

SCOTLAND

L.J.-P.-G Thursday, Dec. 29, 1949.

London is beginning to take seriously a thing that London was inclined to regard lightly -- a Scottish demand for self-government. Today a petition arrived with nearly one million Scottish signatures -- calling for a separate Scottish Parliament, Home Rule.

All because the Scots appear to believe more and more that, under Labor Government Socialism, they are not getting a square deal.

In the business of the dollar shortage, the Scots claim that they ^(are doing) ~~are doing~~ more than their share in bringing in the badly-needed dollar. On the list of British exports to the United States, ~~the~~ Scotch Whiskey ranks fifth, ^{and} the shipyards of Scotland earn another huge chunk of British income. They say that Scotch whiskey and ships alone would pay for all the imports needed by the population of Scotland -- which is a mere five million.

How seriously London takes all this is shown by a curious indication. Plans were announced tonight

for a renovation of the Statue of Mary, Queen of Scots, which stands in Fleet Street. For seventy-five years nothing has ever been done to clean the monument to the tragic Mary Stuart. While, nearby, there has been no end of care for the Statue of Elizabeth, who sent Mary, Queen of Scots to her doom. So London rectifies an injustice -- in the face of that petition with a million signatures for Scottish self-government.

SUBSTITUTE FORMOSA

On the Island of Formosa, where the remnants of the Chinese Nationalist Government have taken refuge, the suggestion was made today that an American General be placed in charge of the defense against the Communists. The request for an American Commander is attributed to "a high official source" among the Nationalists.

This news followed word in a meeting at the White House today on the subject of Formosa -- a conference between President Truman and the National Security Council. The President was given a recommendation from the Joint Chiefs of Staff -- that American officers be sent to Formosa to advise the defending forces. Also, a certain amount of U.S. armament --- but no forces of American troops: (This would seem to be in conflict with the views of General MacArthur, who is reported to favor an outright American military occupation of the strategic island.

At the same time, the Navy announces that an aircraft carrier ^{AND} ~~two~~ two destroyers have been ordered

across the Pacific to reinforce the Seventh Task Fleet
-- which is stationed in the Far East.)

MOSCOW

The Soviets are angry, apparently, over the way this country has taken their trial of twelve Japanese -- accused of plotting bacteriological warfare, and of using American soldiers in experiments with deadly germs. We are told over here that, in the long American investigation of Japanese-American war activities, there was no hint of evidence that American prisoners were used as guinea pigs in bacteriological experiments. In Tokyo, General MacArthur's headquarters denies there is any sign of Japan having resorted to warfare with deadly germs.

So today Moscow publications came out with violently worded articles, declaring that the Americans are trying to cover up the guilt of the twelve Japanese on trial. Also -- they charge that we ourselves have been ~~making~~ making experiments in bacteriological warfare, and cite reports to that effect in American newspapers.

Well, it's not exactly news -- that any

national defense force would experiment with all possible ways of waging war.

POLAND

The State Department issues another protest to another Soviet satellite about another missing American -- and this has to do with a strange international mystery. The Red Government of Poland is asked about the disappearance of a Cleveland architect named Herman Field -- who vanished in Warsaw last August. The United States ambassador there has been trying to find out what happened to him. He tried fourteen times, but got no answer.

This Cleveland architect, Herman Field, is a brother of Noel Field -- who, with his wife Herta, ~~has~~ have also disappeared behind the Iron Curtain. Noel Field, a former employee of the American State Department, has been named by Whittaker Chambers as a one-time member of a Red network infiltrating the U. S. Government. Chambers, the accuser of Alger Hiss, claims that Hiss and Noel Field worked together in Communist espionage -- and the name of Noel Field has figured prominently in the current trial of Alger Hiss in Washington. On the other hand, the Communists of

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Hungary have denounced Field as an American spy -- which makes it all the more confusing.

Last summer, Field and his wife were in Czechoslovakia, where they dropped out of sight -- at about the same time that Field's brother, the Cleveland architect, vanished in Communist Poland. Which makes it a triple disappearance -- and a big mystery in the dark and devious doings behind the Iron Curtain.

EGYPT

For the first time, since I've been on the radio news job, a romance is featured as virtually an international problem - with statements from ambassadors in Washington, London and Rome, and even the United Nations is brought into the affair. Of course, the sentiment of the heart has figured in world history before this. Helen of Troy caused the Trojan War, and Marc Anthony and Cleopatra stirred up inter-continental disturbances - but that was before I was on the radio.

Today there were international diplomatic denials of a story concerning King Farouk of Egypt, a beautiful sixteen year old girl, and a young man who is an economic adviser in the Egyptian delegation to the U. N.

In Washington, the ambassador from the land of the Nile, sent a declaration to the world organization, stating that King Farouk did not interfere in the romance of ^a the young beauty, and the economic adviser at the U. N. *Nariman Sadat*

The Egyptian Embassy in London insisted that the monarch did not break up the engagement of

the two. While in Rome, the ambassador from Cairo denied that King Farouk intends to marry the girl.

I don't know of any ~~an~~ other case in which a story has been honored with such a large and lofty series of denials. But it seems to deserve all that. It's like something out of the Arabian Nights, with a modern diplomatic setting.

The story was published by the Associated Press, and was expanded in a dispatch to the New York Evening Post. Circulated in Cairo for days - but held back by Egyptian censorship, which is about as rigid as a censorship can be. It begins with a simple theme of young love - Zaki Hashem, Harvard educated Egyptian at the United Nations, getting engaged to Narriman Sadek, daughter of a government employee in Cairo. Their wedding was to have been celebrated on December Eighty, three weeks ago. - but here's what happened, according to the story which is denied in three world capitals and at the United Nations.

~~In Cairo, the fiances, Hashem and Narriman,~~

THEY went shopping for a wedding ring, and picked one out at ^{Cairo} a jewelry shop, saying that they would return for it two days later. The jeweler was struck by the beauty of the intended bride, and he was a friend of King Farouk. So he happened to mention the matter to his majesty - a monarch of twenty-nine. The result was that, when the two fiances returned to the jewelry shop, keeping their appointment, King Farouk was watching, concealed on a balcony. He took a long look at the sixteen year old bride-to-be.

The next day, his royal majesty of Egypt went to the home of Narriman, greeted the astonished family, and told the girl he had decided to make her his queen. Narriman was astounded. She said she loved Hashem - but that was no go. Her father, a government employee, was not at all displeased at the prospect of a marriage of his daughter to the king - and kept Narriman a prisoner in the family household.

Hashem was informed that the wedding was off, the engagement broken. He was told to return to his

post at the United Nations, New York, and was advised to marry someone else before he left. ~~He~~ is reported to have been heart broken - he said he would go, but would marry no one else. The report adds that ever since, Hashem has been closely watched by the Egyptian police.

The royal family is said to have been startled and upset, at first refusing to believe that the king intended to marry ~~Harriman~~ *the divorced beautiful*. The reasons for being disturbed are considerable. For it says in ~~the~~ *the* Koran: "Thou shalt not usurp ~~thy~~ brother's fiance." ~~And an~~ election is coming up in Egypt next week - which persuaded Farouk to delay any announcement until after the Egyptian voters had gone to the polls. Moreover, there's the international angle - Hashem, the luckless fiance, being a member of the Egyptian staff at the United Nations. Hence the wealth of ambassadorial denials today in a story of romance that assumes virtually the rank of an international problem.

NAVY

The Navy published a list of promotions tonight, captains elevated to the rank of Admiral, and on it is the name of -- Burke. Which is news, not alone because of the wartime exploits of Burke -- but also because of reports that he would not get a promotion. During Naval operations in the Pacific, he won the nickname of -- "Thirty-one Knots". Which was ^S the speed at which he used to lead his own squadron of destroyers against the Japanese. But, after the war, Arleigh Burke, was head of -- O.P. Twenty-Three. And that was the mysterious group in the Navy Department which master-minded the revolt of the Admirals against unification. As a result of the uproar, O.P. Twenty-Three was abolished, and Captain Burke was regarded as being in the Naval dog-house. But Burke is a Captain no longer, and becomes

near Admiral Thirty-one Knots.

ROOSEVELT

At Los Angeles today, Wellburn Mayock, close friend of President Truman, announced that he will run against James Roosevelt in the 1950 Primary, seeking the Democratic nomination for Governor. He hurls a powerful blast against the elder son of the late F.D.R., saying that James Roosevelt -- "would only use the office of Governor of California as a stepping-stone to national office". Could that mean -- the White House?

Wellburn Mayock denies that he has the backing of The Truman Administration, but he has long been close to the President, and formerly was ^(Counsel) ~~Counsel~~ to the Democratic National Committee.

WEATHER

The Pacific Northwest is in the swirl of a storm blowing in from the Arctic -- with such torrents of rain that Western British Columbia is isolated tonight from the rest of Canada. The deluge poured down, whipped by a violent gale -- and there are floods far and wide. Railroads lines east of Vancouver ~~was~~^{are} blocked by the landslides -- train traffic tied up.

DOG

In Long Beach, California today, the Judge said: "Let Nick decide this." Nick is a dog, a German Shepherd and he gave a typical canine decision.

Nick had been the seeing eye of Frank Herring, a blind salesman, and Herring had been taken to court and convicted of brutality to his "seeing-eye" -- beating Nick. But the blind salesman came back to Court today, and told the Judge that, without the dog ~~to guide them~~, he had fallen down several times, and walked into obstacles. In the face of that plea the Judge, Charles Wallace, refused to make a decision -- leaving it to the dog.

When they brought him into the Court Room, Nick went wild, rushing at the master who had beaten him, licking his face and whining with delight at the reunion.

The Judge could only abide by the dog's decision, the happy seeing eye led his master away.

EINSTEIN

The other evening, in telling about the new Einstein theory, which purports to explain the most hidden secret of nature, I refrained from reciting the mathematics of this newest Einsteinian brain twister. I'm not so good at quadratic equations, and anyway, the new Einstein theory is said to be as ~~incomprehensible~~ incomprehensible as that old ^{one}, relativity. So, instead of mathematics, how about some poetry - which comes from England?

We all know how Sir Isaac Newton set forth his famous law of gravitation, but now today comes Professor Einstein with a new theory, a complicated head-breaker intended to take the place of Newton's classic. Two or three centuries ago, the poet, Alexander Pope, wrote the following famous lines:

"Nature and natures law;

L^od hid in night.

God said, let Newton be;

And all was light."

Today, British scholar Sir John Squire adds

the following:

"It did not last.

The devil howling - ho;!

Let Einstein be!

And restored the status quo."

~~The status quo being - when "Nature and nature's laws lay hid in night." This London view being that the new Einstein theory is full of darkness. To which we can only say - let the professors fight it out.~~

Whoa! That's too obtuse for me.
How about you! - Nelson?