

P. I. Sanoco. Wed., April 19, 1939.

ENGLAND

There's a
~~it's a~~ welcome change in the tone of the news from Europe
~~that we see~~ today. For weeks and weeks ^{has} it ~~seemed~~ ^{like} ~~one-half~~ of
Europe ~~has been~~ inviting the other half to tread on the tail of
its coat. ~~And truth to tell it has been a bit tiresome.~~ Tonight
the tune changes, or at any rate it has fresh lyrics and the words
are, "Let's be pals, let's understand each other, what's the good
of all this fight talk?" ^{We hear all this} ~~That's what we hear,~~ from the British
Parliament today. Not ^{from} ~~only~~ the Commons but the House of Lords.
^{And -} ~~It came~~ ^{Mr.} from the mouth of Chamberlain's Foreign Secretary, Lord
Halifax. ^{TF} His Lordship made it more than mere words, since he
announced that His Majesty's ~~Ambassador~~ would soon return to
Berlin. And he almost went as far as to say that this meant an
attempt to renew the appeasement policy. The way he expressed it
was:- "His Majesty's Government would never wish to abandon any
efforts that promise any hope of success if those efforts can
win a response from the other side and be of a mutual character."

But at the same time, the Prime Minister himself was
singing
~~singing~~ a rather different tune to the House of Commons. His
government, he said, was contemplating the idea of including the

Far East in his so-called peace front, to line up an Asiatic power in his combination of ~~xx~~ nations pledged to resist aggression.

ROME

From Rome the unexpected report is that Mussolini is going to beat Hitler to it in replying to Mr. Roosevelt. For some time the Duce has been scheduled to make a speech tomorrow which was to be broadcast at eleven o'clock in the morning, five o'clock in the morning Eastern Standard Time. Quite suddenly this afternoon Fascist ^osp_^kesmen made public the fact that Premier Mussolini would make an important announcement in that speech. And he intimated that the gist of it would be a condemnation of the Roosevelt peace plea.

Another thing that took place in Rome seems to mean an even closer adherence of Hungary to the Rome-Berlin Axis. Count Csaky, Regent Horthy's Foreign Minister, was in the Eternal City, and held long conversations with Mussolini and Count Ciano. That was not so unusual, but the Hungarian Foreign Minister also gave interviews to the Fascist newspapers. Said he to the Italian reporters: "I have grave suspicions of America's new interference in the affairs of central Europe." And he added: "I don't think there are two Hungarians in the world who can have forgotten the history of Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points.

We ask to be allowed to work as we desire with our friends."

One of the things that Count Csaky discussed with Mussolini and Count Ciano was the question of Hungary's claims against Roumania for the territory taken a way from Hungary.

BERLIN

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In Germany, the talk was all about Hitler's Fiftieth Birthday. Most Germans had no time for anything but getting ready for the monster celebration in honor of Der Fuehrer. Chancellor Hitler himself, however, had time for a conference with the Foreign Minister of Roumania. And the report from German government circles is that the Roumanian resisted all Hitler's efforts to draw his country into the Rome-Berlin Axis. King Carol's government is absolutely resolved to be strictly neutral. At the same time it was officially announced that the conferences had been satisfactory to both sides. After seeing the Fuehrer, and visiting the Foreign Office, the Roumanian Minister had a long conference with Field Marshal Hermann Goering.

SHIP ~~FOLLOW~~ PARIS

~~of course~~ The big excitement in France today was over the burning of the liner PARIS. The general impression is *Foreign spies suspected. An Italian arrested,* that it was no accident. The Minister of Merchant Marine announced that the French Line had been receiving warnings of a sabotage plot for some time. ~~But the~~ *W that* warnings concerned not the PARIS but the NORMANDIE. Then there was a report around the city that guards searched the NORMANDIE and found a time bomb which they removed and rendered harmless before it could explode. ~~For~~

FAR EAST

~~There's an ominous bit of~~ News from Tokyo today. For some time we've been hearing that the anti-Communist alliance would become far more aggressive. That seems to be confirmed. ~~today~~

The Mikado's government has started negotiations with Hitler and Mussolini. The hope is to make ^{the pact} ~~it~~ a general defensive and offensive military alliance. Each of the three countries to help the others with airplanes, munitions and manufacturing privileges.

Here's what Japan wants:- airplanes from Italy, munitions from Germany, and permission to operate Japanese airplane factories in Germany.

~~Surprisingly enough,~~ ^{But} Japan hasn't got ^{ten} very far ^{as yet.} ~~along this~~

~~line yet.~~ In the first place, Mussolini needs all his latest model planes for himself, also he wants cash for everything he sells.

Secondly, Hitler is ~~perfectly~~ willing to give Japan the right to manufacture in some of his more obsolete factories. But he also needs for his own purposes the most modern plants, and those are the ones that Japan most needs. Thirdly, none of the three governments of the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis is willing to let gold leave ^{its own} ~~the~~

~~country~~ borders.

HOWARD

Roy Howard of the Scripps-Howard newspapers and ^{the} United Press gave vent to an encouraging opinion today. ~~You may remember~~
~~that~~ He has been making a tour of Europe, reporting ^{in person.} ~~on that lunatic~~
~~scene for himself.~~ ~~He said~~ ^{he said:-} When he returned today, "I think there
won't be war in Europe this year." Then he added: ~~the remark.~~
"That is my own individual opinion, subject to change within
twenty-four hours."

Publisher Howard had a good word to say for President Roosevelt's message last Saturday, thinks it was "soundly based". But he said further: "If it fails, it will be because of the ill-advised barrage of denunciations of Hitler on this side of the water."

Roy Howard said something else that is contrary to other reports from Europe: "There are few serious difficulties," he believes, "to prevent a peaceful settlement between Italy and France."

NEUTRALITY

The argument over neutrality waxed high in the Senate today. Senator Hiram Johnson of California, the old irreconcilable, is against the plan offered by Senator Key Pitman of Nevada, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. That of course is the cash-and-carry plan. Said Johnson of California: "Why that would make the United States Japan's ally in the Pacific, and Great Britain's ally in the Atlantic." And he added: "Japan could do as she pleases in the Pacific and Great Britain in the Atlantic."

Mexico.

It's just announced that Mexico and Italy have concluded a big deal - swapping expropriated Mexican petroleum for Italian rayon.

BERGDOLL

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It looks as though the Congressmen were in earnest about keeping the draft dodger, Bergdoll, out of the country. The bill submitted on Monday was considered today by the Military Affairs Committee of the House. And the story from Washington is that the Committee is for it, one and all. However, they're waiting for a report from the War Department before reporting the bill favorably. As it stands, it would absolutely prohibit the return to the United States of anybody who has been convicted of desertion and who escaped to a foreign country to dodge punishment.

SUBMARINE

There has been considerable excitement in the maritime provinces of Canada. Fishermen fishing off Lockport, Nova Scotia reported that they saw a submarine. On Monday other fishermen saw either the same or a similar craft at St. Peter's Bay, off the southwest coast of Nova Scotia; ~~that's~~ two hundred and fifty miles northeast of Lockport. Both these appearances were reported at Cape Breton immediately, but the news only came to light in Halifax, ~~Nova Scotia~~ today. A Canadian naval officer says it has been investigated.

PASSPORTS

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Uncle Sam's lawyers are engaged in a most important criminal trial in New York. They're trying to convict a mob of conspirators who they say have been trafficking in fake passports, ~~And they go even further. They've been~~ ^{and even} obtaining naturalization papers for people who knew nothing about it. Mysterious and obviously miscreant people have been traveling all over Europe using passports in the names of perfectly respectable citizens of the United States. One witness in court today testified that someone had used his father's naturalization papers.

This ties in with some of the information revealed by Ex-Soviet General Krivitzky in that sensational series ^{now running} ~~published~~ in the SATURDAY EVENING POST. General Krivitzky used to be Chief of Military Intelligence ^{for} ~~of~~ Stalin in western Europe. He got away from Europe ^{just} in time to avoid being liquidated along with his colleagues. He got over here in time to publish the most startling ~~and the most damning~~ inside facts against Stalin and the ^{men} ~~mob~~ that ^a ~~sur~~rounds him. One thing ~~that~~ Krivitzky wrote concerns what happened to misguided Americans who went to fight for Loyalist Spain under the delusion that they were fighting for liberty.

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As Krivitzky points out, towards the end of that Civil War, ~~the~~ so-called Loyalist Spain was ~~put~~ under the control of Stalin's Ogpu. The minute an American volunteer landed in Spain, his passport was taken ~~from~~ him and promptly sent to Russia, where it was changed so as to be used by Stalin's Ogpu spies.

WAGNER ACT

According to one authority, it might be against the law for an employer to say that he thinks any union leader is a Communist. The authority for this ~~interesting idea~~ is no less a person than the Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, J. Warren Madden. ~~and~~ ^{He} so expressed himself to the Senate Committee on Education and Labor. "Under certain circumstances," says J. Warren Madden, "it would be a violation of the Wagner Act to describe a union leader as a Communist even if it's true."

But that isn't all. What he said next is even more amazing. "The only purpose an employer would have in calling a union leader a Communist," says the Chairman of the Labor Relations Board, "would be to hamper the growth of the union."

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Speaking at Utica, New York, Democratic Senator Burke of Nebraska asked for an axe to be used on the Labor Relations Board. His reason. ~~says he~~: "It's entirely pro-union in its attitude," ^{said he.} Someone asked: "What would you put in its place?" And the Senate ^{re}plied: "A board of three men, one representing the employers, one representing the workers, and the third to take care of the interests of the general public."

COAL

The crisis over the coal strike has brought still another federal official on the job. For three weeks a conciliator of the Department of Labor has been straining his most persuasive powers in vain. But the deadlock is still deadlocked. Today the head of the Conciliation Service of Madam Perkins, Labor Department rushed to New York to investigate in person, ~~he~~ ~~going~~ to try his hand at bringing about an agreement between the mine operators and John L. Lewis, President of the miners.

BILL OF RIGHTS

It has taken a hundred and fifty years for all forty-eight states of the Union to ratify the Bill of Rights. Massachusetts, you will remember, held out until early this year and that wasn't because Massachusetts didn't approve. It was rather because the folks there thought the Bill of Rights wasn't strong enough. However, at the suggestion of Governor Saltonstall, Massachusetts fell in line, and later on also Georgia. That still left one state that hadn't ratified it - Connecticut.

And today the General Assembly at Hartford, capital of the ~~Connecticut~~ ^{Nutmeg} State, finally ratified the first Ten Amendments to ~~that~~ ^{the} famous document.

FLOODS

More flood news today. Around Chester, Illinois, a general warning was sent out, notifying all people who live in the lowlands to move to ~~highground~~ higher ground. The Mississippi River passed the flood stage at Chester and is still rising a foot a day. Both families and livestock have been removed from some of the riverbank sections. In Arkansas, the Petit Jean River ~~was~~ ~~never heard of it before~~ has become troublesome. It burst through a levee near Dardanelle, Arkansas, and put seventy-five families to flight.

At Cincinnati a hundred and fifty families have been evacuated. But the prophecy is that cold weather will stop the Ohio from rising any higher.

MARATHON

This was not only the anniversary of Lexington Day in Massachusetts, ~~ix~~ it was also the day for the Forty-third Boston Marathon. And the winner appropriately enough descends from the original inhabitants of those parts. He's a Narragansett Indian from Westerly, Rhode Island. His name is Ellison Brown. ^R He ~~is~~ not only won that more than twenty-six mile race, ^{he} ~~he~~ _A bested the record, ran the marathon two minutes nine and four-fifth seconds less than anyone had run it before. His time ~~was two hours,~~ ^T twenty-eight minutes, fifty-one and four-fifth seconds. (He breasted the tape in a drizzling rain seven hundred yards ahead of the man who ran second. ^T There was a field of one hundred and eighty-two runners at the starting point, thirty of them Canadiens. One of them was Walter Young of Verdun, Quebec who won the ~~xxx~~ race in 1937. For a time it looked as though he were going to win it again. But the pace of the ² ~~the~~ Indian was too ~~xxx~~ hot for that Canadian and he finished third.

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WHIPPING

Parents of school children are up in arms at Monroe, Connecticut. The principal of the consolidated school at Monroe and the district supervisor were arrested on charges of having whipped a couple of pupils with a rubber hose. The state police investigated and said that it was all right to rubber-hose refractory pupils.

58 1/2
Then there was a town meeting. The citizens of Monroe by a majority of a hundred and fifty-one to twenty-four repeated what the state police had said, that the principal and the supervisor had done right with their rubber hose. Finally, the Board of Education also upheld them.

Evidently the Spartan principles of the Puritan forefathers lingers long in that part of Connecticut! *ouch!*

GOLDFISH

Here's an item to end all items about goldfish eating.

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A new record was set today at Martinsville, Indiana. The record-breaker is an employee of a goldfish hatchery of that place. He drank a cup of water filled with newly hatched goldfish, and it is estimated that in so doing he must have gulped down at least five thousand. ~~That ought to hold them~~

59 1/4
I'm against all those goldfish stories. But they get goofier and goofier. and s-l-u-t-u.