

P.J. - Sunoco. Tuesday, April 2, 1946.

★ The tidal waves and earthquakes continued in the Pacific today - though on a much smaller scale.

California and the Aleutian Islands alike reported ^{ing} huge waves rolling in on their coasts - ^{but with} ~~though~~ nothing like

~~the giant tidal flood which raised so much~~ ^{the} havoc of

yesterday. The earthquakes today are described as minor shocks, occurring from time to time.

✓ All of which takes us to a fantasmal realm of the undersea - the bottom of the Pacific, about sixty-six miles due south of Scotch Cap in the Aleutians. That point was the center of the mighty disturbances that sent enormous tidal waves rolling in a vast circle for thousands of miles. It was at the bottom of the sea

there that the earthquakes occurred, and to understand the nature of the cataclysm, one must take a look at the ocean floor. ^{TR} There is a vast abysmal chasm, where the

depth runs down steeply ^{far} thousands of feet. That's called -

the Aleutian Trench, and ^{it's} the key to the fact that the line of the Aleutian Islands is an earthquake and volcano line. The ^{islands} islands are really the tops of great mountains of the undersea, mountains that are rising slowly ^{have been} through ~~the~~ ages - thereby causing disturbances and dislocations, earthquakes, when there is a giant thrust of the rock, a shove.

But, to guess what happened, let us look more closely at the bottom of the sea along the mighty chasm called the Aleutian Trench. What's it like? We are told that the under-water land in those parts consists of green mud, black sand, rocks and deposits of volcanic ash. ~~There's~~ A lot of that at the edge of the abyss, great deposits of what you might call - submarine soil. ■

So we are told by the scientists of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, ^{And they} ~~we~~ figure ^{that} what happened went like this: -

✓ There was a violent earthquake, with ~~a shifting~~

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~~of the sea bottom along the Aleutian trench~~ - and that caused an enormous landslide. Immense masses of ~~the~~ green mud, black sand, rocks and volcanic ash were jarred loose at the edge of the chasm, and went sliding down into the abysmal depth of the Aleutian trench. That caused a mighty heaving of the water, and from the area of the submarine disturbance the giant waves were set in motion.

- as you would expect - some
There were wild rumors that the tidal waves had

been caused by an atomic bomb explosion. But the geologists point out that ~~the~~ ^{an} atomic ~~blast~~ ^{explosion,} stupendous as it is, could have only a tiny fraction of the power that caused the ^{tidal} tidal wave, such ~~as~~ ^a the landslide of ^{such} enormous magnitude plunging into that abyss - called the Aleutian Trench.

Word today magnifies the damage of the ~~major~~ tidal wave that hit yesterday - more than three hundred

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lives lost, thousands homeless, damage in the millions. The principal havoc was in Hawaii, the tidal wave doing its worst far to the south in the mid-Pacific, Hawaii receiving its heaviest blow since the Jap attack at Pearl Harbor. On the largest of the islands, the city of Hilo is ⁱⁿ utter ruin, ^{with} a state of emergency declared ^{there.} Most pitiful is a story, that came in late today, telling of ^{the} school teachers and children caught in the maelstrom of water ^{and} swept out to sea - some of them saved, others lost.

And here's a final detail of the immensity of power in the shock that occurred off the Aleutians.

~~is~~ a dispatch from Chile. From that South American republic comes word that the big tidal wave of yesterday struck all the way down to the Chilean coast, where it smashed boats, wrecked buildings on shore, and compelled people to flee to higher ground - as the comber from the Aleutians rolled in. And that part of South American Chile is seven thousand miles from the Aleutians!

~~And~~ Here's the latest - a bulletin in from Chile, which states ^{that} today, ~~that~~, after the inward sweep of the tidal wave, the ocean then receded as much as twelve hundred feet from ~~xxxx~~ the normal shoreline. - the reaction, ^{backing} out. People were panic-stricken, as the water of the sea ^{went} ~~backed~~ out - nearly a quarter of a mile. And one whole fishing fleet, which had just returned to the coast, was caught in the swirl of the receding waters - and was lost. ~~TP~~ An observatory at ~~Valparisississ~~ Valparis^o warns that the full effects of the submarine earthquake in Alaska ~~xxxx~~ may not be felt until tomorrow on the coast of Chile - though ^{seven} thousand miles away!

IRAN

Today was the thirteenth day of the New Year, as observed by the Mohammedans of Persia. And it was also picnic day. According to Moslem custom in Iran, it's a day of joyful outdoor festivity, and everybody who can goes out into the country on picnics. ~~The tradition is that a trip to the country on the thirteenth day of the New Year permits people to cast away all their troubles for the time being - the worries of household and business. So at~~

^{So, at} Teheran today, a lot of people went picnicking - but not the Premier, Ahmad Ghavam, and the other statesmen of the Iranian government. ~~On this picnicking day~~ They were having one of the busiest days of their lives - working over the Iranian reply to the inquiry sent by the United Nations, listening to all kinds of advice and suggestions, and ^{hearing} ~~working~~ up under powerful diplomatic pressure.

There was equal busy activity at the embassies

of the big powers concerned, Soviet Russia, Great Britain, the United States. Wireless transmitters never stopped humming, as messages were exchanged with Moscow, London, Washington. The code clerks were worked almost to death, deciphering ~~codes~~ messages. The Cipher Department at the American Embassy ^{in Teheran,} for example, shifted to a twelve-hour day, to handle the flood of diplomatic correspondence ^{with} at Washington.

We are told the Soviet Ambassador to Teheran ^{was} is exerting all his efforts to persuade Premier Ghavan to send a reply that will agree substantially with the Moscow reply to the query of the Security Council.

And in this we find the first indication that Moscow intends to reply. The Soviet government, we are told, would like to fix it so that both Moscow and Teheran give about the same kind of answer. In other words, a demonstration that they are in general agreement on the subject of the continued presence of Soviet Red Army

troops in Iran.

There are increasing signs that the Soviet forces are withdrawing, and a late report tells of the first units to cross the Iranian border back into Russia.

But meanwhile the United Nations are asking ^{the} ~~that~~ question whether or not there is a string to the withdrawal, whether or not the Soviets are going to pull out only if the Iranians agree to Moscow demands. *And the answer is due tomorrow.*

Meanwhile, in Moscow, another one of those propaganda blasts was issued today - hurled at Iran. The Soviet publication "NewTimes" declared that Iranian nationalists have ideas of seizing parts of Soviet Russia. They want to ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ annex such famous cities in Soviet territory as Bokhara, Tashkent, Samarkand. Also, they have notions of seizing territories all around the Persian Gulf, making that gulf - "an Iranian lake."

In other words, revive the glories of the ancient Persian Empire. The Iranian nationalists were accused of advocating a series of conquests that would ~~grant~~ give to modern Iran all of the vast territories held by the Persian Empire of Cyrus, Darius, Xerxes. Well, that ancient Persian Empire was mighty, indeed, and aspired to conquer even the glory that was Greece in the days of Marathon, Thermopylae, ^{and} Salamis. And now, in the vicinity of Teheran, there are ^{those who seek to} ~~ambitions of~~ emulating Cyrus, Darius, Xerxes. At least, so says Russian propaganda, ~~which~~ Moscow's latest contribution to the Soviet-Iranian dispute, now before the United Nations at Hunter College, New York.

All of which presented plenty of complications to the Iranian Premier today, the thirteenth day of New Year, when pious Persians are supposed to go on picnics.

MIKHAILOVITCH

★ From Washington we have word that the State Department has urged the government of Yugoslavia to permit American soldiers to submit evidence at the trial of General Mikhailovitch - the leader of the Chetniks.

✓ The case of Mikhailovitch was a tragic irony of World War Number Two. He led patriot forces against the Nazis, and was a ^{hero} ~~leader~~ of the Democracies -- ~~was~~ ~~believed as an anti-Nazi~~ -- until Communist Marshall Tito came -- with the all-powerful support of Stalin. The Democracies ^{then} abandoned Mikhailovitch and the Chetniks, and went over to the side of Tito, who accused Mikhailovitch of collaborating with the Nazis. It all ended with Mikhailovitch a fugitive, finally captured in a cave, now to be tried and executed.

✓ Mikhailovitch and the Chetniks gave priceless help to the Americans and the British at a critical time. This is now cited by the State Department in Washington, which says: "Many United States airmen were rescued and returned to Allied lines through the

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undaunted efforts of the forces of General Mikhailovitch?

And now American soldiers who were in Yugoslavia want
to speak in defense of the leader of the Chetniks. ~~X~~

CHINA

It looks as if the peace agreement that ended the China civil war might go sour - because of Manchuria. We hear that at Chungking a violent dispute has broken out between the Chiang Kai-shek people and the Chinese Communists - a quarrel over which faction shall control the northern province. And in Manchuria, a large scale battles are said to be shaping up between the Nationalists and the Reds.

HOMMA

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★ It has just been announced officially in Manila that Japanese Lieutenant General Homma has been executed, Homma found guilty of responsibility for that monumental atrocity, the Death March of Bataan.

The Manila account states that Homma went proudly to his doom - a soldier's death by a firing squad - unlike Yamashita, who was hanged. //

FOOD

The government is going to buy wheat on farms -
to increase shipments of grain to famine areas abroad.
The Department of Agriculture tells farmers that it will
buy wheat standing in their fields - for immediate
delivery at current market prices.

ARMOR

The word from London is that - for some fantastic reason or other - Americans have suddenly gone in for buying - armor, suits of mail the knights of old used to wear. London antique dealers estimate that during the past year, four million dollars' worth of the medieval ironware has been exported to the United States. ^{TP} The prices are high, the cheapest brand of armor fetching about four hundred dollars a suit - the kind of second rate helmet and breast plate worn by foot soldiers toward the end of the Middle Ages - the G.I.'s of that period. ^{TP} As for really fine armor, such as might have been worn by a duke or a king, the price runs up into thousands. The top figure in London recently was eighteen thousand dollars paid for a suit of mail manufactured in Italy, with elaborate decorations and scroll work of inlaid metal. The most ornate armor worn ^{in England} during the Middle Ages came from Italy and Spain.

The business is so good, that dealers are sending scouts to old castles and manor houses, looking for venerable examples of medieval battle dress. Appeals are being made to families who may have lying around examples of the armor worn by their knightly ancestors - asking that they put these on the market for export to America, and thereby increase ~~the~~ British resources ⁱⁿ American dollars.

It's hard to figure what people over here are going to do with the armor they buy. ~~Now~~ A suit of mail is ^{not} ~~really~~ a delicate ~~little~~ trinket to have around the house, unless one is deeply in earnest about establishing some noble ancestors back in the days of chivalry. Or maybe gazing at a suit of mail might be a welcome relief from thinking about the atomic bomb.

The boom in armor over in England is reaffirming one fact, that always surprises the layman - the small size of those mighty warriors of the Middle Ages who

rode to battle encased in iron. The suits of armor now being brought forth show that the knights who wore them stood from five feet three to five feet six in stature - shorties, but they carried a lot of metal.

DEMOCRATS

Today was apology day in Washington.

Apology demanded by the southern Democrats -- they'd been roused to wrath by an article printed in a magazine issued by the Woman's Section of the Democratic National Committee. This article assailed Legislators who had voted in favor of the Case bill, a measure to stop strikes. One sentence ~~to give~~^{gave} this advice to women voters: "Let your representatives know that the passage of the restrictive Case bill was a vote against the American people." Most of the Southerners had voted for the bill, and to be blasted like that in an official publication of their own party irked them no end.

So today a group of more than fifty Legislators from Dixie held an indignation meeting and demanded apologies in elaborate fashion. They said that amends would have to be made by the offending magazine, and that Democratic National Chairman Hannigan must write an individual letter of apology

to each of the Southerners who had voted for the Case bill. ^R That was followed by an apology from a woman executive of the National Democratic Committee, who explained ^{how} it was all a mistake. She said the blast represented only the opinion of the young woman who had written it -- and she's not on the job any more.

Also, the editor should have caught the excoriating statement, but ~~she~~ didn't ^{and} that was just too bad. ^{concluded by saying:-} The apology "We wouldn't go out of our way to take a slap at any Democrat."

At last reports, however, the irate Southerners were still not pacified. They've named a twelve man committee to call on National Chairman Hannigan -- presumably to exact the rest of the apologies.

And now H - we call on you!