

HAUPTMANN

Another cry from Bruno Richard Hauptmann. He clings obdurately and fervently to the claim: "I am innocent." Then he adds: "I am innocent and there is one man who knows it, Dr. Condon."

This latest message he sent out from his cell in the death house at the Trenton Penitentiary has a different ring to it. It's an appeal to Jafsie, the retired Bronx school principal who contributed so formidably to Hauptmann's conviction at Flemington.

Hauptmann's counsel, Lloyd Fisher, has been traveling about the country considerably, in search of new evidence. But the man behind the bars now says he lays his principal hopes on Jafsie. His appeal to the witness who did so much to doom him is, in so many words: "Save my life. Make a full confession." This sounds like an amazing message for a convicted man to issue to the state's principal witness. Hauptmann's story is that Dr. Condon holds what he calls "the key to the mystery." And he says further: "Dr. Condon, you owe it to me and you owe it to justice

to speak out and solve that mystery."

I can still remember the amazing scene in that courtroom at Flemington when counsellor Reilly, in his summation, unblushingly accused the whimsical, benevolent Dr. Condon of having kidnapped the Lindbergh baby. The jury of course, as did practically ~~xx~~ everybody in the courtroom, dismissed the charge as absurd -- just another lawyer's desperate plea.

But here's Hauptmann's latest word. An echo of that courtroom charge.

H.O.L.C.

Another one of the New Deal's alphabet agencies is sailing in troubled waters. The H.O.L.C., the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, has had to foreclose on no fewer than three thousand of the ~~xx~~ loans it has made. What concerns the officials of the H.O.L.C. the most is that more than half of these foreclosure suits had to be brought against borrowers who were well able to pay, but who said: "Why should we pay? It's Uncle Sam's money."

This situation is compelling the corporation to start a campaign of education. It is necessary, say the officials, to correct a widespread impression that a man with political pull does not have to pay what he ~~xx~~ owes the government; that he can square it by going to his congressman or senator.

JACKSON

Lawyers throughout America, especially the big and famous barristers of the cities, had cause to open their eyes today. For they learned that one of the most important cases to be tried in the courts has been entrusted to just a country lawyer.

Robert H. Jackson who becomes special counsel for the Securities Exchange Commission, until recently practiced law in Jamestown, New York. Jamestown, up near Lake Chautauqua.

The courts of New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Washington had never heard of him until a few years ago. But it is he who will try the important government law-suits against the public utilities holding companies. For that purpose counsellor Jackson now leaves the Treasury Department, where he has been Assistant General Counsel.

His favorite expression in a solemn climax is:- "I'm just a country lawyer."

TURKEYS

A picturesque annual event will be missing from the little town of Gonzales Texas this year. Gonzales is the center of the turkey country in the Lone Star State. A thriving little place, built like many other burg in Texas, on the Mexican plaza plan. The center of the town is the square, with the court house at one end and the general store at the other; Loafers in ten gallon hats.

Every other year at this season they used to have a celebration called a "turkey trot." Hordes of Thanksgiving birds would be driven in from all over the surrounding country. What the newsreel cameramen call a perennial. Gobblers by the hundreds would rush into the square as fast as they could trot. It was the big day of the year in Gonzales.

But last year some inquisitive soul conceived the notion of putting the birds on the scales after the fun was over. And those scales registered a loss of several pounds apiece from too much exercise. Inasmuch as our Thanksgiving dinner is quoted at thirty-seven cents a pound this year, the Gonzalians decided the turkey trot was too expensive a luxury - the loss of a dollar or so a turkey.

Dean
Smith
Nov. 20
1935

INTRO TO DEAN SMITH

Still no news of Lincoln Ellsworth from wherever he may be on the polar plateau of the Antarctic Continent.

Yesterday when I was on the trail of Russell Owen to get his slant on it, I was also looking for Dean Smith. He flew into town this afternoon. Dean Smith, ace flyer of the American Airways, twice winner of the Harmon trophy, army pilot, air mail pioneer, and the man who spent two years with Byrd on his first expedition to the South Pole.

Dean Smith, six-foot-four, was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for the solo flight he made to the Queen Maude Mountain, down near the South Pole. Last year he also received the ^{Distinguished} ~~Distinguished~~ Flying Cross, America's highest award for valor in the air, when he rescued three fellow aviators marooned in a snowstorm on a wild mountain in upper New York.

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RETAKE

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Nov. 26,
1935.

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49
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Everywhere in the Antarctic are enormous areas where a plane can be landed safely. And, it was Ellsworth's plan to land if he encountered bad weather on the flight. He intended to wait for it to clear, then take off again.

The fact that his radio is not heard is easily explainable. For, in the South Polar ~~next~~ regions so close to the Magnetic Pole, we frequently observed a curious blanketing of all radio waves. That's a condition that happened several times while we were down there. It lasted over periods varying from a few hours to several days. During these periods the air is absolutely dead -- nothing at all can be heard over the radio. And all the while stations in latitudes farther north would report nothing unusual -- no dead periods for them.

The Physicists in our party thought that these dead periods were caused by unusual activity of the Aurora Australis.

That's the Magnetic display corresponding to the Aurora Borealis of the North. Once when we were returning to Little America in our Ford Trimotor -- the plane named the Floyd Bennet -- we had a forced landing caused by a fuel leak. Miles from nowhere.

Just as we landed, one of these mysterious dead periods settled down. We were unable to communicate by radio with the base at Little America. Silence was all there was, although our set was in working order and we were only seventy miles away. Later the silence lifted as mysteriously as it began.

I think it most likely that, at any time, we will hear a radio report from Ellsworth.

--O--

L.T. FOLLOW DEAN SMITH

And, all of us, Dean, will hope that it will say Ellsworth
and Hollick Kenyon have successfully reached the Ross Sea at
last. And that all is well.

BRAZIL

That rebellion in Brazil is turning out to be a bust so far as news is concerned. Evidently President Vargas has the rebels on the run.

The fears which were expressed for the Graf Zeppelin are also allayed. Captain Lehman, her Commander, radioed that there was no cause for anxiety, he was cruising aloft in the air with enough food and fuel to last until Thursday. What's more, he has no passengers aboard.

FRANCE

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They are putting out storm signals on the boulevards of Paris. The French Parliament, the Chamber of Deputies, is to reconvene Thursday for a most crucial debate. And feelings amongst the warring parties, the Fascists on the right, Socialists, Communists, and other radicals on the left, were never ~~at~~^{at} such high pitch. What will be Thanksgiving Day for us, may be a day of rioting and pitched battles on the ~~streets~~^{boulevards} for the Parisians, the Marseillais^{ais} and the Lyonnais.

Seldom has there been a French Prime Minister with so much ~~critical~~^{critical} trouble on his hands at one time as Premier Laval. Abroad he has the ticklish job of keeping the peace between John Bull and Mussolini, of trying to settle that vexatious African imbroglio. At home² he has the twofold problem of saving the Franc and pacifying the Fascists. So at the Cabinet meeting held today on the right bank of the Seine, it was decided to appeal to the Chamber when the Deputies come together on Thursday. ~~His~~^{His} first struggle in that so often turbulent assembly will be to answer questions on his financial policy. It is agreed that the Franc has to be saved at all costs. With that disposed of, the swarthy

little self-made millionaire from the mountains of Auvergne will appeal to his Parliament to help him put down the Fascist menace.

the Croix de Feu —
The Fascist organization, known as the "Fiery Cross", has been getting more and more violent, more and more outspoken in its

threats. Colonel de la Roque, the would-be "Mussolini" of the

Franch Fascisti, makes no bones ⁱⁿ ~~about~~ talking of an appeal to arms.

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* So, the decision today in the Cabinet was, "We must appeal to the Deputies to back us up in disbanding all armed organizations."

Croix de Feu.
That means the ~~Fiery Cross~~, Colonel de la Roque has said bluntly that any attempt to disband his troops will be met with force.

"Perhaps civil war", he ^{adds.} ~~says.~~ Laval's determination means using the army if necessary to suppress the Fiery Cross.

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It may also mean the most turbulent scenes when the Chamber of Deputies convenes. Some Parisian newspapers are publishing accusations that Colonel de la Roque and his ^{French} Fascists are ~~preparing~~ preparing an armed attack upon the Chamber in an attempt to seize the Government. Forewarned of course is to be forearmed for the Laval Cabinet. So police reserves and Republican guards are being mobilized to meet force with force. In this lies the principal hope of peace. Fascist leaders may decide that there is no profit

in launching an attack on a day when the Government expects it and is prepared for it. Nevertheless, ^{they are} ~~it is an~~ anxious ^{tonight in} ~~day for the~~ ~~people of~~ LaBelle France.

YASU

Statesmen and historians are asking curious and embarrassing questions about the death of Lij Yasu, the deposed Emperor of Ethiopia. His passing was as mysterious as his life in the last fifteen years. During all this time his fate has been remarkably like that of France's "Man in the Iron Mask", the mysterious prisoner about whom Dumas wrote the novel. The reason for the awkward questions that are being asked is that the death of this man is peculiarly timely and convenient for the King of Kings and the Ethiopian government.

Lij Yasu inherited the crown of Ethiopia. This by the Will of his grandfather, the great Menelik. With the deposed emperor, Lij Yasu, alive there was a chance for the Italian invaders to restore him to his throne, thereby doing in Ethiopia what the Japanese did in Manchuria with Henry Pu-Yi -- in other words, set him up as a puppet emperor because of his legitimate claim to the crown. His death now destroys that chance.

Lij Yasu had in every way as unhappy and distressful a life as the more famous "Man in the Iron Mask". After he came to the throne of Ethiopia he became a pawn in the colonial game be-

tween the Germans on the one side and the British on the other. He was inclined to be pro-German; some say because the German agents kept him well supplied with wine, women and song. That was the charge of the young Emperor's enemies, who accused him of being a pretty bad boy. His partisans, of course, denied it and attributed those accusations to British intrigue.

(There are two stories concerning his downfall. The orthodox version is that he turned a renegade to Christianity, the faith of his fathers, and secretly become a Moslem. For that reason, the Christian Rases, chieftains, ganged up on him under the leadership of Ras Tafari Makonnen, now Haile Selassie. They kicked him off the throne.

The other version puts a totally different complexion on the young man's character. According to this, he was trying to conciliate the Moslem chieftains, of which there are many in Ethiopia; trying to consolidate his kingdom. That he had no intention of turning Mohammedan, but did make friendly overtures and attempt to win the loyalty of his Mohammedan subjects.)

The thing that really lost him his throne, according to Gordon MacCreagh was a fake photograph. When the War broke, it became necessary for England's interests to remove the pro-German

56 ruler of Ethiopia. So propaganda was spread among the Christian priest~~hood~~^{hood} of Ethiopia, telling them: "Your Emperor is turning Mohammedan." And to clinch it, a bit of spurious proof was manufactured. A photograph^{er} was sent to the festival of Id, the Feast of Rejoicing, after the fast of Ramadhan, in northern Ethiopia. The photographer shot a picture of a Mohammedan leader addressing a large group of the faithful. The face of Lij Yasu was substituted for that of the Mohammedan. Copies of this fake photograph were then circulated widely throughout the Christians of Ethiopia, particularly the clergy. The result was that the young ruler was ex-communicated by the head of the Ethiopian Church.

57 The rest is history. Lij Yasu was deposed by a junta of Christian chiefs under the leadership of Ras Tafari Makonnen. Later on he was kept a prisoner, securely chained^{chains of gold}, so it was said, though in luxurious surroundings. His death is now attributed to paralysis. Just for good measure, unofficial rumors have it that the illness which finally killed him was the result of the life he led when the German agents were showing him such a good time. But the secrecy of the whole business has aroused grave suspicion. At any rate, the Italians will have to look elsewhere if they want a puppet king to put on the Ethiopian throne in place of Haile Selassie.

ITALY

There's ~~big~~ irony in one phase of today's news from Europe. What a contrast there is between the ~~big~~ noise about the Sanctions against Italy, the proposed embargo on oil, and the ~~big~~ silence over Japan's new invasion of China. Ten thousand of the Mikado's troops are said to have crossed the great wall. About this not a word from Geneva, not a word from London. But for the Duce, more threats, a further stiffening of severe measures by the League. This page in history will make curious reading for our grandchildren.

BOOKS

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I had a book in my hand today that is worth a Hundred thousand Dollars, and when it was first published it sold for Five dollars a copy. It was the first folio of Shakespeare's ~~tales~~ *in the original binding.* one of only five known to be in existence. So I learned from the famous collector, Dr. A.S.W. Rosenbach, who brought it to ~~the~~ ^a breakfast. The affair was given in the Jade Room at the Waldorf ~~Astoria~~, *not the Jade,* the occasion being the presentation of the gold medal by the Limited Editions Club to Donald Culross Peattie for his book, "An Almanac for Moderns". This medal is awarded to the American author who writes a book that, in the opinion of the Committee, approaches nearest to the stature of a classic. The menu of the breakfast was chosen entirely from dishes mentioned in the "Dictionnaire de Cuisine" by Alexandre Dumas, the ~~elder~~.

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One of the other curiosities that Dr. Rosenbach brought to that breakfast, was a first edition of Don Quixote. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Only eleven copies of it are known to be in existence today. Dr. Rosenbach suggested that it would be a good idea for all modern authors to serve a term in jail. ~~E~~ Not because of the quality of the work they are turning out. He pointed out it was in jail that Cervantes wrote Don Quixote, and it was also in prison that Bunyan

wrote his "Pilgrim's Progress." So we should
all go to jail — and s-l-u-t-m,

9 1/2