

FRANCE

P.I. - Lunoco. Thurs, Oct. 20, 1938.

France is facing a four day period of suspense. Premier Daladier has given himself just four days to decide whether he'll form a national union government. National union in this case means - throw out the Communists. Today Paris was flooded with pamphlets bearing that slogan - throw out the Communists. And this propaganda stated that the French Reds tried to get France into a war with Germany - expecting that would throw France into a social revolution.

^{So}
~~And~~ the demand is that Daladier form a coalition government of moderates and conservatives - and leave the extreme left elements out in the cold. ~~And his~~ ^{The} decision ~~will~~ ^{to} be made - in four days.

CHINA

The Japanese report tonight they ~~w~~ are within twenty miles of Canton. The Chinese have been rushing reinforcements and defenses, but the Mikado's men have been moving in a rapid encirclement, and if it is true that their advance columns are only twenty miles from Canton it means they must have crashed right through the main ~~w~~ line of Chinese defense.

Harrison Forman, explorer, cameraman, and lecturer, has just returned from the China Coast. At luncheon today we were talking about the situation in the Far East, and I asked him whether he thought there would be a head-on collision between Japan and Great Britain, ^{over Canton,} or whether Japan would finally work out a compromise with the British, in order not to ruin Hongkong and ^{South} destroy British commerce in China. He replied that he thought no compromise was possible, that Japan will destroy practically all of Britain's commerce on the China Coast, and that in the end this will even mean the collapse of the great British Far Eastern city of Hongkong. He says the Germans and Italians are egging the Japanese on, not because they love Japan, but because they ~~are~~ themselves now have no Far Eastern commerce. So, if Great Britain

and France lose out, Japan will not be able to handle it all, and this is bound to mean some Far Eastern trade for Germany -- more than ~~is~~ at present; and at the expense of Britain. ~~That~~ Sounds like a dire prognostication. I wonder.

TRADE TREATY

The British-American trade treaty is running into a snag, ~~and you can call~~ that snag - an automobile. Just as things seemed all set for the conclusion of a commercial pact whereby Great Britain and the United States would ~~buy~~ *buy and sell between* themselves in a big way, up drives the automobile. How freely should Great Britain, under the trade treaty, admit American motor cars for sale in England? Our negotiators have their idea on the subject, and the British have theirs. The American idea about motor sales in Britain is bigger than the British idea. So right now the trade treaty is stalled.

SPIES

The spy trial continued today with a story of secret agent snooping among United States soldiers. The confessing witness Rumrich made a direct charge against one of the defendants - Erich Glaser, a private in the United States Army. Glaser was a soldier stationed at Mitchell Field, in the army aircraft service. And Rumrich swore today that Glaser gave him two pages torn out of a book. What book? A manual concerning army aircraft communications - the code for communicating with planes in the air.

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And Rumrich further swore that Private Glaser had given him the names of several other soldiers who might be induced to help in the spy work. Glaser said he'd use his persuasions on these soldiers and turn them into sources of information for the espionage group - so Rumrich testified today.

Then the proceedings went on with the reading of a statement made by Johanna Hofmann, who was a hairdresser on a German liner and is accused of having been a go-between - transmitting messages from spies in the United States to their superiors in Europe. In this statement the former hairdresser declares that she sat in on discussions between the secret agents,

when they talked about schemes to procure American military secrets. And she was commissioned to pay ~~the~~ German spies in America as much as a thousand dollars for a bit of espionage information. So says the confession, which Johanna Hofmann claims she was forced to make - extorted from her.

As if all of this were not enough spy news - here's a dispatch from the Canal Zone. Today in the District Court at Cristobal, four Germans were held for trial; ~~They~~ the four who were arrested for making photographs of defense fortifications along the Canal. An American soldier tells the story of how he was standing on sentry duty while the Germans drove along in their car. They were asked, according to regulations, whether they had any cameras. They said "No", and the sentry let them pass. Later, that same sentry ~~u~~ observed them taking pictures in the defense area, and he arrested them. Today Colonel Spiller, Commander at Fort Randolph, declares that the pictures the four Germans ~~xx~~ took were such as could be used by a foreign power to injure the United States.

UNAMERICAN

For the committee investigating Unamerican Activities the day began with a demand fired ~~by~~ at the Labor ~~Party~~ ^{Department.} The Committee wants the Department to hand over the names and records of three thousand aliens who are listed as being subject to the ~~Reporting~~ Deportation Law. What do they want with the names and records? The idea is to sort out ~~&~~ the Communists and put the law on them -- start proceedings to have the Reds deported.

This is likely to lead to another row between the Committee and the Department, ~~and~~ because the Bureau headed by Miss Frances Perkins is of the opinion that ~~anything~~ nothing can be done about the Communists until the Stecker case is settled; That ~~is an~~ affair of law in which a lower court had ^S decreed that you can't deport a Communist just because he is a Red. This contention ^{is now up} ~~has been~~ ~~taken~~ to the Supreme Court where it ^a waits a decision.

~~The~~ The ^{next thing} ~~Communist head~~ in today's drama of ~~unamericanization~~ ⁱⁿ brings us to tears. A witness was testifying about Communism among the automobile workers, and he burst into tears. He was reading a statement of how in union affairs he was opposing Communist ^{reds} influence, and they told him -- Keep your mouth shut.

"And" his voice broke as he spoke, "And they threatened my

life." With that he burst into tears.

It was all quite emotional, especially when the witness told about the Communists and the Stars and Stripes.

"They said some awful dirty things about the American flag," said he.

He related that in a desk drawer of a local of the Auto Workers Union he found something sinister. On the witness stand today he cried: "Here's what I found," -- and he waved a Red flag. "Here's what they would like to bring to Washington," he exclaimed, -- flourishing the Communist banner.

The Committee had a brief recess while the witness posed for photographers -- posed with the Red flag draped across his arm.

DEWEY

Bookkeeping is a noble art - Thomas E. Dewey admits it.

But today he rose in revolt against the theory that the governor of New York ~~was~~^{is} nothing more than a bookkeeper, ~~had~~^{is} nothing more to do than ~~to~~ keep the state business accounts. ~~noted~~.

"Mere bookkeeping is not in my line," declared Republican Candidate Dewey. "In Albany I expect to be more than a bookkeeper."

And with that Prosecutor Tom Dewey revere~~rated~~^{ted} to his crusading theme - crush racketeering, underworld racketeering, political racketeering — in city and state.

LEHMAN

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New York City is having a Number One bit of political turmoil in Kings County affairs. Governor Lehman today took drastic action - ordered a sweeping investigation, investigate everything from top to bottom. All this - because of charges that there has been corruption in the enforcement of law in Kings County. The authorities are accused of having been negligent in prosecuting criminals, having dispensed a tainted kind of justice, crooks let off for devious reasons, police obstruction, police records destroyed.

Such are the charges, and Governor Lehman superseded King's County District Attorney Geoghan. For the purpose of the inquiry, there is to be an extraordinary special term of the Supreme Court, to be presided over by Justice Francis McCurn of Syracuse. And the Governor ^{today ordered} ~~recommends~~ the appointment of a special prosecutor for the job - John Harlan Amen, who ^{has been} ~~now is~~ doing a federal prosecuting job against the rackets.

SCANDAL

New Bedford, Massachusetts, has a long history - the old whaling town, whence sailed the harpooners of the old days in quest of Moby Dick. And now that old whaling port adds a new page to its history - with a whale of a political scandal.

Today a grand jury handed down indictments against nearly a score of individuals, including a number of city officials.

Also included ^{ing:-} - His Honor, the Mayor. The charge against Mayor Carney is that he got twenty-five thousand dollars for the bestowal of a city contract. Other defendants are ^{also} accused in the business of city contracts.

The shades of the harpooners of old must have sighed in envy as the Grand Jury ^{today} hurled the multiple harpoon of indictment!

Race.
~~1916~~

The classic fishing boat race had bad luck again today - although the luck was a little worse for the American GERTRUDE L. TIEBAUD than for the Canadian BLUENOSE. The TIEBAUD ~~was~~ was a mile ahead when the race was called off. Why? The answer brings to mind the reflection:- ^{we're} ~~that they're~~ always having too much or too little.

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It wasn't so long ago that New England was having too much wind - the hurricane. Today the complaint: ~~is~~ - too little. There wasn't enough wind to permit the two speedy fishing schooners to complete the race. The regulations require a thirty-six mile course must be sailed in six hours. The boats were out for five hours and the leader had covered only twenty miles. She could hardly sail the remaining sixteen miles in the hour that was left - unless another hurricane blew. — or unless she had a motor powered by Blue-Bunoco.

FORESTS

In Up-State New York, ~~the~~ hunters ~~are~~ praying for rain - not that those mighty nimrods love to get drenched when they go out in the woods seeking the elusive deer. ~~The~~ The paradoxical situation in the Adirondacks ^{is} that, unless it rains, and rains hard, they can't go hunting.

The woods had been closed by the Governor because of forest fires, blazing areas of trees and underbrush - too dangerous to let the hunters in. Today it rained a bit, but not enough, a light drizzle to check the flames somewhat, but *not* ^{to} dampen them sufficiently. The authorities announce that the forests will not be reopened unless they receive a good soaking from the sky. So ~~hundreds~~ hundreds of ambitious hunters with their guns are finding what amusement they can - while praying for rain.

TALK

Just recently two of us sitting around, were talking shop, and that meant - talking about talk. The chap with me had been brought over here all the way from England to teach a few people how to utter some words.

In New York a play has just opened, called - "Knights of Song." It's based on the lives of Gilbert and Sullivan, and is liberally sprinkled with tuneful bits out of the immortal Savoy operas. That meant - an ensemble of typical American girls enunciating those tricky and utterly British lyrics of Gilbert. So the producers fetched over a Gilbert and Sullivan expert to teach them - Avalon Collard. Teach girls from New England, the middlewest, and the deep south, to rattle off in the proper British way passages like this:

"I wouldn't say a word that could be reckoned as
injurious,

But to find a mother younger than her son is very
curious,

And that's a kind of mother that is usually spurious."

The Gilbert and Sullivan expert told me ^{what} ~~how~~ he had to contend with most was the American tendency to slur words together.

Well, I can understand that. *There's one* ~~it's one of the~~ things one has to do

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on the air - keep words crisp and distinct while talking a blue streak.

And he told me of a girl in the ensemble who bears the exceedingly southern name of Virginia Cole - from Tennessee, with the richest and ~~richest~~ ^{ripest} kind of southern accent. (Now fancy an old time Dixie drawl in a Gilbert ^{ian} line like this:

"School girls we, eighteen and under
From scholastic trammels free,
And we wonder - how we wonder -
What on earth the world can be."

Virginia ~~Cole~~ from Tennessee learned to sing the lines without a trace of the south in her voice, no single accent of Dixie when she was singing.

"How did it affect her speaking voice?" I asked. "What's her accent now - when talking?"

"More Tennessee than ever," was the reply.

Well, I hope I haven't run my words together while telling that. In fact, let's see if I can go real fast and keep ^{my} ~~the~~ words crisply distinct and clearly defined ^{in this} next bit of news.

COLLAPSE

They were pulling down their old court-house in DeKalb County, Missouri - and a catastrophe occurred. For many a year, a landmark of the countryside was the courthouse tower, ~~which reared~~ seventy-five feet high. They thought they had it supported properly, while they were tearing down some adjacent structures, - ~~But~~ the old tower collapsed. Men were working there, when tons of masonry toppled upon them. Two fatalities - as ~~that~~^{the} courthouse tower ~~landmark~~ came to a calamitous end.

W.P.A.

Now here's a bit of news in which a fast pace is entirely inappropriate. I feel I must tell it slowly, lingeringly. It concerns W.P.A. workers ~~with~~ ^{and} picks and ~~shovels~~ shovels.

8/12
Today in New York there was a W.P.A. strike, when thirty-two relief workers ~~walked~~ walked out on a ditch-digging project. Why? Because they were told each to use both a pick and shovel, not one man using a pick and shovel at the same time, but alternately -- when you're not digging with the pick, shovel with the shovel. That's what caused the walk-out. ^{The} W.P.A. workers declared that one man should work with a pick and a pick only and another man with a shovel and a shovel only. They said it was an unwritten law that work should be done by teams of two, one pick and one shovel -- one resting while the other works. Thereby providing the familiar sight of a man leaning on either a pick or a shovel.

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*And ho hum,
along until tomorrow.*