

CHINA

L.H. - Sunco. Wed., Dec. 22, 1937.

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From China, just two important bits of news. First, the Japanese high command has removed Colonel Shingoro Hashimoto from his command. He, you will remember, is the man supposed to be responsible for ~~the~~ machine-gunning our gunboat PANAY while she was sinking. In fact he is believed to be to blame for all the military attacks upon British and American warships.

Now, that ^{new} has a double significance. For Colonel Hashimoto is also described as the ring-leader of the so-called young officers, firebrands, the hot-heads who have defied the high command and pushed Japanese military aggression to the point of reckless attacks upon ~~us~~ foreigners. And of course, ^{he was} ~~was~~ a ring-leader in the abortive Tokyo mutiny of February, Nineteen Thirty-Six. And he still retained vast political influence within the Japanese army.

So the double significance is this:- first, it shows a complete yielding on the part of the high command to foreign public opinion, particularly to American indignation. Second, it indicates that the ~~Chinese~~ high command has set its foot down and decided to take no more nonsense from the so-called young officers clique.

The next important item from China is the announcement that the Chinese have a hundred and twenty divisions of troops organized and placed along a five hundred mile front to resist the Japanese advance upon the new capital, Hankow. That five hundred mile front extends from Suchow all the way to Nanchang. These one hundred and twenty divisions ~~do not~~^{net} include those ^{which} are making life difficult for the Japanese armies in the north of China. Furthermore, there are twenty-five divisions of ^{Chinese} veterans that have ~~not~~ even been used in the war so far.

Then there's another bit of news which sounds big but it isn't so immediately important. The Chinese have one million men at work building a vast military highway, three thousand miles long in central Asia. Its purpose, if the story is true, will obviously be to establish communications from China to Soviet Russia. And, they say, it's being constructed under the supervision of engineers trained in American technical schools.

~~TP Also~~ A good deal of importance is attached to a movement of British soldiers in the Far East. A troopship is leaving

KELLOG

There's a tragic note in the death of Frank B. Kellogg in the midst of the Far Eastern troubles. He was author of the Kellogg Pact^t, signed when he was Secretary of State under President Harding -- the treaty that was supposed to guarantee peace and non-aggression. Now Frank B. Kellogg is dead. The Kellogg Pact has been dead for some time.

NAVY

An order issued by officials of the Navy Department today has aroused considerable speculation. It is addressed to aviators, not only private flyers but the pilots of commercial airliners. "Stay away from the territory along the Mexican border between San Diego, California, and Mexicali, Mexico!" That's the notice.

But, they say, it's only temporary. Some people wondered whether it had anything to do with the rumor that Japanese fishing vessels had been strangely active along the west coast of Mexico. "No," replied the admirals, "the order has nothing to do with any such rumor." Other people wondered whether the Navy intended to establish a permanent air-base in that area. That also was denied. The reason for the order is that Navy planes are going to conduct a series of important bombing tests. ^{And} ~~in that area,~~ The order is simply in line with warnings issued to ships at sea when the fleet is going through gunnery practice.

NORTH POLE

The Soviet government is sending out its strongest ice-breaker into Greenland waters. She is going to the rescue of those four Russian scientists who have been drifting around on an ice-floe for seven months.

The Soviet North Pole weather bureau this week is having a look at the mountains of Greenland. What's the big idea? Has the North Pole moved? No, not the Pole but the ice. Last May the Soviet expedition pitched its camp at the Pole, at the exact geographical point at the top of the world. But the vast Arctic ice pack moves with the currents of the Arctic Ocean, and that North Pole camp has been drifting southward. Now it is within sight of Greenland's icy mountains.

Edward Shackleton son of the famous British



Shackleton.

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Antarctic explorer is sitting beside me tonight. Young Edward Shackleton is an Arctic Explorer in his own right. His last expedition was to Greenland and Ellsmereland. We happen to be together because we are both interested in Sir Wilfred Grenfell and his work on the Laborador.

Explorer Shackleton has written a book called "Arctic Journey" that will be issued shortly, in this country. He has been lecturing over here -- all this to pay for the last expedition.

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~~Explorers~~ Shackleton what do you think about those Russian scientists now afloat on the ice up there in the Arctic Ocean?

MR. SHACKLETON: I don't envy them. Of course, they may be lucky. They may come through alive. But, as you have just told us the latest is that they have now floated south to where they can see the Mountains of Greenland.

L.T.: ~~Can't they simply send out a call for help over their radio and immediately be rescued?~~ *Do you think the Soviet ice-breaker can get to them? Do you*

MR. SHACKLETON: Perhaps. But, again, that may not be so simple. The farther south they float on the Arctic ice pack the more danger there is of pressure ridges forming in the ice. They may be crushed to death and their entire camp suddenly swallowed, by the Polar Sea. Their hope is that the current of the Arctic Ocean will carry them to Spitzbergen. But I believe they are more likely to come down toward Denmark Straits, between Iceland and Greenland, one of the most dangerous bodies of water in the world. Any day now this story may become one of the sensations of our time.

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L.T.: With your youth Mr. Shackleton, and your knowledge of travel in the Far North, who knows it may be necessary for you to take part in the rescue. At any rate, the ~~ice~~ eyes of the world are now on ~~ix~~ those Russian North Pole explorers, riding on the ice, bound for somewhere! *And Moscow rushing an ice-breaker to rescue them.*

RASPUTIN

There was a divorce trial in Bayonne, France, today.

The court gave the husband the decree. That wouldn't be news in America but for the name of the husband. He's the Grandduke Dmitri, nephew of the ill-fated Czar Nicholas. You may recall that Dmitri was one of those present when the unsavory monk Rasputin was killed with such difficulty though the odds against him were about six to one. According to eyewitness accounts, he had bullets in him, sabre thrusts, and enough poison to kill ten oxen. His body was then shoved through a hole in the ice into the River Neva.

The Grandduke Dimitri was punished with exile and never thereafter saw the face of his Uncle, the Czar. He was only a youth at the time, full of fire and zeal and hatred of that gigantic peasant monk who dominated the court of St. Petersburg. Today, a middle-aged man of forty-six, he appeared before a court in the French provincial town to procure the end of his marriage to a rich American woman.

GRAFT

In various parts of the country today there are echoes of the old muck-raking days. That was when the late Lincoln Steffens was writing his famous series, "The Shame of the Cities," showing up graft in city governments. And when Theodore Roosevelt slammed the ~~label~~ label of "muck-raker" upon Steffens and all writers engaged in that pastime.

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In Buffalo, New York, three more city employees submitted to arrest. The grand jury in Buffalo indicted no fewer than ~~six~~ fifteen, of whom seven are councilmen, one a councilman-elect. The men arrested today were charged with perjury in the first degree. They made false statements in applying for city jobs, says the grand jury.

On the other side of the country, in Minneapolis, a grand jury turned in the report that labor organizations in the Twin Cities were rife with mobsters. And, says the jury, "there has been an appalling lack of cooperation between the mayor's office, the police, and the county attorney. Murder from ambush" *the* *report continues,* "is taking place and the perpetrators apparently have escaped detection or at least they have escaped arrest and prosecution."

The Minneapolis grand jury also criticizes Governor Benson of Minnesota. They say he ought to have intervened and taken steps to stop what the jury calls "an outbreak of terror."

KILRAIN

There was one topic talked of today in places where fight fans congregate. The death of Jake Kilrain, in his seventy-ninth year. By almost twenty years he survived the man who gave him that terrific beating in Eighteen Eighty-Nine. Do you know who I mean? John L. Sullivan, the Boston Strong Boy. That meeting on a plantation at Richberg, Mississippi, forty-eight years ago, was the last heavyweight championship affair fought with bare knuckles according to the old rules of the London prize ring.

There are a few men living today who saw that historic encounter, I telephoned William A. Brady, manager of James J. Corbett, who three years after the Kilrain fight toppled Sullivan off his throne. He tells me the judges and the spectators, all assembled in New Orleans, and boarded a train, one knowing where they were going. Prizefighting against the law. They found themselves on a plantation at Richberg, Mississippi.

The fight went seventy-five round. Including wrestling. William Brady tells me that in one round Sullivan, after knocking Kilrain down, jumped on him with both knees. In the seventy-fifth round, one of the Kilrain seconds threw a towel in the ring. Kilrain

protested furiously. He was on his feet but he had taken a terrific battering from the fists of the Boston Strong Boy who was breathing easily and comparatively uninjured.

It lasted two hours, sixteen minutes, and twenty-five seconds. On a previous occasion Kilrain had fought an engagement lasting a hundred and six rounds in France. That was called on account of darkness, no decision.

There was an ironic aftermath to the Sullivan-Kilrain affair. Both fighters were arrested on warrants issued by the government of Mississippi. They were sentenced to one year imprisonment for prize-fighting. Sullivan served his term living on the fat of the land at the plantation where he had fought Kilrain. Poor Jake, who was out of luck and out of funds, had to do his time in prison.

In his later years, Jake often spoke sentimentally about John. And as he lay dying in that Quincy hospital, he said:- "I wish John could come to me." John of course has been dead for nineteen years.

Many people have been wondering: "How does President Roosevelt feel about that do-nothing session of Congress? Has it tended to make him modify his plans or his hopes?" The answer from the White House is: "Not one jot or tittle." The President sticks by his guns, stands by all the important features of his program.

One of the first things he wants completed at the regular session beginning January Third is the Housing Bill. There was one grave snag at the last moment before the bill was passed by the Senate: -- Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts stuck in an amendment. And that amendment is liable to prove a joker when it comes to putting the bill to work. It calls for the payment of the prevailing wage rate for labor. One of the prime reasons why people haven't built more houses in the last few years, is the high cost of construction, principally the high wage rates. President Roosevelt hoped to get round that on the theory that men would consent to take smaller wages per day if they made a higher income per year. If the prevailing wage rate is preserved,, critics say the new Housing Bill will be just another piece of paper. .

That Lodge amendment, incidentally, was a neat bit of

political tactics. It puts the Democratic senators on the spot, since they are generally proclaimed as the working-man's friend.

If the move to strike that amendment comes from the Democratic side of Congress, there will be a loud howl from both camps of organized labor.

CHRISTMAS

There is going to be a thoroughly orthodox Christmas at the White House. In the dead of night, Christmas Eve, after everyone has gone to bed, Santa Claus will come down the chimney. He will not make any appearance during the day. So says the First Lady of the Land herself. Those Santa Claus suits are so hot and heavy and the whiskers so scratchy, that nobody in the White House wants the job.

Mrs. Roosevelt settled another question which seems to have vexed the inquisitive. ~~Two~~ Would the mistress of the White House permit the Big Apple to be danced during the Christmas ^{season} ~~parties~~ at the executive mansion? Her youngest son, John, and his fiancée, Miss Ann Lindsay Clark, are said to be both quite fond of the latest steps. Says Mrs. Roosevelt: "It's entirely up to the children what they do at the party." A bold inquirer asked whether she would dance it herself. "No," she replied, "I have never seen it danced and I don't know how. So I wouldn't think of forbidding something that I haven't seen and know nothing about." Incidentally, four hundred young people have been invited to ^{this yuletide dance} ~~the party~~, which will be on December Thirtieth.

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WEATHER

One important question of the day is:- "What will you get for Christmas?" From the weather-man you're liable to get snow, that is, in the North Atlantic seaboard states. Rain tonight, probably snow Thursday. That's the forecast.

BABY RACE

58 1/2
The so-called baby marathon in Toronto has burst into the news again. You may recall something about the will of Charles Miller, that rich eccentric attorney. With a malicious sense of humor ~~as~~ ^{he} bequeathed half a million dollars to the Toronto mother who had the most children in the ten years following his death. His surviving relatives attacked the will on numerous grounds. The Supreme Court of Canada today threw out the protests of the family, and declared the will legal.

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That leaves a vexatious job for some Toronto judge. For the courts will have to settle which of six ~~mothersixteen~~ mothers is entitled to that prize money. Apparently those six are in a dead heat. Each of them bore nine children in that ten year race. One of them, is seriously ill after the birth of her sixteenth child. She claims she's the winner, ^{and} that she bore eleven children in the ten years.

59 1/4
And s-l-u - the next one - I mean until tomorrow.