

L. T. - Sunoco - Thurs. July 1, 1937

STRIKE

(The peace agreement between the Inland Steel Company and the C.I.O. is strictly an indirect affair.) The treaty was ~~arrived~~ <sup>arrived</sup> at in a curious round-about way. The company and the C.I.O. have formed no compact between

themselves. (Each side dealt with Governor Townsend of Indiana.

~~Illinois~~ The company agreed with the Governor to recognize the C.I.O. as representing its own union members -- them only.

The C.I.O. compacted with the Governor to accept the Inland Steel Labor policy, hours, wages and working conditions, which the company had already offered. Thus it is all indirect, done through a third party.) It's pretty much as if Jim and

Jack ~~Joe~~ won't shake hands with each other but they compromise by going up to ~~Jack~~ <sup>Joe</sup> and each shakes one of his hands.

The company vowed it wouldn't <sup>t</sup> sign, and it hasn't signed! - victory! John Lewis and the C.I.O. vowed they wouldn't accept an oral agreement from the company, and in a way they haven't -- they got it from the Governor. Maybe that's also a victory.

Anyway, the steel strike is over so far as Inland

46

46

Steel is concerned, and today the great plant in East Chicago,  
*just over the line in Indiana,*  
went into roaring operation, smoke pouring from chimneys,  
men crowding in tumultously for jobs.

47

But that's only one company -- one of the four  
that constitute - "Little Steel". For the other three the  
strike is still on Republic, Bethlehem, and Youngstown.  
They're continuing their battle with the C.I.O. -- though  
the labor war <sup>is</sup> today was in a quiet phase, little turbulence  
is reported, and they say the back-to-work movement is still  
on. Let's hope the quietude will deepen into a still more  
tranquil hush. Let's hope the steel war is on its way out.

~~47~~

CONGRESS

Down in Washington this evening there are a number of disgruntled orators, who are orating with indignation. They are Congressmen of the Silvery Tongue, and today a cruel check was put upon them.

Congress is restive, as the hot Washington summer gets hotter. The law makers want to go home, but they can't do that until they've cleaned up pending business - important bills, the imperative ~~x~~ kind of "MUST" legislation. The ~~g~~ thing that slows up business in Washington most of all is - long winded speeches. Eloquent Legislators, <sup>some</sup> and ~~not~~ so eloquent, love to get up and hold forth in long drawn out flights of oratory, and while they're declaiming, the progress of business is stopped.

48

48

So today majority leader Sam Rayburn decided to do something about it. No, he didn't venture to call a halt on the oratory. He wasn't rash enough to put through a ruling of - Shut-Up. After all, we have freedom of speech in this country, haven't we? What Congressman Sam did was something more subtle, but even more deadly. He ordered that for the rest of this Session the day's routing of legislative work shall be done, before the speeches begin. Business first, and not until

then - the oratory. Now, that's a devastating blow to the Silver Tongued Ciceros. In the first place, the moment the day's business is done, the rest of the Congressmen will leave and go home - leaving the orators to declaim to empty benches. That's not so startling, because the representatives commonly adjourn for a smoke in the cloak rooms when the speech-making gets started. But - the visitors in the galleries will also go home. As soon as the business of the day is through they'll leave. And so, the orators will hold forth, not only to empty benches but also to empty galleries. They'll shout their elocution into complete emptiness, and only the unfortunate congressional record will get it.

49

So that's the kind of subtle and deadly shut-up which Sam Rayburn of Texas put across today.

## GRASSHOPPERS

~~49~~  
There's a war being fought in Colorado, a war against grasshoppers. That's a familiar story out on the great plains of the west, a battle against insect pests. Eastern Colorado has been having a severe grasshopper plague this year, and today's news brings accounts of a climax - nine counties, four thousand square miles, turned into a wilderness waste of hoppers. No sign of life, except millions and millions of crawling insects that have devoured every shred of green, a smothering blanket from horizon to horizon. There on the prairie are many old time buffalo wallows, great deep holes. These are filled to the brim with hoppers, leveled off in an ocean of insects.

Homesteaders are scaling the hoppers from their roofs and front yards with blow-torches. They are exterminating millions with poisoned-sawdust and bran. Sam McCampbell, *at Fort Collins,* Entomologist of Colorado State College, is using half a million pounds of ~~maxix~~ poison. He has borrowed a fleet of a hundred trucks from the National Guard, *the* forestry service

GRASSHOPPERS - 2

~~170~~  
and the State Highway Department. And that fleet of trucks is hauling poison for the fields - in an attempt to limit the wildfire spread of the plague.

The deluge of hoppers began last fall, with a mere small start - a snowball that began the avalanche. The colony of migratory grasshoppers laid their eggs near Carvel - Colorado, laid eggs over only a few acres. From then on the hoppers have multiplied in geometric progression, raised to the nth power.

Colorado has had five recorded plagues of grasshoppers. The worst one was in Eighteen Ninety-Seven, when the streets of Colorado Springs were so deep in hoppers, that special shoes had to be put on the horses to keep them from slipping in the morass of insects.

*This plague, by the way, does not affect that mountainous part of Colorado which is called the Playground of America.*

SNAKES

51

As a radio feature, the subject of Snakes is hardly a happy ~~and~~ choice. ~~(The elongated Reptiles are rather slithery and sinister for a light chat out of the loud speaker.)~~

But twice in New York today, <sup>a reptilian episode</sup> ~~an episode of a snake~~ caused the Police to turn out. ~~(On two separate occasions a Serpent called out the Cops)~~ and both cases concerned boys.

ST

Dennis Bryman went into the cellar of his father's Banana Store. He switched on a light and heard a hiss. He saw a huge snake, and did he run. He dashed for the Police. An emergency squad with one Sergeant and nine Patrolmen came to arrest the Reptile. They went into the Cellar, and there was the huge Serpent. The Cops drew their guns to shoot it, but the snake disappeared in a hole in the wall. The Police blocked the hole, and then started digging for the snake. They tore up the sidewalk outside, and were excavating the whole neighborhood. Finally, as they kept burrowing, they came upon the snake's tail, with ropes and lassos properly applied, the critter was ~~then~~ captured. It isn't clear where it came from.

Bananas suggest tropical snakes, but it is hard t.

to think of an eight-footer getting unnoticed in a shipment of Bananas.

52  
Next we find Myron Mittleman. He's eighteen, but even in his tender years he enjoys the title of Secretary of a Brooklyn Herpetological Society.

"Herpetological" means - reptiles. Myron is fond of ~~them~~. ~~peculiar and unappetizing pets.~~ Two years ago, the young Herpetological created a stir by being bitten by a pet Gila Monster, the only poisonous Lizard. There was some commotion, but Myron was cured,

His misbehaving pet today was a Rattlesnake. ~~Yes, Myron likes them repulsive.~~ <sup>Myron</sup> Today ~~he~~ was going to the country and he wanted to take his pet with him. ~~Myron~~ <sup>Myron</sup> hates to be parted from his Rattlesnake. But Petsy-wetsy didn't agree, ~~The Rattler~~ <sup>and</sup> bit Myron in the thumb. He was rushed to a Hospital, and the uproar was on. The Doctors had no snake-bite-serum. They phoned an emergency call to Dr. Raymond Ditmars, the big snake and serpent man at the Bronx Zoo. He sent the serum, <sup>in</sup> ~~and~~ a real emergency hurry.



SNAKES

A police radio car with sirens shrieking raced through twenty-two miles of City traffic in forty-five minutes flat.

FAR EAST.

53

The trouble in the Far East takes on a still graver aspect today. Japan is making the most determined demands, and Moscow does not appear to be conceding. Tokyo requires categorically that the Soviets shall get their armed forces off those two disputed Islands in the Amur River, and turn the islands over to the Japanese-controlled Government of Manchukuo. Moscow seems to be standing firm. We can infer this from the statement made by the Japanese Ambassador to Moscow today. He had a conference with foreign Commissar Litvinov, and in that parley he pressed the Japanese contention. When he emerged he told the Newspaper men the situation was bad. He described it as - "very strained." Litvinov on his part, has stopped all other business to deal with the crisis, has cancelled every other diplomatic appointment. Along with this, the Government of Stalin, the Red Dictator, has launched a defense loan of four million rubles, eight hundred million dollars - for military use.

That's the ominous aspect of things in Moscow.

54  
R In Tokyo - the mood is just as tense. The Japanese Foreign Office is giving out no opinions on the state of affairs. Its very silence is taken to show how serious the imbroglio is - a hush of peril. The view revealed by Japanese news sources is an alarming one. It ~~picture~~ pictures the powerful Army of the Soviets in the Far East as - out of control, not taking orders from Moscow.

The Japanese story is that in the clash that started the recent trouble, forty gunboats of the Soviet in the Amur River appeared off the disputed islands, and opened fire on Japanese soldiers on the shore. The Japanese replied with their own cannon, and their artillery fire was ~~xxx~~ good enough to sink one of the gunboats and damage another. This defeat, they say, has angered the Russian Far Eastern Army - ~~the~~ Red Regiments out of control ready to go on a rampage. TR More soviet gunboats, says Tokyo, appeared in the disputed section of the river today. And powerful units of the Red Army are being concentrated on the border there. To this the Japanese

have replied by massing regiments of their own crack troops. So tonight two armies, tense with restrained hostility, are facing each other across that Far Eastern River. And the threat is - a battle of the Amur.

55

Let's take a look at the two islands that are the cause of the trouble, one called Sennufu and the other Bolshoi. At first glance, they don't look worth fighting about. The Amur River there is a wide, sluggish stream, winding through Semi-artic Tundra and swamp and forest. The two islands in it are mere sandbanks. Sennufu is said to be flooded at high tide. Bolshoi disappears under water when the spring floods run. Of what use are they? The answer is that they're strategic points which control the navigation of the Amur, and that river is navigable for two thousand miles. Moreover, it's the boundary between Manchukuo and Siberia, one of the longest boundary rivers in the world. The quarrel about the ownership of the islands is based on old treaties, complicated by such factors as - which is the main channel of the River? ~~and~~ And the particularly bedeviling fact that the Amur has a habit of *greatly*

changing its course, moving around, finding a new river-bed.

56

As a possible cause of a war between Russia and Japan today, the Great Far Eastern River has an interesting history. Back at the end of the last century, in the Boxer Rebellion, the Chinese bombarded the Russians on the other side of the Amur. The Russians retaliated by ~~invading~~ invading Manchuria and taking it. That led directly to the Russo-Japanese War some years later. And the question tonight is - Will the Amur River lead to another Russo-Japanese War? <sup>It</sup> A New World peril. It takes our minds off Spain. We're forgetful of an old trouble because of a new one.

IRELAND

57

They were voting in Ireland today, voting for candidates and for a constitution. The battle is between DeValera and Cosgrave. Eamon DeValera - tall, thin, long-faced and ascetic, whom his opponents <sup>call</sup> ~~say~~ a fanatic, whose adherents say is dauntlessly devoted to the freedom of Ireland. William Cosgrave, the sturdy, hard headed type, a moderate. DeValera's ~~Fianna Fail, the~~ Republican party, has a hundred and thirty-eight candidates running; Cosgrave's group, the United Ireland Party, has entered Ninety-five candidates. Moreover, the Labor Party has twenty-three members in the running and various other groups have thirty-six independents. Beyond all these, is the extreme Republican faction, which is not in the election at all. The last ditch Republicans are bitterly hostile to DeValera. They think he hasn't gone fast enough in breaking loose from England, So they're boycotting the election of members to parliament.

You can see that it's quite a complicated election that the Irish are staging today. It's all the more complicated because it's ~~on~~ on a basis of proportionate representation - meaning that the number of representatives that each party

will have in parliament will be in proportion to the total of votes it gets. It is all so intricate that it will be several days before they'll be able to figure out the results of the balloting today. The general belief is that DeValera will win out and will return to power as the Irish President.

It is also believed that the new constitution will get an okay, since DeValera is backing it. The most obviously interesting feature of the ~~new~~ new constitution is - that it omits all mention of England, no reference to that other island and its empire with which Ireland has been joined for so long and so tragically.

CHESS

58

Here's a strange story that might well begin with the question - Among what class of people will you find the greatest gift of memory? I'd hazard the answer - Among master chess players, among those adepts of the complicated game who play it blindfold, a number of games at a time without seeing. They don't see the boards. Their opponents' moves are called out to them. It's all mental - sheer memory. I've heard stories how the legended genius Pillsbury in that blindfold fashion, would play simultaneously a few games of chess, several bouts of checkers and a hand or two of whist, - never seeing either chess or checkerboards or the cards. That's memory - memory in the highest.

58 1/2

Over in England, one of the great chess masters is William Winter. He's a nephew of Sir James Barrie, the author of "Peter Pan", who recently died. William Winter is right up in the top rank of chess masters, plays in the great international tournaments, a mighty adept in the game of prodigious ~~in~~ memory.

Today William Winter wandered into a London police



59  
station, and asked: "Who am I?" he had forgotten,  
couldn't recollect who he was. There's irony for you,  
one of those mocking bits that put a bitter tang in the  
spice of life. Suffering from aphasia, loss of memory.  
He couldn't even remember his own identity.

59 1/4  
And, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.