

Dr. Andrews.

July 27th

1939.

Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews - Lenox. Thurs., July 27, 1939.

46
GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

The most unpredictable bit of news that flew into me tonight flew from Ipswich in England. They had a school of art there to which somebody sent a statue of Buddha. Along with the statute came the warning that anybody who removed that statue of Buddha from its pedestal would invite disaster. You hear that sort of thing from the East all the time. ~~There was~~ It's on the same order as the curse that was supposed to rest upon the people who opened the tomb of King Tut-ankh-Amen. And I never found a single one that was authentic. They were just superstitions.

But that statue of Buddha sent to the art school in Ipswich, brought with it a curious set of coincidences. The art students paid no attention to the warning. They put Buddha down on the floor and then amused themselves by flicking cherry stones into his capacious lap. Then they went home and forgot all about Buddha.

17
When they came to school this morning, they found the

2

building burned, and everyone of their paintings destroyed.

The only thing round the premises that was not damaged was the statue of Buddha. That ought to be one for Algernon Blackwood, the English writer of such mystical mystery stories.

DROUGHT

3
now lets take a look at American news

The continued drought in the northeast has definitely provoked a state of general alarm. Rivers, lakes and reservoirs have been falling at a frightening rate. In several parts of New York State, the city authorities have issued warnings against the waste of water and people who use it for their gardens are being punished.

48
Though rain fell in up-state New York and parts of northwestern Pennsylvania, it wasn't enough to do any ~~serious~~ ^{real} good. In some parts of New England, factories that depend upon water-power for their electricity, are threatened with having to shut down. Parts of Canada are suffering also. In Ontario, for instance, more than fifty forest fires are burning. In Pennsylvania and New Jersey more than two thousand forest fires have been reported in six days. There's a particularly severe blaze in New Hampshire at one of the most inaccessible points in the White Mountains.

There seems to be little chance of saving the August crops throughout ten states. Nothing can do it but four inches, or at least three inches of rain over the whole region. And the weather sharks declare there's not much hope of that. Dairymen -

and state milk boards have already met to consider a general rise in the price of milk.

So serious is this drought situation, that the national government is taking a hand. President Roosevelt today ordered ~~_____~~ the Departments of Agriculture and of the Interior, the C.C.C., and the W.P.A., to be prepared for emergency action.

ADD DROUGHT

57

49

The most ironic happening of all was at Berwick, Pennsylvania. There, as elsewhere in the east, the crops have been burned brown. Rain began to fall today and every body cheered. But they didn't cheer long, for the rain turned into a cloudburst. In almost no time, a creek which had been just a trickling stream, became a roaring torrent, and overflowed its banks at several points. The outcome was that all the crops were washed away instead of being burned brown. Several families were marooned, and fields and roads devastated over an area ~~of~~ of twenty square miles.

TREATY

6

(All over the world the big subject today was Uncle Sam's denunciation of the treaty with Japan.) One rather astonishing consequence in Washington is that even Republican Senators approve the action of the State Department. Senator Vandenberg of Michigan, for instance, says he's glad to find himself in agreement with Secretary Hull and the administration. And he adds ~~that~~, "we are no longer tied to the dead body of an ancient treaty." He also says that Japan now has six months in which to justify the continuation of friendly relationships between Japan and America.

50
The old lion of Idaho, Senator Borah, also approved, and he added that when the time comes he'd vote for an embargo on shipment of arms from the United States to Japan. ~~Of course the news was cheered in China.~~

(Secretary Hull declared that before any new treaty can be concluded to replace the one that was denounced, the political differences between ourselves and Japan will have to be satisfactorily settled, all of them.)

Of course the news was cheered in China. But the important reaction we were waiting for was that of Tokyo.

7

After some delay, this came finally in the shape of a statement by a spokesman of the Foreign Office. And he said that the Japanese government found it difficult to grasp the true motive underlying the action. He also declared that the reasons ~~given~~^{stated} by the American government failed to explain why notice should have been given in such a hasty and abrupt manner. And since this was done while Anglo-Japanese conversations were in progress, the Japanese Foreign Office feels that this American action is highly susceptible of being generally interpreted as having a political significance.

51
The Japanese Foreign Office spokesman also hinted at retaliation on the part of Japan, and he added that if the United States wants a new commercial treaty it'll have to recognize that a new order, a new situation, is developing in eastern China.

On top of that, a spokesman for the Japanese imperial navy made a significant announcement. Japan is getting together a new fleet for operation in home waters; a fleet, as they put it, which will be complete in all categories. It will be on a war

8

footing and ready to operate in any emergency to make certain
Japan's command of the western Pacific Ocean.

The denunciation of the Japanese Treaty also puts a job up to the United States Treasury. There have been heavy shipments of gold from Japan to the United States of late. Secretary Morgenthau is now obliged to consider the status of both the gold and the silver which Japan has been sending over here. And his department is also making a careful study of all Japanese merchandise. The purpose is to find out whether any of the Japanese imports are subsidized by the Japanese government, thus establishing a discrimination against our own manufacturers.

52

If the Treasury experts do find that the Japanese imports are subsidized, they can be made subject to heavy duties. For such a measure as that, there doesn't need to be any six months' delay.

HOPKINS - FOLLOW TREATY

10

Another department of the United States Government
also took a hand in this Japanese business. Harry Hopkins,
Secretary of Commerce, made public an analysis of the economic
condition of Japan at the present time. He pointed out that
all the manufacturers, all the foreign trade, all the prices
and distribution of the Japanese are completely controlled
by the Tokyo government. Some lawyers feel that Government
control of this kind amounts to a subsidy. Hopkins, therefore,
hints that our Government may be consequently justified in
slapping heavy penalties on Japanese shipments to this
country.

SHANGHAI

3
From Shanghai comes a report of the defeat suffered by Japanese troops. That's not entirely unpredictable but it's also not confirmed. In fact, the Japanese deny it. However, that bit of news is supposed to come from neutral and impartial sources. The battle was ~~fighting~~ fought on the Outer Mongolian-Manchukuo frontier. Three divisions of the Mikado's troops are supposed to have been engaged but the Mongolians, reenforced by Soviet Russians, defeated them and killed or wounded some three thousand Japanese.

I've good reason to know pretty well the country in which that fighting is supposed to have taken place. Some years ago I was ~~leading~~ ^{leading} an expedition in the ~~area~~ ^{John D. Hart}, not far from there. And I got acquainted with ~~some~~ of the Mongolians and their methods of fighting. Maybe their contact with the Russians has changed those methods in the last fifteen years. But up to Nineteen Twenty-Five, they used to fight in exactly the same fashion as the hordes with which Genghis Khan overran the world.

54
A battle took place while I was there, I didn't see it, but ~~it must have been~~ ^{I saw the grim results in hundreds of dead bodies.} ~~it must have been~~ spectacular business. Four thousand

12

Chinese troops were entrenched not far from Urga in an absolutely impregnable position. ~~When~~ ^{Yet} they were defeated, and I asked the Mongolian general how he had done it. You have to remember, first, that the terrain is pretty much like the grass lands of Montana or perhaps more correctly, Wyoming. And the Mongol~~s~~ are probably the finest horsemen in the world.

The Mongol general told me that he had taken ~~some~~ of three hundred men, each one leading an extra horse. They rode all night and took ten minutes' rest just before they reached the place where the Chinese were entrenched. Then at a signal they rushed that Chinese stronghold, and made a lightning dash clean ~~through the way through~~ ^{through the encampment.} Then they turned and dashed back again. By that time the Chinese were thoroughly demoralized, and the up-shot of it was that three hundred Mongols absolutely ~~destroyed~~ ^{annihilated} four thousand Chinese.

55 Possibly the Mongol~~s~~ are soon due to learn, if they haven't learned already, that their old style of fighting is out of date in modern conditions ^{except in the barren reaches of the Gobi Desert}

GARNER

13

Washington has seldom heard such a scorching personal attack as the one that John L. Lewis made today upon the Vice-President of the United States. He went into the most intimate details of Vice-President Garner's personal conduct. He certainly pulled no punches.

(It happened at a hearing by the Labor Committee of the House. The Congressmen were considering amendments for the Wage-Hour Act. ^{John L.} Lewis was called as a witness in his capacity as President of the Congress of Industrial Organizations. His testimony consisted principally of his remarks about the Vice-President. He charged Mr. Garner with being responsible for attacks on labor during this session of Congress.) He said he was not criticizing Garner's private business operations. But he objected to what he called Mr. Garner's "putting his foot on the necks of millions of Americans." This, said Lewis, consisted of conducting intrigues against every proposal to ~~secure~~ ^{preserve} the rights of labor. As he continued, the C.I.O. chief worked himself up into a fury and roared out these words:- "I'm against Garner individually, personally, concretely and in the abstract." And -

56

14

he continued:- "I'm against him in Nineteen Thirty-Nine and will be against him in Nineteen Forty when he runs for president."

(Then he wound up by describing the Vice-President as I QUOTE

"A labor baiting, poker playing, whiskey drinking, evil old man."

UNQUOTE.)

Pretty harsh words and a lot of folks in Washington were shocked. Even some who are not close friends of Mr. Garner were ~~amazed~~ ^{amazed} that such personal remarks be made against the Vice-President of the United States. About the only man in the capital who took Lewis's outburst as a joke was Garner himself. His only reply was a long, long chuckle. But when he was pressed for something more, the Vice-President said:- "I've no comment to make. I never make criticisms or comment on anything."

THOMAS

~~Easton~~

15

Here's a telegram from San Francisco. They had a ceremony out there this afternoon, evidently an impressive affair on Treasure Island, scene of the Golden Gate International Exposition. And who do you suppose was the central figure of that ceremony? The purpose of it was to present an award, the distinguished scroll of honor, upon Lowell Thomas. The inscription reads:-

"A salute from Treasure Island to Lowell Thomas, conferring upon him the title of Honorary Ambassador of Good Will to radio and newsreel audiences of America." It is signed by President Leland W. Cutler.

A new sport has come to light along the French Riviera.

The name of it is, ^{"Watching}~~Seeing~~ the Duke and Duchess of Windsor bathe."

8

A tourist agency at Cannes operates a fleet of rubberneck boats. For a dollar and a half a head, they take tourists out to a point off the coast, ~~near~~ facing the castle where the Duke and Duchess are living. There the boats anchor and the sightseers through telescopes and field glasses, provided by the tourist agency, stare at the Duke and Duchess swimming and taking sun baths in their private pool which is only fifteen feet above the shore.

8 1/2

Such is the new Riviera pastime and how furious it has made the ex-King of the British! He registered a protest with the French authorities. But the prefect of the Department replied that he was helpless; the Mediterranean belongs to everybody, and though it may be an invasion of privacy, neither the tourists nor the tourist agency are breaking any laws.

In self-protection, the Duke of Windsor put up a canvas barricade on one side of the swimming pool, and to show his high dudgeon, cancelled all his public and social engagements. Whenever he and the Duchess went out to dine they went to small,

obscure restaurants. But even so, the sightseers occasionally spotted them, and made a wild rush for tables.

9

On your first night