

SPAIN

P. J. - Sunoco. Thurs., Sept. 17, 1936.
The Alcazar still stands!

(The news of Rebel victory in Spain tells us that the regiments of General Franco are fighting a bitter battle near Toledo. They may be about to capture the city. That brings into vivid prominence once more the Alcazar of Toledo. Time and again we've heard of the prolonged and desperate defense by the Rebels, who have been holding that stone fortress against incessant siege and cannon fire for more than two months. Today's news indicates that the Fascist army may be about to break through and finally relieve them.)

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Last night we heard how Madrid had announced - that the left wing besiegers had driven mines under the Alcazar, had planted mighty charges of high explosive and were about to blow the fortress into the air. There are some twelve hundred human beings in the Alcazar - fighting men and their families, many women and children. They have their refuge in deep underground vaults. There they've been safe from cannon fire. But the left wingers have driven high explosive mines beneath them, ready to blow them up.

However, tonight the Alcazar still stands. The

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explosion has not happened. If the left wingers really can blow the place up, as they announce, they've refrained from doing so. Why? One rumor is that Madrid is afraid of the impression it would make on other nations - if they went ahead and touched off the T N T planted beneath the women and children in those subterranean vaults.

Now the relieving Rebel army seems to be at the gates of Toledo. Can it be that Spanish tragedy might take this monstrous form - the Reds blowing up the Alcazar, as the ~~reliving~~ relieving army approaches? Thundering, detonating doom, with salvation right at hand.

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This is the pinnacle of drama in the story of how the rebels are driving savagely in the battle south of Madrid and west of Toledo. General Franco is hurling a hundred and seventy-five thousand men in the drive to relieve the Alcazar and isolate Madrid from the south. The battle began at Talavera, forty miles from Toledo and sixty miles from Madrid. Tonight we ~~only~~ not only hear that the Fascist Army is near Toledo but also that it has driven within thirty-six miles of Madrid. Today General

Franco boasted that during the next two weeks he could throw a million men into the supreme struggle for the capital. *At the same time* Red

Madrid is taking desperate measures, calling for ten thousand more volunteers, ordering every man into the fight - last ditch defense.

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EX-QUEEN

There was no spectacular official welcome in New York today, and there will be no stately social receptions, although a Queen, an ex-Queen, has arrived on our shores. A lady most royal, once Queen of Spain, grand daughter of Queen Victoria of England; Her own name ~~is~~ Victoria. She comes incognito, as the Duchess of Toledo. She's accompanied by her daughter and son-in-law - her daughter, the Infanta of Spain, now Princess Torlonia. Ex-Queen Victoria is here to visit her eldest son, former Crown Prince of Spain, who now goes by the name of Count Covadonga. A fast boat took the former Queen from the Italian liner, the "Conte di Savoia", and under close police protection an automobile whisked her to the hospital where her son lies ill. No flourishes, civic or social, for Victoria, who was Queen of Spain and still is more than ever - Queen of Sorrow.

Political tragedy has been hers ever since that gala day, years ago, when as a blithesome young princess of England she married Alfonso, King of Spain. At the royal wedding festivities, a revolutionary tossed a bomb concealed in a bouquet

of flowers, tossed the explosive missile at the young couple. They were unhurt. But twenty-six people were killed. Later came turmoil in Spain, defeat in Africa, revolt, and the downfall of the monarchy. And Victoria became a Queen without ~~xxxxxxx~~ a crown.

Darker still was her family tragedy - because she transmitted through her grandmother, Queen Victoria, that dread royal malady, haemophilia, ~~the bleeding sickness~~. I heard a story about that singular illness, a story told me by my father.

As a physician, he made the acquaintance of a British medical ^{one of the doctors to the British royal family,} scientist who had made a deep study of haemophilia. This

eminent physician told him how he had traced ^{it} ~~the bleeding sickness~~

back through the German ancestry of Queen Victoria, how he had found the very first historic evidence of it. He found an old record telling of the Battle of Mohacs, fought between the

Christians and the Turks in the sixteen hundreds. And in this a singular incident was related. A German prince found dead on the battlefield, without a wound. There was wonder about this - an unwounded casualty of battle. The scientist then found that

this prince had a nickname, and that nickname was "Thin Skin".

~~The inference was inevitable, a bleeder, who had perished in~~
~~the Battle of Mohacs because of an internal hemorrhage.~~ *And* This

German prince was an ancestor of Queen Victoria.

Now Down to the present century in our own land -
and we find Queen Victoria's granddaughter at the New York
bedside of a son, in a critical condition from haemophilia.
A mere slight operation for a boil, but that can be fatal with
haemophilia. They've given Count Cavadonga, former Crown Prince
of Spain, his eleventh blood transfusion.

High historic tragedy, but the story goes on to the
commonplace and the grotesque, alimony. Count Cavadonga married
a Cuban girl. They've separated. She sued him for alimony and
was awarded two hundred and fifty dollars a month. The former
wife has now gone to court to prevent the former Queen from
taking the former Crown Prince out of the United States.

The Count has a way of getting into romantic tangles.
He was reported engaged to another Cuban girl. Then this same
young lady was reported to be engaged likewise to Moe Solinsky,

a Pennsylvania clothing manufacturer. Mr. Solinsky went so far as to get a marriage license and book passage to Europe for Mr. and Mrs. Solinsky. However, the young woman from Cuba didn't marry him, and he voyaged alone. He has since died.

Such is the mingled web of the tragic and the grotesque that surrounds the tall, stately woman who landed in New York today. She wore a dress of dark grey and a black hat. She bore herself with reserve and dignity - the queenly way of a Queen of Sorrow.

~~(Pronounce Monacs as Monaten)~~

~~(Correction in aviation story: - - The Baroness will fly to Stockholm and not from Stockholm.)~~

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SPEEDOMETER

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There's so much talk and discussion about safety on the road that you'd hardly expect to find a new safety idea. Yet Pennsylvania produces a novelty - a safety speedometer. What will a safety speedometer do? Of course, it will tell you how fast you are going. But as the speed indicator registers, it will also tell you how many feet per second you are going. It will show the average braking distance, also the average stopping distance. Those two are different. The braking distance is how far you'll go after the brakes are snapped on. But there's likewise the time it takes you to put on the brakes, and that human factor is included in the average stopping distance.

Suppose you're going twenty miles an hour. The safety speedometer will tell you that you're traveling twenty-nine feet a second. On an average road, if your brakes are in good condition, they'll stop your car in twenty-eight feet. But in the time it takes you to put on the brakes, you will have traveled twenty-two feet. So the safety speedometer will show

your stopping distance as fifty feet.

The safety slant becomes vivid, when you begin to step on the gas. At forty miles an hour, your stopping distance is a hundred and fifty-four feet. When you get above forty, the safety speedometer shows a red light. And no wonder, because at sixty miles an hour, for example, your stopping distance is three hundred and twelve feet. It's impossible for the average driver to bring his car to a halt in less than that. And plenty can happen while you're traveling those three hundred and twelve feet, when your car should be stopped.

The idea originated with the Keystone Automobile Club, which printed the face of a safety speedometer in its publication, the KEYSTONE MOTORIST. From Philadelphia, ^{thus} comes the project of transforming the printed page into actual automobilizing. Let's go ahead and build these safety speedometers, says Philadelphia - and have something that will tell the motorist not only his rate of speed, but also his degree of safety.

SHELDON

We should have had one of those things on the car that whizzed John B. Kennedy, Ford Bond and I along the Upper Allegheny this afternoon - at 70 miles an hour. We had flown out from New York and were late. And we were on our way to a birthday party. When we arrived we found some 25,000 other guests ahead of us. All there to pay tribute to a man seventy-five years old.

Few have ever heard the name of Harry Sheldon. But he's another example of the opportunities this country has always been famous for - the chance to climb to the heights thru sheer personal initiative. Harry Sheldon was a poor orphan boy, who worked until he made himself one of the heads of the vast steel industry - founder and still active President of Allegheny Steel - at seventy-five. Creator of stainless steel. And to show their affection and admiration, 25,000 of his employees and friends came out to salute him today. And I was just one of the 25,000. May America always remain a land of opportunity for other orphan lads. like Harry Sheldon who knows how to share his good fortune with those around him!

POLITICS

The aftermath of the Maine election on Monday and the state primaries on Tuesday is a new wave of political activity.

From Chicago we hear of a swarming of orators. Within the next two weeks the G. O. P. will have eight hundred vociferous speakers stumping the country for Landon. Oratory is often flowery. This time it ^{will be} ~~is~~ sun-flowery.

Governor Landon will address a national conference of Young Republicans at Topeka. Next week he will make a declaration ^{to} ~~the~~ farmers of the middle west. Today the Republican nominee gave an outline of what he's going to tell the farmers. He will call for a permanent program to give agriculture an even break in the economy of the nation. He will say that the New Deal is only a stop-gap and offers nothing permanent to the farmers, no permanent solution.

President Roosevelt today summoned the word - - - charity. He launched a charity drive - a mobilization for human Needs that asks Americans far and wide to contribute eighty million dollars to relieve want and suffering. The

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President pointed out that everywhere prosperity is returning, more wealth and higher pay. People are now better able to perform the duties of charity, and he called^S_A upon them to do so.

It was disclosed in Washington today that the President will make a speech in Pittsburgh on October first. And while enroute^{here}_A to the Smoky City, he will stop off at Elkins, West Virginia - and maybe make a speech there. From Pittsburgh he will go to Jersey City on a non-political mission. He will dedicate a Jersey City medical center on October second. On that same afternoon there will be something else, also non-political - - the President will go to the ball game in New York City. Which gives us a non-political end to our political report tonight.

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MRS. ROOSEVELT - FOLLOW POLITICS

Many ~~a one would~~ say that the First Lady of the Land is also the most active lady of the land, ~~Mrs. Roosevelt is one of these people who are~~ always about - - doing things. But she wasn't active today, she wasn't doing a thing - - except staying in bed and obeying the doctor's orders. She had a full program scheduled, ~~for today,~~ but the doctor called it off. ~~A bad cold and a touch of~~ The grippe - - a rise in temperature; Nothing serious, says Dr. McIntyre, the White House physician, but the First Lady of the Land will have to stay in bed for several days.

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AVIATION.

The Richman-Merrill adventure is still in the news.

Word from remote Musgrave Harbor in Newfoundland tells that the Broadway crooner and his pilot have finally got the plane out of the mud, in which it landed. They've taken it to the beach. And help has finally reached them. Captain Eddie Rickenbacher, with a crew of mechanics, arrived at Musgrave Bay today in a small boat, after quite an adventure amid stormy seas. It didn't take long for Captain Eddie and his machinists to patch up the plane in good shape. It had not been badly damaged anyway.

But I suppose the news that you all are waiting for about Broadway Harry and Birdman Dick is - are they still on the outs? We've had denials saying there hasn't been any quarrel at all. The boys still boon companions, Damon Harry and Pythias Dick - everything palsy-walsy. But today's report from the Newfoundland wilds insists, "Damon and Pythias, Oh, yea? The Broadway crooner and his pilot are not talking to each other. They're doing the work, getting their plane in shape to fly on to New York - but they don't give each other any sign of recognition. Harry and Dick, who flew the first round trip across the ocean, pass each other like a couple of strangers.

HURRICANE

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(The hurricane news tonight uses large expressions -
- worst, most violent. The United States Hurricane Service
reports that the tempest now raging out in the Atlantic is one
of the greatest on record.) Tremendous in its violence, the
wind lashing at one hundred miles an hour. Tremendous in its
extent, an immense maelstrom of wind extending for great distances
over the ocean. It was spawned by that mother of hurricanes,
the Caribbean, and has been sweeping and spiralling its way
northward - out at sea. It's been keeping out at sea, but now
it has turned toward land. Hurricane heading for the southern
coast of the United States, Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia.
Already it's being felt, wild gales along the coast.

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There's been plenty of warning, the people prepared,
inhabitants getting out of the more imperilled places. The
coast guard has mobilized four thousand men for hurricane duty -
for help and rescue when the big wind strikes.

There's one glimmer of hope in the dark and lowering
story of storm. The weather bureau reports that there's an
area of high-pressure over the Virginia capes and northward.