



TIME EUROPE
August 9, 1926

Abyssinia: Ethiopian Protest

Ringed about by British, French and Italian dominated territories, the quadruple Empire of Abyssinia or Ethiopia, comprising the Kingdoms of Tigré, Amhara, Gojam and Shoa, survives as the one potent aboriginal state in all Africa.

There human slavery still flourishes. There the most trifling jubilation provides an excuse for tearing out the entrails of a living cow, that they may be gorged raw by old and young, washed down with brimming cups of mese (mead) or bousa (beer). A yardwide French-operated railway climbs from French Jibuti on the Gulf of Aden 500 miles inland to Addis Ababa, the capital of Abyssinia. From this glorified dung hill, seat of an Imperial House which claims descent from the biblical Queen of Sheba, a formal protest reached the Secretariat of the League of Nations last week.

Prince Regent Taffari of Abyssinia declared in the name of the retired Empress Zauditu that he has seldom met with foreigners who do not desire to possess themselves of Abyssinia and to destroy the independence of the Ethiopian Empire.

Specifically he protested to the League that Abyssinia, a League member-state since 1923, should be obliged to tolerate the existence of a series of Anglo-Italian notes, exchanged last December, published recently, establishing: 1) The recognition by Britain and Italy, respectively, of Italian* and British+ "spheres of influence" encroaching upon Abyssinia. 2) The determination of League-member-States Britain and Italy to exert united pressure upon their "Little League Sister," Abyssinia to herself recognize this curtailment of her territories.

Prince Regent Taffari drew with dignity a conclusion: Britain and Italy have violated a cardinal principle of the League: that all League states are on a footing of equality within the League. Prince Taffari asked of the League justice, redress....

Dutifully an underling of the League Secretariat filed one more protest of the weak against the omnipotent for future reference.

"Abyssinians." While Prince Taffari protested 10,000,000 Abyssinians continued an indolent existence upon 350,000 square miles of territory, mostly fertile, very largely held in feudal tenure by innumerable rases (princes), subservant to the Empress.

The term "Abyssinian," corrupted from the Arabic Habesh ("mixed," "mongrel") well describes this people who shade in different parts of the Empire from white through reddish-brown to ebony, and from Christianity to Mohammedanism.

To the curious traveler's eye, Abyssinia presents a rural scene, picturesquely set off by civic stanches. Camels jog up to French Somaliland with gum and ostrich feathers which are bartered there for cheap Occidental jewelry and clothing or for rock salt, lumps of which pass current as money in the interior, as do cartridges.

The Empress and a few nobles enjoy the exotic luxury of corrugated iron roofs upon their "palaces." The Prince Regent has but to mutter a command and the groveling object of royal displeasure is led away to have his hands chopped off, his wrists dipped in boiling oil, his back flayed by a U. S. barbed wire lash. Everywhere the timeless usages of Ethiopia are interwoven stressfully with Occidental permeations. But, like potent and perfidious Albion, the Little Empire "muddles through."

During the war the dissolute youthful Emperor Lij Yaser committed the disastrous dual stupidities of embracing the Islamic faith and the Germano-Turkish cause. Vexed, a majority of the feudal chieftains of Abyssinia, stout Christians according to their somewhat pagan lights, supported a successful pro-Christian, pro-Ally revolution. Prince Taffari, an able statesman but by lineage a mere great nephew of the revered late Emperor Menelik, was prudently installed as Regent for the Empress Zauditu, a

daughter of the Emperor Menelik, and proclaimed heir to the Throne by the revolutionary feudal lords.

*Ultimate purpose to connect the Italian colonies of Eritrea and Italian Somaliland by a trans-Abyssinian railway tapping much fertile country which might thus be brought under Italian dominance.

+Eventual design to construct certain dams and waterworks among the Abyssinian headwaters of the Nile with intent to foster cotton growing in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. The British dams would inundate numerous shrines held sacred by certain Abyssinian religious cults.

TIME EUROPE

November 3, 1930

Abyssinia: Coronation

With the cross of Jesus on his breast, Tafari Makonnen, already King of Kings, Conquering Lion of Judah and the Elect of God, proceeded last week to his Second Coronation, this time as Power of Trinity the First, Emperor of Ethiopia.

The complexion and features of Haile Selassie, or Power of Trinity, resemble those of a Spanish Jew. But throughout the world last week Negro newsorgans hailed him as their own, recalled the honors conferred by His Majesty on "The Black Eagle of Harlem," Colonel Hubert Julian, "The Negro Lindbergh".* Matter of fact the people of Ethiopia, or Abyssinia, are of every color from coal black through tawny brown to olive, include many non-Afric races. Centuries ago scornful Arabs nicknamed them Abyssinians ("mixed peoples"). Today members of the Royal House are strongly Semitized, claim descent from Hebrew King Solomon's Queen of Sheba, profess the religion of Coptic Christianity, acknowledge as their pope the Coptic Patriarch of Alexandria.

Ben Hur & Admiral Byrd. Twelve nations sent envoys to the Coronation. First to arrive was Special Ambassador Herman Murray Jacoby. Born 38 years ago in Germany, two years ago he sold out his Manhattan bond house, announced that he had retired "to cultivate my hobbies," proceeded to explore Brazil's Amazon, turned up in Abyssinia last week as President Hoover's representative.

Landing at Jibuti on the Gulf of Aden, Ambassador & Mrs. Jacoby and their suite entered a private train for the 780-mi. journey to New Flower, the tin-roofed capital of the King of Kings. New Flower, or Addis Ababa, is hidden among mighty mountains at an altitude of more than 6,000 ft. To this barbaric stronghold the Jacobys carried officially an autographed photograph of President Hoover, described as "handsomely framed." Unofficial, privately-paid-for U. S. Coronation gifts include: One electric refrigerator. One red typewriter emblazoned with the Ethiopian Royal Arms. One radio set with phonograph attachment. One hundred records of "distinctly American music. Five hundred rose bushes, including several dozen President Hoovers. A new kind of amaryllis developed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. A bound set of National Geographic Society publications. A bound report of the Chicago Field Museum's expedition to Abyssinia. Three moving picture films: Ben Hur, The King of Kings, With Byrd at the South Pole.

Off Plate of Gold. When the U. S. special puffed into New Flower, a coalblack band with an olive-skinned conductor blared "The Star Spangled Banner." Amid a 17-gun salute Abyssinia's Crown Prince greeted the beaming U. S. Ambassador and his stern escort, Brig.General William W. Harts, U.S.A. Smartly escorted by native cavalry the U. S. party clattered off to their hotel, dined there that night on the King of Kings' own gold plate, loaned for the occasion as an especial mark of Royal favor. Bright and early Ambassador Jacoby greeted the Conquering Lion of Judah in English, listened to a reply which the Elect of God pronounced in Amharic, most official of Abyssinia's many languages.

"Proud and Free!" No. 1 Royal guest at the Coronation was George V's third son the Duke of Gloucester. France sent Marshal Franchet d'Esperey, Italy, Rear Admiral Prince Udine, cousin of King Vittorio Emanuele.

As everyone knows, the African colonies and "spheres" of Britain, France and Italy completely surround Abyssinia cutting her off from the sea. (Jibuti, where the Jacobys landed, is in French Somaliland.) This state of affairs explains why the King of Kings sent a personal envoy to Calvin Coolidge three years ago, begged the President to re-establish a U. S. diplomatic mission in Abyssinia where none had existed for almost 20 years. The wish was granted, and J. G. White Engineering Corp., Manhattan Engineers, got a \$15,000,000 dam building contract in Abyssinia for which British firms would have given their eye-teeth.

In a circular letter to member states of the League of Nations, protesting Anglo-French-Italian encroachments, the King of Kings then wrote: "We Abyssinians have seldom met foreigners who did not desire to possess themselves of Abyssinian territory. . . . With God's help, and thanks to the courage of our soldiers, we have always, come what might, stood proud and free upon our native mountains."

Pomp & Gifts. Her Majesty the Queen of Sheba presented to His Majesty King Solomon gifts worth more than \$4,000,000 before they began the intimacy from which sprang Abyssinia's Royal House. Recently their alleged descendant bought from European jewelers for \$1,000,000 jewels and gold for a set of crowns over which Coptic priests began some weeks ago 21 days of prayer.

Every lion killed in Abyssinia is the property of the Conquering Lion of Judah (each loyal lion-killer being allowed to keep a small tuft of fur as a mark of prowess), and months ago in London a bale of lion skins was delivered to a Bond Street tailor with instructions to "fashion them into suitable garments for a coronation."

Along with the Bond Street lion clothes there arrived in Abyssinia last week the Royal & Imperial coach of Kaiser Wilhelm II (picked up cheap in Germany for \$6,000), a team of the famed Habsburg white horses and an Austrian coachman who used to drive the late, great Franz Josef.

Compared to such costly pomp even the expensive gifts of European governments seemed cheap. What if the Duke of Gloucester brought an English coronation cake weighing one ton?* What if President von Hindenburg sent 500 bottles of fine Rhine wine? What if the French gift was an airplane which flew from Paris to New Flower in short hops.

"Bad Coffee." Abyssinians sip the Coffee of Peace instead of smoking the Peace Pipe. When someone is poisoned the well-bred Abyssinian thing to murmur is "mm, bad coffee."

This was murmured after the death of the late Empress Zauditu. But it was never proved that the present King of Kings really did bad coffee his cousin. He said she died "of shock" when one of his bombing planes blew up her Imperial consort.

Certainly the new Emperor is the greatest Abyssinian ruler of modern time. Grandeur and a fine sensitiveness are blended in his person. He is educating likely Abyssinian youths at schools and colleges throughout the world, but particularly in the U. S. His way with the priestly and feudal classes, bitter foes of modernization, can only be called masterly. Little by little, as he can, he is introducing farm machinery, building roads, waking up a land which has slept for 5,000 years. For his Coronation on Nov. 2 he decreed this striking ceremony: the people to stand all night in a vast multitude around the Coptic Cathedral of St. George, each standee holding a lighted candle; the Emperor and Empress to pass an all-night vigil inside St. George's, then to be crowned amid solemn chanting by the Coptic Abuna (Our Father) Egyptian Archbishop of Abyssinia.

*Originally a parachute jumper famed for playing the saxophone during his jumps, the Black Eagle said, on his return to Harlem from Ethiopia last July:

"When I arrived in Ethiopia the King was glad to see me.... I took off with a French pilot.... We climbed to 5,000 ft. as 50,000 people cheered, and then I jumped out and tugged open my parachute.... I floated down to within 40 ft. of the King, who incidentally is the greatest of all modern rulers..... He rushed up and pinned the highest medal given in that country on my breast, made me a colonel and the leader of his air force \u2014 and here I am!"

Taking off from the Harlem River in his seaplane Ethiopia I, the Black Eagle attempted a flight to Ethiopia in 1924, landed on the mud flats of Flushing Bay, explained: "Pontoon trouble."

*Abyssinia considered as a restitution rather than a gift several trunksfull of ancient Abyssinian documents brought back by the Duke of Gloucester last week, originally carried off if not stolen by British troops.

TIME EUROPE

November 10, 1930

Abyssinia: Coronation

Chained like dogs to the Coronation dais of Abyssinia's Emperor and Empress, five full-grown lions with great golden manes

snarled and roared last week, drew misgiving looks from the No. 1 Coronation guest, Prince Henry Duke of Gloucester, third son of George V.

Swaying their supple bodies violently, Coptic Christian priests followed their Archbishop up the aisle of St. George's Cathedral in Addis Ababa (New Flower), Abyssinian capital. The chill air, blue with incense, reeked with the smoke of native tallow candles, throbbled to wild strains. Cried the Archbishop, lifting high the crown, "God has anointed thee to rule with Justice!"

Placing the 3-lb. golden circlet of sapphires, rubies and diamonds upon the Emperor's woolly head, he continued, "Gird the sword upon thy loins, yet rule in Peace! May the Lord God, supreme ruler of men, bless and glorify thy reign, and may He ever keep thee and thy consort in His bosom."

Thus was crowned Tafari Makonnen, King of Kings, Conquering Lion of Judah, the Elect of God, the Light of the World, Power of Trinity I, Emperor of Abyssinia. For his spouse, the Queen of Queens, their Coronation was almost a coming out party. She is a chunky, chocolate amazon, he a small, slender, olive-skinned African Disraeli who astutely keeps her hidden. But they have much in common. Both looked on with glistening-eyed approval as "The Feast of Raw Meat" began.

Lowing oxen had been driven into the courtyard of the palace until it was almost full. His Majesty's loyal soldiers were to eat first. Beaming upon these fine fellows, Power of Trinity I personally opened the courtyard gate. In swarmed the hungry troopers, fell upon the oxen with their swords, drank the warm, rich blood, tore the raw meat (Abyssinia's national delicacy) from gory flanks which in some cases had not ceased to live. Began seven days of raw meat gorging for the populace in general.

TIME EUROPE

January 6, 1936

Ethiopia: Man of the Year

The alert U. S. citizen last week could pick from among his fellow citizens as Man of the Year at the close of 1935 whom?

When accountants had added up box-office receipts, Miss Shirley Temple emerged as the Cinemactress of the Year.

Crime's grisly Man of the Year was the German carpenter who in his death cell in Trenton, N. J. last week heard that Charles, Anne and Jon Lindbergh were in the act of becoming the Exiles of the Year.

The Schechters, with their Supreme Court suit which sent NRA crashing, proved themselves Brothers of the Year. In 1935 an unsmiling Negro named Joe Louis fisticuffed his way up from \$50 fights into a \$215,375 sensation as Heavyweight of the Year.

In all the world no transport achievement in '35 equaled that of President Juan Terry Trippe of Pan American Airways with his inauguration of Clippers winging the Pacific to Manila.

On Broadway appeared four successful plays all by Playwright of the Year Clifford Odets.

On the thin edge between Science with its august curiosity and Mankind with its idle curiosity, Dr. Alexis Carrel awakened in 1935 with his best seller, "Man, The Unknown," fresh and healthy faith in medicine's sounder marvels.

Yet from Hauptmann to Carrel, from Temple to Trippe, from Louis to Odets and from the Schechters to the Lindberghs the U. S. obviously produced no Man of 1935 with the world weight of Franklin Delano Roosevelt when he was Man of 1932 or Man of 1934. In 1936 voters may make him President again and perhaps for the third time Man of the Year.

In 1935 Europe's perennial Men of the Years, Stanley Baldwin, Benito Mussolini, Joseph Stalin, Adolf Hitler, Kamal Ataturk and Dr. Eduard Benes held undiminished sway. The outstanding exhibition of the century in French political tight-rope walking was given in 1935 but as the year entered its last hours the fate of Premier Pierre Laval, 1931's Man of the Year, continued to tiptoe. In Asia practical control of North China was obtained by Japan in 1935 so adroitly and inconspicuously that it was a major Japanese triumph to have avoided producing a Man of the Year. China's perpetually harassed Man of the Year, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, entered his most excruciating morass of dilemmas.

Both as human beings and as crowned symbols George & Mary in the glory of their Silver Jubilee were the King Emperor & Queen-Empress of the Year, inseparable in the public mind. The year restored George II as King of Greece but his Throne trembled last week as he sought to master Greece's ousted Dictator.

King of Kings. In 1935 there was just one man who rose out of murky obscurity and carried his country with him up & up into brilliant focus before a pop-eyed world. But for the hidden astuteness of this man, there would not now be the possibility of another world war arising out of idealism generated around the League of Nations in behalf of Ethiopia. But for His Majesty Haile Selassie the year 1935 would have been a distinctly different year. If by some unhappy chance the Italo-Ethiopian war should now spread into a world conflagration, Power of Trinity I, the King of Kings, the Conquering Lion of Judah, will have a place in history as secure as Woodrow Wilson's. If it ends in the fall of Mussolini and the collapse of Fascism, His Majesty can plume himself on one of the greatest feats ever credited to blackamoors.

Above all, Haile Selassie has created a general, warm and blind sympathy for uncivilized Ethiopia throughout civilized Christendom. In the wake of the world's grandiose Depression, with millions of white men uncertain as to the benefits of civilization, 1935 produced a peculiar Spirit of the Year in which it was felt to be a crying shame that the Machine Age seemed about to intrude upon Africa's last free, unscathed and simple people. They were ipso facto Noble Savages, and the noblest Ethiopian of them all naturally emerged as Man of the Year.

Outside Italy, the Emperor was clapped and cheered during 1935 in almost every cinema house in the world. His name entered the U. S. vocabulary in such homely exclamations as, "Well! If that's so, then I'm Haile Selassie!" In the last week of 1935, Haile Selassie reached Broadway as a character in the new George White's "Scandals". Cries he: "Boys, our country am menaced! What is we gwine do?" From then until the curtain falls amid applause which almost stops the show, His Majesty and guardsmen execute a hilarious tap dance.

Goodness & Wisdom. Without quibble or qualification the best and wisest ruler ancient Ethiopia has ever had is the present Man of the Year.

Ethiopia, contrary to popular misconception, is not a Christian country. It is not even Coptic Christian. Unroll an authoritative religious map of the Empire, such as that in the current January issue of "Foreign Affairs," and the facts are evident. In trifling quantity a few Christians are to be found near Addis Ababa, and the Coptic Christians, to which faith the Imperial Family appertains, form an island in the Mohammedan and pagan sea of peoples which is Ethiopia.

Until 1935 the country was known mainly to foreign savants as a "museum of peoples" who remarkably preserve the habits and customs of their various antiquities. It was known, incorrectly, to hasty readers of a popular book, as the "Hell-Hole of Creation." Actually the high plateau on which Addis Ababa stands and which comprises about half the Empire is suited in climate to the taste of an ordinary U. S. citizen although the altitude is trying. Rushing rivers criss-cross the plateau with deep gorges. Transportation of fantastic difficulty is enhanced by unimaginable mud in the rainy season, hut the obstacles of Nature on the plateau are in every sense susceptible of being overcome.

In the desert regions, blazing and scorching some 8,000 ft. below the plateau toward the sea, are the Hell-Holes of Creation, inhabited by tribes of extraordinary hardihood and savagery. Explorers report that "some of these peoples have never heard of Haile Selassie." It is they who today with complete impartiality harry, snipe at and loot any small detachment of soldiers, be they Ethiopian or Italian. The peoples of Ethiopia are very old but the Empire is very young. When Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes was a youth of 18 there was properly speaking no Ethiopian Empire and the future Emperor Menelik ruled, as King of Shoa, the vicinity of Lake Tana, Aduwa, Aksum and Dessye. Three-quarters of the present Empire, including Harar and Ualual, he did not rule. Haile Selassie was born 44 years ago at Harar and in 1930 succeeded his cousin Menelik's daughter, Empress Zaudito, on the Throne.

The legend that Ethiopia's Imperial Family is descended from the seduction by King Solomon of Sheba's Virgin Queen is pure myth. Last month Oxford's University Press exploded it anew with "A History of Abyssinia" (\$2.25) in which the adoption of this legend by Coptic priests to give Ethiopia's present dynasty a savor of ancient lineage and of Biblical if not Divine authority is traced with British scholarship.

Intimate Glimpse. Although good and wise, Haile Selassie, as recently pointed out by Dr. Sassard, his French physician of many years, has never been popular among his turbulent subjects. Every conversation the physician has had with his Imperial patient, writes Dr. Sassard, "gave me further reason to admire and respect this Sovereign, who is so different from those who surround

him and from his own people, and who is so superior to them. In his motionless face only his eyes seem alive \u2014 brilliant, elongated, extremely expressive eyes. They bespeak boredom as well as polite indifference, cold irony, or even anger. The courtiers know these different expressions well and retire suddenly when the monarch's glance becomes indifferent, then hard. On the other hand, especially when he is dealing with Europeans, his eyes know how to be soft, caressing, affable \u2014 and even sincere."

Referring to his royal patient's frequent and serious illnesses, Dr. Sassard observes: "I have always been surprised by the reserves of energy and courage that exist in so frail a body.... The attention of the public and of Europe is directed at the two sons of the Sovereign. The first, the Heir Apparent, is now 19 years old. He generally lives far removed from the capital, surrounded by spies, restricted in any independent action he may take, frequently and harshly rebuked by his father... Prince Makonnen, who is 12 years old, is his father's great favorite.... Whereas a teacher was not accorded the Heir Apparent, a whole retinue of French educators has been designated to take care of the last-born son.... He has good sense, but he is perhaps a little too aware of his exalted birth and the destiny that he believes to be awaiting him. In any case it is unquestionably in Prince Makonnen that all his father's hopes are centred.

"We must give the Emperor credit for having lent prestige to moral values in his country and for having made courage, work and persistence respected in a land where only physical force had any value. The numerous Ministers are generally more or less related to the Emperor and the Emperor considers the granting of a Cabinet post a simple method of calming a noisy cousin or a belligerent vassal. Disorder and misadministration make each Ethiopian Ministry a bottomless barrel into which money flows.... Emperor Haile Selassie inherited a savage country. He will never be a leader of men, the chief of the wild hordes that his predecessors were. The Emperor knows this and the knowledge saddens him."

Gold Chains; Ice Water. After so intimate a glimpse through the eyes of Man of the Year's longtime physician, His Majesty's achievements in 1935 are all the more staggering. They are the ripened fruit of a physically frail Semite's lifetime of goodness and wisdom. It was good to cast into golden chains the Ethiopian who would otherwise have been Emperor instead of Haile Selassie, for this individual had strayed into the Mohammedan faith. Had the late Lij Yasu been on the Throne today the League of Nations might not have displayed such anxiety for the country of an infidel.

His greatest wisdom is the result of meditating on the fact that in 1914 his beloved Ethiopia was saved from being dismembered by the Great Powers by the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand. After the establishment of the League of Nations, the Emperor, or Prince Tafari as he then was, figured out wisely that if Ethiopia could possibly win membership in the League, she might never need another World War to distract the Great Powers from dismembering her. To get into the League, though, was most difficult. Egypt was then and is still barred, for the reason that Britain suspected then and now knows for certain that Egypt, once inside the League, would scream bloody murder for the British to evacuate Egypt. Ethiopia was at first barred. Then Ethiopian statesmen, largely inspired by Prince Tafari, began yielding deceptively to French and Italian efforts to obtain more important concessions in the empire than had ever been granted before.

In 1923 the French and Italians congratulated themselves that a most profitable and pleasant era of Latin-Ethiopian co-operation and economic exploitation was about to open with mutual goodwill. To top off the deal with pink icing. Ethiopia at Latin insistence was admitted to full membership in the League. Only three years afterward Tafari, who had become Regent, complained of Britain and Italy to the League, having caught them exchanging notes with a view to recognizing the possession of "spheres of influence" by each other in Ethiopia. With the same technique that the Man of the Year used in 1935, but without causing an explosion of world interest, Regent Tafari in 1926 shamed and reproved white men thus: "We should never have suspected that the British Government would come to an agreement with another government regarding our Lake Tana!" Ethiopia quietly won the first League round then & there, causing Italy and Britain to drop the matter, much as the Hoare-Laval Deal was to be dropped nearly a decade later with a crash heard around the world.

Suckers. Many white men personally familiar with events in Ethiopia since then say that the Emperor for years played Italian and other foreign concessionaires for suckers until Benito Mussolini gradually evolved his theory that the White Race is being aggressively menaced and must recover the dynamic attitude of Victorian England or ultimately suffer eclipse. Japan, during Depression, secured virtually the whole of Ethiopia's import business in cotton piece goods, while Italians were supplying Haile Selassie with a powerful radio station at cut rates. As soon as it was in working order, His Majesty turned around and fired the whole Italian staff of technicians, made a sucker out of the great Italian electrical firm of Ansaldo Lorenz.

Fatefully in December 1934 the issue between Italy and Ethiopia was joined. Each shrieked to heaven that a collection of mud huts called Ualual, located variously on various maps, had been subjected to aggression by the other. Months afterward a League of Nations commission decided that for the Ualual Incident neither Italians nor Ethiopians nor anyone else was to blame.

By that time, though, the Man of the Year was fully in the making. He flashed off cables, smoking hot with pathos, righteousness, defiance and more-in-sorrow-than-in-anger which made front pages throughout Christendom. It was sheer genius for Haile Selassie to deny that Italians used dum-dum bullets instead of charging them with that military offense. It was again genius for him to cable out that in Ethiopia the local press had been ordered by the Emperor never to apply discourteous epithets to Benito Mussolini. Finally only genius could enable the Emperor to put himself \u2014 a frail, exquisite Semite who speaks French \u2014 in terms of friendly respect with robust Anglo-Saxon correspondents when they arrived in Addis Ababa and promptly nicknamed him "Little Charlie."

If the Covenant of the League of Nations be law, then in law Ethiopia and Haile Selassie are right and Italy and Benito Mussolini are wrong. The only trouble is that that portion of the white race represented by 44,000,000 Italians has opened hostilities and in the sphere of law Italy contends \u2014 much too late for popular acceptance—that under the League Covenant, membership in the League of Nations is barred to states in which slavery still flourishes, as it unquestionably does in Ethiopia. Therefore, argues Italy, the original mistake of admitting Ethiopia to the League should be corrected by ousting Ethiopia, after which Italy would have exactly as good a right there as Britain has in Egypt.

In successfully brushing aside these contentions of a Great Power; in dextrously pitching the issue of war on such grounds that the white race in general feels the future of the League of Nations to be at stake in the future of a Museum of Peoples in Africa; and in impressing even his own French doctor with his courage, his elevated moral stature and his peculiar genius for brow-beating Ethiopians while he charms foreigners, Emperor Haile Selassie emerged in 1935 not only as Man of the Year but as the world's own inimitable "Little Charlie" for as many years to come as health sustains him.

So What? In the actual zones of Ethiopian war, the number of square miles over-run by Italian forces as the year ended was about 30,000 a mapmaker's fact of doubtful significance. Neutral military experts in Washington, Berlin, Paris and London consider that Premier Mussolini's deepest purposes have not yet been revealed, but that unquestionably he has hamstrung his soldier's war in East Africa by political and diplomatic back-seat driving from Rome. Darting raids by Italian bombers, unaccompanied by troop operations on the ground, have resulted in little more than the enemy's terror and disorganization. After major advances there have been sudden, desultory lulls. Because concurrent maneuvers on the Diplomatic Front have been secret and clandestine, Il Duce is perhaps as good a judge as any of whether bombs and calms judiciously sprinkled in the world press have much affected the game on Europe's green tables. In soldiers' eyes the Italians have made a wretched showing in Ethiopia, and to soldiers Italy's diplomatic showing looks even worse, with Anthony Eden up.

The first and drier half of Ethiopia's "dry" season, in which alone military operations are possible, is now over. Bombs sprinkled around the Man of the Year have failed to get him. If Calvin Coolidge and the U.S. Marines, unhampered by Sanctions, never did succeed in bringing General Sandino to reason in Nicaragua, all the more reason for Haile Selassie to feel that his goose hangs high. On the other hand, should Mussolini decide that the diplomatic game is up, Italy's forces should be able to give a better account of themselves than they have thus far.

New Deal. Few months ago Dr. Sassard wrote of his patient: "The Emperor will undoubtedly fight at the head of his troops." In ringing proclamations His Majesty has more than once promised to do so. Simple Ethiopians expect any ruler worth his salt to remain for the duration of the war physically in the thick of the fight. Instead, both before hostilities began and since, Haile Selassie has kept Europe's diplomats well supplied with offers to make peace by selling or bartering parts of the empire, emitting at the same time declarations to the world press that he will part with "not an inch" of Ethiopian soil. If these Imperial activities resemble a Semitic tradesman's strident, righteous protestations and simultaneous readiness to compromise, they are not the Man of the Year's fault but aspects of his God-given character.

In Addis Ababa warrior chiefs of the Noble Savage type bitterly and contemptuously complain, "Our Emperor is a businessman " They should thank Ethiopia's stars. The astounding marvel is that Africa's unique Museum of Peoples has produced a businessman \u2014 with high-pressure publicity, compelling sales talk, the morals of a patent medicine advertisement, a grasp of both savage and diplomatic mentality, and finally with plenty of what Hollywood calls IT. The Emperor was "too smart" only once in 1935, when he tried by granting the Rickett Concession to Standard Oil to embroil the U.S. directly in Ethiopia's defense. In His Majesty's favorite phrase the entire situation is still "subject to negotiation."

Fortnight ago the Imperial Businessman had instructed Al Smith's publicity director, Josef Israels II, to tell the world that His Majesty was willing to settle on terms only slightly more generous to Ethiopia than those offered by The Deal of Hoare & Laval. He was willing to yield a great chunk of his empire in exchange for peace and a corridor to the Red Sea. The resignation of Sir Samuel Hoare and the tribulations of Premier Laval last week caused the Imperial Businessman to propose a completely New Deal. Ethiopia's new "basis for discussion," with which the Man of the Year masterfully closed 1935, are that: a) Mussolini's forces

are to withdraw; a) Italy is to pay an indemnity to Ethiopia, and 3) the Great Powers excluding Italy are to be invited to a new game of giving economic, administrative and financial "assistance and advice" to Ethiopia, with Haile Selassie holding all the trumps and calling it Civilization.

TIME EUROPE

October 28, 1935

Ethiopia: Shammash into Dirt

During the past weeks thousands upon thousands of Ethiopian warriors have marched past their Emperor in Addis Ababa before going off to the front and thousands upon thousands more will probably do so in the weeks to come. What made last week's march-by notable were the facts that the Minister of War, grizzled Ras Mulu Getta, was personally leading 100,000 troops to war, and that those near the reviewing stand heard their sad-eyed little Emperor deliver his most moving campaign speech to date.

One chief, followed by his own band of delirious drummers, was bitterly disgraced when his mule suddenly shied in front of the royal stand and sent the rocketing Ras sprawling on the ground. Proudest of the warriors was General Machacha's chief adjutant who went cantering by on a donkey, magnificently arrayed in stiff shirt, dinner jacket, crossed cartridge belt. To these and their followers bushy whiskered little Power of Tinnity cried: "It is not the Emperor who wants war but the Italians who are pushing the fight. We will all die one day, either by typhus or pneumonia, but it is much better to die for your country.

"The Italians will try to repulse you with machine guns. They have machine guns but we have God on our side.

"We urge you not to fight in the traditional old way of massing against the enemy. Guard against hot-headedness, because if the enemy discovers you in angry groups he will burn you as wood in a blaze. . . . If you see an airplane, leave the open spaces and hide in the forest. All soldiers with good guns should then shoot at the plane. When fighting begins you will be within range of the Italian guns. Divest yourselves of shields and spears, because they will form a brilliant target.

"Do not wash your shammash.* Allow them to become dirty and therefore less visible. When we have defeated the invader you may again take up your shields and don clean clothes.

"Comrades I shall be with you on the battlefield to shed my blood freely with yours in defense of our common fatherland. We shall accept no such peace terms as those France proposes. I shall die with you if necessary rather than submit to such humiliation."

Railway Bargain At Awash last week, at the edge of the spidery railroad bridge crossing the Awash River, a Swiss machine gun expert named Whittley was working like mad to protect the only railway in Ethiopia at its most vulnerable point. For this purpose he had at his disposal a carload of Swiss anti-aircraft machine guns of the latest model, all the ammunition he required, and a thousand black soldiers who were the worst shots Expert Whittley had ever seen. Finally he figured out a system to offset his gun crews' miserable marksmanship.

Because of the steep slopes on either side of the railway line any Italian plane attempting to bomb the bridge must fly low directly overhead. Whittley arranged his guns in star-shaped formation with sights screwed tight and set for an imaginary point just above the centre of the bridge. Providing the Ethiopian soldiers remembered where the triggers were at the right moment, they were sure to pink any plane that entered the field of fire.

The official name of the only railway in Ethiopia is Compagnie du Chemin de Fer Franco-Ethiopien de Djibouti à Addis Ababa. Between magnificent modern stations at either end of the line stretch 494 miles of rough, single-track narrow-gauge roadbed over which a collection of ramshackle second-hand French rolling stock normally makes bi-weekly trips. One of the few pieces of equipment which can compare in splendor with the two terminals is Emperor Haile Selassie's white private car. Because natives along the barren right-of-way are in the habit of prying up steel rails to beat into swords and spearheads, ordinary trains travel only about 10 m.p.h., take three full days to make the trip. Pride of the line is the Addis Ababa Flyer, a weekly express that in the dry season covers the 494 miles in 36 hours. Nothing moves at night.

In 1894 France persuaded suspicious Emperor Menelik to let her build an Ethiopian railroad. Not till 1917 was the last spike

driven. Since then the road has carried 75% of Ethiopia's foreign trade, and in 1933 returned a profit of 200 francs per transported ton to its French investors, who then owned 20,000 out of 34,000 shares. Part of Pierre Laval's deal with Benito Mussolini last January was the sale of 2,500 French shares of railroad stock to the Italian Government.

Early this month France quietly did her best to make sure that there would be no bombing of her road by moving 200 white and colonial troops into Dire Dawa, biggest town along the line, as a railway guard. Britain, which already had a heavily armed force at the British legation at Addis Ababa, warned Rome that because of the number of foreigners at Dire Dawa and Addis Ababa, any attempt to cut the railroad to Djibouti and the outside world would be considered an unfriendly act. Heeding all this, Italy last week was reported to have offered to spare the railroad if Emperor Haile Selassie would remove all troops and munitions from Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa. The King of Kings was supposed to have turned down this proposal on the ground that he needed his troops in those two towns to protect foreigners from his civilian subjects. Next offer was to spare the road if Ethiopia promised to transport no munitions on it. Haile Selassie appeared to leap at this idea. Since the League lifted its arms embargo against Ethiopia, guns and ammunition have been coming into the black empire, not by way of the railroad from Djibouti but by motor truck to Harar 125 miles from the British Somaliland border.

*The white cotton wrap-around by all Ethiopian men

TIME EUROPE
July 13, 1936

The League: Answering Ethiopia

In his Geneva hotel suite one morning last week young British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, his brow worry-puckered, argued and pleaded with dusky members of Haile Selassie's entourage, trying to persuade them to advise His Majesty not to inconvenience the Great Powers by personally arising in the League Assembly to air Ethiopia's wrongs.

"Tell your Emperor that no head of a State has ever addressed the League-it would be unprecedented!" cried young Tony Eden with his British reverence for precedent. "The Emperor really must not appear. It would compromise his imperial dignity."

The Ethiopians, as they left Captain Eden and proceeded to blab his solicitude for Haile Selassie's dignity, knew that both the Credentials Committee and the Steering Committee of the Assembly had been secretly considering British formulas to bar His Majesty from speaking before the League. It was now or never, and His Majesty might not even have been permitted to address the League Assembly last week had not impetuous Irish Free State President Eamon de Valera blazed: "I am unwilling that there should even be discussion of his undoubted right to speak!"

"Sacred Mission." President of the Assembly was that famed little Czechoslovak, Dr. Eduard Benes, but he could not leave home, having been elected President of his Republic. The Assembly therefore had to elect a President last week, chose Premier Professor Paul van Zeeland of Belgium, who played an important backstairs role in promoting the Hoare-Laval deal which nearly made peace between Italy and Ethiopia last winter. Once in the chair, Professor van Zeeland read to the Assembly an extremely long and conciliatory note from Italy most pleasing to Britain. It promised that Il Duce will not raise a great Ethiopian army of conscript blacks-the one thing Britain fears, since with it Italy might upset the balance of power in Africa-and concluded in Benito Mussolini's nearest approach to a dove-cooing vein: "Italy will consider it an honor to inform the League of Nations of the progress achieved in her work of civilizing Ethiopia. . . . Italy views this work as a sacred mission and proposes to carry it out according to the principles of the League Covenant."

Meanwhile Ethiopia's ousted Emperor had quietly entered the Assembly Hall in tropical white tunic and black cape, having checked his broad-brimmed hat outside. His Majesty, taking a seat in the fifth row, sat quietly through van Zeeland's reading of Il Duce's note. He also sat through a long speech by flowery Delegate José Maria Cantilo of Argentina, the country which had demanded that the Assembly meet on the Ethiopian Question. Harking back to President Hoover's meticulous Secretary of State Henry Lewis Stimson, the Argentine recalled in rosy terms the "Stimson Doctrine" of simply not recognizing that Japan has made a great conquest in China and dominates Manchukuo. According to Señor Cantilo this Stimson Doctrine could well be applied today not only to Manchukuo but also to Ethiopia-its great attraction to harassed statesmen being that it enables them to give an imposing name to doing nothing and omitting year after year to make up their minds.

Bedlam. Finally Professor van Zeeland called Emperor Haile Selassie, and the bird-like little Ethiopian advanced to the League

tribune. As he picked up the 17-page typescript of his speech a flutter of applause stirred in the general gallery. For Italian journalists in the press gallery this was the last straw. Jangle-nerved after months of watching Italy badgered with Sanctions at Geneva, they jumped up, bellowed jeers and curses at the Emperor, screamed "Viva Il Duce!" Swiss police had never before in the polite League's history had to deal with hecklers in the press box. For ten minutes the Fascists kept up bedlam, until they went down before an entire platoon of Geneva's finest, who yanked them by their coat collars off to jail. Next day the Socialist canton of Geneva expelled them all-some Italian journalists of ten years' standing with families in Geneva. But they received wires of praise from Italy's new Press & Propaganda Secretary Odoardo Dino Alfieri for a Fascist escapade at which the London Times looked down its stern nose thus: "Nothing else was wanting to add the last touch of dignity to one side of the contest and to remove the last traces of it upon the other."

Selassie Speaks. Always the embodiment of bird-like grace and dignity, Ethiopia's Emperor read his speech in Amharic, a dignified language in which the syllables telescope into each other so closely that for minutes at a time His Majesty seemed to be uttering one enormous word. Small League fry had no idea what he was saying, but big League wigs listened through earphones to simultaneous translations of the speech, getting it by the flick of a switch in either French or English. Everyone agreed that it was a great speech-one of the noblest, most factual, irrefutable and moving ever made before the League of Nations. Yet it was totally without effect on Geneva's sleek, hard, slippery statesmen. Noble excerpts:

"I, Haile Selassie I, Emperor of Ethiopia, am here today to claim that justice which is due to my people and the assistance promised eight months ago, when 50 nations asserted that aggression had been committed in violation of international treaties.

"It is my duty here to inform the Governments assembled at Geneva-responsible as they are for the lives of men, women and children \u2014 of the deadly peril which threatens them by describing to them the fate which has been suffered by Ethiopia. It is not only upon the warriors that the Italian Government has made war. It has above all attacked populations far removed from hostilities in order to terrorize and exterminate them ... Special sprayers were installed on board aircraft so they could vaporize over vast areas of territory a fine, death-dealing rain. Groups of nine, 15 or 18 aircraft followed one another so that the fog issuing from them formed a continuous sheet. It was thus that, as from the end of January 1936, soldiers, women, children, cattle, rivers, lakes and pastures were drenched continually with this deadly rain. In order to kill off systematically all living creatures and in order more surely to poison the waters and pastures, the Italian command made its aircraft pass over & over again.

"These fearful tactics succeeded. Men and animals succumbed. The deadly rain that fell from the aircraft made all those whom it touched fly shrieking with pain. All those who drank poisoned water or ate infected food also succumbed in dreadful suffering. In tens of thousands the victims of Italian mustard gas fell."

Concluded Haile Selassie, whose name means Power of Trinity: "Apart from the Kingdom of the Lord, there is not on this earth any nation superior to any other. Are the States going to set up the terrible precedent of bowing before force? ... It is international morality which is at stake! ... Representatives of the world, I have come to Geneva to discharge in your midst the most painful of duties for the head of a State. What reply have I to take back to my people?"

"Almost Ridiculous." In reply to His Majesty, thousands and tens of thousands of weasel words were pronounced by the orators of over 50 nations. Of these Premier Léon Blum of France, new to Geneva, drew the most eager audience for a speech which rose entirely above Italy and Ethiopia, a land which Orator Blum succeeded in mentioning only once. There was no one theme in Premier Blum's discourse, but there were many themes, and he sounded them like an organist pulling out random stops here & there with a not unmelodious effect. "The world is filled with menace. The shadows grow heavy," cried Léon Blum. "Mystery enshrouds the armaments of celtam States. . . . They are shaking the dice of war!"

"Collective Security," went on Socialist Blum, essaying another theme, "Collective Security must be nothing more than a pure implement for peace, and its operation ought not normally to contain any danger of war. That means that, if it is to be complete, Collective Security must be combined with General Disarmament." Chances for obtaining that, admitted M. Blum, are so poor as to seem "almost ridiculous."

Nobody was to get the idea that France would not fight if duly provoked. To this theme Léon Blum passed dexterously, seeking to reassure the Little Entente allies of France who today are afraid his new Socialist Cabinet may not prove trustworthy in their defense. "Because we had dedicated ourselves to peace," said the Premier, "we did not resist when the Rhineland was occupied in defiance of treaties. But, Messieurs, does anyone think our reaction would have been the same if [the Germans] had so much as touched our soil or the soil of other countries which we guarantee?"

In print these might seem bold words, but Premier Blum spoke in the low, monotonous voice of a teacher reading some well-worn lecture to his class. Gloomily he concluded: "Faith in peace is shaken. The final catastrophe seems to be preferred to the anguish of waiting."

Strengtheners V. Modifiers. South Africa's clean-cut Charles Theodore de Water alone demanded pressing on with Sanctions against Italy, saying that to lift them "will shatter for generations all international confidence and all hope of realizing world peace!"

At the other extreme Canada's mealy-mouthed Vincent Massey called for immediate lifting of Sanctions on the startling theory that that would be "fairer to Ethiopia."

"The hope of millions of men has been extinguished," orated Australia's smooth Stanley Melbourne Bruce. "We must rekindle that hope."

Only the great League powers whose capitals are London, Paris and Moscow could give Geneva any lead in attempting this obvious task. Speakers for small nations took cues from them, and at length it loosely appeared that the Assembly was divided between those who would "modify" the League by weakening it and those who would "strengthen" the League. Irresolute French Foreign Minister Yvon Delbos hunted with the Strengtheners, led by Soviet Foreign Minister Maxim Maximovich Litvinoff, and ran with the Modifiers of whom British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden was among the most fleet.

A sort of stooge for Mr. Eden was The Netherlands' Foreign Minister Dr. A. C. D. de Graeff who wanted to modify the League until it became "purely consultative," coax Germany back into it, and abolish forever all Sanctions "except the one Sanction that an aggressor would be automatically expelled from the League." On the other hand, Comrade Litvinoff claimed that existing League machinery is basically excellent, only needs strengthening. Cried he: "The League made a tremendous step forward when an overwhelming majority of its members, regardless of substantial material sacrifices, came to the assistance, even unsuccessfully; of the fellow member which was attacked!"

"Next time," predicted optimist Litvinoff, "the victim will be saved from the aggressor altogether!"

This was flatly contradicted by President Eamon de Valera of the Irish Free State. "In the next conflict the same situation will prevail," he predicted with such contagious gloom that the only female delegate, Swedish Spinster Kersten Hesselgren wailed: "Why bear children into a world so hopeless and insecure?" A Czechoslovak photographer was so depressed that he became last week the first individual ever to shoot himself in the Assembly, put a bullet through his chest and fell weltering in a gush of blood.

"Is there a doctor among those present?" calmly queried President van Zeeland. To the suicide rushed Canadian Delegate Philippe Roy, M.D., the patient later dying in a Geneva hospital from internal hemorrhages.

Last Stands. Emperor Haile Selassie last month embarrassed London by asking for "safe conduct" back to Ethiopia through the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Last week the Imperial Ethiopian slipped into the League's woodpile two more demands which seemed to be his last stands. Immediately the Geneva logrollers countered with a so-called "resolution." President van Zeeland of the Assembly claimed that this intentionally vague resolution sufficiently covered the Emperor's first demand, which was that the Assembly vote yes or no on whether it would refuse to recognize Italy's conquest. Therefore Ethiopia's No. 1 last stand never came to a vote.

Ethiopia's No.2 was a demand that the Assembly vote yes or no on whether \$50,000,000 shall be loaned to the Ethiopian Government of Haile Selassie. Professor van Zeeland asked for a poll by vocal roll-call. So visibly ashamed were the League delegates not to vote \$50,000,000 into the pockets of the Emperor that 23 said "no" in tones barely audible, 25 maintained shamefaced silence, nine were not present, and only the Emperor's doughty General Ras Nassibu shouted out the solitary "YES!" for Justice and \$50,000,000. At this result His Majesty was afterward said by his entourage to be "disgusted, disheartened and disillusioned."

Sanctions Lifted. By the time the League Assembly finally got down to cases after a fatiguing midnight session many correspondents were so muddled by the confused events of the week that their dispatches were far from newsworthy, obscuring in many cases the actual result of the final vote: **SANCTIONS WERE LIFTED FROM ITALY BY THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND ETHIOPIA IS FINISHED.**

The Assembly can only "decide" so momentous a point by unanimity and to the last the Ethiopians resisted all pressure to make them join in voting to lift Sanctions. It was therefore necessary to "resolve" to lift Sanctions which could be done by a simple majority. In the final count Ethiopia alone voted to keep Sanctions on. Notwithstanding all South Africa's brave talk, she abstained from voting, as did Chile, Venezuela, and Panama. Every other League State represented in the Assembly last week (44) "resolved" to end Sanctions. This week the Sanctions Committee set July 15 as the official Sanctions ending date.

Not the End. As the delegates hastily left Geneva for their home capitals, most privately agreed that by far the best speech of the week had been made by the Irish Free State's Eamon de Valera and that these were his most trenchant words: "If the great powers of Europe would only meet now in that peace conference which will have to be held after Europe has once again been drenched in blood; if they would be prepared to make now, in advance, only a tithe of the sacrifice each of them would have to make when war was begun, the terrible menace which threatens us all today could be warded off. "The problems that distract Europe today should not be left for soldiers to decide ... They should be tackled now by the statesmen."

TIME EUROPE
May 12, 1941

Home Is the Negus

The steaming city of Addis Ababa last week prepared to welcome home its conquering Lion of Judah, Emperor Haile Selassie, King of Kings, who was ousted from his throne by the Italians five years ago last week. Houses were decorated with the national colors (green, yellow & red) and native artists were busy painting pictures of the Negus as St. George slaying an Italian dragon with help from the British Army. Togaed Ethiopians massed in the main square and cheered as a radio announcer read out the names of the first 250 Italians to be sent to internment camps, while some 10,000 Italians moved into ghettos to await internment or deliverance.

In a dim, wind-swept palace on a hilltop outside Addis Ababa the Emperor received a New York Herald Tribune correspondent, bulky Hiram Blauvelt, and delivered himself of an interview. The Negus said he was grateful to the British forgetting him back his throne; that he was grateful to the U.S. for the help sent his country's time of distress; that he was glad Ethiopia was joining Britain and the U.S. as one of the world's free countries that he was still a member of the American Museum of Natural History.

Correspondent Blauvelt duly noted the intelligence and backed out of the presence, inadvertently stepping on the tail of the Emperor's favorite dog, which let out a series of piercing yelps. Next morning the King of Kings mounted a twelve foot dais and appointed three generals in his Army. His son, Crown Prince Asfa Wassan, he appointed a lieutenant general. His son, the Duke of Harar, he appointed a major general. The son of his second cousin, Chieftain Ras Kassa, he appointed a brigadier general. The two sons each got a kiss on each cheek for good measure.

At week's end, however, the Negus had still not made his triumphal re-entry in Addis Ababa.

TIME EUROPE
November 11, 1957

The Day of Fulfillment

A 21-gun salute ushered in the sunrise across the eucalyptus-covered hills around Ethiopia's capital of Addis Ababa. In George Cathedral more than 100 stocking footed priests of the Coptic Christian Church began their matins to the booming rhythms of a throbbing bass drum and the jangle of silver rattles. In the street thousands of adoring subjects set up a howling cry of greeting for Emperor Haile Selassie, the Conquering Lion of Judah, Elect of God and 225th in a long line Ethiopian emperors who traced their ancestry back to the Queen of Sheba herself. A moment later, the tiny, dignified bearded monarch, resplendent in blue uniform and green sash all enveloped in a red-lined cloak, stepped out of a sleek green and black Rolls-Royce and entered the church to begin the ceremonies.

The Person of the Emperor. "This the day," the little Emperor told his subjects soon afterward, "of fulfillment of the gracious pledge so often reiterated by us, that our beloved people are to share in the responsibility of the public affairs of our government." Facing him in the parliamentary chamber were 210 representatives of the people, victors in the first election ever

held in Ethiopia's 3,000-year history of autocratic rule.

The legislators stood respectfully before their seats as the Emperor spoke, for Haile Selassie's newly promulgated constitution made one point inescapably clear: "By virtue of His Imperial Blood as well as by the anointing which He has received, the person of the Emperor sacred, His dignity is inviolable and His Powers indisputable."

Who Then? Haile Selassie himself has been solely responsible for bringing his backward people closer to the trend of times. In his speech from the throne, the Emperor summed up some of the accomplishments of his 27-year reign: the adoption of his nation's first constitution, first popular elections, the inauguration public welfare, health and education programs. "If we had not provided our people with the opportunity for developing their knowledge," he asked, "who then could have commended or criticized our activities?"

Still as uncertain as new schoolboys of the exact nature of their function, newly elected legislators of Ethiopia were unlikely to criticize the Emperor's activities very strongly for some time to come. The constitution makes the Cabinet responsible not to them but to the Emperor, gives him the power to appoint every member of the Senate. But thanks Haile Selassie, they were there in the Parliament, empowered and even encouraged to voice the will of their constituents. For the people of Ethiopia, it was a major improvement on the past, when the only way to make a complaint or get a petition past the Emperor's guardian bureaucracy was to toss the document into his car as it rolled along the streets.

TIME EUROPE

December 26, 1960

Ambitious Heir

Dispensing gold coins and handing out \$200 tips, Emperor Haile Selassie was enjoying himself in imperial fashion on a state visit to Brazil when a ham radio operator in Addis Ababa flashed the bad news. "Calling everybody, calling everybody! Ethiopia is in a critical state following a coup d'état." Glumly, the Emperor lunched in his São Paulo hotel room on lobster thermidor, stared out the window and pondered the unkindest cut of all. The revolt had apparently been led by his own son and heir, Crown Prince Asfa Wassan. 44. By that night the Lion of Judah was back on his private DC-6B and bound for home.

The Discontents. The plot had been brewing for a year or more, and the plotters cut across Ethiopia's educated elite. In on the game, tacitly or actively, were Cabinet ministers, top bureaucrats, army colonels, students returning from studies abroad. They came from the class that Haile Selassie must count on to help bring Ethiopia into the modern world-but it is just this group that is most repelled by the trappings of a feudal monarchy. The plotters had no clear political coloration, though one of the ringleaders, former Ambassador to Washington Ras Imru, returned from the U.S. in 1953 bitter over what he considered to be racial snubs.

The plotters had a problem: in Coptic Christian Ethiopia, only an acknowledged descendant of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba would be accepted as a proper ruler by the 90% illiterate populace. After nervous speculation, the plotters approached Crown Prince Asfa Wassan himself, knowing that father and son have disliked each other for years. The Emperor had always favored a younger son Prince Makonnen (who was killed in an automobile accident three years ago), made it obvious that he considered Asfa Wassan none too bright, often subjected him to public humiliation. When Asfa Wassan wishes to speak to his father, he must first grovel with his face in the dirt like any other lowly subject. In August 1959 the Crown Prince agreed to join the conspiracy.

The plotters bided their time (and even put down one subplot to assassinate the Emperor last year). But Haile Selassie's trip to remote Brazil seemed ideal. One morning before dawn the Imperial Guard, led by rebel officers, seized strong points in Addis Ababa, including all communication centers. Asfa Wassan named Imru as Premier and went on the radio to explain that the purpose of the coup was to end "3,000 years of injustice ... The Ethiopian people have waited patiently to be freed of oppression, poverty and ignorance." The Crown Prince promised to set up a true constitutional monarchy, and to allow the creation of political parties-for which his father has no taste. In the Congo, Ethiopian Chargé d'Affaires Sabour Ahadou gleefully got out a statement hailing the coup as "the long-awaited revolution that marks the end of centuries of feudal oppression, injustice, arbitrary personal rule, corruption, suppression of fundamental human rights and the imprisonment of thousands of people."

In the Dirt. But they had all reckoned without the tough streak in the little Lion of Judah-and without his still widespread popularity. Haile Selassie flew straight for the airstrip in Asmara in Ethiopia's Red Sea state of Eritrea, which was still under command of a loyal general. As his plane grew nearer, the plotters' fortunes began to wane. They could not even secure control of all Addis Ababa and shells whistled into the center of town from loyalist army posts. In frustration, the rebels shot a few government officials they had captured and then fled into the mountains. Haile Selassie landed at Asmara to wild cheers and the usual earth-scraping bows.

Crown Prince Asfa Wassan would doubtless dip his nose an inch or two lower in the dirt on his next meeting with father. Haile Selassie made it scornfully clear that he considered Asfa Wassan only a dupe of others, "acting under coercion." The seeds of unrest among the educated minority of Ethiopians were still there and would grow. But it would take a stronger man than Asfa Wassan to snatch power from the little Lion of Judah.

THE ONCE AND FUTURE KING

Like all Ethiopian royalty, curly-bearded Emperor Haile Selassie traces his ancestry back to the match between King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. His Semite-Hamite blood lines show in his stern law and aquiline nose. But in practical fact, his hold on the Ethiopian throne has been due less to ancestry than to his ability to outplot Ethiopia's best plotters.

He plotted his own way to the throne. Back in 1916, he was only an ambitious young ras (marshal) named Tafari in the eastern province of Harar when he teamed up with a female cousin in a plot that toppled the playboy Emperor Lij Yasu. Ras Tafari pursued the fugitive Lij Yasu for five years, caught him, threw him in prison and kept him bound in golden chains for 14 years until he died in 1935. Though his cousin became the Empress Zauditu, Ras Tafari gradually emerged as the country's strongman. Upon the Empress' death in 1930 he mounted the throne (with typical flamboyance, he had five pet lions chained to the coronation dais). He took unto himself the name of Haile Selassie ("Power of the Trinity") and the titles Elect of God, King of Kings and Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

In Exile. Benito Mussolini made Haile Selassie a world figure, known from the League of Nations to Tin Pan Alley. As his barefoot troops fell back before the 1935-36 Italian invasion, the Emperor trekked to Geneva to ask help from the League of Nations. A tiny (he is only 5 ft. 4 in. tall) but imperious figure, Haile Selassie seemed gallant and curiously impressive even in defeat. When the League declined to save his country for him, he settled down in Britain, where he checked his crown in a bank vault. Four years later, as the British army mounted an offensive against the Italians, Haile Selassie flew to Alexandria, changed to his commander in chief's uniform in the men's room at the airport, and soon went on to Addis Ababa with the conquering army.

The Emperor has found the postwar world more baffling. At first he sided with the West, sent crack troops to Korea. Then he caught the neutralist bug, and last year set off on a flurry of state visits to "our great friend" Tito, to Nasser, to Russia and Czechoslovakia. He brought back a \$100 million Soviet loan.

Presenting Face. Though Haile Selassie describes his government as "state socialism," it is in fact still absolute monarchy. To secure even the smallest government post, the applicant must go through the ritual of 'feet mahswagaht' which means "making one's face apparent." Each morning, the applicant lines up in front of the palace and waits for the Emperor to walk past, in hope of catching the royal eye. Eventually, if lucky, he gets an audience where, with his face pressed to the floor, he blurts out his qualifications and accepts whatever favor the Emperor is in the mood to dispense. The Emperor's powerful ally is the hierarchy of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, which owns 40% of Ethiopia's land and resists any effort to alter this profitable situation.

Educated Ethiopians, including 400 who have studied abroad, are naturally resentful of 'feet mahswagaht' and other trappings of the past. But the Emperor, still spry at 68, has no intention of rushing into democracy too fast. His apologists point out that already under Haile Selassie's rule, such venerable Ethiopian customs as slavery, the cutting off of a thief's right hand and the Festival of Raw Meat (where dinner is carved from just-slaughtered cattle while the diners wait) have virtually disappeared.

TIME EUROPE

February 12, 1965

A Wing on the Palace

In an age of rockets and revolution, monarchy rarely receives its due. Not so last week in the mountainous realm of His Imperial

Majesty Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia. The Lion of Judah knows how to roll out a red carpet \u2014 and indeed when Queen Elizabeth II's bellowing VC-10 jetliner appeared over Addis Ababa last week, an Ethiopian army truck was still nudging its way through the airport crowd with yards and yards of the stuff.

Potholes Paved. There was only one word for all the preparations for Elizabeth's eight-day visit: imperial. Haile Selassie knew that it was the Queen's first call in East Africa since her father, King George VI, died in 1952 while Elizabeth was visiting Kenya's Royal Aberdare Game Preserve. As if to ease the memory of that painful experience, the Emperor had paved the pot-holed road from the capital to the British embassy compound on the outskirts of Addis, set 600 laborers to work planting trees and laying acres of sod to tidy up the city's new, U.S.-financed, \$2,500,000 Municipal Center.

The Emperor added an entire wing to his splendiferous Jubilee Palace so that Elizabeth and her entourage of 31 could be properly housed. Meanwhile, fire engines roared through town hanging royal portraits from every lamp post. The Emperor's lions, which usually roam the palace grounds unattended, were hosed down, dusted with flea powder, and chained tight to avoid embarrassment.

Precarious Trail. The tour itself went off like African clockwork. Delays were commonplace. Vast crowds surged around Elizabeth and Prince Philip as they were whirled through Addis in the Emperor's Rolls-Royce, which broke down only once. At one point they transferred to the silken cab of a green and scarlet imperial coach pulled by a team of six Lippizaner horses. They dined on lamb, watt (Ethiopia's excellent meat and vegetable stew), tedj \u2014 a honey-based mead, and Taitinger champagne. The imperial touch was also present when Elizabeth journeyed over the dusty plain to Asmara, where she was greeted by dancing spearsmen and was delightfully dive-bombed by an Ethiopian army plane. The bomb load was flower petals.

Elizabeth visited the Wingate School, named for Britain's mystical guerrilla leader Major General Orde Wingate, whose troops had liberated Ethiopia from Italian occupation in 1941 and permitted Haile Selassie to return home from his London exile. The Queen also visited Gondar and hiked a mile up a precarious mountain trail to look out over Tisisat Falls, a breathtaking scene near the source of the Blue Nile. Less than a century ago, a 32,000-man British force under Sir Robert Napier had crossed the same kind of trails (along with some 30,000 beasts of burden, including 45 elephants) to defeat Haile Selassie's famous predecessor, Emperor Theodore. Quite naturally, none of that imperial adventuring was recalled last week.

TIME EUROPE

April 29, 1966

The Caribbean: The Lion Comes Calling

The frail little visitor, in full military regalia and a Sam Browne belt, stepped majestically into the waiting Bentley in Trinidad-Tobago's capital of Port-of-Spain. Thousands of cheering Negroes lined the streets, and one man gallantly pulled off his shirt and laid it in the path of the visitor's car. Later, 1,100 schoolchildren put on a dance extravaganza. Then, seated on a throne beneath a purple canopy in a makeshift church on Port-of-Spain's outskirts, the visitor watched impassively as incense-swinging priests murmured prayers and the high priest read a long eulogy. Thus last week did Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia, Lion of Judah, King of Kings and Elect of God, begin a week's visit to the three tiny Negro countries of Trinidad-Tobago, Jamaica and Haiti.

A Chance to Bask. What in heaven's name was the Elect of God doing in the Caribbean, 7,500 miles from his own kingdom? Family ties, of a sort. The people of the three countries, most of whose ancestors came from Africa, share a sense of brotherhood and a deep feeling for African rulers, especially for an African king such as Selassie. They also share a similar history of colonialism, mixed populations and economic problems. Since they gained their independence in 1962, both Trinidad-Tobago and Jamaica have seen their economies slow down and unemployment rise. As for Haiti, its economy has always been a mess, and only gets worse every year.

Selassie's visit, marked by pomp and circumstance from beginning to end, helped take the minds of the people off such problems for a few days, gave their leaders a chance to bask in Selassie's reflected glory. Trinidad-Tobago's Prime Minister Eric Williams, who extended the original invitation to Selassie two years ago, kept his visitor visible and on the go, attending receptions, laying wreaths and setting cornerstones. In the small, ornate parliamentary chamber of the country's "Red House," Selassie pleased everyone by calling for closer ties between "the two great peoples" of Ethiopia and Trinidad-Tobago.

Eaten & Trampled. At Selassie's second stop, in Kingston, Jamaica, the airport was mobbed by 2,000 members of a minority Negro cult called the Rastafarians, who worship Selassie as God and want the Jamaican government to send them "home" to Ethiopia. Prime Minister Sir Alexander Bustamante, 82, has discouraged such repatriation, saying wryly: "We must protect them. They would just get out there in the jungle and be trampled by elephants and eaten by the lions." Undiscouraged the Rastas showed up at the airport waving placards reading "Hail to the Lord Anointed" and chanting "Selassie is Christ" and "Welcome to our God and King." Somewhat taken aback, Selassie was quickly bundled into a waiting car and rushed to a reception, where he observed politely that he had found the welcoming demonstration "beyond my expectations."

During his stay, Selassie met with the ailing Bustamante, who is almost blind from cataracts, received an LL.D. degree from Kingston's University of the West Indies and visited Montego Bay. In an address to the Jamaican Parliament in Gordon House, he vaguely held out the hint of aid. "We must expand material and other cooperation he said. "We must remember that many states today representing major parts of the world were once weak, but through a process of assimilation and combination have become strong."

Dubious Honor. From one of the hemisphere's newest countries, Selassie was scheduled to proceed to one of oldest-Haiti. There, conditions are bleak under Dictator Francois ("Papa Doc") Duvalier that the country is hardly in better shape than when it won independence from France in 1804. Determined to give Selassie a proper reception, the government scraped deep into its depleted treasury for \$100,000 used it to plant flagpoles along the two-mile length of road from the airport to the capital of Port-au-Prince, place festive flags all over the city and pour fresh concrete along part of the route so that the Lion of Judah would not be overcome by dust. The high point of Selassie's crowded, one-day visit was the naming of the just-completed airport road "Boulevard Haile Selassie." Such are conditions in Haiti, however, that road dedications can be dubious honors. As he drives toward Port-au-Prince, Selassie can get a good look at Harry Truman Boulevard along the waterfront. It is now six inches deep in mud and completely impassable.

TIME EUROPE
February 24, 1967

Lonely Emperor

The King of Kings, Elect of God, Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah and 255th reigning monarch of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie I, is a lonely man. At 74, he has outlived his wife, who died in 1962, and four of his six children. His son, Crown Prince Asfa Wossen, disappointed his father by cooperating in a 1960 coup attempt and, though since forgiven, enjoys little rapport with the Emperor. Indeed, there are few even in the palace circle who can remember when the Emperor was Tafari Makonnen, the young regent to his empress aunt, who took the throne in 1916 when Nicholas II still reigned as Czar of Russia and Lyndon Johnson was in the fourth grade. He went on to win the world's admiration with his grave defiance of Mussolini's legions in the '30s (he was TIME's Man of the Year in 1936), and has remained a durable symbol of courage ever since.

Haile Selassie combats his mounting loneliness with travel and personal diplomacy, and his slight (5 ft. 4 in., 100 lbs.) figure, topped by a face like a Byzantine icon, has become familiar to millions around the world. Last week he came to the U.S. to tell Lyndon Johnson about the problems of Ethiopia, a Christian country flanked by Moslems. The Somali Republic, a new (1960) Moslem nation on his eastern border, has laid claim to much of his land, and has backed up the claim with Russian arms and terrorist raids. One of Haile Selassie's principal aims in Washington was to ask President Johnson for more U.S. military aid to protect his borders. The Emperor, however, has not survived for 50 years by leaving his bets unhedged. From the U.S., he flew to Majorca for a day's rest, and thence to Moscow, where this week he hopes to talk the Kremlin into restraining further military aid to the aggressive Somalians.

Close to Absolute. Haile Selassie's beard may be flecked with grey, but his back is still straight and his command over Ethiopia as firm as ever. He has put down three coup attempts in the past six years (for one of which four army officers are now on trial in Addis Ababa). He is, in fact, as close to an absolute ruler as the century will allow. Although he has permitted a Parliament to function for the past twelve years, he alone has the power to choose his Prime Minister. He regularly plays shumshir-the Ethiopian equivalent of musical chairs-to prevent his top ministers from gaining too much power, and he still serves as his nation's highest court: any subject in the land can appeal his grievances to the Emperor and get a personal hearing. To maintain his authority, he employs a 35,000-man army, a 29,000 strong police force, an elite palace guard and three separate intelligence services.

Ethiopia is still a backward nation, but Haile Selassie has tried hard to change it with the times. In 1926, only 291 students were enrolled in all of Ethiopia's schools; today there are more than 300,000. When he came to power, Ethiopia produced little more than subsistence crops and jaded kaffa (coffee); today it has an industrial base that turns out more than 300 products ranging from acids to textiles. Haile Selassie has successfully courted more than a billion dollars worth of foreign investment, receives foreign aid totaling \$150 million a year from such diverse countries as the U.S., Russia, Yugoslavia and India. He has also converted Addis Ababa into a center of black African nationalism by establishing there the Organization of African Unity.

Nothing Unworthy. Even when he is in Addis, Ethiopia's radio and newspapers give top attention to the Emperor's schedule of the previous day before they get around to other news; when he is away, the whole nation follows his progress. The only trouble with the Emperor's trips is that in his absence the entire machinery of government perceptibly slows down. Nothing is unworthy of the Emperor's attention, and he likes to make decisions about almost everything. Officers of the Imperial Golf Club, which is situated on land owned by Selassie, recently had to have the Emperor personally set a date for mowing the grass after the rains.

TIME EUROPE

September 23, 1974

The End of the Lion of Judah

Less than a year ago, he was one of the last absolute monarchs on earth. He appointed governments, made laws, and held life-and-death power over his 26 million subjects. Since February, the once unchallengeable powers of the Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah, King of Kings, Elect of God, Emperor of Ethiopia have gradually been taken away by the reformist young military officers who now dominate his country. Last week even the titles were gone; Haile Selassie, 82, was deposed from the imperial throne he had occupied for almost a half-century.

Glittering Splendor. Last Thursday morning, the aging Emperor was abruptly summoned to the library of Jubilee (recently renamed National) Palace in Addis Ababa. There he confronted representatives of the Armed Forces Coordinating Committee, the collective leadership of the young officers. He stood erect, his eyes glistening, as a proclamation was read denouncing him for having abused the power and dignity of his office and having subverted it for his own gain. The proclamation ended by declaring that Haile Selassie was "deposed from office."

An awkward silence followed. It was broken only when the ex-Emperor protested, "We have served our people in war and peace." Minutes later, he was led out of his marble palace to a tiny blue two-door Volkswagen. The monarch who for years had been chauffeur-driven in a huge maroon Mercedes-Benz limousine could still not believe what was happening to him. "What? In there?" he asked incredulously. "Yes, in there," replied an officer courteously, as he pulled forward the front seat to enable his passenger to squeeze into the rear. As the auto pulled away, Haile Selassie turned for one last look at his imperial palace where he had lived so long in glittering splendor and outside of which lions had once roamed. His view was blocked by hundreds of students who jeered at him and screamed, "Hang the Emperor!"

Within an hour, Radio Ethiopia announced that the nation was no longer under Haile Selassie's "oppressive rule." Throughout the day, spokesmen for the coordinating committee explained that the military had been forced to depose the monarch because he was too old and weak, both physically and mentally. Further, Haile Selassie was charged with committing crimes against the Ethiopian people and with refusing to take measures that might have alleviated the harsh famine in northern Ethiopia, which has so far taken an estimated 100,000 lives.

The proclamation deposing Haile Selassie also suspended the Ethiopian constitution, banned strikes and antimilitary demonstrations and dissolved Parliament. The coordinating committee declared that a provisional military administration would rule until there are free democratic elections (no date was set) and a new constitution is drawn up to provide for—among other things—freedom of speech, land reform and the separation of church and state. Ethiopia's new leaders said that they planned to summon home from Geneva Crown Prince Asfa Wossen, 57, Haile Selassie's son, and anoint him as Ethiopia's King (significantly, not Emperor). Wossen, who is partially paralyzed from a stroke that he suffered two years ago, would be nothing more than a figurehead, and the likelihood is that the country will eventually be proclaimed a republic. Meanwhile, Lieut. General Aman Michael Andom, 50, a popular officer who has been chief of staff of the armed forces, has been named temporary head of the government.

No Protest. Immediately after Haile Selassie's arrest, tanks and troops were rushed to key intersections and public buildings in

Addis Ababa. Instead of protesting the ouster of their monarch, people adorned the tanks with garlands of flowers and personally thanked the soldiers who had affixed green-and-white 'Ethiopia Tikdem' (Ethiopia First) stickers to their helmets. Business in the capital continued as usual.

The calm was undoubtedly the result of a carefully orchestrated campaign by the military to discredit Haile Selassie. It reached a crescendo last Wednesday, the Ethiopian New Year and the day before the Emperor's ouster. For the first time, Patriarch Abuna Teweoflos of the Ethiopian Orthodox (Christian) Church did not mention the Emperor-head of the church to which half the Ethiopians belong-in his sermon. Instead, the patriarch asked God's blessing for the officers' movement. Later in the day the coordinating committee broadcast a scathing attack on Haile Selassie, denouncing him for erecting statues to dead dogs and feeding live ones while thousands died of famine in Wollo province. That evening Ethiopian television for the first time showed pictures of famine victims; the grim reportage was interspersed with shots of the Emperor drinking champagne and admiring huge cakes he had had flown from Europe for state banquets.

At week's end Haile Selassie remained under house arrest in a military headquarters about 30 miles from Addis Ababa. Unless the deposed Emperor refuses to return the moneys that the military claims he has stashed away in coded Swiss bank accounts, the chances are that he will be spared a humiliating show trial for crimes against the state. He may be allowed to remain in Ethiopia; more probably, he will be packed off to exile perhaps to Britain, where he lived almost penuriously from 1936 to 1940 during Italy's occupation of his country. In any case, last week's events clearly marked the end of the public career of the tiny (5 ft. 4 in.) monarch who won the world's heart 38 years ago when he stood on the podium of the League of Nations in Geneva, begging the world's powers to help him oust Mussolini's troops from Ethiopia. "God and history will remember your judgment!" he warned the delegates.

Love Affair. Ethiopia's Tases (feudal lords) in 1916 chose Haile Selassie to be regent and heir to Empress Zauditu. Fourteen years later, when the Empress died suddenly, he was crowned the 255th Emperor of the Menelik line which, legend claims, sprang more than 2,500 years ago from the celebrated love affair between King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. For the next 44 years he ruled unchallenged, except for the Italian occupation and for a brief and abortive palace coup at the end of 1960. During his reign, the Emperor demanded all the obsequiousness due absolute power; no one was allowed to approach him without bowing thrice and job seekers were obliged to prostrate themselves before him.

The Emperor was a founding father of the Organization of African Unity in 1963 and established its headquarters in his capital. At home, though, he seemed concerned mostly with the trappings of progress-inspecting new roads and interviewing youths proposed for scholarships abroad. He did little to initiate changes that might have raised Ethiopia from its position as one of Africa's poorest, least literate and most corrupt nations. His failure to act on economic and social problems triggered the military protests last February and led inexorably to his ouster.

Haile Selassie, for all his failings, acted as a glue binding together Ethiopia's disparate parts. Without him, the country may be increasingly difficult to govern, especially if-as some experts fear-there is a struggle between military men who want to wield total power and those officers (backed by a large number of students and academics) who want a leftist government dominated by civilians. Such a clash would clearly delay the reforms needed to bring Ethiopia belatedly into the 20th century.

TIME EUROPE
September 8, 1975

The Lion Is Freed

Conquering Lion of Judah, King of Kings, Elect of God: in the end, the royal epithets had a hollow, mocking ring. Haile Selassie I, Emperor of Ethiopia, had wielded virtually absolute power for almost six decades-longer than any other contemporary head of state. But when he was finally deposed in September 1974 by the military leaders of the "creeping coup," which had been enveloping Ethiopia for seven months, the tiny (5 ft. 4 in.) ruler was whisked away from his palace in a Volkswagen and imprisoned in a three-room mud hut. Only later was he moved to more comfortable quarters at the Grand Palace. It was there that the aged Lion, still caged, died in his sleep last week, apparently from the aftereffects of recent prostate surgery. He was 83.

Certainly he had clung to power too long for his own good. Haile Selassie was a prisoner of his country's feudal system and backwardness long before he became a prisoner of his own army. His captors charged him with massive corruption and put out

rumors \u2014 never confirmed \u2014 of a fortune totaling several billion dollars salted away in foreign banks. He was also accused of deliberately concealing-for reasons of misplaced national pride or merely personal pride-the extent of the drought and famine that killed 100,000 Ethiopians in 1973-74. Whatever the validity of the charges, they obscure the reputation of the man who in an earlier era tried desperately to bring Ethiopia into the modern world and who, toward the end of his life, became the grand old man of independent Africa. He was the primary force behind the founding of the Organization for African Unity in 1963, and his capital city, Addis Ababa, became its headquarters.

Throughout the Western world, he will perhaps be best remembered for his appearance before the League of Nations in Geneva on June 30, 1936. His country had been overrun by the Blackshirt battalions of Benito Mussolini, whose son-in-law, Count Ciano, ecstatically described the beauty of "bombs opening like red blossoms" upon the Ethiopian highlands. Hundreds of thousands of his barefoot soldiers had been killed by Fascist bombs and mustard gas. A small, bearded, hawk-faced figure with blazing black eyes, he stood at the lectern and declared: "I am here today to claim the justice that is due to my people ... God and history will remember your judgment." Then, as he stepped down, he murmured the words that were to serve as an epitaph not only for the impotent League but for the whole prewar world. "It is us today. It will be you tomorrow."

Some delegates were sympathetic, some embarrassed, but the League took no action against Mussolini. Haile Selassie returned to England, where he lived in a modest manor house outside Bath. Almost five years later, after the British army had driven the Italians from Addis Ababa, he returned to his mountain capital in triumph. His nation had lost several hundred thousand men in battle and in mass execution but the Emperor issued orders to his countrymen that the Italian civilians who chose to stay in Ethiopia should be allowed to do so undisturbed.

Haile Selassie remained in power in long that few of his countrymen can remember the days when he was known as Ras (Duke) Tafari Makonnen. The son of the governor of Harar province eastern Ethiopia, Tafari was distantly related to Emperor Menelik II and was educated at the court in Addis Ababa. After Menelik's death in 1913, the nobility decided that the Emperor's grand son, Lij (Count) Hasu, was too dissolute to take over the throne. They installed Hasu's mother Zauditu, as Empress, and chose Tafari to be her regent and heir to the throne.

In no time, Tafari brought the Empress under his control and imprisoned Lij Hasu, who was kept in chains for the next 19 years. In 1928, Tafari forced the Empress to crown him King, and two years later, when she died mysteriously, he became Emperor. It was then that he took the name Haile Selassie which in Amharic means Power of the Holy Trinity. According to Ethiopian legend, he was 225th in a line of Emperors that extends back almost 3,000 years to Menelik I, son of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.

Imperial Gestures. In his early years as Emperor, Haile Selassie launched a drive to build schools, highways and railways. He granted a new constitution in 1955 that promised Ethiopians equal rights under the law. In the 1960s, he turned Addis Ababa into a modern city. Yet Ethiopia remained a desperately poor land, whose 26 million people still have one of the world's lowest per capita incomes: \$80. As discord grew in the land, the aging Emperor seemed incapable of dealing with it or even understanding it. In early 1974, when an army mutiny for higher pay led to a wave of disorders in the capital, the Emperor handed out wads of bank notes to beggars, seemingly unaware that such imperial gestures were no longer effective.

For a while after his overthrow there were rumors that the new, increasingly leftist military government intended to execute the old Emperor, or allow him to go into exile in exchange for the hoard he was said to have in numerous Swiss banks. Instead, he was permitted to spend his last days in Addis Ababa under an easy house arrest. Servants still addressed him as "Your Imperial Majesty." As recently as last December, he remarked to two foreign visitors, "I can convoke my ministers, generals and relatives whenever I like." After all the decades of absolute power, the old man apparently could not grasp that he had been rendered absolutely powerless.

HIM HAILE SELASSIE LIVES AND REIGNS!