

L.J. - Sunoco. Tues., March 22, 1938

T.V.A.

Well, two thirty this afternoon came and went - and nothing happened. Then shortly afterwards something did happen. Two thirty was the deadline set for Chairman Morgan of the T.V.A. to answer the President, "Yes" or "No", whether he would abide by a presidential decision in the T.V.A. row. Chairman Morgan indicated he wouldn't reply, deadline or no deadline, and he didn't - not a word from him. So thereupon the President took immediate action and ousted him as Chairman of the T.V.A.

But will the ouster stick? That ^{is} to be the crux of the next phase in the battle of ~~the T.V.A.~~ *Tennessee Valley.* Because Arthur E. Morgan declares that the President has no right to remove him, that this can only be done by Congress. So he's sure to go to court about it, for a long drawn out legal battle.

Anyway, no matter how all that turns out, the directorate of the T.V.A. is still headed by Chairman Morgan. Because, having removed Arthur E. Morgan, the President proceeded to appoint Harcourt M^organ. They were the two directors of the same surname so bitterly at odds, with charges of crookery and corruption flying in all directions.

So I suppose we can say tonight: "Morgan is ousted; long live Morgan!"

LYNCHING

Once more in Washington the embattled word resounds - lynching. The anti-lynching bill is on the shelf, placed there by that long drawn out filibuster. But today the subject was taken up by the White House. The President told Congress he has a substitute idea - in case the anti-lynching bill is on ice for keeps. His proposal is that the government should establish a system whereby there could be federal inquiry when a lynching occurs. The President thinks that Congress should give the Attorney-General the power ~~to look into lynching~~. If not, Congress should set up a committee of its own to do the inquiring.

Maybe this presidential demand for government investigation of mob violence will meet less opposition from the southern senators - mere investigation instead of the ~~a~~ outright arm of the federal law reaching into their states.

RAILROADS

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The problem of railroads and how to help them remains in the foreground -- especially with railroad stocks taking a tumble on the New York Stock ~~Exchange~~ today. Rails sank to the lowest level since 1932, a graphic sign of pessimism. In Washington a Senate Committee is holding an inquiry into railroad finances *with* the idea of doing something to help. ~~Proceedings~~ Proceedings today brought out nothing important, merely a rather humorous situation, which may provide a bit of comic relief in the railroad picture.

Senator Wheeler, Chairman of the inquiry was questioning a witness, who appeared to testify -- Milton Harrison, former president of the Railroad Security Holders Association. The scene was set for one of those ~~solemn~~ *solemn* ~~of~~ *of* exchanges question and expert answer.

But Senator Wheeler proceeded to read a letter written by Witness Harrison, a letter pertaining to the railroad finance investigation now going on. "I think," said the letter, I have scotched Senator Wheeler's resolution to investigate railroad finances." Then ~~Wheeler~~ Wheeler of Montana read another epistle which said -- "hope the Senator stays put."

"What do you think of that now," demanded the Senator.

Witness Harrison replied: "Oh, that was just a joke."

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Whereupon Wheeler read some more, in which the witness said the proposed investigation was just a fishing expedition, a red herring across the path of anything constructive and intelligent.

"What do you think of that," asked the Senator, "was that a joke too?"

"That," replied the witness, "was a mistake, a great mistake."

Yes, it's all rather a mistake to have written letters denouncing an investigation and then have those letters turn up when you appear as a witness in that investigation.

ADVERTISING

The President took pen in hand today and did his bit for making it safe to be beautiful - safeguarding the loveliness of the ladies. He signed the bill amending the law that forbids false advertising of foods and drugs. The amendment extends the law to cover cosmetics, beautifying preparations. It makes it illegal to put out splash advertising saying that some kind of complexion cream will make Madame more beautiful than Cleopatra, when in reality it will take the skin off her face. It puts the penalty of the law on ballyhooing any kind of hair glorifier, which may strike ~~the~~^{mi} lady baldheaded.

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The punishment provided is a five thousand dollar fine and six months in jail. And it wouldn't be a bad idea to compel the false advertiser of harmful cosmetics to apply his phoney beauty preparations to himself every day in his cell, and see what he looks like when he comes out after six months. That would - "make the punishment fit the crime," as Gilbert and Sullivan ~~xxx~~ so melodiously suggest.

MEXICO

Today President Cardenas of Mexico announced - "We won't seize any more." After having expropriated the forty million dollar oil industry, largely owned by Americans, Mexico won't bother other industries - and that includes mines, which are mostly American owned. Cardenas says that he looks upon these other industries - "with sympathy and considers them necessary for national development." So all they're grabbing is forty million dollars' worth of foreign ~~oil~~ owned oil properties - with American companies appealing to the State Department in Washington for protection.

What are governments for if not to protect their citizens and their property?

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

You can hardly keep the long name of Czechoslovakia *any*
night's broadcast
~~out of the~~ news these days - that nation believed to be the next
focus of Hitler ambition. Today, however, there's no new alarm
about ~~the possibility of~~ a German move against the Czechs -
at least not a German move from the outside. It's on the inside.
It's domestic news within Czechoslovakia, but it's exceedingly
German just the same.

Today brought
~~its~~ a radical new development among those Sudeten
Germans, three and a half million of them, who constitute nearly
a third of the population of Czechoslovakia. They've been divided
into various parties, the largest group being the Nazi element,
which has strong ties with Hitler Germany. - It's rebellious and
rambunctious. There's another large German *Check* faction, called the
Agrarian Party, which has been playing ball with the government of
Prague - trying to go along with the Czechs. They've been
represented in the Prague Cabinet - by Franz Spina, Minister
Without Portfolio.

But what do we hear now? Today the Agrarian Party
announces that it's policy of cooperating with the government has
failed. The German Agrarian Minister resigned. *s. And the*
~~The Agrarians~~ Agrarians

announce that they are joining with the Sudeten Nazis. It's a merger of the two parties which now represents an overwhelming majority of the three and a half million Germans in Czechoslovakia. It gives the Nazis forty-nine deputies in the Prague Parliament, making them the largest political party in Czechoslovakia. And it tremendously increases the power and prestige of Henlein, who is called the "Hitler of the Sudeten Germans."

All of which

~~That~~ puts a beam of ~~the~~ limelight on the fact that Czechoslovakia is not only an international problem, facing Hitler aggression; *but that nation is* ~~it's~~ also an internal problem within its own boundaries, faced with German demands made by nearly a third of its ~~of~~ population.

So no wonder the statesmen of Europe are now thinking of settling the Czecho-Slovak crisis by persuading the Prague government to come to terms with its own Germans. That's much in mind in London,

once more

where we hear today that His Majesty's government is not going to join with France in an *out* ~~up~~right guarantee of Czechoslovakia against Hitler. Prime Minister Chamberlain is to make a formal declaration

on Thursday, and the word is that he'll guarantee France against German attack, but he won't mention Czechoslovakia.

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AUSTRIA

All those Nazi arrests in Austria bring great names to the headlines today. Two dukes, for example - Maximilian and Ernest ^{Von} Hohenberg. Those names don't mean so much, until we're told that they're sons of the Archduke Ferdinand ^{and} ~~who with~~ his wife ^{who were} ~~was~~ assassinated at Sarajevo, ^{the} ~~and that~~ crime ^{was the} spark that touched off the World War. That makes those two dukes rather historic figures for the Nazis to throw into prison, but it all goes still further: ^π The arrest of the sons of the murdered archduke and wife bring in dark reminiscence the ^{most} ~~whole~~ tragic story of the house of Hapsburg. Stately Francis Joseph - who reigned for so many historic years as the very figure of empire. His beautiful Empress, Elizabeth, so brilliant, dazzling, touched with madness. She was a kinswoman of the mad King of Bavaria, and herself lived a fantastic life - driven by an ~~incurable~~ incurable restlessness, traveling ever, wild rides on horseback, romantic journeys at sea - until she was killed by an Anarchist fanatic. Crown Prince ^π Rudolf, touched by madness also - revolting against Hapsburg ideas, involved in a desperate love affair - until he killed himself and the beautiful Marie ^{Vetera} ~~Detzner~~

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in a suicide pact. He was succeeded as heir to the throne by Archduke Ferdinand, who also fell in love with a commoner, and he married her in spite of ~~the~~ imperial opposition. But he had to resign all claim that his descendants might have to the crown. His sons by his commoner wife became mere dukes, not imperial archdukes. Then he and his wife were assassinated at Sarajevo; ~~and~~ the ~~1st~~ World War exploded; and the imperial House of Hapsburg was overthrown. Now, the triumph of the Nazis seems to eliminate all possibility that the ^{imperial family} ~~Hapsburgs~~ may return to the throne ~~in~~ Vienna. And they arrest ~~the two sons of the victims of Sarajevo,~~ the two dukes who stand like mementoes of the Hapsburg tragedy - no claim to the Austrian crown, but they are Monarchists, supporting their family. And, Hitler's men are arresting the Monarchists right and left.

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The latest from Vienna is that virtually all the leaders of the Hapsburg cause are in prison tonight - tossed in along with common criminals.

In the cell with the two dukes is Prince Fuerstenberg, once Austria's ~~X~~ imperial ambassador to the court of Madrid; he was an intimate friend of the Kaiser's. They say that the former courtiers,

treated like criminals, look so strange that they hardly recognize one another when they meet *in jail.*

And here's mention of the name of the Duke of Windsor. No, the Nazis are not arresting him. Maybe that's because he's in Paris. But the news is that the Duke sent a message to Hitler, a personal plea asking for the release of Baron Louis Rothschild of the historic banking house. He's an intimate friend of the Duke's. What's the Hitler reply? We have it this evening.

Nothing doing. Even on the plea of the Duke of Windsor, the Nazis refuse to release that member of the House of Rothschild, who is the most prominent Jew in Austrian Nazi prisons. Or he would be the most prominent, if it weren't for that other arrest, - Freud.

Tonight the aged creator of psycho-analysis is kept in ~~detention~~ with his family. *His* belongings and his passport seized, *all* because Freud is a Jew, the *world-famous* Vienna doctor whose theory of the human psych~~e~~ flashed around the world, and gave us such terms as "psycho-analysis, inhibitions, inferiority complex."

also The news continues to feature the sombre theme of - suicides in Vienna. No wonder! *The* gay city of the waltz! ~~it~~

It rather startled one to think of what would happen when grim Nazi regimentation seized the light-hearted capital on the beautiful blue Danube. ~~The answer is more sinister than one would imagine~~

The wave of self-inflicted death *continues* — mostly Jews faced with *the* horror

of anti-Semitism. The Nazis in Vienna are sensitive about that suicide epidemic. *Insisting that* ~~They say it~~ isn't so bad as reported. *Today* they give

detailed figures to prove their contention. One only needs to scan those official Nazi figures - exaggerations are not necessary.

I have a list here with the day by day number for the last ten days, since Hitler seized Austria. The largest total of political suicides for any day is - thirteen. The total for the ten days is given as ninety-four. And, attempted suicides are listed. As many as nineteen in one day, with a ten day total of one hundred.

Official Jewish sources say they have no authentic figures but they point out that in four days alone there were a hundred and forty ~~xx~~ Jewish funerals in Vienna, whereas at the ordinary death rate the number would be about sixteen.

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CHINA

A weird story of war comes from the battle-torn interior of
China. It tells of ^{the} Chinese Red army having trapped ^{ing} and annihilat^{ing}
a force of four hundred Japanese cavalry. ^{The Chinese} ~~They~~ knew the Japanese
warplanes would soon fly over, bombing any ^{hostile} ~~Chinese~~ unit they could
spot. So the Chinese Reds took the dead Japanese and dressed them
in Chinese uniforms, and placed them so as to look like Chinese
soldiers lying on the ground, trying to keep safe from bombing.

The Japanese planes came roaring overhead, saw the supposed
Chinese detachment below, and turned loose their bombs. Their
aim was good, and they blew to pieces - their own dead men.

WEATHER

8 1/2
If there's any need for telling what the weather is like today in these parts, the best way to do it is to recite a bit of news from Washington. It concerns those renowned Japanese cherry trees, always a theme for pleasant talk in the springtime. The experts have been saying that the Washington cherry blossoms would burst in their full glory of pink about April first, a week and a half hence. But today those experts had to revise their predictions, or rather there's no possibility of predicting at all. Because the cherry trees burst into blossom today - away ahead of time.

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So that tells you vividly how balmy and springlike the weather is.

Chicago records an all-time high for March Twenty-Second; ~~they say~~ the mercury ~~was~~ at seventy-eight at two o'clock this afternoon.

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Spring is here. The birds are atwitter. So am I, and S-l-u-t-m.