

CONVENTION

P.T. - Sunoco. Monday, June 8, 1936.

Cannon
N.C.

Tonight in the convention city on Lake Erie all is
bedlam:- milling crowds in the lobbies of every hotel; rumors
flying around like flocks of crazy birds; perspiring porters and
bell-boys happy under the unusual shower of tips; in the streets
puzzled drivers from out of town trying to figure out the great
Ohio city's unique left-hand turn system; Cleveland like a young
battlefield with photographers-flash-bulbs booming right and left.

(On every corner you see sunflowers, the Landon badge.
And above the roar of the mob comes the refrain of "Oh, Susanna,"
theme song of the Landon band-wagon.) "Oh, Susanna", with election-
eering words that run like this:-

"Our ship of state is on the rocks,

And soon it will be sunk.

It has no pilot at the wheel,

But regimented bunk."

Then the chorus:-

"Landon, Oh Landon,

Will lead to victory,

With the dear old Constitution,

It's good enough for me."

The Kansas Governor's headquarters, where he himself is conspicuous by his absence, is at the Hollenden Hotel.

Each delegation, as it climbs off the train, is met by an army-corps of good-looking girls from Kansas. Be-witching! Be-guiling, Be-autiful! All armed with huge bunches of sunflowers to stick in the buttonholes of the new arrivals.

And, the G.O.P. delegates will be greeted by one amusing sight as they flock into the big Cleveland auditorium tomorrow. W.P.A. workers, New Deal alphabet boys, are still busy making repairs and preparations in the great hall. So the Republicans will be greeted by those three letters plastered all over the place -- the Roosevelt W.P.A.

As for politics itself, the pendulum has swung again toward Landon - away over toward Landon. Toward the end of last week, we heard that the "Stop Landon" movement had gained headway, and that the Borah-Vandenburg-Knox forces had coalesced. Anything to defeat the man from Kansas was the cry. But today another big block of delegates has swung to the Sunflower candidate -

twenty-five from Texas.

Behind closed doors tonight various delegations are holding caucuses. The busy grapevine telegraph report that one after another they are pledging themselves to the Landon banner. Instead of doing it in the ^{hot} ~~note~~, sweltering, traditional smoke-filled room, some of these meetings are on ship-board out on the cool, quiet waters of Lake Erie.

Senator Borah said today he would not join any coalition against Landon. And that should ease the way for the gentleman from Kansas.

Senator Borah also came forward with a formal declaration this afternoon. Is he seriously in the race for the nomination? He most certainly is. He told the newspaper men -- "I'm a candidate." But he is going to concentrate his efforts on the planks of his platform. In his interview this afternoon he outlined some of his platform ideas. He said Republicans should adopt a plank calling for American neutrality, a peace plank declaring -- no mixing in with other people's wars.

And Senator Borah touched upon the ticklish subject of the Supreme Court. He is against that last big decision, doesn't approve of the way ~~that~~ the court majority knocked out New York State's law regulating the working conditions of women and children. The Senator believes the convention should advocate the right of individual states to regulate labor conditions for the workers. He didn't go into any elaborate details about farm relief. He is ~~xxx~~ merely for some effective way to help the farmers.

So the drift in Cleveland tonight is toward a platform that will emphasize human welfare and economic liberalism.

This vice-presidency business is one of the keenest questions of the moment in Cleveland today. Landonites say it is the question that has them most worried since Senator Vandenberg flatly refused it. They declare confidently they have the presidential nomination in the bag for the Kansas Governor. But they are hard put to it for a number two man.

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There's a gentleman in Cleveland who has organized a one-man movement to nominate himself for Vice-President:-~~He is~~ Colonel Arthur W. Little of New York and West Virginia. His principal claim to prominence is that he is the recognized white leader of the negro race, in America. If the Republicans nominate him, they are sure of the negro vote. During the War, he was the commanding officer of the Eighteenth New York Infantry, the crack negro regiment. The "Little for Vice-President" organization has headquarters in two Cleveland hotels.

~~But an idea second in interest only to the Lindbergh-~~
Then there is
suggestion, comes from the Women's League:- What the ladies want is Alice Roosevelt for Vice-President, Alice Roosevelt Longworth. With her on the ticket, the Republicans would have the advantage

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of a Roosevelt to oppose the other Roosevelt. There is no doubt that Princess Alice, the daughter of the great T.R., would swing a huge ^{number} ~~volume~~ of ballots. The reputation she has earned through her long residence and experience in Washington has spread all over the country. She is known to be one of the ablest politicians in the capital, a woman who knows ~~xx~~ more about the game than any six ordinary men.

However, it seems that this idea has been put forward without the knowledge of ~~the~~ Princess Alice herself. Nobody knows yet whether she would consent to be a candidate. By the same token, the "Lindbergh for Vice-President" suggestion is made in the Colonel's absence. Whether he would accept is an absolutely unknown quantity. People who know him well, are inclined to doubt it.

One doesn't need to be a political expert to realize that the name of the Lone Eagle on the Republican ticket would attract millions of votes. The suggestion comes from P. W. Litchfield, President of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company

He advances several reasons to back up his idea. As every child knows, Lindbergh is the idol of all young people of America, and of a huge number of old ones into the bargain. Furthermore, in the public mind, he stands for two definite things, two really important things: he is strong for law and order, and he is heart and soul for the development of aeronautics. The principal argument against him is his youth, not yet 35. However, Mr. Litchfield contends that the election of Rush Holt to the Senate from West Virginia set a precedent that would make the election of Lindbergh as Vice-President perfectly legal.

ROOSEVELT

The Republican orators aren't the only ones who are polishing up their speeches. President Roosevelt, since his return from the funeral of Speaker Byrns, has been ^{hard} at it. ~~He has~~ He has put in the day at the White House, putting in the commas, dotting the "i"s, and crossing the ~~ix~~ "t"s, in the addresses he is going to make in the southwest. As we know, he is going to take in the Texas Centennial at Fort Worth and he'll also take in Arkansas and Indiana. Republican leaders have felt rather aggrieved over this speaking tour of the President's. But the White House assured me that he is not trying to rob the Cleveland show of its place in the publicity sun.

LEGION

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Even the ^{Republican} Convention wasn't enough to keep the Black Legion out of the news. The repercussions from these sinister and sanguinary revelations grow louder instead of softer. The latest prospect is for a Congressional investigation. Two leading Congressmen ^{have landed in} ~~went to~~ Detroit ~~today~~ to do a little preliminary research on their own hook. Senator Benson, the Farmer-Laborite of Minnesota, arrived in Detroit today, and Representative Dickstein, Democrat of New York, is on his way. Senator Benson has already started collecting information on this skull and cross-bones conspiracy.

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Meanwhile, in Washington a concurrent resolution was offered in Congress in the names of Senator Benson and Mr. Dickstein; ~~It was~~ a resolution to establish another congressional committee, four senators and four representatives. Their job would be to investigate the Black Legion and other organizations. In the words of the resolution, organizations "spreading similar un-American propaganda of religious, racial or subversive religious prejudices."

Meanwhile, the thirteen Black hooded ~~kn~~ night riders,

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accused of murdering Charles A. Poole, are more firmly in the pillory. By order of the Judge of the Circuit Court, they were held for trial today. The charges are murder and kidnapping.

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As he made the order, Judge Libby expressed himself in grim terms. "This is a sinister spectacle," he declared, "an organized group attempting to usurp the function of government to punish men for what the group believes is an offense. I therefore hold all defendants for trial." And he added: "Without bail."

FRANCE

Somebody just suggested to me that France's new Premier is in a position somewhat like that of a dramatic critic who is suddenly called upon to produce a play. For his entire political career, Monsieur Leon Blum has been an "out", criticising the "ins". At the end of years and years of criticism, now he's finding out with a bang what it's like to be an "in". He has been in just four days and already he has discovered how uneasy rests the head that wears the crown ~~in~~ of power. No sooner has he fought his way over one obstacle, than another looms ahead of him.

But he has gotten the workers of France back on the job, that is, all except the white collar people. Just as he was all set to settle that phase of the problem, a new strike broke loose.

To be sure, this new one isn't as serious as the walk-out of more than a million, which tied up industry from the Belgian border to the Pyrenees. Nevertheless, it's serious enough. A hundred and fifty thousand coal miners have quit. Canals, docks, shipyards, mines, closed down. In some places company officials are held prisoner in the mines. In short,

life is just one dem thing after another for the man who governs France. Meanwhile, the employees in department stores continue the lockout of their employers. Still holding the fort, standing in the show windows, laughing, jeering and making faces as other folks go to work.

At first glance the settlement of the main big strike was looked upon as principally a triumph for the unions. The employers, at the insistance of Monsieur Blum, gave them ~~prizet~~ practically everything they wanted:- The right to organize no firing of men because they belonged to unions, more money, and annual vacations with pay. Also a promise which virtually assures them of another big thing they had been asking for, a forty-hour week.

At the same time, this settlement also looms up as a personal victory for the new Left Wing Prime Minister. What happened in France, is something we couldn't even imagine over here. Can you picture a general strike on such a scale, and the President of the United States forcing employers to give in? That is what occurred in France.

That new coal strike, however, takes the edge off the

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first success of the French new deal. Then there's another fly in the ointment. Heavy clouds hang low over the financial horizon in Paris. The experts, watching the fluctuations of the Franc, throw out the warning: "Prices are going up and before long we shall see something that dangerously resembles inflation. ^{also} ~~and~~ ^a ~~are certain to see a~~ tremendous rise in taxes." They add that there will not be inflation in a literal sense. But the chances are that France will finally abandon the gold standard to which she ~~has~~ adhered so rigidly while so many other countries were discarding it.

All in all, we can picture France's Socialist Premier asking himself, "And now what?"

CHINA

In America, the politics of ballots. In China, the politics of bullets. That's the big contrast in today's news. the war clouds in the Far East grow darker every hour. The prophecy now is Civil War in China, with Japan intervening. Tonight's word is sharper and more menacing --- the Cantonese government is driving to unite all China, south and north, unite all China in the long threatened war on Japan.

The most ominous piece of news comes from an American source. That's the naval order for all of Uncle Sam's warships in the Far East to stand by. Shore leaves cancelled, officers and men aboard their ships with full steam up, prepared to sail at any moment under sealed orders. And the British naval units in the East are ready for anything.

Meanwhile, the navy of His Imperial Majesty, the Mikado, is mobilized off the coast of Formosa. The instant hostilities break out on the mainland, the Japanese vessels will steam out under forced draft toward Swatow, on the coast of the Province of Kwaungtung - South China, the heart of the movement against Japan.

From China itself come conflicting reports.

The old, old story. One of those reports tells us that two hundred thousand Cantonese soldiers are on the march northward, bent on another attempt to keep China for the Chinese and throw the Japanese out. A patriotic idea, if true, but doesn't sound hopeful.

A real war in the Orient is about the only thing that could compete with the political wars in America on page one.

And, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.