

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:-

I suppose a news broadcast on St. Patrick's Day should begin with some tidings from Ireland, but there aren't any, to speak of. Meaning -- all's well in Ireland. I wish I could say the same for the rest of the world. In Dublin there was a slight flare over a bit of demonstration by the Irish Republican Army, ^{which is now an illegal} ~~now a legal~~ organization. But otherwise in the old land of Erin the news is mostly about St. Patrick's Day parades. They were staged all over the land with appropriate Hibernian fervor, as indeed St. Patrick's Day parades were staged ^{like the one that's been going on most of the day outside} in so many cities all over this globe, ^π But for the rest of this globe, the dominant stories of the day are not about St. Patrick's Day parades -- nothing so cheery and optimistic:-

my window here at
Rockefeller Center,

SPAIN

(Tonight the great and historic city of Barcelona lies in a stupor, a paralysis of fear, an exhaustion from sheer horror and panic. Everywhere are scenes of frightful devastation, ruins, blasted streets and boulevards, scattered bodies, the wounded moaning for help. Hospitals ~~are~~ jammed with the injured, surgeons and nurses red-eyed from overwork. It appears tonight that today's death list in Barcelona will mount into the thousands, ^{- mostly civilians} All of this - after the worst air raids in history. More bombs and heavier bombs, more explosive havoc, more death and destruction.)

And ~~next~~ to top it all, the attacks from the sky came with a mounting climax as of ^{an} infernal drama. Some diabolical stage manager might have set the scene and directed the action for the Barcelona tragedy.

(The reason-of-war that created the catastrophe is simple to see - the Franco forces determined to put the finishing touch of demoralization upon the capital of Left Wing Spain. The Rebel armies driving in headlong advance for days, Barcelona trembling with apprehension, ^{its} ~~the~~ government pleading for help. So the Franco air force attacked to strike the ultimate terror,

complete the demoralization, disorganize resistance and thus hasten the end of the civil war.)

The air raids began last night, one after another. Time and again the squadrons of warplanes came over, ^{an} hour after hour. The city was a pandemonium of shrieking air-raid alarms and the bursting of bombs. Horror mounted by successive steps as the bombing continued with successive attacks ~~—~~ *twelve in all.*

Meanwhile, the Left Wing government was holding a cabinet meeting to do something about the desperate military situation - how to stop the advance of the Franco battalions, ~~as the ^{mobilized} Rebel units threaten to roll on to the coast and cut Left Wing Spain in two.~~ All the ministers of the Left Wing government were gathered, debating, proposing plans, frantic plans of the ^{eleventh} ~~ninth~~ hour: ~~More soldiers to the front, fortified the last line of defense on the sea, rush cannon and machine guns. Also, do something ~~ix~~ about the dangerous internal situation - the demands of the extreme Reds, the threats of the Communists and Anarchists to seize power, the peril of an unbridled reign of terror.~~ So, [↓] To the cabinet meeting came the chiefs of the

dominant Communist labor union, to confabulate ~~with them~~, make terms.

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The Communist chiefs arrived, as the thunder of bombs rang throughout the city and the air-raid-sirens shrieked incessantly. In front of the government building, thousands of Reds were gathered to cheer the coming of their leaders. ~~Through~~ ~~They seemed to be there by prearrangement, to bring pressure on the government.~~ They had loud speakers which blared revolutionary tunes which they sang - songs of Red revolution that were accompanied by bomb bursts and siren shrieks. And so the Communists went into a conference with the government ministers while the terror of the sky was making a pandemonium of Barcelona.

I can't tell you precisely what decision was agreed upon at that cabinet meeting, though they say it was something important. A late flash here is an announcement by the Barcelona government that the cabinet meeting decided upon ^{a measure} ~~something~~ of vital significance. It is stated in these words: - "a most important military and political decision has been reached."

That's not so definite, but we can be definite about

what happened in the havoc of the city, the story of destruction from the sky.

Through the night and on through the morning, raids continued, one worse than the other, and eight o'clock brought a climax. The siren shrieked the warning, and the planes came over. Two bombs crashed into the roof of a tall building, which collapsed with tons of masonry pouring upon the people inside, killing a hundred of them. A modern apartment had its walls blown out, fifteen casualties. A bomb hit the entrance to a subway, and ~~the~~ crowds were blown to pieces. Another landed in a street and blew up three auto buses and a street car - casualties ~~are~~ said to be a hundred *there.*

To wretched Barcelona it seemed as if the ultimate of devastation had come - and gone. There was a period of quiet. The rest of the morning passed, noon came, afternoon - two o'clock. All that time, the clearing of wreckage, the search for the injured, but no ^{sound} ~~sign~~ of the dreaded air raid sirens. That was the most frightful part of it. ~~At two o'clock~~ *At two o'clock - and* the alarm of the sirens did not ring out. Somehow the watchers missed the sight

next squadrons of on-coming
of the bombers. So there was no warning at all. - Only the pigeons
in the Cataluna Plaza seemed to know - pigeons by the score
were perched in the plaza. They seemed to sense something because,
all of a sudden, they rose and flew in one great flock, fleeing
high in the air. But nobody noticed that, nobody took to cover,
nobody took refuge in basements, Crowds were in the streets.
Two o'clock, ~~it was~~ lunch time - crowds in restaurants and cafes,
crowds returning to work after luncheon. *Then came* ~~That was the time for~~
the worst air raid of the whole series of a dozen.

A bomb hit a crowded cafe and blew it into a mass
of tangled rubbish. It is believed that sixty people were buried
in the ruins. Two cafes in all were blown up, and of the luncheon
crowds two or three hundred were killed. On one street corner, ~~if~~
all of the buildings were shattered. The Hotel Ritz was hit by
high explosive and one section of it, including the ball room,
~~was~~ destroyed. Four hundred people were crowded in a railroad
station when a bomb fell upon it. A hundred *more* ~~were~~ killed.
A big apartment house *also* ~~was~~ blown to bits.

The United Press Building *blasted* ~~was blown~~ apart, two of its

walls knocked out. The U.P. office ~~was~~ left wide open. One bomb hit the top of a building where there was a penthouse.

~~It~~ Blew the penthouse and the people in it off into the street - nine stories below. The front of a swanky perfume shop ~~was~~ blown to bits and a river of perfume ran over the sidewalk, filling the air with sweet scent.

All of that two o'clock

~~All the~~ havoc was done, by six great bombers that flew in two squadrons of three. They dropped what is described as the hughest bombs Barcelona has known to explode in all the air raids

it has suffered. In that *two o'clock attack today -* ~~one~~ attack, it is estimated that five

hundred were killed. *Thousands in all 12 raids.*

And That left Barcelona like a city of the dead, with air-raid sirens shrieking aimlessly as if in echo of the time

they failed to shriek. *Such is tonight's* ~~Today told the~~ story of what a major air

raid can do to a modern city.

FOLLOW SPAIN

London ^{has just} ~~today~~ made a move that may be of decisive

effect in the Spanish situation. London informed Paris that the British government is willing to join with France in mediating the civil war. The two nations will try to arrange some kind of peace ^{that} ~~with~~ both factions will accept:-- Franco, flushed with victory, and the Left Wingers in a desperate state of mind.

It doesn't seem so promising for mediation -- but, Britain will join France in trying, if there seems to be an opportunity.

BRITISH CABINET

In London there ~~are~~^{are} ~~all sorts of~~ rumbling^s about the Cabinet crisis - nothing stated outright, but plenty to indicate that Prime Minister Chamberlain is having trouble in his own Party. After the Hitler coup in Austria, many members of the dominant Conservative group veered around to the opinion that England's temporizing, compromising policy has been a mistake. Trying to smooth things out with dictators, when you'^{ll} have to go to war with them sooner or later anyway. The Cabinet itself seems to be split, the opposition led by Hore-Belisha, Minister of War. There's talk that Chamberlain may be overthrown, that Anthony Eden may stage a come-back.

The specific point at the moment is the case of - Czechoslovakia. The advocates of a stronger policy are in favor of joining France in guaranteeing the Czechs against ~~an~~ attack by Germany. But this group is reported to be favorable to a compromise - Czechoslovakia to grant more rights and a greater autonomy to the three and a half million Germans that form one-third of the nation's population.

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FRANCE

The new Popular Front government in Paris received a vote of confidence today. Premier Blum and his ministry appeared before the deputies with a program of defense for Czechoslovakia, and the deputies voted their approval.

Nevertheless, the Premier didn't get his way entirely. He wanted the Conservative factions to join in with the Popular Front and form a national union cabinet of all parties, left and right - to deal with the ~~present-European~~ crisis. The conservatives refused - said no, they wouldn't join in with the radicals of the left.

AUSTRIA

The wave of suicides continues in Austria. Two Jewish physicians with important positions in a Vienna hospital killed themselves today rather than face the Nazi regime. This follows the suicide of the once important Austrian political figure, Major Fey - and others. A sinister comment on the Nazification of Austria!

Secretary of State Hull name^d no names today, but he left no doubt about what he meant. In an address before the National Press Club in Washington he made no mention of Germany, Italy or Japan -- he didn't have to, his inference was so plain.

"The catastrophic development of recent years," he said, the startling events of the past week, offer a tragic demonstration of how quickly the contagious scourge of treaty-breaking and armed ~~xxxx~~ violence spreads from one region to another."

He spoke of international security and of international anarchy, ^{and} left no doubt ~~on~~ on which side our government ~~stands~~ stands.

What to do about it? You can surmise ^{that} ~~the significance~~ from this passage of Secretary Hull's speech:—

"For all nations who seek peace," said he, "to assume an attitude of complete aloofness would serve only to encourage and virtually invite, on the part of other nations lawlessly inclined, ^{invite} policies and actions most likely to endanger peace."

The Secretary committed himself to a policy of -- parallel action, co-operation among the peace loving nations

against the war-makers.

Anti-isolation -- that was the general tenor of the declaration made by the head of the State Department. America cannot remain aloof from the evils that occur in other lands --

that's ^{what he points out -- as has the} ~~the policy he advocates, the same policy for which~~

President ^{at various} ~~Roosevelt at~~ times. ~~has spoken.~~

RUSSIA

Today our State Department received ^{an} ~~the~~ invitation from Soviet Russia - for a conference of peace loving nations to check the aggressors. The State Department makes no comment. *But the President indicates we won't accept the Bolsheviks' London received its invitation, and there no comment was advanced on either invitation. Not a sweet sponsorship.*

^{TP} What Foreign Commissar Litvinov ^{is this:—} proposes ~~an international~~

a gathering of nations - Germany, Italy and Japan to be excluded, because they're aggressors. He wants concerted action to be taken to stop international violence. Specifically, his idea is that Czechoslovakia be protected. That's the keynote.

Moscow correspondents asked him how Soviet Russia would go to the aid of Czechoslovakia, ^{since} ~~if~~ the Red army would have to cross the territories of other nations to do it, ^{— and these might object.} Stalin's Minister of Foreign Affairs replied - "Where there's a will there's a way."

Not so illuminating; - no solution ^{to} ~~to~~ the paradox [—] that to stop Hitler aggression against Czechoslovakia, the Soviets might have to commit an aggression against somebody else.

GARBO

And now, the only thing to do is to utter an exclamation
And how we need it tonight!
about beauty - Ah beauty! Today we learn how much Greta Garbo

loves beauty. This flashes on the news wires - together with the
additional fact that La Garbo is not married to Leopold Stokowski,
has never been married to anybody, and ~~does~~ never intend ^s to ~~be~~

The Swedish picture star, after all the recent romantic
stories about her, was finally cornered and interviewed in a stately
villa overlooking the Bay of Naples, the ~~the~~ idyllic shore ^{sung about} ~~song~~ by the
poets for so many centuries, one of the world's great scenes of
beauty.

"There are some who want to get married," said she,
"and others who don't. I've never had any impulse to go to the
altar."

But what about travelling around with Orchestra
Conductor Stokowski for weeks in southern Italy? La Garbo gazed
out over the Bay of Naples and those scenes of beauty, and
explained - told all.

"I am typically alone," said she, "but there are so
many beautiful things in the world I would like to see. I haven't

many friends," she added pathetically, "and my friend Stokowski, who has been much to me, offered to take me around and see some of the beautiful things."

She said she had only four or five friends in Sweden, and four or five in the United States - making eight or ten in all. "I live in a corner," she sighed.

Then came the tragic note, as soulful as anything the Swedish dramatic actress says in the pictures. The Bay of Naples was aglow with the brilliance of a Mediterranean day, glorification of the scene of beauty - as Greta Garbo told the reporters she didn't like the way they were disturbing her solitude. - She wanted to live without being discovered, without being hunted, without being questioned. ~~Why couldn't she?~~ ^{oh why} "Why can't we avoid being followed and examined?" she demanded. And then exclaimed: "this kills beauty for me."

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Oh Greta - how sad!
~~And that was a sad thing,~~ the Bay of Naples, the scene of beauty - killed, slain, assassinated.

Greta Garbo in the past has made one phrase famous - "Aye tank aye go home." And now she has ²admitted another ~~one~~ which seems worthy of ^{equal} renown - "this kills beauty for me."

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Think of the times when ⁱⁿ any of us might say that, ^{And with} ~~with~~

^{equal} heartfelt anguish! Somebody hands you ^{the check for what had been} ~~a bill for last week's~~ ^{been}
^{a lovely dinner} ~~groceries~~ and you exclaim: "This kills beauty for me!" And --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.

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