

L.T. SUNOCO. MONDAY, APRIL 29, 1940

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Somewhere in Norway a battle is raging, possibly a decisive battle. A dramatic report comes from a correspondent with the Allied troops north of Trondheim. If the Allies didn't hurry, said the message, the Germans would break through. That was the word from the North Trondheim front. The Norwegian troops were falling back slowly north of Steinkjer. But reenforcements had come to the rescue from France and had helped the Norwegians establish a continuous line. South of Trondheim, four separate German columns were thrusting at the railraod, which is the lifeline of the Allied troops in that region.

And now here's the latest; from Stockholm:- came in just a few minutes ago. The British and French have landed fresh troops at two different points on the Norwegian coast. ~~With~~ them are strong, well trained fighting units from the French army, and they also have powerful batteries of anti-aircraft guns and planes. As a result of

these reenforcements, Norwegian officers reported that the German attacks on the railroad have been stopped in the mountains. In military language, the Allied position, north of Trondheim, has been vastly improved.

Another correspondent reports that the latest Allied troops to reach the scene of action are properly equipped, dressed in sheepskins with white capes and white steel helmets.

British fighting planes as well as Royal Air Force bombers, are also on the job. One air force officer told the correspondent that there is practically no shipping along the coast of Norway now except for British men-o-war. He adds that the Germans are no doubt getting reenforcements up the country by air and putting some shipment across the Skaggerrak. Hitler is not getting things all his own way, however, You don't see many of his submarines now and so far not one convoy protected from the air from attack, has been hit.

And here's the German side of the story. To an extent, it corroborated the claims of the British, French and Norwegians. Enemy forces in Norway are offering stout resistance to Nazi troops. That's

the first time the Germans have admitted that they were meeting any opposition at all in Norway. However, they offset this admission by saying that the Allied resistance was only at a few points in the battle for central and southern Norway and, say the Germans, "it has failed to stop the advance of Hitler's forces."

And here are two still later reports:- and it is significant that though they come from different parts of Scandinavia, they corroborate each other. The British and French contingents landed at those two separate bases on the Norwegian coast, were quickly rushed inland. Apparently they drove the Germans back from the railroad and only just in the nick of time. The heaviest fighting was in the mountains, where a small German force had pushed through the snow-clad pass and was within shouting distance of the railroad.

That's the report covering the fighting front south of Trondheim.

From the scene of battle on the Steinkjer front, the latest bulletin is also one of Allied success. The British were in touch with German patrols and repulsed them with losses.

ITALY

There's a stir in Germany, because Mussolini has appointed a new Ambassador to Berlin. The envoy he has had there since Nineteen Thirty-Five was not much of a pro-German. But the new man is a strong Nazi sympathizer. He's Dino Alfieri who used to be Mussolini's propaganda minister. Alfieri is said to be a warm pal of Hitler's Minister Goebbels.

This appointment is taken as another straw indicating the Italian wind blowing warmly pro-Hitler.

SPAIN

Paris tonight was gossiping about rumors that have trickled into France over the Spanish border. There has been a good deal of speculation as to whether Spanish Dictator Franco would join his brothers, Hitler and Mussolini. The understanding being that if Franco would pounce upon Gibraltar in case Mussolini joins in, then the Rock would be returned to Spain -- if Hitler and Mussolini win. But ^Tthe rumors from Spain tonight are that Franco will not play ball with Hitler and Mussolini.

Only rumors; not officially confirmed.

An American ship master today gives the lie to Nazi Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop.

In his broadcast of Saturday morning, you may recall, Hitler's Foreign Minister declared upon his honor that the Nazi troops were not ordered to sail to invade Norway until April Eighth. Ribbentrop, you will remember, was blaming the invasion of Norway upon Great Britain and France.

It so happened that during those historic April days, an American freighter was in the harbor of Trondheim. It's master is William McHale of Glen Rock, New Jersey. And he brought his ship back to America last week. It is Captain McHale who gives the lie to Ribbentrop not only with words but with actual evidence. He took a photograph of a German auxiliary transport while she was in the Trondheim fjords at two in the afternoon of April Seventh. And, says McHale, she was headed south toward Bergen. Then he points to something that means a great deal ~~of~~ to seafaring men. That German transport, say he, was high out of the water. Meaning she had no cargo, or extremely little. On the other hand, McHale points out that she would have been returning empty to Germany. From that he

deduces that there can be no doubt the German transport carried troops. And she was idling along apparently waiting for orders.

What's more, he said, one of his crew saw soldiers on the decks of the German ship with tin hats slung over their shoulder. And it is calculated that she must have sailed from Germany on or before April Fifth.

FIRE

At Charleston, South Carolina, twenty-eight sailors are in jail. It's all because of a fire aboard a Norwegian tanker in Charleston harbor. The tanker, a seven thousand ton boat, is full of high octane gasoline, gas for airplanes, and bound for Glasgow, Scotland. She caught fire last night and at midnight the master of the tanker ordered the crew to abandon ship, save their own lives. Boats from one of Uncle Sam's Coast Guard Cutters took them off and promptly turned them over to the city authorities at Charleston, who threw them into jail pending an investigation. Evidently, somebody suspects that fire in a vessel bound for Great Britain with aviation gasoline, may not have been of innocent origin.

The harbor fire department was obliged to withdraw its fire fighters for fear that a sudden explosion might endanger not only lives but equipment.

All day long there was anxiety in Charleston harbor. The burning Norwegian tanker is anchored not far from the great Cooper River bridge which is three and a half miles long. If the tanker blew up it might take the bridge.

JAPAN

In Tokyo, the Emperor of Japan celebrated his birthday, and in China the Commander-in-Chief of the Mikado's armies celebrated with a proclamation to the soldiers. In several paragraphs it was the usual sort of thing. The Commanding General of the invaders expressed the most benign sentiments, told how the Japanese were in China seizing Chinese property and killing Chinese people, all for the good of the Chinese.

But, that proclamation by General Itagaki also took a crack at international politics, for he warned his soldiers that the Japanese generals do not expect the European War to last long. He said almost in so many words that the Japanese high command is anticipating an armed peace in Europe, and that soon. Then he proclaimed a warning that "in such case our soldiers may expect interference" in Asia. "Other countries may interfere," said the Japanese Generalissimo, "in search for something they cannot find in Europe."

SUPREME COURT

Madam Perkins, Secretary of Laobr, won a case in the United States Supreme Court today. Labor unions also are jubilant about it. The Secretary had issued an order concerning government contracts.

Employers, individuals or firms, under contract to supply Uncle Sam, must pay their workers the minimum wage. And that minimum wage was established by the Secretary of Labor. Madam Perkins established those minimum standards in six different areas throughout the country and she laid down the rule that the minimum wage should range from thirty-five cents an hour to sixty-two and a half cents. Seven steel companies appealed, and won an injunction in the lower courts. But today the Supreme Court reversed the lower courts, said Madam Perkins was right, and that the companies must pay the rates laid down by Madam Secretary.

The ruling of the Supreme Court, written by New Deal Justice Hugo Black, describes the injunction issued by the lower court against Madam Perkins as "unwarranted judicial interference."

Union labor officials are figuring that in one Pennsylvania steel company alone, fifteen thousand common laborers will get an instant increase in pay.

KLAN

A couple of weeks ago, the head of the Ku Klux Klan, the Imperial Wizard, announced that this once secret order was to take off its masks, quit its night riding, quit taking the law into its own hands. Thereupon, some folks breathed a sigh of relief, especially those who remembered some exciting nights back in the early Twenties. In those days it was largely the NEW YORK WORLD, plus one or two criminal prosecutions, that broke the Ku Klux Klan, put an end to those vigilante proceedings, floggings and so on by masked rider.

But today the NEW YORK WORLD TELEGRAM returns to the charge. Its editor sent an investigator, into Georgia and South Carolina. And that investigator, a Scripps-Howard staff writer, Thomas L. Stokes, wires the WORLD-TELEGRAM from Atlanta, Georgia, that the Ku Klux Klan rides again in the South." There have been floggings, lone men abducted by white-robed and masked-mobs, thrashed, and in one case left to die. Some of those floggings, says the WORLD TELEGRAM, staff writer, have been aimed at union labor organizers.

In Fulton County, Georgia, seventeen men have been indictedk charged with having taken part in the flogging of no fewer than forty person.s

The mills of the gods seem to be grinding for George Scalise who until recently was President of the International Union of Building Service Employees. First of all, Columnist Westbrook Pegler, got after him, pointed out that he was an ex-convict and that one of his principal associates was a well known gunman known as "Little Aug." Then he was arrested by the order of New York District Attorney Tom Dewey. Then he was indicted by the grand jury on several counts -- charged with extortion. Then he resigned, said he didn't want to embarrass his union. Then it came out that he resigned twenty-four hours after the Union had fired him.

And today it becomes known that the sleuths of the Treasury are investigating Scalise.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A gentleman from the south was one of the first speakers at the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce in Washington today. Porter Carswell of Waynesboro, Georgia, was there to make a report on business conditions in the south. But he caught the public ear particularly with a report on politics for, said this gentleman from Georgia, most of the folks in the south will vote for a New Deal candidate for president. And the reason he gave was they "they haven't got sense enough to get in out of a shower of government checks." Those were the Georgians words.

SARAH

Just fifteen minutes ago, word came over the wire that the aged Mother of President Roosevelt has been seized with a sudden indisposition. Mrs. Sarah Delano Roosevelt, who is eighty-five years old, paid a visit to the New York World's Fairground, with a companion, Mrs. Crawford. On her way back to her home on Manhattan Island, Mrs. Roosevelt was obliged to have her car stop at a drug store. She was helped out of her automobile and bystanders could not help observing that she was obviously in distress. She obtained temporary relief from the pharmacist but was obliged to stay in the back of the drug store sitting in a chair for upwards of two hours.

Somehow word got round the neighborhood that the President's aged mother was in that pharmacy. Crowds began to gather, and it took the services of an Inspector of Police, three sergeants and fifteen patrolmen to keep the furious at a distance. At about half past five, Mrs. Roosevelt was able to get back into her car and continue on her way to her house in New York City. A White House secretary telephoned the drug store about six P.M. and was informed that the President's mother had apparently recovered when she drove away.

PRIZE FIGHT

Some ten weeks ago, the sporting world was somewhat astonished by a heavyweight prizefighter from Chile. Arturo Godoy fought American Champion Joe Louis and went the full fifteen rounds. Chilean friends of mine were somewhat amused by that, for they tell me that in his own country Arturo Godoy is not considered an especially good fighter. Nevertheless, he did stay the limit with the Brown Bomber, and the inference is that the man who can do that is no slouch.

Well, that issue is to be carried out again. Joe Louis is to meet the Chilean Godoy once more. June Twentieth, at the Yankee Stadium in New York, and then we shall see whether the Chilean can do it again.

CLIMBERS

Three young men from New York City undertook to do a bit of mountain climbing in Palisades Interstate Park. At least the New York police called it "climbing." One young man scrambled up a cliff to a ledge a hundred and fifty feet high. When he got there he couldn't get down. So the two young men who were with him clambored up to help him. Then they found they were on the same spot -- the same predicament:- they couldn't get down either. It took the services of the park police to get them down from that hundred and fifty foot ledge. The police promptly put them under arrest and said, "We've got to stop this promiscuous mountain climbing by city folks."

You may call it mountain climbing in the east, when you scramble up a height of a hundred and fifty feet. But in localities where some of us grew up they wouldn't even call it "hill climbing." Promiscuous mountain climbing! I wonder if the cops had their tongues in their cheeks when they said that? And Hugh, what have you to say?