

ASSASSIN

Staid and respectable old Boston was the scene of an international episode today, an attempt to assassinate the Italian Ambassador. It isn't often that such things occur on American soil.

His Excellency, Signor Augusto Rosso, had just made an official visit to Governor Curley of Massachusetts. Surrounded by his aides, and with an escort of police, he walked down the staircase to the famous old Hall of Flags. Just ^{at} that moment an insignificant looking fellow among the crowd of spectators made a dash for Mussolini's envoy. But the Boston cops were on the quivive and they grabbed him just as he was pulling a stiletto. When they got him to the station-house he turned out to be an Italian named Eugenio Camaiani. The Boston police say they have no doubt about his deadly intentions.

Signor Rosso is one of the distinguished members of the Italian diplomatic service. He has been Envoy Extraordinary and Ambassador Plenipotentiary in Washington for two years and a half. He was a delegate to the Council of the League of Nations. He represented Italy at the Naval Conference in London in Nineteen thirty.

HOLDUP

Every now and then the newspapers have a fact story ~~almost as~~
~~thrilling and~~ more incredible than a mystery novel. Such a one
came to light today at Warwick, Rhode Island.

The story begins last January when a mail truck was held-
up in Fall River, Massachusetts, and one hundred and twenty-nine
thousand dollars stolen. The government agents got word that the
man who planned this hold-up, ~~and~~ and several others, ~~was~~ ^{were} hiding
in an old Rhode Island mansion in Warwick. They raided the
place but the leader of the mob, Carlo Rettich, escaped the trap.

48
P But in the raid of that mansion they found what is practically
an underground fortress, with cement walls a foot thick and
strong steel sheathing. ^{Federal relief}
~~E. R. S.~~ workers were called on the job
with pick and shovel and blow-torch. And they've been digging
there ever since under the supervision of government agents,
together with Rhode Island and Massachusetts police. They
already know that this subterranean fort was the hide-out of
one of the biggest crime syndicates in America. ^{And -}
They have
arrested a man and a woman charged with being accessories after
the fact to the Fall River hold-up.

But they expect to find a great deal more. They believe that the bodies of three crooks executed by the mob were buried in that subterranean dungeon. Among them ~~that of Mr.~~ Danny Walsh, once prominent in ^{Rhode} ~~Long~~ Island bootlegging circles. And they expect to unearth many more criminal secrets in that underground hide-out. They've already come across enough information to arrest ~~xx~~ nearly a score of people; and ^{they've} ~~to~~ recover about twenty thousand dollars of the Fall River mail truck money, and a huge cache of ammunition.

9

The Congress of the United States finds itself in a tough spot today as a result of that address of President Roosevelt's over the air last night. There was the President saying to all of us: "If you get after your congressmen and make them pass me the laws I ask for, I'll have three million more people at work next Autumn."

But --- there is also the National Association of Manufacturers, the main body of American industry, saying: "If you'll only drop all these reform laws, we're ready to spend twenty billion dollars and put four million men to work."

Thus, though not in so many words, American industry puts itself directly in opposition to the President.

The President took a new fireside line last night. Hitherto his radio chats have been more or less confined to giving the people an account of his stewardship. This time, however, he departed from precedent by making a direct appeal for the four bills he has asked Congress to pass.

To that the reaction in Washington is one of subdued and repressed, but painful grumbling. It was obvious that Mr. Roosevelt's purpose was to bring pressure to bear on the solons, to get them to "stop talking and get down to the business of passing the laws for which he asks." And the retort from some congressmen is, "It's time for the President to remember that he is the executive and not the legislative branch of this government."

Of course this retort was not expressed openly by Democrats. The Republicans have been saying it for a long time. However, Congressional leaders respond today with fervent promises of swift action for the President. In one respect the big industrialists are in perfect accord with ~~President Roosevelt~~ ^{the White House.} Said the President: "Never since my inauguration in March, Nineteen Thirty-three, have I felt so unmistakably the atmosphere of recovery." And the manufacturers say: "Virtually every business index points upward at this time. Recovery is within our grasp."

But they add that to bring this about Congress should forget the ~~the~~ Thirty-hour law, the N.R.A., the Banking Bill, Senator Wagner's Labor Bill, Unemployment Insurance, and ^{various} ~~other~~ reform measures.

~~This makes many congressmen feel that they are between~~

CHAMBER FOLLOW WASHINGTON

Another influential business group will get together in Washington shortly, the United States Chamber of Commerce. In that body there have been many vehement protests against the reform measures in the New Deal program.

One purpose of this meeting will be to select a new President of the United States Chamber of Commerce, a successor to Henry I. Harriman, who has been a friend of President Roosevelt and sympathetic to many of his politics. The man in line for this important office is Harper Sibley. And if his election goes through ~~ix~~ as seems obvious, it will create an interesting situation. Like Henry Harriman, Mr. Harper Sibley is likewise a personal friend of the President. Indeed, he has more than one point of contact. He has the same tony academic background. Like the President, he went to Groton and Harvard.

But that hasn't made him endorse everything that his fellow alumnus has done. In the past year he has said some caustic things about the New Deal, especially the policies of the A.A.A. and the Public Works program. Nevertheless, he is not an out and out opponent. He thinks the President is, as he puts it, "on the

right track, some of the time."

Harper Sibley is one of the magnificoes of Rochester, New York. He's not only a business leader but a farmer, lawyer, a raiser of prize stock, and a banker. And in his spare time he and Mrs. Sibley, are occupied with labors for the Y.M.C.A., for the missionaries and the heathen.

And now he's going to do missionary work among the heathens of the alphabet jungle in Washington.

Sibley's father was one of the founders of the Western Union Telegraph seventy-five years ago. His own fortune was founded chiefly upon his interests in that company.

The death of Alfred I. DuPont in Florida removes a colorful and powerful figure from the scene, not only of Delaware, but of the country at large. Alfred Irene DuPont ^{took a part} ~~had a finger~~ in many ^{large affairs} ~~and various pies~~, in big business, ~~in~~ politics, ~~in~~ philanthropy. His philanthropy took various forms; among them the development of radium mines. He owned four of them in Colorado, and gave up a great deal of time and money in the hope of making the precious stuff less terrifically expensive and more available to science and medicine. [¶] Of course, he was principally known as the ~~organizer and~~ former chief of the gigantic firm of DuPont de Nemours. He ran it up to the point where it became one of the biggest manufacturers of explosives and chemicals in the world. [¶] Aside from being an organizer, he was an engineer and a designer of machinery. For a long time he was one of the political ^{powers} ~~tycoons~~ of Delaware. In fact, he ^{was} ~~the actual~~ head of the Republican Party in that state. ~~He~~ ^{was} a man of strong, dominating, many-sided mind. He was seventy years old. He passed away in Florida where he owned huge tracts of land. [¶] A descendent from one of the most famous

53

and historic families of old France, he was an American of the
strictly rugged individualist school.

s

st

er

Forkes-Leith.

Apr. 29,
1935.

A dust storm -- on the other side of the world.

Dr. E. E. Free of "The Week's Science," reports that Iraq, ancient Babylonia, has suffered one of those visitations so severe that all business in the City of Bagdad was suspended for hours. Entire farms were carried from one spot to another, across the country.

And that reminded me today of one of the most singular stories of dust and desert that I ever heard about. It was told me by a man whom I had last encountered out East.

54
Major Forbes-Leith fought in Mesopotamia, Persia, German West Africa, and the Caucasus. He also is the man who made the first journey from England to India in a motor car. Now he's cellarmaster at the Waldorf.

MAJOR FORBES-LEITH AND L.T.

L.T.:- Major, that episode you told me about occurred on your record trip across Europe and Asia, didn't it?

--o--

FORBES-LEITH:- Yes -- North Arabia. As you know, Lowell, there's ~~xxx~~ only one well between Damascus and Bagdad. I had a tough job getting permission from the French authorities to cross the desert there. Then they asked me to look out for a party of Armenians, two men and two women, who had left Bagdad two days before in an old tin Lizzie.

--o--

L.T.:- Did you find them?

--o--

FORBES-LEITH:- About three hundred miles from Damascus, and thirty miles from the wells, we found two bodies. In the hand of one of the Armenians was an empty water container. He and the other man had left the car to find water. The other man was never found. The two women were picked up almost dying from thirst by a Royal Air Force plane.

55
L.T.: - And what was that ~~wx~~ twist of bitter irony?

--o--

FORBES-LEITH:- We found the car they had been driving. I
unscrewed the radiator cap. The radiator was full. Full of water.

Enough water to have kept them alive for days. They didn't
know it!

--o--

MOLLISON

Ah, here's one about a friend of yours, Major?

The open season for airplane headlines has begun. And the season's first spectacular accident happened to Amy Mollison, the lady who helped create so much excitement several years ago when she flew the Atlantic with her husband, Captain Jim.

Amy was testing out a new plane at the London airport. When she came down she had trouble with her retractable landing gear. She thought her wheels were all ready for the landing, but they weren't. She crashed, smashing the entire undercarriage of the plane.

Now this is probably the first story of a woman flyer who was not powdering her nose when the rescue party arrived on the scene. As the ambulance reached her plane, they found her uninjured, but too dazed to reach for her compact.

EUROPE

Europe begins the week singing new verses from an old song, "The Military Blues". More strictly speaking, the Naval Blues. Hitler's announcement that he is going to build submarines has given the continent, and particularly John Bull, a case of Neptunian shivvers.


The feeling in London today was that John Bull would answer this new threat by building an even bigger and better navy, strong enough to more than counteract the menace of Hitler's new German submarines. One effect of this new defiance on the part of Germany has been to revive vivid memories in England of the terrors of the submarine blockade during the War. There are too many people alive in the island who have reason to recall a perilously close escape. Von Tripitz's U-boats came near accomplishing the starvation of Britannia.

In those days it was not until naval tactics with depth bombs were perfected, with some subsequently cooperation from Uncle Sam's fleet, that Britannia's rule of the waves was again made secure.

57

Naval experts declare it is obvious that Hitler's latest tossing of the gauntlet means that German engineers and scientists have been secretly at work on new U-boat designs. Which implies that they have taken full advantage of the lessons learned during the War. That is by perfecting a model which will be comparatively immune from depth bombs. John Bull's dinner table, to say nothing of high tea, is still mostly dependent upon provisions from overseas. If the new German undersea boats are as perfect as they are said to be, a submarine blockade holds greater threat than ever.

This new war scare is made worse by the news published exclusively in the "London Herald" that Germany has a new, great secret naval base in the North Sea. During the last War, the bristling fortress of Heligoland made the English realize with a shudder what a ghastly mistake the late Lord Salisbury had made when he



considered the island worthless because it was crumbling away, and handed it over to the Kaiser for a song. Of course, one of the provisions of the Versailles Treaty was that those gigantic fortifications on Heligoland should be dismantled. But nothing was said about the little island of Sylt, just off the coast of Scheswig-Holstein. And now, if these stories are true, Sylt, with secret fortifications, huge guns protected by walls five foot thick, underground hangars for airplanes, is ten times as dangerous to the security of Britannia as Heligoland ever was.

So it is natural that the repercussion in England today should be a clamour for a new program of naval construction.

Similar repercussions are being felt all over Europe. Premier Mussolini says: "I announce the approach of a hard period, which will engage all the forces of the Italian people." And from Roumania, in the heart of the ever-troublesome Balkans, come similar rumblings. It is said that King Carol's government is embarking on a program of gun-buying --- huge purchases of cannon, for strengthening Roumania's military establishment to the tune of Two hundred and twenty million dollars.

NAZI FOLLOW EUROPE

Reichsfuehrer Hitler seems still to be having a hard job holding ^{in check} ~~down~~ some of his too zealous followers. A couple of months ago, they kidnapped a political refuge^e, the newspaper man named Jakob, on Swiss territory. Now they have done it again. A Jewish refugee named Joseph Lampersberger, took refuge in Czechoslovakia. He was standing on the railway station near the border ~~and~~, when a large crowd of Nazis jumped on him, beat him to a pulp and dragged him across the border. ~~From the frontier~~ ~~the~~ a detachment of Czechoslovakian customs guards tried to rescue him. But the Nazi kidnapers were too numerous, ~~and~~ too strong for them, and the Czech guards were badly beaten.

Of course diplomatic protests were soon hot on the wires. And the episode has reawakened the exasperation of the

Swiss over the kidnapping of newspaperman Jakob. *The Swiss did some more ~~some~~ yodeling today in the direction of Germany. — and I'd better yodel — s — l — u — t — m.*

8 1/2

9

5 9 1/2