

WAR

L.I. - Lunco. Friday, March 15, 1940.

The world ~~has been~~ ~~long~~ ~~the world~~ asking
~~has been~~ the ominous question -- when

will the war really blaze forth with murderous violence? Word comes increasingly that the people of Great Britain and France are becoming impatient with the stalemate state of affairs, the seige tactics -- the half a war. "Do something"-- is being ~~demanded~~ demanded more and more in London and Paris. "Do something"-- the cry was raised in the British House of Commons today. Here are a couple of typical statements:-

Herbert Morrison the Labor Leader M.P. spoke up for what he called more vigor and liveliness in the conduct of the war. And ~~the~~ ^{the British M.P.} reasoned this way:- "If we continue to conduct the war on a leaisurly basis, said he, "we shall fail." Then

he added:- "Nazi Germany is acting as a perfect ~~gentleman~~ ^{blackguard.} We are acting as a perfect gentlemen." ^{said he, and then he went on:} "It's a matter for consideration ^{whether} ~~when~~ perfect gentlemanliness can win victories."

More ominous was the demand made by Sir Warren Fisher Defense Official of the British government. He spoke these words:- "It is necessary," said he, " to hit back ~~at~~ ^{the} German civilians in retaliation for a murder of English civilians at sea."

Talk like that might point toward the unleashing of the full horror.

7
Meanwhile, Great Britain is having a war contract scandal. It broke today -- ^{with} ~~the~~ charges that conniving agents are

getting percentage cuts on contracts for military supplies,--

They get a cut in return for
~~this in turn they used their~~ influence in the getting of government

orders.

FINLAND

The end of the war was made official in Finland today. The Finnish Parliament voted to ratify the harsh treaty with Soviet Russia. Reports say there was a bitter debate. The ministry had to defend the peace treaty in the face of angry discontent. There was, however, never any doubt about the issue. There was nothing else the Helsinki Parliament could do - except ratify. ~~to~~

From Stockholm comes a disenchanting report - trouble between the Finns and the Swedish volunteers who went to aid them. Not surprising, however, considering the way the Finns feel that the Swedish Government let them down - kept help from reaching them. That might inevitably lead to disputes between Finnish soldiers and ~~the~~ Swedish volunteers. Stockholm tells of a fight, in which one Swede was killed.

WELLES

78
78
78
Sumner Welles is in Rome tonight, ending his peace mission where he started it - the Eternal City. He's to have a second set of conferences there - with Foreign Minister Count Ciano and with Mussolini. And it appears that he will visit Pope Pius the Twelfth.

Moreover, he is to be received by King Victor Emanuel at nine o'clock tomorrow morning. And that royal audience is provoking speculation. The inferences are based on protocol, that all-important diplomatic code of etiquette. It is pointed out that protocol does not require Sumner Welles to be received by the Italian King. ~~It was different with Ribbentrop, Hitler's Foreign Minister. The Nazi statesman wears the highest Italian decoration,~~

~~the order which makes him rank as a cousin of the King. As such, protocol required him to call on his royal cousin. At the time, last week, Ribbentrop had a conference with Victor Emanuel that lasted for forty-five minutes. ~~That is~~ much longer than protocol required, cousin call on cousin. ~~At~~ that time there were surmises of deep diplomatic doings, with the Italian monarch taking a part in them.~~

theoretical
and that's
ing

~~So no wonder there's a lot of guessing now that Sumner Welles,~~

~~who is nobody's cousin, is to be received by the King though that's~~
~~not necessary, according to protocol.~~ The belief is strengthened that
Victor Emanuel is taking some part in the diplomatic activity -
maybe some new plan. All of which ties in with the rumors of another
Nazi effort for peace.

Rome is seething with rumors about Sumner Welles. One
is that the Italians are ~~xx~~ giving him additional German information,
which Ribbentrop left for them to pass on to him. ^W Another report is
that Mussolini may give the President's emissary an alarming picture
of the prospects - following the end of the Soviet-Finnish War.
This picture is said to envisage the possible formation of a giant
East European combination, consisting of Nazi Germany, Soviet Russia,
the Baltic nations and the Balkans - and maybe Italy. This rumor is
in line with the news that Berlin is strenuously trying to promote
better relations between Rome and Moscow. That might be more possible
now that the Soviets are no longer fighting the Finns. The assumption
is that the Allies might be faced with a combination of everything east
of the Rhine. And that's the menacing picture which Mussolini may
place before Sumner Welles, ^{as an ominous} ~~with enormous~~ possibility. That's the way
the guessing goes in Rome tonight.

There was a lively ^{exchange of amenities} ~~charge of omitties~~ today between President Roosevelt and Senator Tobey of New Hampshire. The president really didn't say anything -- he had to call off his press conference because of a cold. He made the statement through the mouth of presidential Secretary Steve Early. Steve, ^{confiding} the Washington correspondents, said what F.D.R. would have said, which was as follows:- "For the first time in his knowledge a United States Senator openly advised the American people to violate the law."

50
This of course concerns the hot debate about the census, those personal income questions which have stirred up so much ~~halibuloo~~ halibuloo. The storm has been so lively that the Commerce Department, which runs the census, has had to back down. Secretary of Commerce Harry Hopkins has changed the schedule, ^{this way}:-- you can answer, if you want to, when the census man asks you about personal income matters. If you don't want to answer ^{him} ~~to~~, he gives you a card on which you can write the information, without your signature. You can seal it and it will be sent to Washington, without the census man knowing anything about your answer.

The leader in the fight against the financial questions has been Senator Tobey. He declared the inquiries were an invasion of privacy and advised people to refuse to answer them. The presidential statement today did not mention the name of Tobey, but there was no doubt about who was meant ~~in the denunciation~~ ~~of the United States Senator exhorting people to violate the~~ ~~law~~

As soon as this was made public, it drew a hot reply from the New Hampshire lawmaker:- "What do you mean law violation?" demanded the Senator in effect. He described the census decree in these words:- "An unauthorized ruling of a departmental bureau." And he asked -- "Does the President consider such an ~~un~~authorized ruling a law of the United States?"

51
Whereupon the gentleman from New Hampshire ^{"raved"} ~~sounded~~ with alarm in these words:- "It's time," said he, "to call a halt to attempts of departments to arrogate to themselves the function of a legislative body."

So what kind of violation did the Senator advise?

Law violation, or unauthorized ruling violation?

TELEPHONE

The cost of long distance calls is being cut. The Federal Communications Commission today announced a reduction throughout the United States. It applies to calls covering a distance of more than four hundred and twenty miles - and the more the mileage, the greater the slash of price. If a New Yorker is thinking about phoning San Francisco, he won't have to pay six dollars and a half any more - day rate ~~and~~ station-to-station. Hereafter it will cost him four dollars. A proportionate reduction for night calls and person-to-person. The Commission figures that the new rates will mean a saving to the public of five and a half million dollars a year.

NORTH POLE

52
Tonight the citizens of Marshville, Wisconsin, are indignant - because they'll have to stay citizens of Marshville. They wanted to change the swampy name of their town, but the government won't let them do it.

I don't know whether or not the folks of Marshville object to bogs and ^{marshes} ~~mud holes~~. That really isn't the reason why they wanted the name of their town altered. They sought to have the name changed to - North Pole. They grew Arctic minded when they thought of the town of Santa Claus, Indiana, and the volume of Christmas mail which people send via Santa Claus. ~~Marshville, with a population of eighty, is threatened with a loss of its post office, and figured that one way to keep the post office might be~~ ~~people sending~~ Christmas mail via North Pole. Moreover, the citizens are trying to get a toy manufacturer to establish a factory in the town. And one of ~~the~~ inducement would be - to have the toy ~~xxxxxx~~ factory situated at the North Pole.

However, it's all off apparently. The post office department announces today that the North Pole idea has been turned down. And the reason is given - because Marshville is not the

northernmost ^{place} ~~city~~ in Wisconsin. If it were ^{then} ~~the Wisconsin city~~
~~farthest north~~ North Pole would be okay, The inference might
seem to be that north of Wisconsin there is nothing, [!] which should
please the Canadians.

WEATHER

53
All day here in New York it has been bright and mild, brilliant sunshine most of the ^{time.} ~~days~~. And every time my eyes were dazzled by the sunbeams I let out a groan. I remembered the weather story I gave last night - about an icy blizzard sweeping toward the northern Atlantic states - a deluge of snow and sleet about to sweep upon us. So today I wondered - where was the blizzard?

Later on that question was answered by a United Press dispatch, which cheered me up a lot. It tells of an unseasonable storm which sent temperatures tumbling from Ontario to the Gulf of Mexico. ~~Up-state New York covered with ice and snow today.~~ ^{and parts of New England also} So the blizzard at least was somewhere - although not in New York City.

It seems to have swept a bit to the north, ~~to the upper part of the~~ ^{TP Further} ~~state.~~ While in the south, as in New Jersey, there were heavy rains last night which today caused a threat of flood. The Delaware River has been rising so fast that people down the valley have been getting ready to flee their homes. The danger is the greatest along the lower reaches of the stream, where the Lehigh flows into the Delaware. At Morristown, New Jersey, the Whippany River has driven fifty families from their homes. They live in ^a ~~the~~ section called - "the hollow." Which is self-explanatory - the river flood pouring into the hollow.

54

WHALE

Here's a warning to skippers sailing the sea tonight. If, while navigating on the ocean some four hundred miles south of Boston you should sight a submarine - it isn't. Take another look, captain. That's the request the Coast Guard makes today, apprehending a lot of submarine alarms.

Today, a steamer reported sighting a dead whale - a seventy-three foot cetacean floating on the sea. The probabilities are, says the Coast Guard, that more than one sea-going skipper will sight the dead whale and sing out, "Submarine ahoy!" Thereby causing a lot of radio alarms and general nuisance.

IRISH

It gives me the greatest pleasure to read something that Governor Lehman of New York said today. The Governor made a statement, along with his proclamation, naming March the Sixteenth as St. Patrick's Day. Yes, the Sixteenth, because the world famous March the Seventeenth falls on a Sunday this year, and the Hibernian day-of-days will be celebrated on a Saturday. Governor Lehman speaks these words, which I am only too eager to repeat.

"Sons and daughters of Ireland," says he, "have enriched our American life because of the prominent roles they have played, since earliest Colonial Days, and because of their deep religious faith and their inherent love of tolerance and freedom."

Noble words, Governor - and true words. I have repeated them with especial fervor, because of this next story. It comes from Ireland.

Today, in the Dublin Parliament the Ministry of Industry and Commerce faced a barrage of criticism concerning the Irish pavilion at the New York World's Fair. ^{Senator O'Rourke} ~~The~~ Dublin ~~critics~~ complained because at the Irish pavilion there were no pretty girls to greet the visitors. And, ^{said he,} ~~say they,~~ there was no Irish whiskey - also to greet the visitors.

To this in Dublin today, Sean Moylan, Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce - made reply. *His*

words were:-

~~said he~~ There were so many pretty girls at the Fair that one would be glad to go to the Irish pavilion and get a rest *from* them." Fie, fie, Sean, is that in the spirit of Tom Moore who wrote:-

"My only books were women with looks
And folly's all they've taught me."

An Irishman getting a rest from pretty girls? You'd think that pretty girls *would* have to get a rest from *an* Irishman.

But, anyway, that's only the half of it. For Sean Moylan, went ahead to discuss the absence of Irish whiskey at the Hibernian pavilion. *He* He put it this way:- "I know what I could do to a bottle of whiskey," said he. "And I know what an Irish-American could do to it. I also know their reputation for fighting. And, grouping these two things together," said he, "I think there was every justification for not having a restaurant at the pavilion."

The Dublin parliamentary proceedings went on with this final

statement:- "We don't wish to see scenes which might be occasioned

if there were a bar in the Irish pavilion and if there were fighting."

So, since ^{the day's news} ^{gives us} ~~had to repeat~~ ^{those Dublin} ~~public's~~ words, you can understand

why I eagerly welcomed the opportunity to quote the ^{words spoken by} ~~thing said by~~

57
Governor Lehman. In fact, just to be sure, I think I'll say them

all over again. "Sons and daughters of Ireland have enriched our

American life because of the prominent role they have played," ^{and}

~~et cetera, et cetera~~ so on & so on.

SHAKESPEARE

Let's have an end of our Shakespearian troubles --
 the "him" or "he" controversy. I am now informed that the
 quotation from Macbeth that Gene Tunney and I made -- is not bad
 grammar at all. ^{In fact} there's so much protest that I've decided to put
 the controversial baby on Gene's doorstep. As a radio news
 commentator, I ~~will~~ let the former heavyweight champion of the
 world be the grammarian. ~~I'd rather take on Jack Dempsey -- let~~
~~Gene fight the Shakespearian battle.~~ ^{Today} I asked him to give me an
 authoritative and definitive ruling, and here it is! —

"I've long been interested," writes Gene Tunney,
 "in the difference of opinion among English students on the
 grammatical accuracy of the quotation,

'Lay on, MacDuff;
 'And damn'd be him who first cries, 'Hold enough.'"

^{Gene} 'In English grammar," ~~he~~ continues, "the verb form

is known as the jussive subjunctive! -- a contingent command! ^{This}
^{is Tunney speaking, and Gene adds:} "In Latin it would be expressed -- 'Let him be damned.' The contingency
^{Tunney still speaking,} is in the phrase -- 'who first cries 'Hold enough'". "There," adds

Gene, "is your jussive subjunctive, and the regular rule of a

nominative pronoun following a neuter verb cannot apply to it."

Well, what d'you know about that?

58

~~So there you have it~~ - a jussive subjunctive.

~~Take it or leave it.~~

Gene goes on with a further observation. "Shakespeare" says he, "can properly be indicted for solecisms of speech, as we now understand English -- as in the words he put into Mark Anthony's mouth in *JULIUS CAESAR*:- 'This was the most unkindest cut of all.' Yet," the former heavyweight champion goes on, "this was most expressive and carried the meter of the verse."

So the Gene Tunney idea is that while we do find ungrammatical forms in Shakespeare, the Macbeth quotation is not one of them. And his analysis agrees with the letters I've been getting from all sorts of grammatical authorities. They explain the use of the pronoun "him" in much the same way, although they don't get around to that awe-inspiring clincher -- the jussive subjunctive.

And now, Hugh, what jussive subjunctives have you to offer?

8 1/2

9

9 1/4