

L.J. - P. & G. Monday, Jan. 26, 1948.

Some of our government officials at Washington were ~~in~~
~~much concerned~~
~~stare~~ today over the French ~~government's~~ devaluation of the
Franc. Not a few of them predicted that ~~it~~^{this} would result in an
international trade war, ~~and~~ others foresaw^{see} the collapse of the
Marshall Program. ^R The State Department at first declined to
issue any official comment. ~~But~~ Then it announced that ~~we~~^{we}
~~French government has~~^{have} appealed to Paris that the devalued Franc,
two-hundred-and-fourteen to the dollar, be used with such care
that any ill consequences ~~may~~ be reduced to the minimum. Still
later in the day, the State Department indicated it had changed
its mind, ^{and} now approves ~~of~~ the devaluation of the France, though
not of all the ^{way,} ~~details of the plan.~~

Treasury officials were afraid that this ~~action~~ might
~~cause France's neighbors to do the same.~~
~~start the states abutting on France to follow her example. Then~~

there is also danger that French business men might buy things
from Great Britain and other countries on a Sterling basis, and
then re-export what they bought to the United States, and make a
handsome profit. They could do this, for instance, with Scotch
whiskey. However, the French government has legal machinery
to stop profiteering with these new exchange ~~■~~ rates. Moreover,

the British government can use its powers of export-control to protect foreign markets.

When the intention of the French government was learned in London, Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, flew to Paris and did his ^{utmost} ~~best~~ to dissuade the Schuman Cabinet from taking this step. ^{altho} ~~As we know~~ he failed, but he left behind ~~him~~ a technical staff to draw up measures of protection in collaboration with the French government.

Cripps told the House of Commons today that the Labor Cabinet would do everything in its power to protect the value of the Pound Sterling. At the same time, ^{and that} His Majesty's Government do ^{not} contemplate taking any action to alter the rate of Sterling in relation to other currencies, because it will not be necessary or advisable.

(In Paris, Premier Schuman told the French Parliament that his drastic measure had been forced upon him. He had to devalue the Franc or subject the people to factories closed down, unemployment and bread-lines.)

One group of people, a large group, was highly disgruntled. Those were the thousands who made fortunes by buying and selling dollars in the black market.

On the other hand, a maker of champagne said he *now* could double his exports, provided Uncle Sam lowers his tariff on the sparkling wine. The makers of expensive clothes take a dim view of the French devaluation.

(The most immediate consequence of the devaluation of the Franc was a frantic day on the Royal Stock Exchange in London.) Although Sir Stafford Cripps guaranteed that the government would hold up the value of the Pound Sterling, speculators sold their holdings of Sterling right and left. The price of government stocks ~~particularly~~ broke badly. According to the London Standard, bond values dropped by one hundred million Pounds, four hundred and three million dollars at the official rate.

Most of the speculators reinvested their money in gold stocks and commodity issues. Such stocks also went up

in New York, Paris and South Africa. (A stop was put to trading in Francs in New York, for the time being.) The French government ~~forbade~~ forbade dealings in Pound Sterling.

EUROPE

One way to push ahead the recovery of western Europe will be to dismantle more German factories and ship them to the countries that suffered from the Nazi occupation. *As a result* of a resolution of ^{our} ~~the~~ House of Representatives, ^{is} called for information on that dismantling business, ~~Today~~, ^{today} General Lucius Clay made ^a ~~his~~ report, ^{in which he said that} ~~and that was an important part of it,~~ ^{forty} plants ^{have} already been removed from the American occupation zone, and most of ^{which} ~~them~~ are already in operation in France, Britain and the Netherlands, ^{— already} ~~in operation and~~ contributing to the recovery of those countries. If the plants ^{had been} ~~were~~ left in Germany, said General Clay, it would be many years before they would be used.

None of these dismantled plants are now being sent to Russia. ^{Gen.} Clay put a stop to that after the Soviets refused to carry out the Potsdam Agreement on the economic unification of Germany. Six hundred and two more factories have been ear-marked to be dismantled and removed from both the British and American zones.

Gen. Clay also reported that the Russians are taking away large quantities of foodstuffs from the ^W part of Germany, the *region called* ~~occupy~~, which has always been the bread basket of Germany. *Pub,*

that The cause of the recent acute food shortages in the American and British zones is the discontinuance of normal trade between the Western zones and the Russian zone.

GREECE

The Greek Government cannot clean out the Red guerrillas unless Uncle Sam sends more cannon. The advice of the American officers who have been sent to Greece is ~~very~~^{nice,} and very helpful, says Premier Sofoulis; but it isn't enough. Miss Ethel Merman has been telling the world for many months, in that great Annie Oakley show -- that "you can't get a man with a gun." The Greek Army finds that you can't get a Communist without one; in fact without lots of them. More fire power, says Athens, is the answer to the problem of the civil war in Greece.

But, Sofoulis doesn't want American troops on Greek soil. Not that they would object to international help to save the security of their frontiers. But, he says it's a matter of national pride for the Greeks to shed their own blood. Give 'em the tools, he says, and they will do the job themselves.

And, they want that help now! If more artillery is not furnished before March, summer will

have arrived before the Greek Army can start the offensive that it has planned. And they won't be able to finish operations until late in the summer, if by then.

The Communists, meanwhile, are growing stronger in artillery all the time. They used nine cannon in the Battle of Konitsa, and are now said to have many more.

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The Greek Army has not yet started a ~~real~~ real offensive. So far, its operations have consisted of a thrust here and a thrust there, pouncing on the guerrillas in a haphazard way. And now Greek Army Intelligence has information that the next ~~ix~~ guerrilla attack will come from the Gammos Mountains along the Albanian frontier where they are piling up supplies from Jugoslavia -- and massing troops trained by Jugoslav and Russian officers.

PALESTINE

Conditions in the Holy Land have become too hot for the safety of American woman and children. Three of Uncle Sam's consular officials in Jerusalem sent their families home today.

There were anxious moments as they were driven along the battle-ridden road between Jerusalem and Haifa. ~~But~~ The British authorities provided an escort with two armored cars, ^{and} they went through without trouble even in the ~~district~~ ^{section where} ~~most~~ ^{trouble almost always occurs,} ~~infested by hostile Arabs.~~

More and more Arabs, ^{we hear,} are filtering into Palestine from other countries, particularly Syria and Lebanon.

^R Conferences are going on for combining the military forces of the Haganah, the Irgun Zvai Leumi, and the Stern Gang. They ^{will be} ~~will probably be operating soon~~ under one command, ^{soon,} ~~to resist~~ ~~the expected big offensive by the Arab forces.~~

OIL

Nine billion dollars to make synthetic oil, a nice little project for Uncle Sam. Interior Secretary Krug says we must build plants, as many and as quickly as possible, to cope with our shrinking supplies of petroleum. And that involves the erection of factories all over the country, enough to produce two million barrels of synthetic oil a day. Secretary Krug doesn't mean that Uncle should go into the oil business himself. His suggestion is that Uncle Sam should help private industry to do this job, just as Washington boosted the manufacture of synthetic rubber during the war.

We hear this would involve the use of sixteen million tons of steel, which is scarce already.

The Secretary of the Interior made this request in a report to Congress today. And, he included the information that his Department is already operating two demonstration plants, that right now are extracting oil from shale and from coal at Rifle, Colorado, on the Western Slope of the Rockies, and at Louisiana, Missouri.

The Commerce Committee of the House reacted quickly -- with a proposal that a joint congressional committee be established to study the idea -- which it considers too formidable a proposition for a quick decision. I should think so! Nine Billion dollars. Meanwhile, says the Congressional Committee, there should be an immediate embargo on all petroleum exports, no oil, no gasoline, to be sent abroad, until we know where we stand.

If the Secretary of the Interior has the right ~~fix~~ figures, that big Arabian oil field and all that happens in the Near and Middle East loom up as of vital importance to every American.

TAXES

Republican leaders in the House expect to pass ^{the} Knutson bill to cut income taxes to the tune of six billion dollars -- pass it by next Monday. But the lawmakers in the Senate -- we hear they'll not go along with this idea.

The Republican Senators held a conference today and agreed unanimously, and inforally, that they will draft a bill much less drastic to the Knutson Bill.

The Senators decline'to say how much reduction they favor.

Some of the Democrats are in favor of shaving the Federal imposts. For instance, Doughton of North Carolina favors a bill to slice four billions. That being two billion less than Mr. Knutson wants cut off.our taxes.

Along with this, the Republicans also propose ~~an~~ to cut large chunks off the Truman budget -- slash it without impairing such essential services as national defense.

THOMAS The News from Cristobal, in the Canal Zone is that the liner S.S. Ancon has arrived at the Cristobal Breakwater, and that Congreeman J Parnell Thomas. Chairman of the House UnAmerican Committee, has been taken ashore. The Ancon was met by three US Army ~~xxxxxxx~~ Doctors who supervised the disembarkation of the ailing politician. Thomas was stricken with an internal hemorage during the voyage. Blood plasma was flown to the shop by airplane, and administered to supplement ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ transfusions offered by fellow passengers. Latest word is that Congressman Thomas is making ~~good~~ progress and surgery may not be necessary.

SEAWAY

(The long mooted seaway from the St. Lawrence to the Great Lakes got into the news again today. President Truman brought the issue up, ^{then} ~~once more~~, writing letters to leaders in the Senate and the House, urging that the treaty with Canada be ratified.) The middlewestern Congressmen are particularly strong for it. The President declared ^s that the construction of the seaway would develop one of the richest natural resources of the continent for the benefit of the whole United States, making ocean transportation available to mid-western lake ports.

Recent critics of the proposal protested that cold weather would close the seaway ~~up~~ during at least four months of every year. ^H The opposition in Congress also comments sarcastically that this period of inflation is not the best time for starting a project which would call for the spending of seven hundred and twenty million dollars.

WHALES. From Berkeley, California we learn that sixty million years ago meat eating ^{whales -} ~~waters -~~ aquatic carnivora, swam in the primordial sea that covered the continent of Africa. This ^{from} ~~news reported to the~~ University of California, Wendell Phillips, ~~the~~ ^{explorer} leader of an American ~~scientific~~ expedition covering ^{a considerable part of the} ~~the entire~~ African continent. ^{of the Univ. of Calif.,} Phillips describes these whales - the fossilized bones of which he unearthed in Africa's "Valley of Whales" about sixty miles from the Pyramids, ^{as} smaller and slenderer ^{than} than the deep water mammals we know today - the prehistoric ancestors of "Moby Dick" which inhabited the ancient Sea of Tethys. Whales with sharp teeth preying on other denizens of ~~xxxxxxx~~ a mighty sea that extended from the Black Sea to the middle of Africa sixty million years ago.

Wendell Phillips hails the discovery of these carnivorous whales as the most important made ^{so far} ~~by~~ by the expedition which has already ~~discovered~~ covered fossil remains

Whales 2.

many ^{*strange*} creatures, ^{*including the*} ~~Among them the~~ ~~XXXXXXSx~~ Hyraxes, a biblical rodent with hooves, and the Anthroceres, a creature that was a cross between a pig and a deer. ^R The expedition's search ^{*in one area*} for the primitive ancestor of the ape had to be abandoned, because there are too many land mines in the fossil beds to the west of Cairo.

Land mines laid to impede the progress of Rommel's tanks, ^{*a Univ. of Calif. expedition,*} now holding up ~~scientific investigation.~~

EARTHQUAKE

Earthquake shocks in the Philippines, fifteen killed, fifteen injured. Eight major shocks and many lesser ones throughout the day.

At Ilo Ilo, capital of the island of Panay, a dispatch from Manila reports that the quaint historic Cathedral built by the Spaniards four ^{centuries} ~~centuries~~ ago -- in the days of the great Jesuit missionary, St. Francis Xavier -- is a wreck as a result of these quakes.

TREASON

Martin J. Monti of St. Louis was discharged quite recently from Uncle Sam's Air Force, in which he served as a private. Today, agents of the F.B.I. arrested him at Mineola, Long Island, on a charge of treason.

The F.B.I. declares that Monti stole an American plan during the war, flew it into German territory, and then ~~broadcast~~ spoke over the air, by German radio, beamed at American forces in Europe, uttering propaganda against his own country.

WEATHER

Just one cold wave after another -- depending on where you are, of course. The Middle West, today is enjoying its fifth cold wave in twelve days -- icy winds coming all the way down from the McKenzie River country -- the coast of the Arctic Ocean.

The word is that already a-hundred-and-fifty-six persons have died as a direct or indirect result of the cold -- including a-hundred-and-seven who perished in fires, caused mostly by over-heated stoves. Another unexpected and unwelcome consequence as a result of the weather or rather a fuel shortage, is unemployment, ~~EMMEX~~ on a considerable scale. In Detroit, two-hundred-thousand auto workers have been laid off because of lack of natural gas to keep the factories warm.

Here's a sidelight: A bus driver in the auto capital refused to take out a bus that had no defroster fan. He was fired; whereupon twelve hundred of his mates staged a sit-down strike. All of which prevented thousands of Detroiters from going to work.

The fuel shortage, in fact, becomes more and

more serious. Men also were laid off at Pittsburgh steel plants. Carnegie-Illinois shut down twelve of its plants, and reduced operations in three others. Similar reports come from Indiana, West Virginia and Michigan.

Ice, we hear, has brought traffic on the Ohio River to a standstill. Many gas companies reporting pressure in their lines running near the danger line.

In highly electrified districts, particularly in the West, ice has interfered with the functions of hydro-electric plants and cut down the production of current.

So, in these frigid days our troubles are shared by many.

PREACHER

The Reverend Bertis Fair of Newton, North Carolina, was in the middle of his sermon yesterday, when he saw smoke coming out of a ventilator in the church. He stopped short in his preaching and said in a calm, quiet tone: "Folks, I believe there is an unnecessary fire in here." And he added: "Will you all please just file out slowly."

The congregation walked in orderly fashion to the doors until every man, woman and child was safe. Then the clergyman went back into the church, bore out his coat and Bible and also dragged with him a small piano. One moment later, a violent explosion blew that Baptist Church into smithereens. ~~A piece of flying glass cut three people, though not seriously.~~

That congregation owed its lives to the cool courage and presence of mind of their Pastor.

ARMY FOOD

One of the reforms that General Eisenhower has ~~already~~ instituted as Chief-of-Staff is an improvement in the food served to ~~our~~ G.I.'s. In a general order ~~is~~ issued recently ~~to~~ all troops, ^{Ike} the General lays down the principle that high morale among troops is one of the greatest factors necessary for the winning of battles; and good food is one of the best means of bringing ^{that} ~~it~~ about. ~~Under his command~~ ^{IT} Army officers are ~~now~~ organizing a plan whereby men may make careers for themselves in this line. They have established twelve special ratings for enlisted men, [;] food service technicians, food service instructors, and so forth. Men who want to qualify for this branch of the service will have special training an in Army school. *want to a cook? Now*

Nelson.