

Fri Nov. 28 - 34 LT - P. G.

I About that ~~reached~~ ^{they've got an} ~~agreement~~ ^{they've announced} in Korea - on the truce by Christmas proposal, The formal documents are to be signed on Sunday - and no further hitch is expected. The long wrangle about an armistice line is over; and ^{now} it remains to be seen if they can settle on other terms, like prisoners-of-war, — within thirty days -- for a full armistice.

Today, with ^{that} a final truce line agreement, may turn out to be historic. It certainly was dramatic - with a scene of wild excitement. For tense ~~moments~~ ^{moments}, it looked as if the whole palaver might blow up - in a fiery explosion. That was about noon, at Panmunjom. The negotiators ^{were} in the conference tents, especially the map tent - ~~where~~ where two American and two Communist officers were on the job of drawing an armistice line on a big map. The day was cold, and the tents were heated. Fires in stoves, smoke pouring out of chimneys, each tent having a smoke-pipe. Then the hullabaloo began - the truce talks going into a panic.

~~It was~~ ^{all} because one of the balloons moored around

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the conference area, balloons of bright pink, as markers,
to keep U.S. planes from flying over and violating the neutral
ground. There they were, up in the air - and, in the wind,
one of the pink balloons broke loose. Carried by the breeze,
the gas bag drifted to the main conference tent, and was blown
against the stove-pipe ^{that protruded from the tent,} hot stove-pipe, and the balloon
was filled with hydrogen.

There were shouts of alarm - plenty of alarm.
Because, several weeks ago, one of those pink balloons
exploded, and injured thirteen men. ~~That was, something or other~~
~~the hot stove-pipe, was~~ If this one was / touched off by heat and sparks - the
whole conference might have been blown up in a blaze of
flaming hydrogen.

The shouts of alarm got quick action - by the
negotiators inside the tents. The head of the U.N. delegation,
Major General Hodes, came running out, took a look at the
balloon up against the stove-pipe, and shouted: "Look out.
Get going."

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The same thing was yelled in Chinese, as the Red delegation took up the alarm. In seconds, the negotiators were in wild flight on all sides, ducking into nearby bean patches - taking cover among the beans, in case the flames of hydrogen should lash out.

But, there was a lucky break. As the ~~balloon~~ balloon ^(hovered) there, a gust of wind came sweeping with a swirling eddy, lifted the gas bag, and blew it over the smoke-pipe. The pink balloon ^{then} drifted away, chased by soldiers, who finally capture' it.

Whereupon the truce negotiators emerged from the bean patches. General Hodes and Rear Admiral Arleigh Burke, head of our ^{team} ~~representative~~ ~~representative~~ went back to their conference tent.

The Red negotiators, climbing out of the beans, and doing the same.

It was now lunch time. So they sat down for a bite to eat. Then, went into an afternoon session, and twenty minutes

later General Hodes came striding out of the tent, smiled and said to the newsmen: "We've got an agreement." So that's how the settlement was made - ~~on~~^{on} a day of excitement among the tents at Panmunjom.

EGYPT

Great Britain replies to Egyptian protests, and states that British troops took control in the Suez Canal Zone - only after the Egyptian authorities proved unable to maintain order. London rejects a whole series of Egyptian accusations, and cites the outbreaks of terrorism at Suez ^{as} - evidence that the Cairo government had lost control. Making it necessary - for the British to maintain order, and keep the world= important canal in operation.

SUBSTITUTE DENMARK

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The capital of Denmark was shaken by a tremendous explosion tonight -- when the mine arsenal of the Danish Navy blew up. The arsenal was at Fort Quintus, in Copenhagen Harbor. Tons of high explosive let go, ~~and~~ flames shot high into the air ^{(and} ~~in~~ a huge mushroom cloud of yellow smoke soared above the city. The blast was heard as far away as the Swedish city of Malmo, twenty miles across the water from Copenhagen.

The death list, at last reports, numbered sixteen -- all firemen. A small fire broke out at the mine arsenal, and blaze battlers were on the job -- when the whole storage of high explosive mines was touched off. Huge fires raged, and the blaze threatened other deposits of explosives. But the fire fighters stuck to their task, ~~and~~ in spite of danger ^{-- and} ~~--~~ at last report things were quiet at the naval base, amid scenes of devastation.

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ITALIAN FLOODS

A dispatch from Italy states that the course of the great River Po has been changed permanently. Today the crisis of the deluge was over, clear skies and fair weather - after fifteen days of incessant rain in northern Italy. The flood crest, pouring down the Po, has gone surging out into the Adriatic.

So now - a reckoning of what happened.

One hundred lives lost, damage more than fifty million dollars, tens of thousands homeless. Aid pouring in from all sides - including five thousand blankets donated by the U.S. Army of Occupation in Germany. The whole delta of the Po turned into one huge swamp, which may take several years to dry out completely.

Most dramatic of all, the course of the historic river has been altered. During the rage of the floods eight new outlets were formed, eight new channels by which the Po now flows into the sea. Some of the new river mouths were torn open by the fury of

ITALIAN FLOODS

the water. Others - dynamited by engineers, to relieve the pressure of the inundation. After the deluge, the map has changed.

Three sizeable towns, including the city of Rovigo, are still under water, and engineers declare they are likely to stay submerged for some time. For the present, at least, they are lagoon-cities -- like Venice with its canals. The metropolis of the gondola is not far to the north, and now has three replicas, each town turned into a - Little Venice.

Thus the rage of the elements alters the face of the earth. The latest example, in Italy. But there's a still greater example.

ANIMALS

Animal stories are in the news today, headed by the exploit of a seventeen year old high school boy of St. Paul, Minnesota that sounds like a tall tale, but we are assured it's the McCoy.

John Bradshaw was out hunting, when he stumbled into a hole, and landed on something soft. Out came a four hundred and seventy-five pound bear, hibernating in the hole. The bear took a swipe at John, and ripped his coat. The boy swung around, with his rifle. "The bear was so close I could see right into his mouth," says he. So he fired into the open mouth, and that was the end of the bear.

John sat down on a log, to rest from the exertion, when another angry bear came roaring at him. He started shooting - and dropped that one.

"I was standing there, trying to get my breath," he relates, "when another bear came tearing at me through the brush." This time it would have been too bad, if he hadn't ducked. The bear lunged past him

John fired a couple of shots, and that finished the bear.

He wound up with one-thousand ^{and} seventy-five pounds ~~aplenty~~ of ~~it-good~~ bear meat -- that ^{had from} ~~young niared~~ of St. Paul!

The latest. The seventeen-year-old nimrod will have to give up hunting in the woods for a while.

Today John Bradshaw, inducted into the Navy, left home for preliminary training.

Next the headline -- man bites lion! In African Rhodesia, a tribesman of the Bulawayo, named Mcungu, heard a noise, at night, in the pen where he kept his sheep. He went out to investigate, and found a lion -- which leaped upon Mcungu, hurled him to the ground, and was mauling him. Whereupon Mcungu bit the king of beasts on the nose. He gave that sensitive part such a powerful bite -- the lion let go.

Mcungu got back to his hut, and slammed the

door. The lion, right after him, tried vainly to batter down the door, and only gave up when dawn was breaking.

Man bites lion! Which certainly beats our old newspaper gag -- man bites dog, Nelson

ATROCITIES

Officials of the Defense Department, in Washington, declared tonight that General Ridgeway reported -- eight thousand American prisoners of war, killed by Chinese and North Korean Communists. This is in contrast, to the recent figure issued by the Supreme Commander that less than four hundred murders of prisoners were authenticated, though the number might be more than six thousand, as stated by Colonel Hanley. The word tonight is that the Ridgeway figure of eight thousand was given to the United Nations last August.

The reasons for the discrepancies in all this are not clear. But it is to be noted that the Ridgeway statement to the U N was based on reports of atrocities -- which might not mean definite and certain.

KOREA - PLANE

It seems as if the Russians, at Vladivostok, may have shot down an American ~~bomber~~^{plane}. This is to be inferred from two items of news today.

In Moscow, the Soviets made a charge that a U.S. plane, on November 7th, had flown over the Siberian Red port of Vladivostok, one hundred miles north of the Korean battlefront. Soviet fighters fired on the American plane, which thereupon flew out over the sea, and disappeared.

This, Moscow states, was a violation of ^{Soviet territory,} ~~neutrality~~. The note was handed ~~today~~ by the Red Deputy Foreign Minister, Gromyko, to the American Charge d'Affaires at the Embassy in Moscow.

~~Immediately afterward~~ The Navy in Washington disclosed that an American patrol bomber has been missing since November Sixth, the day before Moscow says that an American plane was fired on near Vladivostok. It isn't clear what the discrepancy of one day might mean. But there's a supposition that the two planes might be the same - recalling the disappearance of an American patrol aircraft over the

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Baltic Sea in Nineteen Fifty, after it had been shot at by the Reds. That led to an exchange of angry diplomatic notes - and this newest incident may be the subject for another acrimonious dispute.

Meanwhile Things were quiet on the warfront; ~~today, and the~~
~~mood was - armistice.~~ There's nothing in the "truce by
Christmas" agreement to stop fighting until then, and our
forces might storm the Red lines, if they want to. But, today,
American
officers said that no commander was likely to send his troops
to the attack for advances ^{beyond} ~~over~~ the truce line agreed upon,
only to draw back to present positions, if an armistice is
concluded. So far as our side is concerned, there's likely
to be a halt on the ground - at least for thirty days. Though,
of course, the Allied forces will be in watchful readiness -
if the Reds should try anything.

we are warned,
The war in the air, ^{is} likely to go on, with a
blasting of enemy supply lines.

U N - SOVIET CHARGE

(At the General Assembly of the U N in Paris, Soviet Russia today lodged a formal charge against the United States, a charge of "aggression." This, on the same grounds as alleged in the Moscow protest to Washington two days ago. (The Red complaint is against the Military Security Bill passed by Congress, appropriating a hundred million dollars to support anti-Communists - inside or outside the Iron Curtain.)

The Soviets claim that this amounts to a promotion of subversion and sabotage inside the Red countries, an interference in their affairs. So Vishinsky today asked the General Assembly to find the United States guilty of - "Aggression."

(On the American side, our delegation says - they are willing to have the charge argued back and forth in full debate.)

TRADE AGREEMENTS

President Truman today ordered the cancellation of all reciprocal trade agreements with Soviet Russia and Red Poland. Which follows similar cancellation of trade agreements with Communist countries last summer. In the case of Poland, today's move would apply to an agreement lowering tariffs, and trade relations would go back to the high tariff levels of the old Smoot-Hawley Act.

The President likewise orders a complete prohibition of the import of valuable furs from both Russia and Poland - Russia being, of course, a great producer of expensive brands of fur.