

LOWELL THOMAS - SUNOCO, FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 1934

MANCHUKUO

Hello in Russian. How do you say it? Or rather "got to blazes in blazes in Russian."

Today witnessed a flare-up in Moscow, flare-up of attacks against Japan. The official note of protest from Moscow to Tokyo has been followed by a whole blaze of anti-Japanese declarations in the Russian newspapers.

They are denouncing the Japanese claim, that the Russian railroad men have been engaged in plots to cause bandit raids and train wrecks. "Burning down railroad stations" is the latest addition to the bill of indictment.

From the Russian side we don't have any denial that there have been plots and conspiracies. The Soviet manager of the railroad is reported to have gone personally to Moscow with the report of sixteen trains deliberately wrecked, one hundred and two people injured and forty-six killed, and a financial loss of a quarter of a million dollars. But he blames the plots and conspiracies on the Japanese.

The Soviet angle is this:- that the Japanese have been putting the railroad on the bum, hoping in that way to persuade

the Russians to come down in the price they are asking for it.

On top of that, say the Russians, the Japanese are arresting the Russian railroad men for doing the damage. And they claim that the prisoners are being mistreated, and add the detail that some of the soldiers who arrested them and are keeping them prisoners are White Russian refugees in Manchukuo. Red Communist prisoners in charge of anti-Communist White Russians -- that gives the pill an exceedingly bitter taste in Moscow.

{ That strip of steel rails across Manchuria is one of the focal trouble points of this earth right now.

ARIZONA

Last night we heard about Japanese farmers threatened with eviction in the Salt River Valley of Arizona. Today it's the British Government ^{--- speaking up} on account of Hindu farmers down there in that fertile valley.

Arizona has a law designed to keep aliens off its agricultural lands. Salt River Valley has quite a population of Japanese farmers, also Hindu farmers. The white farmers who can't meet the Oriental competition, are trying to have them evicted, forced off the land by the action of the law.

The Tokio Government is naturally interested in the plight of the Japanese. The East Indians are British subjects. Hence its interest.

^{Arizona}
The Salt River problem is threatening to turn into an international affair, and that interest the Government at Washington. The State Department is keeping an eye on that green valley in ^{our golden} sun-baked ^{Southwest.} ~~Arizona~~.

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Last night I made a guess about the New American Liberty League, saying that the League in its desire to help the President, would particularly like to help the President drop the New Deal overboard.

That guess is now confirmed by one of the most prominent of the League members, Irene Du Pont, of the famous Delaware Du Ponts who declares himself thusly: "As a member of the American Liberty League, I am most desirous of being of use to the administration". Then he added that he hoped President Roosevelt, "in due course" would cause the repeal of the NRA.

There's a real point of good sense in the ^{welcome}~~steps~~ the Liberty League is getting from some of the New Dealers in Washington, who say that it's O.K. with them if the conservative political forces get together in a conservative political organization. One of our troubles I think, has been that important political issues are confused by cutting across ~~the~~ party lines. There are obvious advantages in having the opposing political theories expressed in a clean-cut way by opposing organizations.

~~The New Deal is the dominant issue of the day, and the Liberty League should help to clarify the line up for and against~~

The hold-up, stick-up news tonight begins with a mail truck robbery at Butler, Pennsylvania. The bandits got away with fifty thousand dollars in Federal Reserve funds -- not nearly as big as the half a million dollar hold-up in Brooklyn, but the speed and precision were just the same. Not a shot was fired. And at the moment there seems to be no clew.

In the Brooklyn affair the first arrests have been made, two men. One ~~is~~ the husband of Clara Phillips, the California hammer murderess. With him was Leo Giorgio of Brooklyn. Both were picked up in Philadelphia and are being held without bail for questioning.--

Whether these arrests mean anything is doubtful, but they're an indication that the cops are hammering away at that robbery case ^{that was} ~~an~~ so startling for mere size alone.

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From Roumania we have a grotesque story, which ties up with a grim item over here. At Bucharest they have arrested the local Roumanian public enemy number one. He has committed eleven murders and one hundred and fifty burglaries, and escaped from jail four times. In one escape he killed six policemen. When they caught him he was in a state of paralyzed intoxication, dead drunk.

In court he did some fantastic bragging. "Just wait," he boasted to the judge, "just wait 'til I get sobered up. I'll ^{escape and I'll} go to America and make Dillinger's record seem like nothing. I will be more than six Dillingers."

It's probable that we won't see that Roumanian burglar over here. After that record ^{of} escapes and murders, the Roumanians are likely to hang him on short order, now that they've got him.

But, anyway, that Roumanian Dillinger boast sounds the less impressive, coming right after the news of the killing of another boss gangster of the Dillinger mob. After police gunfire blasted the life out of Homer VanMeter, the record for the Dillinger murder gang now stands -- six killed, three in jail, ~~and~~ still at large.

HITLER

They say that Hitler is preparing to make his peace with the church. Those recent statements of Nazi paganism seem to have had a bad effect.

This is expecially true in the Saar Valley, which is predominantly Catholic. The people of the Saar will soon vote to decide whether they want to belong to Germany again or not. So Der Feuhrer is going to change over to a policy of conciliation with the church groups, both Catholic and Protestant.

Maybe some of this will come out in a series of speeches that Hitler is preparing. He will deliver seven of his dramatic declamations on seven successive days, beginning with September 4th. On that day the Congress of the Nazi party will begin its sessions at Nuremberg.

More than a million members will be present and they will shout "Heil Hitler" all over the place.

AUSTRIA

The Nazi news from Austria will sound rather sour to Nazi ears. The authorities at Vienna have developed what seems to be a new punch in the battle of politics. They are going to make the Nazis pay the expenses of the recent Nazi putsch, ^{that is,} kick in with the amount of money it took to suppress the uprising. They are doing it by imposing a fine of one hundred thousand dollars on each of thirty big industrialists and wealthy professional men who have been prominent supporters of the Nazi cause.

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These men financed the putsch, and now they will have to pay the expenses of suppressing it, Seems like a sharp and cunningly directed political stroke on the part of the Vienna Government.

One report is that they may need the money they collect -- to suppress another revolt. There are rumours in Austria of a coming revolution, not of the Nazis alone, but of all the discontented elements -- Nazis, Socialists and Communists. A strange lot of bedfellows, but they are lying in the same revolutionary bed of discontent.

Their present strategy is said to be one of peaceful penetration -- peaceful ~~fixation~~ for the moment.

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The government is busily increasing the size of the army, the Heimwehr, and the police, recruiting all the time. And the combined Nazis, Socialists ~~and~~ and Communist ^{plotters} ~~mixing~~ are said to be shoving their men into the Government forces, having them enlist. Their idea ~~is~~ is to have so many of their own men in the army, Heimwehr and police, that when the next putsch comes along, the cohorts of the government will be paralyzed. The prospects of future trouble are so dangerous that the government is keeping martial law clamped on, with stern rigor.

And all doctors are forbidden to go on vacations. They are ordered to be on the job, ready for any emergency, and that does have a sinister sound.

One vivid mystery novel touch comes in the search for the mystery man who is said to have ~~been~~ been the real leader of the Nazi revolt. He has been described as a certain Herr Kuntze. The police have been looking for him everywhere, but he has been as elusive as an arch-conspirator in a romantic novel. They ~~couldn't~~ couldn't find him, anywhere, couldn't get any real line on him.

Now the secret is said to have been revealed -- and a most flamboyant secret it is. The mysterious Herr Kuntze, the under-cover leader of the revolt is none other than Doctor Rintelen, who at the time of the putsch was one of the leading personalities of the Vienna regime. He was the Austrian ambassador to Rome.

That sheds a sudden light on one of the strangest features of the Nazi revolt. The demand of the plotters was that Chancellor Dolfuss should resign and Ambassador Rintelen secretly left his embassy at Rome, and without any instructions, returned, to Vienna. The revolt was suppressed. Rintelen was arrested. He shot himself, so the report was. Anyway, he has been in a hospital ever since, recovering from a pistol shot. After all these spectacular dramatics of revolution and conspiracy, let's take a wistful pathetic note -- also an aftermath of that revolution in Vienna.

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A reporter has gone to see the mother of the murdered Chancellor Dolfuss, the little dictator. She was almost forgot-

ten, an obscure peasant woman of an obscure Austrian village.

If he was called the "little dictator", she can be called the "little mother" -- for she is only four and a half feet tall.

She told the reporter that she knew her boy would be murdered, and that often begged him not to become famous. He wasn't ambitious, she explained. It was a feeling of inferiority of littleness, that drove him so high. When he was a boy he wanted to become a priest, but a chimney sweep told him -- it was no use.

"You are not tall enough", said the chimney sweep, "you are too short to wear the robes and vestments of a priest."

Yes, Dolfuss was too small to be a clergyman -- so he became dictator of his country.

For a couple of weeks I've been seeing ~~xx~~ notices here and there about the trial of an Eskimo^{- way up} at Coronation Gulf, ^{along} ~~on~~ the shore^{And} of the Arctic Ocean. [^] I've been watching for the full newspaper story to come along. You know how the news services and the newspaper editors will run down a good story to the ends of the earth and then give us romance and thrills enough for a whole book compressed into a column or two? Well, here it is, the tale told in the New York World Telegram, the story of white man's justice in the land of the Eskimo.

The court room on the Arctic Gulf was in a shack. Yet the court assembled with all the impressive dignity of British jurisprudence. His Majesty's justices had journeyed to the Polar shore by the sky route, ^{by} ~~^~~ what the Eskimos call the "devil bird".

The defendent was Ahigiak accused of murder. The Canadian Mounted Police had brought him to Coronation Gulf from his own country, twenty sleeps by dog sled to the east. Witnesses told how Ahigiak had killed his friend, Anarauk.

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They had been boys together and brother hunters in the chase of the seal and the caribou. They lived in the same ice hut with their wives and children. They were friends until one night in the winter of 1931. That night Anarauk took Ahigiak's wife.

In the North there is no romantic courtship. Ahigiak's wife that night got up and went to Anarauk's side of the igloo.

On the witness stand Agnelliak, ~~the~~ ^{frivolous} ~~widow~~ widow of Anarauk told how that night Anarauk had emptied her out of the sleeping bag and Ahigiak's wife had crawled in. Every night for six months thereafter Ahigiak's wife went from Ahigiak's side of the igloo to Anarauk's.

Minniak, a young Eskimo told how ^{one day} he had seen the wronged husband, Ahigia pick up a gun. Anarauk appeared. Ahigia shot him in the back, and ^{when} ~~as~~ he turned again, through the head.

Two years later the Mounted Police, with Minniak as their guide, found Anarauk's bones scattered by the wolverines.

Ahigiak, the defendant listened with amazement when

his counsel pleaded "not guilty" for him.

"It's not so," Ahigiak told the court, "I killed Anarauk. He had my wife. I killed him."

~~His~~ counsel made a plea of the unwritten law.

The jury brought in a verdict of, manslaughter. When the word manslaughter was translated into Eskimo, Ahigiak smiled and nodded. "That is right," he said.

And He sat silent and unmoved when the judge sentenced him to serve five years in the nearest jail - at the outpost of Aklavik, way eight hundred miles to the West.

CRASH

We all know that Orientals are supposed to be stoical. They are. Here's more proof.

It comes as one of the odd side-lights of that spectacular airplane crash in Brooklyn -- the one in which two Chinese student pilots were practicing military maneuvers high above the city.

For three hours, the Brooklyn police questioned Fong Tu Shek, who told the story of the disaster.

"My friend and I," he related, "were maneuvering our two planes twenty-two hundred feet up. He was flying below me. My friend zoomed up in front of me. My propeller hit the tail of his plane, and chopped it off."

Fong Tu Shek couldn't tell how his friend Wong Onwah's plane had dropped like a broken box-kite into a Brooklyn street. He didn't see how his friend was killed. All he could relate was how, with the propeller of his own plane shattered, he had piloted his way skillfully over a long stretch of houses and landed with a crash on a baseball field.

It was only after he had talked to the police for three

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hours that he thought it worth while to mention that he himself had been injured. Then an ambulance surgeon found that his shoulder was dislocated and one arm badly fractured.

The old traditional stoicism of the Orient. They will stop broadcasting until they get two months' back pay which they claim the radio company should pay them.

They've been at it for three days now, at the microphone, singing, playing, speaking. Red Cross nurses are standing by with powerful stimulants, -- whenever any of the hunger broadcasters give in. But not a one has given in thus far. A timer fainted twice at the mike, but each time, when he came to, he spurned all nourishment. Tough fellows!

The Mexican radio fans are following the highly dramatic entertainment with intense interest.

Yes, it's the strangest and longest program on record. But this program is different. Not so strange, not so long. Just, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.

BROADCAST

The longest, also the strangest broadcast on record is blasting through the loud speakers in Mexico City. It's a strike, a hunger strike, as well as a broadcast. Eighteen radio performers have determined that they will not eat, neither will they stop broadcasting until they get two months back pay which they claim the radio company should pay them.

They've been at it for three days now; at the microphone, singing, playing, speaking. Red Cross nurses are standing by with powerful stimulants, -- whenever any of the hunger broadcasters give in. But not a one has given in thus far. A tenor fainted twice at the mike, but each time, when he came to, he spurned all nourishment. Tough hombre!

The Mexican radio fans are following the highly dramatic entertainment with intense interest.

Yes, its the strangest and longest program on record. But this program is different. Not so strange, not so long, just, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.