

SPAIN

L.O. - Sunoco. Tues., Feb. 21, 1939.

Word from Paris says that French recognition of Franco may be expected soon. The Paris envoy, who is negotiating at Burgos, is said to have received orders to complete arrangement^s tomorrow - arrangements whereby France, in conjunction with Great Britain, will recognize the Franco regime as the government of Spain.

~~This in spite of the fact that the French don't seem to have got anywhere in negotiating with the insurgent command.~~

The Franco-British idea has been to persuade Franco to grant terms on which the Republicans could surrender. Thus Paris and London would have the prestige of ending the Spanish Civil War. This would raise their position with reference to Italy and Germany, which had^{ve} been backing Franco all along. But Franco has been insisting on unconditional surrender, and today ~~ix~~ his government made public statements that the war would go on and be fought to a finish. The insurgents say they^{now} expect no surrender, and will launch an attack.

This makes it appear that Franco is sticking along with his backers, Mussolini and Hitler, and that the new Spain will join the Rome-Berlin Axis. This is what the British, and especially the

French, would like to prevent - but the word is that they will recognize Franco anyway. ~~Otherwise, they'd be in a worse position than ever for checking Italian and German influence in the councils of Franco's Spain.~~

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Paris today made a proposal to London - saying, let's make some joint military plans. Paris wants London to have the French and British general staffs ~~to~~ get together right now for coordinated action. Why right now? - because of the reinforcements Mussolini has sent to Italian Libya, nextdoor to French Tunis. Sixty-five thousand Italian soldiers now in Libya, a menace to Tunis. ~~All this ties up with Spain because it's generally expected that before Mussolini pulls his soldiers out of that country, he'll make demands on France.~~

In London, Prime Minister Chamberlain said that he saw no hope for a disarmament conference. In a foreign policy debate in the House of Commons, he declared he'd be delighted to call a ~~conference~~ ^{parley} to stop the worldwide piling up of weapons. But, he added, it would be better to have no conference at all than a conference that failed.

AUSTRIAN PLOT

A plot against Hitler is reported today, and a London newspaper does the reporting - the DAILY HERALD, organ of the Labor Party. The scene is laid in Austria, and the story is that Austrian Nazis are ^{(discontented because of} ~~discontented~~ ^{on account of} ~~by~~ the way they've been pushed aside by German Nazis, since Hitler took over Austria.

They are said to have formed an organization of conspiracy in south Tyrol and to have planned an uprising in Vienna. ~~(The plot~~

~~was discovered, so says the account, and seven high Austrian Nazi officials were arrested and thrown into concentration camps, together with a lot of their followers.)~~

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This story is immediately denied by Berlin, which describes it as - pure nonsense. Berlin, however, does let out indications that there has been some sort of trouble in Austria, discord, ~~and rioting~~ - but says it wasn't important enough to be called a conspiracy.

BUND

Today in New York Isadore Greenbaum paid a twenty-five dollar fine, which squared him with the law for his outbreak in Madison Square Garden last night. (At that rally of the Nazis, Fritz Kuhn, leader of the German-American Bund, was shouting a violent anti-Semitic harangue, when Isadore Greenbaum leaped to the speaker's platform and tried to get at him. Today Isadore explained to the judge that he lost his self-control when he heard the American Hitler denouncing the Jewish religion. He also lost his trousers, when police and Nazi storm troopers dragged him off the stand.) Today, moreover, he also lost twenty-five dollars, when the judge fined him that much.

Isadore Greenbaum's various loses were echoed in Germany today - in Nazi newspapers. "Jewish terrorism", shrieks Goebbels' ^uuproarious journal, DER ANGRIFF, which magnifies Isadore ^{Greenbaum} with this [^] declaration: "It is necessary," yells DER ANGRIFF, "to establish who are the backers of this would-be assassin, who are the moral and intellectual instigators." *Berlin thinks it was something terrific.*

To which we answer - "No, Herr Goebbels, it wasn't a mountain, it was only a molehill."

SPIES

In a trial at Los Angeles a panel of jurors was called and some of those prospective jury men were former Army and Navy officers. Today, as the jury was picked, the defense turned "thumbs down" on those one-time officers of the armed services of the United States. The defense used seven of its ten ~~preemptory~~ preemptory challenges to exclude them. So what kind of a trial ^{is} ~~was~~ that, in which ^{the} Army and Navy ~~officers were~~ ^{are} so unpopular with the people on trial.

The defendants are three Russians of Soviet persuasion, two men and a woman. One, a prominent Soviet official on the Pacific Coast, head of the "Intourist Bureau" ^{there --} -- which promotes tourist business for the Soviets. (The woman, a good-looking blonde is his wife. On trial with them is a Russian ~~who once was~~ employed by the United States Naval Intelligence.) The charge is -- espionage. They are accused of plotting to obtain information ~~that~~ the United States Navy had procured about the armed strength of Japan. They ^{if get} ~~got~~ what the Navy ~~had~~ got about Japan, and delivered it to Stalin's Moscow.

Today the ~~jury~~ jury was picked, with the espionage defense using its challenge to keep out former officers of the United States Army and Navy.

FLEET

Navy officials in Washington today expressed interest in a phenomenon of fishing. The Japanese are good fishermen, and in the Pacific they always have quite a few boats hauling in the nets. The fishing in the Pacific doesn't seem so good right now, because a number of Japanese boats have appeared in the atlantic -- the Caribbean ^{Its} Sea, ^{the} first time the Japanese have ever been ^{observed} ~~noticed~~ fishing in those waters. ^{The fact that} ~~where~~ the American fleet manoeuvres are on right now, ^{in those parts could have no} ~~the fishing~~ bearing on this. Oh no. The fishing must be good in the Caribbean. Maybe the rushing of warship squadrons and the thundering of guns has ^{the} attracted ~~the~~ shoals of the finny tribe. Anyway, ^{the} ~~it has attracted the~~ ^{honorable} Japanese fishing boats have been attracted!

Today in Washington a United States District Attorney made this comment: "It seems significant," he said, "that these boats should be fishing there for the first time."

Yes it does seem significant, and so also does this bit of information -- that the ^{Japanese} fishing boats have been making observations with long range glasses, watching the ~~ix~~ evolutions of the American warships. ^{All just to} ~~Maybe that~~ helps the fishing.

CRASHES

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Today's news brings the full story of the series of army airplane crashes last night. It was a case of fog. From the Gulf of Mexico a dense bank of vapory white swept upon the coast all the way from Florida to Mobile, Alabama. The blinding mist extended far inland. Twelve army training planes, based on Pensacola, were flying near the coast and were caught in that fog. In each was a student pilot taking an army training course. No glimpse of earth could be seen. And they flew on and on, looking for what aviators call - a hole. That's when you're above a bank of fog, and you find a break in the low hanging clouds - a hole through which you can see the earth. Last night was dark down there on the gulf coast - without a moon, but even in the darkness a pilot can distinguish between clouds and earth, can see a hole, and go flying down through it for a possible landing.

So the twelve army training planes with their student pilots, flew mile after mile, hour after hour, looking for a hole. Four of them found one and came to earth safely. The other eight never did find a break in the bank of fog. They flew for

five hours, until their gasoline was exhausted - there above the unending expanse of ^{mist.} ~~fog.~~ Two of the eight glided down through the blank ^{white,} ~~mist,~~ trying to make a landing. Both crashed and the pilots were killed. The other six took to their parachutes, Their planes crashed, but they floated safely to earth.

Among the twelve, were two members of the Brazilian Air Corps. They were taking the training course as - courtesy students. One of them tried to make the blind landing through the fog and lost his life. The other took to his parachute, and was saved.

In the battle between aviation and fog, this was a spectacular episode - the twelve army training planes and the great bank of mist that rolled in from the Gulf of Mexico.

W.P.A.

Here's another one of those W.P.A. stories. At Saginaw, Michigan, today, the Reverend Father Constantine Skrowronski issued a ruling for his parish concerning Lent. It's a custom that men engaged in arduous labor may be excused from fasting during Lent. Father Skrowronski's verdict is that this does not apply to W.P.A. workers. They will not be excused from ^{their Lenten} fasting -- ~~during Lent~~ - not in Father Skrowronski's parish. For, says he, theologically, the W.P.A. boys are not engaged in arduous labor.

Canada had another fire today in a hospital.

The famous British polo player, Captain Pat

The Hospital, Providence of Montreal

Roark, died today at Pasadena, California. He was desperately

very serious. The patients were all ^a ~~the~~ ^{capt.}

injured on Sunday during ^a ~~the~~ ^{capt.} match. Roark, always known

The singular part of it is that this was the first

for his fearless play, was riding hard. In a bad spill,

institution to have a fire in six days. Officially

his horse fell, and the rider was pinned beneath the struggling

added to the fact that such buildings in France

animal. His injuries were so grave that doctors had little

structures, exceedingly liable to fire - and

hope from the start, and this afternoon they turned out to

be fatal. It's a pity, so great a rider in so great a game.

FIRE

Canada had another fire today in a Catholic institution.

The Hospital ^{of} Providence ⁱⁿ ~~of~~ Montreal burned down today. Nothing very serious. The patients ~~were~~ all got out; ~~and~~ helped by the nuns.

The singular part of it is that this was the fifth Canadian *Catholic* institution to have a fire in six days. Coincidence no doubt, added to the fact that **such** buildings in French Canada are old structures, exceedingly liable to fire - and there are a lot of them.

GAS

In Paris the police have solved a strange and sinister mystery. In an apartment in the Montparmasse quarter, occurred a series of leaks in a gas pipe. Time and again the family that lived in the apartment smelled gas, and hastily called a neighborhood plumber to repair the leak. A couple of times the family was nearly asphyxiated.

The leaks occurred ten times in all, and suspicion was aroused. Somebody must be tampering with the gas pipe - sinister, it seemed like attempted murder, somebody trying to asphyxiate the people in the apartment.

There was an investigation by those subtle Parisian detectives, and today they solved the strange mystery - by arresting the maid in the apartment. She has confessed - yes, it was she who tampered with the gas pipe and caused the recurrent leaks. No, she wasn't trying to murder or asphyxiate anybody. The first leak was accidental. And when the local plumber came to repair it, he was a good looking young fellow - and she fell in love with him. She wanted to see him again, so she tampered with the gas pipe and caused a leak - bringing him to repair it. She wanted to see the

handsome plumber again and again and again - and that's the
mystery of the leaking gas pipe.

SINGING

There's one question often asked of a singer - how did you begin your career? I asked the question of Robert Weede, Metropolitan Opera House baritone, who is likewise a star at the Radio City Music Hall in Rockefeller Center. I was told that at hardly more than twenty he was singing leading operatic roles. He won a national contest conducted by the Federation of Music Clubs, and also a scholarship given by the Caruso Memorial Foundation for study ~~to~~ in Italy. Last year New York's ~~Metropolitan~~ Metropolitan Opera House engaged him as a find of the season. A career auspiciously begun - brilliant from the start.

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In contrast with this, New York newspapers are telling about a soprano named Louisa Corchia (Corkia). She hails from the east side of New York, and in school was always at the foot of the class. She couldn't learn grammar, spelling ~~and~~ arithmetic. Teacher said - she couldn't learn anything, so she might as well sing. Louisa wanted to sing. So they tried her out in Music, and she couldn't learn that either. She went

to a vocal teacher, and he told her - she had no voice. But she ~~imixig~~ insisted, was just stubborn.

Last night Louisa Corchia made her debut at Carnegie Hall, and scored a brilliant success. Today the critics hailed her with enthusiasm. It was just the old will power. She studied singing so hard that she learned how. She has even learned spelling, grammer and arithmetic - to qualify herself as a prima donna. I suppose the moral is - where there's a will there's a voice.

HINES

One of ~~these~~^{the most} charming human relationships is that of -
mother and son. And today the theme of maternal and filial
affection was shouted around in a New York court, the Hines trial,
with the prominent Tammany leader accused of having been political
fixer for the Dutch Schultz gang. District Attorney Dewey in one
of his principal charges, accuses his own predecessor of having
been influenced and ~~expressed~~^{coerced} by James J. Hines in behalf of the
Dutch Schultz policy racket. And now that ~~Dewey~~^{same} predecessor has
taken the witness stand - former District Attorney William C. Dodge.
He denies everything, shouts that he was never influenced by Hines.

Today, the testimony got around to a grand jury
hearing some time ago, during which charges were made against Hines -
and Dodge appeared and defended the Tammany leader. Today Dewey read
records of that grand jury and these quoted Dodge as saying he
believed in the innocence of Hines - believe^d in it as a mother
believes in the innocence of her son.

Whereupon District Attorney Dewey turned to Witness
Dodge and asked him whether his relations with Hines had been on a
mother and son basis.

And Dodge retorted: "Never having been a mother, I can't say."

So that celebrated Hines trial today reached the height of biological paradox - the possible motherhood of an aged and dignified gentleman. Something like saying dramatically - he is your mother, and she is your father. To which the happy young man replied ^S - then I am their daughter.
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NEEDLE

Some people have a flair for publicity. Like my old friend, Richard Haliburton, who swam through the Panama Canal and crossed the Alps with an elephant - imitating [^] ~~_____~~ [^] *Hanibal* crossing the Alps with army and elephants.

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[^] ~~And~~ [^] *Now* there's James Moran, who calls himself an advertising specialist. On the Pacific Coast he went whale hunting, not in a submarine but in an airplane. And he made a trip to the Arctic, selling iceboxes to the Eskimo - to keep their food warm. He claims he has the selling rights for iceboxes throughout the *Polar* ~~Arctic~~ *region.*

One of the best of gags is to take a familiar saying or figure of speech and practice it literally - do it. And [^] ~~how~~ [^] *today self* Advertising James Moran is attempting a classic - he's trying to find a needle in a haystack. On a vacant lot in Washington, he put a haystack, and ~~it~~ dropped a needle into it - mixing thoroughly. Then he started hunting for it. At the end of the first day he hasn't found it, but he's going right on - searching straw by straw.

It must be amusing in Washington to see a man trying to find

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[^] *And* a needle in a haystack. [^] When James Moran is through with that one, I suggest that he get a wagon and try to hitch it to a star.