

INDIA

P.T. - P. & S. Friday, Jan. 16, 1948.

(In India, Mahatma Gandhi went on the air today - the fourth day of his fast. Too weak to rise from his bed of self inflicted penance, he gasped a plea into the microphone - a plea to Pakistan.)

Gandhi, by the power of his ordeal of fasting, has won a victory, a partial victory - in his demand that concessions be made to bring about peace between Hindus and Moslems. The government of the Hindu Dominion has yielded and ~~agreed~~ agreed to measures of conciliation including the payment of money to Moslem Pakistan, payment that had been suspended. Gandhi, with ~~the~~ that much gained, was urged to abandon his fast, but he refused - unless Pakistan made similar concessions. Hence his plea today - the broadcast from his ~~bed~~ bed of fasting.

(In a feeble voice he called upon the Moslems to do their bit for a settlement.) In a voice hardly more than a whisper, he said: "I am at peace - but if there is no peace in India ~~and~~ and Pakistan, I have no interest in living." It remains to be seen how the

Moslems will respond to the call of the Hindu Saint.

(Meanwhile, ^{the} Gandhi fast is an event of national importance among the Hindus. There are public demonstrations, imploring him to desist from his ordeal and continue to live.) The Hindu government at New Delhi has declared tomorrow a public ~~hindi~~ holiday - to permit the people to organize peace and prayer meetings for Gandhi and beseech him to break his fast.

(Yet there are dissenting voices - Hindus and Sikhs, enraged by Moslem massacres, are shouting for war. So today in New Delhi, while crowds paraded, shouting "Hindus and Moslems unite! save Gandhi!" ~~Others~~ Other crowds yelled, "death to Gandhi!" ^{with} ~~there were~~ clashes between rival parades -- new violence, as a result of Gandhi's own penance in behalf of peace.

PALESTINE

(The Jews stormed into Haifa today - in a regular military assault. In retaliation for Arab violence, ~~xxxxxxx~~ yesterday the killing of two Zionists, they fought their way into the city, and blew up buildings; - between thirty and sixty Arabs killed.)

Some four hundred members of Haganah advanced from the Valley of Jezrell - of biblical fame. In a regular military operation, they stormed a village that dominates the approach to Haifa, and advanced in house-to-house fighting. The attack was decisive and swift, the Jews penetrating to the Headquarters of the Arab Youth Organization, a three story building, which they blew up.

Five other houses were similarly destroyed - most of the Arab casualties being incurred in the blowing up of ~~xxxxx~~ buildings. The ~~xxxxxx~~ explosion shook houses on the slopes of Mount Carmel - also of Biblical fame.

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CHINA

Let's take a look at what happened in China today - disturbances at Canton, riots against the British. A mob ~~is~~ storming the British consulate, burning buildings with British lives in peril. Tens of thousands of Chinese on a rampage - because of the eviction of Chinese squatters at Hongkong.

The situation is this: The British hold possession of the island of Hongkong; and also Kowloon, a section of the mainland across a narrow ~~is~~ strait. On the mainland [^] Kowloon [^] numbers of Chinese, without any legal authority, settled down in a sort of squatters' colony. They had no right there - and in addition the squatters' colony was a highly unsanitary affair, the kind of squalid beehive-community familiar in the Orient. So the British ordered the Chinese out, evicted them, and burned the squatters' colony as a menace to health.

This might seem to be reasonable enough, but the Chinese have long wanted to get Hongkong and Kowloon back from the British, and any kind of incident there is likely to excite Chinese resentment. So there were

angry rumors far and wide, & the story twisted, the British destruction of the squatters' colony made to appear an act of tyranny of the white man. Protests and demonstrations were staged in various Chinese cities, with the climax today at Canton.

At that South China port, the foreign consulates and communities are on Shameen, a small island in the Pearl River - connected by a bridge with the city of Canton. ~~xx~~ The bridge is always ~~gmx~~ guarded, and today a mob of Cantonese went storming to the bridge - where they overpowered the guards. The next thing, the mob went yelling and howling to the British Consulate. There they hauled down the British flag and smashed windows with stones.

Things became worse when another mob swept across the bridge from Canton to Shameen. The newcomers, more violent; ^{they} invaded the British Consulate, smashed furniture, and set documents afire. In a few minutes, the Consulate was a mass of flames. Fire fighters arrived, & but were stopped by the mob - and the fire

swept to other British buildings. Several were destroyed.

British officials got away, some injured in the melee. The British Consul General, Ronald Hall, and his wife, who is an ~~AMERICAN~~ American, went to the home of the American Military Attache, Commander Edward Buchanan. They were entering when enraged Chinese came charging with ^{wild} ~~ferocious~~ yells. The American Attache intervened, got the British Consul inside the ~~house~~ house and slammed the door in the face of the rioters. Things looked ugly, but the Chinese made no attack -- all through the disturbance, the mobs refrained from molesting American property.

The latest is an apology by the Chinese Government - with Nationalist Troops taking over Shameen and preserving order. However, the word is that new outbreaks in Canton and in other Chinese cities are threatening - because the British at Hongkong burned the verminous shacks of the squatters' colony at Kowloon.

INDONESIA

The United Nations has scored a success in Indonesia - where a truce is announced today between the Dutch authorities and the Indonesian Republic. They have been fighting in Java for two years and on previous occasions an armistice was made - and broken. A mission of the United Nations went out there to do a job of mediation, and now has succeeded in arranging terms between the two sides. The truce was announced today - let's hope this one will last.

GERMANY

In Germany, the great industrial area of the Ruhr had a big strike today, which paralyzed three key cities -- a-hundred-and-fifty-five thousand workers out. The ostensible reason for the strike was - hunger, the bad food situation. It is admitted on all sides that the shortages are grave, the condition of German workers approaching desperation. But the allied authorities believe that the strike today, which could only make things worse, was instigated by the Communists.

RUSSIA LEND LEASE

Soviet Russia is willing to resume lend lease negotiations with the United States. That was stated by the Soviet Ambassador in Washington today. The Russian lend lease bill comes to a total of more than eleven billion dollars, that much American war material sent to Russia during the war. Other nations have settled their lend lease bills - on favorable terms. And negotiations with Moscow were begun, but there were discontinued last summer. Since then the Soviets have refused to continue lend lease talks -- but now are ready to ~~resume~~ resume negotiations.

VOICFOF AMERICA

The Senate has okayed the "Voice of America."

R That series of propaganda broadcasts, beamed by our government to foreign countries, has been the subject of much debate, under plenty of attack. But now the Senate takes the view that we must do something to combat hostile Soviet propaganda. Hence today's vote which was unanimous. The bill provides that the ~~Yux~~ Voice of America broadcasts shall be continued and expanded.

SOLDIER

In Denver, Colorado, a soldier comes up with a dim ~~xxxxx~~ view of Generals as presidential candidates. This soldier General Johnathan Wainwright, the hero of Corrigidor. Wainwright today ~~is~~ turned thumbs down on the idea of any military man going to the White House. It would be a mistake, he says, to have a President named Eisenhower, or MacArthur, pointing out that military leaders make poor Presidents. ^R "A General is a soldier first, and a politician last," said ~~he~~ ^{Gen. Wainwright. And then he added!} "I can't help thinking ~~that~~ it would be a mistake for either man to run for office." Wainwright also revealed that he practices what he preaches - in politics, - that he had flatly rejected a bid ~~for~~ from Texas, to put him in the Texas ~~senatorial~~ senatorial seat. "I told them" said Wainwright "no - a definite flat no. I am a soldier and not a politician."

DEWEY

(Governor Dewey of New York is a candidate for the Republican nomination - that's official now.)

Hitherto we've all known that Tom Dewey was among the foremost as a Republican Presidential possibility, but ~~he~~ ^{he} refrained from stating outright that he wanted the nomination.

(The announcement today comes about in connection with the primary in Oregon, where Dewey's name has been entered.) The Albany statement today expresses appreciation of this, and says, in effect -- "if nominated, I will accept."

The x phraseology as given out by the Governor's Executive Assistant is as follows: "As ~~XXXXXX~~ Governor Dewey has frequently said, he is fully engaged with the work of the legislative session and cannot actively seek the nomination for President. But, if nominated, he will accept."

PEW MEMORIAL

The announcement of a fifty million dollar fund for educational, scientific and religious purposes - is another reminder of how American fortunes have dedicated millions to the advancement of civilization. This latest is the Pew Memorial Foundation, which sets aside eight hundred and eighty thousand shares of the common stock of the Sun Oil Company. Market value - fifty million, a hundred and sixty thousand dollars.

I wanted some more enlightenment about this, so I put in a phone call to Philadelphia, to my long time friend and associate, J.N. Pew^{jr.}. He told me that the new fund simply represents a consolidation and expansion of what members of the Pew family have been doing all along. That is they pledged themselves in the past to support various matters of social and cultural import, and are now putting all this into a systematic form -- and increasing it.

LABOR

A railroad strike is threatening, with the rail workers demanding a wage increase of thirty percent.

Government mediation has failed -- and this afternoon union officials said ~~that~~ they'd go ahead with strike plans. They declare that ninety-eight percent of the ~~rail~~ railroad workers have voted in favor of a walkout -- unless their pay demands are met.

And the Auto Workers presented their demands today - the union given notice that they want a pay boost of thirty cents a hour. Twenty-five cents an hour as a direct wage hike, what is called -- a ~~cost~~ "cost of living increase." Plus five cents an hour for a-union-health-insurance-program.

These demands were presented by the Autoworkers Union to the motor car industry today.

HOUSING

The current housing shortage is universal in these United States. Everyone looking for somewhere to live. In Boise, Idaho, last night Walter Goodap of Portland, Oregon, hit on a novel idea of solving his particular problem of getting a night's sleep.

[#] He arrived in Boise to find the city jam packed with delegates to the convention of the American National Livestock Association. ^{Goodap} Walter [^] tried all the hotels, without any luck - and his head got heavier and heavier. But his brains did ^{not} fail him. When he happened to rest his tired dogs outside an appliance store that was showing a ~~series~~ series of model bedrooms in its windows, Walter had a bright idea, ^{so} ~~so~~ bright [^] that the manager of the store fell for it. [#] Sure, he said, Walter could sleep in one of the model ~~bed~~ bedrooms. So the manager had the bed made up, and Walter crept in to sleep - in full view of the passers-by. But being looked at all through the night did ^{not} disturb the ~~man~~ weary traveller from Portland, Oregon. He slept soundly, and woke up with a big smile

to greet a mixed audience gathered to watch his sleeping act in the shop window.

NEW LOOK

(In England, there's a protest against that new look. British women, too, are wearing the long skirts - because fashion is fashion. ~~the~~) The complaint about the new look comes from the East-Barnet-Road-Safety-Committee, which declares that the current style is causing traffic accidents.

How? Well, (the East Barnett Road Safety Committee declares that the new look distracts the attention of men driving automobiles.) They turn to gaze at the lowered hemline. We used to think that short skirts caused masculine eyes to pop, but now it's the other way around. The lure, the seduction, the ~~im~~modesty of the long skirt.

However, the new look over in England is the cause of still greater peril. The East-Barnet-Road-Safety-Committee points to the ~~danger~~ danger when ladies with the new look ride a bicycle; the long skirts ~~are~~ likely to catch in the rear wheel. - And when a skirt gets caught in a rapidly revolving wheel, you can imagine what happens, or ^{maybe} you shouldn't.

The news dispatch from London says it causes the lady in question "no end of embarrassment and discomfort." Well, I ~~think~~ should think so - when the new look gets tangled up with the rear wheel of a bicycle and off goes the long skirt.

And now Nelson; speaks to us of something that causes comfort -- not discomfort like a skirt being whisked off.