

BALKANS

S.J. - Sumoco. Friday, Feb. 2, 1940.

Very little news tonight. But here is an item that may be of vast importance.

The Balkan Entente met today, and immediately there were rumors of trouble. At Belgrade in Yugoslavia, the Foreign Ministers of Roumania, Yugoslavia, Turkey and Greece, went into session, to discuss the policies of their countries toward the war. They want to arrange for a joint action in guarding their neutrality. The key nation just now is Roumania, and the word from Belgrade is that the Roumanian Foreign Minister promptly tossed a bombshell. He demanded that the other three nations of the Balkan Entente should guarantee Roumanian territory. If not - King Carol's government would turn to Germany, and get a guarantee from Hitler, *and maybe from Stalin.*

Roumania is worried by the attitude of Hungary and Bulgaria. As a result of the World War, Roumania got from Hungary the rich province of Transylvania, and the Hungarians want it back. During the Balkan War a few years before the World War, Roumania took the province of Dobroudja from Bulgaria. And the Bulgars want that back. There has been plenty of pressure to persuade Hungary and Bulgaria to forego their claims for the duration of the present war - don't start any trouble at such a dangerous time as this.

But the governments at Budapest and Sofia insist on pushing their

demand. (So Roumania is afraid that if she got into any complications because of the war, her two neighbors might attack her. Hence today's demand that Roumanian territory be guaranteed by the Balkan Entente - guaranteed against Hungary and Bulgaria.)

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The story that Roumania may turn to Germany has significant angles. They say that the Nazi realm would give Roumania ~~an~~ a guarantee, but in turn King Carol's government would have to provide Hitler with all the Roumanian supplies he wants - particularly oil. This of course would tangle directly with the British policy of economic warfare. London is striving with every diplomatic device to divert those vital Roumanian supplies from Germany. Britain is trying to buy them, to keep Hitler from getting them, wheat - and oil. There's a British-German battle going on right now in Roumania - in the diplomatic field.

Today's word from Belgrade ties Soviet Russia in with ~~that~~ possible deal between the Roumanians and the Nazis. The Soviets, like Hungary and Bulgaria, want a chunk of Roumanian territory - the province of Bessarabia, which Roumania got from Russia after the World War. The report is that Stalin would be willing to forego

the Soviet claim to Bessarabia - if King Carol would hand over a full measure of foodstuffs and oil to Hitler. The Roumanian Foreign Minister is said to have told the meeting of the Balkan Entente that Roumania might enter into a non-aggression pact with Moscow.

These reports of trouble at Belgrade attracted so much attention in Europe today, that the Roumanian legation in London issued a statement to counteract them. The statement which was made ~~at~~ ⁱⁿ Bucharest, ~~issued by~~ ^{orders from} ~~Belgrade,~~ is rather ambiguous. It denies that Roumania today made any threats ~~to~~ ^{to} the Balkan Entente ~~conferences~~ - threats that might lead to a break up of the conference.

FINNS

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The war in Finland gives us word today of a new weapon of battle. The Red army, continuing its heavy attacks against the Mannerheim Line, is using something novel - a kind of armoured sled that the Finns are calling - a Trojan horse. The sled is described as a ponderous sort of fort on runners, with soldiers inside. It has no power of its own, and is pushed by a tank. When the armoured sled gets near Finnish positions to be attacked, it stops and the soldiers within jump out. They hurriedly take to cover, and get into position with rifles and machine guns. The men inside of the contraption are the reason why they're calling it - a Trojan horse, after that famous hollow wooden horse in which Greek warriors hid, the strategem that caused the fall of Troy.

And so today, the Finns saw coming against their line, a whole string of sleds turned into forts, those Trojan horses. The war dispatches say the defenders were baffled at first, didn't quite know how to meet the new menace. Then they found the best way was with hand grenades. With these they could blast the sleds, and break up the attack, stopping the charge of the Trojan horses.

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Once more today, there were waves of air attack far and wide in Finland, with the Red air force bombing in raids at a score

of places. The Finns report only a few casualties in today's bombing, but it remains to be seen how far the continuous air attack is damaging vital centers of military activity - communications, and so on.

Extra

The Japanese are driving heavily again in China, and today claim a large victory. Japanese military authorities at Shanghai report their forces have captured the strategic city of Pingyang. Not only that - they say they have ^{trapped} ~~XXXXXX~~ a hundred and fifty thousand Chinese troops. They describe the trap as a vast "horseshoe shaped pocket", in which the Chinese are being encircled.

BROWDER

Today it was decided definitely ^{that} the convicted Communist leader Earl Browder will run for Congress. There ^d ~~have~~ been protests against allowing Browder to be a candidate in the New York Congressional election. ^{Now} The Board of Elections ^{has} considered the matter, ^{and today} [^] decreed in Browder's favor. And immediately afterward the action of the Election Board was upheld by a Justice of the New York Supreme Court. So Browder won a double victory -- though hardly enough to console him for ^{that} ~~the~~ heavy prison sentence imposed ~~on him~~ for passport frauds. He's out on bail, while making an appeal -- and [^] ~~is~~ running for Congress.

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt today spoke out against cuts in the budget for Agriculture. The bill now before the House represents a drastic slash ~~for~~ of the farm money which the President proposed in his budget message to Congress. Mr. Roosevelt today described the proposed reduction as -- terrific. The bill as it now stands would appropriate six hundred thirty-four million dollars. The President says the figures should not be below nine hundred million.

All this had a prompt effect in Congress, where the Farm Block ^{was} ~~is~~ spurred to ^{new} activity -- the Congressional group that is fighting the proposed cut in the cash for agriculture.

GENERAL KINCAID

L.T.:- One of the bi-products of the European War is a drive to promote Pan-American travel. President Roosevelt sponsored the campaign with an official proclamation, and the hotel men of the United States have got behind it with a systematic plan. One of the most prominent of American hotel men is General Leslie Kincaid of the American Hotels Corporation. ^{The} General Kincaid has just returned from a survey trip to the West Indies, and I've asked him to tell us a thing or two about the possibilities of Pan-American travel. ^{So} You think there's much to it, General Kincaid?

GENERAL KINCAID:- Very much, Lowell. In the past Latin-Americans have been inveterate travelers to Europe -- Paris in particular. The rich Argentine or Brazilian was a familiar figure in life along the boulevards. Now, Europe and Paris are cut off, and the likeliest place for Latin-Americans to go is the United States, -- especially, ~~with two expositions going on this summer, New York and San Francisco.~~

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GENERAL KINCAID:- They certainly can do a thorough job of sight-seeing when they start out. Somebody has been telling me of a

Latin-American family that went out to have a look at the Grand Canyon. They saw it from the south rim, and were so impressed that they journeyed for four days to get a view of the canyon from the north rim.

L.T.:- What was the most interesting thing in your West Indian trip, General Kincaid?

GENERAL KINCAID:- I was most interested in the story of a high ranking officer in Santo Domingo. Colonel McLaughlin. Mac was a marine in the American occupation of the island. When the marines left, he remained behind and helped to train the Dominican constabulary as a captain. Later on he returned to the United States, and became an efficiency expert. Then one day Mac got a cable. It was from a soldier who had served under him in Santo Domingo. The cable said:- "Come down here and help me organize the army -- I'm Commander-in-Chief." The one-time private soldier was General Trujillo, who is now the Strong Man of the Dominican Republic. McLaughlin accepted the offer, and is now the Colonel of one of Trujillo's crack regiments, and he also commands the Dominican Navy.

L.T.:- That reminds me of the time I was in Santo Domingo on a sailing ship cruise with Count Luckner, the Sea Devil. General

Trujillo welcomed us with open arms -- largely because of Dan Edwards. Dan was a United States Army sergeant in the World War and won both the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross -- for heroism. The General greeted Sergeant Dan with enthusiasm. He promoted Dan to the rank of a General, and had him lead the Dominican Army on parade, and gave him a grant of a thousand acres of land. So, General Kincaid, now I'm not surprised by your story of the ruler of the Dominican Republic and the ex-marine.

GROUNDHOG

I've an authoritative report on the weather for the next six weeks. This being Groundhog Day, the Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, Groundhog Club wires me as follows:- "Punxsutawney Groundhog cast very decided shadow at nine A.M. today. Forecasts six ~~xx~~ additional weeks of winter." *P* So that would seem to be that, if it were not for Quarryville, Pennsylvania. Those two Pennsylvania towns are bitter rivals in groundhog weather prognostication. Each claims to have the true secret of how to consult the woodchuck and its shadow. So Quarryville today issues a prophecy, and it doesn't quite agree with the Punxsutawney version. It's a bit indefinite. *P* The members of the Slumbering ~~ing~~ ^{ing} Groundhog Lodge went through an elaborate ritual of woodchuck observation and came out with the following verdict:- As ^{the} ~~A~~ groundhog emerged from its hole it was cloudy, but just at that moment the sun peeped out briefly and rather faintly. So the groundhog saw his shadow, and went back into his hole - indicating six weeks more of cold weather. However, the shadow the wise animal saw was not sufficiently dark and distinct to make the cold weather prediction a hundred per cent. Therefore the Slumbering Groundhog Lodge prognosticates that there'll be some cold in the next six weeks but maybe not so much.

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BOY

At Bayonne, New Jersey, they found Jimmy O'Connell - after a wide and anxious search. Jimmy's father is a policeman, and so his brother cops made extra efforts to find the ten year old lad. There was all sorts of worry, because Jimmy had last been seen out on the ice of Newark Bay, floating ice. And it was feared he had been swept away on a frozen ~~shunck~~ chunk.

Today they found Jimmy - in the basement of his home, hiding there. During all the hunt for him he was just hiding. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Why? What was it all about? It took a little time to get it out of the lad, but here it is'. ^{Jimmy} ~~He~~ had indeed been out on the ice, skipping from one ice floe to another, ~~but~~ ^{and} then he started home ~~he~~ saw the cops hunting for him. Even though Jimmy's father is a policeman, Jimmy is afraid of cops - the way most boys are. They didn't see him, and he ducked into the hallway of an apartment house and fell asleep there. When he awakened he went home. And being more scared than ever - he hid in the basement. There his father found him.

BARRYMORE

The great Barrymore saga rose to new heights of drama today.

After the eventful reunion with his estranged wife night before last, John Barrymore ^{now} seemed ^s likely to make it not only a marital reunion but also a stage reunion. For a time, his wife Elaine Barry, played with him in the comedy he has now brought to Broadway. *Then* her place was taken by the blonde actress Doris Dudley. She was regarded as a Barrymore protege, and moreover ^s as a bosom friend of Barrymore's daughter, Diana. Daughter Diana is angrily hostile toward wife Elaine, and did her best to prevent the reunion. So now you can see the possibility of further family hard feelings -- as Broadway reports that Elaine will go back into the play, and Doris will lose her job. Today Miss Dudley is quoted as making this philosophical and cynical expression -- "I'm in the peculiar position," says she, "of trying to fight sex with talent." To which the echo would seem ^s to be -- talent hasn't ~~got~~ a chance in that kind of contest.

It seems to be a question of -- who is to get spanked. In the play, "My Dear Children", actor Barrymore spans one of his dear children -- the one played ^s ^{successively} by wife Elaine and protege Doris.

The report is that the last outbreak of Barrymore matrimonial trouble was because -- one night on the stage John spanked Elaine too hard. Possibly there was some ~~w~~ sort of a matrimonial misunderstanding, something of the sort that often ~~wants to make~~ a ^{want to} husband [^] spank his wife, spank her good and plenty. Anyway the magnificent Barrymore is said to have laid his hand on Elaine with much more vigor than the drama called for. And she was furious, and left hubby and quit the play.

The Barrymore reconciliation has legal aspects too -- for Elaine has a divorce suit pending out West. How will the reunion effect that? The two have had quite an exciting legal history. First Elaine divorced ^d John, then she cancelled ^{it} ~~the divorce~~. John entered a separation suit against Elaine, and then dropped it. Whereupon she started another ~~divorce~~ suit -- the one that's pending now. Moreover, John sued Elaine and her mother for an accounting of three hundred thousand dollars of his money, ~~which he claims they took~~. That's also ^{is} pending. Things always seem to be pending with the Barrymores -- trouble for example.

GABLE

Clark Gable and Carol Lombard are okay. The famous husband-and-wife of the movies were located twenty-four miles south of Ensenada in Mexican Lower California. They ~~we~~ had been missing for some time on a motor trip in the rugged country down there, and were right in the midst of a tremendous storm - a blasting gale ripping across Lower California. Motion picture people were worried about them, as why wouldn't they - two such top-ranking top-money stars as Clark Gable and Carol Lombard.

Now they're located at the LaBrea Gun Club, an isolated resort. Clark Gable explains:- "No, we didn't get stuck. But the roads were so terrible that it took us eleven and a half hours to make the trip" - ^{one that} ~~a trip they~~ should have made in several hours.

TOMATO

8 1/2
Today we have an official verdict, a congressional verdict, on a weighty question, - "Is it a tomato or is it a tomahto?"

The problem flared before the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives. They were considering the matter of the red squashy fruit - or is it a vegetable? We'll have to let that question go. Up spoke Representative Allen Treadway, Republican of Massachusetts. And the New Englander said - "tomahto."

"Do you mean tomato?" demanded Representative Pat Cannon, a Florida Democrat.

"I mean tomahto", sternly responded the lawmaker from New England.

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The Southerner refused to yield to this ^{Massachusetts} Republican pronunciation. He appealed to the Committee, which has a majority of Democrats. And that majority voted for "tomāto". So there you have it, by congressional vote. -- tomato? - not tomahto.

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Let's ask Hugh.