

COAL

P.2 - Sunoco. Tues., March 5, 1940.

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Tonight, anchored in those British waters called The Downs, are six steamships - not at all impressive, not luxury liners, not fast mail packets. They're grimy, shabby craft - but their very grim^a and shabbiness is ~~an~~ ^{the} important part of the story. They're colliers, coal ships - and they fly the Italian flag. Meaning - London today took action in its controversy with Rome about stopping German coal sent in Italian ships to Mussolini's realm.

~~Virtually all the neutral nations, the United States included, have protested against the British order to seize exported merchandise originating in Germany. Italy, the most powerful European neutral, protested with especially vigor and no wonder. Mussolini~~

TP The Duce

^a is taking advantage of the war to build up Italian trade and industry,

and Italy has no coal ^{of her own.} ~~with which to run her industries.~~ The Italians

have been getting the ⁱⁿ vitally necessary coal from Germany - by the sea route. Of course there is railroad communication between the

lands of Hitler and Mussolini, but the Nazi railroad system is over-burdened by the war - can't handle the Italian coal. So the

meaning of the British action in stopping the sea-borne ^{fuel} ~~coal~~ is

obvious - cutting off the ~~fuel~~ supply without which the war booming

7

industries of Italy must collapse.^{TP} Great Britain has coal to sell to Italy, and a trade agreement was in process of negotiation. It broke down. The story is that London wanted Italy to manufacture munitions for the Allies in return for the coal - and Mussolini refused. During the negotiations, Britain allowed the German coal to go by sea to Italy. But when the trade treaty talks broke down, Britain announced she'd stop the coal.

Mussolini protested strongly, and then Rome announced there would be test. In the Holland harbor of ~~Tex~~ Rotterdam ten Italian ships were loaded with coal brought from Germany. The Italian government ordered them to sail, and they did. Britain stood firm, and today began to pick up the ten colliers, one by one, -

Late reports, ^{picture six} ~~six are~~ anchored in The Downs, taken there by British warships.

~~It all leads to great~~ Tension between London and Rome; and some are saying that the coal question might lead Mussolini to go into the war on the side of Germany. However, the latest word tonight from both Rome and London is - hopeful statements that the dispute is likely to be patched up. ~~One~~ angle is this?

78

Rome is saying that the Italian government understood that the British order against German coal did not apply to cargoes loaded before the announcement was made - March First. The ten colliers that sailed for Rotterdam had been loaded before March First. And maybe some sort of compromise on that minor question might lead to a face-saving agreement.

SUBMARINES

In this war you've got to balance claim and counterclaim.

The Allies have repeatedly announced how many Nazi Submarines they've

sunk. The latest figure they ^{gave} ~~has given~~ was fifty -- half as many

U-boats as Hitler had when the war began. Today we have a German

figure. Authorative quarters in Berlin announce -- eleven. They

claim that's the number of their U-boats which the Allies have

destroyed -- eleven, since the beginning of the war. ^{Which} ~~that~~ they

~~add, is not so many~~ considering ~~it~~ ^{is} not so many.

LOAN

69
Great Britain launched a huge war loan today, three hundred million pounds -- about a million ~~and~~ two hundred thousand dollars. Bonds were issued to the public for sale. They carried ~~three~~ three percent interest and are redeemable in from fifteen to nineteen years.

RUMANIA

The importance of Rumania and its oil is indicated by a story printed in Rome today -- ^{and} a denial issued in London. The Italian newspaper report stated that Germany has bought thirty-eight Rumanian oil wells for a price amounting to a million and a half dollars. If this were true, it would mean that Hitler has made large progress in his desperate drive to get the oil the Nazi Army and Navy must have -- Rumanian oil.

The report was important enough to be officially denied in the London House of Commons. The Minister of Economic Warfare said -- no. He declared ^(there) ~~it~~ was ~~no~~ truth in the story that Nazi Germany has bought thirty-eight Rumanian oil wells.

FINLAND

In the war in Finland, Moscow makes an announcement which sounds grave for the defenders. The Red army claims to have pushed across the ice of the Gulf of Finland, and seized points on the Finnish coast ^{west} ~~east~~ of the besieged City of Viipuri. That would place the Soviets in a position to strike up behind Viipuri and outflank the Mannerheim Line.

Helsinki, however, denies the success of the new Soviet stroke. The Finns declare that the Red army did launch attacks across the ice ~~of~~ the Gulf, intending to get a foothold ^{west of} ~~east of~~ Viipuri. But these assaults were repelled, the Finnish guns smashing the ice. So says Helsinki, with the added admission that their shortage of artillery makes their coast along the Gulf ~~extremely~~ dangerously vulnerable.

Meanwhile - the City of Viipuri is still holding out against the Red army at its gates.

THIRD TERM

The Legislature of New Jersey went on record today -- against a third term. The Jersey Legislative body is controlled by the Republicans, and today's vote was along party lines -- forty-one to fourteen. So a resolution will be sent to Congress, asking Congress to take measures to stop the third term.

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt certainly is facing the third term fire these days -- at his press conference^S. If there's one thing a Washington correspondent likes to ask, it's a question with a third term angle.-- trying to draw out ~~from~~ some inkling of the deep secret. It's that way at every conference, ^{and} today the President faced the heaviest barrage to date. ~~And~~ ^{he} ducked every question. Here are examples of the angling ^{and} the ducking:-

One reporter remarked to F.D.R. that his name has been filed in the Pennsylvania primary and asked -- did the president intend to order his name withdrawn? F.D.R. responded that he'd only recently returned from a vacation cruise and hadn't been able to read the papers, and therefore didn't know anything about the subject under discussion.

The next leading question concerned a statement in an article by Ernest ~~W~~ Lindley who ^{once} wrote a biography of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Lindley ^{makes} ~~makes~~ the statement that the president told a leading Democrat ~~in~~ in Congress that he does ^{not} ~~not~~ intend to seek a third term. Was the story true?

The president replied that he couldn't reply, because he

RETAKE

hadn't read the article in question. He admitted though that he had been advised to read it by Senator Burns of South Carolina.

2
Senator Burns said there was a lot of talk about it around Congress and that ^{many} ~~a lot~~ of the lawmakers were saying that the original source of the story was Senator Cotton Ed Smith of South Carolina -- the President supposed to have told Cotton Ed that he didn't intend to run again.

That lead to a highly informative line of question and answer, as follows:- One correspondent told the president that Representative Doughton of North Carolina had denied that he was the Congressional Democrat to whom F.D.R. had spoken about not running for a third term. The president responded that he couldn't recall ~~xx~~ ever having talked about the matter ~~xx~~ to Congressman Doughton. That made a nice logical point, denying what the Congressman also denied.

That's the kind of fencing, making passes and parries, that goes on at the White House Press Conference ^s ~~these days~~ -- as the newspaper men seek to get ~~xxxx~~ from President Roosevelt himself some clue to what is rapidly becoming ^{the} ~~a~~ great mystery of the age.

The debate
~~A committee~~

in Congress today took up the subject of the Byrd expedition to the Antarctic. Quite a legislative argument is developing over the party of explorers who are encamped on the South Polar Continent. The acute point of the controversy is that familiar trouble-making commodity - cash. Admiral Byrd's expedition got a grant of government money, which enabled Byrd and his companions to go to the Antarctic and start explorations there. *Now* Congress has before it a bill appropriating money for the Department of the Interior, and in that bill is an item of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars to provide further financing of the Byrd expedition. Congress is in an economy mood and the *Commerce* committee proposed to cut several million dollars out of the appropriations. One suggested cut eliminated *the* a quarter of a million dollars for Byrd.

That promptly drew a loud protest from expedition representatives. Today Commander Robert English told the Congressional Committee that if the quarter of a million is not appropriated, Admiral Byrd and his companions will have to abandon their exploration and come home - mighty soon. But how are they going to get home? That will take money - at least a hundred and

seventy-one thousand dollars, said the Byrd representative. If ^{sum} that [^]is not put up by Congress, the whole Byrd expedition will have to stay at the South Pole for good. "Congress," declared ~~xxxxxx~~ Commander English, "cannot leave those men in the Antarctic. It saw fit," says he, "to send fifty people to the South Pole. And," he adds indignantly, "now apparently, they propose to leave them there on the ice."

This was answered with equal indignation by Committee Chairman Congressman Johnson of Oklahoma. "Fantastic and untrue," said he. He denied that if the money is not put up the Byrd expedition will be stranded on the South Polar Continent. He declared that the boys down there have what he called - "abundant supplies for at least eighteen months." To which the echo resounds - but after the eighteen months, what then? *Live on Penguins? And write a sequel to that last book, 'Alone'.* *This time 'Left Alone'!* Anyway, it's a lively argument in Congress - about the

possibilities of Dick Byrd and his ~~bucko~~ mates making the South Polar Continent their permanent home. They've got a good radio down there, and hearing about the congressional ~~xxxxx~~ ^{ruckus} ~~xxxxx~~ over the money should make interesting broadcast news for the explorers in their igloos ^{ice.} on the South Pole. [^]Are you listening, fellows?

DETROIT SCANDAL

They're having a loud political scandal in Detroit.

25'
Today a special grand jury issued warrants for the arrest of nearly fifty people on charges of graft and corruption, some of them of the highest political importance. One is the sheriff. Another - the public prosecutor. He was reelected two years ago as - the fighting prosecutor. And he has been mentioned as a candidate for the United States Senate. Still other defendants are the chief deputy sheriff, the chief of the civil division of the sheriff's office, and the chief investigator for the prosecutor's office. Quite a list. - And they are charged with having been in collusion with law violators - such as gamblers. ~~They're~~ accused of having taken bribes to permit the operation of illegal establishments - such as gambling houses. *To put it mildly.*

Today, the ~~grand jury~~ was under heavy guard, after an attempted raid last night. The raid is said to have been organized by the prosecutor, who is under charges. A dozen deputy sheriffs invaded the quarters of the grand jury and announced they were going to arrest the grand jurors and seize the records. The response of the jurors was to summon a riot squad of the Detroit

ROBBERY

Today at Georgetown, Massachusetts, Mrs. John O'Brien of Salem walked into a bank and handed the treasurer nine hundred and eight dollars and thirty cents. And she spoke sobbing, "This is half of the money my boys robbed from this bank. They're only children, nineteen and twenty-one, and," she added tearfully, "they are serving terms in the reformatory for what they did. Their father and I," she explained, "want to pay back the money, and here's half of it."

56
The treasurer ^{replied} ~~explained~~ that the bank could not take the money because it had ~~not~~ been covered by insurance for what it lost in the robbery. Whereupon Mrs. O'Brien asked the bank to forward her nine hundred and eight dollars and thirty cents to the insurance company. She departed, saying that she'd be back as soon as she and her husband could accumulate the other half of the sum, and complete the restitution.

STORM

Today's storm story centers in New England. The freezing tempest that played havoc in the middle Atlantic sector yesterday, swept north and did its worst in the New England states today.

^Q
~~The~~ frosty gale sweeping north [^] sounds like something of a paradox, but then the weather man informs us that the ^{blast} ~~sweep~~ of snow and icicles originated in Texas - paradoxical indeed!

In every way, the icy storm ^{has been} ~~is~~ a freak. ^{So trouble} ~~So much of a~~ ^{some} ~~nuisance~~ because as the heavy snow fell it melted, and then proceeded to freeze, coating everything with an accumulation of ice. That was ^{on account} ~~because~~ of the way the temperature kept changing all the time, a most fickle thermometer. It hovered around freezing point, dropping below, and rising above. Above freezing point the snow melted slowly, and then a drop below the line would make it freeze. The thermometer was cutting it ~~xx~~ so fine, that for hours Boston was saved from a coating of ice by a margin of one degree. Then, the mercury dropped to below the freezing point level, and bean town got its coating of ice.

The ~~main~~ damage is to trees and power lines, which all over New England are breaking and snapping from the accumulating load of ice.

HARVARD

I have the greatest admiration for Harvard and its burly athletes, especially the big Red team - but, just the same, it's never safe to get into an argument with a lady. ~~(Even though you're a burly athlete, and may be the entire big Red team rolled all in one, you may find that a lady can talk you down, talk too fast, and say the most unkind things.)~~

Take today's verbal battle between Harvard and Ann Sheridan, the ~~movie~~ oomph girl. The HARVARD LAMPOON made a selection of the movie actress most unlikely to succeed. And they picked Ann Sheridan, oomph and all. That today drew a blaze of words from the Hollywood movie star, most unkind words. "Unlikely to succeed," said she scornfully. "Statistics show that the average Harvard man makes less than five thousand dollars a year ^{even} twenty-five years after graduation." And she adds: "They wouldn't rate that much if it weren't for a few millionaires to bring up the average." These are cruel figures to be cited by the oomph girl, who makes about a hundred thousand a year. ~~unlikely to succeed~~

Ann Sheridan is the more irate because she herself is a college graduate. Her Alma Mater is North Texas State Teachers

8 1/2 College, which may not rate so highly in the ivy league. She studied kindergarden teaching, which may not be so Phi Betta Kappa. But ^{Ann}~~she~~ puts it this way, "I graduated with honors in kindergarden work," says she, "and I think I could teach those Harvard students a lot." ~~No, fellows, don't get into an argument with a lady.~~

Harvard comes back at the oomph girl with a few remarks - but it's hard to compete with the jawing of an angry lady. An editor of the HARVARD LAMPOON expresses himself in these lofty terms about the oomph actress, "A graduate of a remote Texas kindergarden school," says the academic light of learning, "she is not qualified to offer any intelligent criticism of the LAMPOON - which caters to a somewhat different class." That's lofty Harvard all right, but I don't think it's quite up to the oomph girl's crack about a kindergarden school mam being able to teach Harvard students a lot. Especially - when dear teacher has ^{a lot of} ~~graduated to~~

oomph. ⁹ ^{9 1/4} *Hugh, what are you, pro-Harvard, or pro-oomph?*