

REDS

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The Red Army of Soviet Russia celebrated its Twenty-Second Anniversary today - but not in the way the Red Army is said to have intended. The report has been that the Soviet commanders planned to commemorate the occasion by giving ~~the city of~~ Viipuri to Stalin. The capture of Finland's second largest ~~town~~ ^{city,} which is the anchor of the western end of the Mannerheim Line, would be a striking success for the invaders. And Viipuri would be quite an acceptable anniversary gift for the Red Dictator, whom the comrades are calling - "Father Stalin."

There were Red army festivities all over ~~the~~ Soviet Russia ^{and -} today. They might have recalled one thing, but they didn't - at least not publicly. The man who founded the Red army twenty-two years ago was - Trotsky. In those days of NineteenEighteen he was a hero of the Soviets - partner of Lenin. ~~And~~ He founded the Bolshevik fighting force, and was its chief during the civil war between the Reds and the Whites.)

But they weren't talking about that in the lands of the ^{today} Reds, or only in whispers. Former Red Army Hero Trotsky is now a hated exile, the bitterest enemy of Father Stalin. ^{TA} The fatherly one

himself is said to have been in Leningrad, ~~today~~, which is only a few miles behind the fighting front along the Mannerhim Line.

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Maybe he was there in readiness to receive that proposed anniversary gift - Viipuri. But he didn't get it.

The Finns are jubilant tonight, with the thought of having disappointed the great Red father. Their dispatches say that Viipuri is still firmly in the hands of its defenders. They tell of continuing Soviet assaults against the Mannerheim Line, but claim to be holding their own.

A story from Stockholm gives us an answer to one exceedingly pertinent question. People have been wondering - what have the Finnish losses been? Newspaper correspondents in Finland have been noting that, whereas Helsinki has repeatedly given out reports about the large number of Soviet soldiers killed, it has never numbered the casualties that the Finns themselves have suffered. Today, a Swedish newspaper purports to give us the number. It states that in the long and bitter battle on the Mannerheim Line, the Finns ^{have} suffered from fifty to seventy-five thousand casualties - killed and wounded. Those are heavy losses

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relative to the number of men that Finland can put into the fight - hardly more than three hundred thousand. The Stockholm newspaper gives the Soviet casualties as about three hundred thousand, killed and wounded. That figure is not surprising, since the attack must always lose many more than the defense - and the Red army has been launching mass attacks.

The Finnish casualties would seem to explain the events that have happened on the Mannerheim Line. The Swedish story relates that the Soviet drive pushed ahead at one point. The normal military strategy would have been to counter-attack, recapture the salient. But the Finns didn't dare to risk the losses that this would involve - they simply haven't got enough men to lose them in the normal military way. So instead of counter-attacking, they withdrew for some distance all along the front - keeping their lines straight.

SOVIET PLANES

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Here's a singular turn in the affair of Soviet planes bombing the Swedish town of Pajala. Stockholm has strongly protested that attack. Today, however, Moscow issues the declaration - that Red army planes did not bomb the Swedish town. The official Stalin news agency, declares it is authorized to make the denial and to state that not a single Soviet plane flew over the place of bombardment. Well, who then did the bombing? Maybe the Soviets want to blame it on the Finns. The Soviet denial makes it look as if we might expect quite a controversy.

BRITAIN

Great Britain had a series of war celebrations today -- with one slight mishap/

There was a gala reception for the crews of the warships EXETER and AJAX, which took so brilliant a part in the battle with the GRAF SPEE off Montivideo. ~~(The self-destruction of that proud proud pocket battleship was of course a flash of glory for Great Britain. And today the officers and sailors of two of the cruisers, in the fight were acclaimed as heroes.)~~ King George and Queen Mary greeted them at Whitehall, and First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill made one of those vivid Churchill speeches. ~~He told the officers and the sailors ~~of~~ that their exploit was worthy of Nelson, and then he proposed a slogan, which Britains might remember along with Nelson's famous battlecry.~~ ^{at} Trafalgar, England's greatest sea hero flew the signal "England expects every man to do his duty." Winston Churchill said today that for the present war the British motto might be "The navy is here." It was all very war-like and stirring, and there was no mishap -- not at the Exeter and Ajax celebration. ^R Another event was ^a the royal visit to the Canadian troops at Aldershot. King George and Queen Mary called on the

Canadians, strolled about the camp and chatted with the soldiers.

That was right royal and gracious, and there was no mishap, ^{but} not to

Their Majesties. ^{TR} The mishap occurred when the Canadians gas bombed

~~His~~ Majesty's Secretary of State for War. Not only that, they

gassed their own staff officers. War Secretary Oliver Stanley and the

high Canadian officers were inspecting a Canadian unit, which was

having a drill in chemical warfare -- gas bombs flying. Accidentally

a gas bomb was hurled at the Right Honorable Secretary of War and the

Canadian Staff. It burst, ^{and spurted gas at them,} ~~made up the gas attack,~~ ~~The acrid fumes~~

~~spouted at them,~~ and they fled, with streaming eyes. They ran as

fast as they could, weeping from the tear gas. And that was an

unseemly way for the soldiers of Canada to treat his Majesty's

^(of State) Secretary for War and their own staff officers. It almost makes

me weep, as I sit here in the studio reciting the news.

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CHICKENS

Here's a story which at the first glance one might tell as something of a joke. Except for one thing, I might relate it with a laugh. ^{But I'm not laughing -} It's about a man who might well rank as the greatest chicken thief of the world. Of course stealing is stealing, but chicken stealing always sounds somewhat comic. This thief in question has been convicted ~~of~~ stealing two hundred chickens, fifty rabbits, twelve pigeons, and five ducks during the past year. But it's no laughing matter. It happened in Nazi Germany, where the Hitler laws are savage. Today, that greatest chicken thief in the world was sentenced to death.

TRADE TREATIES

5-2
Congress today voted down an important amendment to the bill to prolong the trade treaty policy of the administration. The amendment was a direct attack on the whole business of reciprocal trade treaties with foreign nations. It proposed to make any such commercial pact subject to ratification by Congress. That obviously would seriously cramp the style of the State Department in making trade treaties. The amendment came to a vote, - and was turned down. That was today's main event in the debate on the trade treaty question. ~~The bill should get~~

~~final action tonight - soon.~~
Here's a late bulletin: -
~~The House has just passed~~

The House has just passed a resolution extending the Administration's reciprocal Trade Treaty Act for three years. The measure now goes to the Senate.

POLITICS

The question of what candidates will enter what primaries is a live topic these days. Today Senator Taft of Ohio declared that he would not go into the New Jersey primary and challenge New York's District Attorney, Thomas E. Dewey. The Dewey forces have challenged the Ohio Senator to a New Jersey trial of strength in the battle for the Republican nomination. But Senator Taft says - No, he won't do it. He gives two reasons. First, says he, the New Jersey primary is merely advisory - the delegates ^{only} ~~merely~~ advised, and not pledged to the candidate who wins. Secondly, Senator Taft says he can't get away from his duties in Washington long enough to make the kind of New Jersey campaign he would want to make.

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He repeats all of this about the primaries in Illinois - he won't make an Illinois fight against Dewey. But he said today he may enter the West Virginia event. "West Virginia," said he today, "is right on my way between Cincinnati and Washington, and it would be easy to campaign there."

Candidate LaGuardia has withdrawn his name - or rather he's not a candidate at all. The LaGuardia name was entered in the

Illinois primaries without the knowledge of New York's Mayor.

He hadn't any idea of entering, he said today, and is withdrawing

because he doesn't wish to divide what he calls ^{the} progressive,

intelligent vote." Atta boy, Fiorello, assuming that the vote

you might get would be both ~~intelligent and~~ progressive *and intelligent.*

There was a flare of denials today about the Massachusetts primary. It concerns the name of Farley. The Postmaster General

is in the Massachusetts battle for delegates, and the charge is

made that he's really not in it for himself at all. For whom,

then? A big New England newspaper makes the statement that

President Roosevelt wants the Massachusetts delegates to be

pledged to Postmaster General Jim Farley, so that the Postmaster

General later might turn them over to the President - if he wants

them. That's what the Farley leaders in Massachusetts are denying.

Nothing to it, say they. Jim Farley is in there for Jim, and

nobody else - they insist.

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RELIEF

Here's something that certainly should mark a departure and set a precedent - if adopted. A Committee of the New Jersey Legislature today recommended that men ^{too long on} ~~on~~ relief ^{for} ~~longer than is~~ ~~considered justified~~, shall be deprived of two of the most important rights of citizenship.

At Trenton a joint legislative committee has been investigating New Jersey relief. Today it made a report ~~that~~ with a number of recommendations. ^{one is this:-} ~~And one of the recommendations~~ ~~is this~~ that any ^{able} bodied man who stays on the relief rolls of ~~the~~ ^{the} state for three consecutive years, shall be deprived of the right to vote or hold public office.

That's the official proposal which is now put before the Legislature of New Jersey.

CHURCH

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Today in Cleveland an ecclesiastical decree was pronounced, one that evokes historic memories fraught with awe and wonder - the Interdict. Time was, back in the Middle Ages, when the mere threat of an Interdict made princes and potentates tremble. That ecclesiastical thunderbolt reduced kings to submission - when a realm was cut off from the offices of religion. The churches closed, no sacraments administered, no ringing of a church bell, no glimmer of a candle on an altar. Such was the Interdict - a medieval fear and portent.

Today's reminiscence of centuries ago concerns the church quarrel in Cleveland which has been in the news. In an Italian section, a parish priest died, and the congregation wanted his assistant to succeed him. Another priest, however, was appointed, Father Vincent Caruso. The Parishioners refused to accept him. They would not permit him to enter the church. Archbishop Schrembs of Cleveland intervened, but that did no good. The people were obdurate. The Archbishop threatened them with an Interdict, unless they yielded. They still refused - and today the Interdict was pronounced by the Archbishop.

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In that ^{Italian} Cleveland parish the offices of the Church are now forbidden, nor may the people join any other parish temporarily until they have individually made their submission. The Interdict reads:- "They must humbly beg pardon for any offenses they may have given by word, deed, intention or omission." Twenty-one other churches are named at which parishioners under the Interdict may make their submission.

That's what in days of yore used to make kings and potentates bow their heads, as King John of England bowed his haughty head to the Papal Interdict. What will those Italians in Cleveland do?

FIRE NEGLIGENCE

Today in a New York court there was a plea of guilty - and it marks a precedent in the history of American law. A tenement house owner pleaded guilty of manslaughter because of lives lost in a fire in a tenement house which he owned. The building was not fireproofed in the way the law requires.

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Thereupon the Assistant District Attorney pointed out that in the past many ~~charges~~ charges of fire violations had been brought against landlords, many cases in which the negligence of landlords had resulted in loss of life from fire. "But this," he added, "is the first time we've ever had anyone plead guilty." The law decrees punishment for manslaughter, but never before has the violation of fire laws brought that penalty on a landlord.☛

FIRE

In Montreal, a fire broke out today in quite an interesting place - a building occupied by five fire insurance companies.

Let's hope they were insured. The fire didn't do so much damage - it was something else that caused the havoc. The insurance clerks, bookkeepers and actuaries turned out to be good fire-fighters, as well as fire insurers. Too good, in fact. They brought out a big hose, and accomplished wonders with it - too many wonders. They skillfully applied the powerful stream of water and swiftly put out the blaze. Then they found they couldn't turn the hose off. The fire out, they were flooding the offices - sumptuous insurance offices. In desperation, they had to do something with all that pouring water, so they stuck the nozzle of the hose out the window. And they flooded the people on the ~~sidewalk~~^{street} below, gave them a thorough drenching. The hose continued to deluge the street until the fire department arrived and turned off the water.

A fine lot of underwriters, they did more damage than the roaring flames - and that's no insurance policy!

DIVINE

The real point of this next story is gastronomical, although it's about a fire. A heavenly fire, Divine in fact.

58 1/2 ~~was~~ In Philadelphia a blaze broke out in heaven this morning, and drove Father Divine and a flock of angels into the street. It's well known that the religious cult, of which the little old negro is called "God", specializes in things gastronomical - the good things the angels eat.

The story of today's Philadelphia fire gives us the detail that, when the blaze broke out in heaven, Father Divine and the angels were having ^a breakfast ^{of} pork chops, whole stacks of fine greasy pork chops, a most celestial breakfast. The story goes on to relate that the flames were soon put out. The damage was not great. In a few hours the angels returned, fixed things up, and got set for a fried chicken dinner tonight.

Peace, it's wonderful, especially a great big piece of white meat with lots of gravy all over the mashed potatoes!

59 1/4 Yum Yum - Hugh.