

LEAD BRITISH STRIKE

P.J. - Standard. Fri. Mar. 10th '44  
Lunoco.  
Tucson.

The latest of the strike news from Great Britain tells us that the walkout has spread to North Wales. There three thousand miners went on strike today, closing one of the biggest of the mines. that's how the British coal strike is spreading, and the word is that the British government soon may have to take over the black pits.

The tie-up in South Wales is virtually complete -- (continue

~~as in previous story~~

## BRITISH STRIKE

~~Today in Britain, six more big coal mines were closed down, when the workers walked out. And this makes the tie-up in South Wales virtually complete.~~ ninety percent of the hundred thousand miners are on strike and a hundred-and-seventy-six mines out of two hundred have had to shut down. And, in Scotland too - nine coal mines were idle today, because of seven-thousand men on strike. Altogether - nearly a hundred-thousand miners are out - in a strike that is costing Britain the production of a half a million tons of coal a week.

The cause of the trouble is a matter of pay adjustment, and it's all involved in technicalities. The government has made concessions, but these have failed to satisfy the strikers - because of the technicalities. A dispatch from London today explains that the official concession is phrased in such obscure complicated language that the miners can't figure it out. It's all so technical that they can't determine whether their demands have been granted or not. Apparently, they want the whole thing translated into plain English - and meanwhile they are staying out on strike. Which leads to the word that the British authorities have given up hope of the end of a coal tie-up until Monday.

This British labor trouble has turns of a curious paradox.

A United Press correspondent reports from the South Wales coal area that the strike has a decided tinge of Red. "The coal miners talk admiringly of Communism," writes the reporter, who quotes one veteran miner as saying, "Our only hope for this country is to have the Communists take over." They are enthusiastic about the Soviets, acclaiming the military successes of the Red Army.

Yet, of course, the coal tie-up is just about the worst thing possible for the launching of the expected second front - which second front is so greatly desired by Soviet Russia. In fact, the strike is strongly opposed by union leaders, who are avowedly Communistic and seem to have lost their control over the men. The miners are represented as speaking disparagingly of their Communist leaders, while talking admiringly of America's John L Lewis - who of late by the way, had<sup>S</sup> been blasting savagely against Communists.<sub>A</sub>

All of which gives a confused picture of the labor trouble in Britain.

LEAD EIRE

Tonight Secretary of State Cordell Hull makes it formal and official -- the United States has sent a protest to the government of Ireland and this protest has been rejected. Washington has asked Dublin to break relations with enemy Germany and Japan, and kick out the diplomatic representatives of the Axis powers. But the De Valera government of Eire has refused, and insists on maintaining its neutrality.

The American contention is that the presence of the Nazi-Jap bunch in Dublin constitutes what the American protest calls "a danger to the lives of American soldiers and to the success of Allied military operations".

This is easy to understand. Masses of American troops are stationed in North Ireland, near the border of Eire, an open border across which people circulate -- and so does information. Meaning -- information about the American troops in North Ireland, and the great Allied mobilizations in England, mobilizations for the second front. With the invasion drawing near the Allied command is exceedingly anxious to keep revelations about it from drifting out -- tips ✓

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that might give the Nazis invulnerable aid.

To the American protest, demanding the ousting of enemy envoys the government of Eire replies with a general denial of Axis espionage based on Dublin. De Valera asserts that his regime has taken all measures to safe-guard American interests and is using every means within its power to prevent the leakage of news that might be detrimental ~~to~~ to the Allied cause.

It has been charged that the German legation in Dublin has a wireless transmitter. This is conceded in the De Valera message which however, goes on to say that the wireless transmitter has been in the custody of the Irish government for some months.

There is one exceedingly characteristic passage in the Dublin rejection of the American protest -- Something that refers back to the old feud between the Irish and the English. The De Valera diplomatic note states: "The feelings of the Irish people toward Britain have, during the war, undergone a considerable change because Britain has not attempted to violate our neutrality."

To which De Valera added "The Irish government feels sure that the American government would agree that it would be regrettable if any incidents now should alter that happy result."

The sum of it all is that Eire insists on remaining neutral, and argues that the dismissal of the German and Japanese envoys would not be neutral. One London report represents Dublin as holding that if the Axis people were sent out Dublin would at the same time dismiss the Allied representatives as a matter of neutrality.

~~Meanwhile the wildest kind of rumors have been circulating over there~~

~~(continue as in the previous story)~~

~~for the second front. With the invasion drawing near, the Allied command is exceedingly anxious to keep revelations about it from drifting out - tips that might give the Nazis invaluable aid.~~

Hence the American protest, which, as reported from London, asked the De Valera government to expel the enemy envoys, toss out the diplomatic representative of Germany and Japan.

And this, we hear, the Dublin government has rejected - with De Valera affirming his policy of neutrality. His attitude is said to be that if Ireland were to expel the enemy diplomats, it would not be neutral. ~~(One London report represents Dublin as holding that, if the Axis people were sent out, Dublin would at the same time dismiss the Allied diplomatic representatives - as a matter of neutrality.)~~

Meanwhile, the wildest kind of rumors have been circulating over there - rumors that the Allies intend to invade <sup>Ireland,</sup> ~~Eire,~~ and are massing forces on the North Irish border, and that American battle-ships are lying off the Port of Queenstown. It is emphasized that none of these tales are true. ~~(And there are reports of Irish preparations, the mobilization of troops, defense forces ordered)~~

The Russians are really going to work on that giant enemy salient in the bend of the Dnieper. That bulge sticks out far to the east, and is most vulnerable to attack from the North - where a successful drive southward would pinch off huge numbers of German troops. So today's Moscow bulletin has an apt sound, stating that a powerful Soviet offensive is crushing down into the Dnieper salient from the North. We hear that the assault has burst through the German defense line and that the Red troops have thrust forward for forty-three miles in five days of violent fighting - a jab of forty-three miles at the place where it hurts the most.

Stalin's order of the day announces the capture of another Nazi stronghold, the city of Uman. ~~That is~~ In the bend of the Dnieper, where three hundred other towns have been seized - as the German positions shake and crumble.

The war news tonight continues to emphasize the fact that Sunny Italy is not so sunny. (~~Shilly rains are still sweeping the battle front at Cassino, the British Eighth Army area over on the Adriatic, and the beachhead below Rome. The weather and consequent mud have things tied up, the battle reduced to a minimum.~~

~~Only minor fighting is reported on the Beachhead - a series of jabs by patrol parties. These are said to be violent and frequent, but they are only of local importance.)~~

The Germans are still massing new forces around the beachhead perimeter and the signs continue that they intend to launch a fourth major assault - following the heavy failure of their three previous big-time attempts to wipe out the beachhead.

~~The only salient bit of news concerns war planes and giant gun with American bombs smashing at huge German batteries of railroad artillery. Fifteen miles behind the fighting line around the beachhead, the Nazis have a string of one-hundred-and-seventy-seven millimeter cannon mounted on railway trucks. And these have been hurling their huge shells against the Allied positions. They~~

## ITALIAN FLEET

President Roosevelt today clarified his position on the much talked of question of the Italian Fleet. Several days ago he was reported as saying the surrendered Italian navy would be divided between the United States, Great Britain and Soviet Russia -- one-third of the warships going to the Soviets. Either that, or the Russians would get the equivalent in American and British ships.

Much has been ~~the~~ attention focused on the idea of whacking up the Italian Fleet and there were plenty of repercussions. For example in Italy the Badoglio government threatened to resign if there were any decision to give Soviet Russia one third of the Italian navy. And even the six leftist parties so bitterly opposed to Badoglio, and King Victor-Emanuel were for once in agreement with them -- agreement in opposition to any program of dividing up the Italian Fleet.

Yesterday, in the London house of commons, Prime Minister Winston Churchill stated:-- no, there was no intention of giving the Soviets one third of the Italian warships. He said that during the war the Italian fleet would continue to operate with its own

crews and under its own flag. - Fighting against the Nazi enemy along with the British and American navies.

So what did President Roosevelt have to say today? He indicated that he was fully in accord with the Churchill statement, explaining that his own declaration of some days ago had been misinterpreted. He said the Washington newsmen had left out some key words. ~~Now, what were the key words?~~ He merely meant

~~They concern, firstly, the matter of naval support for Soviet Russia. Apparently the President didn't mean that the Soviets would have ships given to them outright, but that vessels of war would be assigned to the task of reinforcing Russian naval operations.~~

~~The whole thing, was in response to representations made by Stalin who pointed out that the Allied fleets had been increased by the acquisition of the Italian navy and that the Soviets therefore were entitled to share in the augmentation of naval power -- entitled to the help of naval strength equal to one third of Italian Fleet.~~

~~The other key word used by the President and not emphasized enough by the newsmen was the term -- equivalent. He spoke of one third of the Italian navy or its equivalent in american and British~~

vessels of war <sup>that</sup> ~~meaning~~, the Soviets would not necessarily be supported by the Italian warships themselves, but by an equivalent amount of American and British sea power.

~~All of which puts a very different face on the matter of the Italian navy. It is merely a question of supporting the Soviets with the amount of warship strength equal <sup>to</sup> one third of the Italian Fleet.~~

Not a gift of ships, but naval assistance.

In Italy, the Badoglio government today declared itself fully satisfied by the Winston Churchill statement of yesterday -the statement that was okayed by President Roosevelt today.

## POLITICS

Today the armed forces made their position clear concerning service men and politics. This comes in the form of a joint agreement between the army and navy, an agreement made public by President Roosevelt.

No soldier or sailor will be permitted to take part in any political campaign. Which raises the question:- ~~what about~~ nominating a service man for public office? That's okay. - ~~He~~ can accept the nomination!

The army-navy agreement draws a distinction - a difference between the regular army and the reserve. Members of either one can accept a nomination, but no regular army man is permitted to undertake any activity to procure one. It would have to be offered to him without any solicitation on his part. That, for example, would apply to General MacArthur, who is being mentioned as a possibility for the Republican nomination. General MacArthur is not allowed to do anything to get the nomination, but he could accept it - if it were offered him without any effort on his part.

In the case of members of the reserve, who are <sup>on</sup> ~~are~~ inactive service, they <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ permitted such political moves as filing notices

of their candidacy. (They don't have to wait to be drafted. For example, there is Lieutenant Commander Stassen, former governor of Minnesota, who is a reserve officer on active duty in the South Pacific. He is being mentioned as a possible Republican candidate, and would be allowed to go into primaries - filing notice as a candidate.

The army-navy agreement goes into detail about what is and is not permitted - in the case of regular army men on one hand and members of the reserve on the other.)

All of which coincides with charges made by Senator Vandenberg of Michigan, who states that the army has sponsored the circulation of a magazine article unfavorable to General MacArthur as a Presidential candidate. The Senator claims that the article is - a "smear". It is one of a series of magazine bits that were selected for circulation among the soldiers. And Vandenberg argues: "The war department has no business presenting one sided information about a presidential candidate - I don't care who he is."

In response to this, Secretary of War Stimson agrees that the

army should be in his words "be" scrupulously careful to avoid the  
~~official distribution of partisan or prejudicial material.~~ And he  
adds that the last of articles ~~complained~~ of will be tossed out.

# TAX

Here's a late bulletin that certainly is good news -- For the future anyway. Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau, and Senator George, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, have just announced that the administration and Congress have agreed on a simplified income tax form. The simplification <sup>to</sup> ~~will~~ be put into law some time next month -- which, of course won't do us any good as we wrestle with our complicated tax puzzles right now.

WACS

Three WACs accused of sending messages to German prisoners of war have been found guilty. This word comes from Camp Hale, Colorado, and confirms previous stories about WACs sending sentimental notes to Nazi prisoners. In addition to the three that were convicted today, two others are implicated, and are still to be tried.

At the same time eight soldiers are accused in the recent escape of two German war prisoners, and one of the <sup>se</sup>soldiers is to be tried for treason.

LATE SHOW

NOTE MR THOMAS

~~The Cobb story is going to be important tomorrow, so,  
I am giving you quite a bit of it. It is extraordinary material.~~

LEAD COBB

At Paducah, Kentucky, the folks are going to have a bright cheerful ceremony, because Paducah's favorite son has died -- Irvin Cobb the Prince of Comedy and joking humor. He passes at the age of sixty-seven.

"I rather figure," he wrote in preparation for death, "that some of my fellow townspeople might favor a memorial exercise of sorts. Personally," he went on "I have no objection, only desiring that no dismal note be permitted to ooze into the proceedings. Keep the thing cheerful, boys and girls!" And, the word from Paducah tonight is that they are going to keep it cheerful.

That last testament of Irvin Cobb is an extraordinary document -- dictated when he knew he was in his last illness. For his epitaph he suggested the phrase:--- "anyhow, he left here."

As for the funeral ceremony, he asked for only the twenty-third psalm -- which was the favorite of his mother, →

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And then in the face of eternity, Irvin Cobb went on with some reflections on religion. Concerning funerals he spoke of what he called,-- "the Catholics, with their genius for stage management." This he explained as follows: "The officiating Clergyman speaks in Latin, and the parishoners, being unacquainted with that language, are impressed with the majesty of the rolling sonorous periods."

TR  
To which he added this thought: "My notion of an ideal religion would combine the dignity and beauty of the Romanist Ritual with certain other ingredients: The good taste and ability of the Unitarians and Episcopalians to mind their own business the noble ethics and splendid tolerance expressed in Reformed Judaism, the studied independence and good business principles of the Mormons, the gentle humility and ordered Humanity of the Quakers, plus the militant zeal and the unselfish devotion of those shock-troops of the Lord -- the Salvation Army,"  
TR  
And for a climax Irvin Cobb expressed an article of faith as follows: "Jesus Christ, who was the first true gentleman of recorded history, and the greatest gentleman who ever lived."

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and again he sounded the keynote: "Above all I want no long faces!"

So what is there for one who knew him ~~as~~ but to repeat a couple of his innumerable sallies of wit and joking humor? An echo of the laughter of a buoyant spirit whose life was dedicated to the comic muse.

For example there was a time when Erwin Cobb cracked out at the expense of his close friend, Will Rogers.

~~(continuation of the previous essay)~~

Irvin Cobb. - 4

Tonight is a time to repeat a couple of the innumerable sallies of wit and joking humor made by that Prince of Comedy, Irvin Cobb. Not for a laugh though - but for the smile that has a turn of sadness. Because Irvin Cobb died today in New York. He was sixty seven years old, and had behind him a great past of brilliant writing and speaking - a life dedicated to the comic muse.

~~For example, they tell how Cobb cracked out one day at the expense of his close friend, Will Rogers~~ → this in the days when Cobb wrote movie plays for the Cowboy philosopher, and even acted with Will on the screen. It appears that Will Rogers was being introduced as a speaker at some imposing affair, and the Master of Ceremonies thought that he himself would indulge in a wisecrack - and a stale one it was. He extolled Will Rogers by saying, "He's got a lot under his hat besides his hair."

Whereupon Cobb, in the audience, <sup>and in an audible voice</sup> ~~jumped up and~~ drawled: "It's about time somebody said something good about dandruff."

and Cobb was the author <sup>and originator</sup> of that crack which is such a classic in the newspaper world, <sup>even today - and elsewhere too.</sup> In his younger days he worked on the old New York Evening World, under that arch-tyrant of editors - Chapin, who ground reporters under his heel.

One morning in the World office, Cobb was banging away at his typewriter when a subordinate Editor walked over and announced: "Chapin won't be in today, he's ill, not feeling well."

Whereupon Cobb looked up and remarked: "I hope it's nothing trivial."

Well, tonight Irvin Cobb has taken his jokes and quips to the paradise where the great comic spirits of earth repose - joking among themselves, no doubt, somewhere along the arches of the distant stars. And I hope he doesn't meet Chapin.

And now, <sup>-0-</sup> it's your turn Ben.

ADD ITALY

And allied air power struck at the railroad yards at Rome once again today, blasting <sup>t</sup>he all-important bottleneck of ~~the~~ German railroad communications with the North.

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haven't had any opposition from Allied artillery, because we have not landed guns big enough to equal their range. So now that other kind of artillery has been at work, the bombing planes, artillery of the air. All day long American bombers struck at the big German railway guns. Hits are reported, and we hear that at least two of the hundred and seventy-seven millimeter cannon have been knocked out.

Reports from London indicate that the United States has made a protest to the government of Ireland, and that this protest has been rejected. ~~There has been a lot of stir and talk in both Britain and Ireland, with the official censors keeping a tight lid on everything. Now, however, word from the most reliable kind of sources comes through that recently Washington sent a strong protest to the De Valera government of ~~Ireland~~ - a complaint that Irish neutrality may be permitting Axis espionage to operate.~~

Dublin, keeping aloof from the war, maintains peace-time diplomatic relations with both Nazi Germany and Japan. The usual German and Japanese diplomatic staffs are maintained in the Irish Capital, and thus they are in a position to gather information and transmit it to the enemy countries.- Such is the Allied contention.

All of which is obviously of the greatest importance. Masses of American troops are stationed in North Ireland - near the border ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~the Irish Free State,~~ <sup>the Irish Free State,</sup> and it's an open border across which people circulate; and so does information - information about the American troops in North Ireland and the great Allied mobilization in England, mobilizations

We have tonight one angle of the income tax situation which perhaps should not cause too much surprise. The treasury reveals that during the first week of March almost as many war bonds were redeemed as were sold. The bonds cashed in amounted to over sixty two million dollars, while the sales came to something more than seventy-four million. And the reason is clear. People are redeeming so many the bonds they bought, because they need money to pay their income tax. This is the interpretation given by the treasury.

The wholesale cashing in of bonds is strictly a temporary affair, and the picture is very different over the long curve. During the period since January first, the redemption of bonds amounted to only nine percent of the total sales. And during the whole period of war bond selling, the period beginning May first, three years ago, only seven percent have been cashed in.