocumet. The gayest farces ever written. It has been very prettily staged. The scenes flicker to and fro, as they should. The actors are active, and their knockabout leaves us wondering why the gayest farces ever written. The voices are all straight; Bambii's Ma is a bore with fairy-tale-izations; the Great Stag of the Forest is a terrible bore; and heavenly choirs chant interminably, without a tune one remembers. "Dinney's" worked in oils for the first time in the picture, as are told; but a few more grins would have been worth a hundredweights of oil. There are, of course, lively and pretty passages, but the story by Felix Salten, from which Bambi was taken, had infinitely more character and charm.

NAMING OF PARTS

The New Stateman and Nation, August 8, 1922

The institution attacked, and in general the "tory" press gets a good time now and never will. This is a pity, because Light and Shade does extend the scope of the revue stage and proves at moments that lightness and poetry are not incomparable.

"Bambi," at the New Gallery.

There aren't nearly enough laughs in Bambi, and when we stop laughing at a Daisy creation it begins to look commonplace. Bambi, a dear, grows up in the forest, finds a mate, escapes the hunters, and we leave him with the arrival of little Bambi. He's charming in his early days, discovering raindrops, learning to shoot, trotting back to his Ma; but the long stretches we have to admire the forest and the seasons, and falling leaves or snowflakes and reflections in pools quickly pass. Bambi is in Disney's most realistic personal mood. The voices are all straight; Bambii's Ma is a bore with fairy-tale-izations; the Great Stag of the Forest is a terrible bore; and heavenly choirs chant interminably, without a tune one remembers. "Dinney's" worked in oils for the first time in the picture, as are told; but a few more grins would have been worth a hundredweights of oil. There are, of course, lively and pretty passages, but the story by Felix Salten, from which Bambi was taken, had infinitely more character and charm.

"A Poem from the Fronts"

To-day we have naming of parts. Yesterday, we had daily cleaning. And to-morrow morning, we shall have what to do after firing. But when you give your parts... This is the lower slang swivel! And this is the upper slang swivel, whose use you will never understand. When you give your parts... This is the piling swivel, Which in your case you have not got. The branches.

Hold in the gardens their silent, eloquent gestures, Which in our case we have not got.

This is the safety-catch, which is always released With a easy flick of the thumb. And please... See anyone using his finger You can do it quite easy. If you have any strength in your thumb The bumpery-bumpers are fragile and motionless, never letting anyone see Any of them using their fingers.

And this you can see is the bolt The purpose of this Is to open the breach, as you see. We can finally... Rapidly backwards and forwards: we call this Easing the spring. And rapidly backwards and forwards.

The early bees are assailing and fumbling the borders of balance. They call it easing the Spring.

They call it easing the Spring: it is perfectly easy. If you have any strength in your thumb: Like the bolt, And the breach, and the cocking-piece, and the... Which in our case we have not got, and the almond-blossom. Silent in all of the gardens, the bees going backwards and forwards.

For to-day we have naming of parts.

Henry Redd