

ROOSEVELT

P.J. - Sunoco. Tues., Jan. 9, 1940.

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President Roosevelt <sup>revealed</sup> ~~declared~~ today that <sup>he</sup> ~~is~~ is thinking over a program for peace in Europe. In his mind he has formulated general objectives and ideals, nothing more definite than that. His thoughts have not yet crystalized into a point-by-point plan. That will come later.

This revelation comes in connection with a call at the White House today by representatives of several church groups -- ~~including~~ Baptists, Lutherans, and Seventh Day Adventists. These religious bodies have been criticising the President's appointment of an emissary to the Vatican for the purpose of discussing peace efforts with Pope Pius the Twelfth. The representative churchmen today inquired of the President -- was the appointment of Myron C. Taylor to the Vatican a move toward re-establishing diplomatic relations with the Papal See <sup>or</sup> ~~is~~. The President assured them it was simply in the cause of peace, and he laid before them the ideas that he has formulated thus far. He asked them to keep these ideas a secret, because he does not feel that this is a time for public discussion of any plan to end the war. It would be premature, said the President,

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to start formulating anything definite, anything which might be described by such a term as -- fourteen points.

That reference had rather a dubious sound -- for history tells of the bad luck that President Woodrow Wilson had with his fourteen points and the peace that ended the World War.

The church leaders upon emerging made no direct statement as to whether or not the President had satisfied their objections to the appointment of an emissary to the Vatican, but they did say they were convinced that this presidential action was in behalf of peace. Dr. Rufus ~~W~~ Weaver, representing the Southern Baptist Convention put it this way: "The President," said he, "left us the impression that he would not have taken this action unless <sup>he</sup> ~~of~~ cherished some <sup>and</sup> hopes, that he felt ~~that~~ his ~~the~~ hopes might ~~find~~ find some practical encouragement by Spring."

CHAMBERLAIN

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The salient <sup>point</sup> ~~statement~~ in the address made by Prime Minister Chamberlain today <sup>was</sup> the ominous warning - that the storm of war may soon break with full horror and fury. Chamberlain characterized the present state of things as perhaps - "the lull before the storm." He warned Britons that dark and terrifying things may soon be at hand - with a definite indication that the British Government has <sup>no</sup> reason to believe that Hitler is likely to strike with the full power of Nazi Germany, in an attempt to win a victory.

Chamberlain also spoke strongly in favor of Finland, and indicated decidedly that Britain intends to give effective aid to the little republic of the north.

There may be far reaching significance in another thing. the Prime Minister said, that when the war is over, Great Britain and France may want to continue the present close association that binds them. And he indicated that this Allied collaboration might develop into some sort of federation of all the nations of Europe. This continues the hints that have been coming out of both London and Paris - hints pointing to the possibility of an eventual United States of Europe, which idea has been so much talked about.

R.A.F.

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London announces tonight that all the units of the Royal Air Force ~~in France~~ <sup>on the Continent</sup> will be consolidated under one command. All the R.A.F. squadrons will be unified in one organization to be called - "The British Air Forces in France."

This may have some bearing on the much disputed case of Hore-Belisha, the London Minister of War who was forced out.

We've had reports that in the disagreement between Hore-Belisha and the British <sup>army</sup> commanders ~~in France~~, one point <sup>at</sup> issue was - whether or not British air units should be made into a separate outfit under an air force commander. This is what now has happened.

Another Hore-Belisha sensation was sprung in London today, with the revelation that the former Minister of War was virulently attacked in a letter circulated on War Office stationery. It was an anti-Semitic diatribe denouncing him as a Jew, and it was sent far and wide. Obviously the work of an anti-Semitic fanatic - but how did it happen to be sent on letterheads of the British Ministry of War? That's being investigated right now.

PARIS

This afternoon the French Government decided to make a move against members of the Chamber of Deputies who <sup>were</sup> ~~are~~ elected by the Communist Party. That party of the Reds is now outlawed in France, but deputies who were elected as Communists still hold their seats. Now the government is going to introduce a bill to toss them out, annul their mandate <sup>s</sup> as representatives.

This decision followed an uproar in the Chamber <sup>today,</sup> a young riot which occurred when the Communist deputies refused to pay a gesture of honor to the French army. The President of the Chamber, in an address spoke a tribute to the soldiers at the battlefield. In response to this, all the deputies arose as a mark of respect to the army. All did - save the Communists. They remained sitting down, refusing to rise - and the other deputies raged and stormed at them.

FINLAND

Here's the news from Finland. It's brief. For the first time since the Russian invasion, the Government at Helsinki issued a war bulletin of only a few words. ~~Here it is~~ <sup>It reads: -</sup> Land:- except for patrol activity and artillery fire, there was nothing of importance. Sea:- no activity. Air:- nothing of importance.

For the first time - no announcement of victories.

This may be taken as an indication that the Finns have completed their ~~operations~~ successful operations against the Soviet

forces in the north. Or maybe - that <sup>the</sup> bitter cold and blizzard

<sup>have</sup> ~~may have~~ stopped the fighting.

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NAVY

In Washington today the subject of sea giants was under discussion. Admiral Stark, Chief of Naval Operations, mentioned the figure of fifty-two thousand tons. Various Congressmen have been speaking ~~about~~ about super-super battleships of sixty and eighty thousand tons - which sounds almost large enough to be fantastic. The United States is now building a couple of forty-five thousand tonners, and they're the biggest in the world. Admiral Stark told the House Committee on Naval Affairs that the Navy is considering the idea of constructing fighting craft of a tonnage of fifty-two thousand. The naval experts <sup>have</sup> made no decision about it, they're merely thinking over the idea. The Admiral also revealed that the Navy Ordnance ~~experts~~ <sup>scientists</sup> are experimenting with eighteen inch guns; ~~and~~ the largest naval guns right now are sixteen inches <sup>in dia.</sup> (He went on to say that the Navy is improving its facilities at the Island of Guam, ~~and~~ ~~that~~ immediately raised a controversial issue - last year's discussion about whether or not Guam should be fortified. <sup>Which</sup> ~~But~~ it was argued, might antagonize Japan - and eventually the fortification of Guam was left out of the Naval Appropriations Bill.)

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Admiral Stark, as his testimony went on, hit upon an interesting theme - the GRAF SPEE, that ill-fated Nazi pocket battleship. He told the Committee that the result of the ~~naval~~<sup>sea</sup> fight at Montevideo was no surprise to American naval experts. They considered the GRAF SPEE to be very lightly protected by arm~~ament~~<sup>or</sup>. Admiral Stark used these words:- "She was a perfectly splendid ship, but those of us who studied her knew she was soft. She was not armored against ~~eight~~<sup>eight inch</sup> shells." ~~That may be taken as official concerning the sea drama off the South American coast - the pocket battleship blasted away with the destructive fire of heavy guns, but didn't have the armor to resist the lighter shells of the smaller British ships.~~



CONVICT

At Lansing, Michigan, a convict sentenced to a life term was released today, because of his study of the law. He has become an ~~EXPERT~~ expert authority on one particular law - the statute under which he was convicted.

In Nineteen Thirty-Five, James Sharp was found guilty of stealing sixty bushels of wheat - and it was his fourth offense. Michigan has what is called <sup>an</sup> a "Habitual Criminal Law," which provides life imprisonment for a fourth offender. So Sharp was sentenced to spend the rest of his days in jail.

When he got to prison he began to study. "I was convinced that I had not received a fair trial," he explained today. So he studied the law that applied to his case - the "Habitual Criminal Law." He read up on every decision. He found that the history ~~is~~ of the Habitual Criminal Law in this country began in Virginia, back in Colonial Days. It was invoked to send five men back to London for trial. Prison hours are long, plenty of time for study, Sharp mastered his subject, and last year filed an application in the courts for a Writ of Habeas Corpus. The court was so impressed by the learning the convict displayed in the appeal, that <sup>the Judge</sup> ~~he~~ ordered a

special investigation. And that investigation proceeded to show that the prisoner, in his complicated legal analysis, was right. So today he was released. He goes out an authority on the law under which he was condemned to life imprisonment.

JAIL

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Today at Montgomery, Alabama, a man returned to jail, voluntarily - after an absence of thirteen years. He escaped from prison back in Nineteen Twenty-Seven - just so he could go to see his twin daughters. But he never did see them - that's the strange story he tells.

Ben White was sent to jail for bigamy, and he was ~~jailed~~ ashamed of that. Having broken out of prison, he was ashamed of being an escaped ~~convict~~ convict. He started out to see his twin daughters, but then ~~failed~~ felt too much ashamed to make an appearance. They lived in Birmingham and there he got a job as a railroad laborer. He lived not far away from <sup>them</sup> ~~his twin daughters~~, but never dared to face them. And so the years went by. He says the situation worried and agitated him unbearably. "I worried myself nearly crazy," he said today. "I lost my hair and all my teeth." So now he has returned to prison to serve out the rest of his sentence - resigning himself never to see his twin daughters.

## MARRIAGE

Every husband knows how a wife can lose her temper. In Hollywood, Linda Hayes lost hers. She's a movie actress and in a divorce court today she admitted to the judge that she had lost her temper, not once but several times. She got real mad with her husband on various occasions, just flared up, angry, irritated. This she confessed in the following words:- "Once he dragged me across the bedroom by the hair," said she, "and that was the first time I lost my temper."

Well, there are some things that a wife finds just too provoking. In New York, Millionaire William B. Osgood Field is being sued for divorce, and today his wife told what he did. She admitted that he built a ~~ix~~ two hundred thousand dollar home for her and provided her with seventeen servants. Yes, he treated her, as she says - lavishly. But, she adds, he often called her a "devil". And what wife will stand for that even with a two hundred thousand dollar home and seventeen servants.

TRAPPER

In New York, the Bronx is a by-word for teeming population, endless apartment houses and crowded streets. That's what gives <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ twist of novelty to the news today that a man has been arrested for fur-trapping in the Bronx.

Frank Hoyt used to trap fur-bearing animals in northern Canada. He came to New York, lived in the Bronx, and went right ahead - trapping furs. He set his traps in Pelham Bay Park, and caught weasel and mink. "The Bronx mink," says he, "is superior to the <sup>Labrador</sup> ~~Canadian~~ mink." <sup>HP</sup> There is some sort of law that makes fur-trapping in the Bronx illegal, and <sup>Frank</sup> the trapper was arrested. An astonished judge gave him a suspended sentence, and today James A. Lyons, the President of the Borough of the Bronx, announced a plan to make a survey of wild life in New York's crowded borough, a census of fur-bearing animals in the Bronx.

SHIP

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Out on the Pacific Ocean, a ship is missing. At San Francisco today, the United States marine authorities asked captains of vessels to keep a lookout for the two-masted schooner SPINDRIFT. Behind that warning there's a story of thrill and romance.

The SPINDRIFT is a treasure-hunting craft, seeking a fabulous fortune believed to be buried on Cocos Island, the sixty million dollar treasure known as - "the loot of Lima." Last week, strange word flashed from Cocos Island. ~~It claimed to have~~ <sup>Treasure</sup> ~~it claimed.~~ discovered ~~the treasure~~ <sup>it claimed.</sup> The wireless message said rather cryptically that some at least of the "loot of Lima" had been dug up.

It all goes back to a tale of centuries ago. At Lima, then of such golden renown, ~~if~~ ecclesiastical authorities decided to move the treasure of the Cathedral for safekeeping. They sent it away aboard a ship. Out at sea the crew mutined and turned pirate. They seized the Church treasure in their charge, sailed for Cocos Island, and buried it there. That's the story which has haunted many an imagination and sent many a treasure hunter to <sup>distant</sup> ~~Cocos Island~~ <sup>→ and to the Galapagos.</sup> They dug and searched in vain. ~~and~~ Then last week came the vague and inconclusive message that the treasure seekers

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of the SPINDRIFT had found the ~~ix~~ loot of Lima. That was accompanied by the word that the SPINDRIFT was sailing from the island to procure additional supplies. And now comes the news - the ~~SPINDRIFT~~ SPINDRIFT is missing, vessels at sea asked to keep a lookout for the sailing ship of the treasure seekers.

RUSKIN

The name of John Ruskin is of great renown in the criticism of art, Ruskin, the apostle of beauty who in Victorian days propounded aesthetic theories and evoked visions. ~~of art~~

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Today comes a moody story about a fabulous collection of Ruskin manuscripts, letters, autographs, paintings and sculptures. The news comes from Japan, and that isn't so surprising when you think of it - the Japanese are much given to aesthetic and visionary art. The individual concerned adds still more romantic color to the tale - Mikimoto, the younger, son of old Mikimoto, the pearl magnate, who made the fortune of a Croesus out of the cultivation of the gleaming gems of the sea.

The younger Mikimoto, reared amid legends of pearls, became a devotee of John Ruskin's interpretations of art and life. He collected Ruskin items, two thousand of them, everything pertaining to Ruskin that he could find. <sup>In fact he</sup> ~~He~~ set out to pattern his life according to the theories of Ruskin. It didn't work out so well - materially speaking. The younger Mikimoto, son of the oriental pearl king, had a large fortune - but he lost it. 8 1/2  
Too much of the Ruskin dream of art, and he neglected business, gave no thought to finance. He was forced into bankruptcy, lost



everything. Only one thing really hurt him - he lost his priceless Ruskin collection. Creditors took it, and it was scattered.

But the younger Mikimoto, now a pauper, continued his life's study, writing a book called - "Explaining the Way to Ruskin."

The book was recently published, <sup>in Tokyo</sup> and is described as a masterpiece,

~~in its way.~~ Today ~~the~~ news comes ~~from Tokyo~~ that friends of the

younger Mikimoto have returned to him his Ruskin collection. They

raised funds among themselves, hunted down the items and bought them.

So now <sup>pauper</sup> the son of the Japanese lord of pearls can once more revel

~~in his collection of relics~~ in his mementoes of the <sup>art</sup> sage ~~of art~~

of mid-Victorian England. Ruskin, and Mikimoto.

1/4 — and Hugh James.