

L.S. - Sunoco. Tues., April 11, 1939.

FOREIGN

16
The European trouble is as obscure as ever tonight - with all sorts of talk about stopping Mussolini, though there's no sign of what the Duce intends to do next, if anything. The outstanding point in the news is that (Prime Minister Chamberlain has sent proposals to Rome saying that Great Britain and France will accept the Italian seizure of Albania - if Mussolini will guarantee that he won't hit out any further in the Balkans and if he'll withdraw his troops from Spain.)

There are all sorts of rumors about possible aggressions - such as a report in London that Italy and Germany have agreed to divide up Jugoslavia. But the principal worry is about Greece, with rumors that the Italians might strike from Albania toward the great port of Salonika, on the road to Constantinople and the Dardanelles. Yet there seem to have been no Italian demands on Greece, and here's the latest from Rome: ~~It is~~ a statement by the official Fascist press service - that Mussolini will make no move against Greece, so long as the Democratic powers themselves respect the sovereignty of that country. This of course

refers to the frequent rumor that Great Britain would guarantee the integrity of Greece and would at the same time be granted aviation and naval bases in Greek territory. Don't do that, and we won't touch Greece - is the gist of the semi-official statement in Rome.

In London, Prime Minister Chamberlain had a long conference with King George. The King ^{had} returned unexpectedly ~~to London~~ ^{from} Windsor Castle, to talk things over with the Prime Minister.

The last time he made a sudden return of a similar sort was during the war crisis ^{in the} ~~last~~ fall, which ended with the pact at Munich.

It is said that the King and Chamberlain talked about the possibility of cancelling the forthcoming royal visit to Canada and the United States. - It may be called off because of the war peril, ¹⁵⁰ says London rumor. An inquiry ^{to} King George's private secretary brought this response: "Arrangements for the voyage are proceeding normally," said he.

~~At the same time,~~ The Italian government has called new classes of troops to the colors - increasing the already huge forces under arms. With today's latest calling to the colors went

the announcement that no more troops will be ~~called~~ summoned.

That is - unless. The announcement ^{adds:} ~~says~~ - unless the political situation becomes worse. And that conveys some reassurance - in the face of a political situation that is revealed chiefly by the threatening massing and movement of armed forces, military moves and measures that are vague and puzzling with warlike menace.

British warships hastily concentrated at an undisclosed point in the Mediterranean. All French Naval specialists today were called from leaves of absence. Reports in Paris that the Franco government of Spain is heavily fortifying the frontier between Spanish Morocco and French Morocco. The Belgian government decided ^{ing} to continue military precautions along the Belgian-German frontier. Also - an African angle;- measures for the defense of the Belgian Congo. And here's ^{an utterly un} ~~another~~ important sidelight - Hungary today withdrew from the League of Nations.

~~Today~~ the ^{famous} ~~great~~ British publicist, Lord Beaverbrook, ^{today} gave an interview to that equally famous American publicist, Roy Howard, head of the Scripps-Howard newspapers. And

ALBANIA

(The Italian occupation of Albania goes on with Fascist troops ^{taking over} ~~occupying~~ the remoter regions of the mountain country.)

9 Today we have a story of two battles, the contrast of which reveals a paradoxical relation between the Albanians and the invaders. ^R We are told that Mussolini's regiments faced a severe fight today when they pushed into the territory of the tribe to which King Zog belongs. Albania is a country of clans and feuds. Zog himself was in constant fear of assassination by clansmen opposed to his own tribe. Apparently his own feudal group is still supporting him, because we are told of furious fighting when the Italians today advanced into the lands of the tribe of Zog.

The other battle is described as a battle of flowers. We are told of Fascist detachments marching into a remote town with flowers stuck in the muzzles of their rifles, while the local girls pelted them with a shower of flowers. Presumably that was in the country of a tribe opposed to King Zog - a clan at feud with him.

From Greece we hear news of the exiled royal family,

King Zog, Queen Geraldine and their newly born son. The Queen is reported to be so ill she had to be taken to a hospital - this as a result of her flight from the Italian invasion a few days after her child was born.

An Italian newspaper today placed on the ^{half-American}~~half-American~~ Queen some of the blame for the overthrow of King Zog - this with a decidedly American angle. The Queen's mother is the former Gladys Virginia Stewart of New York, who figured in a famous international marriage years ago - when she was wedded to the Hungarian magnate Count Karolyi. Queen Geraldine is their daughter. The marriage ended and the former Gladys Virginia Stewart married a major of the French Army. The Italian newspaper declares today that when Geraldine became Queen of Albania and became influential among the Albanian people, her mother and step-father immediately began to influence her. The American mother and the French step-father persuaded her to oppose the Italian control over Albania - which had been dominant for a long time. They got Queen Geraldine to oppose Italy in favor of France - trying to get the little kingdom out of the Italian and into the French orbit.

That was one of the causes of the quarrel between Mussolini and King Zog - so says the Italian newspaper.

LINDBERGH

The debate about the Neutrality Law brought in a famous name today - Lindbergh. He's asked to appear at the hearing and testify in the light of his knowledge of European affairs - especially aviation affairs.

Representative Sol Bloom of New York sent a wireless to the Lone Eagle, who right now is returning by ship to the United States - and invited Lindbergh to appear before the Committee. To this the Colonel returned a wireless reply that he would communicate with the Congressman as soon as he arrived in New York. Representative Bloom told the ForeignAffairs Committee today that he believed Lindbergh would appear and testify.

CRASH

A big bomber crashed today at Wright Field, Ohio - and one of the three men in it was critically injured; a lieutenant of the Air Corps Reserve.

52
The great four-motored warplane was on a trial flight. Built by a private concern, it was being tried out by the army. It crashed and burst into flames. The cause is undetermined, but it appeared that the pilot was trying to make a forced landing. The crew of three had a narrow escape, and the one that was injured had scarcely been pulled out when the great bomber exploded.

RELIEF

Today the Senate approved of the cut of fifty million dollars in the Relief Bill ^{for the present year} -- approved of the hundred million

dollar figure. But right away we go from million to billion. *Late*

word from

is that
Washington ~~report~~ President Roosevelt is going to ask

Congress for a billion and a half. That's the sum he wants for relief during the fiscal year to come -- ^a ~~one~~ billion, ~~and~~ five hundred million.

CONGRESS

A curious thing happened in Congress today - sounding like something out the dim past.

The House of Representatives was considering the appointment of a committee to attend the funeral of Senator J. Hamilton Lewis of Illinois. The Senator was a Virginian by origin; and, a Congressman from Wisconsin objected with the shout - "Senator Lewis was the son of a Virginia Rebel!" The irate Congressman, still fighting the Civil War, proclaimed that he was the son of a union veteran and he wouldn't vote to pay those honors to the son of a Virginia Rebel!

53

STRIKE

Seven thousand truck workers went flocking back to work today - in Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts. The big trucking strike in those three states lasted for twenty-seven days but now it's off - for a while at least. Not exactly a permanent peace - but an armistice. The men returned to their trucks ^{for} ~~during~~ the interim while employers and union are acting on a compromise agreement which was reached ^{today} ~~after~~ a twenty-one hour all-night conference. The chances are that the agreement will be okayed and that today's back-to-work movement will be a permanent thing.

SMUGGLING

54

the
The words of ^{the} psalmist might have echoed in a New York court today - "Vanity of vanities, all ~~that~~ is vanity." Yes, vain pride and showy ostentation. ^{It} New York's big smuggling case came to a final close today - the affair in which Comedians George Burns and Jack Benny ^{have} ~~have~~ already been ~~convicted and~~ sentenced for smuggling. Today it was the turn of Mrs. Edgar N. Lauer, wife of ~~the~~ New York Supreme Court Justice, ~~and~~, Albert Chapereau, ~~described~~ described as the mastermind in the smuggling conspiracy. ~~and~~ ^{In} the case ^{of} ~~against~~ both of these two, the refrain was implicit - "Vanity of vanities." ^{of} Comedians George Burns and Jack Benny were let off with heavy fines - their prison sentences suspended. But the fifty-eight year old wife of the New York Supreme Court Justice was ^{not only fined \$500 but was also} sentenced to ~~go to~~ prison - for a term of three months. ~~But~~ ^{Because} she's not a first offender - it's her second conviction for smuggling. ~~The first time she was merely fined. So now the second time she's sentenced to a twenty-five hundred dollar fine, and to a prison term as well.~~ The aging wife of the jurist, nervous and ill, collapsed and fainted when she heard ^{prison} the sentence.

Yes, Her story is one of vanity - according to the plea made by her distinguished counsel, John W. Davis who once ran for the presidency of the United States. Mrs. Edgar N. Lauer was a social figure in the fashionable community in which she lived. In ^{her} ~~that~~ ~~fashionable community~~ ^{circle} there was that age-old rivalry among the women - rivalry in point of glittering show and style. The wife of the prominent jurist was ambitious to be the best dressed woman in her set. Today her attorney, John W. Davis, characterized it all in these words: "Underlying the whole case is feminine rivalry in the community."

55

A few years ago Mrs. Lauer ^{then} was convicted of smuggling fineries from abroad. Then last fall a strange scene occurred in the Lauer home. A smart dinner party, and around the table they were talking about Hitler - the remarks not at all complimentary. A German maid in the Lauer employ heard the remarks about the Nazi Fuehrer and grew resentful. She spoke up angrily and said she wouldn't hear Hitler talked about in any such fashion - whereupon she was instantly discharged, fired. She departed with

threats that she'd get even. And she did. She gave a tip to the authorities, they raided the home of Judge Lauer, and found seventeen suitcases full of smuggled finery from aboard - fancy clothing, trimmings, gewgaws. ~~The ~~prosecution~~ ~~today~~ ~~said~~ ~~she~~ ~~had~~ ~~smuggled~~ ~~125,000~~ ~~worth~~ ~~since~~ ~~her~~ ~~paraphernalia~~ ~~of~~ ~~style~~~~

first conviction.

~~for glittering prominence in a fashionable community - furtively~~

A woman's

ambitions ⁿ to be the best dressed. ~~woman's~~

56

Today, after the judge sentenced Mrs. Lauer to three months in prison, he condemned Albert Chapereau to five years and three days - that in addition to a five thousand dollar fine. (~~Chapereau,~~

who smuggled under the pretense of diplomatic immunity, said he was commercial attache of the Nicaraguan Consulate in New York and therefore was entitled to bring in jewelry and other expensive ~~stuff without paying duty.~~ His name has been linked to all sorts

of prominent persons of business, the law, stage and screen - including the three who were convicted in the present case.

Today Chapereau's counsel pleaded that his client had done the smuggling - because of vanity. He said that Chapereau liked to associate with prominent people, gloried in the friendship

of celebrities of New York and Hollywood. ~~And the inference is~~

^{So}
that he smuggled jewelry ~~and other things in~~ for them to
A

cultivate their friendship and get into the society of the

publicized and famous. That, said the lawyer, brought about

the smuggling downfall of Albert Chapereau - vanity of vanities,

all is vanity.

CRAWFORD

~~When~~ Joan Crawford got her delayed divorce today, ^{and} the proceedings elicited some illumination on the subject of mental cruelty. When is hubby mentally cruel to wifie? ^{To which one might add:} When is hubby mental? - ~~one might ask.~~

57
Joan Crawford testified at Hollywood that her husband Franchot Tone was often angry and sullen. What he was angry and sullen about she didn't say. ~~I suppose the explanation is that husbands frequently get that way - angry and sullen.~~ Maybe it's just marriage that ^{makes husbands angry and sullen.} ~~affects them thusly.~~

What effect did it have on Joan Crawford? The red-headed movie actress explained that to the judge in touching words. "On many occasions," she lamented, "I was compelled to leave my work on the set because of nervousness resulting from my husband's display of anger and sullenness."

Some other effects were described by the pathetic wife. "I couldn't sleep", she said. "I also lost weight." ~~Yes, that's~~ ~~what a husband's anger and sullenness can do~~ although the ^{that} loss of weight might recommend itself to ^{many} ladies who want to reduce. ~~is~~ ^{is} all very sad! although it would be a great deal sadder if we were to go on and tackle the subject of ~~an~~ angry and sullen wives.

LOVE

Great news from Washington - we're to have free love at the New York World's Fair. The ~~army of~~ ^{arty} art Bohemians of Greenwich Village used to advocate free love much to the scandal of the respectable. But now we find that free love at the World's Fair is sponsored by no less a respectable organization than the Postal Telegraph Company. Of course it doesn't mean that when you meet a blonde at the Fair, you can remind her that love is free. It's like this:- Today the Telegraph Company filed a schedule with the Federal Communications Commission in Washington - a schedule of rates. In this is specified that anybody who sends a telegram to the folks at home from the World's Fair will be allowed to include one word free - either the word "Regards" or the word "Love." Free regards? - you can't get any jokes out of that. But think of the wheezes to be woven around free love - lots of wheezes, including this one.

58

58 1/2

BET

The goldfish swallowing competitions have died out in the academic world - also the phonograph record eating, the telephone book chewing and the devouring of worms. Something more savory has now cropped up in collegiate life - something sweeter. What could be sweeter than goldfish ~~and~~^{or} worms? Why, kisses.

At San Jo^se, California, a college sophomore made a five dollar bet that he would stroll around the campus and in thirty minutes kiss twenty different girls. He lost the bet. He kissed only fourteen. He encountered twenty-two co-eds, fourteen proved kissible while eight put up a fight and ran away. Fourteen out of twenty-two^{if} - that's the law of averages, not so bad, and s-l-u-t-m.

59

59 1/4