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CHINA

P.I. - Sunoco. Monday, Dec. 26, 1938.

~~There's~~ Contradiction in the news ~~that comes~~ from China today. On the one hand, we hear ~~that~~ there's a peace conference ~~going~~ on in British Hong Kong. A representative of Chiang Kai-shek is supposed to be having secret negotiations with Japanese agents. That, however, is an unofficial rumor.

On the other hand, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek sent a message to a mass meeting held at Chungking. In this he said: "I assure you earnestly that I will continue to lead the nation in prolonged resistance. I am resolved never to yield to Japanese threats."

A Japanese official-report tells of a new series of Japanese attacks on the Chinese armies! Huge squadrons of bombers raided ^{ing} Chiang Kai-shek's lines in three different places, ~~in~~ ^{the} southwest, ~~the~~ west, and ~~the~~ northwest. The most effective of these was on a Chinese airdrome sixty miles north of Hankow. The Nipponese say they destroyed a large number of new ~~air~~ planes just ⁱⁿ ~~imported~~ from Russia.

TOKYO

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Diplomatic moves were made in Tokyo today that may have considerable effect upon the United States. Our Ambassador Joseph Crew paid a visit to Japanese Foreign Minister Arita.

And shortly after that Arita received a call from ^{the British} ~~John Bull's~~ Ambassador. It is understood that ^{our emissary} ~~Joe Crew~~ was talking to

the Mikado's Foreign Secretary about the bombing of American missions in China by Japanese air raid^{ers}. Arita promised to investigate and pay up if it's found the complaints are justified.

The grapevine rumor is that the Japanese Foreign Minister was friendly, even conciliatory. But he wanted to know whether Uncle Sam would loan any more money to China after those twenty-five million dollars are all spent that he is now lending.

SPAIN

In the mountains of western Catalonia, they had ^{chill} ~~real~~ Christmas weather, sub-zero temperatures, snow on the ground. And in those Christmas card conditions, the armies celebrated by fighting one of the fiercest battles of ^{this long} ~~the~~ civil conflict. It may be, in fact, the decisive battle of the ~~whole~~ war. ~~General~~ Franco hurled the cream of his forces, Moroccan cavalry and Black Shirted Fascist legionnaires from Mussolini, against the defenders of the republican government. ^{TP Thought} For miles along the Segre River, the snow is dyed with blood. Franco's Moors and Italians, advancing swiftly through the mountain passes, carried out a series of flanking operations.

As usual, there are two versions of the outcome. ~~The insurgents claim they have the government forces surrounded.~~ The government press-bureau claims that the defenders of Catalonia are holding their own. At the same time, they admit that the Italians have captured one important point twenty-five miles south of Lerida. But they add that the ^{Barcelona} ~~government~~ generals had a secondary line of defense positions strongly fortified, and that

the Republican troops have merely fallen back to that line.

(The report from Franco's headquarters is that the Nationalists have captured something like two hundred and twenty-five square miles of territory. And it says that "there are more Nationalist troops in this offensive than in any other previous one in the war.") It says further: "The quantity and diversity of war material being employed never has been equalled before in ~~FRANCE~~ Europe." — *including the World War.*

In France it was said that this huge quantity and diversity of war material was sent to Franco by Mussolini and Hitler.

The big spy plot in Franco territory takes a new and rather sensational turn today -- with the arrest of two Englishmen, one a Consular officer. We've heard before how the Franco police discovered secret insurgent battle plans in a British diplomatic valise. The two Englishmen arrested today are charged with having slipped the purloined plans into the valise -- which was being taken to England by a British Vice Consul on his way home.

ITALY

Tonight's news from Rome sounds graver than ever. A sharp and emphatic defiance of Mussolini from France. It was sent by the French Ambassador to the office of the Duce's son-in-law, ~~and~~ Foreign Minister, Count Ciano.

It's a reply of course to Mussolini's action last Thursday when he denounced the agreement he had made in Nineteen Thirty-Five with France. Today's communication from the French government declares that France is unable to accept the arguments advanced by the Italian government last Thursday.

In Rome they say there is one particularly ominous circumstance connected with this note. It was not delivered by the French Ambassador in person. It was sent by messenger. Moreover, it says that France flatly declined to make any concessions in Tunisia to Italy, no appeasement in that direction.

However, the situation isn't hopeless. At least that's what ^{the} French ~~diplomats~~ assure us. ^{still} There's plenty of room for negotiations. Also, there's a good deal of relief that there were no violent anti-French editorials in Italian newspapers today, nothing like the curious utterances of yesterday in which Fascist

editors cried aloud that the Italians are ready for anything if the French don't meet their demands.

A week from today Premier Daladier is going to make a tour of Tunisia, Corsica and other French possessions, ^a ~~that is a~~
which step ~~that~~ the Italians resent, *calling it* ¹ ~~violently.~~ They say it's nothing ~~but~~ deliberate provocation.

ROOSEVELT

Italian newspapers are coming into the quarrel with America in a big way. They're taking the side of the German Nazi editors against members of the American government. One Italian periodical carried a particularly biting attack on President Roosevelt. One of its sentences read: "The Italian people consider Roosevelt like those charlatans at country fairs who sell porous plaster, razor blades and miraculous ointments."

~~The article then turned its attention~~

The article then turned its attention to Cardinal Mundelein of Chicago with these words: "Upon his arrival in New York, Cardinal Mundelein told the press that the Italian people have a deep sympathy for the United States and President Roosevelt." *To this the Fascist article replies! -* ~~Then it added:~~ "Cardinal Mundelein must have thought ~~that~~ all of Italy is inside Vatican City." ~~The next~~

The author of these gentle remarks is Robert Farinacci, Secretary General of the Fascist Party.

NAVY

It looks as though the next session of Congress will be plenty lively. At least it will be full of fights, and that always makes a good show. One of the quarrels will be a revival of the ~~new~~ now perennial argument about battleships. Two schools of thought; one saying battleships are obsolete, the other that they're nothing of the sort. The anti-battleship school has a champion Representative Scrugham of Nevada. He's Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Naval Appropriations, and he's agin those big expensive men-o-war. As he left Reno for Washington today he spoke up for aircraft -- predicted that Congress will order a big increase of air power for Uncle Sam's Navy. Said he: "It costs seventy million dollars to build a modern battleship. And for that", he added, "we could have a hundred and forty first class planes which would be far more useful forational defense than one siggle warship." The Committee Chairman repeats a familiar contention: "There is no question but the next war will be fought ⁱⁿ ~~with~~ the air," says he.

Naval officers do not altogether agree with the Congressman. They say there will always be certain things that a battleship has to do which an airplane can't accomplish.

Furthermore, many high navy officers say that it has never ~~been~~
yet been proved that aircraft can destroy modern heavily armored
battleships.

WHEELER

Two important United States senators were in violent disagreement today; Senator Wheeler of Montana and Senator King of Utah, both Democrats, *They dont seem to* ~~do not~~ see eye to eye about foreign relations. The Utah Senator started the ball by urging that Uncle Sam should break off not only diplomatic but commercial relations with Germany. To that the Montana Senator said: "There's a wave of hysteria sweeping over this country at the present time and unless it is checked, it is apt to lead us into war with Germany or some other totalitarian power."

CAMPAIGN

The public printer in Washington is about to receive the text of a momentous report. It's the report of the Senate's Committee on Campaign Expenditures. And a lot of people would give a good deal to know what's in it. So far all the Senators on the Committee have kept mum. The thing the curious would most like to know is, ^{is the} ~~will that~~ Committee recommend ^{that} Congress investigate the Works Progress Administration?

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Just one fact is known. The Senators are agreed on one point. Our laws regarding ~~government~~ corrupt practices in elections are not strict enough. They need sharper teeth. ~~And it is believed that this Committee's report will include some sharp remarks about the support given by W.P.A. workers to New Deal candidates.~~

JAIL BREAK

In the county jail at Omaha, Nebraska, four prisoners celebrated Christmas last night in a manner that showed neither peace no good will. While one deputy sheriff was making his rounds, these prisoners grabbed him, locked him into a cell, and stole his keys.

Then they went down to the office of the jail and slugged the deputy on duty. Tied him up and left him there. Going down to the main floor they slugged two night watchman, and broke out of jail.

Two of those escapers are experienced jailbreakers, and only recently got away from a penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri.

All four are reported to be dangerous characters.

EXPLOSION

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Some folks at Lynchburg, Virginia, had ambitious plans for a Christmas celebration. The plans worked out in a ~~disastrous~~^{fiery} fashion. They were going to have a big fireworks show. The fireworks apparently had been stored in a garage. At eleven o'clock this morning those fireworks blew up with a roar that was heard forty miles away. The garage caught fire and several buildings near it. The entire Fire Department at Lynchburg, Virginia, was called out on the job, ~~which is~~^{was} a difficult one ~~since~~^{and} there was heavy snow, ~~and~~^{and} to make that job harder, one of the hose lines broke. And the flames came near destroying the bridge over the James River.

CLIMBER

In the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, near Boulder, there's a formidable collection of peaks known as the Flatiron. ~~It has been~~ ^A challenge to mountain climbers for generations. Four men have lost their lives trying to scale those rocks. And now a search party has found another victim of the Flatiron, an undergraduate of the University of Colorado. He had been missing for seven days. The search party consisted of expert mountain climbers. They found him at the base of a two hundred and fifty foot precipice, ^{It is believed he} ~~and the expert climbers who found him believe he~~ lost his grip because his hands became numb with the cold.

TRAIN WRECK

Christmas season in Rumania was marked by a tragic calamity. Two passenger trains were loaded with Rumanian peasants, holiday-making. They crashed in a head-on collision and seven coaches made of wood were smashed to pieces. More than a hundred people killed, three hundred and twenty-five injured, and many of them dying. Two hospital trains were sent out, and they were delayed by a blizzard.

CAPTAIN

When a lively row gets going, we're likely to call it a dog fight. And here's something that might be termed - a sea dog fight. The other evening, I quoted a veteran sailor, skipper of a Sun Oil tanker at Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania, ^{ex-} ~~now~~ ^{now} Captain of the Port. He said the trouble with ~~the world was~~ ^{no more} a lack of moral fibre and stamina - those hardy qualities, said he, which distinguish the seafaring men of the sailing ship times of old. So he yearned for a return of the days of canvas and the wind. This brings a blast from another seafaring man, another skipper ~~of an oil tanker~~ - Captain J. A. Naughton.

^{you told,}
"Judging from the story," he writes, "this Captain Snyder is a salty old boy. He would like to have us believe that things and men were much better in the old sailing ship days. However," suggests Skipper Naughton, "when you see the old salt again, ask him whether, when the temperature ^{is} ~~was~~ around ~~the~~ zero ~~mark~~, he would ~~have~~ swapped his comfortable, electrically lighted, steam-heated cabin on the ~~the~~ PENNSYLVANIA SUN, for the cabin he used to enjoy on the windjammer."

And then Skipper Naughton goes on to deliver a diatribe

against the old days at sea. "The old-timers," he writes, "were shanghaied at so much a head from waterfront dives, by crimps."

The man of windjammer days often had to be loaded aboard a ship with a sling because he was unconscious from the effects of liquor which had been generously spiked with knockout drops. The old-timer had a strong back and a weak mind and occasionally submitted to being clubbed with a belaying-pin. The sailor had swill and ~~pork~~ pork for months on end without a murmur and suffered scurvy as a result. He lived herded together in a cramped, unventilated, foul-smelling, vermin infested fo'c'sle."

With that off his chest, Skipper Naughton pokes fun at Skipper Snyder's inspired remarks about the moral fibre and stamina of the old-time jack tar.

"I don't believe," he writes mockingly, "that Captain Snyder could have given you an approximate definition of the words "moral" and "stamina". And the only ^{meaning} ~~thing~~ he probably knows for the word "fiber" is - "a material used for the purpose of making ropes."

Well, when two tanker skippers get into an argument like that, I'll leave ^{it to} the Sun Oil Company to ~~be the~~ referee. And may the best old ^{salt} ~~dog~~ win the sea dog fight.

WEATHER

Old Man Winter is a-coming in with teeth bared and claws sharpened. We're about to have weather in these states, plenty of weather and all of it bad, ~~though the winter sports fans may approve,~~ *— except for sports fans!* *skiers will all cheer!*

Here's the forecast from Uncle Sam's weather expert in

Chicago:- a cold wave, and a harsh one, on its way from Alaska.

8/2
This weather ^{ph} profet says there'll be snow over two-thirds of North America by Wednesday or Thursday, the entire eastern portion of the continent. The middlewest won't have that long to wait. In Minnesota and the Dakotas the thermometer will be fifteen to *and* twenty-five degrees below zero. *stiff* By tomorrow there'll be a freeze in Chicago.

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Uncle Sam's Coast Guard service in Chicago has ordered storm warnings hoisted all over the Great Lakes. In addition to snow and frost, there'll be strong winds from the northwest.

In Washington, the weather bureau ordered storm warnings along the Atlantic Coast all the way from Cape Hatteras to Sandy Hook. One storm is coming out of Alaska, another is on its way northeastward from the lower Mississippi Valley.

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