

L.J. - Sunoco. Wednesday, Nov. 19, 1941. Cannon

Here's the latest war news -- and it's important.

The British today began their offense in North Africa.

They launched a powerful drive against the Italians and

Germans, and scored a fifty-mile ~~xxx~~ advance. A dispatch

from Cairo mentions the operation as a full-dress affair,

staged with fleets of tanks and planes -- a large proportion

of them American built. Yet it was a surprise blow -- it

was camouflaged so cleverly.

One ~~paradoxical~~ paradoxical factor was the weather,

rain -- a heavy rain on the North African desert. But then,

even the traditional realm of burning sands has ~~yet~~ wet

weather sometimes. Cairo says there was no resistance to the

fifty-mile advance -- so sudden and surprising.

Large-scale fighting ~~x~~ has not yet begun --

though it may be starting right now. Anyway, the long

awaited offensive in North Africa is in progress. And now

it remains to be seen how the imperial forces will be able

to follow ~~thxxxx~~ up their first stroke of signal success.

We have nothing definite about the war in Russia, but there are indications that the Germans are launching another big time attack on Moscow -- and, are breaking through.

British sources are saying that right now the Germans are making their last major offensive against the Chief Soviet city - before the frosty completeness of winter sets in. their last ~~major offensive against the Chief~~ It

would seem to be frosty enough tight now -- with insistent Soviet stories of how the Axis forces are suffering from the cold, freezing. [Berlin's comment about the weather is that it has turned

favorable for mechanized fighting - the mud gone, frozen, hard ground.

FINLAND

The case of Finland is becoming more and more a perplexity for London. Stalin is demanding that Great Britain declare war on the little northern Republic -- which London has not yet done. ^{And} The United States has to be considered. Secretary of State ^uHill has warned Finland to quit the war against the Soviets - or forfeit American

friendship. (Today in ~~the~~ the United States Senate, by the way, Shipstead of Minnesota denounced the Cordell ^HHill advice to Finland on the ground that it puts the United States in the position of playing errand boy to Stalin.

In London, Labor Members today demanded that the Churchill Government accede to Stalin's desire. To which Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden replied that Great Britain right now is making war against Finland. There is, of course, no declaration, and Eden used merely these words, "all military and naval action." As things stand, about the only military and naval action that London can very well be taking against Finland is -- blockade.

Meanwhile, we hear of renewed expectations - that the northern Republic may be persuaded to stop fighting the

18
Soviets. Informed sources in Washington say they understand that Britain and America would undertake to give Finland a guarantee. And this report mentions - "a safer frontier". Which would seem to mean that London and Washington might persuade Stalin that he should agree that Finland should gain even more territory than the Soviets seized the winter before last.

STALIN

The following is given as a war headline - though it may not seem so important when ~~as~~ a man merely says - "God bless you". However, when the individual happens to be Stalin, it's something of an international sensation. In ~~Marx~~ Marxian communism, the creator of the universe is not recognized, and ^{the} Soviet attitude toward religion has been one of the thorny points in the British-American policy of aiding the Red Army. Hence, the ~~importance~~ importance when Stalin invokes the name of divinity.

49
In an uncensored story by a United Press correspondent recently out of Russia, we are told of the celebrations that attended the visit of the British and American missions to Moscow. ~~Correspondent~~ Correspondent Wallace Carroll relates that the British and Americans were pleasantly surprised by the personality of the man of steel so long excoriated as a ruthless dictator. One American official described him in these words, "a nice old gentleman".

Furthermore, we are told that Stalin ~~freely~~ frequently resorts to biblical phraseology. Of course, he knows something

about the scriptures - since he was educated for the
priesthood in the Russian Orthodox Church before he became
a Red ~~xxx~~ revolutionist. But it is a little bit surprising
to be told that he ~~xxxxx~~ quotes the bible more often than
~~xxxx~~ Marx ~~of~~ or Lenin. However, quoting the holy writ might
be ~~xx~~ considered good policy with the British and Americans.
Still further, Stalin called upon the blessing of God.
This occurred in a toast to President Roosevelt. Stalin
Said: "May God help him in his task". And the United Press
correspondent comments that this startled some of the guests,
as well it might.

50

WEYGAND

Washington is much concerned by reports that General Weygand has been removed as French Commander in North Africa. In consequence, the State Department is putting off a decision ~~xx~~ in the matter of sending supplies of food to unoccupied ~~Rxxxf~~ France. They won't do anything to help the French - until they find out about Weygand.

Washington has no confirmation of the ^{re}ports that the African pro-Consul has been removed - but the rumor is insistent. ~~One account tells us that General Weygand, is in being taken out of North Africa, was offered the post of Minister of War in the Petain ~~xxxxxx~~ Government but he refused.~~

The solicitude of Washington is easily understandable. Weygand all along has stood against policies of yielding too much to the Nazis. As ~~xx~~ African Commander, he has been a bulwark against German schemes to get hold of such vital places as Dakar. ~~(If he has been ousted, the inevitable surmise will be that the pro-Nazi faction in the Vichy Government has attained predominance - for all-out collaboration. There has~~

~~an amicable settlement to avert a war in the Pacific.~~

From Tokyo, the word comes that the Japanese newspapers have changed their tone toward the United States - have become much more friendly. Yesterday the Japanese newspapers talked belligerently, but it was otherwise today. One important Tokyo journal sounded a keynote in phrases like this: "We do not wish to see war between Japan and the United States. And, believing that the United States also desires Peace, we hope only ^{for} tranquility in the Pacific," says the Tokyo newspaper. The change-over since yesterday is rather dramatic and it's all the more significant - since Japanese journalism reflects the views of the Tokyo government.

In our negotiations with Japan, the special Emissary from Tokyo and the Japanese Ambassador to Washington are waiting for fresh instructions from their government. After their conferences with President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Cordell Hull, they communicated with Tokyo and gave a report of what had transpired. Whereupon they had to wait for the ~~Mik~~ Mikado's Government to give them further instructions about what to do. So that's the way things stand in the Washington discussions that may or may not lead to war - a brief ~~px~~ period of waiting, and then the conferences will be resumed.

Congressional opinion was expressed in opposite fashion today - by one of the Administration stalwarts -- Peppery ~~Rp~~ Pepper of Florida, and the Isolationist leader Wheeler of Montana. Senator Pepper demanded that no compromise be made with Japan, no agreement until Tokyo ~~gm~~ guarantees to get its forces out of China, Indo-China and promises to commit no more aggressions. Senator Wheeler took the contrary attitude and thought a compromise could be arranged, *an amicable settlement to avert a war in the Pacific.*

COAL

John L. Lewis has promptly turned down today's appeal ~~th~~ by President Roosevelt. He says "no" to the two alternative plans which the President proposed today for ending the coal strike. One plan was to let the question of a closed shop wait until after the present emergency is over. Open the mines at once, and keep them working until the war crisis is passed - then take up the disputed point. The alternative proposal was - arbitration. Let the unions and the employers submit the closed shop question to the decision of impartial arbiters.

John L. Lewis, in declining both proposals, stated that he was speaking only for himself. He has not yet consulted the union policy board of two hundred. He has still to put the President's appeal before them. But the general belief is that the policy board, dominated by Lewis, will okay his verdict.

The President's ~~ax~~ proposals were accepted by the head of the United States steel Corporation, ~~one of the~~ ^{and other} companies

would follow suit. But the head of the union says no -
and so the strike continues.

Today saw a spread of the walkout, with an
increased crippling of the mines. ~~Union men in commercial~~
~~mines walked out - regular mines that sell coal in contra-~~
~~distinction to those that are owned by the steel companies~~
~~for their own use.~~

There is an increasing demand for action in
Congress, and more and more the ~~opinion~~ opinion is repeated -
that it's up to the President.

24
One of the most terrifying of railroad accidents occurred today near Van Nuys, California. It's hard to imagine anything more fearsome - a string of cars on fire in a long tunnel. Three trainmen lost their lives, as rescue crews tried vainly to battle their way into the ~~fire~~ flame and the smoke that had turned the tunnel into an inferno.

The Hassen Tunnel in ~~Calif~~ California is seven thousand feet long, nearly a mile and a half. And today a ninety-six car freight train went ~~xxx~~ roaring into the tube. Inside, there was an accident. A coupling broke, and the freight train was stalled. Apparently there was a leak of oil from the tender of the locomotive, and this caught fire. A few cars behind the locomotive, was a tank car of gasoline - ~~xxx~~ and you can readily surmise what happened. There was a tremendous blast of flame in the narrow spaces of the tunnel, and the train burned with a roaring fury - the tunnel like a chimney. A fireman who tried to fight his way to the blaze came out saying, "it's like a furnace in there."

55
One grim detail is found in ten carloads of cattle -- destroyed.

AUTOMOBILES

The production of automobiles is going to be cut by more than half - in February. Today the O.P.M. announced that passenger car production during February of Nineteen Forty-Two will be ~~increased by~~ reduced by more than fifty-six percent, as compared with last February. A hundred and seventy-four thousand automobiles, as against a previous three hundred and ninety-six thousand. Meaning, that for every one hundred cars produced last February, ~~xx~~ only forty-four will be manufactured during the same period next year. This - because of a shortage of materials, which are needed for national defense.

SECESSION

As if there weren't enough trouble already, this nation is faced with a problem of secession. Shakes of Abe Lincoln and Jeff Davis. The ~~NEWS~~ news tells of a large area planning to withdraw, not from the union, however, but from the State of California and Oregon.

56
Today at Yreka, California, a ~~CONF~~ conference representing three counties met for the purpose of forming a new state. The counties are Siskiyou and Del Norte in California, and ~~EMERY~~ Curry County in Oregon. And they say there's a ~~likeness~~ likelihood ~~that~~ that three others are likely to join the secession movement.

It's all because of a row concerning mineral resources in the Siskiyou mountains. The people in that section want the State Governments of California and Oregon to help in developing large deposits of copper, ~~beryllium~~ beryllium, ^{and} magnesite - valuable minerals, important for national defense. The State Governments have not responded in satisfactory fashion - hence ^{this bolt} ~~there-volt~~ of the counties. The conference that has gathered is studying the legal angles of the problem, and one of its leaders stated:- "Make

no mistake - the counties are deadly in earnest about this secession movement."

— a newspaper —
And today the Siskiyou news began a campaign to
select a name for the proposed new forty-ninth state.

57
However, there's a good deal of suspicion that if California and Oregon will kick in with help in developing the Siskiyou mineral ~~resources~~ resources, the secession would soon dissolve, so maybe there won't be any new civil war, with a local ^a Grant and a local Robert E. Lee on the border of California and Oregon.

NEWSPAPER

The new Chicago newspaper has selected a name.

The World of journalism has been ^{- well slightly agog -} agog for months about the new venture launched by Marshall Field - a new morning paper to compete with Chicago's traditional oracle, "The Tribune". And what would be its name? To ~~decide~~ decide that important point, they held a ten Thousand Dollar prize contest. That much cash to be awarded to the lucky person making the best suggestion, the name the newspaper would adopt.

You'd think that a ten thousand dollar prize contest, would result in something original - some novelty. There are many majestic newspaper names in this country - in addition

to Tribune, Times, News and Journal. For example, the New Orleans TIMES-PICAYUNE and the ^{Seattle Post -} Washington INTELLIGENCER.

And then there's the Canton, Ohio ^{The Poughkeepsie Courier,} REPOSITORY, [^] the Redondo,

California, BREEZE, the Oil City, Pennsylvania BLIZZARD, and

the Lubbock, Texas AVALANCHE. There's the St. Charles

Missouri COSMOS MONITOR, and the ~~Rich~~ Richmond, Indiana ^{Star}

PALADIUM, ~~STAR~~. Not to ~~be~~ forget the Bloomington, Illinois

PANOGRAPH and the Watsonville, California REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

AND SUN. Noble names of illustrious organs of public opinion.

So what do we now find in ~~the~~ Chicago? What's the name of Marshall Field's new paper, the name ~~presented~~ produced by the Ten Thousand Dollar prize contest? The answer is a three letter word, meaning a heavenly body round and hot - SUN. It's to be the Chicago Sun. Well, there are plenty of SUNS in the firmament^{ent} of American Journalism, and we now have another. And they're paying ten thousand dollars for that original inspiration. I could have thought of it myself -

~~The Chicago~~ The Chicago Sun.

I like that word Sun. There's magic in it. And in case you haven't already made the discovery my sponsor, the Sun Company, makes the finest gas and oil in the world, Am I right Hugh?