

P.T. - Sunoco. Dri., July 12, 1935.

Checked  
MSC.

It certainly sounds like a paradox, a contradiction, or something --helium non-explosive, but the balloon filled with helium explods. *So tonight a secret investigation.*

Captain Stevens and Captain Orville Anderson of the Army Stratosphere Expedition were smacked hard by a disappointment today. After wearysome waiting for the weather to be just right, they said:- "This is the day." And they turned on the helium. The big stratosphere bag started to inflate.

6  
They were sure they'd have better luck this time than last -- last year, when Captain Stevens took off to explore the stratosphere, soared aloft, and drifted for hundreds of miles. And suddenly the big bag ripped apart and the aeronauts had to bale out and float down with parachutes billowing above them -- while the collapsed balloon flopped ~~in~~ limply to earth.

Today the luck was even worse. They didn't even ~~got~~ off. The helium was still flowing in, the balloon billowing with a huge rotundity. There was a sudden hiss. It grew louder. And the balloon exploded. No flaming burst -- the helium is non-inflam~~able~~ all right. But for some unknown

reason the swelling pressure of gas burst the great sphere of fabric. The balloon collapsed limply, its immense folds sprawling to the ground. Twenty soldiers of the ground crew were trapped under the billowing expanses of cloth -- like bugs under an blanket. They were quickly rescued. Nobody injured -- just the bitter disappointment of two famous army aeronauts.

The "G" men have lost one of their biggest "Gs" -- not big physically but in reputation. Melvin Purvis, the man who shot Dillinger, is called "Shorty". So today the Department of Justice is short of "Shorty."

He has made public a telegram which he has sent to J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Department of Justice. It reads:- "I have decided to resign from the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice. My plans are indefinite and I don't know what I'll do when I leave this post." There's no hint as to there having been a squabble to account for the resignation.

Purvis was a South Carolina lawyer whose hobby was pistol shooting. Not finding much exercise for his marksmanship in the courts of law, he joined up as a "G" man. That gave him more opportunity for target practice, and when the bull's eye he hit was Dillinger, he became famous. Presumably he'll go back to the practice of law.

Chief Agent Hoover's policy has been to employ young lawyers for his public-enemy-hunting-sleuths. So we

8  
find a lawyer nominated as the head of the Chicago Bureau of the Department. He is D. M. Ladd, whose father was Senator Ladd of North Dakota. Nine years ago D. M. Ladd dropped his practice of law and joined up. He's been in charge of the St. Louis division and the Washington, D. C., field office.

And in the Waley case -- the Weyerhauser kidnapping -- the defense has rested. Case to the jury in the next few hours to decide the fate of the <sup>young</sup> wife of the kidnapper Waley.

## ETHIOPIA

Not merely a bitter lipped cynic, but even the gentlest and sweetest simple minded soul would sum up the latest indications in Europe in terms of bitter irony:- Great Britain so ardently interested in the preservation of peace in East Africa that she is willing to take a slice of Abyssinia, herself.

Yet there may be a good deal of the genuine in it all. England does want to keep Italy from going to war with Abyssinia for fear that the disturbance would arouse violent repercussions among the black hosts in Britain's own African colonies.

A number of years back England joined with Italy and France in a treaty for whacking up the Abyssinian Dominions. After all, let's be cool about it. Britain has an acute need to control the Ethiopian headwaters of the River Nile, that ancient Nile which dominates not only the life of Egypt, but of the British Sudan too.

John Bull hardly wants to jump right now into the business of dividing up Abyssinia. He'd rather cut the Ethiopian pie at some more convenient time. Mussolini's Roman gestures have

made pie cutting a little too public and melo-dramatic.

So Great Britain says to Mussolini, "Very well, Signor, rather than have you go to war with Ethiopia I'll take a chunk of Ethiopia for myself." Perhaps a real sacrifice in the cause of peace! -- Although it does remind one of a man bursting into tears and crying -- "All right, have it your own way, I'll take the money."

Of course there seems to be something complicated about the reasoning: War, if Italy takes some of the Abyssinian property. Peace, if England does the same thing. But it all simplifies down to the idea that if Mussolini will agree on a division of spoils with John Bull, why John won't oppose Italy any longer but will join up. He'll present the case to the King of Kings at Addis Ababa.

The conquering Lion of Judah would hardly dream of bucking up against both England and Italy. So he would have to accept -- accept a double protectorate scheme. Part to Italy Part to England.

And, there is a further indication of the British desire for peace, right in that idea of division of Abyssinia into protectorates. England is willing to let Italy have the larger share. Also, one stipulation is -- that these arrangements are to be made by direct negotiations between Great Britain, Italy and Ethiopia -- and not through the medium of the League of Nations.

The authority for it is Sir Samuel Hoare the British Foreign Secretary. Yesterday we heard that Sir Samuel had a plan. And that's the plan. Is the honorable gentleman skating on thin ice?

Well, Sir Samuel ought to know his skates. For 25 years he's been a member of the House of Commons. And now for several weeks he has been Foreign Secretary. He also enjoys some renown as a tennis player; and ~~is~~ also a skater. Quite a wizzard on the ice is Sir Samuel. He has won more than one medal for his flashy speed and his whirling wits on the ice.

Wonder what the Romans think about it. In the Eternal

City they are mostly concerned right now with that statement Secretary of State Hull made to the Italian Ambassador in Washington -- that the United States regards Italian warlike program in Africa with "misgivings."

The Italians are not shouting any "vivas" over that. Mussolini in fact has expressed his own discontent with the statement of our Secretary of State. The Roman attitude is that the United States is a long distance away from East Africa so why should Uncle Sam have anything to say.

Analysis of your Uncle Sam's attitude indicates that Secretary Hull's declaration was prompted by two things. The first was that when the United States Government last week refused to intervene diplomatically in Abyssinia the Italians took it as an expression of approval of their policy. Secondly -- the peace societies in the United States raised an outcry in Washington.

There are two camps of American position. One



doesn't want us to get into any entanglements because entanglements may lead to war. The Pacifists are devoted to peace even to the extent of war. <sup>H</sup>Meanwhile, The exodus of Americans from Ethiopia continues. The latest is the departure of eight Americans -- eight American Negroes, ~~that~~ ~~were~~ warned by the American Consul that it might be dangerous for them to remain. While in Harlem -- Negroes are enlisting to go and fight for Abyssinia.

NOMAD PARLIAMENT

Here's one that has all the glamour of the East hidden in it -- veiled women, palm trees, desert oases, camels, and sand dunes:-

Word comes from Cairo that the wandering Arabs of the Libyan Desert, Bedouin of the Black Tents, have formed their first Parliament. Delegates from seventy-five Bedouin tribes, representing one million Egyptian nomads, have met and organized their Parliament under Sheik El Arab Sidi Abdullah Hamid El Basil Pasha.

Since the members of this Parliament are nomads, dwellers amid the shifting sands, perhaps they'll have a nomadic Parliament, each time meeting on a different oasis. What a contrast to our Congress in Washington! Can't you just see Senator Pat Harrison, Senator Gerald Nye, Bob LaFollette, Huey Long and Jim Wadsworth gathering up the folds of their gowns, mounting their grunting, burbling camels and galloping over the singing sands of Pennsylvania to attend a session in Washington? Also, the veiled ladies of their harems following in the caravan, accompanied by eunuchs and slaves!

FRANCE

Alfred Dreyfuss died today in France, the legened  
hero of Devil's Island of Long ago.

-----

In Paris today, the gendarmes are making the rounds of  
the city, raiding and searching. They are seizing pistols,  
rifles and ammunition. The purpose is to avoid trouble on  
Bastille Day -- next Sunday. The plan is still on to string a  
dividing line of police and divide Paris into two halves --  
one where the Right Wingers can parade and celebrate all by  
themselves, the other where the Left Wingers can do the same in  
equal seclusion. But just the same, though they've got it  
fixed up so they can keep the antagonistic factions apart, the  
authorities are taking further precautions. The War Ministry  
today notified all soldiers not on patrol duty in the streets,  
to remain massed in their barracks ready for emergency calls  
when things get hot in Parea on Sunday.

DR. MAPHIS

Over here it's hot right now!

-----

Although it may be 91 in New York, 90 in Boston, and 93 in Philadelphia, rhetorically speaking the real heat is to be turned on at Charlottesville, Virginia, this evening -- at the University of Virginia, when General Hugh Johnson and Congressman Jim Wadsworth stage ~~an~~ an old time debate. The subject? The New Deal, of course.

The Institute of Public Affairs, directed by Dr. Charles G. Maphis, is in full swing at the University of Virginia. One of the speakers there today was J. Howard Pew, head of The Sun Oil Company. This Institute is the most important center of debate and discussion in America today, that is, outside of Congress.

## MONTOUR

Here is a flood news' novelty -- good news. The other evening we had Montour Falls devastated utterly by raging water and raging flames. In response to this I have had a cherry message from the Mayor of Montour saying that as for the fury of the waters, that's all over. As for flaming fury, Mayor Lowman refers to it as a minor blaze in a garage, put out in fifteen minutes. We wish all the news from the flood area was like that.

TREASURE

56

Here is an odd and rather weird treasure story that sounds something like imagination disorganized by the heat, but it happened at such work-a-day places as Oklahoma City and Wheeling, West Virginia. The treasure hunter, C. W. Clift is an Oklahoma attorney. He was searching not for himself but for the ~~heirs~~ heirs named in a Will. The Will itself is an oddity. The last testament of an Oklahoma City pioneer, Louis S. Delaplaine, once American Consul in Georgetown, British Guiana. The will was written on a Christmas card. In it Attorney Clift found a clue that led him to an isolated farm near Graysville, Ohio. There he found an ~~an~~ aged caretaker who told him to go to a certain office in Wheeling, West Virginia and there he would find a treasure belonging to the heirs, a treasure that dated back to the old Kings of France.

Attorney Clift hurried to Wheeling, West Virginia, looked up the building and <sup>found</sup> the office, <sup>--</sup> a couple of shabby, dusty rooms long empty. It had once been the luxurious quarters of the man who had made the Will on the Christmas Card. With the aid of the janitor Attorney Clift searched according to hints

7

he had received. He found a false fireplace behind which was a dark passageway leading to a hidden room. And in a dim garret full of dust and cobwebs they found three brass chests with locks of steel. When they opened the chests they found them crammed with silver plate and gold plate, ~~a magnificent table service~~. Also ~~antique~~ antique furniture inlaid with pearl -- and a tinted photograph of Queen Victoria given by the Queen herself to the man who had been a pioneer in Oklahoma City, a hider of treasure at Wheeling, West Virginia and who had written his Will on a Christmas Card.

Bacchus in a clown's costume, the wine-bibing divinity wearing a <sup>S</sup>uit one arm blue and one leg blue, and one arm and one leg striped with gray. I don't suppose Old Boy Bacchus himself would mind. He never was such a dignified diety, <sup>with</sup> ~~his~~ a goat's beard and bulbous nose. But, his devotees do mind -- at least at Greeley, Colorado.

Of course, Greeley, <sup>Colorado,</sup> never did erect ~~altars~~ <sup>altars</sup> to Bacchus. It was founded in 1870, exclusively for men of "temperate habits" as the old <sup>a</sup>phrase read. It's been dry for sixty-five years. Still, even in "temperance town" there were some sorry sinners who were not tee-totlers, except in the sense of getting tee-totally drunk. And when, brought to court, they wouldn't even pay their fines. That was too rough entirely, so the local judge hit upon an idea: "If a fellow drinks too much," says His Honor, "he acts like a clown -- so let him dress like a clown." So the learned judge designed a clown suit of clothes and had a batch made up. And then he proceeded to pass out sentences like this:- "Ten dollars or ten days in the clown costume." And the unfortunate tippler if he didn't pay the fine,



was forced to go about town with a blue arm and a blue leg, and a striped arm and a striped leg. As they had hang-overs when they put the harelquin regalia on the effect was painful. Some of the old boys thought they had the D. T.s. as they gazed upon themselves through the mist.

The effect has been highly salutary. Few even of the most hardened sinners of Greely show any disposition to wander around the streets dressed up like a circus funny man. Drunkenness - swimming in liquor - has almost disappeared.

And as it's about 99 in the shade where I am at this moment I'll soon disappear, swimming in perspiration, if I don't say --

SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.