

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The news from the Far East tonight is of terrific danger, and sombre drama. It's the more frightfully theatrical because of the way it was flashed - by a radio broadcast. Only last Friday the radio had its great moment - when ex-King Edward explained his abdication to the British Empire. Today, the message by microphone and loud speaker was one of Far Eastern terror.

From the remote inner depths of the Chinese Province of Shensi, came words winging on the ether waves, a statement broadcast by the military lord of those parts, Marshal Chang. His voice - announcing that he had caused General Chiang Kzi-shek, chief of the Nanking government, China's Iron Man - killed together with three other generals, high officials of the Central government of China. Marshal Chang announced these executions in a personal radio broadcast today - about as

cold-blooded and melodramatic an utterance as human history will record. That's the word from China. Altho later reports add a touch of mystery.

Who is this Marshal Chang? He's a son of another fierce and formidable character in Chinese history. Chang Tso-lin- who was the war lord of Manchuria, when it was still in Chinese hands. Chang Tso-lin who made himself master of northern China -- until he was defeated by the Nationalist movement, beaten by General Chiang Kai-shek who became military chief of the Nanking government. The old Manchurian war lord retired to his native province, and there was assassinated by a bomb which blew up his railroad train. Whereupon he was succeeded by his son, this present Marshal Chang. But, the Japanese over-ran Manchuria and turned it into the puppet state of Manchukuo. Marshal Chang was driven out, and seemed to be nowhere. He still had an army, so he joined up with the Nanking government under Chiang Kai-shek, the regime that had overthrown the power of his father. One of

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those kaleidoscopic changes so familiar in Chinese politics and war. A Far Eastern right-about-face.

Last Friday, there was another right-about-face, just

as sudden and fantastic. (Marshal Chang was in command of a government army, fighting the Communists in western China. At his headquarters was General Chiang Kai-shek, his superior, head of the government. The two were meeting to discuss the campaign against the Reds. Right then Marshal Chang staged a sudden revolt and seized General Chiang Kai-shek and other high officers who were with him. He issued a proclamation that he was holding the chief of the state a prisoner and made the demand that Nanking must declare war against Japan, must make an agreement with the Communist element in China, and must line up with the Red armies -- for a campaign against Nippon.)

This news threw all China into a ferment. The Nanking government made frantic efforts to procure the freedom of its chief. Sent an emissary to Marshal Chang. This emissary, an Australian, W. H. McDonald, who has been acting as advisor to the Nanking authorities. Emissary McDonald made contact with Marshal Chang and only today reported he had seen Chiang Kai-shek, safe and sound -- though a prisoner.

That was the day's early news. Then came the later report, the radio broadcast - with Marshal Chang announcing the execution of the head of the government and three other generals, one of them a former Japanese ambassador to Tokyo, and another a prominent army commander in western China.

Tonight, China is aflame! The Nanking government has ordered martial law. An official declaration calls the situation grave. A better word would be - appalling! This trouble so long brewing in eastern Asia, threatens to explode - with that savage melodrama of death on the radio today.

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Let's look quickly at the desperate political angles.

Japan declares its moves against China have been for the purpose of suppressing Communism in Eastern Asia. Japan has an alliance with far off Nazi Germany for common action against ~~the~~ Communism, and Communist Russia stands in the middle. What did Japan do when on Friday Marshal Chang seized Chiang Kai-shek and demanded that the Nanking government should unite with the Reds? Tokyo ~~immediately~~ immediately consulted Berlin. Now - Marshal Chang executes

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Chiang Kai-shek. Is this the beginning of a wild Red revolt in China? If so, there stand threateningly: Japan, Germany, Russia. War already on between Fascists and Reds in Spain. Will there be an even greater clash between Fascism and Communism in the Far East? Such are the questions - which remain to be answered.

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A very late curious message from that **same** Australian emissary, Donald - cryptic - it says to Nanking: "Chiang Kai-shek situation the same!" What does it mean? Is it old and out of date? Or can this Marshal Chang have announced these executions, falsely - as bluff. Weird puzzles of the Orient!

PAN-AMERICAN

Today's somber melodrama in Asia stands in contrast to the international news in our own hemisphere. Here we find nothing startling, nothing but the quiet, grateful subject of Pan-American peace.

As President Roosevelt returns to home soil, we hear of consistent progress at Buenos Aires. Today the Neutrality Plan composed by the United States took another step toward final adoption. Twelve nations signed the document -- twelve out of the twenty-three represented at the Pan-American Conference. Today's signatures were ~~xxxx~~ written merely in sponsorship <sup>with</sup> the twelve nations recommending the Plan ~~xx~~ to the committee which will take it under further consideration. Then it will go before the Pan-American ~~x~~ Assembly. <sup>TP</sup> This ~~xxxx~~ neutrality policy, drawn up by Secretary of State Hull, provides that the American nations shall consult ~~us~~ together whenever there's any war danger within the Americas -- or from abroad. In case there's any fighting to bother us in this hemisphere, we will all get together to try and meet it with joint action.

It declares against any nation intervening in the

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affairs of any other. No monkeying around in the other fellow's backyard. If intervention seems necessary, why then it's to be taken up for discussion by the American nations. ~~The~~ <sup>H</sup>The plan furthermore, proposes that all the treaties that are in force ~~in the~~ <sup>in the</sup> ~~between~~ <sup>between</sup> American ~~nations~~ <sup>nations</sup> right now shall be ratified by all of the twenty-one republics.

Long before the meeting of the Conference in Buenos Aires we heard of a plan for a Pan-American World Court, a Court of Justice to settle disputes in this hemisphere -- something along the lines of the League of Nations' World Court. This proposal has been made in the present deliberations, but today we hear ~~it~~ <sup>it's</sup> on the shelf. Uruguay suggested that the plans for the Court be put off until the next Pan-American Congress, which is scheduled to be held in 1938. Today the Committee voted O.K. -- ~~they will take~~ take up the idea in 1938.

In Washington it's the same old yearly story -- it's pay-up time, but there's no pay-up. Once more we get a series of communications from ~~Great~~ <sup>Great</sup> Great Britain, France Italy, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland all saying --

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Sorry but we're not kicking in with anything.

Yes, same old war debt chorus, with only a couple of slight variations this year. The British note to the Treasury Department hints that His Majesty's government may be thinking about re-opening the debt question, with the <sup>possibility of</sup> ~~policy~~ paying something. The Paris government expresses, ~~the~~ hope in these words:-- "that world economic and financial conditions may enable it to open negotiations for an arrangement acceptable to both parties." An arrangement would be acceptable over here, especially if accompanied by a little cash.

The same old story concludes with the same little Finland -- paying on the line. Not much, but promptly. We might remember however that Finland's obligation is not strictly speaking a war debt. We loaned the money after the World War was over. We could have hardly handed Finland any cash while the ~~troubled~~ struggle of the nations was on, because then the independence of Finland was established with the help of the Germans -- Finland under German domin<sup>ation</sup>~~ion~~.

~~Very~~ Yes, all of this is quiet sort of news, rather

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They made a start <sup>today</sup> ~~on~~ at settling the shipping strike out on the Pacific Coast. They've come to an agreement about - "hiring halls." I recall the previous maritime strike several years ago, and then also a big point of dispute was those - "hiring halls." Places where dock workers go to get jobs along the wharfs - how shall they be managed? And by whom? An important matter along any waterfront. And now they've settled that point in the coast labor dispute. There are still other points for the companies and the men to iron out. But they' <sup>today</sup> made a big step forward when they agreed - about <sup>the</sup> "hiring halls."

Yes, ~~xxxx~~ this is ~~xxxx~~ all sort of hum-drum news. But don't think that there's no blood and thunder at all in this peaceful Western Hemisphere. No wars and military perils to be fought, <sup>oh,</sup> but here's a blasting sound of gunfire -- right here at home.

BATTLE

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In New York, a sensational gun battle between G-men and a kidnap desperado - so I called up J. Edgar Hoover this afternoon. And he mentioned a figure - seventy-two. That many kidnappings have been reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation since Nineteen Thirty-Two. Until today, all ~~but~~ ~~but~~ solved - except one. Now, ~~federal~~ ~~gun~~ after the gun-battle, the last one is marked on the record with the telltale words - "arrest and confession." Making the score: - one hundred per cent!

J. Edgar Hoover told me that Harry Brunette, arrested after the shooting, made a full confession this afternoon. He admitted three bank robberies and the kidnapping of a New Jersey state trooper. He's the most dangerous criminal for whom the federal agents have been searching recently. "G-men-Chief" Hoover tells me that this particular bandit was on his way to becoming a full fledged nationally known public-enemy-Number-One. That promise of evil fame was ended amid the crashing of pistols and machine guns. So there's a national meaning in New York's wild and uproarious episode of crime and arrest -

which in addition is the liveliest kind of thriller.

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J. Edgar Hoover himself led his G-men to the bandit's door, and tells me of a curious sensation he had when he knocked with a vigorous thump. . . A peep hole opened, and he could see an eye peering out. Strange looking - that single eye! Police records describe Brunette as having "yellow, orange, azure eyes." Azure, for sky blue. . A weird combination of colors - from orange to blue. That's the strange eye that J. Edgar Hoover saw looking through the peek hole.. They called upon Brunette to surrender, but they expected a gun-battle -- and got one.

~~Why~~ Do you know whom they had trapped in that apartment? A librarian! Picture the mild kind of studious fellow who handles the books and stamps the library cards. Harry Brunette was a young librarian in Michigan, who decided to take up the trade of bank robbing! For all his bookish beginnings, the G-men knew him to be a perilous desperado, who had vowed to shoot it out before he'd be taken. <sup>So, early this morning they</sup> ~~had~~ had the Riverside Drive apartment surrounded, every route of

escape cut off, and were prepared for a gun-blazing siege.

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Brunette started shooting through the door. The machine guns of the G-men crashed in return. The bandit was in a front parlor with windows facing the street. The apartment was on the first floor, so the G-men were able to toss tear gas bombs through the windows. Somehow, the missiles of acrid gas set a fire inside, and in a few minutes the room was swept with flames. The Fire Department was on the job while the battle of bullets went on. The bandit was shooting at the firemen as well as the federal agents. Yet the fire-fighting had to be done. There were families in the upper part of the building, families cut off by the warfare that raged on the first floor. Women were screaming, women fainting. So the firemen took the risk, and flung streams of water into the burning parlor.

The tear gas and flames drove Brunette from that room - drove him and the woman with him, his wife, described as his partner in his desperado career. They retreated along a narrow hall. That's where the door was. He flung the door open, shooting as he did so, - and the woman darted out to surrender.

As the G-men returned the fire, she got in the way, and a bullet hit her in the leg. The federal men escorted the bandit's wife to safety.

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Brunette retired further along the narrow hall to a kitchenette at the back. This was like an ~~impenetrable~~ <sup>impregnable</sup> stronghold which he could defend with bullets down the hall.

The critical factor of the battle was this - that Brunette had a large supply of ammunition in the front parlor where the fire hose was putting out the fire. But he couldn't get to it. The G-men had blasted down the door, and their guns commanded the hall through which the bandit would have to pass.

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And he was cut off from ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> supply of cartridges. The ~~whole~~ <sup>cartridge.</sup> thing lasted for an hour, until Brunette had fired his last ~~cartridge.~~

He shouted he would surrender. Then he came out, <sup>and</sup> put his hands up. Tough and snarling, the way you'd never expect a librarian to be. Hard-boiled and defiant, in a way you'd never call bookish. "You're a fine bunch of brave guys!" he sneered as he gave himself up.

He had two pistols, one of them ~~ax~~ the kind the army

uses - the kind that the underworld steals from national guard armories. The other - a policeman's revolver, which he had got when he and a pal held up two cops and took their weapons. The kidnapping for which he was wanted was the abduction of a New Jersey state trooper. He liked to pick on officers of the law - this librarian with the yellow, orange, azure eyes, who was on his way to become a public enemy Number One, but won't.

*He is likely to spend the rest of his days, with books - behind the bars.*

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