

L.T. SUNOCO. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1940

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

This is one of the nights when I am supposed to be at Radio City before those blazing hot television cameras. But, instead, I am broadcasting from a banquet table in the great dining room of the Advertising Club of N.Y. This is the start off of the 35th birthday of this famous club.

Before me are hundreds of lovely ladies, and those who came with them. The most picturesque news item that I have tonight comes from the Holy Land, from inside the old walls of Jerusalem.

PALESTINE

There were scenes of wailing and woe in Palestine today, because of an order issued by the British authorities. It forbids Arabs to sell land to Jewish buyers. The decree applies to most of Palestine, some small areas excepted - and it forbids any Palestinian Arab to sell land to anybody save another Palestinian Arab. The British claim that increasing Jewish purchases of land have created a grave problem, the problem of what they call - "the landless Arab." The native Moslems, attracted by good prices, sell their fields, and become landless drifters. The decree forbidding this has been foreshadowed for some time. It went into effect today.

The Jews, quite naturally, interpret it ~~has~~ as a move to prevent their acquiring more ownership in Palestine - a blow to Zionism. A day of prayer, fasting and lamentations was ordered by the chief rabbinate at Jerusalem. All over Palestine Jews *today* gathered in synagogues, and chanted ancient songs of grief - "Woe Is Israel!" *Oh Jerusalem!* The orthodox fasted rigidly, and ~~HEBREW~~ Hebrew pamphlets boarded with black were distributed. Hundreds gathered at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, with the doleful intonation of

old liturgy and text from the Scriptures. And at the Wailing Wall the Ram's Horn was blown, with the traditional lugubrious note signifying distress, ^{and woe.} ~~And~~ ^{in the Holy Land} In synagogues far and wide the tone of the Ram's Horn resounded.

The latest tells of mass demonstrations in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. No serious disorders, though there was some ~~xxxxxx~~ stone-throwing. For the most part, the Jewish crowds contented themselves with the shouting of slogans and the waving of banners - banners inscribed with Old Testament quotations.

FINLAND

The Finns announced today that they have fallen back in the area of Viipuri. The Red army continues its heavy attacks, and is slowly pushing forward. It would seem as if the Finns cannot much longer hold the blasted shell of what was their second largest city. ~~Viipuri.~~

As near as one can tell ^{through} ~~from~~ the veil of censorship, the defense army has been forced back all along the western half of the Mannerheim Line. (That fortified area across the Karelian Isthmus, is divided by a lake, and the heaviest Soviet pressure has been along a front westward from that lake to Viipuri.) If the Finns lose that city, what then? They'll still have plenty of fortifications to defend, rear lines of the Mannerheim system. (But the loss of Viipuri on the shore of the Gulf of Finland, might force the Finns to extend their lines and open up the battle on a wider front - with more chance of Red army maneuver.)

48

SOVIETS

Here is word from Moscow which may or may not be important. The Vice-Commissar of Foreign Affairs has been removed. Potemkin -- for years a prominent figure in international relations. He served under Litvinov, who was the Soviet Number One diplomat during the time when Stalin was cooperating with the democratic powers. After the fall of Litvinov, which marked the beginning of the Stalin-Hitler understanding, Potemkin kept his place -- under Molotov. Potemkin took an important part ⁱⁿ the diplomatic doings that led to the Soviet War with Finland. Now he's out. Why, we don't know.

HOOVER

69
Today, former President Herbert Hoover appeared before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, and gave information about the need for relief in war-stricken Europe. Summarizing, and looking to the future - the Ex-President foresaw a grim prospect for Europe when the present struggle is over. He put it in these words:- "The whole of Europe will be a starvation spot."

Naturally, the mind of Herbert Hoover is focused on relief. He first rose to world fame in ^{World} ~~European~~ war relief - ~~first~~ for stricken Belgium, and then in eastern Europe. He stated today that this nation could do immense relief work without depriving the American people of anything. "You won't deprive the ^m ~~American~~ people of one apple", ~~said the American~~ said he. "The American problem," he added, "is not one of shortages. We have surpluses." Then he proceeded with the proposal that Congress make a start by appropriating between ten and ^{twenty} ~~fifteen~~ million dollars immediately.

50
More specifically, Herbert Hoover spoke of Poland and Finland. He's a member of the Polish Relief Organization, and ^{is} ~~he's~~ the head of ~~the~~ relief for Finland. He said it would take between forty and

fifty million dollars during the coming year to prevent outright famine in Poland. He explained that the Germans are willing to give free transportation to relief supplies. He added that the British would not let a pound of food through their blockade unless they had assurance that it would not help the Germans. The British would have to have a positive guarantee that relief supplies would not benefit the German army of occupation.

Finland, he said, needs ten million dollars' worth of food right away. (He pointed out that when his Finnish Relief Organization appealed to Argentina, the government of Buenos Aires appropriated two million bushels of wheat within forty-eight hours. Brazil gave eight million pounds of coffee. One thing the Finns need right now is twenty-five or thirty million bushels of ~~wheat~~ ^{rye.}

So said the former President of the United States, who is the world's Number One figure in the charitable realm of war relief.

WELLES

51
While Sumner Welles is getting ready for an interview with Hitler, as President Roosevelt's emissary in sounding out peace possibilities -- there's word from London about ~~what are represented to be~~ Nazi peace terms. They were laid before Foreign

Secretary Viscount Halifax by a British Peace Organization. ~~But,~~

there ^{is} no guarantee of ^{whether or not} ~~how far~~ they are authentic. In these

supposed peace terms Hitler is ^{reported} ~~supposed~~ to offer to restore

Czechoslovakia on a basis of a state completely neutralized. Poland

to be restored to full independence, with an outlet to ^{the} sea by ~~some~~

sort of guaranteed railroad strip through Germany. ^{Also} ~~Nazi~~ disarmament

if the others will disarm. German membership in the League of

Nations. ^{And} The Hitler Reich to have access to colonial raw materials

by means of a treaty for an exchange of commodities. ^{If this has} ~~if there's~~ it's

^{any truth in it well} ~~anything~~, it may be word in advance about the proposals that Hitler

may make to Sumner Welles when they meet tomorrow.

FRANCE

France is going ~~to~~ on food rations. That was decreed today. The Government of Premier Daladier issued a series of orders to strengthen French war-time economy. And one of these orders provides that food shall be rationed. Cards will be issued for the purchase of various commodities such as sugar; and ~~people will not be able to buy~~ that article of diet so important on the French menu - bread.

Hitherto, France has had an easier food situation than either Germany or Great Britain. But now France has come to the need of taking drastic measures to avoid a shortage. (The Finance Minister, in announcing the decrees, referred to what he called "Germany's severe economic war at sea." He said that ^{the} Nazi sea war must be reckoned with, and he warned in these words:- "We have been going downhill economically." He said production has slumped ~~EXEE~~ because of war-time activities. On the other hand, he added, France is consuming as much as before the war. The conclusion is - France will have to consume less.

WAR PLANES

There's word in Washington today that the Allied Supreme Council has turned down a plan to standardize the construction of Allied aircraft equipment purchased in the United States. The plan was got up by an Anglo-French mission in this country, and ^{was} referred back to London and Paris for okay. The idea was that the Allies in placing huge orders over here, should confine themselves to three kinds of planes - two types of bombers and one pursuit ship. ~~The idea would have been that~~

By standardizing like that they could get quicker production.

The scheme was to place the orders with three big aircraft companies, and ^{have} ~~let~~ them sub-let the contracts to other concerns - all building just those three types.

We are told that the companies to which the big three would sub-let orders - raised objections. They said that under the standardized scheme they would tend to lose their identities.

And the United States army also opposed on the ground that such rigid and extensive standardization might hamper the development of new and better types. ~~It~~ it might freeze progress in the American aircraft industry.

All this is followed by today's word that the standardization plan has been turned down by the Allied Supreme War Council. Another scheme of placing orders is to be devised in the spending of what is estimated to be a billion dollars for American air equipment.

WEATHER

54
They're still having floods in California - very wet.

And, in Texas today the people were moist - with perspiration.

Two weeks ago, when an Arctic cold snap was sweeping the South, northern Texas was snowed in by blizzards, highways blocked by huge snowdrifts, bitter freezing temperature.

Today the state was sweltering in a heat wave. Temperature as high as ninety-nine in some places, an all-time record for February.

But the oddest news about the weather comes from north Africa. For the first time in the memory of living man, the Italian colony of Libya is having a blizzard. ^{By the Beard of the Prophet} The hills of the Libyan desert are white with a blanket of snow. The natives, never having seen such a thing, ~~as snow~~ are filled with amazement. They have no name for snow, and all they can call it is - "cold flour fallen from the sky." ^{Allah is great.} They're ~~xx~~ crowding in village streets to discuss the weird phenomena, and they're remarking:- "Unfortunately you ^{can not} ~~can't~~ bake bread out of the cold flour fallen from the sky." ^{Allah be merciful.}

LEAP YEAR

Today some three hundred and fifty thousand Americans celebrated their birthday -- those Americans who have a birthday only once every four years. Are there any of you here in that fix? The number is estimated by the Census Bureau -- about three hundred and fifty thousand people in this country were born on February twenty-ninth.

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

This leap year [^]Twenty-Ninth of February, [^]does not bring joy and relief to the devotees of Gilbert and Sullivan. This is the day when the sad and sighing Frederic was scheduled to be released from piracy, and be a buccaneer no longer. ~~It's in the "Pirates of Penzance", stated in the Gilbertian lines. But, alas, it is not true.~~

in the Pirates of Penzance
Pious Gilbertians and Sullivanites are aware that [^]the young hero Frederic ~~was~~ ^{is} a son of the Major General, that magnificent Major General, who declares himself thusly and sings:-

"I am the very model of a modern Major-General,
I've information vegetable, animal and mineral;
I know the kings of England, and I quote the fights historical,
historical,
From Marathon to Waterloo, in order categorical."

~~The sad part of it all was that~~ When the Major-General's

boy Frederic was an infant he was entrusted to a nurse who was instructed to apprentice him to a pilot [^]*a ship's pilot.* The careless nurse misunderstood, and apprenticed the lad to - a pirate. ~~He was to~~

56
~~remain a buccaneer~~ until his ~~twenty-first~~ birthday. This simple arrangement, however, was complicated by a paradox, which the Gilbertian lines express in the following rhyme:

"Through some singular coincidence I shouldn't be

It is affectingly related in these tragic lines to dialogue:

Frederic: Mabel, my dearly beloved one, I bound myself to serve the pirate captain until I reach my one and twentieth birthday.

Mabel: But you are twenty-one.

Frederic: I've just discovered that I was born in Leap Year, and that birthday will not be reached by me until Nineteen Forty.

MABEL: Oh horrible! Catastrophe appalling!"

Yes, appalling. But it was worse than that. Gilbert made an oversight in the calculation. He forgot to reckon with the fact that, while leap year is a year divisible by four, this is not true in the case of years marking centuries, except in the case of centuries in which the first two figures are divisible by four. Yes, the calendar creator did make things complicated. The year Nineteen Hundred was not a leap year, had no February Twenty-Ninth, no birthday for the pathetic Frederic. So that advances the date when he was to cease to be a pirate, advances it four years. And the pious Gilbertians and Sullivanites will have to wait until Nineteen Forty-Four to celebrate the date of Frederic's scheduled release from piracy, which criminal career he hated so much.

57

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DANCE

Prime Minister Chamberlain of Great Britain is a man of grave dignity, even solemn. You can hardly think of him ~~to~~ ^{doing} anything so frolicksome as ^a dancing. You can scarcely imagine the Right Honorable Neville Chamberlain tripping the light fantastic - umbrella and all. So there's a fillip of novelty in a bit of news ~~is~~ from Philadelphia, which tells of - the Chamberlain dance. The authorities are investigating the report that at a local Philadelphia political club last night, a blonde danced the dance named after the British Prime Minister. Her costume consisted of ^{an} umbrella. An umbrella of course is capable of a lot of concealment, but the shocking charge is that the blonde, as she danced, held the umbrella over her head as if it were raining. Like the British Prime Minister, ^{oh,} but so different.

LAW

Here's what a policeman testified at Minneapolis today.

Referring to a man on trial, the copper spoke as follows:-

"I was just walking along my beat," he testified, "when this fellow ~~snaked~~ sneaked up behind me and hollered 'boo! ~~boo twice.~~'"

Whereupon the officer locked up the fellow who hollered - "boo".

In court he explained it this way:- "It was the principle of the

58 1/2 thing," said he, "that caused me to arrest him. If everybody went 'boo'," he continued, "there would be no respect for the law."

And he added darkly:- "The next thing you know they would be throwing rotten tomatoes at me!"

So, gentlemen, the next time you see a copy, don't say "boo" to him. And, above all, don't heave any rotten tomatoes.

And

Here's what a police woman testified to in ^a court at

Lawrence, Massachusetts, today. Referring to a man on trial,

the lady cop spoke as follows:- "While I was sitting in a

9 theatre last night," she testified, "he reached over and snapped

my garter." Oh O!

Gentlemen, when it's a police woman, it's the wrong

And now Hugh tell us about
garter to snap. ~~The unfortunate gent defendant instantly pleaded~~
9 1/4 ~~guilty~~ something that has real snap. Tell
us about nu Blue.