

P.S. - Sunoco. Thursday, Nov. 7, 1940.

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The third longest bridge in the world fell down this afternoon, collapsed and tumbled into the water. The great
 — pride of the Northwest.
 Tacoma Narrows Suspension Bridge, It was a mile long and cost six million and four hundred thousand dollars to build, and reared its ponderous yet graceful span two hundred feet above Puget Sound.
 only completed recently.

77 What caused the Tacoma Bridge to fall down? -- the wind, the ~~mere~~ mere power of rushing air!

Today Tacoma had a violent gale, a thirty-five mile an hour blow. And the great Tacoma bridge began to sway -- more and more. It swayed the normal amount allowed -- and then went on rocking with a still greater swing. Then the bridge roadway of steel and concrete began to crack. It cracked and broke, and fell in shattered masses, -- plunging into Puget Sound two hundred feet below.

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The bridge had been struck by heavier winds before, but today the thirty-five mile an hour gale seemed to have just caught the harmonic vibration -- that rate of vibration which was the natural swing of the span. Cars were passing across when the disastrous swinging began, and they described it as more of a

wave-like motion. Somthing weird -- as if the steel structure were ~~that~~ ^{That wave-like} rocking and heaving. ~~They~~ heaving was so violent that a truck on the bridge was overturned. It was then that traffic was cut off -- no stream of automobiles to be caught in the collapse. Yet one was. A motorist had the 'terrifying experience of having a bridge disintegrate beneath him. He couldn't drive on. He jumped out of his car, scrambled his way to safety -- had to do it part of the time on his hands and knees. ^{And} He had his dog with him. The dog fell into the Puget Sound -- the only casualty in the giant collapse. ^H Tonight all that remains of the third longest bridge in the world is the tall towers and the huge steel cables.

"London bridge ^{is} falling down"? ~~is~~ That's nothing! The Tacoma bridge fell down today. ^{New too!}

WAR

Once more there's nothing really clear about the situation in Greece -- except that the fighting has flared to a new intensity. The weather has cleared -- after days of storm and rain which slowed down Italian operations. Now, however, the word is that the Italians have renewed their drive in the area of Janina, and are thrusting heavily to break through the Greek resistance. The Italians are likewise said to be hammering at the points where Greek forces broke into Albania. It would appear that some sort of decisive attempt is being made, but there's almost no word from Rome -- and little from Athens.

British planes today bombed the Italian naval base of Brindisi - apparently from air bases in Greece. In London today there was some hint that the R.A.F. might bomb Rome. Hitherto, the city on the Tiber has been immune from attack, the Italian government declaring it an open town. But now that Italian planes have taken part in the bombing of London, it might be different. The question was raised in parliament today.

There's a new complication between the United States Government and Nazi Germany with referenceto the sending of an American ship to Great Britain to evacuate more Americans there.

Washington asked for safe conduct for such a refugee ship -- made the request of both Rome and Berlin. Rome promptly answered - "yes," guaranteed that the proposed American vessel would not be molested by Italian sea forces, meaning - submarines. But Berlin replied - "No". The Germans refer back to statements that they had sown mines along British ship lanes, and believed that these mines would be a danger against which they could not guarantee.

IRELAND

Here's the latest on the question of Ireland and Great Britain, a question which made headlines today, ~~when~~ President deValera declared ^{ing} that Ireland will not give Great Britain the right to use Irish harbors as naval and air bases. London reports that in parliamentary circles, there's a movement tonight to make an appeal to the United States; ~~asking the~~ ^{ask Washington} ~~ask the United States~~ ~~Government~~ to approach the Dublin authorities and try to persuade them to let the British have ~~the~~ naval and air bases on the Irish coast.

The statement made by ~~President~~ deValera today was in response to the complaint made by ~~British Prime Minister~~ Churchill day before yesterday - ~~the statement~~ that it was a hardship for the British, not to be able to use ports on the Irish coast in fighting the German submarine and air menace. DeValera declared: "We have our ports, and we do not intend to give them up." ~~He~~ ^{He} ~~went on to explain this and~~ implied the fear that Ireland would be bombed if the British were allowed to use Irish ports. Speaking of neutrality, he said:- "It is the only policy, the right policy, for a country which has not a sufficient air defense."

SPY

The sensational spy case in London has all the trappings of a secret agent mystery, hardly a detail lacking - and it turns out now that the melodramatic affair concerns the spy theft of important diplomatic papers from the United States Embassy in London. Consider the two characters in the plot: ^H - One - a clerk employed at the American Embassy. His name is Tyler Kent, and it appears that he's an Englishman - because there's no mention that he might be an American citizen.)

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→ The other - Anna Wolkoff, daughter of a former Russian admiral who commanded vessels of war in the Czar's navy. Kent, the American Embassy clerk, was convicted today. ~~in~~ Anna Wolkoff had been convicted last week. Today they were sentenced together. He gets seven years of imprisonment. She was given a heavier sentence - ten years. ^H Kent was convicted of having stolen the diplomatic documents from the American Embassy, where he was employed. He gave them to Anna Wolkoff. She in turn tried to transmit to Berlin the information contained in the documents - tried it by means of a coded letter. So her offense was considered the more grave - dealing directly with the enemy. ~~The grave and~~ ^{The solemn and}

and bewigged British justice said:- "It is difficult to imagine a more serious offense."

The tantalizing question is - what was in those diplomatic documents, the information that espionage was trying to send to Germany? We are not told. That remains a secret. The deepest of secrecy has characterized the whole case, the trials held in conditions of almost theatrical mystery. ~~We are told of~~ ^{Even} brown paper pasted over the windows of the court room - to keep prying eyes from seeing what was going on.

ARGENTINA

2
In South America the government of Argentina is resorting to drastic measures to deal with the business and financial ~~system~~ ^{crisis} caused by the European War. These drastic measures have a familiar sound - spend! lend! ~~A direct result of~~ Apparently, it'll be a sort of New Deal, pump-priming with the Buenos Aires government pouring out money to stimulate business. The Argentine President, ~~in accounting the~~ ^{in announcing the} spending and lending plan, stated that it would have a vital effect on financial relations with the United States.

Simultaneously, Buenos Aires reports that an Argentine financial delegation is on its way to the United States, and one of its purposes will be to discuss a hundred million dollar loan.

The word is that the re-election of ^{Pres,} Roosevelt was the go-signal for this new Argentine plan.

DEBT

3
The public debt is in the news tonight, and the headline is -
Going Up. Congress will be asked to raise the ceiling to as high
as sixty-five billion - allow the public debt to go up that much.
This was stated today by Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau.
He pointed to the tremendous costs of the armament program,
these to be piled in part on top of the debt we already had when
we began to build defense in a big way. So he said Congress will be
asked to raise the limit to sixty or perhaps sixty-five billion
dollars by June Thirtieth of next year.

Also, government revenue will have to be increased - to
meet the costs of defense. This - by immediately removing tax

federal and state
exemptions from ~~government~~ securities. In the past, *U.S. and* ~~government~~

state
bonds have been free of taxation, but now this will have to be

changed - so says the Secretary of the Treasury. And Congress

will be asked to pass a bill to put taxation on all securities *that*
the federal government and the states
~~that the government~~ will issue.

What about the possibility of inflation, with all that
vast increase in expenditure and debt? Secretary Morgenthau was
emphatic in stating that there will be no inflation, that measures
taken would prevent any resort to the printing press to grind out
money.

ROOSEVELT

4
President Roosevelt today had a triumphant return to Washington - received an ovation. Then he immediately plunged into work. He met with the Defense Commission for two hours, *after* ~~and they~~ *which he* summoned - the Priorities Board. That Board deals with priorities in the delivering of war material - who shall get what *and* first? In this case it's a matter of the delivery of armament to the British - war planes, in particular. Who shall get deliveries first - Britain or the ^{U.S.} ~~United States~~ army? The presidential conferences today concerned the proposal to provide Great Britain with twelve thousand military airplanes - ~~this was~~ *— this as* mentioned by the President in one of his campaign speeches. Ways of doing it were discussed ~~today~~ - ~~with~~ that much we know, although the details of the conferences are not revealed.

CABINET

There are flocks of rumors, inevitably, about the ~~make-up~~^{make-up} of the Cabinet for the third Roosevelt Administration. One supposition was that Democratic Campaign Manager Flynn would be taken in. Hitherto, it has been a custom for the Campaign Manager of a successful candidate to get the Post Office job - like Jim Farley, for example. Today, however, Flynn issued a denial. He stated that he would not accept any post in the Cabinet, had no desire for public office. He added that he will stay on as Chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Secretary of the Interior Ickes handed in his resignation today - but that was merely a routine thing for the Secretary. It's merely to give the President a free hand in appointing a new Cabinet. "My resignation is at the White House," said Secretary Ickes at ~~the~~^a press conference. "This is customary and I did it four years ago. I believe," he added, "that the President should be left a free hand at a time like this to reshuffle or recreate his Cabinet."

What about the other members ~~of the Cabinet?~~ Ickes said he didn't know whether they too were handing in their resignations - to give the President a free hand.

RETURNS

The latest tonight makes it appear as if Willkie has finally carried Michigan. For two days this state has been in doubt - *with* ~~so~~ the closest kind of ^{*count.*} ~~doubt~~ But now the figures give the Republican candidate the narrowest ~~kind~~ of lead ^{*s - -*} - Willkie, one million, twenty-nine thousand, seven hundred and forty-six. Roosevelt, one million, twenty-three thousand, six hundred and twenty. So Willkie has an edge of a little more than three thousand- ~~that~~ in a vote of more than two million.

Eight precincts are still missing. What kind of precincts? The answer to that question is the reason for saying that Willkie apparently has carried Michigan. The eight missing ~~precincts~~ ~~are~~ in six counties. One of these*counties gave the President a ~~large~~ majority. One was even. The other four counties were for the Republican candidate. So it looks as if the slight Willkie lead would be maintained. If this be true, it would mean that President Roosevelt carried thirty-eight states, Willkie ten.

ELECTORAL COLLEGE.

Now about the electoral vote. What did President Roosevelt get? Or rather - what didn't he get? And how does the electoral vote compare with the popular vote? This may be the last chance we'll have to argue these questions, if Senator Lodge of Massachusetts has his way. If he does - there won't be any electoral vote. The Republican Senator today announced that as soon as Congress goes into session again, he's going to introduce a constitutional amendment to eliminate the electoral college. And he puts it in these words:- "The electoral college is a relic of the past, which serves no useful purpose. It makes it possible for a candidate with a popular vote to be defeated." And he adds: "In this as in every other electoral contest, let the people rule." *So Sen. Lodge is going to* ~~so he will~~ propose that presidents hereafter ~~will~~ be chosen by a popular majority.

This is the more interesting, coming from a Republican. In the past, a couple of presidents that lost the popular vote and won the electoral vote, have been Republicans. Hayes against Tilden and Harrison against Cleveland. This, in fact, could only happen to a Republican candidate - because of the big ~~p~~ bulge the Democrats have in the popular vote in the South.

BABSON

8
Today the presidential election was conceded by one of the candidates. One of the statesmen who ran for the highest office of the land sent the customary telegram of congratulations to the winner. He is Roger Babson, the statistician who ran on the Prohibition ticket. And you'd think it wouldn't take much statistical calculation for the Prohibition candidate to figure out the fact that he had not been elected president. But, those mathematicians with their charts and graphs have a way of making things complicated, and it's only today that the statistical Babson sends his telegram to Franklin D. Roosevelt.

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"Heartiest congratulations", it begins. And then it goes on with some mathematics, those inevitable calculations on election figures which you'd expect a Babson to make so expertly. "A defeated statistician," says the telegram to the reelected President, "humbly reminds you that one per cent of the vote properly allocated would have elected Wendell Willkie." Spoken like a Babson! And then a salutary inference is drawn - in these words:- "Therefore, you will work for coalition with Republicans and minority parties." Please keep well. Four great years are ahead." *This* remark *that*

one per cent of the vote ~~was~~ would have elected Willkie is interesting. Now let's see - one-seventh of one per cent of the vote in Ohio, and seventeen-twenty thirds of the vote in New Jersey -- but wait a minute, it's getting too complicated. If I keep on getting tangled up with figures I may end with having Babson elected.

And s-l-u-t-m.

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