

P. J. - Lunoco. Nov., March 5, 1936.

Comment
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JAPAN

~~The Japanese are an extraordinary race. Yes, I know that has been said before, but they are showing it today more emphatically than ever. There you have~~ The people of Tokyo. ~~They~~ have just been through one of the most terrifying crises in their history. They are still under martial law. And what do you suppose they have been doing all day? Buying dolls! Tomorrow, they celebrate their big doll festival. So ^{today} the shopping district of the Mikado's capital was thronged with people rushing from shop to shop. It wasn't a case of business as usual. It was business better than usual.

In that way the plain folk of Tokyo were going their ways, content to let the Son of Heaven, the ²older statesmen and the younger statesmen, settle those grim dramatic affairs of state.

⁷ A sour problem it is indeed for His Majesty Hirohito and his advisors. All the signs point the way to the appointment of either a general or a pro-army man as the new premier. That would mean that the rebellion was suppressed, but nevertheless ^{has} succeeded. That's just what the revolting young officers demanded. So ^{the rebel} ~~those~~ leaders who have survived ^{hari hari and self shooting} have this thought to console themselves with while they are in prison. They will be able to reflect that

their fellow conspirators who committed suicide did not die in vain.

But what of the civilian population, what of the Japanese as a whole? They had already told the Son of Heaven and his government pretty clearly what they wanted, - they told it in that recent election. They wanted an end of army domination, an end to the torrent of gold that has been pouring on¹ to the Asiatic mainland for conquest. If another sabre-rattling general is appointed to run the show, the Son of Heaven will say to his people, in effect; "Your wishes cannot be observed." So the question arises: "Where will that leave the Cherry Blossom kingdom?"

However, it is believed that the imperial family will throw one sop of consolation to the people. The influence of a general as Premier will be counter-balanced in the cabinet by a banker as Finance Minister. The man who at present appears to be slated to succeed the gallant old Takahashi is named Eigo Fuki. More important still, he is the president of the Bank of Japan.

That would be a strong guarantee that the new government wouldn't indulge in any reckless pouring out of money.

One aftermath of those three days of terror in Tokyo is a crop of stories in characteristic Samarai fashion. Tales of officers committing hari kari in the old ceremonial fashion, with the full rites prescribed by the Samarai tradition. Also a tale of a wife who shared her husband's suicide, dressed in shimmering white silk kimona, on a floor covered with fresh flowers, they both went together - like Samarai.

Minister of the Interior, stood third.

In this connection another interesting fact came to light. The rebel leaders have been saying about that Japan's ministers were merely beggars in comparison of multi-millionaires.

But we now learn that the whole Cabinet was composed almost entirely of extremely poor men. The Premier himself a man of

no property, and so on. Likewise Hirota and Kawakami, the war ministers. All they had to live on was their salary of six hundred Yen. The only very rich man in the government was Takahashi.

CABINET FOLLOW JAPAN

It's a curious coincidence that a popularity poll was held in Japan only a few days before that startling stroke of revolt and assassination. It was held among the newspaper men of Tokyo. A magazine called HANASHI, asked all the editors and reporters to express their opinions about the Cabinet. And, the least popular members of the government were the powerful Ministers of War, army and the navy. The one they most approved of was the saki drinking premier, the supposedly murdered Okada who has now come to life in such melodramatic fashion. Next to him ranked the aged heroic Takahashi. Hirota, the plain spoken Foreign Minister of the Mikado, stood third.

In this connection another interesting fact came to light. The rebel leaders have been crying aloud that Japan's statesmen were merely henchmen or spokesmen of multi-millionaires. But we now learn that the Okada Cabinet was composed almost entirely of extremely poor men. The Premier himself a man of no property, whatsoever. Likewise Hirota and Kawashima, the war ministers. All they had to live on was their salary of Six hundred Yen. The one lone rich man in the government was Takahashi.

ITALY

If General Badoglio's smashing victory really brings peace in Africa, it will be a tremendous achievement. Here's something that illuminates those peace rumors from Rome. It centers around the figure of the defeated Ras Kassa. It's told me by Lawrence Stallings of Fox Movietone just back from Ethiopia:- that Ras Kassa's defeat and escape through the Italian lines, instead of discrediting him, makes him more important than ever.

Unlike most of the rulers of Ethiopia, he is not an Amhara, but a native of Tigre. He has always been a powerful figure, a sort of Warwick, a King-maker. He is not only a general but a high priest of a long line of high priests. Ras Tafari, they say, could never have become the Emperor Haile Selassie without the consent of Ras Kassa. And all the while the proud King of Kings has been afraid of the powerful King-maker.

That is why, when the war broke out, he delayed arming Ras Kassa. If he had done so, according to acute observers, the outcome of the war might have been vastly different. Ras Kassa

could have made matters mighty difficult for the Italians if he had had the opportunity in the early days of the fighting. But Haile Selassie was afraid to ~~give~~ give too much power to any of his Rases. In the case of Ras Kassa, he feared two things. First, that the Ras would seize the throne, ^{or} ~~and~~ second, that he might desert to the Italians. As things turned out, it was Ras Gugsa who deserted. And when the Emperor finally equipped Ras Kassa with an army, it was too late. Incidentally, Ras Kassa disobeyed orders in joining battle.

Altogether, it now makes the situation pretty bright for the Italian Arms. ~~Ras Kassa is back in Addis Ababa. And~~ Although a fugitive from the battlefield, ^{Ras Kassa} ~~he~~ is more than ever a menace to the King of Kings. So the Duce's generals, in addition to having won another smashing victory, have a dis-organized enemy in front of them, a house divided against itself, with rumors of revolutionary changes and abdication.

There's an interesting tale behind (the substitute Triple A act.) I mean the one that President Roosevelt signed today and whose official title is:- "The Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act." The story begins a few months ago. The Supreme Court had just put the kibosh on the Triple A. Then followed days of mourning around the building that houses the Department of Agriculture. The future looked glum. There seemed to be no solution to the problem.

Just about that time Ex-President Hoover made a speech at Lincoln, Nebraska. With many caustic words he welcomed the abolition of the Triple A. To his destructive criticism he added a piece of constructive suggestion. Said he:- "It's foolish to try curtailing crops, it's against Nature to pay farmers not to farm. What a sane government should do," he added, "is to encourage the farmers to produce more market-able crops, ^{By} ~~But that he meant specifically~~ ^{and more} crops of legumes to restore fertility to the soil." And said Mr. Hoover:- "I am advised that this can be done within, not only the letter, but the spirit of the Constitution." [#] Let's now switch the

scene, movie style, to Washington, D. C. The time is just one day before Mr. Hoover has made these remarks in Nebraska. A couple of newspaper men are in the office of Chester Davis, Administrator of the deceased Triple A. It's a sorely depressed and dubious Mr. Davis that they're interviewing. One of the correspondents made a suggestion. James Wiggins of the Saint Paul PIONEER PRESS said to Mr. Davis:- "Why don't you use the Soil Conservation Act ~~■~~ that Congress passed last year?"

To that Mr. Davis replied:- "I don't see how that would work. But I'll read it anyway."

And that is what he did. And after he had read it the gloom fell off his shoulders like an old cloak. He called in his lieutenants and said:- "There is our farm program."

Thereupon followed, of course, many laborious conferences, ~~many conferences burning the midnight oil,~~ lengthy debates and arguments. ~~However,~~ The eventual result was the bill which the President signed today, and which carries many fond administration hopes. ^{By way of coincidence this happened} ~~Incidentally the government took~~

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about the same time as Mr. Hoover's advice along those same lines.

(As he signed the bill Mr. Roosevelt described it as:-
"A safeguard, not only for now, but for generations to come."
Its ultimate objective ~~was~~ as the President summed it up is:-
"Parity of farm income." That means a balance of farm prices
with the prices of those things which farmers have to buy.)

TEXAS

In the heart of San Antonio, Texas, there's a singular building. It's of great massive stones, cemented together with Indian lime. The walls are four and a half feet thick. Surrounding it are cactus and other semi-tropical plants. Built by Franciscan missionaries, it used to be a fortress. At one time and another six different flags have flown over it. A grave, moody contrast to the buildings of the city around it.

One hundred years ago it was the scene of one of the bravest defenses in all history. Yes, of course, I mean - the Alamo. The place all Texans are called upon to remember. There, a hundred years ago tonight, a hundred and eighty Texans stood against four thousand trained Mexican soldiers, under the blood-thirsty Santa Anna. They perished eventually, everyone of those hundred and eighty. But, their deaths and the ~~xx~~ amazing defense they put up helped Mexico to lose Texas, and later helped Uncle Sam to gain his largest state.

Many Americans from other states will be in Texas this year. The great Centennial Exposition begins at Dallas on June

Sixth. And after Dallas, on to San Antonio for visitors. And there at the Alamo they will show you the line that Colonel Travis drew with his sword across the floor as he cried: "Every man who wants to die, step across this line!" And, every man Jack of them stepped across, except one. He was on a cot, desperately ill. But he called out to a couple of the others: "I can't walk. Carry me over!" And among them were Davey Crockett and Colonel Jim Bowie, the man who invented the Bowie knife.

In the final hand-to-hand fighting, every man was cut down except six, including Travis, Bowie and Crockett. The six were immediately massacred in cold blood by Santa Anna.

And from then on the Texas warcry was:- "Remember the Alamo!"

And that's what the Texans are celebrating today.

STRIKE

It's indeed strange to hear of an American mayor proclaiming a state of emergency. It sounds like Tokyo, or Madrid, or Vienna.

It might be said that the key man in this absolutely unprecedented New York situation is the Commissioner of Health, Dr. John Rice. It was he who brought to light the fact that the New York elevator strike seriously endangered the health of Father Knickerbocker's children. Whereupon the Board of Health adopted a resolution declaring the city in a state of imminent peril and authorized Dr. Rice to take measures to protect the life and well being of all people who live in apartments. Whereupon followed Mayor LaGuardia's proclamation, backed up with instructions to all heads of departments, to assist the Health Commissioner. That means use cops to run the elevators, firemen to stoke the furnaces, employees of Plant and Structure for the machinery of big buildings.

^dOrdinarily, cases of strike violence are treated as disorderly conduct or assault. But now if anybody interferes with the running of an elevator or the service maintenance of a New York building, he commits a criminal offense and can be

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punished by a year in jail, or a two thousand dollar fine, or both.

Chicago. Of course, it's nothing compared with the state of affairs in New York. But the use of today of Eastern Standard Time on the south shore of Lake Michigan has caused a not less in the old town tonight. Some railroads are running into and out of Chicago on the new time. Others are sticking to the old Central Time, one hour earlier than the East.

In many cases, it and in many places, it was impossible for the hapless Chicagoans to tell what time it was. Some offices and stores turned their clocks ahead Sunday night. Others said they'd be darned if they would. Carpenters and other artisans absolutely refused to pay any attention to the change. Some of the suburbs followed suit. Some did not at all. Some are still in the old time, some are in the new. Some operators' strike.

The people who see the ordinance over stick to their guns. The claim it will give three-quarters of a million children an hour longer to play each afternoon. And that they say is important because it's the law's accident. They will

CHICAGO ENDING

There's confusion in another city, confusion and woe in Chicago. Of course, it's nothing compared with the state of affairs in New York. But the use ~~of~~ today of Eastern Standard Time on the south shore of Lake Michigan has caused a hot ^time _^ in the old town tonight. Some railroads are running into and ~~o~~ out of Chicago on the new time. Others are sticking to the old Central Time, one hour earlier ~~o~~ than the East.

In many cases, ~~it~~ and in many places, it was impossible for the hapless Chicagoans to tell what time it was. Some offices and stores turned their clocks ahead Sunday night. Others said they'd be derved if they would. Carpenters and other artesans absolutely declined to pay any attention to the change. Some of the suburbs followed suit. Scramble that ~~up~~ altogether and you have something as chaotic as an elevator ~~o~~ operators' strike.

The people who put the ordinance over stick to their guns. The claim it will give three-quarters of a million children an hour longer to play each afternoon. And that, they say, is important because it means less accidents. They will

be an extra of daylight in the late afternoon when traffic is heaviest.

But the people who dislike it are even more vehement. They claim that workers have to rise an hour too early. Also, they have to work in semi-darkness. And that they say is dangerous. They also point out that its rough on the farmers who have to get up so much earlier to bring their produce into Chicago markets.

If you were in Chicago today you might have many awkward adventures. Suppose you're living in one of Chicago' suburbs that is determined to stand by Central Time. You have to go to your office. You go to the station and find the railroad has changed to Chicago Time. That's bad enough. But when you get into the Loop you find your office is standing pat on Central Time.

Well, here in New York that's one thing we don't have to worry about. It's Eastern Standard Time and no dispute about it, and according to that time the moment has come for me to say:-

SOLONG UNTIL TOMORROW.