

FRANCE P.T.P. & G. Wed. Feb. 28 - 51.

The French cabinet fell tonight - Premier Pleven and his fellow ministers resigning. This came after unsuccessful efforts to break a deadlock over proposed reforms in the French system of voting. Which is entirely a domestic matter; but, the political crisis threatens to affect such international matters as the prospect of a meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Big Four. President Auriol accepted the resignation of the cabinet, and immediately started to find a new Premier - a political figure able to line up a majority in the National Assembly.

TROOPS

The congressional hearings on troops for Europe, ended on a dramatic note today - when General Lucius Clay made an appeal in behalf of our Allies in the ~~United~~ ^{Atlantic} Security pact. He said they should ^{be} ~~be~~ given, what he called - "a chance to prove themselves., which he ~~called~~ ^{termed} - "the only possible way to save this free world."

This followed statements by our former commander in Germany, in which he declared that a West European defense force to prevent a Soviet attack ~~can~~ can be built in a year. He said he disagreed "absolutely" with the warning given yesterday by former President ~~Herbert~~ Hoover - that the Red army could overwhelm western Europe in twenty days. He gave the opinion that the Soviets will not precipitate a war unless they believe they are ready to win, with ease. "If we move rapidly and collectively, they ~~may~~ may never be ready" declared General Clay.

BRITISH EGGS.

London has another scandal rivaling the famous peanut fiasco, in which a hundred million dollars was thrown away in a peanut growing project in ~~Central~~^{East} Africa. The new one is -- eggs. Also - in Africa. Today, in the House of Commons, colonial Secretary James Griffiths was heckled in a tumult - as he tried to explain. The project was to produce twenty million eggs a year, in the British Colony of Gambia. but last year only thirty-eight thousand eggs were shipped to England. Eighty thousand chickens were sent out to the African colony, and thirty thousand of them perished. Loss, two-million, ~~three-hundred-thousand~~ dollars.

The reason[?] - it was found impossible to grow hen food in Gambia, the soil not right. So they couldn't produce anything ^{much} that the chickens would~~n't~~ eat.

In Parliament today, the embarrassed Colonial Secretary was asked - why didn't the government make a test of the soil in the African colony before investing in the plan?

The Conservatives give notice that they will make another attempt to throw out the Labor government on the issue of what is being called -- "the egg muddle". The expression may sound funny, "egg muddle". But it is not amusing in Britain where the ration now is one egg a week for each person.

...on the ground that they are part of the
...which was assigned to Soviet Russia
...the Yalta agreement in outline. But, says
...they are not ordinarily considered part of the
...and legal possession should not be
...transferred to the Soviets under any peace treaty
...signed by the United States and Japan.

ISLANDS.

The Soviets have seized a group of islands within sight of Japan. So stated by John Foster Dulles, on his return from the Far East. He identifies the islands as the Habomai Group, just to the northwest of Hokkaido, the northernmost of the principal islands of Japan. The Soviets moved into the Hobomais apparently on the ground that they are part of the Kurile chain, which was assigned to Soviet Russia under the Yalta Agreement in wartime. But, says Dulles, they are not ordinarily considered part of the Kuriles - and legal possession should not be transferred to the Soviets under any peace treaty signed by the United States and Japan.

KOREA

On the right wing of the Central Front in Korea, (the American Second and Seventh Divisions are chasing two defeated forces of Red Koreans.) This follows the seizure of one of the important highways in that sector, after which the U N advance continued for seven miles. Tanks, artillery and air power, blasted the Red ~~in~~ defenses, every time the Communists attempted a stand - keeping the defeated enemy on the move.

On the other side of the central front, Yongdu, there's bitter Chinese opposition, the Reds defending a hill against the U.S. First Cavalry Division, mechanized. The action began with a tank unit storming a commanding ridge, overlooking Yongdu. They seized hill Two Hundred and Ninety Seven and then kept on to a nearby summit, ^{called} - three hundred and Eighteen. But there the Chinese Reds fought back stubbornly, and the battle was ^{still} on at last reports. All of which reflected the importance of Yongdu, which is a junction of two key highways.

(Late news from the war front pictures the U. S. Marines in a drive through the center of the line - smashing what is believed to be the main Communist defense front.)

At the same time, there is word that Red China is prepared to hurl a new army of a hundred thousand into the fray, supported by Russian built jets. This comes from a high ranking Chinese prisoner of war who states that the enemy still hopes to drive the U N forces out of Korea.

CHINESE OFFENSIVE

A Secret Intelligence report was made public today, giving the story of the Chinese break-through three months ago - when the U N armies were near the Manchuria border; Then forced to make a long hasty retreat. There was a wild night battle at Unsan, where the U S First Cavalry and the South Korean First Infantry Division bore the brunt of the overwhelming attack - by masses of Reds, a human sea. They stood their ground as long as their ammunition lasted, and then the front lines collapsed.

At the critical point, Colonel W. H. Henning, of Glen Rock, New Jersey, commanded the artillery. He tells how a thousand Korean Red cavalry began the assault on the positions of his outfit and then were followed by Chinese Infantry. "The thousand cavalry and their mounts" he says, "were destroyed by fifty-five bombardments of high explosives, which were dropped ~~on~~ on them before they even hit our line. When we had knocked out the cavalry, we expected the infantry would be easily repulsed. But we were up

CHINESE OFFENSIVE - 2

against the Chinese - and no matter how many were slaughtered, more kept pouring down upon us. As long as the ammunition lasted" he goes on "we held them at bay. But, as one battery after another fell silent, another hole was made for the Chinese to rush through."

So the ammunition ran out. They had to retreat - and the Chinese human sea broke through the line, forcing that swift withdrawal all the way to South Korea.

WAGES.

The labor unions have announced a boycott of the whole defense mobilization program, and union representatives are told to step out of the agencies in which they are now serving.

This comes along with a bitterly worded declaration condemning the policies of defense mobilizer Charles E. Wilson. The union leaders say that Wilson slammed the door in their faces.

CRIME

The Senate Crime Investigating Committee issued a report today stating that the underworld is dominated by two major crime syndicates.

One - based on New York and Miami. Directed by Frank Costello and Joe Adonis. Costello, of course, has been named repeatedly as a lord of the underworld. The other empire of crime is a Chicago-Miami affair, ^{operated} ~~operating~~ by the old Capone gang, which under the command of Scarface Al ran a realm of bootleg and murder in the days of prohibition.

The two criminal organizations, declares the report, have an agreement for the division of territories - certain areas allotted to each. Should a dispute arise, there's an arbiter, ^{Who is he? Why} - Lucky Luciano, _x the notorious mobster who served a prison sentence in New York and then was deported. He is now in his native Italy - where through his gangster contacts in the ~~the~~ United States, he arbitrates questions at issue between the two crime syndicates. The connecting link is described as the Maffia, the Sicilian blackhand.

The report asserts the existence of a sort of phantom government, an underworld regime which issues decrees, and carries out its own executions. "the secret government of ^ecriminate_u" says the committee, "is a serious menace - which could, if not curbed, become the basis for a subversive movement, which could wreck the very foundations of this country."

The chief source of money for ^ethe two crime syndicates is ^{said to be} gambling. Which, nowadays takes the place of illegal liquor in prohibition times. The committee estimates that twenty billion dollars a year changes hands in illegal gambling - with bookmakers alone taking profits of from three to five billions.

With that kind of money, the two syndicates are able to manipulate huge political influence -- the ~~ix~~ report stating that evidences of corruption were found in practically every city where hearings were held - ties between local government and the criminal underworld.

STEAMBOAT.

Philadelphia comes forth with a decision about the origin of the steamboat ^{-- in which} ~~and~~ John Fitch takes precedence over Robert Fulton, often named as the inventor. The Philadelphia Historical Society declared the evidence shows that Fitch ran a steamboat on the Delaware River, and carried passengers from Philadelphia to Trenton - ten years before Fulton navigated his famous craft, the Clermont, from New York City to Albany. Moreover, the contraption constructed by John Fitch was twice as fast - having a speed of eight knots, while the Clermont had four.

OXFORD CREW

Another blow for Britain - following the appointment of an American admiral to command His Majesty's warships of the Royal Navy. At Oxford, an American coxswain is in charge of the boat racing crews. An Yank will command the Oxford eight in the traditional race with Cambridge. George Carver, Jr., of Hightstown, New Jersey, who was coxswain of crews at Yale last year and the year before. Never before has an American taken such a position at ancient Oxford - and it's almost as bad as a U. S. Admiral in command of the King's Naves.

PROSPECTOR

Today a Constable of the Canadian Royal Mounted Police, together with a guide, started into the wilderness, looking for a gold prospector who disappeared last July. The ~~the~~ desolation is called "Garibaldi Park", and the ^{vanished} prospector was hunting for - the "Lost Creek Mine". That mine is an eldorado, that has already lured twenty men to their deaths. The legend is that the secret ~~secret~~ was held by an Indian named Clumach who made expeditions to the "Lost Creek" - and its fabulous ^{deposits} ~~deposits~~ of gold. But, Clumach was hanged for the murder of an Indian woman he took on one of his trips to this eldorado - and the secret went with him.

Another adventurer is believed to have found the mine - an American who came into Vancouver from the wilderness, and displayed ten thousand dollars in gold. He told a tale of incredible hardship, and described a creek which disappeared into the mountain - the site of the "Lost Creek" mine. He was planning a second expedition - when he died.

Such ~~we~~ are the stories that have lured men to their death, and last summer Alfred Gaspard, set out on another quest for the fabled gold. He was last seen on the upper reaches of the Pitt River, moving on into the depth of wilderness. He left this message:- "Expect me back by September. If I don't come out by October, you'll know something has happened."

October came, but there was no sign of Gaspard. Two helicopters went scouting for him, but the closing down of winter ended the search. So ~~we~~ now, with winter ~~we~~ ending, a Constable of the Mounties, with a guide, is on his way to look into the fate of the prospector who went seeking that ~~Eldorado~~ ~~we~~ called "Lost Cr ek Mine".

*Now Nelson from N.Y. will you come in
with a look over the place - any way, just to
see how it is.*

WEATHER

March is coming in like a lion - immense blizzards raging today in North Dakota. Blinding snow whipped by a fifty mile an hour gale, as the storm moves on to South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin. At Bismark, North Dakota, busses, taxicabs and trucks were halted, and the State Legislature was tied up, because the lawmakers couldn't get there. At Lebanon, South Dakota - fifteen inches of snow.

Further east, there's a vast low pressure area, bringing thunderstorms and an gales to the Mississippi Valley. Iowa was blasted by a combination of heavy snow, sleet and rain. All these weather disturbances will be felt as far east as New England, with a new on-set of wintry weather - March coming in like a lion.

Now Nelson, from N.Y., will you come in like a lamb or a lion - anyway, just as you come in.