

AUSTRIA

L. T. Surocco Wednesday, July 25, 1934

How goes it everybody? How goes the world tonight? --
the meaning of what's in the news.

He
I wish I could tell you the meaning of things in Austria
right now, the precise state of affairs in Vienna. But I can't.
Communications with the troubled City on the Danube, are cut off,
after that wild revolutionary outbreak. Rumours aplenty, and
startling facts -- how can we piece them together? Not so easy.

Well nigh impossible. We will have to wait for our newspapers
tomorrow morning to give us their definite and decisive headlines.

Last night when I made the surmise that there would soon
be a show-down in Austria, and that it would come like the crack of
a pistol -- well, I little dreamed it would come so soon, so swiftly,
so much like a pistol shot.

I made my surmise of some drastic move on the basis of
the harsh and bitter measures that Dolfuss was taking against the
Nazi terrorists. And sure enough it was those harsh and bitter
measures that were the immediate background for today's events
-- several Nazi terrorists executed by the decree of the Little
Dictator's government.

Now let's try to picture the wild revolutionary outbreak

of today. It was just before noon in Vienna. Near dawn over here, (The stately, splendid old city of the Danube was drowsing in the quiet of a summer day. Then suddenly it happened -- the revolt, the Nazi Putsch. The conspirators struck right in the middle of things, in the very heart of the government. With carefully ~~xxx~~ timed secret moves, and before anyone knew what was happening, they suddenly captured the headquarters of the government. And they seized the heads of the Dolfuss dictatorship, Dolfuss himself, the aged President Miklas, and Vice-Chancellor Aneel Fey. Thus, with one swift stroke the heads of the Anti-Nazi regime were in the hands of their enemies, and along with them the lesser members of their cabinet.

And with that death and turmoil were let loose, in Vienna. The Police and the Heimwehr, (the Austrian army,) whirled into action. But they were operating under a drastic handicap, with the Nazis threatening that if they were attacked they would immediately kill the three heads of the government who were their prisoners.

Then followed reports that Dolfuss and his cabinet had resigned. Then there were rumours that the Little Dictator

AUSTRIA - 3

had been wounded. Following that the word indicated that the Nazi Putsch had failed completely. And later came the rumor that Dolfuss had been killed. And it seems as though it might be true. If this is true -- Dolfuss killed -- it suggests a terrifying picture of the Nazis carrying out their threat by massacring the heads of the Austrian Government. But we don't know yet if this is true -- nobody knows on this side of the water. We'll have to wait for tomorrow's papers.

Last night I mentioned the possibility of Italian troops in Vienna. And today this liklihood seems more and more possible. A successful Nazi revolution in Austria would be a heavy blow to the policies of Mussolini. Dolfuss has held various conferences with the Italian Duce. In fact Mussolini was so eager to keep the good-will of the regime in Vienna that he invited the wife and children of the Little Dictator to pay him a personal visit at his summer home.

And we can hark back to that meeting near Venice between Mussolini and Hitler.

The Blackshirt ruler of Italy got a promise from Hitler to curb the activities of the Austrian Nazis.

There is one surmise now -- that just as the German Brown Shirts were getting out of Hitler's control, so the Austrian Brown Shirts have got decidedly out of all control. Hence, the day of terror in Vienna.

For the Saarländische Volksrechtspartei, the new Police Commissioner of that valley of coal mines which both France and Germany want so badly.

The Saar district used to be a part of the Kaiser's domain, its people are Germans and it was naturally expected that the Saar would vote to become German again. They are going to have an election next January to decide. The electioneering campaign has been under way for some time.

The recent violent ructions in Germany have made an unfavorable impression on the people of the Saar, who in addition are Catholics and don't like the anti-Catholic tendencies of Hitler's cohorts. Now on top of it all comes the attempt to assassinate the Police Commissioner. The Nazi authorities in Germany are crying out bitterly: "We didn't have anything to do with it. We emphatically disapprove."

They realize from the way things are going the Saar

50

Valley, with its rich mines might vote in favor of the French in the coming election.

Right now the disputed district has a most peculiar status. It's under the government of the League of Nations. It's real ruler is an official appointed by the League, and an interesting ruler he is. He is Jeffery Knox, a red-faced jovial Britisher ~~off~~ifty, who plays no favorites between Germany and France. He has two German servants and a French cook. The Socialists of the district, who are pro-French, like him better than the local Nazis, for Jeffery Knox has a motto: "Do unto Hitler as Hitler does unto others." He treat the Nazis in the Saar as the Nazis treat the Anti-Nazis in Germany.

Brown Shirt uniforms are forbidden. Nazi newspapers are under the bann. Every day Jeffery Knox gets up early , reads all the papers, and decides which ones he will suppress. But he's determined not to get narrow-minded about it, so every day for two hours he listens to Nazi propaganda from Germany on the radio.

During some recent celebrations it was forbidden

51

to fly flags representing any political party. Nevertheless, the Socialist flew the red flag from the top of their headquarters.

The Nazis went to Jerry Knox with a loud protest:- "The Socialists are flying a red flag," they complained.

"Yes," he replied, "But the red flag is not a party flag-- it's a national flag."

"Which nation," they demanded.

"Zanzibar," he replied.

Zanzibar has no flag, but the Nazis didn't know it. *One*
up for Jerry Knox.

Bill Nye was a famous humourist. Gerald Nye is a famous Senator. I don't mean to imply that there's anything humorous about a senator -- least of all about Senator Nye. He ^{has} long since got rid of those yellow shoes, with the bulging, bulbous toes which he wore when he first came to the Senate; also that hair-cut, as if somebody had put a bucket on his head and clipped around it. While he was waiting to be confirmed in his Senate seat, and a battle was being fought about whether he should be let in or not, one of his political enemies sent him a milking stool to sit on while waiting. This was a dig at the bucolic, hayseed rusticity of the young North Dakotan. But that was a long time ago. Since then they have learned to take Bill Nye's cousin seriously. Courts of Complaint like those, Little Business will keep it. He has been an insurgent fighter and a demon investigator whose gift for raising Cain is always threatening some new rumpus. So now when he comes to bat with a new drastic plan for revising the NRA it's a good thing to see what he has in mind.

Senator Nye blasts forth with a loud denunciation of the

NRA as it now stands.

"I favor it," he declaims, "insofar as it eliminates child labor and sweat shops and provides for a minimum wage. But in all other respects it has failed."

So he's going to offer to the next Congress, a bill providing for a brand new set of codes for the industries. His plan is for the industries to have fair, practical agreements, but he wants these agreements to be arrived at with hearings before the Federal Trade Commission. He wants the Anti-Trust Laws to come back to life with greater strength and vigor than ever, and calls for eight special Federal courts to be set up to consider complaints and check the growth of monopoly. The Senator believes that with Courts of Complaint like those, Little Business will keep its eye on Big Business.

This is just an advance notice, and we will hear plenty more about the Nye plan for a new NRA ~~with~~ when Congress gathers again.

53

AVIATOR

The trans-Atlantic flying season this summer has not been as lively as usual, only a couple of ocean flights attempted, and with no spectacular success. Not so much excitement, not so many breathless, nerve-shattering thrills -- until right now. The trans-oceanic season comes to life with a bang, as into the dull and humdrum aviation news leaps a bedazzling figure. He is one of the mightiest men of sky-soaring adventure -- the Black Eagle, Colonel Hubert Fauntleroy Julian. The black cloud Colonel is now out to make the supremest flight of them all, a non-stopper from Abyssinia to Harlem.

And he's likely to perform prodigies. "Let's look at the record," as Al Smith says. The Lindbergh of Harlem first bounded into big headlines several years ago at the coronation of His Majesty, Haile Selassie, Monarch of Abyssinia, Emperor of Ethiopia, and King of Kings.

We were told with a blare of trumpets that Colonel Hubert Fauntleroy Julian was Commander-in-Chief of the Abyssinian Air Forces. Maybe you'll remember how when the

54

magnificent ceremonies of the Ethiopian coronation came to a climax, the Black Eagle capped the climax.

In front of the royal throne of the King of Kings stood the Abyssinian Sky Fleet, consisting of one plane. With a dashing fling the Black Eagle jumped into the cockpit and took off, with a roaring of the motor and a blaze of glory. A few minutes later, not far from the imperial throne, the plane came down with a mighty crash, and the Black Eagle crawled out of an intricate mass of torn fabric, wings and struts.

That looked bad enough, but later revelations made it look worse. It appears that the Abyssinian Air Fleet had originated in this way:-

The Kings of Kings, on a visit to London went to Selfridge's Department Store and purchased a small Moth plane, and had it shipped to Abyssinia. At royal ceremonies, coronations and the like, the plane was wheeled in front of the imperial throne and there it stood, never intended to fly, but merely to be looked at by admiring Ethiopians. It was in no condition to fly safely.

55

Colonel Hubert Fauntleroy Julian, the Black Eagle, who is a real flyer and not just a Kiwi, didn't know about this. And that is how, in one magnificent exploit, he reduced the Imperial Abyssinian Air Fleet to splinters, right before the eyes of the King of Kings.

In consequence of this the Black Eagle was banished by imperial decree from the Land of Ethiopia.

He returned to America, still clad in his Abyssinian uniform, which was wonderful to behold -- blue tunic, faun trousers, epaulets, gold braid, and a variety of violently gorgeous hats, helmets, feathers and plumes. He simply blinded his friends and sold them ~~hears~~ on the idea of an All-African Trans-Atlantic flight. And they kicked-in with enough money to buy him a plane. He took off with great ceremony -- and landed in a Long Island swamp about six miles from the flying field.

Whereupon in Harlem a lot of cooks, Pullman porters, and ebony beauties went looking for the Black Eagle to get their money back. That compelled Colonel Hubert Fauntleroy Julian to

56

lay low for awhile. But now he's in the ~~the~~ limelight again. He has just sailed for the Land of Ethiopia. He seems to have squared things with ^{his} ~~the~~ Harlem backers, and with the King of Kings. Otherwise how could he be undertaking his present project of a flight from Africa to America, from Abyssinia to Harlem?

... are appealing. The seven others are condemned to ...
... ten to twenty years. According to the finding of the ...
... they are members of the secret Armenian revolutionary or-
... the Tashmag, which opposed the avaricious Archbishop ...
... because he supported the Soviet regime in Russian Armenia.

ARMENIANS

Sing Sing has nine new inmates today. The grim doors of the New York State Prison have closed upon the Armenians convicted of the murder of the Archbishop Leon Tourian in his church last Christmas.

Two of the convicted men are under a sentence of death, which they are appealing. The seven others are condemned to serve from ten to twenty years. According to the finding of the court, they are members of the secret Armenian revolutionary organization, the Tashnag, which opposed the murdered Archbishop because he supported the Soviet regime in Russian Armenia.

Congratulations to the Safety Legion of Jersey City! They have been tackling a job splendid and useful everywhere.

The Police Department started it. They organized the Safety Legion and built up a membership of twenty-nine thousand. All pledged to do their bit to reduce accidents. And how well they've succeeded is told by the figures. In three months the number of accidents in and around Jersey City was cut by forty percent. So, congratulations ~~to~~ from Sunoco to the Safety Legion of Jersey City.

WEATHER

It's cool, foggy and damp in these parts, and it's a relief to reflect that the Weather Man promises that the East will be spared from that Mid-Western heat wave.

Yes, the records certainly have been falling, charred and burnt up by new blasting spurts of heat -- Vinita, Oklahoma, one hundred and seventeen degrees above, Chicago one hundred and five, two degrees above the previous record. St. Louis which ^{they say} had never before seen the thermometer go above one hundred, watched it climb to one hundred and ten. The flaming weather has taken more than seven hundred lives in twenty-two states.

Ponds and lakes have dried up with fishes and turtles baking in the sun. Candy factories have closed, because the sweeties melt to syrup before they can be rushed to the refrigerator. Farmers have been chopping down trees so the cattle can eat the leaves -- the grass is burnt up. And here's one detail that seems something like poetic justice. A thermometer factory has closed shop because the beeswax they use for etching the glass just melts away, and drips like hot candle-grease.

WEATHER - 2

Yes, Mother Nature is running a high fever, not only here but in the Old World too. In Soviet Russia heat and drought are devastating the crops. Children have been mobilized to comb through the wheat fields and pick up every grain that the threshers drop. In Poland the drought has been broken by rain storms and floods. In France it's the same story with drought followed by fierce rain and hail storms, which are playing havoc in the wine country.

And that same contrast of the dry and the wet comes from such widely separated parts as Japan and Mexico. In Hungary a freak storm sucked shoals of fish from the River Danube and dropped them over the country, while the rain poured down and lightening blazed.

The North Atlantic chimes in with a heat wave that has caused a mysterious absence of icebergs.

----- 0 -----

In Holland the weather report is four hundred and fifty-nine degrees below zero. That's a cool breeze for you! It blows out a laboratory. Dutch scientists report that they

WEATHER - 2

Yes, Mother Nature is running a high fever, not only here but in the Old World too. In Soviet Russia heat and drought are devastating the crops. Children have been mobilized to comb through the wheat fields and pick up every grain that the threshers drop. In Poland the drought has been broken by rain storms and floods. In France it's the same story with drought followed by fierce rain and hail storms, which are playing havoc in the wine country.

And that same contrast of the dry and the wet comes from such widely separated parts as Japan and Mexico. In Hungary a freak storm sucked shoals of fish from the River Danube and dropped them over the country, while the rain poured down and lightning blazed.

The North Atlantic chimes in with a heat wave that has caused a mysterious absence of icebergs.

----- 0 -----

In Holland the weather report is four hundred and fifty-nine degrees below zero. That's a cool breeze for you! It blows out a laboratory. Dutch scientists report that they

WEATHER - 3

have succeeded in producing the most intense cold ever measured
-- four hundred and fifty-nine below. So today's report is
record breaking heat and record breaking cold. From extreme
to extreme -- and SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.

On July 28, 1914, the papers and the public world:
AUSTRIA BREAKS WITH SERBIA. KUNIKOFF PLAYS HIS CARD. THE Czar
ORDERS HIS WHOLE ARMY TO BE READY. BRITAIN SAYS TO AUSTRIA.
ENGLAND HOPES FOR MEDIATION.

Twenty years ago Russia was having a general strike.
France was having a political crisis, as she is having today.
England was bothered by trouble in the north of Ireland. But
the larger spot was Austria, which was then under martial law
-- as it is today. The Government at Vienna broke up relations
with Serbia by handing the Serbian minister his passport. To-
day, the German minister has withdrawn from Vienna.

We all know what it meant twenty years ago. Five
days later the World War broke, and Europe was turned into a
thundering inferno. And the world now is wondering what's
going to happen.