

PUERTO RICO

On the subject of Puerto Rico and the proposal to let it cut loose from the United States and be independent -- we've heard a good deal about what the island will stand to lose by gaining freedom. Relief, for one thing; money and supplies in time of trouble. Uncle Sam has given many many million to help Puerto Ricans in distress. And now tonight -- again, American relief is being rushed to eastern Puerto Rico, food, clothing, medical supplies. There's been a disastrous flood.

The Rio Grande River is the villain of the piece, not our own Texas Rio Grande but a large stream that flows through the Eastern part of Puerto Rico. Six towns washed out. Thousands of people in dire distress. Twenty-five persons lost.

For the past few weeks the island has been experiencing the worst drought in its history, the land burnt to a dry powder by the tropical sun. Now, a sudden wild downpour and a disastrous flood.

NEW YORK POLITICS

The political spotlight today was focused on New York State. <sup>Last night I told how</sup> ~~the news broke yesterday that~~ Governor Lehman would not run for reelection. And today brought forth the political storm.

47

It's presidential year. New York State has the biggest block of electoral votes in the country, and the race for governor always has a big bearing on the presidential contest. So nothing would please the Roosevelt forces better than to have a strong candidate for governor, with the state democracy harmonious and peaceful, behind him. But with Lehman out of the picture, the governorship is tossed to a wild, cat-and-dog-fight. Every Democratic politician who thinks he has a chance will be scrambling for the nomination. ~~It~~ A tangle of ambitions like that is bad enough, but it is all the worse if ~~anything~~ the thing simplifies itself to a two-way fight between factions. Of late now, <sup>has</sup> there been peace between Tammany Hall and the Roosevelt-Farley group in New York. They had a wild collision the last time a mayor was elected in the big city, but of late they haven't had really much to fight about. Now comes the governorship—a magnificent morsel for a destructive brawl. Tammany wants it,

and the Roosevelt-Farley forces seem to be ~~be~~ confronted with two alternatives. Either they can come to a compromise with the Tammany Tiger or they can try to ride rough shod over the beast with the stripes in the hope that President Roosevelt's popularity will carry the state in spite of Tammany reprisals.

All of which puts the Tiger in a strong spot. That ferocious animal has had its tail twisted pretty badly of late and has been rather weak and weary. But now Tammany is in a position to drive a bargain, and that's just about the highest advantage known in politics.

You can see the dire possibility of battle and fierce disturbance in New York Democratic ranks, as November rolls around. So no wonder today the politicians were stewing and tacking their brains; and no wonder some were saying that Governor Lehman's refusal to run again might mean -- New York Republican in November - and that might mean Republican national victory - maybe. It's all based on the possibility of civil war among the New York Democrats.

Moreover, there's the fact that two years ago Lehman

was reelected governor by the largest majority ever registered in New York State - which marks him as that invaluable political asset, the great vote-getter. It's all the more striking, because Lehman is the diametric opposite of a politician:- Colorless, efficient, an earnest business man. He dislikes politics, and has spent some of the unhappiest hours of his life amid the wranglings in Albany. They say the most painful thing of all for him has been passing decisions on death sentences, rejecting the appeals for stays of execution. On nights when the current is turned on, in the electric chair, he sits alone near a telephone, ready to call Sing Sing, hoping that at the last minute some unexpected evidence will appear and give him a reason to stop the execution - a reason that his conscience will accept. That's a hint of how trying he has found public life.

As Governor of New York, Lehman succeeded two of the most flashing brilliant political figures this country has ever known - Al Smith and Franklin D. Roosevelt. They lived politics, and polled huge votes. Yet Lehman, the later of politics, got a larger majority than either.

All of this makes one thing inevitable, the cry -

10  
"Draft Lehman!" It was heard today in shouting tones. The President urges him. So does Postmaster General Jim Farley. Democratic chieftains shout - "Draft Lehman!" That would be a solution of the difficulty. It would stop the scramble for the governorship and the possible feud, it would keep the vote-getter on the job.

But will Lehman be drafted? The dope tonight is - no. They say his decision is a family affair, made some days ago after the funeral of his brother, Arthur Lehman. <sup>TP</sup> There were three brothers at the head of their banking firm. Now one has gone, and the Governor feels he must return to the Bank as a duty to the family. <sup>TP</sup> If Lehman won't be drafted, the next hope of the Administration leaders will be to find a candidate big enough to stave off feud and faction, and this brings the mention of <sup>Bob</sup> Senator Wagner. He's enormously strong politically in New York State. <sup>But</sup> He would rather remain in the Senate, <sup>still -</sup> ~~but~~ they say he might obey ~~xxxx~~ the party command and run for governor.

JERSEY

New Jersey too is staging a <sup>livelier and livelier</sup> ~~lively~~ political slam <sup>bang.</sup> ~~potter~~

51  
Yesterday we heard how Governor Hoffman was elected a delegate to the ~~Democratic~~ Republican convention, though his majority was not as great as it might have been. The Governor's opponents have been making a study of the election figures and today they emitted a few roars of astonishment. They are wondering, they are asking questions. They want to know why the Republican Governor got such a big vote in Democratic Hudson County, where leader Frank Hague's Democratic machine is supreme. They don't hesitate to voice their suspicion that there was a deal between Hoffman and Hague, whereby good Hudson County Democrats voted in the Republican primaries and cast their ballots for the Governor.

FOLLOW JERSEY

Politics are badly scrambled in many parts of the country, but you'd think they'd be simple and uncomplicated in one particular place at least, Palo Alto, California, where ex-President Hoover lives. Not at all. I don't know how the votes are out that way. It's a case of streets.

Palo Alto has two new highways. One ~~is~~ named <sup>Hoover</sup>~~Hoover~~ Avenue.

The other -- Roosevelt Avenue. And they run parallel.

That's the only case I know of where Hoover and Roosevelt run in the same direction, alongside ~~of~~ each other -- parallel.

TOWNSEND

It was Al Smith who made the political echoes ring with the phrase -- "Take a walk-out." But it's Doctor Townsend who transforms the words into action. His walkout in Washington today was high drama.

The Doctor has been a bit bothered by the way the Congressional investigators have been questioning him, prying into the secrets of the Old Age Pension Plan. Today he wanted to have his say -- in his own way. And he demanded that he be allowed to read a prepared statement. The Congressional Committee refused. Whereupon the Doctor arose and stalked out of the room -- taking the walkout.



POTTERY

53

Today at London, in the venerable British Museum, an exhibition of Chinese art was on display to the public, Ming vases, Sung potteries and rare porcelains of the T'ang dynasty. The opening of the show was a stately ceremony. The Chinese Ambassador to London presided and declared that the exhibition was of such great scope and value that it would give anyone a profound feeling of the genius of ancient Chinese art. So what? London is across the water, and Ming vases, <sup>Sung potteries</sup> and porcelains of the Tang dynasty are rather remote things for most of us. The point is - that there's an odd story behind that spectacular Chinese art show at the British Museum.

*You - more - to pull us*

It concerns an Englishman named George Eumorfopoulos - Greek by origin of course. <sup>Thirty</sup> ~~Three~~ years ago he took a fancy to some porcelains of the T'ang dynasty. The art dealers winked. The English Greek so obviously knew nothing about Chinese art. He had never been to the celestial land. In fact, after all his years of collecting Ming, Sung and T'ang, he visited China for the first time last year. To the art dealers ~~was~~ he was a verdant specimen of genus - greenhorn. So they sold him all the Chinese

junk they could lay hands on. Eumorfopoulos rejected some pieces and bought others. The art dealers smiled more broadly among themselves. The things he bought were the most shabby and worthless of all.

54

This went on for thirty years. Some months ago, Eumorfopoulos got out his myriads of Chinese art works from shelves, drawers and odd corners, and took them to the British Museum. The experts there looked the collection over, and instantly offered to buy. He had an authentic treasure. The Hellenic Britisher said he wanted a mere fraction of the value of his collection, and the British Government jumped at the chance to get it. Those art dealers had smiled out of turn. What they took for the absurdity of a greenhorn was really the ~~keenness~~ keenness of an instinctive judgment. The supposed sucker was really buying the finest things. So now we have the Chinese Ambassador opening the exhibition of that resplendent collection of Ming, Sung and Tang at the British Museum.

~~It's hard to beat even an English Greek, and~~

~~SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.~~

## CHINA

In the news today we find a guarded phrase of veiled innuendo. It states: "There's an ulterior motive behind the present clandestine trade." The hinted accusation comes from China, from officials of the Nanking government. It comes in connection with the latest startling decree issued by the Chinese authorities - the death penalty for smugglers.

The smuggling problem has jumped to huge proportions along the northern coast of China. The authorities have been vainly trying to stop it, but contraband boats land their secret cargo with all sorts of systematic cunning. The smugglers are incredibly bold. Sometimes they fight off the customs agents in a pitched battle. Now, in desperation, the Chinese government puts the death penalty on all contraband runners who show any resistance to the customs guards, and life imprisonment for all other ~~smugglers~~ smugglers. That's drastic indeed in a world where the evasion of ~~the~~ traffic duties is commonly considered a comparatively minor offense.

What's the ulterior motive behind this clandestine trade? The meaning becomes more clear, when the Chinese go on

with their argument. They say suggestions have been made that the way to stop the smuggling is:- decrease tariff duties. But they shake their heads to that. They say the sudden burst of smuggling began last August, though the tariff duties were not increased at that time. They've been the same all along. So there was some other reason for the sudden epidemic of contraband.

On top of this, we have the fact that British and American trade in north China has been hit by the activities of the smugglers. So the British and Americans thought they'd try to do something to stop the flood of contraband. They thought they might line up with the Japanese. They made the suggestion to Tokyo - "let's get together and curb the smugglers". The Japanese smiled blandly, saying: "We know nothing about it. There's nothing we can do."

All of this brings the surmise that Japanese influences are behind the smuggling epidemic along the north China coast, Japanese goods brought in - with Tokyo hoping that the big boost in contraband will persuade the Chinese to reduce tariffs, which would be to the benefit of the Japanese trade.

EUROPE

57

We heard about stern words today, and here's how stern they were. In London, in the House of Commons, the question was raised about reports that Italian intrigues were causing those disturbances in Egypt and Palestine. One ~~MRX~~ M.P. arose and demanded that Prime Minister Baldwin should state plain out that Great Britain would tolerate no Italian interference in the lands along the Nile and the River Jordan. <sup>R</sup> The Prime Minister did so. He referred back to the time when Great Britain took over Egypt, and continued with these words: "His Majesty's government," he said, "made it clear in <sup>unmistakeable</sup> ~~unmistakable~~ terms that it would regard as an unfriendly act any attempt at interference in Egypt by any power and would consider any aggression against territory in Egypt as an act to be repelled by all the means at its command." And in the same tone of stately dignity he added a similar warning about Palestine. That's the way London today told Mussolini not to go poking around in Britain's possessions. <sup>R</sup> *All of which* ~~it~~ adds another point of irritation to the already inflamed international dispute.

And France is having an argument with the Duce. Paris is making a formal protest to Rome. That was announced by

the French Foreign Minister today. It concerns that seventy-eight year old French prelate, head of the Catholic Missions in Ethiopia, and Bishop of Harar. He has been laboring in that East African land for fifty years. His special care has been the lepers. The Italian Government doesn't tell us just what the trouble was, merely declares that the aged missionary had made "hostile demonstrations against Italy." So they've ordered him to leave the country. Paris says it doesn't think the expulsion is justified, and describes it with the diplomatic word - "inacceptable." So there's a protest to the Duce.

These are merely the latest in a whole series of disturbing incidents, small but dangerous.

On the side of peace, we have insistent reports that Mussolini is making moves for a decisive settlement of the whole crisis, and is making overtures to England and France - to let bygones ~~by~~ be bygones and get together to assure the peace of Europe. One report is that the Duce has proposed to London he will take his powerful battalions out of Libya, where they threaten Egypt. He'll do this if Britain will accept it as a gesture of friendship.

With so many complications of hopes and fears, we can all echo what Owen D. Young has just said. When receiving the gold medal from the Society of Arts and Sciences at the Waldorf-Astoria, he spoke on international affairs, and came to this conclusion: "I cannot believe," said he, "that the will to work together for the good of all, which animates so many millions everywhere, will permit the forces of destruction to have their way or to dominate an ultimately sensible world." Yes, let's echo those same sentiments - and,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW