

LEAD

L.I. - P. & S. Monday, Nov-21, 1949.

The United Nations made an historic decision this afternoon - for the disposal of the former Italian colonies. The U. N. grants full ~~independence~~^{pendence} to North African Libya - by nineteen fifty-two. The same for Somaliland, in east Africa - by nineteen-sixty. The case of Eritrea, the other Italian colony in East Africa, is put off until next year.

The vote today was ⁴⁸ ~~nineteen~~ to one - the Soviets and satellites abstaining. They opposed the plan, because it puts Libya under the control of a U.N. council until the independence date of Nineteen Fifty-Two - a council on which the United States and Great Britain have a place. The Red countries charged that the arrangement was a dodge for establishing British-American airbases in Libya for use against the Soviet Union.

With the Soviet group refusing to vote, the one ballot against the decision was cast by - Ethiopia. That East African country, once conquered by Mussolini's Fascists, objected to the fact that next door Somaliland, while becoming indepent in Nineteen Sixty, is placed

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meanwhile under the administration of Italy. Haile

Selassie's Ethiopia ~~are~~ not want ^{ing} Italy for a neighbor.

But The Lion of Judah

~~was~~ lost out in the U. N. decision.

WARD

The United States has asked twenty-nine nations to join in a mass protest against the jailing of American Consul General Angus Ward in Red Manchuria - and one of the countries is Soviet Russia. Moscow, of course, has a lot of influence with the Chinese Reds - to say the least. In fact, one theory is that the Soviets instigated the jailing of the American consul general, together with four of his employees - as a way of causing America to lose face in the Far East. So what likelihood is there that Russia will join in any mass international protest?

Well, one line of reasoning is - if Moscow refused, Moscow will then be put in a position of condoning the outrage against the American diplomat.

EE-

(~~At the same time, the American legation in Hungary in making inquiries about the disappearance of American telephone official, Robert Voegler. Requests for information have been addressed to the Red foreign ministry, but these have been ignored. Voegler was driving from Budapest to Vienna - and vanished. Reports~~

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Red government of Czechoslovakia today confiscated the new edition of an information bulletin put out by the American Embassy in Prague. All because the bulletin publishes one item which the Communist authorities describe in the following dark words - "An alarmist report, menacing the security of state and public order." So what is that dangerous inflammatory article? Why, it's a reprint of a joint British-American resolution at the U.N. - calling for all countries to respect the dignity of man, freedom of religion and political liberty.

Red officials, sitting as a court, handed down a ruling that the call for political freedom, was in particular - a danger to the safety of the state. Which, I suppose, was correct enough - the mere mention of liberty being dangerous to any Red government.

CHINA

News from China reports the rise of a new strong man on the side of the Nationalists - or what is left of that side. General Pai Chung-Hsi, commander in the Province of Kwangsi, which borders on French Indo-China - and this is said to represent a comedown for Chiang Kia-Shek, the former all-powerful generalissimo.

Reports have been coming through of a quarrel between Chiang Kai-Shek and the acting president who took his place, Li-Tsung Jen. The acting president, who has arrived in British Hong Kong for medical treatment, has agreed to give up active control, and hand over the job to General Pai Chung-Hsi. That officer commands what is said to be the only effective military force opposing the Communists. (He has a hundred thousand disciplined soldiers in southern Kwangsi, near the Indo-China border, and another large force on the Island of Hainan, just off the coast. ~~He is a lifelong friend of the acting president, and has the respect, also the hatred, of the Communists.~~ The Reds call him - "White Fox."

~~(All this is said to mean that Chiang Kai-Shek,~~

~~playing second fiddle, will run things in Formosa - that island intended to be an anti-Communist fortress. General Pai will make the last stand on the China mainland - trying to build up a bastion on the frontier of Indo-China.)~~ He is said to be in communication with the Indo-Chinese emperor, a vassal of France, the idea being to make a joint attempt to defend the southernmost part of China. The "White Fox" holding off the Red dragon.

STORMS

The south coast of England had a spectacular stormy day, the shores along the channel swept by a gale of seventy miles an hour and battered by towering waves that were like a fantasy of the wrath of the elements.

Three ships put out of condition in the Channel. Towns flooded at various places. The climax was at the resort town of Sandgate, where the high waves dashed against the seawall with such violence that columns of spray shot sixty feet into the air.

The storm is threatening the destruction of Sandgate Castle, an historic fortress dating back to the times of Henry the Eighth. That bluebeard monarch built the castle to protect Sandgate against possible French invasion - and now the Channel tempests are threatening to do what the power of France was never able to ~~accomplish~~ accomplish.

The old structure stands right on the shore, and a month ago a violent gale weakened its foundation. Today it was even worse, as the roaring waves smashed over the castle walls, and the surge of the water ate into

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the base of the masonry - bringing about the possibility
that Sandgate Castle, built by Henry the Eighth, may
topple and fall into the sea.

PLANE

In Norway a search, strange and pathetic, went on all day in a wilderness of northern forest and fjord. Rescue parties on foot were looking for a lost airliner that was carrying twenty-nine Jewish children from North Africa.

Nowadays a rescue hunt for a missing plane is made, first of all, by air - and today four nations participated in an aerial search, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands. But the scouting from the sky was of mighty little use. The fog was so thick that boats, also in the search, reported they could hardly pick their way along the coast, with its maze of fjords.

So it all had to be on the ground, and today hundreds of volunteers, police, farmers, school children - made their way, groping their way through the wild and fogbound woods. A flare was found, believed to have been dropped by the missing plane, as it tried to find the Oslo airport. But that was all.

The Jewish children were from disease ridden slums and medieval ghettos of North Africa, and were

either suffering from tuberculosis, or in danger of that malady. They were being taken to the northland, to be put in healthy surroundings, their physical condition built up - then to be taken as immigrants to Palestine. Two plane-loads of children took off from a camp near Casablanca, in Morocco. One plane landed safely in Norway. The other - lost somewhere on a rugged peninsula of forests and fjords, covered with blinding fog. All the worse - because the days are short and the nights are long, as the northern winter approaches.

RESCUE

The news today is featuring personal stories told by survivors in the fine exploit of rescue over the weekend. The survivors of the B-29, which was forced down on the ocean northeast of Bermuda, drifted on liferafts for three days. Castaways on the wide, wide ocean - and that's always an ordeal. Comfortable, in a Bermuda hospital today, Captain Wilford Jones told what a stretch of undiluted misery it was. Yes, castaways adrift - and memory goes back to many an old story of the torture of hunger and thirst. But that wasn't the trouble with those survivors on the liferafts - they were too seasick to be hungry or thirsty.

Captain Jones gives a vivid picture of rough seas, a whistling gale and incessant rains - everybody seasick aboard those rafts. It wasn't until the last day that they even thought of the supplies of water and food they had aboard. Time and again they saw searching planes overhead, which, in fact, had spotted them. But this they didn't know - until finally picked up.

Well, there's one thing about seasickness,

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wretched as it is. You get over it fast, and then feel fine.

BRIDGES

The San Francisco trial of Harry Bridges produced a mystery witness -- but what he had to testify was a mystery still when the day closed. He was John H. Schomaker, former business agent for the Longshoremen's Union headed by Bridges - put on the stand by the prosecution. Presumably he was to give evidence to show that Bridges committed perjury when he swore that he never was a Communist.

Questioning had hardly begun, when the witness, himself, was asked whether he had ever been a member of the Communist party. The understanding is - yes, Schomaker a former red. But before he could answer the defense lawyers made so much objection that the Judge adjourned the trial until tomorrow.

CROOKS

At the Italian port of Genoa, the police today captured a couple of rogues who performed a recent miracle of escape. Two forgers who were locked up at the ^{north-Italian} ~~town of~~ Brescia (Brescha); - and ^{there} in jail, they forged papers for their own release. The forgery was so skillful, and the false papers represented them in such a good light, that they were not only immediately released - but were bowed out. The prison officials escorted them to the front door and bowed deeply with many compliments - as they let the crooks go.

But they've been caught - because they went on to Genoa, and there cooked up a scheme about as clever as their exploit in forging their way out of jail. The Italian treasury was transporting a quantity of wornout paper money, and their plan was to steal some and substitute counterfeit - all fixed up in such a way that the switch would not be noticed. Who would dream of looking for counterfeit in masses of damaged currency to be destroyed. When the police intervened, the two

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crooks were carrying sackfuls of counterfeit, thirty-five million lire, all ready to substitute this for condemned money - which might be a bit old but still could be spent.

Tonight they ^{are}~~was~~ in jail, and if the prison officials should receive a document ordering their release - why, they'll clamp a couple of extra padlocks on the cells of those gifted forgers.

BRITISH JUDGE

In England, a new idea for the enforcement of law was propounded today - or rather, a very old idea. At the pleasantly named town of Kidderminster, Sir George Eddy, veteran magistrate of seventy-one, proposed a revival of - the pillory and the stocks. ~~the stocks, the~~ ^{the} method of punishment so familiar in the pilgrim father days of our own New England; ~~The~~ prisoner - with his hands stuck through a board, and maybe his feet or his head. *Which by the way they still do in Tibet.*

Today I looked up the difference between stocks and pillory - just in case the recommendation of the English judge catches on, and spreads over here ^{where} ~~the~~ *we usually follow English legal precedent.* ~~The~~ stocks were reserved for hands and feet, while in the pillory the victim stood with his hands and head clamped so ~~that~~ they stuck through the board. Must have been awkward to spend a few ^{days} ~~hours~~ that way, not to say humiliating, as an object of public ridicule.

Sir George Eddy of Kidderminster is bothered by the increase of juvenile delinquency, the overcrowding of childrens courts. Seems like they have a tough bunch

of kids at Kidderminster. So he thinks back to the days of the past, when officers of the law were empowered to give a misbehaving youngster a whacking with a stick - or put offenders in the stocks or pillory. Sir George makes it clear that this is no light or whimsical suggestion. "It is," he declares, "a serious proposal, and might be a very good thing."

Well, ^{they say} ~~suppose~~ it made people behave better in the old days. ^{And in Tibet recently they told us it ^{still} works.} And it must have been a considerable source

of popular entertainment for ^{our} ~~the~~ puritan forefathers - standing and gaping at somebody in the stocks or the

pillory, And calling out: "Hi there, Ebenezer."

Just as I am calling hi there Nelson - altho Nelson ~~of course is neither in stocks or pillory.~~

HAS NEVER BEEN IN STOCKS, HAVE YOU NELSON?