

L. T. - SUNOCO - THURS., JUNE 6, 1935

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

These are bright days of early summer. I don't have to tell you that. They are bright days of early summer, not only here, but also in eastern Asia - as also we know. It's just a case of beginning with a perfectly obvious fact and relating it to something else. That something else - is the march of Japanese troops into northern China today.

A dispatch from Shanghai states that Nipponese regiments from Manchuria swarmed into North China past the Great Wall. And it's not supposed to be a mere minor local push. The objectives of today's Japanese military advance are reported to be two of China's greatest cities, the old Capital - Peking, and the swarming north China port of Tientsin. Colonel Takashi Sakai, Chief of Staff of the Japanese advance, is quoted as openly boasting that he is going to take military control of all north China.

It all connects with the weather - because any major movement of armies in those parts might be expected to be timed

with the opening of summer. Northern China and Manchuria have long and rigorous winters. The season, fit for military doings, has just opened. So the theme of sunshine and balmy breezes brings us to the supposition, full of darkness and portent, that the long threatened move of the Japanese Army has begun - the next phase of the expected Nipponese advance on the Asiatic mainland.

In Tientsin a few days ago, two Chinese editors of pro-Japanese sympathy were set upon by anti-Japanese assailants and murdered. So say the Japanese. And they demand that Chinese authorities shall put a stop to popular and journalistic propaganda against the men of Nippon. And, they insist that the Nanking government shall suppress the widespread boycott the northern Chinese are maintaining against Japanese goods. Moreover, Tokyo is annoyed by the military situation in the Hopei Province which adjoins Japanese-controlled Manchukuo. They say a hundred and ten thousand Chinese are under arms there, most of them members of the former Manchurian army that fought the Japanese.

Just how serious today's events are may be judged from a reassuring statement by Colonel Sakai, Chief of Staff of the Japanese. It is reassurance of the most portentous sort. Colonel Sakai gives his promise to American and European commercial concerns in north China that their interests will not suffer "if Peiping and Tientsin are added to the demilitarized area soon." Those are the Colonel's words. "Demilitarized area" is just another way of saying territory controlled by Japan. In spite of the assurance, those foreign business firms are exceedingly apprehensive. One of the biggest of the foreign firms, Arnhold and Company, importers and dealers in general merchandise, have announced that they are closing their business in Tientsin and are moving out.

Across on the other side of the world, in northern China, it's about daybreak now. But that's not too early for the Japanese to be astir. There's a clatter and a clangor of bugles, shouts of commands, and the other sounds of regiments in full war panoply, on the march.

FRANCE

In Paris the political leaders are running around in circles, still trying to form a ministry. And in the streets there's plenty of running around too, turmoil and skirmishing - riots. Mobs have been battling the police. With the political situation in a wild tangle, it was to be expected that disturbances would break out. The authorities did expect it. So the boulevards were heavily patrolled by police and soldiers. ^{Yet} The day ~~Today~~ was featured by a violent clash. The rioters were Royalists. And they fought all over the place. The gendarmes arrested them by the score.

Today's flare-up of mob violence was the climax of a spectacular agitation staged by supporters of ~~the~~ monarchy. An airplane flew over the city dropping a shower of leaflets - invitations to an all-night ^{royalist} rally. By pamphlets ^{raining} ~~reigning~~ down from the sky, the Parisian public was summoned to attend an all-night meeting ~~staged by the Royalists~~ in protest against the ^{reigning} politicians, ~~against the ways and dickerings of the parliamentary leaders.~~ ~~Th~~ With that sort of dramatics to whip up excitement, it is not surprising that the Royalist crowds, young fellows mostly, proceeded to go on a rampage.

I suppose the French political ~~agitators~~ chieftains will have to agree on forming a ministry sooner or later, but thus far they've accomplished nothing more than a dizzy whirl of political manoeuvring. One after another, prominent deputies have been called by the President to line up support for a Cabinet, tried and have failed. A whole procession of them, ^{in the last 2 days,} Pierre Laval, former Foreign Minister, was one of them. He was yesterday, he is again today. Laval having scored one failure to get a majority in the Chamber of Deputies, ~~he~~ is now taking another trial. The French Parliament, with its many parties, seems hopelessly split into a patchwork of factions, without enough cohesion anywhere to organize a majority to support a premier. The bewildering divisions into groups are only a reflection of the violent emotion behind the issue at stake. For that issue really is the gold standard or inflation. What's to happen to French money? - as the financial crisis continues.

CUBA

I suppose there's a certain thrill in our flair for bigness, the admiration for something that's the biggest. But grandeur and magnitude take another turn when we hear of the biggest kidnap ransom. Half a million dollars demanded by the snatchers -- that's today's story.

It would make the biggest headlines, save that it was in another country. Cuba is a land rather intimately connected with our own, in politics and perhaps in kidnapping. The dark and ~~vicious~~ vicious phenomenon of snatching in the Pearl of the Antilles is frequently attributed to the activities of American mobsters.

But now about that biggest ransom. Antonio San Miguel, ^{Meegale} a Cuban millionaire, has been abducted. The snatch gang is reported to be demanding five hundred thousand dollars for his return. The latest word from Havana is that business associates of the aged magnate are negotiating. They are said to have sent a messenger to the kidnapers with two-hundred-and-eighty-six thousand dollars in American money, all, apparently, that they could quickly raise. There's no word yet whether the mob has accepted the two-hundred-and-eighty-six thousand as a compromise settlement *or not.*

If there's a big question-mark somewhere, people naturally want to see an answer provided. If there's a "Q", it's logical to want an "A".

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of a great dark tragedy! It's also a great dark question-mark, And it's called "Lusitania." In those bitter World War days of Nineteen fifteen, a German submarine torpedoed the queenly liner; ~~a monarch of the seas.~~ And the world flared to wrath over the pity and destruction. The question immediately ^{arose -} ~~flared~~ - "What had really happened?" Everybody knew in general terms about the sinking of the ship and ^{the} ~~A~~ horrifying loss of life. The question concerned more technical details about torpedoes, explosions, the rending of a mighty hull, the swift sinking.

Now we hear that British authorities are going to try to get a more accurate picture of that historic tragedy. They're going to try to salvage the LUSITANIA, or at any rate the treasure she carried. And they are going to find out the exact details of that sinking, particularly why she went to the bottom so fast.

To this end they've chartered the OPHIR, the latest word

in salvage ships. She will put out from Queenstown, where the LUSITANIA survivors were landed. Then she will explore the waters ten miles off the old Head of Kinsale.

On board will be J. S. Perress, inventor of a new diving dress. He is a man who has given his career to the art of probing the sea depths. It is said that his diving costume can withstand the tremendous pressure of the waters even to a depth of fourteen hundred feet. He carries his own air supply with him. Furthermore, his apparatus has flexible arms and hands, which enable a diver to work more quickly than usual at great depths. To help the job of finding the LUSITANIA, the OPHIR will carry the most delicate, modern sounding apparatus.

The treasure to be salvaged is no small amount. It is estimated that the great liner carried anywhere from Two million to Five million dollars in boullion. But the more historic purpose is to answer that question. The salvage crew will take both still and moving pictures of the wreck. In this way they expect to learn just how the LUSITANIA was sunk.

I myself had occasion to be concerned with the tragic riddle of the ~~last~~ LUSITANIA. In my book, "Raiders of the Deep", I

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have the German submarine side of the controversy, the version maintained by the U-boat captain who fired the fatal torpedo.

It has always been said that there were two explosions. The

report of the U-boat captain was that only one torpedo had been fired. German submarine men advanced the explanation that there must have been a boiler explosion, to have caused the second detonation. And they suppose also that "boiler explosion" might explain the incredible swiftness with which the ship sank. Or again, they think that the rush of water into the fast-moving ship might have broken down the compartments one after another in a violent hurry.

And now the British are going to try to clear up that angle of strange drama.

NRA

It's up-to-date fashion in the discussion of political and social institutions to use the word -- "contradiction" in a special kind of way. They say, "a thing contains contradictions within itself." Or, it falls because of its "inner contradictions." We can use that term conveniently to describe certain matters that are developing out of the wreckage of the NRA.

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One thing popped up vividly in Washington today -- a threatening statement by Attorney-General Cummings. It concerns what we have been hearing about -- the idea of voluntary NRA agreements, industry maintaining the Blue Eagle codes of its own *free will.*
~~accord~~ According to the Attorney-General there is a tendency on the part of some business concerns to include in these voluntary NRA plans -- the element of price fixing. And he declared that the ~~xx~~ government wouldn't stand for it. If private and unofficial codes are used to promote price fixing the government ~~xxxxx~~ may be forced by law to prosecute.

The Attorney-General was discussing the fact that his department was dropping 411 prosecutions which had been started for old NRA violations, and added that the tendency to continue

NRA price fixing without the government having a hand in the matter was becoming a problem. "This," he said, "is one of the real difficulties confronting us." He is dropping prosecutions against people who violated the old NRA codes, and now ~~he~~ is threatening to prosecute ^{other} people for keeping the codes going. ~~without the NRA~~. That sounds like something of a contradiction right there.

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It's all involved in a discordant jangling of opposite melodies ^{which} was implicit in the whole NRA philosophy. The Blue Eagle theory was in conflict with the older anti-trust way of thinking, -- the ^{old} opposition to large industrial combinations. The codes ^{themselves} were a kind of industrial combination, business organizations getting together under the supervision of the government and regulating matters of trade -- often with price fixing. It was all quite different ^{erent} from the anti-trust spirit, the Sherman law.

Now, with the government NRA powers smashed, the contradiction flares into full view. In Washington there was all sorts of applause for the notion that industry might continue the codes of its own free will. Now there are threats of prosecution under the

Sherman law. The code idea and the anti-trust idea clash ^{again}
conflict.

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Here is a bit of news to place beside the Attorney-General's
statement. The big men~~x~~ of steel were gathered in conference today
in New York. Two hundred executives of the industry voted on a
resolution to continue the same standards as heretofore -- the
standards of wages, working hours, collective bargaining for
workers, and fair competition. The resolution was carried. So steel
promises not to make ~~xx~~ any change.

There was no discussion of price at all -- so naturally
price fixing did not appear at the proceedings.)

LAWS

The President's plan for salvaging all that's possible of the NRA took a step forward in the House of Representatives today. The House Ways and Means Committee voted favorably on the bill to preserve the NRA organization in modified form, skeleton form, until April first next year. First it was O. K.'d by a conference of leaders of the Senate and House. They agreed upon the program. Thereupon the Ways and Means Committee chimed in with its own vote of approval -- which now sends the bill to the floor of the House for debate and a vote. In the NRA, as described in the bill, the president would no longer have the power to draw up and enforce codes of fair competition. But that power of course was already shorn from him by the Supreme Court decision.

The American Federation of Labor staged a get-together today -- a meeting of the A.F. of L. council, in private. The dope is that the labor leaders have decided the thing for the unions to do is to get behind all the labor legislation that is now pending. They want these labor laws, such as the Wagner Bill and want 'em passed in a hurry -- to make up for the disappearance of the NRA.

TOLEDO

There'll be plenty of light in ~~Cleveland~~^{Toledo}, Ohio, tonight.

The Power Company strike is off. That is, the men and their employers are still negotiating and arbitrating. But, meanwhile, they've gone back to work. The walkout ended as suddenly as it had begun. A mass meeting of workers and company officials was staged by Secretary of Labor, Miss Frances Perkins, and the conciliators of her Department. All sorts of pressure and arguments were brought to bear on the strikers, pressure from Washington, from the American Federation of Labor, from the business men of Toledo, *— word from the White House to the strikers, to go easy.* A vote was taken, and the result was -- "Let's go back to work."

So the strike of one night is off, the strike that threatened to darken homes and cut off the juice for factories over a large section of northeastern Ohio.

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RUTH

The price of spinach is going up. No, not the spinach that is so delicious to taste, but the kind that is so beautiful to look at -- that is, if you admire whiskers.

Babe Ruth has a distinctive style of beauty, not one of these cold classical profiles that are too perfect to be expressive, nor that excessive delicacy of feature with arched eyebrows and soulful eyes. The Babe's good looks are robust and unaffected. Now, imagine the Babe with whiskers, with a flowing full beard -- a sight that it would be worth money to see -- twenty thousand dollars to be precise. You've already guessed it. The Babe has been offered a playing contract. And the maker of the offer is the House of David. Tom Baird, the manager of the bewhiskered base^{ballers,} has wired to the Sultan of Swat. He wants the Babe to play on the House of David team this season, ^{and trip over his beard between 3rd & home.} He doesn't care whether the Bambino has a trick knee or not. Nor does his throwing arm matter so much. Of course he'd be expected to hit a home run or two. But the main thing is -- whiskers. The Babe would have to start letting his facial shrubbery grow, ^{and use his beard as a} ~~so that he could trot around the fly-catcher,~~ ~~bases with a beard blowing in the breezes.~~

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I don't know what the Babe is going to do about it,
but I wish somebody would offer me twenty thousand dollars to
grow a beard. Nobody has and nobody is likely to. But it'll
be a close chive for me if I don't hurry up and say, --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.