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THE  
MAGAZINE

2654

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—Diana Don

Dear Merry Reader,

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# The MERRY MAGAZINE



Madras, March 14, '36

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## Abyssinia and After

THE recent developments in the war between Italy and Ethiopia have been startling in their suddenness. Italy claims a big victory. Mussolini cries exultingly: "Facts speak for themselves," but quite naturally embroiders them for the special consumption of the sorely tried and bewildered country with which he is monkeying about. This victory has curiously enough synchronised with the attempts of England and France to flourish the olive branch once more. M. Flandin has appealed to the Dictator not to aggravate the situation. The Negus has promptly accepted the offer, as he has always shown his inclination to do so. What is the inwardness of it all? We may indulge in a guess. The rainy season is about to commence. A long period of inactivity and all the dangers implied in it are facing Mussolini. A supreme effort was made to manufacture a victory, and propaganda was put on to make it as spectacular as possible in the estimation of world-opinion. This saves the face of the Dictator, and enables him to agree to hear counsels of peace once again, in the manner of one conferring a favour instead of having to receive it. The motive of prestige, so important where Europe and its colour are ranged against the blacks is something which suits England and France even more vitally than it does Italy. It is almost impossible for the Negus to hope for better terms than those which were decided upon by the Hoare-Laval combine, at a time when Italy was, in a



































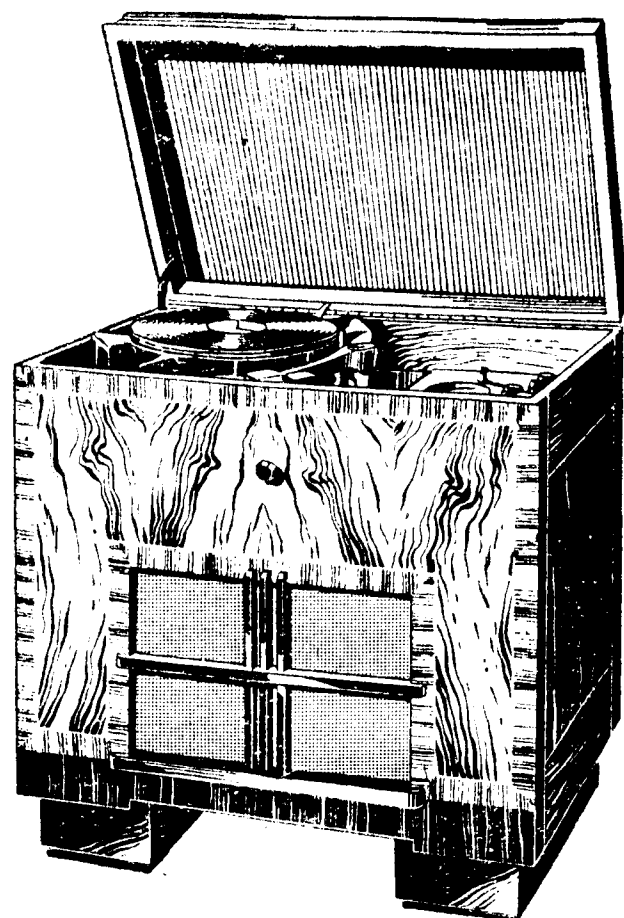












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