

CONTRIBUTIONS

L.S. - Sunoco. Tuesday, Aug. 6, 1940.

There's a loud Democratic-Republican battle about the Hatch Law. This law to enforce clean politics forbids either political party to spend more than three million dollars in any one year, which virtually means - any one election. Also, no campaign committee may accept any individual contribution of more than five thousand dollars. No one person or corporation permitted to shell out more than five thousand.

That's the law, now comes the interpretation.

Henry P. Fletcher, general counsel ~~fn~~ of the Republican National Committee, has issued an opinion to the following effect:- The Hatch Law does indeed prohibit any contributor to hand over more than five thousand dollars - to a national committee. But, he argues, such a person may also give other sums of money to local and state committees, Not more than five thousand dollars ^{each.} ~~to any~~ ~~other individual committee~~. Consequently, any ardent Republican may give five thousand to the National Republican Committee for the Willkie campaign, and also as many other sums up to five thousand as he chooses to other committees. That's the contention of the Republican general counsel.

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It raised an immediate Democratic uproar today. Democratic Senator Hatch, author of the clean politics bill, described the Fletcher opinion with these words:- "amazing and astonishing." He called it an attempt to evade the law, a way to get around the proviso regulating the size of campaign contributions. Whereupon Senator Hatch issued a challenge to the Republican Party. He invited the G.O.P. to adopt a resolution to have all Republican contributions made to the National Committee. ~~No donations at all to local and state committees. The National Committee to pass along what cash is needed by the lesser groups.~~

And Attorney General Jackson ^{came} ~~comes~~ forward. He too ^{ed} ~~s~~ calls the Fletcher argument an attempt to evade the law, and today he urged Congress to amend the Hatch Bill so as to permit any person to contribute as much as five thousand dollars only to one committee, no gifts to other committees.

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WILLKIE

Wendell Willkie made a pronouncement of policy today.

He declared himself in favor of keeping the present ~~farm~~ farm program in force. Willkie told of ^{that} a conference he had with farm leaders yesterday, and repeated some of the things he told them.

"If elected president," said he, "I will not take away any of the benefits gained by agriculture during the past few years."

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~~And he made that more specific with the following words:—"I do not favor changing the present farm program," said he, "unless a better one is gradually evolved."~~

WIRE TAPPING

The House of Representatives took action today in a matter that has been subject to a huge lot of controversy - wire tapping. ~~Listening in on people's telephone lines is against the law, and~~ Wire tapping charges have been made frequently against authorities here and there. The accusation, for example, has been brought against the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Now 7 the lower House of Congress has passed a bill to permit the F.B.I. to tap wires. This - as a national defense measure. The bill was passed today and sent to the Senate.

HOME DEFENSE

There's a plan for a United States Home Defense. The idea is to organize home defense units with the veterans as a nucleus -- the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The plan was announced by President Roosevelt today. He said that it is under consideration by officials of the War Department.

The president will call the National Guard to active service as soon as Congress passes the law giving him power. Some kind of state military force would be needed to take their place. What? The President's answer to this is the suggestion of a home guard.

AMBASSADOR

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In London today, John Cudahy, United States Ambassador to Belgium, issued a statement to the press. He began it with these words:- "You may think I am pro-German." Then he made a series of statements which you may or may not think justified his defensive line about being thought pro-German.

He stated that he is going to recommend to President Roosevelt a program of American food relief for Belgium. ~~He gave his reasons in these words:-~~ "I cannot see eight million people facing starvation ~~xxx~~ without doing my utmost to save them," *said he. And he added* *in* ~~He said~~ that the Belgians normally ~~ex~~port seventy-five per cent of their wheat. They now have a certain amount of grain on hand. This, distributed at the rate of half a pound a person each day, will last them until about the middle of September. After that, said Ambassador Cudahy, Belgium will be what he described in these words:- "dependent on foreign provisions, lacking which the people will be close to famine."

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The Ambassador referred to the British blockade of the entire continent of Europe. London has stated that the blockade will be enforced - no supply ships let through. So how could there

be an American food relief program for Belgium? The Ambassador said:-

"Germany would have to promise not to requisition anything sent in."

Then he added this statement:- "German officials told me that they intended to feed their armies from Germany."

It may be that the Ambassador had ^{his} ~~the~~ pro-German ^{defense} ~~thought~~ in mind when he described the behavior of the Nazi troops in Belgium - their rigid discipline. "German troops," said he, "are behaving better than American soldiers. They are showing restraint." And he added - "I have not heard one authentic story of atrocity in Belgium, nor has there been any anti-Semitic activity."

~~Ambassador Cudahy then went on to defend King Leopold, so bitterly condemned for his surrender of the Belgium army. "When all the facts are known," said he, "Leopold's decision to surrender will not only be accepted but applauded. History will show that he informed his allies at least three days before the capitulation." So declared the United States Ambassador to Belgium today in a statement issued in London.~~

The British meanwhile are having their say about Colonel Lindbergh. They are roundly condemning his most recent speech,

in which he called upon the United States to keep out of the affairs of Europe, out of the war - and advocated coming to an arrangement with whoever wins the war. Yet some British comment at least is a bit philosophical about the Lone Eagle. The LONDON STAR today waxed Shakespearean on the subject, likening Lindbergh to Hamlet. The paper described the FlyingColonel in these words:- "The Hamlet of our time - if there were only a Shakespeare who could penetrate and reveal his storm-tossed soul." Hamlet, Prince of Denmark; Lindbergh, the Lone Eagle - you can feel a sort of moody harmony in the two.

The nearest thing to a war headline today is Africa --
the Italians driving against Egypt and in British Somaliland. But
it does not seem to amount to so much. The British in Egypt
say they repelled the assault and added that anyway the Italian
attempt is made more for prestige than for actual results. London
is inclined to think the new Italian Commander, General Graziani
wants to start in with some kind of victory -- for moral purposes --
mostly. ~~This British opinion is backed up by~~ The general military
assumption ^{is} that the Italians of Libya are not likely to stage
any large invasion of Egypt in the burning heat of the North
African mid-summer. ~~They're likely to wait for less extreme~~
Rome, however is talking
about what it calls a desert blitzkrieg
~~weather in the fall.~~ *now.*

The affair in Somaliland can't mean very much. That
British province is mostly a blistering desert of no great
consequence. The fighting forces there are small and consist
largely of native troops -- Askari ^{and} Camel Corps. The British
reported ^a victory in Kenya into which the Italian have advanced
some thirty miles. The battle was little more than a skirmish --
in deep African land where little more than skirmishing can be
expected.

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In Europe the lull continues, with the British reminding themselves continually of the old phrase about the lull and the storm. High German commanders today talked in loud terms about a terrific mass scale air attack soon to be launched, and this the British expect. ~~It isn't at all clear whether the predicted mass bombing is to be accompanied by an attempt to land~~ ~~actual invasion.~~ The British think the ~~XXXXXXXX~~ ^{totalitarian} scheme may be a coordinative affair -- with simultaneous action against British shores and in Africa. Possibly also -- ^{at} ~~in~~ Gibraltar.

Today, brought another conflict of figures. The Germans claim a huge sinking of British ships. London ridiculing the Nazi figures. Berlin ^{states} ~~claims~~ that U-Boats and war planes have sunk nearly five million tons since the war began. London gives figures that are about one-quarter of that.

MAYOR

The arrest of the Mayor of Montreal seems to have produced something of a dilemma. Mayor Houde put into an internment camp - because of his opposition to war-time conscription in Canada. Yet today Canadian constitutional lawyers stated that - he is still Mayor of Montreal. They said that the law of Canada makes no provision to cover the case of a mayor arrested and interned for such a thing as opposition ^{to} ~~against~~ conscription. So they ~~say~~ *argue* that Monsieru Houde, in a concentration camp, is still chief magistrate of Canada's largest city and moreover he's still legally entitled to draw his salary of ten thousand dollars a year.

ACTOR

The thrilling case of Richard Greene, the handsome and warlike young British movie actor, is the subject of some gruff remarks by a stern Canadian colonel. Richard Greene, the very figure of romance on the screen, made an inspiring dash by airplane to Vancouver - to enlist and fight in the war. He was abandoning the golden glitter of Hollywood for the hardships of ^{battle,} ~~war~~ a hero's life - perhaps a hero's grave. It made feminine hearts flutter, made strong men feel more manly. Richard Greene, flying to enlist in the Seaforth Highlanders, that famous regiment.

But today we hear from the colonel of another Scottish regiment, not quite so distinguished as the Seaforth Highlanders - the Sixteenth Canadian Scottish. Colonel Ronald Kingham describes the movie actor's warlike ardor as - "a publicity stunt." He makes a point of the regiment that Richard Greene selected for his war career. The Seaforth Highlanders, says the Colonel, is full up, and has a long waiting list. In fact, it's the only regiment in Canada that is not recruiting. Moreover, Greene proposed to enlist as a commissioned officer. They put his name at the tail end of the waiting list, and, he returned to Hollywood.

The Colonel of the Sixteenth Scottish today proclaimed:- "If Greene really wants to enlist in a Scottish regiment, we'll take him at once. He's just the age and built we want." Yes, he's just right for the Sixteenth Canadian Scottish, though I don't suppose the other privates are quite as handsome. Maybe not even the officers.

When the Colonel's blast reached Hollywood, Richard Greene was ^{much} ~~grieved~~ aggrieved. "~~I was in no way subject to call,~~" he ~~remarked reproachfully,~~ "and my going to Canada to enlist was ~~entirely voluntary.~~" He says he was ^{told} ~~able~~ to return to movieland and wait. They would wire him as soon as there was an opening. ~~Well, many an applicant for a job has been told he would be informed when there was an opening, but I never before heard of an opening for a war.~~

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WILKINS

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Today an Arctic expedition was announced, and its purpose arouses a moody train of reminiscences. Recollection - of the discovery of the North Pole, contested claims, the famous Dr. Cook-Admiral Peary Controversy, the branding of ~~Dr.~~ Cook as a fakir and a fraud. Yesterday he died, that same Dr. Cook. Today Sir Hubert Wilkins, one of the most famous of polar explorers, announces plans for an expedition to the North Pole - to prove that Dr. Cook was right.

For thirty-two years the discredited explorer lived under a cloud of obliquy. Yet there were some who always believed in him. They formed a "Cook Arctic Club" in behalf of his reputation. And now, *one of the most famous of Polar explorers,* sponsored by this Club, renowned Sir Hubert Wilkins, is going to make an expedition to the Pole. "We hope to prove," said Sir Hubert today, "that Dr. Cook spoke the truth when he said he discovered the North Pole. We hope to disprove Admiral Peary's claim that Cook went only about five hundred miles into the polar seas before turning south."

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An attempt to brighten a tarnished reputation, and it's announced the day after the explorer with the tarnished reputation went on into the great unexplored!

CLIMBERS

Today there was a rescue high on the slopes of Mt. Shuksan in the State of Washington. Two women were brought down to the valley, after a terrifying ordeal of twenty-two hours away above the snow line. One was just able to walk. The other was carried on a stretcher. She has a broken arm and several fractured ribs.

Yesterday Anne Cedarquist and Faye Plank were climbing high on the icy slopes of Mt. Shuksan. They were accompanied by a man, Karl Boyer of Seattle. They were within eight hundred feet of the nine thousand foot summit, when Anne Cedarquist slipped and plunged over a cliff. Luckily, she was roped to the other two. They dug their feet in and checked her fall. And there she was, dangling on the end of the rope. They couldn't get her up, the best they could do was to lower her to a ledge of rock only three feet wide. Karl Boyer went to get help. Faye Plank stayed behind to do a brave job all night. She anchored the rope that held Anne Cedarquist, and all night long kept calling to her to keep her awake, prevent her from falling asleep and slipping off the narrow ledge, and then be left hanging. Faye Plank knew that her companion was badly hurt.

"I could hear her moaning at times," she said today, "there was

nothing to do but wait."

So wait she did - for twenty-two hours, until help came. ^{Today} The rescuers brought Anne Cedarquist to safety. The mountain slopes were so craggy that several times they had to lower her by ropes down rocky ledges and cliffs of ice. Tonight, she's resting in a hospital - after a harrowing adventure.

BOMB

New York had a bomb sensation today. The scene was spectacular, and had the elements of melodrama -- but it all fizzled out into absurd anti-climax. ^{FF} Yesterday a suitcase was noticed on a bench in the Long Island section of the Pennsylvania station. And from it came a ticking sound. Sinister, ominous, menacing -- the ticking of a time bomb. That is what was suspected. A brave policeman went gingerly to the darkly threatening suitcase, took it to a nearby parking lot. ~~XX~~ There it was doused in a container of oil. That's the correct practice -- oil. Bomb experts don't douse a suspected inferno^{al} machine in water. For the water might cause a short circuit and set it off. That suitcase with the evil appearance was left soaking in the oil all night.

^{FF} This morning came the dramatic scene -- when they opened it. For the ceremony high officials were there, officials of the police and fire departments -- and Mayor LaGuardia. Yes, His Honor the Mayor was present for the breathless moment. In fear of a possible explosion in spite of the dousing in oil, a large space was roped off -- forbidden to traffic. Thousands of motorists and pedestrians were stopped and they stayed around to witness the drama. From

neighboring sky scrapers other thousands watched ^{for the} ~~with~~ thrill.

~~It was quite a gathering for the big moment.~~ Then up stepped

Lieutenant James Pike of the Bomb Squad -- to do his stuff.

Resolutely -- he stepped to the bucket of oil. Grimly [—] he hauled out the oil soaked suitcase. ~~And~~ Fearlessly -- he opened it.

Inside he found [—] a coffee pot, and, an alarm clock! Some other articles, shabby and nondescript. But the principal exhibits

were -- the coffee pot and the alarm clock. The clock had done the ticking which had caused all the excitement.

And the clock here is ticking out the cue that its time for you, Hugh, to tell about Nu Blue, Hugh. So do Hugh, do!

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