

P.T. - *Sunco. Wed., June 21, 1939.*

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## BUILDING

For more than seven years we've been hearing the prophecy of a huge building boom in the United States. Great Britain, we were told, built herself out of the depression. In eight years, more than two million houses were built in England and Wales alone. Therefore, the authorities told us that if the same thing could happen in the U.S.A., most of our business troubles would be over because a building boom affects all other lines of business.

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A couple of years ago, the ~~Roosevelt~~<sup>present</sup> administration tried to give that building boom a shot in the arm. It was hoped that the Federal Housing Administration would produce ~~that~~<sup>as</sup> much prayed for result. Still the building boom ~~lingered~~<sup>lagged</sup> in spite of the fact that insurance companies and savings banks are almost bursting with money which they're anxious to lend out on mortgages. John T. Flynn ~~had~~<sup>in</sup> an article in COLLIERS, ~~a couple of weeks ago on this subject.~~<sup>declared that</sup>

The building boom was hanging fire, ~~he said~~, principally because it ~~was~~<sup>was</sup> costing too much to build. And he added that part of that cost is not natural, ~~it's~~ owing to price fixing by ~~the~~ dealers in building supplies, and too high wages for the ~~skilled~~ workmen in the building trades.

Today we hear that the government is going to take a hand, ~~try to remedy some of these causes.~~ The Department of Justice is getting ready to prosecute all people who have entered into agreements in restraint of trade in the building industry. The announcement was made by Thurman Arnold, Assistant Attorney General. The Department of Justice, he said, is not doing it for any witch hunting. But, it is going to make use of both the civil and criminal statutes of the United States to put an end to unreasonable and unlawful restraints which, he says, both capital and labor have been clamping upon the building industry. ~~And~~ He said further:-

9 { "The restraints of trade in building have been so long neglected that they are obvious. Many of them are on the surface. Their unreasonableness requires no elaborate technical learning to demonstrate. We need an organization to proceed simultaneously in as many cities as possible against these restraints wherever they exist."

WASHINGTON follow China

*(We seem to be getting*  
~~Uncle Sam jumped~~ *into the* Tientsin argument today,  
*Uncle Sam*  
~~that when he~~ protested against interference by Japanese soldiery,  
*interference*  
with the property and persons of American citizens.) The ~~announcement~~  
protest was made by Kentucky ~~and~~ John ~~and~~ Caldwell, Consul-General  
to Tientsin. Secretary Hull in Washington said this had been  
done by his instructions. ~~He said that~~ The Consul-General ~~had~~  
handed the Japanese authorities a long list relating the details  
of offensive treatment received by American business men.

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At the same time the United States Chamber of Commerce  
in Washington received a cable from the Executive Committee  
of the American Chamber of Commerce at Tientsin. This cable  
read: "The (blockade) restrictions contemplated will amount to  
a virtual blockade of these concessions. Although they are not ~~aimed~~  
directed against Americans and notwithstanding an informal  
statement by the Japanese that they do not wish to interfere with  
American business," it went on, "it is inevitable that these  
restrictions will practically destroy American trade in these  
areas. Japanese banks," it said further, "have refused exchange  
facilities to merchants within these concessions, without which  
facilities shippers are unable to obtain export permits on

merchandise under control. This action," it concludes, "has already caused loss to American merchants, shipping, and insurance firms here and at home, and is certain to cause increased loss in the future."

*Japan seems in dead earnest - ready to oust the white man.*

CHINA

In London Prime Minister Chamberlain professes to be still in the dark about the Japanese attitude on the main issues ~~involving~~ involved at Tientsin. But, while Chamberlain is wondering, the Japanese are acting. ~~There's nothing dark about~~ <sup>By seizing</sup>

~~what they're doing in the Far East.~~ By grabbing Swatow, the

Mikado's <sup>troops</sup> ~~troops~~ have completely isolated the British Crown colony

of Hong Kong. <sup>That's the latest.</sup> The Army and Navy of Nippon <sup>now</sup> ~~completely~~ controls

all the approaches to Hong Kong by land and by sea. <sup>all of</sup> ~~They have~~

<sup>entirely</sup> ~~now completely~~ encircled Swatow and are in absolute command of

~~the situation. This should not surprise anybody. It was~~

<sup>which was</sup> foretold by correspondents on the spot something <sup>some</sup> ~~like two~~ weeks ago.

<sup>If this is</sup> ~~ago.~~ ~~It's~~ interpreted as an answer to the meeting of sixty

British and French Army, Navy and Air Force chiefs at Singapore,

The meeting that was supposed to make ~~pre~~ preparations for joint

action against any further aggression by Japanese <sup>in the direction of</sup> ~~near the~~

colonial possessions of France and England in southern Asia.

GERMANY

~~Fuehrer~~ <sup>Very</sup> Hitler <sup>we hear</sup> has started moving troops in large numbers, <sup>There is</sup> ~~near~~ <sup>towards</sup> the French frontier. The report comes from Paris, <sup>no</sup> confirmation from Berlin. ~~But~~ <sup>But</sup> ~~and it goes into considerable detail.~~ Before this <sup>troop</sup> movement is over there'll be a hundred thousand soldiers manning the new fortifications ~~that~~ <sup>s have</sup> the Nazi ~~chancellor has~~ built opposite the <sup>Maginat</sup> French ~~boundary~~ line.

~~In addition to that, the large~~ <sup>Furthermore, the</sup> much publicized Condor Legion will be garrisoned a short distance away from France. That <sup>s</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>was</sup> the legion ~~that~~ Hitler sent to Spain to help Franco, ~~win the~~ <sup>now</sup> ~~civil war,~~ a legion of hardened, war-seasoned veterans. <sup>TP</sup> And the Germans are reported to have further reenforced their watch over the border, <sup>with heavy</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~patrolling that nervous frontier~~ ~~between Germany and France.~~

The "Watch on the Rhine", ~~again, and~~ stronger than ever!

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## VENEZUELA

James Durlacher, our friend down on the north coast of South America, tells me that the country of Venezuela is in fine shape. And, he describes a three-year-plan recently approved by the National Congress. Here are some of the things the Government of Venezuela intends to do:

First, education. Schools are being built, teachers are in training, and automobile trailers are going about the country teaching the citizens concerning health and disease.

In charge of this is the Minister of Education, Dr. Ernesto Lopez.

Second, farming and cattle. One of the largest grazing areas in the world, the Valley of the Orinoco, is to be utilized. The population of the entire country is to be studied, and new farming colonies will be started. Dr. Bonnazzi, formerly of the United States Department of Agriculture, has a great deal to do with this.

Third, public works -- roads, railroads, waterworks, and so on. The historic bar at the entrance to Lake Maracaibo, famous in the annals of Morgan and other pirates, will be

dredged by an American company. The survey of this undertaking has recently been completed by General Kutz of the United States Army Engineering Corps.

It isn't every day that lady fans get a chance to see Herbert Marshall for nothing. So <sup>there was</sup> ~~you can imagine what~~ a crowd ~~there was at~~ the federal court ~~in~~ New York City today. Bart Marshall, as he is familiarly known in Hollywood, was to be a witness in the million dollar bond fraud trial of young William P. Buckner. But <sup>the screen star</sup> ~~he~~ didn't give much of a performance. After he had spelled his name out to the court stenographer, he said, "You'd better speak to my secretary, she's the only one who knows the details." So it was Miss Helen Dawson, <sup>a</sup> ~~the much envied~~ brunette who serves as Marshall's secretary, <sup>who</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>vain</sup> told of the efforts that Buckner and his partners <sup>had</sup> made to get money out of Marshall. ~~The long and short of it was that they didn't get to first base.~~  
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<sup>The court room crowd also</sup> ~~There had been some hope among the fans that they~~ <sup>hoped to</sup> ~~would also~~ see Bing Crosby. But Bing <sup>sent a standin-</sup> ~~also had a substitute~~ his brother and business manager, Everett Crosby. Everett told the jury that one of Buckner's partners had tried to get thirty-five thousand dollars out of Bing, thirty-five thousand dollars for expenses.

The prosecutor asked, "What expenses?"

And the answer was:- "Oh, a trip to England and a little fixing here and there."

Then Crosby continued:- "He admitted openly that the deal was not honest but that was the way things had to be done."

P.S. They got no money out of Bing, *said Brother Everett.*

Then counsel for the defense (put in a curious question. He asked Everett Crosby whether Crosby had spoken to Buckner's partner about his indigestion and his dogs? And Everett replied that the time had been too short to talk of either indigestion or dogs.

Railroad bonds, indigestion and dogs, - ~~that sounds~~  
that sounds like a quaint scenario.

SQUALUS

The officers <sup>sitting on that</sup> and gentlemen ~~of the~~ court of inquiry into the SQUALUS disaster are hardened veterans of the sea. But today they heard something that <sup>brought them up in their chairs,</sup> ~~even made them gasp.~~ It was the story told by the chief electrician's mate, ~~of the SQUALUS,~~ the stout fellow who saved the lives of thirty-three <sup>of his</sup> shipmates, ~~and himself.~~ It was <sup>that</sup> ~~only~~ yesterday the skipper of the SQUALUS, Lieutenant Naquin, <sup>first</sup> told the court <sup>about</sup> ~~that~~ Lawrence James Gainor, <sup>the</sup> ~~a~~ <sup>stock</sup> enlisted man from Honolulu, <sup>who</sup> had achieved "heroism beyond the call of duty." And today <sup>the Chief Electrician's mate himself</sup> ~~Lawrence James Gainor from Honolulu had his day in~~ <sup>poke.</sup> ~~court. He said:~~

*said he*

"The first indication I had that anything was wrong, <sup>"</sup> ~~was~~ when I heard the speaker in the control room saying water was being taken on in the engine room. Somebody hollered to secure the bulkhead doors and ventilation. I closed the bulkhead doors and two ventilator supply stops. Then I got out my flashlight and lowered myself into the battery compartment (only three feet high). I crawled <sup>in</sup> to ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> disconnect switches."

The court interrupted him to ask:- "Didn't you consider yourself in danger," and Gainor replied:

"No sir, not at first. There was danger of fire after

I got down. The terminals were red-hot. The compound was melting out of the cables and ~~some~~ vapor was rising from the batteries," ~~but there was no chlorine.~~ And he continued, "I pulled the switch on the starboard side," <sup>he continued</sup> "but an arc spanned the eight inch gap. Then I pulled the port connector."

No wonder the court of inquiry stared in amazement.

~~Those words they heard Gainer uttering would not at first convey so much meaning to you and me. But~~ <sup>well</sup> the officers <sup>he</sup> knew what ~~they~~ <sup>meant:-</sup> ~~meant. They meant~~ that when Gainer scrambled into that three foot

~~high~~ compartment with red-hot connectors and melting cables, he was <sup>taking a chance on a</sup> ~~risking the most~~ horrible death, The peril to him was of ~~being dreadfully~~ <sup>by</sup> electrocuted. <sup>ion</sup> But the peril to his shipmates was ~~a fire~~ <sup>fire</sup> that might ~~have destroyed~~ every ~~one~~ <sup>one</sup> on board. Lieutenant Naquin had told the court yesterday that such a fire might <sup>easily</sup> have made the rescue of ~~the men in the control room~~ <sup>any of them absolutely</sup> utterly ~~impossible.~~

A new theory to account for the ~~SQUALUS~~ disaster was offered to the court <sup>of inquiry</sup> today. One of the officers of the SQUALUS suggested that the submarine may have sunk because something happened to the air induction valve of the main engine after the

SQUALUS had taken her dive. The author of this theory was the officer in charge of torpedo, gunnery and communications, Lieutenant Nichols of Chicago. He told the Board:- "I do not believe that the valve failed to close before diving."

The opinion of Lieutenant Nichols therefore ~~conflicts with~~ conflicts with that of his ~~skipper, Lieutenant Naquin, the~~ Commander, ~~of the SQUALUS.~~ Whether Lieutenant Nichols or his skipper, ~~Lieutenant Naquin,~~ is right, one part of the theory was confirmed this afternoon. The ship's cook testified that he saw the water pouring into the forward engine room from the hull-opening of that induction valve.

GEHRIG

(For two months there has been a mystery in the baseball world: What ~~on earth~~ was the matter with Lou Gehrig, the <sup>iron</sup> ~~solid~~ ~~man of baseball?~~ ~~reliable first baseman of the Yankees?~~ Year after year <sup>Lou</sup> he had been the most dependable of those Yankee fence busters. It was a pride not only to himself but to his team that he played two thousand, <sup>one</sup> hundred and thirty consecutive games, never took a day off.

At the opening of this season it became obvious that the Iron Man was not himself. His once redoubtable batting fell off. Pitchers who used to dread pitching to him began looking upon him as a cousin. Even his fielding was ragged. Outwardly, there was nothing the matter with him. He felt no symptoms, had no ailment that was apparent. Finally, early last month, he went to Manager Joe McCarthy of the Yankees, <sup>and</sup> of his own accord, ~~and~~ suggested that he be put on the bench, take a few days off. The days lengthened into weeks. Then Lou had the good sense to go to ~~the Mayo Brothers~~ <sup>at</sup> Rochester, Minnesota. It took that famous <sup>medical</sup> clinic to find out what was the matter with the Iron Man. And the matter was serious enough. (The doctors have a long sentence of ten dollar scientific



words to explain it. What it simmers down to is that Lou Gehrig has an unusual form of infantile paralysis.)

*Columbia* Lou ~~Gehrig~~ came back to New York with that doctor's report and instead of making it public he handed it to Ed Barrow, the President of the New York Yankees. Barrow announced <sup>S</sup> that Gehrig will be still on the Yankees' payroll for the rest of this season. His affliction can be treated, is being treated, and it's probable that he will be completely cured. <sup>So</sup> Maybe one day he'll be back on the first base sack, back in the Yankee line-up, busting the ball over the fence once more.

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DOCTOR

*Good news for youngsters:-*

In the town of Winnetka, Illinois there's a lady doctor named Clara M. Davis. I mention her name with great care because it will probably be cheered ~~By~~ by all the young on the North American continent and maybe elsewhere. Doctor Clara M. Davis was in Montreal today and spoke before a meeting of the Canadian Medical Association. And the gist of what she said was that children can usually be depended upon to choose their own diet and thrive on it.

~~Did I hear the word spinach?~~

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LT from  
Hartford, Conn.

June 22<sup>7</sup>  
1939.