

L.T. SUNOCO. FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1940

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The most startling rumor today is this:- fighting was stopped between the Red Army and the Finns! But -- let me emphasize the word "rumor". The story comes from Rome, where a Fascist newspaper declares that it has a report from Stockholm. This rumor from Stockholm via Rome uses these words:- "On the whole Russo-Finnish front," it says, "all activities of large units have ceased -- including even inoffensive volleys of rifle fire." Maybe it is sensationally true -- that fighting has stopped, or perhaps it's just a natural slow-down of hostilities while the busy negotiations are going on. The latest war bulletin from Helsinki tells of continued Soviet attempts to get across the ice and establish positions on the coast of the Gulf of Finland. And there is mention of fighting along the Mannerheim Line. Still later -- just off the wire -- a Stockholm report that direct peace talks begin tomorrow.

President Roosevelt declared today that the United States has not received any request to mediate in the Finland War -- not yet, at any rate. He was asked whether he saw any probability of the United States taking a hand in the Finland peace efforts. To this the President replied that if anything like

that were in prospect, it would be much better not to say anything about it. Publicity might spoil it.

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The Roosevelt statement followed reports from abroad that the United States ^{would} ~~might~~ be asked to mediate between Helsinki and Moscow. As the biggest of neutrals and outside of the European tangle, both sides ^{would} ~~might~~ ask Washington to help in the discussion of a settlement. But this rumor later on cooled off quite a bit, when suggestions came that the Soviets were opposed to any idea of American mediation. This was said to emanate from the London Foreign Office, where it was pointed out that Moscow does not like the American sympathy that is being shown to the Finns. Consequently, American intervention would not be acceptable to Stalin.

But here's the latest. A dispatch from Moscow stating that United States Ambassador Lawrence Steinhardt has just had a conference with Foreign Commissar Molotov - a conference an hour long.

In other respects
~~In general~~ the Finland peace story has not advanced much further since last night. Both Moscow and Helsinki continue to

confirm the fact that discussions for a settlement ~~were~~ in progress, ^{with} ~~xxxx~~ the Finns continuing to say that they will not accept a peace of surrender - will reject terms ^{that are} too drastic.

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Sweden continues to be the chief motive power, pushing the peace business with ^{tense} ~~busy~~ activity - and behind a dense veil of censorship. One story from Stockholm is that Sweden is trying to arrange a deal to guarantee the independence of Finland. If Finland would yield to some extent to Soviet demands, the

independence of the little country would be ~~secured by a formal~~ ^{guaranteed by} Scandinavia - and possibly Germany. commitment. The guarantee suggested would be given by Sweden and presumably Norway. Thus, if Finland conceded some of the things the Soviets want, and later if the Red army were to attack again, the Scandinavian kingdoms would give Finland active military aid. The story continues that there's a Swedish effort to get Germany to give Finland a guarantee.

Meanwhile, ~~Sweden seems more than ever determined to~~ preserve neutrality in the present situation. There's a report that the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Stockholm Parliament ^{today} decided more firmly than ever against allowing foreign troops to

cross Swedish territory to aid the Finns. The Swedish Foreign Affairs Committee is said to have voted to resist the passage of any such troops - by force of arms. That of course means the possibility of the Allies sending soldiers across Sweden to Finland.

The Allies ~~said~~ said to be looking at the Finland peace moves with some apprehension, based on the idea that if the war were called off the Soviets would be in a position to give more aid to Nazi Germany - and would also be free to push in some other direction, the Balkans, for example. ~~Paris today emphasised~~ the assistance that the Allies have already given to the northern republic - considerable quantities of armament and munitions. The Allies reaffirm ^{their} ~~their~~ position - that they're willing and anxious to send further help to the Finns. However, London and Paris take the attitude that in the matter of making peace or continuing the fight, it's for the Finns to decide.

One graphic evidence of the busy diplomatic activity anent Finland, is a whole series of reports telling of various diplomatic figures rushing hither and thither and yon. One rumor stated that Finland's commander, Baron von Mannerheim, has gone to

Stockholm there to confer with the Ace Soveit General, Bluecher.

Nothing to it apparently.

Then we heard that Finnish Foreign Minister Tanner is on his way to Berlin. Another story was that Finnish and Soviet emissaries were going to the Esthonian campital, Tallin -- to hold a peace conference there.

A former President of Finland has arrived in Berlin and has just called at the Nazi Foreign Office for a conference.

Perhaps the most important item in these hurryings and scurryings of statesmen, is a Berlin dispatch stating that Hitler's Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop is going to Rome - tomorrow.

A Nazi newspaper says that Ribbentrop's mission is to discuss ~~in~~ what the German paper calls - "Burning questions in world politics." What those burning questions may be is not divulged.

WELLES

Today a striking answer was given to the question so often asked - "Why did President Roosevelt send Sumner Welles on that peace tour in Europe?" In the British House of Commons, Alfred Salter, a Labor member, declared that the Welles mission was undertaken - because President Roosevelt had received a secret document from Germany. This document, declared the Labor member, was given to the President by the Swedish Ambassador to the United States. In it were outlined terms on which Hitler was prepared to discuss peace. How authentic was the document? How genuine were the terms?

The London M.P. said that the supposed statement of the German terms were similar to ^{a memorandum} ~~the one which was~~ placed before the British government a week or two ago.. "The document", asserted the Labor member, "was similar in all essentials to the one which Lord Tavistock obtained from the German legation in Dublin."

Later, the authenticity of that ^{Lord Tavistock} ~~document~~ was denied in Berlin, and it still remains a source of mystery and doubt.

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There's no guessing what truth there is in today's parliamentary

ITALIAN COAL

Today, the Italian Ambassador to London had a long conference with the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Halifax. And maybe ^{they have} ~~it has~~ settled the trouble over the British ~~seizure~~ seizure of Italian coal ships. This is suggested by ^a statement earlier in the day, that an agreement was likely.

Italian diplomatic officials in London said that there would probably be a compromise based on the sailing time of the Italian colliers that left Holland loaded with coal exported from Germany. The British deadline for stopping contraband coal was midnight of March First. The order applied to ships that sailed after that time.

The Italians claim their ships were ready to sail before the deadline hour, but couldn't do so because of what they call - ~~XXXX~~ "hazzards of the sea." They were forced to delay sailing. Evidence to this effect is being presented to the British, and the inference is that if the evidence is satisfactory, London will release the Italian colliers, and their coal.

A compromise seems to be all the more likely, because of

2 { the way the British-Italian coal dispute has been played down. After Mussolini's first strong protest, the row was hushed to a whisper.

DETROIT

Detroit's big political scandal continues to make headlines. Today Governor Dickinson of Michigan suspended the Wayne County prosecutor, Duncan McCrea. The prosecutor is himself being prosecuted on charges of political corruption, ~~is top on~~ ^{But he}

~~the list of those accused.~~ ^{denies the legality of the}
^{Governor's action. TP Today}

~~Meanwhile,~~ the grand jury was hearing testimony concerning a million dollar baseball pool which operated in Detroit for three years - until Nineteen Thirty-Nine. One of the big shots ^{testified that he} of the gambling game ^A had paid one cent on every lottery ticket,

paid that cent a ticket to the police superintendent, then in office.

~~and that came to quite a~~ tidy sum, considering the amount of tickets they'd sell in a million dollar baseball pool. The big shot explained

that he had given the money to the police superintendent because,

as he said - "because he was a friend of mine." How much of a

friend appeared in another part of the testimony. The lottery pool

operator told how he had been threatened by a man named Abe.

It appears that Abe demanded protection money from the gambling

gang - or else. The pool manipulator reported the threats to the

superintendent of police, whereupon ~~it~~ Abe disappeared from the ^{picture.}

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CARDS

The latest large story about card sharpening at sea has one unusual angle. Yesterday, when the Holland-America liner NEW AMSTERDAM docked at New York after a West Indian cruise, the police arrested four men, and charged them with swindling at gambling. They weren't pikers, according to the story, they won twenty thousand dollars from half a dozen of the passengers - taking large fat sums from each. The card sharps had all the air of prosperous and distinguished business men, and as the luxury liner sailed under tropical skies, they inveigled other passengers into games for high stakes - and cleaned up. However, most of the twenty thousand dollars they won was in the form of I.O.U.s, not likely to be paid after today's arrests.

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The four apparent business men of large affairs came to grief, because a certain rich Philadelphian was aboard. He recognized one of them as a gentleman with whom he had played cards in New Orleans. *In fact he had* ~~he~~ lost thirteen thousand dollars in that Louisiana game. So he passed along a tip to the authorities.

At first - five men were seized as card sharps, and one of them had a hard time explaining. But he finally

convinced the cops that he was in the game, not as a slicker,
but as a sucker. It turns out that he is an official in the

Juliard ~~xxxxxx Art~~ School of Music, who apparently knows more about
symphonies and sonatas than ^{about} kings, queens and aces. He lost

six thousand dollars at one sitting last Wednesday night, after
which ~~xxxx~~ he talked the sharps into ~~xxxxxx~~ cutting down the sum.

They ~~xxxxxx~~ reduced it to three thousand and took I.O.U.s,

payable in ten days. All this was sad enough for the music school

official - and then to be apprehended as one of the sharpers!

Well, symphonies and sonatas are a lot safer than kings, queens and
aces.

DUCKS

55
a wild game reservation
Today at ~~Research Station~~ on the River Potomac in Virginia -

a party of men took eleven wild ducks out of cages, and turned them loose. What did the ducks do? The men watched with profound interest. They were scientists making an experiment, an experiment sponsored by the Department of the Interior and Secretary Ickes, in connection with Wild Life Week.

In the observation of the migration habits of wild fowl, one thing is commonplace - ducks in their periodical travels north and south, always fly the same route. More precisely, students of wild-life have never ascertained a case in which a migrating duck ever took any other flyway save the one on which it was born and bred. ~~They~~ ^(Ducks) always proceed on their ancestral flyway - and no other. And it was for the purpose of testing this observation that today's experiment was made.

Dr. Ira Gabrielson, Chief of the Biological Survey, took eleven Pacific Coast mallard ducks - birds born and bred on the Pacific Coast flyway. ~~He~~ He brought them by airplane across the continent, and today those mallards were released - on the Atlantic coast flyway, the route taken by the eastern flocks.

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? (Spring is approaching in Virginia, and the ducks are on their way

{ to Canada. So the question was, would the eleven birds from the Pacific join with their Atlantic cousins and adopt a new flyway? }

Here are the results:- When the eleven mallards were turned loose, ten of them acted utterly bewildered. They flapped and flew at random, and didn't seem to know where to go. After a few yards, they settled on the water and swam around this way and that. Later on, they mixed in with their Virginia cousins, swimming about.

The eleventh duck behaved in a fashion quite different. This one, a hen, upon being released, cut out in a beeline as fast as she could, flying west, the direction from which she came by airplane - as if heading out for her native Pacific coast. Then, while still in sight, the mallard hen turned for no apparent reason, and headed south - though this is the time of year for ducks to fly ^{to} north. The duck was going in the opposite direction.—

like "Wrong Way" Corrigan.

~~Such was the preliminary stage of the experiment.~~

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Each of the ducks bears a leg band with the inscription - "Notify Biological Survey, Washington, D.C." Notification of the place where one of these Pacific birds is found will tell the story of whether or not it has taken to the migration route of the Atlantic flyway.

RING

Here's a story of a lucky lady who certainly has been ~~like~~ blessed by Lady Luck. She's Mrs. Anna Briggs of Sacramento, California.

Some months ago, Mrs. Briggs was walking along, when two things happened in quick succession. In the sky above, an airplane appeared, flying high, a big sky-liner. Then something cracked the lady sharply on the head. A ring bounced off her cranium. She picked it up - a valuable piece of jewelry of gold, gems and a signet. She assumed it had fallen from the ~~air~~ plane, and gave the odd story for publication. As a result, the ring was restored to its owner, a Chicago physician who had been a passenger in the plane. He gave Mrs. Briggs a three hundred and twenty-five dollar reward. That was the first smile which Lady Luck bestowed upon the lucky lady.

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The story was a natural for the newspapers, jewelry falling out of the sky. It was printed all over the United States, and was picked up by European newspapers, including those of Germany. There the account aroused the quick interest of German officials who were trying to dispose of the estate of one, Andreas Sobbe,

58 1/2 who had died and left a large fortune. His only heir was his niece, Anna, who was in the United States. The marriage name of this niece was Briggs. That much the German authorities knew. They'd been trying to trace Mrs. Anna Briggs, but they had been unable to locate her. Maybe this was she, the woman in California who had been hit on the head by a ring from the sky. They started inquiries, and today the news is made public. Yes, the lucky lady gets another smile from Lady Luck. Mrs. Anna Briggs of Sacramento, is the heiress to the fortune in Germany, and quite a bundle of wealth it is. Nazi inheritance taxes are mighty heavy, but even with all deductions the estate amounts to a hundred and ninety-eight thousand dollars. ~~That much~~ clear.

59 But can the lucky lady get the money out of Germany? That's the moot question. The Nazis have drastic restrictions against letting money out of the country. So to get it the lucky lady will need another smile from Lady Luck.

59 1/4 And now Hugh tell us how Lady Luck smiles on all of us.