

Cia Sergio - Sunoco, Friday, July 21, 1939.

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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

In telling the news, I think I'll begin by giving you the latest news from Lowell Thomas. I have a wire from him, in which he relates how his much needed vacation has begun. Tonight he's back in the town where he grew up - the old mining camp at Cripple Creek, which was one of the wildest gold-mining camps of the Wild West. And with him is Governor Carr of Colorado. ~~Here are a few things that Lowell tells me.~~

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"Twenty-seven years ago," he wires, "Ralph Carr and I were editors of rival daily newspapers at the Cripple Creek and Victor mines. Now he's the Governor of the State. Tonight we're going to have dinner high in the mountains with Bill Khyner, son of the former owner of the "Cripple Creek Times." Governor Carr and I both got our start as cub reporters, working for Bill Khyner's father." And Lowell's telegram goes on: "We expect to spend the night with the Mayor of Cripple Creek, whose wife was my Latin teacher. Tomorrow," he adds, "we're going down in the gold mines where I once worked and where Jack Dempsey worked

RETAKE

Lisa Sergio

for LT -

July 21,
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too - he was just a gold mine mucker."

That's the news about Lowell, and ^{it} explains why I'm taking his place on the air tonight. He asked me to fill in for him, take over the news bulletins, and tell you about them. So here goes.

The plot revealed today was formed by the Ultra-Nationalist group. The plan was to assassinate three of the most prominent political personalities of the Imperial Court -- one, the former Japanese Ambassador to the United States and Great Britain, who is now Minister of the Imperial Household; another, a former Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, and is now a member of the Privy Council; the third the present Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal.

A late dispatch from Tokyo explains the aims of the Ultra-Nationalist conspirators. The three intended victims are moderate in the quarrel with Great Britain, and are influential advisers of the Emperor. They are also living symbols of moderation. So why is the dispute with the British so bitter, complex. The Ultra-Nationalists demand a

JAPANESE PLOT

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Today's story from Tokyo, telling of a political assassination plot, has a familiar sound; assassination has been used more than once as an instrument of Japanese politics. It's easy to recall the fierce outbreak staged several years ago by the ultra-Nationalist faction of the Japanese army. The plot revealed today was formed by the ultra-Nationalist group. The plan ~~was~~ ^{was} to assassinate three of the most prominent political personalities ~~of~~ ^a the Imperial Court -- one, ~~the~~ former Japanese Ambassador to the United States and Great Britain, who is now Minister of the Imperial household; another, a former Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, who is now a Number ~~One~~ One adviser to the Mikado; the third the present Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal.

A late dispatch from Tokyo explains the aim of the Ultra-Nationalist conspirators. The three intended victims are moderates in the quarrel with Great Britain, and as influential advisors of the Emperor they've been giving counsels of moderation. Go easy in the dispute with the British at Tientsin, compromise. The ultra-Nationalists demand a

non-compromising policy of driving Great Britain out of China - even at the cost of war.

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Recently, ^{British-} Japanese negotiations have taken a new start, after having broken down - negotiations between ~~British~~ the British Ambassador to Tokyo and the Japanese Cabinet. The diplomatic discussions have been attended by violent anti-British outbreaks, with Tokyo ~~green~~ crowds raging and storming. These demonstrations were organized by the ultra-Nationalist group, and now we learn that the climax of the agitation was to have been - three assassinations, the killing of the three most prominent moderate advisors to the Emperor. But the conspiracy was detected, the conspirators arrested.

DANZIG

Another border incident occurred at Danzig today, a second episode of violence. Yesterday the news told how a Nazi border-guard shot and killed a Pole. The world is desperately afraid of ~~the~~ what are called "incidents," the sort of thing that might touch off a general war.

However, there has been no flare-up. The Nazis are saying that the border-guard killed the Pole in self-defense. This the Poles deny. But there's no screaming outbreak of vituperation. Both sides seem determined not to let yesterday's incident cause an explosion.

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Now today - another incident, with plenty of shooting! No blood was spilled this time - it was all rather farcical. The story from Danzig is that a Nazi custom official named Lipski illegally crossed the frontier into Poland - and he crossed it riding a horse. The Polish border-guard challenged him, but he paid no attention - kept on riding. Whereupon the Polish guards started to shoot, but they fired in the air. Lipski's horse was frightened. It went rearing and prancing, and Lipski fell off. The Polish guards captured him. Later there ~~was~~ was some more

shooting when Lipski tried to escape. But once more the Polish guards fired in the air, and the mere sound of the rifles brought him to a halt. It is significant that an absurd happening like that is gravely reported as - "an incident." A sign of tension, a sign of nerves.

And here's a late bulletin from Warsaw - an official announcement that the Polish government has ordered the Polish border guards to open fire whenever there is a violation of the frontier. Shoot anybody trying to cross illegally into Polish territory - commands Warsaw.

51
Berlin is talking peace. A Hitler spokesman today issued a statement that Germany does not look forward to a warlike solution of the Danzig question. The spokesman declared, as we have been hearing from Germany for days, that Hitler expects to end the Danzig business by peaceable agreement with Poland. It is altogether apparent that the Nazi German policy right now is to play down the war crisis, minimize the peril.

SICILY

Italy too is
~~The Italians are~~ waving the olive branch, and talking up peace. Today Italian newspapers pointed to Mussolini's latest decree and said - "^{*this decree*}~~That~~ shows that Fascist Italy has no warlike intentions."

The decree itself is of the utmost importance in Italy. The great landed estates in Sicily are to be broken up. Italy is for the most part a land of small farms with peasant owners. But in Sicily, the old system of great estates has lingered on from the Middle Ages. Now these estates are to be broken up and divided among small farmers. Mussolini says this agrarian ~~re~~ revolution will double the population of Sicily and vastly increase its agricultural wealth.

52 Today, the national importance of the move is expanded to international significance, with Italian newspapers arguing that if Mussolini believed war was likely, he would not launch any such important internal program as the breaking up of the Sicilian landed estates. It would be poor policy to start an internal shake-up if war were at hand - that's the argument.

RIVALRY

French newspapers carry stories of trouble in Italy between Italians and Germans. One account reads as follows: "Reliable Italians who arrived in ~~the~~ Nice today declare that they witnessed violent fights several days ago between Italians and Germans at Bolzano, near the former Austrian-Italian frontier. The fights assumed riot proportions." So says the French newspaper account, and it goes on:- "There's constant trouble in the great industrial City of Milan - because of the presence of many Germans there and fights between these Germans and Italians."

These are the most recent of many reports that circulate the idea that there's really no love lost between the people of the two Axis powers.

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And today's news gives us another French story, hinting of rivalry between the two Axis governments - rivalry in Spain. One of the French journalists, Genevieve Tabouis, writes about the visit of Count Ciano, Mussolini's son-in-law and Foreign Minister, to Spain. There have been plenty of rumors about what Ciano has been trying to accomplish in his conference with General Franco. Genevieve Tabouis has inside information that the Italian Foreign Minister has persuaded Franco to guarantee that

RIVALRY - 2

Nazi Germany shall not be given preference over Fascist Italy.

Germany not to be favored in getting Spanish trade, German technicians not to have priority over Italian technicians. The Spanish army to be trained by Italians, the Spanish air force to use Italian planes, the Italian police to reorganize the Spanish police. All of this indicating - rivalry in Franco's Spain between the two Axis powers that gave Franco so much help in winning the civil war.

POLA NEGRI

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Pola Negri won a lawsuit today in Paris. A French court found in favor of the famous motion picture star of silent days. It was a libel suit against a Parisian motion picture magazine, with Pola demanding a million Francs. The movie actress wanted all those Francs, because the magazine stated that she was on very friendly terms with Hitler. In fact - that she and Leni Riefenstahl were rivals for the favor of the Fuehrer. That, said Pola, damaged her to the extent of a million Francs, which would come to twenty-six thousand, five hundred dollars. The court decided - yes, she had been libelled, but not to the extent of a million. Ten thousand Francs was more like it, thought the court. And that's the amount she gets - the equivalent of two hundred and sixty-five dollars.

Moreover, a fine was imposed on the magazine, a fine of two hundred Francs - five dollars and thirty cents. Odd how those figures in Francs boil down to a very few dollars.

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President Roosevelt reverted to the theme of neutrality today. At a press conference he said that the administration defeat in Congress on the neutrality issue will hurt business & has killed off a nice little business boom. He related that he was talking to a prominent business man about the refusal of the Senate to act on neutrality and abolish the arms embargo which the present law places on nations at war. And he and the prominent business man agreed that, the European situation being what it is, American business will hesitate to go ahead and do things until there is some indication of what kind of neutrality policy this country is to have. There can't be any indication of that until next January, when Congress meets again. The President and the prominent business man thought that this state of uncertainty would probably stop an industrial upswing, cut short the business boom.

(The President told some things about that famous White House conference, when Senate leaders informed the President there was no chance for any action on neutrality during the present session of Congress.) We heard reports that the discussion

between President Roosevelt and the isolationist senators was a bit heated, if not acrimonious. This the President denied today.

He said that the nearest thing to a clash came when the veteran

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(Senator Borah disagreed about the imminent danger of war in Europe.

didn't believe
The Senator ~~believed~~ the situation was as dark as the President

and Secretary of State pictured it. Secretary Hull challenged

this view, to which Senator Borah retorted that he thought he had

sounder information about the European crisis than the State

Department had.) Secretary of State Hull challenged this also.

But, said the President today, there weren't any fireworks -

it was all in strictly parliamentary language.

PRESIDENT'S TRIP

By the way,
The

The presidential visit to Alaska may be called off - because of the way the session of Congress is dragging on. The plan has been for President Roosevelt to take a trip to the west coast toward the end of summer, and then pay a visit to that great northern possession of the United States. Now - that schedule may have to be revised. President Roosevelt can't get away from Congress until Congress adjourns, and if the adjournment doesn't happen before August, the Alaskan trip will be called off. Called off - because of fog. President Roosevelt explained today that, after the beginning of August, fog gravely impedes navigation through the inner passage to Alaska, that magnificent scenic sealane between ~~the~~ the Alaskan islands and the rugged coast.

President for his signature.

HATCH BILL

The Senate today put its okay on the Hatch bill, as passed by the House of Representatives late last night. The House voted by a big majority to adopt its own version of the bill, the purpose of which is to prohibit what are called pernicious political activities by government officials. The measure, sponsored by Democratic Senator Hatch of New Mexico, meets the criticism that has been heaped upon the W.P.A. for political activities. It forbids federal officials to take part in election campaigns - all save officials at the very top of the government.

58 There has been prompt action on the Hatch bill, The House rushed the measure through last midnight and ~~today~~ it was adopted by the Senate this afternoon. Now the bill goes to the President for his signature.

ROCKETS

Cut

There's nothing new about the idea of traveling in rockets - even traveling to the moon. What is odd, is the matter of fact way a well known scientist talks about it today. He's Dr. Clyde Fisher, astronomer and curator-in-chief of the Hayden Planetarium in New York, He says we'll soon have a rocket express and mail service flashing along at a mile a second. "In a few years," he ^{stated} continued, "we may see rockets at a mile a second speed from city to city, twenty minutes from New York to Chicago. Breakfast in New York, luncheon in Europe, and you can have dinner back in New York.

But that's all tame beside what the Doctor says about traveling by rocket to the moon. He speaks of it as coolly as if it were a fast plane journey -has it all figured out. "The first moon rocket," says he, "probably will not carry men at all, but only large charges of magnesium flash powder, set to detonate on contact with the dark face of our satellite. Telescopes on earth will record the hits," he prognosticates. "Then perhaps a party of scientists may venture ~~into~~ out to explore space - the first explorers in the great regions where there is no up, no down, no air, where even gravity will die away."

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The doctor talks about it as if it were about to happen.

END

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That ends our review of the news. I am happy to
have substituted for Lowell Thomas this evening, and wish
him the most pleasant of vacation days, as I say -- Good night.