

L.T. - SUNOCO. TUESDAY, March 12, 1940.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Here's about the nearest thing possible to announcing an important piece of news - but not quite. I'm within a hair's

breath of being able to state ^{that} - peace has just been concluded'

between the Soviets and the Finns. But I can't ~~quite~~ make it quite

definite. The announcement ending the war should ^{come} ~~be made~~ at any

moment - everything tonight points to ^{it.} ~~that~~ Of course, a slip is

always possible - but right now ^{(the end of that northern war) ~~does~~} ~~Finnish-Soviet peace~~ seems to be

the nearest thing to a definite fact.

PEACE

Here's a dispatch just handed me:- It is officially announced that Finland and Russia have concluded their peace negotiations, and the war is at an end.

FINLAND

All day long the dispatches made peace for Finland seem nearer and nearer - dispatches from various places, bits of information piercing the veil of censorship. It was like something coming closer and closer, all though the day. Let me read you some of the United Press dispatches as they flashed - this morning, at noon, early afternoon, right on down to the present moment. Dispatches with various date-lines.

It reads: -

Berlin: - Well informed German sources said today that peace negotiations QUOTE were approaching a result permitting the eventual cessation of hostilities. END QUOTE.

Stockholm: - Diplomatic sources reported today that Finland had given Premier ~~Ty~~ Ryti full powers to conclude negotiations at Moscow. That, it was presumed, could only mean that an agreement to end the war had been reached.

again: -

Stockholm: - ~~It was~~ ^{here} Reported that the Finnish delegation would meet with Stalin and Molotov this ~~EVERING~~ ~~XXXX~~ afternoon or tonight to complete the final stage of their talks.

London: - The British Broadcasting Company announced that its correspondent in Stockholm had learned from the Finnish

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legation that an agreement had been reached in Moscow but not yet signed.

Berlin:- Usually reliable quarters here today understood that a Russo-Finnish agreement had been concluded in Moscow, but official confirmation was not immediately available. As reports spread rapidly in Berlin that the end of the Russo-Finnish War was in sight, most reliable German sources expressed personal belief that the reports were correct.

Stockholm:- ^{again} A high Finnish source here today said that a Russo-Finnish peace agreement would be signed in Moscow tonight.

London:- ^{again} Reports from ~~XXXXX~~ the Scandinavian capital said that Passikivi, one of the Finnish negotiators at Moscow, returned by airplane to Helsinki to place peace terms before the Finnish Parliament.

Helsinki:- The Finnish Parliament is meeting tonight in an apparent attempt to reach a final decision on peace terms with Russia. A heated debate was understood to be in progress in Parliament.

London:- According to responsible circles, an armistice

may be expected at any time - unless an unexpected last minute hitch develops.

Helsinki:- Information from the battle fronts indicated today that fighting was less severe, that clashes occurred only when dictated by urgent necessity.

Helsinki:- It was impossible tonight to confirm reports that fighting had ceased, but there were indications that hostilities had at least slackened.

London:- The Moscow radio tonight warned listeners to stand by for QUOTE special news. END QUOTE. This would presumably concern Finnish peace negotiations.

Berlin:- ~~AM~~ A DNE dispatch from Moscow tonight said it was officially stated that a Finnish-Soviet peace treaty has been completed.

This is late: -

Moscow:- It was understood here tonight that a peace agreement has been signed ending the Russo-Finnish War. It was believed the peace treaty provided for the ceding of the Karelian Isthmus to Russia including Viipuri and the ~~release~~ release of Hanko as a base to Russia for thirty years.

Moscow:- Official announcement that peace has been concluded is expected momentarily.

New York:- The German wireless broadcast ~~was~~ tonight that the Moscow radio had^S_^ confirmed that a peace treaty had^S_^ concluded the Russo-Finnish War.

ALLIED AID

Coincident with all this peace news, came a belated report from Paris - France is ready to send an army to Finland at once. With Great Britain stating on previous days that London was prepared to extend military aid to the northern republic, Paris today made it much more specific. Premier Daladier stated that France had fifty thousand troops assembled for service in Finland. They were mustered at two ports, one on the English Channel and one on the Atlantic Ocean, and the British navy was standing by to convoy them. These troops were assembled on February twenty-sixth, fifteen days ago. Finland was informed that this powerful military intervention was ready. All that was needed was for Helsinki to ask for ^{it.} ~~side~~ Helsinki responded ~~with a request~~ that a request would be made - if it should seem necessary.

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On March the Fifth, a week ago, an attempt was made to get permission to transport the fifty thousand troops through Norway and Sweden. Daladier today emphasized the objections that the two Scandinavian kingdoms raised. They were strongly opposed to the passage of troops, and even threatened to destroy the only

railway line from Sweden into Finland. ^{On Swedish} ~~The French Premier today~~ statement was that they ^{didn't believe} enough in the military strength of the Allies to enable them to forget the fate of Poland.

TP The French Premier ^{today} added that he still hoped that the Scandinavian countries would finally change their minds, and let the Allied army get through.

All of this now seems to be so much ancient history.

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The allied determination to go to the aid of Finland may, of course, have helped to persuade Stalin that it was about time to stop the war. If so, that's a bit ironical - because the stopping of the war is generally interpreted as something of a blow to the Allies. It leaves the Soviets free to give all the more help to Nazi Germany, and eliminates the possibility of the Allies hitting at the Hitler-Stalin combination from the north.

One question is - why did Paris today make the story public of the fifty thousand troops? The supposition is that the Allies want to put themselves to rights with world opinion, and present the evidence that they were ready to go to the aid of the small nation, the victim of aggression.

SOVIET LOSSES

The heavy losses the Soviets suffered in the Finland war is illustrated by a story from Helsinki today. It concerns the surprising number of Red Army planes reported to have been shot down by the defenders. The Finns ~~w~~ are telling how two of their warships have been operating against the Soviet sky fleet. They operated not as ships, ^{but} ~~by~~ as concealed fortresses against air power. They lay camouflaged off the shore, and their powerful and accurate anti-aircraft batteries opened up on any hostile plane that came near. Day after ~~every~~ day the two warships lying in concealment picked off Red war birds -- shooting down as many as twelve on one especially good day.

Here are some more figures about the number of men the Red Army lost -- an estimate that comes from Stockholm. In fourteen weeks of the conflict ^{the} Soviets sustained between three and four hundred thousand casualties. That means an average daily loss of four thousand men. This is a Stockholm estimate. As for accurate figures it will probably be a long time before history gets those.-- ~~the real report about Red Army losses, the accurate truth about the huge figures the news has given us.~~

ARMISTICE

I have just been handed another United Press dispatch, saying that fighting will cease on the Finnish-Russian front tomorrow at noon.

THIRD TERM

Here's a sensational third term report. Its from London -- and that's rather far from headquarters. It states that President Roosevelt will run for a third term unless there's an armistice in the European War before the Democratic National Convention gathers.

The tale is published by the London Daily Mail, and ties up the whole third term question to the Sumner Welles mission to Europe. Tomorrow the Daily Mail will say: "It's now established beyond any doubt that the report of the under Secretary on his tour will directly effect Mr. Roosevelt's decision regarding a ^{third term.} ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ If peace results from the Welles mission,"the paper goes on,"the President will retire. But;it continues, "should no peace loophole be revealed by Mr. Sumner Welles report, and the war develops into a fierce European struggle then President Roosevelt certainly will run for a third term."

That's what London has to tell us about our own burning political question.

SMITH

In the political news tonight occurs a well known name - Alfred E. Smith. And the name is followed by the word - "Junior". It's a son of the man in the brown derby who figures in a rather absurd political event.

At Albany a petition was presented nominating Alfred E. Smith, Jr., as a delegate from the Sixteenth Congressional District to the Democratic National Convention. Al, Jr., was entered as a delegate pledged to Garner - in the course of the Garner-for-President boom. Today the nominating petition was thrown out by the Board of Elections. Why? On ground of fraud. Some of the names on the document had been written in, not by the persons to whom they belong.

The story developed that two youths, twenty and twenty-two, had been hired to go round and get signatures for the Al Smith, Jr. petition. Apparently they got tired of making the rounds and took the easier way. Because today the two ingenious young men testified that they themselves had written in some of the signatures. ~~on the petition~~ Whereupon the ~~Electric~~ Election Board tossed out the document that entered the famous name to the Democratic National Convention - Alfred E. Smith. But - Junior.

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CENSUS

In Washington today the Commerce Committee of the Senate did something ^{about} ~~is~~ the raging question of those questions - the queries proposed to be asked in the Nineteen-Forty census. The Committee recommends that the Senate adopt a resolution demanding that the questions in question be eliminated - don't have the census-taker ask them. The questionable questions are specified - Numbers Thirty-Two and Thirty-Three. Both are inquiries concerning the income of persons to be enumerated - the quizzing so loudly denounced as prying into people's personal money matters. The Committee says, chuck them out! So now it's up to the Senate as a whole to take up the question of those questionable questions.

CANADIAN

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The State Department today ordered the release of the Canadian Royal Air Force plane which yesterday landed in the United States. Of course, international laws of neutrality provide that if a military plane of a nation at war comes down in neutral territory - it must be interned. It would be going a bit too far, however, to apply such strict legality to the Canadian sky craft. State Department officials point out that the Canadian army plane landed at Alexandria Bay, New York, because of distress - a forced landing. The plane, moreover, was not on a hostile mission, not on a war flight or an air raid. In fact, it was three thousand miles away from the nearest zone of combat. So, American neutrality was hardly violated - and the Canadian plane was released.

PILGRIMS

There's tragic word of age-old mishap in the desert of Arabia. Today, British authorities ordered airplane squadrons and a camel corps to search far into the ~~desert~~ ^{sands} for a lost caravan, - five hundred souls in that caravan, most pious of Moslem souls, pilgrims ~~homeward~~ ^{bound from Holy Mecca.}

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It's a tale told endlessly since the days of the Prophet Mohammed, how ills and misfortunes befall the caravans of pilgrims to Mecca, Camel trains wending slowly across the blank and burning ~~desert~~ desolation. Sandstorms and the peril of being lost. The struggle to reach an oasis - the deadly mirage. These are traditional ~~uses~~ ^{uses} that for ages have made the faithful call upon the mercy of Allah.

At Mecca, the pilgrims chanted verses from the Koran, ~~and~~ ^{humble procession around} made their ~~devotion at the sacred black stone of~~ the Kabba, ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{kissed the sacred black stone.} Then, praising Allah and the Prophet Mohammed, five hundred of them gathered in a great caravan, hundreds of camels - homeward bound. They were Arabs, whose home was on the northern fringe of the desert, a long journey for them and their camels. They departed ~~for~~ ^{from} Mecca a month ago, and have not been heard from since, ^{until today.}

Today the story comes of how the great caravan lost its

way, and wandered aimlessly where the sun blazes and the desert wind blows the sand. Three hundred camels died. And what of the pilgrims? Today twenty of them were found parched with thirst and exhausted, near the ancient city of Palmyra - that ~~is~~ legendary Palmyra where the Empress Zenobia fought battles with the legions of the Romans. The twenty who were found told the tale of the lost caravan up to the point where they themselves had become separated from it during a sand storm. They had become lost from the lost caravan. And they at least are saved - thanks to Allah, the Merciful and ~~Most~~ Compassionate.

In response to their story, the British authorities, who are also merciful and compassionate, have mustered the ~~forces~~ ~~of~~ squadrons of the air and the camel corps and sent them to hunt for the lost caravan - in far off North Arabia.

CHURCH

In Rome today Pope Pius the Twelfth celebrated the First Anniversary of his accession to the Papal Throne.

Attending the ceremony of state were twenty Cardinals and the diplomatic corps to the Vatican, including President Roosevelt's personal representative, Myron C. Taylor - and Mrs. Taylor.

Having recently arrived in Rome, they attended their first important function at the Vatican.

This Papal Anniversary was the day selected for the Archbishop of New York to receive the traditional Pallium.

Chicago, having enthroned its Archbishop last week, the city on the Hudson today witnessed the symbolical investment of its own chief prelate of the Roman Church. ~~Pope Pius the Twelfth sent the Pallium to Archbishop Francis J. Spellman.~~ The Pallium is the symbol of the authority of an archbishop. It is to him what the red hat is to a cardinal; ~~It is~~ a narrow band which the prelate wears over his shoulders, a band of wool woven from the fleece of a special flock of lambs at Rome, a symbol come down from the times of old to this modern day.

BASKETBALL

This evening the world of basketball can be informed on one interesting point - of all the teams in this nation, which ranks as the highest scorer of the season? A final check-up today gives the answer - Rhode Island State. That team, nicknamed the "Five-Ring Circus", piled up a total of six hundred and fifty-one points for the season's play. That amount of scoring was accomplished in twenty-two games - an average of more than seventy-five points per contest. The top scoring Five-Ring Circus won nineteen games and lost three.

The Rhode Island Five also cops the prize for individual performance. The national intercollegiate record was set by Stanley Modzelewski, the Rhode Island center. He compiled five hundred and eight points for the season. The record he broke had been set by one of the Five-Ring Circus boys last year, Chet Jaworski. He rolled up four hundred and seventy points.

So Modzelewski beat out Jaworski, and everything seems all rightski

^{for} Rhode Island ~~sixty~~ Stateski.

And here's Hugh Jameski.

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