

L.I. - *Sunday Times*, Sept. 7, 1937.

(A reassuring word comes from Rome tonight. The word is -
 compromise, some sort of middle-of-the-road agreement concerning
 the proposed conference on piracy in the Mediterranean.)
 Yesterday's Roman events were abrupt and drastic. The Soviets
 handed their strongly worded note to Mussolini's government,
 charging the Italians with ^{that} piracy. And Mussolini turned
 down the Moscow protest, turned it down flat, instantly, at once.
 On top of that, the Italians immediately started saying that this
 Russian insult would prevent Rome from joining the scheduled
 piracy pow-wow. They wouldn't sit down at any conference with
 Soviet representatives.

This evening, however, the Eternal City chimes
 in with that mollifying word - compromise.) A plan is being
 formulated to make it possible for Italy to take part in the
 talk about ^{submarine buccaneering.} ~~piracy~~ We are not told what the plan is. One surmise
 is that it will call for the elimination of Russia from the
 conference, that is, no Soviet diplomats there to offend the
 Italians with their presence. Another report tells that today's
 Roman scheme is a complicated mechanism of face-saving. The

piracy palaver ^{would} ~~will~~ be divided into two parts. The Russians would be represented in one, the Italians in the other. So the diplomats of both nations would participate, without confronting each other. No face-to-face, and that would save face - ~~and it's~~ all slightly ^{face-ive!} ~~intricate~~.

We are told that the compromise plan is being worked out by Italy and Germany. The two nations are lined up together on the issue, a firm Fascist front. This line-up was further emphasized today by some strong declarations made in Germany. A speech by Hitler, delivered right on the heels of the Moscow protest and its rejection by Rome. Hitler declared that Germany and Italy stood shoulder to shoulder, and he proceeded to denounce Communism all over the place.

Meanwhile - what about Great Britain and France?

Those two long suffering democratic nations are calling the piracy conference ^{on submarining} ~~to~~ ^{under the skull} another one of those gestures to stave off the peril of war. Both London and Paris announced today that they're going right ahead, no matter whether Italy comes in or

48

and bones.

stays out. They'll stage the get-together, and devise means to stop those mysterious submarines from sinking merchant vessels in the Mediterranean. One ominous detail is - the British and French are said to feel that their combined fleets are strong enough to ~~stand off~~ ^{stamp out} the submarine piracy - even if Italy should refuse to collaborate. And that arouses the sinister vision of squadrons of warships lined up against each other in the Mediterranean, British and French on the one side, and Italian on the other - with Germany backing Italy.

This doesn't mean that London and Paris are supporting Moscow in the Soviet quarrel with Rome. On the contrary, the British and French are said to be much annoyed by the sudden Soviet action - upsetting the applecart, putting the jinx on the conference. In Paris today it is angrily stated that although France is allied with Russia, the French ~~fx~~ Foreign Office knew nothing about the protest ^{Stalin} ~~Moscow~~ was sending to ^{Mussolini.} ~~Rome~~. The Russians didn't even bother to tell the French.

On the whole, it looks as if Great Britain and France were ~~sternly~~ sternly determined - determined to have another

19

one of those international conferences, (with another one of those intricate schemes to preserve peace - something like the Non-Intervention Committee and the defunct Spanish patrol.)

There's more likelihood of talk than of war. Nevertheless,

the stock markets today reflected a panicky fear of war -

reflected the danger in terms of falling prices. The tumbling

both here and abroad
values of securities tell how gravely finance is concerned with
the piracy crisis - and *with* China.

CHINA

The Shanghai tragedy is topic Number One in Washington this evening. The State Department has on its hands a large and burning protest cabled by the Americans in the war blasted city. "We demand the protection of the United States flag," cry the United States citizens in Shanghai. "We demand the protection of the American fleet."

They're angry over there, those fellow citizens of ours caught in the turmoil of battle. They're denouncing the declaration made by President Roosevelt, urging that all Americans get out, and giving the warning that those who stay do so at their own peril. That was a blow to Americans who have property in Shanghai and have their money invested there. They refuse to leave and abandon their interests there. So when the President warns, no protection -- they respond demanding the protection of the flag and the fleet. Today the President said the same thing -- no comment. But meanwhile American property is being seized in Shanghai. The Japanese have taken over the Seventh Day Adventist Mission.

The battle rages in Shanghai. It's the same story of bitter fighting that we've had day after day. And once more the report is -- the Chinese are driving back the battalions of the Emperor of Japan. However, for every story of Chinese success in the savage fighting, there's a counter-story of how the Japanese are landing more troops, massing a greater power at Shanghai.

LUSITANIA

The memory of the LUSITANIA is involved in a squabble over in Ireland. The Town Council of Queenstown, where the ~~LUSITANIA~~ survivors were landed, served a notice today concerning a LUSITANIA monument that is being built there. There has been an argument about this memorial for some time, an argument ~~concerning~~ concerning delays in construction - why isn't it finished yet? It is sponsored by a committee of Americans, which is headed by a Vanderbilt. Somehow or other, only the base has been set up, and none of the statues. ^{So} So the Queenstown authorities said today: "Build that memorial right away, or we'll have the base removed."

To this the sculptor replies with a blast; a mighty pronouncement. "The monument," he declared today, "is the property of the American people who reckon it as a memorial to the Americans who perished on the LUSITANIA. The Council's motion to remove the base is an insult to Americans, including President Roosevelt." *Why drag in the President he doesn't explain. ^{But they} ~~those~~ are lofty words,* and the sculptor, instead of saying he'll obey the Town Council, announces that he won't go ahead with a stroke of work - until the Town Council backs down -

2
and apologizes to the American people," - and to him in particular, probably.

It seems like a formidable row - ~~that~~ with tragic

memory ^{es} of the LUSITANIA in the background.

McGRADY

The announcement several weeks ago that Assistant Secretary of Labor Edward McGrady would resign as "government trouble shooter Number One" was borne out today by official notice from the President. The resignation is accepted - "with deep regret." So says President Roosevelt. The Assistant Secretary leaves to take a post in private business, a big time job with the Radio Corporation of America. ~~And he tells the President that his new employers, R.C.A., agree that if the government should ever need his services for any special work, he'll be available for the job. And the President says he appreciates that.~~

What kind of post does the "trouble shooter" take ~~so~~ here *in Rockefeller Center?*
~~radio~~ It's the same sort of work he has been doing - it's

concerned with labor. Edward McGrady becomes Industrial Counsellor to R.C.A., and it will be his task to promote harmony between the corporation and its myriad of workers, settling R.C.A. labor ~~problems,~~ *problems,* ~~disputes,~~ studying working conditions, the same sort of thing he has been doing as Assistant Secretary of Labor.

MONTAGUE

3
The case of John Montague, the golfing Paul Bunyan of Hollywood, is working up to a new high spot of drama. Held for trial at Elizabethtown, New York, on an old charge of stick-up and robbery, the palladin of the movie-colony-golf-links is awaiting an ordeal of identification. One Roger Norton, an ex-convict, is being brought to point an identifying finger at him and say - "Yes, he's Laverne Moore, the hold-up man."

Today Montague was interviewed by the newspaper men.

It wasn't much of an interview. The Paul Bunyan of golf who in Hollywood was a rousing, laughing conversationalist, ^{confined} ~~could~~ find himself ^{to four} ~~but few~~ words. The interview ~~in fact~~ consisted of exactly four words. Asked about Roger Norton, who is supposed to have been an old pal of his in a stick-up gang, Montague said - "Never heard of him." With those four words he denied all acquaintance with Roger Norton who is expected to ^{also say four words:-} confront him and ~~say~~ - "I knew him when."

So the next scene in the Montague drama will be those two men face to face - something for a thrill in one of those film dramas made by Montague's pals and buddies, the

54

motion picture stars.

The Paul Bunyan legend surrounding the prisoner at Elizabethtown, continues to grow - even in my morning mail.

I have a letter here from Peter Cragin of Rochester, a letter

that bears upon the Hollywood exploits of Montague and the

New York State exploits of Laverne Moore, who Montague is

said to be. It ^{was} Montague's athletic prowess that brought about

his prosecution as Laverne Moore. "As you know," writes Peter

Cragin, "Verne Moore was brought up in Syracuse and was a

famous character when I first lived there. I remember one

baseball game in which he pitched against Syracuse University

and struck out twenty-one men."

Then the Cragin letter goes on to relate the following:

"One day Moore was driving up North Salina Street near the public market, and saw a man playing a piccolo at an open window.

He went back to the market, bought a basket of tomatoes and

proceeded to bombard the piccolo player. The newspapers

commented on the affair and stated that the tomato thrower

should be a major league pitcher - because every ^{red ripe vegetable} ~~tomato~~

155

he tossed went right through the open window."

Pete Cragin doesn't say how the piccolo player felt about it - blasted by the bombardment of tomatoes. But I'll bet he blew a couple of mighty high notes of shrill indignation.

GANSTERS

A bit of news from the middlewest tonight revives an old and formidable echo - Dillinger! ~~Get~~ Get the Dillinger gang! But there's one important addition this time, a single word - the word "second." "Get the second Dillinger gang" - is the slogan as the superintendent of the Indiana State Police announces a police conference including five states. The object of this interstate manhunt convention is to lay plans for a campaign against a gang of desperadoes which right now is a multiple public enemy Number One in the middlewest. So much so that they call it - the second Dillinger gang.

It's leader? The contemporary reincarnation of that swaggering killer who made crime history several years ago? His name is Al Brady. He is accused of being the leader in a series of robberies, bank stick-ups and four murders - a crime trail weaving through five states. Hence the interstate conference - to get the second Dillinger gang.

I wondered today about this rather sensational reviving of the name of that former Public Enemy Number One. How much like the old Dillinger mob is this present Al Brady gang?

So I phoned headquarters of The G-Men in Washington - J. Edgar Hoover's office and ~~we took a look at the crime record, and found some things~~

learned of some)

striking resemblances. Dillinger was a native of Indiana,

Public Enemy

and so is Brady. Both were boys when they drifted into the

perilous way of misdoing. Dillinger's jail-breaking escapes

are recalled when we read how a year and a half ago Brady

and three fellow gangsters were in jail on a murder charge.

They ambushed the sheriff, clubbed him down and escaped.

Then they went on a crime raid far and wide, robbing banks and gasoline stations.

Their climax of crime came recently when Brady decided to rob the bank in his own home town - Goodland, Indiana. They did it, but in their automobile getaway two officers in ~~an~~ a police car were on their trail. They ambushed the officers, drove to a church and hid behind it. As the police car drove up they opened fire with automatic rifles. One policeman was killed. The other was wounded, ~~and~~ he tried to crawl away from the bullet riddled police car.

One of the killers took aim at him and called to

Brady: "Shall I let him have it?"

RETAKE

GANGSTERS - 2

So I phoned headquarters of the G-Men in Washington - J. Edgar Hoover's office and ~~so I took a look at the crime record, and found some rather~~

learned of some)

striking resemblances. Dillinger was a native of Indiana, ^{Public Enemy} and so is Brady. Both were boys when they drifted into the perilous way of misdoing. Dillinger's jail-breaking escapes are recalled when we read how a year and a half ago Brady and three fellow gangsters were in jail on a murder charge. They ambushed the sheriff, clubbed him down and escaped. Then they went on a crime raid far and wide, robbing banks and gasoline stations.

57
Their climax of crime came recently when Brady decided to rob the bank in his own home town - Goodland, Indiana. They did it, but in their automobile getaway two officers in ~~an~~ a police car were on their trail. They ambushed the officers, drove to a church and hid behind it. As the police car drove up they opened fire with automatic rifles. One policeman was killed. The other was wounded, ~~and~~ ^{he} tried to crawl away from the bullet riddled police car.

One of the killers took aim at him and called to

Brady: "Shall I let him have it?"

"Nah," snarled Brady, "he'll die."

And he did - two more murders ~~cracked up~~ *on the Black Record.*

So it isn't so exaggerated to say - ~~The~~ **S**econd
Dillinger gang. And it isn't astonishing - that the police of
five states are getting together for a concerted plan to hunt
down this new public-enemy-murder-mob-of-the-middlewest.

COUNTERFEIT

58
There was an automobile chase in Baltimore today, rather like those wild rides in hot pursuit which you see in the movies. G-men, stepping on all the gas they had, ~~were~~ roaring after a fleeing motor car. The fugitives were not desperate gunmen gangsters, but a mere family party - a man and wife and their fifteen year old daughter. Moreover, their name was - Pius. That's an edifying name, signifying piety, holiness and all that.

58 1/2
Finally, the G-men caught up with the speeding Pius family, and in their car found a hundred and fifty counterfeit coins, fake quarters. It happens that ~~there~~ there has been an epidemic of false coinage in Washington and vicinity. The Pius family loudly denied having any connection with the spurious money racket, but the G-men held them for questioning. All those counterfeit quarters found after a two-mile automobile chase thriller - ~~they~~ ^{that} didn't seem so much like piety.

GABLE

What's the difference between an engagement and an understanding? Ask Clark Gable. He ought to know.

Today in London a question was put to Della Carroll, an American dancer. "Are you engaged to Clark Gable?"

Della's answer was: "There's an understanding between us."

She wore an engagement ring set with a large aquamarine stone. Asked: "Is that Clark Gable's engagement ring on your finger?"

"I admire him very much," she replied.

"Should you like to marry him?"

"I don't know, I change my mind so quickly."

It's all difficult to understand, this understanding,
and SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.