

JAPAN

I wish I could avoid saying tonight that the ways of the Orient are strange -- that East is East, and West is West, and all that. Not that anybody minds the fact, but it's such a trite old chestnut to say. Yet what other explanation is there for the news from Tokyo except that the ways of the East are strange. And that's no explanation at all.

Of course, the censorship is clamped on hard and tight. We are given no inside stuff -- just the officially announced facts. And strange facts they are:-

There's that compromise -- the imperial government making strange sounding terms with the revolting young officers. Of course, in the case of many a revolution, middle of the road agreements have been made -- when the insurgents are so powerful that they can compel a compromise. But according to all reports from Tokyo, the government had overwhelming force - regiments, and especially the navy. In fact tonight the guns of war ships command the Japanese capital.

(The fanatical young officers who had assassinated)

the heads of the government were holding out in various public buildings -- with soldiers of the Third Regiment. Yet - they could have been overcome with a bit of sharp fighting. Instead, a compromise agreement was made with them, and they surrendered.)

The private soldiers who followed the rebel lead of their officers, are not being returned to their barracks right away. They are being put up in hotels and restaurants and the homes of government ministers. Surely that's strange. They are not to be punished. But what about the fanatical young officers who led the campaign of terrorism, assassination and revolt to wipe out the liberal elements of the government? The text from Tokyo states that the compromise gives them "the opportunity whether to submit to arrest and stand trial or make some other proposal for their disposition. Those are the words. It's up to them. But what's the meaning of that phrase:- "Proposal for their disposition"? (It's hari, kari. Antique oriental chivalry --allow them to punish and eliminate themselves! suicide! This -- instead of having to stand trial for the assassination of five ministers of the government.)

PRECIOUS STREAM

And here's an Oriental item that comes a little nearer home. ^{Strange too.} A Chinese dramatist, in fact the man who translated Shakespeare into the Celestial language, wrote a play in English. It was presented in London something over a year ago. The British went out of curiosity, and many were puzzled. Then Queen Mary went and came away praising "Lady Precious Stream." After that, Londoners went in droves.

A few weeks ago Morris Guest brought "Lady Precious Stream" to America, ~~and~~ the play in English written by the gentleman from China. New Yorkers, like Londoners, have been puzzled. Some ^{are not so} ~~are not so~~ sure. Others ~~are~~ wildly enthusiastic. At any rate, New York is talking about it: - ~~It is~~ one of the things to do this winter, visit "Lady Precious Stream." You see how the Oriental mind works! ~~And, incidentally, have a grand~~ ^{And you} ~~time. You'll~~ come away agreeing that ~~the~~ Orientals have a glorious sense of humor. ^H We haven't any Queen Mary to put her royal okay on a play. But, in this land where every man's a King and every woman's a Queen, the American royal approval seems to have been ~~given~~ given to this exposition of the strange ways of the oriental mind.

FRANCE

The revolutionary doings in Tokyo ~~would tie in~~ ^{up} significantly with the vote taken in Paris today. The balloting in France was not as blood-curdling as the violence in Japan -- but you can always depend on the Chamber of Deputies to provide some ferocious gestures, when an important issue is at stake. There was a tumult of howling and hooting and a magnificent shaking of fists. For a while ^{today} it looked as if the parties of the Left were going to stage a concerted rush and assault the conservatives of the Right.

And, Tonight, the militarists of Tokyo have food for thought in those French parliamentary proceedings. ~~of today.~~ In any war between Japan and Russia, Germany would stand most significant -- with a threat to attack Russia. But then what would France do about Germany?

~~We seem to be getting a bit complicated with all these nations, but then the map will make it clear. Reading from right to left, Japan, Russia, Germany, France. And today's news will make it clearer~~ ^{Well} the Chamber of Deputies in Paris ~~xxx~~ ₁ ~~today~~ voted on a non-aggression pact between the French Republic

and Soviet Russia, and ~~they~~ passed it. It's a Franco-Russian treaty providing that each will help the other in case of an attack by a third party.

That was what caused the French parliamentary rumpus. The parties of the Right were bitterly against the treaty with Red Moscow. French conservatives have been against it all along. They wanted nothing to do with the Communist Kremlin. The radicals were for it. They sympathize with the Soviets. And in the middle of it all was the basic strategy -- ~~that~~ France is tying in with Russia for protection against Germany.

There you are! - if Japan is at war
~~It is a counterpart of the old Franco-Russian Alliance which~~
~~with Russia, and Germany jumps on~~
~~helped so much to crush Germany in the World War.~~
Russia, France will tear into Germany.
And then the world goes round and
round again.

STALIN

The wildest rumor in a long time is the one that produced the sensation - "Stalin shot, shot in the head." Today Moscow gives us the explanation. It began when a renowned Swedish surgeon, a brain specialist, was hastily summoned from Stockholm to Moscow. The Soviet authorities explained that he was to operate on - "a prominent person." That's the sort of secrecy that breeds rumors. The prominent person must be Stalin! What could be the matter with the Red Dictator? He must have been shot. Brain specialist must mean - shot in the head. So the report was flashed all over the world.

Today it all becomes clear, with an absurdly simple explanation. It wasn't Stalin, and nobody was shot. Somebody went skating, just ice skating. But he was a prominent person - Akulov, Secretary of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Republics. He fell on the ice, and cracked his head, a skull fracture. So that's why the brain specialist was called from Stockholm, with so much unnecessary secrecy.

There's one angle that might have provided some neat, plausible grounds for the rumor. The similarity of titles.

GRAND DUCHESS

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London has a royal court, and it would seem reasonable for a grand duchess to be brought to court. The Grand Duchess Olga of Russia, daughter of the Czar! - according to the dramatic story she relates. She tells how she escaped from the ghastly tragedy that exterminated her family, how she made her way through Russia disguised as an old woman - was thrown in prison but bribed a soldier and escaped. She describes how she was received in Athens with royal honors. On her twenty-first birthday there, she was given a regal salute of twenty-one guns. Grand Duchess Olga of the imperial house of Romanoff! - so she says. Now she has appeared in court - but not in the royal court, a police court.

There ^{has} been many a wild story about a daughter of the Czar, said to have escaped the Bolsheviks. There's the young woman supposed to be the Grand Duchess Anastasia, ^{with so} ~~about whom there's been~~ much mystery. ^{And -} The latest case is ^{this} Grand Duchess Olga. But there's not much mystery about her. English police have readily identified her. Her name is Olga, true enough - Miss Olga Harding. She's merely English, never saw Russia. ~~Miss Olga~~ She cultivated a thick accent and told a fantastic tale to gullible people. She mentioned

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the interesting fact that she was entitled to her share of the vast Romanoff fortune. But legal proceedings were so expensive. So she asked people to invest a little money in her claims. She collected quite a tidy sum - under those pretenses. That's why ^{the} Grand Duchess is ^{now} in court.

COAL

In New York a group of men spent the day exercising their logical faculties. The problem they are tackling is of national importance, but it's also an exhibition of the cut and slash of argument.

The coal miners are debating a new agreement with the mine operators in the Pennsylvania coal fields. The decision may mean war or peace - settlement or strike.

What do the miners want? It isn't hard to guess:-
Less work and more pay. They are demanding a thirty hour week and a boost in wages. The coal mine owners want the opposite. This contradiction brings us to the cut and thrust of argument,

The mine operators say: "As for the working hours and pay, you're all wrong. Look at those bootleggers - we can't compete with them. They're cutting prices,

and that keeps our prices down. So we can't pay more for less work."

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The mine owners refer to the bootlegging of coal, quite a problem in the Pennsylvania coal fields. Thousands of unemployed miners have been making a living by digging coal in shut-down mines and selling it. It's illicit and illegal, but nothing much seems to be done about it. The coal bootleggers have no other way to support their families - usually large. If their under-cover digging and selling were stopped, it would place a heavy problem before the community. ^{And} ~~so~~ the local authorities are rather tolerant about it, wink and look the other way. ^{So} ~~so~~ the operators are faced with the cut price competition of coal taken illegally from their own mines. That's what they've pointed out to the meeting of the United Mine Workers in New York today.

The Union chiefs ~~don't deny that coal is being boot-~~
~~legged on a large scale.~~ ^{And} ~~They admit the significance of the~~
~~bootleg competition.~~ But their comeback is this - that if working hours were cut, and wages raised, more men would have to be put on the job. And this would cut down the number of unemployed

miners, who are bootlegging the coal. ~~The moment jobs were open to them, they'd stop their illegal digging and go to work in a regular way.~~

That's the logic of the miners - to which the operators reply with a counter-thrust of argument. They say that the coal bootleggers find their illicit operations so profitable that they wouldn't take the jobs at standard wages. And the cut of hours and boosted pay for the Union workers would raise the price of coal, which would make the bootleg mining still more profitable.

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That's the intricate kind of reasoning which surrounds today's mine workers' meeting, which is debating the question - to strike or not to strike.

The Senate and the Lower House acted in unison today. They voted okay on a report turned in by a conference. The conference had put the final touches on the big Soil Conservation Bill, to take the place of the defunct Triple A. So both Houses passed the bill. And now it goes to the President for his signature. It calls for half a billion dollars to be paid to the farmers.

Official Washington was back on the job after attending the funeral of Ex-Governor Ritchie of Maryland, whose career was so eminent, leader of his state and powerful influence in the nation. His funeral ranks as the greatest that Maryland has ever seen. More than forty thousand people filed past his bier. And Baltimore observed a minute of silence at three o'clock in the afternoon -- in memorium.

THOMPSON

The Republican Party acquired another saviour today. The G.O.P. is being showered with all sorts of salvation, and now it's getting the help of a familiar figure - "Big Bill" Thompson. Ever since his defeat in Nineteen Thirty-One, the former Mayor of the windy city has been invisible among the political shadows. Now he's back in the Chicago limelight, with an interview in which he declares that he is going to do battle for the Republican cause in the presidential clash of arms.

"Big Bill" doesn't say what candidate he is for. He admits he has a kindly smile for Borah. "I like his fight to uphold the Constitution", says Bill, "and keep us out of foreign entanglements, so that American mothers' babies will not be used for cannon fodder." But then there's Colonel Frank Knox. He's a Chicago man. And you can't imagine "Big Bill" taking sides against anything from Chicago.

~~It is a reentry into politics of one of the most singularly political figures. He began his adventures as the son of a wealthy father in Boston.~~ When ^{Bill} ~~he~~ was fourteen, he read
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in a dime novel about Davy Crockett, fighting a pack of wolves. So the boy went west, where such things could happen. Cow puncher, camp cook, railroad brakeman - that was Bill. Then he inherited the family fortune and went to Chicago. A friend bet him that he wouldn't have the nerve to run for alderman in the Second Ward. By jumping in as a candidate Bill won the bet. Also won the election. Later, as Mayor, he achieved nationwide celebrity by threatening to punch King George in the nose. Now Big Bill comes back from the shadows, leaping to the defense of "American mothers' babies."

PRODIGY

A child prodigy, a girl violinist, has been making a stir in musical circles. Marjorie Edwards from San Jose. Apparently infants are not so sophisticated out there in the land of golden sunshine, because Marjorie's mother told her that if she played well in her big New York concert her reward would be -- a ride on the subway. So, with the subway in mind, Marjorie fiddled her Bach and Beethoven for a rousing success.

Another child went to the youthful prodigy and asked her for her autograph. Marjorie asked her mother what that meant. The mother doesn't want the girl to become vain and spoiled, so she said:- "Oh, that's just something friendly. Somebody asks you to sign your name for them, and you, of course, ask them to sign their name for you in return."

"You just exchange names."

Marjorie took that quite seriously, and now is putting it into practice. Whenever she gives an autograph, she gets one in return. I'd like to suggest that idea to President Roosevelt -- exchange autographs with the general public.

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Through the ages philosophers have been asking, "What is life?" Well, here is what, according to Dr. George W. Crile, one of the world's renowned surgeons. "Life," he says, "is an electrical and radiant event in nature." Sure -- life can be electrical with excitement, and life can be radiant-- especially the ladies. But Doctor Crile speaks with a more scientific meaning of the words. He means that you and I are bundles of electrical energy, alive with radiation.

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It sounds theoretical; but the Doctor boils it down to practice. His reasoning leads him to a new idea about that familiar malady, high blood pressure. He traces it to the adrenal glands, which he regards as batteries for electricity and radiation. And he concludes that high blood pressure can be regulated by surgery of the adrenals.

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And the National Broadcasting Company will get high blood pressure unless I say:

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.

LT in
Cincinnati.

Feb. 28, 1936.