

WEATHER

B.J. - Sunoco. Monday, January 27, 1941.

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winter
~~Here's winter~~ with a vengeance. The weather story

tonight can be told in four words; cold and snow everywhere.

that is, everywhere East of the Mississippi Valley and North

of Washington, D.C. The cold wave that hit the middlewest

from Canada last week reached the Atlantic coast today and the

word from the Weather experts is that a fresh blizzard is brewing

in Northern Montana and will follow on the heels of this one.

So it seems the weather menu for some days to come is to be more

snow. And that suits a lot of people, including your Blue

Sunoco broadcaster. Because I just happened to pick this week

for a partial holiday - a ski jaunt to the White Mountains -

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to ski with Harvey Gibson and some others, at North Conway.

At this moment I am broadcasting from The Eastern Slopes Inn!

And for my special inspiration sitting around me are sixty

beautiful girls from the Bouvee School in Boston. These young

ladies all hope to be athletic directors and physical culture

experts. Right now they are taking an intensive course in

skiing. So am I. And, I expect to spend all day tomorrow

falling clumsily at their feet.

Yes, we want snow. But, word comes over my Western Union wire that Father Knickerbocker doesn't feel the same way about all this snow. Eight inches have fallen on Manhattan since Friday.

How about elsewhere? Ten inches in Missouri, a foot of it in Iowa, three to six inches throughout the Great Lakes region, and so on nearly everywhere. With plenty of it up here at North Conway.

CONGRESS.

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Whatever the Senate may do, the house will pass the aid for Britain bill by an overwhelming majority. Two congressional ^{leaders} ~~tycoons~~ made that prophesy today, Speaker Sam Rayburn and Representative McCormick, the democratic floor leader. The bill, H R 1776 is McCormick's own pet measure. Here's the ^{immediate} program as they outlined it:- The foreign affairs committee of the house has pretty nearly finished ^{its} ~~those~~ public hearings and they ~~big shots~~ hope to get the bill reported favorably ^{to the House} in time for it to be taken up on the floor of the house next monday. Time will ^{then} be allowed for what they call "reasonable debate" and ^(some) ~~for~~ wrangling over amendments. Reasonable time, as ~~the~~ house leaders figure it, means not too much to prevent a vote on the bill by the end of next week. Speaker Rayburn today explained why H R 1776 had been made so broad and sweeping. "It is necessary," said the Speaker, "to give those broad powers to the President in order to get the job of helping ^{— and done} the British done ^{efficiently}."

^{TR} In the senate the foreign affairs committee ^{has just} started its work on H R 1776. ^{this} ~~It~~ began with eleven minutes of testimony from secretary Hull, Secret testimony, ~~that is~~, not made public. The secretary

said he couldn't let it be generally known what he had to tell

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the Senators without injuring our own national security and

defense. So on the motion of not only senator Pat Harrison of

Mississippi but also republican senator Hiram Johnson of

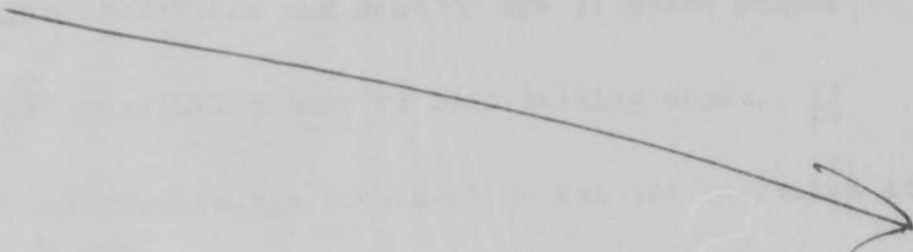
California, the committee went into executive session. All we

know in a general way is that ^{Sec.} Hull told the senate committee *that*

the passing of that bill was necessary because of the gradually

increasing state of danger to this hemisphere and hence to this

country.



ADD CONGRESS.

^{The}
~~That~~ committee session may have been secret, but some of the senators present were not so secretive.

Some of them spoke out bluntly ^{this afternoon} and declared that Hull had told them nothing new. Carter Glass of Virginia declared that they had wasted the whole morning and hadn't heard a thing that hadn't been published in every newspaper in the United States.

Senator Bennett Champ Clark of Missouri said practically the same thing.

Senator Wheeler of Montana and Senator Nye of North Dakota

introduced ² ~~that~~ resolution they've been talking about.. If

adopted it would require the president to ask the countries at

war to declare ^{just} ~~what~~ their aims are and to reveal any secret

agreements. The Comment of ~~the~~ democratic leader, Senator

Barclay was that if you want to help a man who is being attacked with a knife you don't stop to ask what the fight's about.

WILLKIE

Wendell Willkie in London is getting as much attention as though his visit were official, as though ^{he} ~~XXXXXX~~ were representing the United States Government. British newspapers are headlining him, reporting and photographing every move he makes. They even reported his conversation with a chamber maid in ~~xx~~ a hotel. He asked her how the war was going and the ~~x~~ chambermaid replied that of course the British were going to win but she would like more help from America and would Willkie please tell them to send it quickly. Willkie said he would convey her message. In the meantime the press and radio will do it for him.

Willkie's first call was on ~~the~~ Prime Minister Churchill, at Number Ten Downing Street, where he had luncheon. The visit was unofficial; so we have no report on their conversation. Mr. Willkie gave the Prime Minister a personal letter written in long hand by President Roosevelt and addressed to:- "A certain naval person", which we presume is the President's facetious way of describing Churchill, who was first Lord of the Admiralty when Mr. Roosevelt was Assistant

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Secretary of our own Navy.

Wendell Willkie also had a talk with Foreign Minister Anthony Eden and another with Labor Minister Ernest Bevin.

At a press conference he explained for the first time just what he expects to do in Britain. He says his plan is to study the production of air planes in Britain, in the hope that it can be coordinated with American aircraft manufacture. As he put it, he wants to see where lie the shortages and the strength of the British; study their methods and see how they can best be combined with American methods.

There is a report that Wendell Willkie may go to Dublin to see President DeValera. It was announced that DeValera said he would be glad to see Willkie if he came over, --

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And that he has invited him .

Wish I could be there to listen in on that one!

AFRICA

Last week Winston Churchill told his Parliament that the fighting in East Africa was of more importance than most of us realized. Today comes the news that the British armies on the Red Sea have closed in on two important towns in Italian Eritrea, and are advancing towards the coast of the Red Sea, cutting the Italian forces in half. They soon may have control of the railroad to Massawa, the most important Italian seaport on the Red Sea.

Further south, the British are also striking into Italian Somaliland.

On the other hand, there's repeated rumor of German intervention in Africa. A report from Yugoslavia has it that Hitler's generals have concentrated a strong force of Nazi mechanized troops in Sicily, ready to be ferried across to that North African desert.

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It's unusual, to say the least, for a foreign minister ~~to~~ to leave his chancellery and go to the front. So the announcement from Rome that Count Ciano is now on active service, may sound a bit puzzling. The formal proclamation that Ciano, who is a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Italian Royal Air Force as well as the son-in-law of the Duce, has resumed command of his corps of bombing planes in the zone of operations. That doesn't say which zone of operations, ~~whether he ~~was~~ went to~~ Albania, to Libya or Ethiopia. During the Ethiopian War, Ciano was a Captain in the fascist aviation force. ^{He was} ~~and~~ exceedingly proud of that fact. The last time I visited Rome ^{Count Ciano took} ~~he seemed to take~~ considerable pleasure in showing me trophies from the war in Ethiopia when he was with the Desperate Squadron.

~~Ciano is ~~xxxxxx~~ not the first government official and Fascist Party leader to go to the front. At the same time~~ It sounds a bit extraordinary to hear of Mussolini's own son-in-law, the number two man in the Fascist empire, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, being sent away from Rome at this juncture and taking his place in the fighting forces.

There are two ways of looking at it. One is the conjecture that Ciano is not in agreement with the Nazis and that he has been sent to the Front to get him out of the way. Another is that his adventure at the Front is a build-up to justify the slogan that every Fascist leader is also a fighting man. There is no doubt but what Ciano is!

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PICKUS

Here's Abe Pickus again; Cleveland, Ohio's self-appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs. Abe Pickus, you know, is the chap who calls ~~foreign~~ foreign rulers on the long distance telephone to tell them how to run their countries. He has given counsel, free gratis and for nothing to Adolph Hitler, to the Late Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and to ~~the~~ Emperor Hirohito of Japan -- ^{he} actually ^{to get} ~~go~~ them on the long distance ^{oceanic} Transatlantic ~~1~~ wire.

This time Abe's getting economical. He wanted to advise Mussolini today and sent it by cable. He told the Duce to stop bluffing and hurry up and organize a United States of Europe. Then he went on to tell him that the Italian people don't like to be murdered and that little Greece is licking the Duce, that Hitler is holding him in his grip; and then, just to cheer him Abe ended his wire to Mussolini this way:- "Your troubles are just beginning!"

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RUMANIA

Rumania is at peace again and the Iron Guards are out!

Dictator Antonescuc has completely reversed his cabinet. Today not a single Iron Guardsman is in the Bucharest Cabinet. On the contrary, every Iron Guardsman who bore arms in that revolt of last week is now under arrest and subject to a death sentence. The streets of Bucharest are being patrolled by the army, the frontier is closed with special detachments watching for Iron Guardsmen who are trying to flee. Even in the police force they have all been thrown out. Antonescuc seems to be in the saddle, running things with an iron hand, but not with the help of the Iron Guard.

In all this upheaval there is no mention of Horia Sima, the Iron Guard leader who until last week was Vice-Premier. With two exceptions, Antonescuc's new cabinet is composed entirely of generals and colonels. The two exceptions are a professor of theology, who now becomes Minister of Propaganda, and a professor of medicine who becomes Minister of Labor and Health.

FRANCE FOLLOW RUMANIA

At Vichy, Marshal Petain also made cabinet changes. He put out two of his ministers and the procedure sounds like a polite bow to Hitler. For the two cabinet members he fired were men who were regarded as unfriendly to the Nazis.

Another bit of news from Vichy arriving at such a time seems significant. Petain is about to receive Hitler's reply to the proposals Petain made when he had that interview with Hitler at Christmas. All of which should make interesting news when and if it's made public. Maybe that had something to do with the firing of those two cabinet ministers.

The representative of the Vichy government in Paris prophesied the downfall of Britain this years. He says that the help of the United States will make no difference in the outcome of the Battle of Britain.

Far East

Rumblings in the Far East, fresh rumors of a Russo-Japanese understanding. However, we must take it all with a grain of salt. The story comes from Japanese newspapers, many of which are controlled by the Government, as is the case in so many countries nowadays.

nowadays.

At any rate the Tokyo Press says Foreign Minister Matsuoka told a committee of the Japanese Parliament that the Soviets had agreed to negotiate an important treaty in addition to the pending agreement about fisheries. And Matsuoka is supposed to have added that the new treaty would bring about an all-around adjustment of relations between the Russians and the Japanese.

Today the Communist organ, Pravda, published a veiled warning to the Chinese. It was about the fighting between the troops of the Chinese government and the Communist Fourth Rout Army in China. Pravda said that any further such fighting would involve the spread of civil war and would further weaken China. ~~XXX~~ The report from Moscow is that the forces of Chiang Kai-shek have practically wiped ou the Chinese Communist Fourth Rout Army.

Here's another development in the Far East favorable to Japan. A truce has been declared between Thailand, the modern name for Siam, and French Indo--China. And, it was brought about by the Japanese. The armistice commission will meet at Tokyo.

The interpretation to this is obvious:- Japan has the upper hand in both Siam and Indo- China.

And, tonight, the Nipponese House of Peers voted to increase the Imperial Fleets. This, in answer to our two-ocean navy program.

NEW YEAR

To many thousands of people in America, this year Nineteen Forty-One A.D. is the year four thousand five hundred and seventy-eight, the year of the star-god "White Tiger", the eighteenth year of the seventy-seventh sexagenary cycle. For that is how our Nineteen Forty-One rates in the Chinatowns of San Francisco, New York and elsewhere. They've been ~~xxxxxx~~ celebrating; and how! What to us was just midnight last night, was to them "the hour of the rat".

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All the Chinatowns were feasting on shark's fin and bird's nest soup. (Think I'll suggest bird's nest soup to the chef here at the Eastern Slopes Inn tonight. How about it girls? SHOUT -- NO!)

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Well the Chinese of North America have also been smacking their lips ~~xx~~ over fine old eighteenth century eggs, and glazed roast pig, water chestnuts from the forest of the City of Cassia, mushrooms and oyster ~~xxx~~ sauce from Macao, dragon-tiger-phoenix wine, the wine of the three snakes and a libation known as Duke Chow's Wine.

When one Chinese wishes another a happy New Year,
he says, "greetings, may you gather wealth". In their own
tongue, the words are "Kung hay fat choy!" So Kung hay
fat choy to all of you including Hugh.

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