

L.T. - SUNOCO - THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 16, 1937

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

48
A curious report connected with Spain comes from Berlin. One of the leading German newspapers published a dispatch that the Freemasons in the United States had assembled a squadron of eighteen airplanes which were to be sent to help the Madrid air force. They were to be smuggled into Spain through France with the connivance of French Freemasons. Each of these planes was to be piloted by Masons who gave their services free.

And here is the prompt reply from the office of the Masonic Branch Secretary of the New York State Lodges; "Nothing to it. The report is ridiculous," he said.

CHINA

49

From time to time in the Far Eastern War, we've heard about swordsmen, slashing fighters, with the great traditional blades of China. It makes a picturesque headline - romantic reminiscence of the war days of Genghis Khan or the Ming Dynasty. But what has this to do with modern battle, when tanks clash with machine guns, and war planes strike at heavy artillery? It may have been with melancholy skepticism that we heard of Japanese mechanized units defeated by the swordsmen of China - the big swords, as they were called. Today, we have once more the headline - "the big swords win." ~~But~~ With it comes, a description of ^{the} battle.

Today the Chinese were displaying a tangible and vivid token of their victory - a flag, battle scarred and bullet torn, a flag of the Rising Sun. They ~~are~~ tell how they captured it from the Twenty-Second Brigade of Japanese Infantry. The Chinese are jubilant over their trophy, because to the Japanese soldier, the regimental flag is sacred. In ancient ~~Rom~~ Roman times, the standard of the legion, the Eagle - was the rallying point of victory from defeat. But to the Japanese,

50
their Rising Sun flag is still more so - because the regimental colors are presented to the troops by the Emperor himself, consecrated by the hand of the Mikado, the Son of Heaven. Therefore, the capture of the flag by the Chinese means that the Japanese unit was exterminated. For they'd defend their flag to the last man. The last soldier on his feet would fight for it.

(The battle occurred at Lotien, near Shanghai.

The Japanese, in their drive against the new Chinese-Hindenburg line, captured the town. Then they pushed on, tanks and cavalry backed by artillery.) The Chinese regiments swerved to one side, and smashed the Japanese flank. Then on the other side they hit the other flank. Then over the top with a frontal attack. The Japanese Twenty-Second Brigade was attacked on three sides. In the hurly-burly of battle, the ^{22nd was} ~~Japanese were~~ trapped in the town of Lotien. There they made their last stand. ~~In a street,~~ They gathered around their ~~regi~~ regimental colors, and as the Chinese came at them for the final rush, they surged forward with a bayonet attack.

That's when the Chinese big swords came into play. The swingers of the waving blades closed, ~~with a run into the Japanese, and it was~~ big sword against long bayonet. The end of the fight was told by the flag, the Rising Sun - in ~~the~~ possession of the Chinese. The last Japanese fought with his bayonet against the big swords, and ~~he~~ sank before the ~~he~~ flag was captured.

57
In the north, the tide of victory is the other way - swinging to the flag of the Rising Sun. The Japanese report that all along the line their troops are driving swiftly ahead, ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ northern provinces of China.

LEAGUE

The league of Nations made gestures of coming to life again today. To be sure, the attempt to resuscitate it depends upon blood transfusion from Uncle Sam. The Council of the League voted to invite your Uncle into the Far Eastern squabble. They also voted to revive the Committee of twenty-three nations which came into a futile sort of existence in Nineteen Thirty-Two, in a hopeful effort to stop Japan's

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As for the invitation to Uncle Sam to join the Advisory Committee of twenty-three nations, ~~the attitude in~~ Washington was non-committal. Naturally, Secretary Hull was asked what the attitude of the government would be. "I don't know anything about it officially, ["]yet," he replied, "so cannot discuss it at present." He added, however, that he would attend to it as soon as possible. And he admitted that there was a precedent established in Nineteen Thirty-Two for the appointment of an official observer from the United States. When they asked him whether he would follow this precedent, he wouldn't reply one way or the other.

RETAKE

head of the Valencia government in Spain. Dr. Negrin improved the shining hour with a passionate outburst against Italy, denouncing the Fascist government as a pirate in the Mediterranean.

For a long time now, Premier Mussolini has been boycotting the League, though he has not yet cancelled Italy's membership. It's known that he is ready to take a final walkout if sufficiently provoked. And Dr. Negrin's speech was amply provocative.

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53

ADD LEAGUE

A late dispatch tells -- that Secretary Hull has agreed to consider the League invitation. The Secretary declared that Geneva action will be taken up in due course of things -- and then answered, Yes or No.

Meanwhile, the American freighter WICHITA will not sail for China with a load of sixteen airplanes for the Chinese government. There's been controversy about whether the WICHITA would be allowed to take its aircraft cargo to the war zone. The Maritime Union out on the coast had something to say about that -- the workers refused to get the ship ready to sail. They were against anything that might bring war danger. But, the decisive thing is the presidential order forbidding the shipping of war material on government-owned ships and warning all American vessels not to do it. The WICHITA has obeyed the presidential injunction; the planes were unloaded at San Diego, California, today.

TREASURY

Here's a late one, hot off the wire from Washington.

Resignations from the Treasury Department -- because of that tax evasion inquiry which ~~yx~~ made such big headlines some weeks ago. The Chief Counsel of the Internal Revenue Bureau and his principal assistant ~~have quit~~ ^{left} their jobs today -- as a protest against the naming of names. You'll recall how the tax quiz brought publicity on a whole series of big business men, charging them with evasion of ~~ix~~ income tax payments. ^{"That publicity} ~~was~~ was all wrong," says Chief Counsel Morrison Shafroth and his chief assistant Russell Ryan ^{of the Internal Revenue Bureau.}

They said so at the time. In fact, it was then that they resigned -- though this wasn't made public. They told Secretary Morgenthau they were opposed to the naming of names, but the Secretary insisted, ^{they say. In a} ~~in his~~ ^{in their} statement made today, Shafroth declares:- "Being given the choice of participating in the presentation of the names ^{or} of resigning, we tendered our resignations." Today the resignations were accepted by ~~the~~ Secretary Morgenthau -- and made public.

The Republicans charged all along that the tax evasion inquiry and the accusations against prominent figures in industry

52
54

were -- political:- an attack on the enemies of the New Deal.

TP During the investigation the Chief Counsel of the Internal Revenue Bureau and his assistant sat among the lawyers for the Treasury Department -- but *they* took no part in the proceedings. ~~They~~ Sat silent. In fact, ~~they~~ were resigning, in protest.

CONSTITUTION

Constitution Day is being turned into a constitutional battle. Tomorrow night, the President speaking at the foot of the Washington monument, is expected to indicate what his plans are for renewing the Supreme Court struggle. He is expected to enter a plea for a liberal attitude in Supreme Court decisions, and may even have something to say about a Constitutional amendment.

The President is the target for an attack from one of his own former lieutenants. General Hugh Johnson, ex-chief of the N. R. A. is the assailant. During the last campaign, the General was one of the most active speakers in the President's behalf. But at Chicago today he cut loose against the President ~~xx~~ virulently. "Mr. Roosevelt wants to control the Supreme Court," growled Hugh Johnson, "By the appointment to it of a majority of puppets of his own choosing, hill-billy wool-hats from the forks of the creek, like Hugo Black."

Another dead cat the General flung at his former chief was this:- "the principal object of the New Deal" he barked "is

to give us a new form of government not within the Constitution but in spite of it." Under the seduction of ballyhoo, bribery, and charm," he snorted "we are moving away from the democracy imagined by the Constitution and straight toward as rigid a dictatorship as there is on earth."

The democratic Senator Burke of Nebraska delivered an attack along the same lines as he stood in the shadow of the great Black Hills memorial on Mount Rushmore in South Dakota. "America is threatened with one-man rule," he declared.

BLACK

The Justice Black controversy raged today unabated. Mr. Black himself took to his heels to escape from reporters, stayed away from his hotel in London, stayed away in order to escape further questioning.

Despite the vigor of the controversy, nothing really new has developed that Hugo Black has already taken his oath of office as a Supreme Justice of the United States; and has been since the last week in August, a member of the Court and on its payroll. It is customary for new justices to take the specific court oath in the robing room of the Supreme Court Building just before they take their seat on the bench for the first time. They are usually sworn in by the Chief Justice. But Justice Black took both the specific and general oath before the Supreme Court Clerk, which satisfies all the requirements of the law.

A new participant, Representative Hamilton Fish of New York, jumped into the fight with gusto today. "I am

said he

inclined to believe["] that if a thorough investigation were made, a number of prominent Democratic leaders in Congress from the southern states would be found on the Klan payroll or affiliated with that organization." And Mr. Fish added: "And it might be well to find out the status of the Speaker of the House who also hails from Alabama." To that Mr. Bankhead ~~xxx~~ answered promptly: "I can answer Ham Fish's allegation without any investigation. I never belonged to the Ku Klux Klan, never was invited to join."

BREVITIES

Feelings are running high and shotguns are cocked in the cotton fields of Georgia. The crop is ripe and labor is scarce. The cotton growers of Warren County learned recently that their neighbors in Glasscock County, were trying to lure away their cotton pickers. The Warren County farmers were paying forty cents a hundred. The Glasscock County growers offered seventy-five cents a hundred and a drink of corn before and after work. When the Warren County folks learned this they surrounded their fields armed with shotguns and warned the cotton pickers not to leave the county.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The Presidential plan for an unemployment court took a step forward today when John Biggers said -- Yes. Mr. Biggers is the Toledo business man whom the President asked to head a census of the jobless. He said he'd consider the question. And today his answer was given -- that he has taken a leave of absence from his glass company and will supervise the government unemployment survey.

Immediately afterward he announced the census would be-- strictly voluntary. That's what the President indicated in the first place, but there were rumors that it might be compulsory -- the jobless would have to register. But that rumor is scotched. No have-to, all voluntary.

UNEMPLOYED

The Assistant Administrator of the W.P.A. declared in Boston that Uncle Sam will have to reconcile himself to supporting never less than two or two and a half million of the unemployed. "We must expect a permanent unemployment of between four and five million," he said, "and we shall have to carry a permanent relief roll of something more than half that number."