

L.J. Sunoco. Friday, Feb. 11, 1938.

The report from the American Embassy at Moscow to the State Department in Washington concerning the Rubens case is not at all sensational. Last night we were supposing that the conversation between the two American diplomats and the American woman in the Soviet prison might bring forth some fantastic tale of mystery, espionage, intrigue. ^{Well —} The State Department has promptly made the report public, and ^{it} tells us little or nothing about the strange case of Mrs. Rubens.

In that amazing interview yesterday, with Soviet officials passing judgment on every question asked of the American woman, little was revealed by her. There was something about it all moodily reminiscent of stories of other prisoners in the custody of the Communist secret police. ^{Reluctance — fear!} ~~secrecy, reluctance~~

Mrs. Rubens ^{refused} ~~said she didn't know anything about the false~~ ^{to give them any} ~~information about her doings or her arrest.~~ ^{passports with which she and her husband had entered Russia} ~~As much as said: "none of your~~ ^{business."} ~~all a secret to her. She disclosed no information about the perplexing aspects of the case involving plotting and espionage.~~

She said she didn't want any help from the Americans,

RUBENS

her own countrymen, she said she ~~did~~ did not want them to intercede for her with the Soviet authorities. She wanted no lawyer to be assigned to help her - nothing. Her tone seemed to indicate that she was quite content with her Soviet jail and jailors - and wanted no interference. *We wonder.*

BUTLER -

Today there was a grave and solemn moment in the Supreme Court - as the session began, as the Justices took their seats. One was conspicuously missing.

Chief Justice Hughes opened the session on a sombre note. "Mr. Justice Butler," he announced, "is absent today, and we note with deep sorrow the cause of his absence - the tragic death of his son, Kevin Butler." The Chief Justice then expressed the sympathy of the Supreme Court for the bereaved Justice and his family.

~~It appears certain now that Kevin Butler accidentally plunged through the window of ^{that} a passenger car, as the train went speeding through Pennsylvania. His widow explains that he had been working for several days on a trying problem of mathematics, and that when he did that he commonly couldn't sleep well. She supposes he must have taken a sedative, which benumbed his faculties, making him more liable to lose his balance with a lurch of the car. And the trainmen say that when the accident occurred, the string of cars was lurching around a sharp curve called - Devil's Bend.~~

SUBMARINE

The S-4 -- does that bring back any recollections?

U.S.
The new ~~United States~~ submarine S-4 on a trial run off ~~the~~
~~coast of~~ Cape Cod -- does your memory go back to that event ten
years ago, the tragic disaster of the S-4? ~~That undersea boat,~~
~~foundered off Cape Cod,~~ after a collision with a destroyer.

8
The iron hull ~~sank~~ sank to the bottom of the sea, and there were men
inside in an airtight chamber. Then followed harrowing days of
suspense, with desperate attempts at rescue - hopeless attempts.
The S-4 went on record as one of the saddest tragedies in the
Navy.

Let's bring the news up-to-date, down to the minute.

The S-4 -- newly built submarine on her trial run ~~north to~~ Cape
Cod. Yes, today the new S-4 went through ^{her paces,} navigating and diving
tests. Again and again she passed over the very place where the
old S-4 sank ten years ago. She's one of a group of subs named
after fishes. ^{Her name -} ~~she's called~~ - THE SNAPPER, but on her conning
tower is marked her letter and number in the series - S-4.

Today's story is much like that of ten years ago, but
so very different. ~~It relates~~ Tests executed successfully, no
sign of mishap.

NAVY

Chairman Vinson of the House Naval Affairs Committee announced today that he will add a proviso to the eight hundred million dollar bill to enlarge the fleet. He made public the text of this proviso, and it's worth looking at its terms.

~~It is general~~

Its general theme is ^a~~the~~ declaration that the naval policy

of the United States should be one of defense, protect our coast lines and all our possessions - but no aggression.

The proviso, in speaking of the defense of our coast lines, declares for a navy that will be strong enough to defend both coasts, against simultaneous attack. That might mean a still bigger navy than they're planning. The defense of two coast lines might mean two fleets. ^{if} Then ^{the}~~this~~ proviso, ~~that Chairman Vinson will take~~
~~on to the Navy Bill~~ gives assurance that the United States doesn't look with favor upon the armament race in which it is compelled to engage, and would welcome an international move to limit armament. The president to be authorized to suspend any naval construction under the bill - in case any satisfactory armament limitation is worked out.

This proviso announcement followed the appearance before the Committee of an outspoken gentleman, who has talked to a congressional committee before - with rather spectacular results. Major-General Johnson Hagood, ^{remember?} who once made some anti-New Deal remarks before a committee and said that W.P.A. funds were - "stage money". ^{And} That got the General into trouble. He was suspended from his command. ^{But} was ~~then~~ ^{Then} reinstated. ~~and~~ ^{retired.} later ~~resigned.~~ Today, he told the Navy, Committee that - the national defense and the security of the country is being made a football of politics.

"We are unable," said the General, "to confine our discussions to the merits of the case, and are led off to a morass of doubt and suspicion - for fear that the executive branch or the munitions makers or somebody else is going to plunge us into war."

The General thereupon ^{offered} ~~made~~ the proposal that the Navy Bill should be made to include a definite statement of national policy - put on record the purpose for which an enlarged fleet is to be used.

Yes, the last time the General spoke at a congressional hearing, he got into trouble. But this time it was altogether different. No trouble at all, for the General. Instead, Chairman Vinson agreed with him heartily - so heartily that then and there the Chairman read the proviso that he ^{himself} intends to insert in the Navy Bill - ^{a declaration} ~~the statement~~ of the naval policy of the United States.

SINGAPORE

51
A couple of United States warships steaming at full ~~speed~~ ^{tonight} ~~speed~~ in Asiatic waters - steering for Singapore. There they'll take a highly significant part in the equally significant opening of Britain's ^{stupendous} Far Eastern naval base - Gibraltar of the East.

I have just been reminded by the famous traveler, Burton Holmes, that while Singapore is strategically situated to defend the British Empire in the East, it's ~~EXXEXXEX~~ even more strategic with relation to the Dutch Empire - nearer to it.

~~It's~~ Just across a narrow strait from Sumatra, ^{and Borneo.} ~~and is much~~
And Japan is said to be looking nearer to the Dutch Empire of the East Indies than it is to with covetous eyes at ~~British India.~~ And that Dutch Empire ~~is~~ of fabulous wealth!

What a prize ~~it would be~~ for Japan!

Holmes.

Feb. 117
1938.

INTRO TO MR. HOLMES

Just what is that vast Dutch East Indian Empire like, ~~xxx~~ ^{those} Fabulous islands of the Indies, those lands of spice that have made Holland so rich?

Burton Holmes, perhaps the most famous traveler of our generation, is sitting beside me tonight. He is in the city, doing the thing he has done with such skill for ~~more~~ ^{more than} forty years, lecturing to vast audiences and ~~xxx~~ showing his colorful travel pictures. Burton Holmes, on his annual swing around the principal cities of the United States, is here ^{closing} his New York season next Sunday ~~appearing~~ at the Martin Beck Theatre with his travelogues on "Down to Rio."

Mr. Holmes, what were your impressions of the glamorous Dutch East Indies?

57
MR. HOLMES:- I rather think we are inclined to forget that the little kingdom of the Netherlands is one of the greatest Colonial powers the world has ever seen. What an ~~impen~~ empire little Holland rules in the East! Why, Lowell, the exact figures have slipped my mind, but Holland's empire in the Dutch East Indies is hundreds of times greater than the ~~xxxxxxx~~ country of Holland itself. And, when it comes to population, those prolific, those glamorous, those romantic islands of the Far East far, far ~~xxxxx~~ outnumber the population of Holland. (Why, on the island of Java alone dwell more than forty-three million native people. And, in the mother country, in Holland, there are only about eight million Hollanders -- Dutchmen. And, Java, while the most populous is by no means the largest unit of that Dutch East Indian empire. Sumatra is three times as large as Java, and rich tropical Borneo is larger still!)

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L.T.:- Just to hear you speak about that part of the world makes me ^{itch} ~~me~~ to catch the next boat, Mr. Burton Holmes. Which island shall we head for?

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MR. HOLMES:- Oh, I'd say Bali. Travelers haven't spoiled it yet. It's unique, utterly delightful, a ~~dra~~ dreamy, gorgeous isle of romance, where the languorous people still hold to the customs of old, customs so utterly strange to us.

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L.T.:- And the cruises^e ships haven't taken the edge off all that romance?

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MR. HOLMES:- ~~So~~ Far from it. Bali is today what Japan was several generations ago -- and more, ^{an} island of ancient oriental customs, ~~next to~~ courtesy, incredible charm -- completely unspoiled by contact with the modern world.

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54
L.T.:- Not troubled by the TVA, the WPA, the AAA, Income Taxes, and all the things that worry us. Mr. Burton Holmes, we all envy you.

SPAIN

Of late Mr. Burton Holmes our own government proceedings in connection with foreign affairs have concerned Japan in the Far East, almost exclusively. But, today there's a Washington dispatch that ties up with Spain. It's in the form of a charge that the Spanish Embassy in Washington has been wrongfully using its diplomatic privileges with regard to the United States mails, and has been mailing Spanish left wing propaganda throughout the United States without paying any postage on it.

Today, a Spanish Embassy source declared that such mail was not dispatched in any wholesale way, and was all according to international treaty.

At the Post Office Department it was said that some

complaints had come in about the Spanish Embassy mail. ~~It was~~

~~explained that~~ ^{being} the whole question ~~is~~ involved in a good deal of

doubt. International treaty does provide that the official

correspondence of ambassadors and ministers shall be handled free

by the United States Post Office. But there ~~isn't~~ has never been

a ruling on the question whether the term "diplomatic correspondence"

covers all mail sent from an embassy. That ^{point} will have to be cleared

up.

Spanish affairs were in the forefront at London -

amid a rosy glow of optimism. It concerns that ~~better~~ contested

problem of foreign volunteers in Spain - especially Italians.

The London reports paint a picture of Italy being anxious to

please Britain in the matter right now, and Britain being anxious to

please Italy. That should make it easy to come to an understanding.

Mussolini is said to be willing to get the Italian volunteers out of

Spain, and London is said to be just as willing to have it all

arranged according to Mussolini's ideas. The news goes so far as

to say that they've just about reached a final settlement to localize

the Spanish Civil War, let the Spaniards fight it out all by themselves.

56
All this rose glow of friendly optimism about British-Italian friendship has one striking bit of confirmation - in a late dispatch. It's a report that His Majesty's ministers are considering a loan of a hundred and twenty-five million dollars - to Italy. Lend that bundle of cash to Mussolini - in response to the new harmony and good-will ^{over} ~~in~~ the Spanish business. What a lot of meaning in that 125 million!

GERMANY

Our crop of rumors last night has simmered down to ~~one~~^{one} ~~mere~~
generality:- there's a good deal of unrest in the German army.

That was admitted by Nazi spokesmen today.

As for the more spectacular rumors - they're all denied.
~~There have been~~ No mutinies in the German regiments, no generals
~~have been~~ arrested, none have escaped out of Germany. ^{also} the former
Crown Prince did ^{not} flee to Italy. Herr Hitler is not sick,
no breakdown - as reported.

The rumors all emanate from that one ^{admitted} ~~general~~ fact -
unrest and discontent in the German army. The ^censorship, which
is meant to control the information the German people get,
merely intensified ^s the rumor crop - anything might be surmised -
in darkness.

57
All foreign newspapers
confiscated in Germany because
of the rumors.

ROUMANIA

The new Premier of Roumania is a stately ecclesiastic with long robes and a long beard - the orthodox patriarch, ~~of Roumania~~. We are reminded today that the Roumaniaⁿ church was never in favor of the anti-Semitic drive staged by the resigned Premier Goga. Several weeks ago, a high church dignitary told a United Press reporter that the pressure upon the Jews was, as he expressed it, wholly incompatible with the teachings of Christ. So today it seems all the more likely that the immediate Roumanian program will be to cut out a good deal of government anti-Semitism.

The patriarch of Roumania, at the head of the government!
 ~~Surely that is~~ ^{Maybe}
~~seems to be something of~~ a stately national front. - ~~with~~ the real
^{is} power in the hands of King Carol. They say the new regime will be something like a dictatorship of the King. All politicians said to be removed from governing bodies. And a report that all political parties will be abolished. Complete dictatorship of the King.

5-8
We all know the touchiness of Californians - the way they resent anything that casts the slightest aspersion on their climate, their sunshine. ~~So you can imagine the distress of the Mayor San Francisco.~~ They've been having storms on the Pacific coast, but the Californians play them down, minimize them, don't like them to be talked about. Anyway, today the sun was shining brightly, and everybody was beaming in the California sunshine, ~~when the sun~~ which was beaming on them. So imagine the distress of the Mayor of San Francisco, when he got a telephone call - all the way from London. The Britishers have been having news flashes about the Pacific coast storms, and a London newspaper was making the long and expensive phone call - urgently. *Excited questions.*

"What are the chances for saving San Francisco from the storm?" asked ~~the~~ British ~~accents~~ accents all the way from the Thames. "Are the hospitals filled with the injured?"

"What was the tonnage of the liner that capsized in San Francisco Bay?" ^PYes, you can fancy the anguish of San Francisco ^{is} Mayor

59
Angelo Rossi, as he explained to London that the city was in no danger, there were no injured, and there was no shipwreck in the bay.

"Oh, I say," protested the London editor.

"It's just as I say," responded the San Francisco Mayor.

And So saying, he hung up, and so saying I'll sign off -

and SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.

1/4