

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1940.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

A party of high officials today crossed the frontier between Russia and East Prussia. They were met by another group of glittering officials, ^{met} ~~and received~~ with full Prussian pomp and ceremony. *It was, in short, no ordinary visit, no junket, no mere joy ride.*

Among those visiting officials ^{was Premier} ~~who crossed the frontier was~~ ^{Molotov} ~~Viacheslav Molotov, Premier and Foreign Minister~~ of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. From all indications and conjectures, his arrival on Prussian soil is an event of ~~utmost moment and of~~ gravest portent. Tomorrow morning his train will steam into Berlin where he will be received with still more ~~PKEM~~ pomp and ceremony by Hitler's ~~Foreign Minister~~ Ribbentrop. And there's more than a ~~sound~~ chance that the purpose of it all is the announcement of a solid totalitarian bloc against Great Britain. In fact, the more ominous conjectures include ourselves in the picture. A bloc of the Axis and the Soviet plus Japan against the English-speaking nations.

There's no official announcement about it, but the Nazi newspapers have plenty to say. Stalin's man has come to Berlin to consummate the reorganization of the entire world, according to the plans of Adolf Hitler. *That's what they say, in so many words.*

Molotov is accompanied by the Nazi Ambassador to Moscow.

It is also ~~deemed~~ significant that in Berlin at the present time is Franz von Papen, the Nazi ~~Minister~~ ^{Ambassador} to Turkey.

~~The~~ Observers are estimating the Molotov visit as one of the final moves in a peace offensive by Hitler and Mussolini. The dictators ~~are~~ getting ready to make another, ~~perhaps a final~~, threatening offer to the British; ~~They are going to~~ confront Churchill with the picture of those four great powers united against him. This will imply, among other things, a threat to ~~the~~ British ~~power~~ in India. They ~~are probably going to~~ ^{may} say to Downing Street that this is the last chance for peace. ~~That's the scenario~~ ^{IF anyhow} as the diplomatic soothsayers have it doped out. And they add that with Russia joining in ~~the aggressive~~, there'll be only the slimmest chance of the Turks holding out. ^{IF} *All conjecture, of course.*

~~Again, you must remember that all this is conjecture, even though a good deal of it is borne out by indications and straws in the wind.~~

ADD LEAD

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The British Royal Air Force took part in the welcome to Molotov. A squadron of bombers brought off a successful raid on the railroad junctions at Danzig. It had been reported that Hitler's Foreign Minister Ribbentrop was to meet Molotov's train at or near Danzig. From a military point of view, the raid on that ancient port was quite remarkable, ~~inasmuch as it is~~ two hundred and fifty miles further away from Britain than Berlin. It meant that the raiders had to make a round trip flight of sixteen hundred miles.

ARMISTICE

Has there ever been a day of public celebration so grim and ironic as this one? Armistice Day! The day on which we commemorate the ending of the World War! The Germans marked it by a fierce attempt to bombard London Once more. The British celebrated by shooting down twenty-five of the enemy air raiders. Incidentally, it wasn't only the Nazis who tried to raid the British capital. Among the twenty-five planes that the R.A.F. shot down were thirteen of Mussolini's big bombers.

Despite all this, the British went through most of their ritual of honoring Armistice Day. They had to leave out the two-minute silence in memory of the World War dead, because at that particular ^{moment} ~~time~~ Hitler's and Mussolini's war planes were ^{actually} roaring overhead. Nevertheless, wreaths from the King and Queen were placed at the foot of the Cenotaph, ^{London's} ~~the~~ famous monument for the dead. All the heads of the government likewise contributed their wreaths.

In France, the Cathedral at Clermont-Ferrand, near Vichy, was crowded for Armistice Day services. Among those who attended was the Premier, Marshal Henri Petain. There were also two German

photographers in unifrom. As those German photographers began to take pictures, the entire crowd burst into song, chanting the majestic words and tune of the old "Marseillaise." It was a demonstration whose meaning left nobody in doubt; and it penetrated even the German hide. Those Nazi photographers left in a hurry.

In our own country, the principal Armistice Day ceremony naturally was in the National Cemetery at Arlington. President Roosevelt in his address declared that he did not believe that our dead of Nineteen Seventeen and Nineteen Eighteen died in vain. Then he continued:- "I for one do not believe that the era of democracy in human affairs can or will be snuffed out in our lifetime." Then he declaimed further;- "I for one do not believe that the world will revert to a modern form of ancient slavery or modern emperors or modern dictators. The very people under their iron heels," he declared, "will themselves rebel."

DE GAULLE

General DeGaulle and his Free Frenchmen at last have a foothold on French soil. It is official tonight that Libreville capitulated. The capital of Gabon in French equatorial Africa gives the leader of the Free Frenchmen an entering wedge ^{into the French colonies.} The Pétain Government at Vichy acknowledged earlier in the day that communications had been broken with the French Governor General at Libreville. Late this ~~xxx~~ evening Vichy admitted that General DeGaulle had taken the port.

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The surrender of Libreville was immediately announced by DeGaulle over the radio for its effect upon other French possessions in Africa. DeGaulle broadcast from ~~Libreville in~~ the Belgian Congo. ~~The~~ Free Frenchmen, he said, are fighting where they can and how they can, collecting the pieces of the Free French Empire.

RUMANIA

Still more earthquake shocks in Rumania! The one that shook the oil fields this morning was one of the worst of them all. It is described by experts as a three degree shock.

It is impossible yet to give any exact figures on the casualties. It is merely known that at least a thousand people were killed. Western Rumania is the only part of the country that escaped injury. Elsewhere towns and villages are in ruins, and the oil fields have been badly damaged with German soldiers desperately trying to extinguish huge fires. Polesti, the center of the principal oil district, suffered severely. And Galatz, the chief river port of Rumania on the Danube, sustained the worst damage of all. In fact, the disaster is general throughout that stricken country. Railroad transportation is virtually at a standstill. And it is believed that ^{the quakes} ~~the disaster~~ will seriously hamper the movements of Hitler's great war machine in Rumania.

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TRUCKS

Whatever may be the measure of our country's preparedness for war in other regards, *we are all set as regards* ~~we are all fixed as to~~ transportation.

This is the message that comes from the Annual Convention of the American Trucking Associations, *which has just* ~~Inc., which yesterday~~ opened a four day convention at Los Angeles. *That's* ~~It is~~ the national trade association of the trucking industry - our biggest employing industry, save only agriculture.

Nathan Bedford Forrest, rated by military sharps as the greatest cavalry commander of all time, said that war was the art of "gittin thar fustest with the mostest men". In the mechanized warfare of today that means roads, vehicles, and skilled drivers. And we have them - millions of trucks and ~~of~~ skilled drivers, hundreds of thousands of miles of modern highways, all ready to get "the mostest men" where they are needed, and to "get them thar fustest." That is the assurance of complete preparedness in this particular as we hear it from the ~~vital regard that has gone out yesterday to the nation from the~~ ~~American~~ Trucking Associations Convention at Los Angeles.

DRAFT

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Here's a word of ~~comfort~~^{tidings} for professional men called in the draft, professional men and those who operate one-man business concerns. Dr. Clarence Dykstra, Director of Conscription, made a statement today concerning the status of ~~such men~~^{business men. and}. By way of illustration he cited a couple of cases. One is that of a young dentist who has just graduated and gone into debt to buy the expensive equipment that every dentist needs. Obviously he'd be out of luck. Then there's the young lawyer who has just managed to acquire a few clients, just about to begin to practice his profession profitably. Naturally, he will lose those clients and when his period of service is over, he'll probably find it impossible to get them back.

Director Dykstra declares that such men cannot lay claim to be put on the deferred list. Then he explained: The test ~~of such claims~~^{it} will be whether ~~they~~^{they} affect^s the welfare of the nation or a community. The young dentist or young lawyer in such a plight can hardly claim that his personal misfortune will inflict harm to the country or community. The hardship falls upon the individual. The fact that more sacrifice is asked of some than

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of others is inevitable, says Director Dykstra. However, he adds, professional men and the owners of one-man businesses, if they are called for military training, will be given plenty of time to wind up their affairs.

SABOTAGE

The police of Springfield, Ohio, are confronted with a first class murder mystery, a mystery with E. Phillips Oppenheim trimmings. The scene of the affair is a factory, a plant manufacturing Diesel engines. Some of these it is turning out for the government. A couple of workmen in that plant were found dead, beaten to death. They had been at work when they were slugged. One of them was a machine operator, another a night watchman. And the two bodies were found in widely separated parts of the factory, a huge factory covering an area of six acres.

So far the sleuths of Springfield have been unable to unearth any motive for the killing of ^{the two;} ~~these two men.~~ They've been unable to discover any personal grudge that might have prompted the assassinations. The only other theory would be that of sabotage, and of that there is no proof ~~either~~ as yet. ~~Of course~~ The fact that the plant was turning out engines for the government ~~naturally~~ provokes the suspicion of sabotage.

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LABOR

Labor leaders on both sides of the fence were talking peace today, peace between the two great branches of the union labor world. The point of view of the American Federation was expressed by John B. Frey, President of the Metal Trades Department of the Federation. Speaking to a meeting at New Orleans, Frey said that there's nothing more desirable or necessary than true unity within the trade union movement in America. But, he added, the Federation has received no indication from the C.I.O. that it wants to resume peace conferences. Then he brought up the matter of Communism, and repeated the accusation that important ^{positions} ~~decisions~~ in the C.I.O. are held by Communists.

Then here's a voice from the C.I.O. David Dubinsky, President of the Garment Workers, told his convention that the C.I.O., for its part, objects to the racketeers who hold important positions in the American Federation. The garment workers, Dubinsky said, will not stand for the criminals who infest certain A.F. of E.

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unions. Another result, perhaps, of Westbrook Pegler's one-man crusade.

LOST

A two year old youngster is missing in Georgia.

And the parents had a ray of hope today. The little fellow's dog came home. He had been playing with the boy and he also had not been seen since Friday, the day the boy was first missin. Nearly a thousand men, and boys have been combing the rough brush country.

Here's a later report. The sheriff has called a hat to the search. This on the chance that the little fellow might have been snatched by kidnapers, and if so, the sheriff wants to give them an opportunity to make contact with the boy's parents. He says if it was a kidnap job it was done by amateurs.

WEATHER

On the wings of a gale, winter swept down on the west today. A fierce wind came roaring south from the mouth of the McKenzie River where so many of our storms originate. And it brought with it sleet ^{and} snow. A real freeze. Tonight twelve inches of snow cover most of Colorado and Wyoming, Highway travel, though not blocked, was precarious, in Nebraska, Missouri, northern Oklahoma and much of Kansas. Airliners were grounded at Omaha, and Denver, and even at Dallas, and Fort Worth.

The wind blew nearly a mile a minute out in Chicago -- where they get used to the wind.

The storm covered the country from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico, from the Rockies to the Appalachians. At Edmonton, Alberta, the thermometer fell to twenty-six below and in parts of Montana to seventeen below. Along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, Uncle Sam's men ordered storm warning hoisted. Five of the southern states felt winds of almost tornado velocity that destroyed buildings, uprooted trees, tore down communication lines. Rain flooded the streets of towns in Louisiana. Thirteen dead. More than a hundred injured.

Storm warnings were up along the Atlantic coast -- from Rhode Island south to Cape Hatteras. And, says the weatherman, the cold spell is on its way East. In fact there already is skiing in most mountain regions of the North East.

MERCURY FOLLOW EATHER

Today's weather was particularly bad news for one group of scientists. I mean the astronomers, or more particularly the astrophysicists. This should have been a great day in the life of an astrophysicist, as it is the date of a rare phenomenon. Only thirteen times in a hundred years does the Planet Mercury cross the face of the sun. And today was one of those thirteen.

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Of course whenever such a phenomenon happens, the name of Albert Einstein looms largely in the news. The astrophysicists make particular use of any such transit in the heavens to check the Einstein Theory known to most of us as Relativity, though ~~under~~ he himself calls it the Field Theory. One part of that theory is that the faster a body moves, the larger it ~~becomes~~ becomes. The astrophysicists had hoped to prove or disprove the truth of that theory by watching Mercury cross the face of the Sun.

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But today was hardly good star-gazing ^(or planet-gazing) weather.

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Anyhow Hugh and I are not astrophysicists. So we are not worrying are we, Hugh? Or maybe Hugh is an astrophysicist!