

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

There's a lot of foreign news tonight. And the big story still is the news from the Far East. One impressive Far Eastern headline comes from London. Great Britain warns Japan! In the House of Commons today, Foreign Minister Anthony Eden declared Britain's opposition to any further Japanese acquisition of provinces in China. That does seem to put the Far Eastern fighting into high and inter-national prominence. Let's take a look at exactly what was said in the House of Commons today. We observe that His Majesty's Foreign Minister uttered just one word. It was in response to a question. The question was propounded by a Liberal M.P., who asked: "Has the foreign secretary made it clear to the Japanese Government that we do not approve of any further attempt to detach provinces from the Nanking Government?"

"Yes," replied Foreign Minister Eden. An eloquent one word affirmation.

Clear cut enough, although hardly the equivalent of a direct and outright ultimatum to Tokyo. And then it became less stern and outright when we note that the Foreign Minister went quickly into a vague cloud of words.

All this in London - while the havoc of war was raging at Tientsin. That great port, the gateway of Northern China, is a devastated Metropolis this evening. The Japanese bombed from the sky today, and bitter fighting raged on the ground. The terrors of war were unleashed when three powerful Chinese forces made a sudden attack on the Japanese lines. They struck with determination and vigor, and captured positions along the vital Railway. They were threatening to drive the Japanese from their lines of control, force them out, send them scurrying.

Then the war machine of Japan went into action. (All the mechanism of battle was thrown against the Chinese regiments, and China today showed herself no match for the war science of the Japanese. At last reports the Chinese troops were

being cut to pieces, driven off in a hail of fire.)

One of Japan's most powerful weapons today was aircraft.

Planes struck at the attacking Chinese, and planes bombed Tientsin

They blasted great buildings of the Railway administration, where

the Chinese were in force, and set the Railway Station on fire.

Then they bombed the Tientsin Town Hall, and soon it ~~was in flames~~ was

in flames. The Japanese bombers struck methodically at important

points. It was largely an incendiary ~~attack~~ attack, with Tientsin on

fire in many places. Planes swooped low and dropped floods of

gasoline to make the fire they set burn the more freely. ~~Meanwhile~~

Meanwhile, the Chinese and Japanese within the city were fighting.

Japanese civilian inhabitants were being killed by Chinese troops.

And in the orgy of blood and fire, the foreign population,

~~Europeans and Americans~~ Europeans and Americans, were caught in the swirl of

battle. The reality of their danger is made graphic by ~~a~~ a candid

official statement of the Japanese high command today; ~~a statement~~

~~candid and outright~~. "The seriousness of the situation," declared

the Tokyo General, "has compelled the Japanese Army to attack

the Chinese positions despite earlier assurances that it would

not expose the City's foreign population to peril." So, exposed to peril they were, with bombs ^{raining} ~~dropping~~ from the sky, and shooting going on everywhere.

What about the Americans in Tientsin, There are a thousand civilians, and a thousand troops, the ^{U.S.} Fifteenth Infantry permanently stationed in that City. And the civilians are complaining about the troops - at least some missionaries are.

They made a protest today that the ^{U.S.} Fifteenth Infantry refused to sally out and rescue them from parts of the City under the storm of war. The missionaries say they were in the thick of the

bombing and shooting and called the American authorities, asking for soldiers to come and get them. But the Fifteenth Infantry replied that ^{missionaries} they had better stay where they were. ^{Whereupon the missionaries} ~~They~~ had to

appeal to the Chinese Police, who ~~escort~~ escorted them. And they were forced to take refuge, not at the American headquarters, but in the Italian concession. There are stories of other Americans who have found safety under the guard of Italian, French or British troops.

The picture at Tientsin is one of war and destruction, but it's far otherwise at Peiping. The City of northem peace is

really peaceful tonight - the Japanese in full control. The anti-Japanese General Sunch, having been forced out. A pro-Japanese commander is in control. And all resistance to the troops of the Mikado has vanished at Peiping. The Chinese are crying "treason". They say the peace party of their own population betrayed them and have turned the old capital over to the invader.

It's still not clear whether there will be formal openly declared war between China and Japan. Today, Chiang Kai Shek, head of the Nanking Government, issued a belligerent declaration. It begins in curiously Chinese terms. "Present conditions show," announced the generalissimo, "that the Japanese have completely ignored Chinese wishes."

I'll say they have -- killing you is usually ignoring your wishes. "Therefore," Chiang Kai-Shek goes on, "China will fight to the last man." That sounds more familiar - the last man declaration.

The question of what the Nanking government will do is involved in Oriental ambiguities and circumlocutions.

EGYPT

(Another King was crowned today.) And I have a letter here which has an interesting bearing on today's coronation.

The letter is from Egypt, from Wendell Cleland of the American University at Cairo. The news event the letter concerns is

(the enthronement today of King Farouk as the Sovereign of Egypt - as the twentieth century pharaoh.) Or maybe - a twentieth century caliph -- commander of the faithful. Let me read you a paragraph of Wendell Cleland's letter from Cairo.

"An interesting controversy" he writes "is going on here - 'under the straw' as the Arabs say. The brilliant example of the British coronation has stirred the imagination of some staunch supporters of Islam, who are anxious that King Farouk, as the leading Moslem Prince, should be crowned in the Royal Mosque of Cairo by the Sheik Ul Islam. He advocates of this idea, "Wendell Cleland continues, "feel that it will bring a great deal of prestige to Egypt. Such a ceremony would make it clear to the Mohammedans that Farouk is taking the throne by the authority of Allah - and that would put him in somewhat the position of a Caliph, the commander of the Faithful."

Yes, that does stir the imagination - a twentieth century Haroun Al Raschid reigning not in Bagdad but in Cairo - as Lord of Islam. But there's another slant to it, another angle, a contradiction, a controversy. Wendell Cleland of Cairo University puts it this way:

"On the other hand," he writes, "the position of the modern Egyptian politician is that of the Wafd Party, which is now in power and has Nahas Pasha as Premier. This constitutional group wants no confusion as to where the authority of the king comes from. So they are pressing that Farouk should be enthroned in the Parliament Building and take the oath of office - thereby promising to be a good and obedient king."

So the parliamentary politicians don't want any Caliph ruling by the Grace of Allah, successor to Mohammed ~~and~~ and commander of the faithful. They are interested in strictly twentieth century politics.

Such was the controversy. Now let us see how it worked out today - as the eighteen year old boy, Farouk, was acclaimed king. News dispatches tell us of gorgeous scenes in

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Cairo, scenes reminiscent in Oriental fashion of the British Coronation. Farouk, in a brilliant uniform, riding in a carriage of gold. Runners, each with a colored staff, trotting alongside. Troops in uniforms of blue and gold, red fezes on their heads - the Royal Bodyguards. Crowds of *tens* thousands upon ^{*tens*} thousands lining the streets ^{*of the great city on the Nile--*} cheering the king. Then, he received homage, seated on a golden throne. It was all flamingly royal - but not religious. The news specifically tells us that the ~~xxx~~ enthronement took place in the Parliament Building, Not in the sacred Mosque of El Rifai. King Farouk took the constitutional oath in the presence of government officers. He did not receive the royal investment at the hands of the Sheik Ul Islam, nor ~~was~~ he granted the sacred sword, the jewel studded blade of Mohammed-Ali-the-Great. In other words - the politicians of the Constitutional Party had their way *in far off Egypt today.*

And so a boy King took the throne, while here's
another boy king who is having his troubles. His kingdom is
facing a grave political scandal. The child sovereign himself
has been swindled, and the Ministers of his Cabinet have
resigned. Who is the juvenile monarch? Why King Ananda of
Siam, brother of the Moon, supreme arbitrator of the ebb and
flow of the tides, ~~xxxx~~ possessor of the twenty-four umbrellas.

The trouble broke out in a bitter debate in the
Siamese Parliament. Charges of crookery were made against
leading politicians - the accusation that they had swindled
their own King. The story is that government ministers sold
a large slice of royal property on the sly, and much too
cheaply. - for a song. The land was bought ~~up~~ up by a political
group, and large profits were made by all. The storm of
scandal is so violent that now the head of the government,
Premier Sena, and Chairman of the Regency Council, Prince
Aditya, have resigned. The defrauded young King is in need
of a new set of ministers.

Well, His Boyish Majesty, Ananda, has had financial

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troubles before. In school at Luzerne, Switzerland, he had one of the smallest allowances among all the boys. And it's on record that once an American news photographer had to bribe him with thirty cents before he would let his picture be taken.

MUSSOLINI.

It's interesting how coincidences happen, things occurring at the same time. Today is Mussolini's birthday. He is fifty-four. He had a great celebration at a resort place on the Adriatic - the kind of celebration the Duce likes, a review of warships.

There was also a sort of Mussolini celebration in Paris. It was on the Duce's birthday that ~~Madame~~^{mlle} De Fontages was brought to trial, that vivacious French divorcee involved in a drama of love and shooting of which the black shirt dictator

~~is the hero,~~^{- or something.} Today ~~Madame~~^{mlle} faced the Court. Evidence was given, and a verdict was handed down. ^{TP} The legal proceedings were

surrounded by guarded secrecy, because it was feared that ~~Madame~~^{mlle} might talk so loudly and volubly about Mussolini and his love as to provoke an international crisis. But the main lines of the evidence are well known: ~~Madame~~^{mlle}'s great romance with Mussolini.

^{TP} Elinor Glyn limited ecstasy to three weeks, but ~~Madame~~^{mille}'s Roman idyll sighed and languished for three months. Then it was shattered, through the machinations of Count De Chambrun, descendant of Lafayette and French Ambassador to Italy. The

MUSSOLINI -2.

Count, she claims, whispered poisonous words about her to Mussolini, and destroyed the Duce's love for her. The descendant of Lafayette, in interviews with her, kissed her and caressed her. While blighting her great love, he tried to give her another ~~one~~ to take its place. So she said. ^H In a Paris Railroad Station, she shot him - wounded him, but not seriously. The evidence that ~~Madame~~ presented included her diary full of purple descriptions and three hundred photographs of Mussolini, some of them supposedly signed by him, with tender salutations. He'd hardly have autographed all three hundred with lovelorn epithets. That would have been laborious even for the hard working Dictator.

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The world has been wondering how much truth there was in ~~the~~ ^{of Mlle de Fontanges.} love story. Was it all a freak of feminine imagination, Or did the iron Duce melt in the glow of ~~Madame's~~ ^{Mlle's} fascinations?

I don't know how conclusive the evidence was in the deep secrecy of the Paris Court today, but the verdict has been made public and has interesting implications.

~~She~~ ^{She} ~~Madame~~ was on trial for having shot the ~~Count~~

Count De Chambrun, nobody denied she had done just that. So she was found guilty today. Whats the penalty, Why, a year in Jail, but the sentence was suspended, which makes it not even ten minutes in Jail. And ~~Madame~~^{Mill} is fined a hundred francs. With the exchange what it is, that comes to thirty-seven dollars and a half. All that for shooting the former Ambassador and descendant of Lafayette.

But that's not all. The Count De Chambrun in the Court proceedings demanded damages for having been shot, - which seems fair enough. And the Court awarded him damages - one franc, which is not quite four cents.

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I don't know how ~~you can~~^{to} philosophize ^{on} this French verdict; but I suppose the gentleness of the punishment inflicted on ~~Madame~~^{Mill} would indicate that the Court believed her story of the Mussolini romance was true. Also - that she was more or less justified in starting to shoot when it was broken off - which I take to be quite a compliment to Mussolini.

Anyway, it happened on the Duce's 54th Birthday, which makes it quite a sprightly coincidence.

THEFT

Oh yes, here's one American

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~~item~~:- There are a lot of bold and brazen crooks in the world, but today Cincinnati has a case that's the very height of boldness and brass. Walnut Finn is a Real Estate dealer and to him came a client who said he wanted to buy three houses. Finn said sure, he had three houses - but he only thought he did . He took the prospective buyer to the Walnut Street section of the city to inspect the property - the houses. But no houses were there - merely vacant lots, and a truck driver who was hauling away a last load of bricks.

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Upon being questioned, that truck driver admitted to tearing down the buildings and selling them for second-hand raw material. He got a hundred and thirty dollars for them, and they were valued at twelve thousand. ~~The truck-~~

59 1/4
And so long until tomorrow
~~the driver is still trying to convince the police that another fellow ordered him to tear down those houses.~~