

L.T. - SUNCO. MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1936.

*Chambers
WBC*

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

There's one word that rings in everybody's mind today - "the Rhine, the Rhine, the ~~Rhine~~ German Rhine." (In drawing rooms and on street corners, in offices and cafés, people are asking one question: Does it mean war? that march of Hitler's gray clad men-of-arms into Mayence and into Coblenz, into Wörms and into Bonn, Cologne and Mannheim?) How can it be stopped, with France pouring troops to the frontier, her three hundred mile line of fortifications bristling with bayonets?

The answer seems to be that no blow has been struck yet.

If ^{France} ~~the Allies~~ were going to answer Hitler's move with force, ~~they~~ ^{she} would have ^{acted} ~~acted~~ hours ago. Instead, ^{they've laid} ~~they've laid~~ another unwanted ^{has been laid} ~~has been laid~~ baby ^{TP} ~~However,~~ ^{That's} what the League is supposed to be for, *isn't it?*

When he explained his denouncing of the Treaty of Locarno, Chancellor Hitler talked about the ring of steel that France was forging around Germany. And the first consequence of his action

has been to redouble that ring. Until today, the strength of the circle around the Fatherland was speculative. Today, there was no speculation about it. Ten countries, including Russia, Poland, Italy, the Little Entente and the Balkan Entente, joined their voices to John Bull's in a thundering chorus, "We are with France." A loud chorus - but what does it mean?

The first dispatches that came out of London left the world in doubt as to what Britain would do. "Captain Anthony Eden's attitude is mild," was the first report. But there was nothing mild about Captain Anthony Eden today. His statement to the House of Commons this afternoon was forceful:- "Great Britain will stand by France and Belgium if they are attacked by Germany."

However, there's one thing that still isn't clear about British intentions. What stand will Captain Eden take at Geneva on Friday? Will he back up France's demand for sanctions? When England led the clamour for sanctions against Italy, the French government reluctantly but firmly backed her up. Will Captain Eden stand as strongly at France's side, this time, in Geneva?

That's a question.

The House of Commons was jammed, intense with anxiety, when the Foreign Secretary rose from his place on the Treasury bench, this afternoon. His announcement that Great Britain will fight for France and Belgium if they are attacked, naturally aroused a storm of cheers. Aside from that, there was no sabre-rattling on Captain Eden's part. The tone of his speech was, "We'll fight if necessary. But let's take it easy, and we'll last longer." "There's no reason to take Germany's occupation of the Rhineland as a threat of war," he said.

Then he added something of tremendous meaning to the future of the world:- His Majesty's government stands ready to consider the proposals of Germany for a new European treaty, a treaty that really will establish peace, and iron-out injustices. But it was with a caustic observation that he qualified this offer, - new treaties proposed as old treaties are broken. An editorial in the NEW YORK TIMES this morning puts it this way:- "Adolph Hitler steps into the Rhineland with two broken peace treaties in his hands and graciously offers

Europe to sign some new ones." The same remark is being made on all sides.

An interesting and eminently different point of view on this historic coup, is offered by the WALL STREET JOURNAL. It takes the somewhat surprising attitude that Hitler's repudiation of two treaties "puts a little realism into Europe's international mess." In another paragraph the WALL STREET JOURNAL opines, "Paradoxically but actually, it is possible to see in Germany's final repudiation of the Treaties of Versailles and Locarno, a beginning of the end of the Great War," a war which those treaties prolonged well into its twenty-second year.

(France is gloomy tonight because of the mild stand London is taking. The French see that England will not help them oust the Germans from the Rhineland) won't apply penalties. Just some censure from the League of Nations. And France won't sign any treaty with Germany - not right now.

As to the pacts of Locarno - they were hailed with joy all over the world at the time they were signed. They made it appear that Europe had become sick of war and still more sick of

threats of war. It seemed possible, even probable, that genuine desire for conciliation, rather the shaking of mailed fists, was pervading the continent. For years afterwards everybody talked about the "spirit of Locarno". Today the "spirit of Locarno" has evaporated beyond recall. It reminds you of Shakespeare's Prospero, when he said: "These are actors; as I forehold you, we are all spirits, and are melted into air, into thin air."

Meanwhile, what of Africa? Mussolini's little Colonial war now looks like small time stuff in the face of the colossal hubbub on the Rhine. Mussolini's answer is, "The war continues." So say his newspapers, so says his Minister of Propaganda, Signor Ciano. His attitude on the Locarno Treaty business has a string to it. He will abide by it, that Locarno agreement, but - people who are close to him say, "Italy will come to the help of France if - if the League will go easy on the sanctions." In other words, Mussolini, quite understandably, is going to take advantage of the situation, for a little bit of fine Italian bargaining.

GORTZ FOLLOW LEAD

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While the world was thus ringing with alarums of war, twelve jurors in London were considering their verdict. Ironically enough it was a trial that recalled all the horrors of 1914. The prisoner, a German, accused of spying. With international nerves stretched like fiddle strings the verdict becomes all the more dramatic. For the verdict of those twelve jurors was: "Dr. Hermann Gortz is guilty as charged." And that means four years in that grim, grey prison on Dartmoor.

This Dr. Gortz seems to be an interesting fellow.

He was a flier in the World War, one of Immelman's famous squad¹²⁰⁴

Unlike Immelman and Richtofen he came through alive. ~~After~~

He was wounded he was detailed to Intelligence. ~~This~~ He admitted

^{this} at his trial; ~~but~~, he claims^{ed that} after the war he took to the ^{always}

^{innocuous} trade of a novelist.

He testified in his on behalf. Even while he

^{— in wartime —}
was attached to Intelligence, he said, he never engaged in Spying.

Never went behind the enemy's lines in disguise. His work was

confined to questioning prisoners, especially American, English

and French aviators. He admitted he was quite successful at

that. But he claimed there was nothing dishonorable in it.

But the British Government had a different story. They said Dr. Gortz's questions about John Bull's air force had not ceased when the war ended. In fact, ~~it~~ said the king's council, Dr. Gortz was in England for the purpose of finding out all he could, all the official secrets of Britain's flying squadrons.

So it's Four years in Dartmoor! That's ^{the} a sentence, ~~to make~~
~~anybody shudder.~~

ELECTION

Monday seems to have become a regular day of ordeal for the New Deal. It has been on Mondays that the Supreme Court has handed down all those critical decisions. . But from now on, Tuesday will be the big day of the week for the Administration. Elections are at hand, and in almost all ~~the~~ states both elections and primaries come on Tuesday. ^{TP} Tomorrow will be the first big test Tuesday.

^ The first of the presidential primaries will be held in New Hampshire tomorrow. New Hampshire, ~~you will recall, is~~ ^{of} ~~rock~~ ^{James} ~~ribbed~~ ^{country} Republican ~~country~~. In the big Democratic landslide of 'Thirty-two, New Hampshire was one of the six states that gave Herbert Hoover a majority. ~~So it's natural that the eyes of both Republicans and Democrats will be focused on New Hampshire.~~

The Republicans are putting up a slate of delegates unpledged to any candidate. That will leave them free to vote as they choose at the convention in Cleveland. But on the Democratic side of the fence, it's a different picture. There's a revolt among the New Hampshire Democrats. The twenty-two delegates on that slate are definitely pledged to President Roosevelt. Hence,

the revolt. Rambunctious members of the party complain that the slate was too obviously hand-picked by Postmaster and National Chairman Jim Farley.

According to accounts from Washington, this fight is creating no little concern to leaders of the New Deal. The boss of this New Hampshire rebellion is named John Hurley. Once upon a time he was a mill worker. Today he's a lawyer. He is fighting, not because he is opposed to the President, but because he objects to some of the New Deal policies. He claims that there's too strong an odor of state Socialism about them. And his appeal to the voters is "Why should we have Jim Farley's hand-picked delegates wished on us?"

I learned much about the New Hampshire situation from Colonel Barron and my Host Mr. Peckett of Peckett's on Sugar Hill where I spent the week-end skiing in the glorious White Mountains.

RAILROADS

Labor questions in that giant industry of transportation, the railroads, are getting words of advice from the White House. President Roosevelt is asking the companies to get together with the men and talk out some new arrangements to help both sides - both the bosses ^{who} ~~that~~ control the destinies of the roads and the workers who run the trains. The big point at issue is what to do about men who are forced out of jobs. Various projects for unifying the railroad ^{s are intended to} ~~have the effect of~~ increasing efficiency. ~~But -~~ One angle of that is that it decreases the number of men employed, which makes it a human problem.

Mr. Roosevelt's call for harmony and agreement is - to forestall action by Congress. The ~~p~~ President says that if the railroads and the men don't get together, the federal government will have to step in - and make some laws to regulate what the interested parties can't fix up between themselves. He wants to avoid these extra laws, and have it all done peaceably, quietly and in private.

GOLDEN TABLE

Now for a treasure hunt; planned by a Missourian, who wants to be shown an ancient Spanish galleon that sank in the Caribbean some four hundred years ago. And thereby hands a tale that goes back to the days of Christofer Colombo, the man who knew the world was roundo. There was a Spanish Governor in the Caribbean, accused of having plotted against the great Colombo. He was called home to Madrid to stand trial. But he was a thrifty Governor, Before he sailed home, he grabbed all the gold available in Cubs, melted it down and cast it into the form of a table. This table he took with him aboard ship. But But before he reached the channel of the Leeward Islands, the galleon sank with all aboard. And that's the treasure that Lester Dent, fictionist of La Plata, Missouri, hopes to find. He told me at the Waldorf today that he has already made one voyage in the fifty foot schooner he owns, looking for that solid gold table. And now the quest of the golden table is on again.

WAKE ISLAND

Here's the story of how one of the most deserted of all desert islands has just had a sudden influx of population - more population than it has had since those sea creatures, the corals, built it ages ago on the top of a subterranean volcano. Wake Island - a regular stopping place for the Pan-American clippers that span the Pacific. As a regular thing, there's a base crew of twelve men stationed there now - no women. Right now, a construction crew is there. And yesterday the two big clippers from the Trans-Pacific run came in to Wake Island almost at the same time, one flying the Pacific from North America, the other jumping in the opposite direction for Manila. They landed within six minutes of each other. Whereupon the population of Wake Island was suddenly increased to a hundred and eighty men - no women.

They are building a hotel out there. That's something of a shock. A hotel on Wake Island. William Van Deusen, a Pan-American official, tells me about it. It'll not be any Waldorf, he said, but it will have forty-eight rooms and will be shaped like the letter "V". The climate is marvelous, the island is so tiny that ocean breezes sweep over it all the time.

An island of cocoanut palms, flowers and solitude. Except for the clipper ships, it's cut off from all the world. The nearest point of land in the direction of Asia is sixteen hundred miles away. The nearest dot on the Pacific in the direction of North America is tiny Midway Island - fourteen hundred miles away.

For that matter, they're going to build a similar hotel on Midway Island, which is also a trans-Pacific plane stop. Right now a ship loaded with lumber for the hotel is out in mid-Pacific, only it can't get through the reefs to the island. There's been a storm. The giant swells of the vast Pacific surge with such power that the ship can't navigate among the reefs.

Wake Island will have a population of men - and rats. Seventy-five years ago a German barque was wrecked on that remote shore. A few rats on the ship swam ashore, and they have been multiplying ever since. Vast hordes of rats move across the island in migrations. Pan-American is trying to do something about the rat situation. They can get rid of tens of thousands, but there are millions of them there.

Wake Island, by the way, is a place of men without women. Perhaps in the future when the clippers begin carrying passengers, a feminine face may be seen, briefly between landing and taking off. Otherwise, no women allowed. Bill Van Deusen tells me it's because of an old Chinese superstition, a Chinese symbol of trouble - which is expressed by a house and two women. The symbol of trouble for me is the approach of the hand on my clock to the moment when I must awake and go to Wake Island or anywhere but here - and s,l-u-t-m.