

L.T. Sunoco Wed. Apr. 18 '34

DARROW

Everybody knows that General Johnson of the NRA is a nervy chap. His nerve was never better exemplified than when he appointed the once fiery and still radical Clarence Darrow, chairman of a board to criticize the NRA. General Johnson said to the famous criminal lawyer "Look us over and tell us what is wrong."

46
I wonder how he feels about it now. For, Darrow took the general at his word. He has always been a champion of the underdog and he feels that that same underdog has anything but a friend in the NRA. He declares that the NRA favors monopoly, that it crushes the small business man, that in short it is exceedingly hard on the underdog in every field of endeavor.

That's the gist of it. We don't know yet the exact words that Mr. Darrow used. They are now probably being read by the president. But it is an open secret that some of the other members of the board implored Mr. Darrow to tone down the text of his report. They felt it was so vitriolic that they sent in supplementary reports of their own. It would be exciting if the general and Mr. Darrow really got into a controversy. Whether you happen to like Mr. Darrow or not he always puts up a good show.

AIR MAIL.

47

The air mail situation in Washington becomes more and more complicated. There's a curious feature in the lawsuits that have been brought by four of the air lines against Postmaster Jim Farley. These actions were brought against him not as Postmaster General but as plain Mr. Farley, the attitude being that when he cancelled those air mail contracts he exceeded his authority.

That gives rise to an interesting speculation. Suppose these airlines win out in the courts. Suppose the courts award them say twenty million dollars. What then? As they are bringing these law suits against Mr. Farley as an individual they cannot if they win collect from Uncle Sam. Then again it puts Postmaster General Jim in a strange situation. Since he is being sued as an individual and not in his capacity as cabinet minister it is reasonable to assume that he will have to defend the action at his own expense instead of being represented by the attorney general or the solicitor general.

ROOSEVELT

It won't be long now before the country witnesses the spectacle of Roosevelt versus Roosevelt. As I intimated a couple of weeks ago Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, eldest son of the great T.R., has been elected president of the National Republican Club. That puts it squarely up to him to be virtually the standard bearer of the GOP and lead the fight against his cousin, the President.

Both are fighters, both unusually able men. So the future promises to be full of verbal ~~fireworks~~ oratorical pyrotechnics.

48

FLEET

In these battle manouvers of Uncle Sam's fleet the officers were constantly on the lookout for the "break down flag" - the signal that something has gone wrong and the ship is temporarily out of commission.

It sounds odd - that emphasis on the "break down flag" when the fleet is out manouvering. But we are told that of the destroyers that took part in the sham battle attacks on the big ships off the west coast of Mexico most of them are old and out of date. Of the seventy-two destroyers that are steaming back to Panama tonight all but four are obsolete, over age. And those four will be over age by the time the year is out. That's why the officers were on the lookout for the "break down flag."

What's the moral? Some will say it is an argument for the ship building program. Others will ask why all those old boats are being kept in commission and maintained as a source of expense? I don't suppose any of us like the idea of our fighting fleet consisting of a swarm of obsolete antiquities of the sea.

LEISURE

49

One of the cardinal points of the New Deal is that it creates leisure for many folks who say that those unaccustomed to leisure don't know what to do with it. A group of these got together at the Waldorf in New York and organized the Leisure League of America. The idea is that if you don't know what to do with your spare time the Leisure League will show you in a pleasant and painless fashion.

TRAIN

G. M.

Something new in transportation was on view at the Broad Street station in Philadelphia this afternoon. The Zephyr, the new streamlined steel bullet shaped train of the Burlington Railroad was dedicated by a group of industrial magnificoes, including General Atterbury of The Pennsylvania Railroad, Alfred P. Sloan, President of General Motors, Gerard Swope of General Electric, Ralph Budd, President of the Burlington Railroad.

This is America's first streamlined train powered with a Diesel engine designed for General Motors by the famous Boss Kettering of Dayton, Ohio, wizard of mechanics.

They tell me this train on a trial trip went a hundred and four miles an hour with perfect ease.

50
I travelled 30 miles an hour on a train bound for Richmond, Indiana, out of Cincinnati this morning, and it was swinging and swaying so that I constantly kept putting stewed tomatoes down my collar instead of in my mouth. I hope they've solved that engineering problem on the "Zephyr."

STUDENT

A month ago at Dartmouth College a student died of pneumonia, a scholar and athlete, Robert Michelet. He had won every honor, a dazzling list of scholastic distinctions; and now he has been nominated, unopposed, as the permanent president of the senior class.

It was tragic pathos when he died. It is a crowning of the tragic and pathetic that now he is being made the president of the class. The senior class at Dartmouth has made a magnificent gesture. It is the sort of thing that youth in college does so well. The boys sometimes do graceless and awkward things but then again they rise to an occasion with a splendor of generosity and imagination.

ZION

21
Out in Zion City, where the world is flat, a crisis is under way. Overseer Voliva, The Prophet for that strange religious colony, is angry because he has lost an election. His followers turned down a couple of candidates for the local Zion school board. The prophet has cracked down and closed the schools. With the schools closed, where will they teach that the earth is flat?

It is curious to note that this strange Zion City founded by the weird prophet Alexander Dowie is still carrying on. Well, the world may not be flat. But some of it's inhabitants are. For instance --

LIVERMORE

I was enormously impressed by the light heartedness with which Mr. Jesse Livermore, the millionaire ~~in and out~~ is taking his bankruptcy. The reason as he explained it. himself is that it is no new experience for him. This is the third time he has been through Uncle Sam's Bankruptcy Courts. I suppose one could become so accustomed to that that one would take it no more seriously than a bawling out from the wife.

But in all justice it should be added that Mr. Livermore's

light heartedness is not indifference to the welfare of his creditors. As he put it "I've always paid up everybody in full before I expect to do it again."

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But the thing I can't understand is - what is really the good of being even a successful speculator when all you collect is a lot of bankruptcies?

JAPAN

It is difficult to know whether to be amused or indignant over the ultimatum issued by Japan to the rest of the world ^{and} aimed principally at Uncle Sam. It is an astonishing diplomatic communication.

The amusing part of it is the harping on Japan's desire to keep the peace in the far east. The real gist of the document is that Japan is going to maintain peace even if she has to go to war with the entire civilized world to do it.

The thing that has got the Nipponese so sore is the presence of Captain Frank Hawks and other American aviators in Shanghai selling airplanes to the Chinese. And some of them are also helping to train Chinese pilots. Japan's idea is that this must not be done without the permission of the Mikado.

53
I understand that Washington is not seriously exercised about this pronunciamento from Tokyo. The tendency is to giggle at it. But out of the incident one learns an interesting fact. Several of the crack flyers who have been in China training pilots tell me that the Chinese are extremely apt at this flying game. And they claim that the list of fatalities in the Far East proves their contention. This tends to confirm the rumor that Japan is about to

lay down a Monroe Doctrine for Asia, but a Monroe Doctrine that

far out-monroes Monroe. The story goes that Japan will try to insist that no foreign country may have any dealings whatsoever with China unless they are okayed by the Japanese government. In short as the Far Eastern experts point out Japan is getting ready to announce an out and out protectorate over China.

Well, our Commodore Perry did go over there with his warships and compell Japan to go modern and play the modern game. And now she seems to be onto the game and even outplaying the rest of the world.

DISARMAMENT

Looks like another disarmament conference in the offing. This is the prospect suggested by the breaking off of disarmament negotiations between England and France.

It is the old puzzle - how many machine guns and cannon and soldiers and war planes shall Hitler's Germany be allowed to have? London has been trying to get Paris to agree on some scheme whereby Germany will be permitted to rearm to a limited extent, in return for which London will guarantee to Paris that Berlin will live up to the conditions of the new arrangement.

That idea is out. The French note declares that further individual negotiations are of no use and suggests that another disarmament parley should be held.

Much parley and no disarmament - that's the history of disarmament parleys in the past. The pages of history for a thousand years have been studded with a long dismal series of futile international conferences, --- yes, for four thousand years so Chinese historians tell us. And the ones that did accomplish something frequently accomplished something bad. But let's not be pessimistic. The old history of success is - many failures and then success.

DEBTS

The same old story - no payments to Uncle Sam.

The new British budget though it shows a surplus of two hundred million dollars in John Bull's treasury makes no provision for any payment on the war debt which falls due on January fifteenth.

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R It seems like a good time to remind ourselves of the conflicting arguments on both sides. "They hired the money?" didn't they as Cal. Coolidge once remarked in his dry New England way. The retort from abroad is that they would gladly pay the debts if we would accept payment in goods instead of gold. They add that they really didn't get gold from us. They got goods - credits, to which Uncle Sam replies with the elemental simplicity. The debt is due - it's not paid.

BACHELOR

There is one man who has the courage of his convictions. He is the secretary ^{to} ~~of~~ Premier Mussolini and his principal conviction seems to be that anything is better than being married. He has served the Duce as private secretary for ~~twelve~~ years.

As most people know the Fascist chief is exceedingly keen on the idea that all good Italians should be husbands, and, if possible, fathers. ^{In fact} ~~And~~ he let it be known that any member of the government anybody around him must take unto him a wife or else. Some members of the Italian legislature, though they were Fascists in thoroughly good standing, did not take this warning seriously. The consequence was that in last month's election they were dropped, and married men took their jobs as deputies.

The other day somebody said to the Duce "It's all very fine for you to issue these orders to us but how about your own secretary?" ^{"Accidents!"} Said Mussolini, "What's that? Have I been harboring a bachelor all these years?" The answer was that he had. And when the secretary was told "Get married or get another job" he resigned. Anybody who would throw up such a job as that for such a reason is certainly a marriage hater.

Lieutenant

HEN

Folks in New Jersey are commiserating with Senator Hamilton Kean. Not because of anything that happened to the senator in Washington but because in his absence a dog got into the senatorial chicken coop and destroyed three hundred and fifty extra superfine trap nested prize laying hens, South Carolina White Leghorns.

The senator should replenish his chicken coop from the stock of a certain farmer in Sarnia, Ontario. This farmer has a Barred Rock fowl which makes its nest at the top of a sixty foot pine tree. Of course there is a drawback. The hen not only makes her nest at the top of the pine tree but lays her eggs there. The farmer found that out when he was walking under the tree. 57 An egg fell out of the nest and gave him an unexpected ^{egg} shampoo. That is a bit of a drawback, but after all we can't have everything.

LAWYER.

A big controversy is now raging in New York. It was started a few days ago by police commissioner O'Ryan who made the daring statement that "Policemen know more about law than most lawyers, also, are, on the whole more honest." I wondered at the time what the Bar Association would have to say to such a remark. Well, it certainly got the goat of the Bar Association. The president of that body, a former federal judge and solicitor general of the United States threw a retort at the commissioner. Said the president of the Bar Association: "What do you mean honest? Why, the Grievance Committee is constantly throwing out dishonest lawyers".

The police commissioner got the legal goat, there's no doubt about that. The lawyers think they are just as honest as coppers. Well, we all get into hot water when we start comparing people or things. For instance, which is the more important city, Richmond, Indiana, city of Mr. Hill's world champion roses, where I am appearing tonight, or Dayton, Ohio, ^{home of Orville Wright, Boss Kettering and so on} where I am tomorrow? I'd better not say or I'll be in hotter water than Gen. O'Ryan in his cops and robbers, I mean cops and lawyers controversy.

IRISH

One amusing bit tonight is about a Harvard scientist who has been looking for a "Typical Irishman". And where do you suppose he went to look for him? To Ireland, of all places.

Just as though Harvard were not next door to Boston; and then there's New York. Both of them packed with typical Irishmen.

Our Harvard scientist has been hunting for two months and has not yet found a typical Irishman in Ireland. His search has been regarded with considerable suspicion by the inhabitants of Ireland. I regret to say that they doubt not only the sanity but the good faith of that Harvard scientist. They suspect him of wanting to find recruits for President DeValera's new army. And upon several occasions the Harvard Savant has had to seek protection from the police and the clergy. ~~And all this while just by taking the subway from Cambridge to Boston he could have found typical Irishmen by the thousand.~~

He is seeking but not finding.
What? No Irishmen in Ireland?
Goodnight! And so long until tomorrow.