

L.T. SUNOCO - April 16, 1933

*Waldorf.*

Good Afternoon, **Everybody**:-

Let's sweep out the Easter egg shells and see what's been hatched around the world in the way of news. The Easter rabbit seems to have been well received in nearly every land, except Red Russia, of course, where the Bolsheviks selected the day for some special propaganda against religion. ~~The Soviet authorities also tried to discourage the Russian Easter celebration by forbidding all leaves of absence from work. Men and women in the factories were rigorously kept on the job all day.~~ Nevertheless, in spite of all the anti-Christian efforts of the Communists, Easter was celebrated ~~far and wide~~ throughout the former land of the Czars. Hundreds of thousands of Russians couldn't forget that the Great Russian Easter was for more than a thousand years the greatest of all feasts, the most glorious of all days.

In Rome, <sup>Easter was more important than ever.</sup> ~~naturally, it was quite otherwise,~~

As this year has been named as Holy Year by the Pope, the Easter ceremonies in the ancient churches of the Eternal City were of more than ~~the~~ usual solemnity and magnificence. And today signaled an important change. For the first time since the Italian Kingdom took the city of Rome from the Papacy, the Pope celebrated the Easter mass at St. Peters, <sup>which is outside the precincts of the Vatican.</sup>

And then of course, the great day was amply commemorated at Jerusalem. Easter is always a supreme occasion in the ~~old~~ <sup>Jordan</sup> ~~land~~ which was the scene of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. Every year the newspapers tell us of the gorgeous ceremony at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

For my part there is something especially magical about Easter at Jerusalem. The City of <sup>David</sup> ~~Solomon~~ today is <sup>in some ways a</sup> ~~for the most part a pretty~~ drab place. And Palestine is ~~a drab sort of country. It's~~ no southern California or Mediterranean Riviera -- that is, for most of the year. But on Easter it's different. It is springtime, and the land which will grow parched and brown later in the summer is now

in the full glory of ~~Springtime~~. Easter is the season  
of flowers in the Holy Land. It seems as though Nature  
were ~~springing~~ <sup>bursting</sup> to a new and beautiful life to celebrate the  
most dramatic of all Christian feasts.

MEXICO

The week in the capital of our southern neighbor ended with quite a celebration in Mexico City. There were ceremonies of welcome, also ~~a lot of~~ police and guards and precautions. It all concerns the new American ambassador, Josephus Daniels, who was Secretary of the Navy under President Wilson.

Some Mexicans have been complaining about the part the new ambassador took in the seizure of Vera Cruz during the days of ~~Wilson~~ <sup>Wilson</sup>. But most Mexicans don't seem to feel that way about it. Ambassador Daniels was given a <sup>hearty</sup> ~~most~~ friendly reception, and every precaution was taken to shield him from any possible annoyance on the part of those who were denouncing him on the score of that Vera Cruz business <sup>of long,</sup> ~~long~~ ago.

CUBA

( The week's news from Cuba was increasingly uneasy. The Pearl of the Antilles seems to be something of a smoldering volcano. ) There have been bombings and other attacks on people connected with the government. There have been incessant rumors about the killing of opponents of the Machado regime by the Secret Police.

The week climaxed with an admission by the Havana government that two young men, students, were shot to death by the police. It seems to have been a particularly pitiful case. The two boys were sons of the General Paymaster of the Cuban Treasury. The police suspected them of being connected with the bombing and terrorism that has been directed against the government during the past few days. They were seized and shot in a fashionable section of Havana, and their father was immediately discharged from his government post and taken to jail.

There have been numerous arrests. Opponents of President Machado declare that the two young men whose deaths are admitted, are only part of the story. They claim that six

students in all were killed by the police at the end of the week.

The New York Herald Tribune <sup>states</sup> ~~reports~~ that the administration in Washington is watching the Cuban situation with a close attention. One report is that the United States will do something to help the Cuban sugar industry by making a definite allotment of Cuban sugar to be imported for consumption in the United States. The idea is that the present trouble in the southern island is rooted in economic distress, and that by improving the position of Cuban sugar, political conditions will be quieted somewhat.

WASHINGTON

Things in Washington ~~quieted~~<sup>slowed a bit</sup> down during the week.

~~There were fewer sensations than we have been accustomed to.~~

~~In the White House and on the Capitol,~~ ~~plans are being made~~

~~to get things moving at a more rapid gait.~~ Bills recommended

by the President are snarled up in the Senate, and the Democratic

leaders are laying plans for cracking the whip and getting ~~some~~

action.

The general picture is one of hesitation ~~and inaction~~

in both the Senate and the House, ~~of Representatives.~~ There is a

sizeable element among the lawmakers that would like to kick

over the traces, ~~and start something on their own.~~

The New York Times declares that there is a threat

of a fillibuster in the Senate. One scheme that some of the

legislative lads ~~would like to start in on~~ <sup>favor</sup> is our old friend

inflation. There is a strong sentiment in favor of expanding

the currency and cheapening money, and the administration is

making every effort to keep the lid <sup>down.</sup> ~~on and all the control~~

~~in its own hands~~

MACDONALD

Prime Minister MacDonalD of Great Britain is on the high seas today. All week the capitals of Europe have been buzzing with preparation for the conferences which President Roosevelt is going to hold with foreign representatives in Washington. The head of the British Cabinet is the first delegate of the great nations to start for the <sup>Fair</sup>~~Capital~~ City on the Potomac.

~~Ex Premier Herriot of France will board ship for the United States a little later. He is due in Washington on the 25th of this month.~~



RUSSIA

(9)

The big romantic story of the week has been that trial in Moscow where <sup>the</sup> a group of Englishmen and Russians stand accused of spying activities and of conspiracy against the Soviets. The world has become familiar with those melodramatic, grotesque and sometimes terrible ~~Communist~~ <sup>Moscow</sup> ~~trial~~ trials. The novelty of it is to find foreigners, especially Englishmen, as defendants in a crowded Russian courtroom, where everything looks like a bazaar stage setting, loud speakers, loud and long speeches, a grim Communist judge, a ferocious Proletarian prosecuting attorney. Dreadful issues of horror and death <sup>are</sup> frequently transacted in these sensational settings. Newspaper readers have been told again and again how strangely Russians <sup>often</sup> ~~customarily~~ behave when <sup>EM</sup> ~~they are put on~~ trial before these Soviet tribunals. ~~They seem to be~~ Beaten, distracted, terrified, without firmness, without will, <sup>they go to pieces. So</sup> ~~so~~ people have wondered how would Englishmen act when faced with the same ordeal, British engineers, representatives of the great English firm of ~~Metropolitan~~ Vickers, ~~Limited~~. You'd

expect something of the traditional British poise, ~~and~~  
upstanding pluck and backbone. Well, there has been a good  
deal of that in the trial that has been going on over there  
in Red Moscow. And yet there has been ~~a good deal~~ <sup>much</sup> of the  
unnerved weakness and terrar that Russians ~~have~~ <sup>have</sup> been known  
to display in the face of the <sup>saturnine</sup> Soviet judge, and in the menacing  
presence of the Soviet prosecutor.

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Two of the Britishers have wobbled, badly. One, an  
engineer named Macdonald, pleaded guilty and gave evidence  
against his companion. He tried to take his confession back,  
and then he caved in again. Another named Thornton made a  
whole series of damaging admissions. Then he claimed that the  
confession had been forced from him. The Russians all have  
admitted the truth of the charges against them and <sup>have</sup> accused ~~them~~  
the Englishmen of espionage and sabotage. ~~The Englishmen in~~ <sup>British engineers in</sup>  
~~general admit that they sent reports back to their company~~  
~~telling of machinery and conditions in Russian factories.~~  
~~This they claim is the information that any engineer sends to~~  
~~his firm. From the Communist viewpoint such reports might be~~

~~considered as spy work. One point at issue is whether the British engineers sent back to England information of military value, which would come under the heading of military espionage. The most serious charge of course is sabotage, the claim that the English engineers conspired with their Russian co-workers to wreck machinery in the Soviet plants, especially in the plants manufacturing military supplies.~~

The latest news is just as sensational as the word that has ~~xx~~ been coming through all week. The chief of the six ~~Metropolitan~~ Vickers <sup>men,</sup> ~~employees,~~ Allan Monkhouse, <sup>has</sup> given his testimony. He declared <sup>s</sup> that he and his comrades <sup>were</sup> ~~had been~~ put through a severe ordeal by the Soviet police, the Ogpu. Talking through the microphone he stated outright that whatever confessions the English engineers had made had been forced from them by the terrorizing pressure of the Secret Police. He added that he himself had been questioned for eighteen hours.

Walter Duranty, himself an Englishman and correspondent of the New York Times, cables that the forthright declaration

by the chief of the six Englishmen made a strong impression.

Later on, however, the Soviet prosecutor produced records of the examination and these indicated that Monkhouse had been questioned not for eighteen hours at a stretch, but for twelve hours. Then the English engineer weakened. He said he must have been mistaken about the duration of the time, and he apologized for having made a false statement.

The <sup>difference</sup> ~~difference~~ between eighteen hours and twelve hours of questioning may seem to be of not so great importance, until you consider the fact that the British Government in its strong diplomatic moves based its contention on the declaration that Monkhouse had been questioned for eighteen hours. ~~A similar discrepancy appears in what the British government's statement had to say about the questioning of another of the prisoners.~~

Altogether it seems like a bad tangle. In coming to the defense of the prisoners the British government has gone so far as to invoke the possibility of putting an embargo on Russian merchandise. The development of the trial at Moscow

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makes it seem likely that the prisoners will be found guilty. I don't imagine that the Red authorities will go so far as to invoke the death penalty, although they shoot people for mighty little in Russia just now. The Soviet authorities, hardboiled as they are, have followed a policy of going easy with foreigners from the West, ~~and in general have kept their hands off them.~~

GERMANY

Germany has made a protest to Great Britain.

The Hitler government has complained about some things that were said in the British Parliament. One of the events of the week in ~~Parliament~~ <sup>London ~~the~~</sup> was a debate <sup>in the House of Commons</sup> in which affairs in Germany were commented upon rather sharply.

Sir Austen Chamberlain, formerly British <sup>Foreign</sup> ~~Foreign~~ Secretary, delivered an attack against the Hitler regime. The New York Times quotes Sir Austen as declaring that the present Nazi spirit represents the worst of the old ~~Rur~~ Prussianism, with the added savagery of national pride and exclusiveness.

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The text of the protest which Count von Bernstorff, German ambassador to London, delivered to the British government, has <sup>not</sup> ~~been~~ been made public. But it is said to declare in strong terms that the speeches made in the House of Commons constitute an interference in the domestic affairs of Germany.

COOK

Well now let's see, the cook chased the chicken, and the Prime Minister conferred with the diplomatic plenipotentiary. It happened on the border of Jugo-Slavia and Bulgaria, which is a frontier not altogether dedicated to the spirit of good will and loving friendship. It is a strictly guarded border as will be indicated by a tragic happening a few weeks ago when a Bulgarian soldier was caught in a snowstorm. Blinded by the blizzard he unwittingly wandered across the Jugo-Slav <sup>boundary</sup> ~~boundaries~~ and was shot and killed by a frontier guard.

Grim incidents like that give serious point to the difficulties of the cook and the chicken. At a Jugo-Slav army post chicken was announced for lunch, but when the cook went after one of the chickens the bird ran squawking away. The cook chased it. The bird went flapping across the Bulgarian boundary. And the cook kept right on after it. Jugo-Slav soldiers arrested both the chicken and the cook and marched them back across the frontier line, where, after all the international complications, the chicken was duly served

for lunch.

This border incident was ~~not~~ solemnly reported to the Bulgarian government. The Bulgarian Prime Minister spoke to the diplomatic representative of Jugo-Slavia about it. Fortunately he did not take the cook and chicken problem any too seriously. But Balkan newspapers, in discussing the fact, point out that trivial incidents like that might lead to some trouble and some trouble might lead to some more trouble, and so on with possible damage to international peace, *as has happened before in the Balkans, Europe's witches cauldron,*

From the way <sup>they talk</sup> ~~things stand in the Balkans~~ one would be inclined to think that another world war might arise out of the fact that a cook chased a chicken.

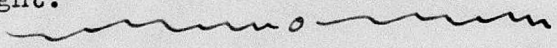


AVIATION

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Today's not only Easter -- it's also the sixty-sixth birthday of Orville Wright who, with his brother Wilbur, invented the airplane. I am reminded of this by a telegram from the Wright celebration committee, which calls our attention to the fact that this year is being commemorated as the thirtieth anniversary of that day down in North Carolina when a human being first imitated the birds by flying in a heavier-than-air machine.

It was in 1903 that the Wright brothers, amid the sand-dunes at Kittyhawk, North Carolina, made their first successful flight.



And then fanciers of the automobile will be interested in a celebration that is to be held this year. The famous old Vanderbilt Cup Races are to be revived. Twenty years ago the Vanderbilt Cup Races were the thrilling classic of the then young art and industry of the automobile. The mention of the name calls back memories of those legendary old-timers: Barney Oldfield, Rickenbacher, Resta, Ralph de Palma, and the others.

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NEW YORK

New Yorkers are talking about the new head of the Police Department. Mayor O'Brien has nominated Deputy Chief Inspector James S. Bolan as Commander General of the cops. He succeeds Commissioner Mulrooney, who has become head of the Beer Board at Albany.

The New York Times describes Inspector Bolan as a police officer long renowned as a stern disciplinarian and a heavy-handed enforcer of regulations.

WHERE IS MR. HOOVER?

My mail these days is flooded with letters of a political complexion. Curiously enough one of the commonest questions is:- "What has happened to Mr. Hoover? Is he still in the East? Where did the ex-President live when he left the White House, and so on?"

I guess some folks missed the stories in the papers about the ex-President's return to California. However, it is true that he stayed in the East for a short time after March 4th. He moved from the White House in Washington to The Waldorf in New York, just to be on hand in case he was needed. But when the emergency passed he went West, and now is enjoying a vacation, back home in sunny ~~California~~ Palo Alto.

SUN TALL

Our Sunoco Tall Story contest has brought a noble crop of whoppers this week. Here's one from Donald Fetz of Springfield, Ohio, that deserves an autographed copy of the Tall Story book as a prize.

"A friend of mine," writes Don, "bought an old decrepit second-hand Austin. Wanting to make it run as well as possible this friend of mine tanked it up with Blue Sunoco. Did that put life into the old Austin? I'll say it did -- it developed a rare turn of speed. It ran up my poor friend's arm and tickled him to death.

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TOWN

(1)

~~Let's wind up with~~ <sup>Now for</sup> the most frequently misspelled and ~~the most frequently~~ mispronounced town in the country. It's in Iowa <sup>or as some call it Loway - any how the towns out there</sup> and its name is Maquoketa -- if that's the way you pronounce it, and thank goodness ~~that~~ I don't have to spell it. There are 288 ways of spelling the name of that otherwise placid and peaceful burg in Iowa.

The New York Times tells us that the postoffice has counted them. Sometimes it's Macoca, ~~and once on an envelope it was~~ <sup>called Marroketa, Macetah, McColey & once</sup> simply called Maqe. Mail clerks declare that almost any letter which has a weird-looking town marked on it is sent to that perplexing place in Iowa. One ~~that~~ letter that arrived at Maquoketa, or whatever you call it, was sent from Holland. It was addressed to Modjo-Kerto, Java. But it was sent along out to Iowa, although that's a long way from that glowing isle of the Indies, Java.

Well, after that, let's have something that's easy to spell and easy to pronounce. I ~~find that it rolls smoothly and familiarly off the tongue~~ And it's --  
So Long Until Tomorrow.