

# LITERARY DIGEST

## DECEMBER 25, 1937

### ITALY OUT of the League

**S**EARCHLIGHTS playing upon his face, Benito Mussolini leaned forward on the balcony of the Palazzo Venezia in Rome one evening recently, pounded his right fist into his outstretched left palm, and told 100,000 rain-soaked blackshirts standing in the square below: "It is necessary to choose—whether to be in the League or out of it."

"In it?" asked Mussolini. "No!" shouted the crowd. "Out of it?" asked Mussolini. "Yes!" roared the crowd. Thus Italy abandoned the League of Nations.

Her friction with the League began May 11, 1936, when her delegates stalked out of a lively League Council meeting after it had voted to continue economic sanctions against her over the Ethiopian war.



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