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L.T. - Sumner - Thurs. Dec. 23, 1937

THIRD TERM.

47
Today's declaration by Senator Norris seems like a clever political thrust - his declaration that President Roosevelt may be forced to seek a third term. The grand old man of Nebraska, who is a Republican New Dealer, reasons this way - if they don't stop knocking out the President's New Deal measures in Congress, there won't be anything for F. D. R. to do but take his case to the people and run for reelection. The Senator holds that a powerful conservative drive is on, which might result in Conservatives running on both tickets, Democratic as well as Republican, in Nineteen Forty. That would assure an anti-New Deal President. If they don't stop it, says Uncle George, it may create a third term condition. He's against a third term, but ^{Sen. Norris} ~~he~~ might be forced to support one - if they don't stop kicking the New Deal around.

Says Norris - you'd better be nice to the President, if you don't want to get him again - that's the logic, a sharp political thrust.

RECESSION

(The President's remark that the newspapers are promoting fear and anxiety, a depression mood, is being answered by the newspapers far and wide. They ask -- does the White House want the Press to steam up prosperity news, ignoring the facts? They say they just print the news as they find it.)

Well, we can all remember attempts to whoop up prosperity and talk down the depression. I myself had a hand in it, emphasizing and playing up every bright indication -- back in those days when the depression was the darkest.) We all felt there was a lot of psychology ^{some prosperity} in the bad times, when ~~our psychology~~ might be used as a cure. But it didn't work. (President Hoover then was inclined to consider the depression something of a state of mind, and President Roosevelt shows signs of thinking that way right now -- about the recession.)

HOLIDAY ENDING

In my Christmas mail today I found a pamphlet from a hardware man in Danbury and in it I ran across a bit of philosophy that might appeal to some of you just now. Here it is :- When a millionaire is a million times more happy than the owner of a single dollar, then folks will have a real kick coming.

But let's get ~~x~~ on with the news:-

FORD

At Dearborn today union pickets once again distributed strike literature in the vicinity of the Ford River Rouge plant. That's forbidden by city regulations, so once more arrests ~~xx~~ were made. The pickets passing out the literature were ~~grabbed by the cops and~~ taken away in patrol wagons.

AVIATION ACCIDENT

49
There was an air crash today at Denver - one of those giant army bombers. Eight men aboard, graduates of the Army Air School. The big ship trying to take off got out of control and crashed through a fence. That's the bad news. The good news is -- no ~~xxxxi~~ casualties, nobody even injured.

AVIATION

An aviation record crammed with color was made today -- France to Indo-China, Paris to Saigon - ^{Saigon, the city} ~~which~~ they call the "Paris of Asia". And a woman achieved the exploit - Maryse Hilsz, the French Aviatrix. She flew the seven thousand miles in ninety two hours and a half, for a record. Mademoiselle, as one might say, flew from Paris to Paris -- the Paris of Asia.

CHINA.

(The Japanese have done the expected thing at Nanking - they've set up a Government there, under their own domination.)

Its chief is Tao Hsi-shan, who is President of an organization called the "Red Swastika". As you may guess, the group has a fascist color.

This chief of the new regime issued a statement today denouncing the Nationalist Chinese Government for "leading the Chinese people into indescribable misery and distress during the past decade by pursuing anti-Japanese and Communist policies." That also has a fascist ring.

50
From North China we hear of a secret anti-Japanese movement in the territory held by the Mikado's army - a widespread campaign of propaganda organized by the chiefs of the Chinese Communists. They are said to be conducting a powerful Communist drive against the Japanese.

And so we find the turmoil in China dividing itself along Fascist - Communist lines, that same battle of ideologies which has been so evident in Europe. Anyway, the Fascists claim to be fighting the Communists, ^{doing} ~~and do~~ what they can to promote a

war of Red and anti-Red. Perhaps the Japanese wouldn't mind seeing the hostile Chinese side go Communist. They might welcome it as justifying their position. But can the Mikado's men line up any real support among the Chinese, even among the more conservatively minded?

51
Recently, I listened to the opinion of a Chinese philosopher and literatus, Dr. Hu-Shia - he's called the father of the Chinese Literary Renaissance. He said that the hatred against the Japanese in China was so intense that Tokyo could never surmount it. It was his opinion that any Chinese political leader who showed the remotest sign of cooperating with the Japanese would kill his influence and prestige among his ~~own~~ own people - would lose out with them at once.

Meanwhile, our own American stand is being stiffened in the Far Eastern trouble. The State Department now has received the final reports on the bombing of the Panay - the complete documentation. On the basis of this still another and stronger protest will be sent Tokyo. This was announced by Secretary of State Cordell Hull today.

PALESTINE

Here's a sombre Christmas note. It's from the Holy Land, and you can guess what it's all about. There was a battle ^{— across the Dead Sea —} on the frontier of Trans-Jordan ⁱⁿ between military police and Arab insurrectors. ~~Ex~~ Eleven Arabs ~~we~~ were killed.

52
Among the millions and billions of Christmas presents this ~~Yi~~ Yuletide, there's one that flashes in the news with a moody reminiscence. It's a doll, as beautifully dressed a doll as ~~any~~ little girl ever had. The giver is a woman, a ^{Duchess} ~~Duchess~~ -- The Duchess of Windsor, the one-time Wallis of Baltimore. Who is she giving it to? That recalls ~~ix~~ the calamity of the one-time Edward the Eighth, his ill-starred housing tour intended as a come-back, and his concern when he was King - concern for the unemployed in the depressed areas of Wales. That figured in the drama of the Abdication.

The doll of the Duchess has been sent to a secretary in the South Wales miners Federation, with a request that it be presented to a child of an unemployed miner. And, Duchess Wallis adds this request:- "Will the little mother of this doll kindly call it 'Wallis'," she asks.

It's charmingly sentimental - but it is also a token that the Ex-King and his Duchess still think of his dramatic stand for the British unemployed, the Abdication, and then the lamentable housing ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ misadventure. ^R Is

there a stubborn intention still lingering in the mind of
the former King Edward the Eighth?

CUBA

53
There's government action in Cuba^a, which affects
a case in New York. The Cuban Chamber of Deputies has passed
two bills declaring an amnesty, prisoners released, charges
against prisoners dismissed. This applies especially to
political cases -- including that of General Machado, the
one-time dictator, ^{who has been} accused of so much tyranny and terror.
Cuba has been trying to extradite Machada from New York,
where the proceedings are still pending. Now that's all
over with the amnesty that Cuba has declared.

EARTHQUAKE

Earthquake news from Mexico and our first date line is New York. That's because of one of those miracles of science -- the fact that the Seismograph makes any serious tremor an affair of worldlike observation. So let's see what the Seismograph had to tell today.

The earthquake machine at Fordham University executed some wild gyrations today. Father Lynch, the Fordham seismologist, reported that the needle made a four inch swing. And that's a dizzy jump. Four years ago, when we had an earth shocker in our own Far West, the needle swung only half an inch. The Fordham report reckoned that today's quake occurred in the Pacific Ocean, off the coast of Mexico, probably in the Gulf of Tehuantepec. For several days the needle had recorded shivers in that region, growing in intensity and coming nearer to land. The climax came with today's heavy jar. The Seismograph indicated that the oceanic tremor was so near the shore that it must have created a serious disturbance on the mainland of Mexico.

And here's a dispatch just in from Mexico City:- A violent earthquake hit there today with a crazy rocking and shaking.

Houses swayed, many collapsed. Sidewalks were cracked and twisted. Communications were cut, and lives were lost. The quake kept shaking and shaking, one of the most prolonged on record. It ended with a dizzy rotary motion, as if the ground were going round and round, People grew giddy with a strange sense of whirling.

Such is the factual ^{story} confirming the scientific tale told
by the Seismograph.

HEALY.

Today the coroner at Hollywood gave a verdict in the case of the comedian, Ted Healy. It had been supposed that his death might have been the result of violence, a fight, a beating. But of this the coroner says - "No, just natural causes." The supposition of violence is just a lot of broccoli.

55
Or rather, it wasn't broccoli at all. The story is out that comedian Healy did have a fight, with a rich New Yorker named Albert Broccoli. But this, says today's verdict, had nothing to do with the case.

FOOTBALL.

Well, one thing is decided today about that *rather*
fabulous
A high school football star who is being talked about so much --
Bill de Correvont of Chicago. Dozens of colleges want him.
He's had all kinds of offers. To which football squad will
he go? Today there's only half an answer to that -- Bill will
go to College in the middle west. Neither the big universities
of the east nor those on the coast will have him. One of
six mid-western Colleges will get him -- maybe Notre Dame,
Northwestern, Ohio State, Wisconsin or Chicago. That doesn't
make it any too precise.

One thing is certain -- that *this very* ~~the~~ much publicized
young boy football star will play football. That isn't so
obvious as it might seem -- because Bill is also a baseball star.
He has batted over 480 on the high school team and has hit
400 foot home runs. So a baseball career is open to him.
One major league club has already offered him five thousand
dollars if he would sign a contract that he wouldn't play
football in College, but would concentrate entirely on baseball.
Bill refused that. Does it mean that he prefers football and

will dedicate his career to it? Not at all. He is neutral.

When it's football season, my favorite is football, Bill says, and when it's baseball season my favorite is baseball. That's what you'd call noncommittal.

By the way, a recent news item did an injustice to Dickinson College of Carlisle, Pennsylvania. You may recall the story of the football player who stole the lab microscopes and sold them? The story came thru that he had said this was to make up for the money due him for playing football. It now turns out that Dickinson College does not pay her football players, doesn't even give athletic scholarships, and in her one hundred and fifty-six years has always stressed scholarship. So here's a salute to Dickinson!

HORSE.

I was talking on the phone today with a friend, a lawyer - Mordecai Jacobsen of Long Island. I noticed a brief news dispatch that had just come in, and I said to Lawyer Jacobsen: "Wait a minute, I want to ask you about this."

The dispatch told of a horse auction at Humboldt, Iowa. The auctioneer was calling for bids on a sturdy looking nag.

"How much am I offered for this fine horse?" he bellowed.

"Seventy-five Dollars," came the bid.

"Do I hear Eighty? Do I hear Eighty?" yelled the auctioneer.

And a voice called out with a bid of Eighty Dollars.

At that moment the horse dropped dead.

Now, what bothered me was - "Who got stuck?" Did the unlucky bidder get a dead horse for his Eighty Dollars? That was the question I simply had to ask of the lawyer on the other end of the wire.

He laughed, but it was no whole-hearted, confident laugh - it had a note of perplexity. "It's a ticklish point of

law," said he. "But I would say that the horse had not really been purchased by the bidder until it had been delivered to him - so he wasn't stuck."

But that legal opinion was none too confident. The question has nice points for lawyers to wrangle about.

RELIEF.

A complicated problem of relief was decided at Cleveland today. The authorities knuckled down to the job, and decided - " You can't have a goat on relief." And that was a wrap on the knuckles for the applicant.

58 1/2
His name is "Knuckles", Sam Knuckles who for twenty-two years had driven through the streets a cart drawn by two goats - advertisements on the sides of the cart providing Mr. Knuckles with a living. Last week a Humane Society made him stop it - because the streets were icy and that made it inhuman for the goats. So Sam Knuckles, deprived of his livelihood, made application for relief - not only for himself but for his goats. "They must eat, " said he - pleading the well known fact of a goat's appetite. He demanded that the city should provide the goats with suitable rations, ¹ bars of soap, red flannel shirts, and tin cans, I suppose.

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But today the case was decided against Sam Knuckles. Relief is often the goat, but you can't put goats on relief.

59 1/4
And s-l-u-t.-m.