

OKLAHOMA

L.T. - Sunoco. Wed., Nov. 27, 1935.

Comer

6

This evening an air of terror and mystery hangs over a hospital at Oklahoma City. On a hospital bed, a man - who may be a monster of crime. Nobody knows. People are almost afraid to find out. Detectives, hour after hour, have been waiting at his bedside, waiting for him to talk. But he can't say a word. There was gunfire when the police captured him, and he was shot through the head - speech paralyzed. Yet he did say a few words before he lapsed into silence, mumbled jumbled words. ~~That's~~ That's the worst of it. In his twisted, garbled phrases, he muttered the word - kill. And in his disorganized murmurs could be distinguished the names of people who are missing, five of them - five persons who have vanished away in mystery, with the most sinister indications of foul play. And that raised the spectre of a dreadful secret, a secret which the wounded gunman could tell - only his speech failed him, and they've been waiting for words that have not been spoken.

When they shot and captured Chester Comer, he was in a car owned by a man who, with his son, is missing. It is known that Comer bummed a ride from a lawyer, who likewise has vanished. And then there are two women, Comer's first wife and his second wife -

both missing without ^a trace.

67
One woman has identified him as the man who kidnapped her two boys, then came to her and demanded money for their return. She had only three dollars, but he took it ~~in return for bringing~~ ^{and brought} back the boys.

And suspicion points back to the disappearance of four tourists from East St. Louis last summer. They dropped out of sight and have never been seen since. Travelers' checks which they had carried were cashed far and wide in the southwest. The authorities are trying to match Comer's handwriting with the forged signatures on the travelers' checks.

Such are the hints of the terrifying secret that broods in the white room of an Oklahoma hospital ~~and~~ ^{--- while} the words that might ~~tell cannot~~ ^{reveal may never} be spoken.

LONDON

Here's something that sounds like one of those fabulous combinations - the hippogriff, or maybe the rhinopotamus. It's the United States of Great Britain. It sounds all mixed up, but R.D.B. thinks it's a possibility. He's for it. Who is R.D.B.? Well, years ago in New York a young fellow saw a fire, a blaze in a convent. He wrote an account of it and took it to the old NEW YORK HERALD. The legendary James Gordon Bennett, big boss of the HERALD, saw the young fellow's story and called it - "a masterpiece of reporting." That kind of praise from on high was enough to make a newspaperman. It certainly did make Ralph D. Blumenfeld, who kept going right on up in journalism, first in the United States and then in England - he is now the editor of Lord Beaverbrook's LONDON EXPRESS, and one of the most influential journalists in the British Empire. So it deserves more than passing notice that R.D.B. calls for - the United States of ~~E~~ Great Britain. It's the familiar idea of a union of English-speaking peoples, to form a combination which could dictate the peace of the world.

Not so long ago I heard the same idea expressed in a talk I had with Major Francis ~~Yate~~ Yeats Brown, the Bengal Lancer. Y.B. thought a world power, comprising all the English-speaking

peoples, would be an excellent way to keep peace and order on this troubled planet of ours. Still - one point of discussion was that we have a geographical position. So - we should pool our security with Britain's peril? Still, last night I heard the famous author and playwright, Ian Hay, plead for the same thing at an E. S. U. banquet.

And, here we have the great R.D.B. telling the American Chamber of Commerce that England is all wrong to fool around with the League of Nations. He speaks contemptuously of the -"struggling and starving crown on the continent", and thinks the real League should be - "a league of all that talk English."

BRAZIL

Sugar Loaf Mountain is a towering pinnacle of stone, a most characteristic landmark overlooking Rio, the ^{scenic, spectacular} ~~state~~ capital of Brazil. From the foot of the stony Sugar Loaf extends the Urca section, the fashionable residential part of Rio, where coffee millionaires live along handsome avenues. In the heart of the Urca section, overlooked by Sugar Loaf, is the Vermelha Barracks -- ~~of~~ was, until today. What happened to Vermelha Barracks, after the revolt broke out there this morning can be told in large part in two words -- Sugar Loaf.

50
Thousands of people swarmed up the rocky steep, where they had a perfect view of the desperate events that occurred. And when you've got a perfect ~~overlooking~~ view you've got a perfect place to shoot from. Government troops also swarmed up Sugar Loaf, and they blasted with fire against the barracks below. There was cannon fire. And there was sky-bombing too, planes dropping high explosives on the barracks.

The trouble broke at the dawn ~~of~~ today -- a ~~re~~ revolt of cadets, cadets of aviation and of artillery. For days the revolution called communist has been raging and is apparently

being suppressed in Northern Brazil. And suddenly today the cadets at Rio, rebled. Seems odd that they should be Communists.

Anyhow an
An inferno broke loose in the fashionable Urca section. Panic among the coffee millionaires, as shot and shell ripped along the broad handsome avenues. From Sugar Loaf Hill, from every other vantage point, and from the sky, bullets and shells blasted the rebel stronghold, shattered it, set it afire, and burned it down.

One tragic aspect was -- loyal troops in the Vermelha Barracks. The revolt flared so suddenly that a force of soldiers faithful to the government was caught in a rebel stronghold. And three of their officers were killed *in a* ~~casualty~~ *casualty* list of twelve dead and thirty wounded.

Two hundred and fifty rebels are prisoners tonight, the revolt in Rio crushed.

CHINA

Japan marched today, marched into China. Why? The answer gives us one of the most threatening details of the Far-Eastern picture. Yesterday the Chinese Central Government at Nanking said: "Yin is a traitor. We'll punish him." Meaning -- General Yin Ju Kang, the Chinese leader who declared an independent government in the northern province of Hopei. Independent in this case means -- controlled by Japan. The Nipponese generals say the Nanking declaration threatening General Yin means that the Chinese government intends to fight rather than let Japan slice off the northern part of China.

So the Nipponese generals said -- "Forward March."

52
Today Japanese troops ~~xxxx~~ marched and counter-marched in the territory around the great port of Tientsin. They threw a ring around the city, cut it off from the rest of the world. ^{Tonight} Infantry regiments stand on guard. Armored cars and tanks patrol roads. ~~xjammedxtrainsxtrains~~ A jammed troop train is reported speeding from the Manchukuoan border to Tientsin.

At the airport of the city an American pilot flying a Chinese mail plane was manhandled ^{today}. The Japanese claimed he photographed their own military airplanes ~~xstanding~~ stationed at the flying

field.

with
So sudden moves and secret objectives -- Nippon pushes

her pre-determined plan of adding northern China to her empire.

China, to produce a... the economic penalties.

against the... The 3 hundred thousand soldiers

have been... And that's an indication

of the... international crisis is taking. It's one of a

whole series of military moves... preparations for

anything else... what has it in store for us?

That's answered by... today.

It's another... significant

if... and also on more

penalties, were engaged, Italy will... the

old diplomatic expression, cause for war.

If the League... that Italy

must have... will fight.

The League... these

emergency... while

this... has

ETHIOPIA

The other night we had a story from Italy of ~~XXXX~~ a hundred thousand soldiers thrown into the economic battle against Sanctions - troops taken out of the army and put to work in factories and on farms, to produce things and help to beat the economic penalties. Tonight the story is the opposite. Those hundred thousand soldiers have been ordered ^{to stay in their} ~~back to their~~ regiments. And that's an indication of the ^{grave} ~~new~~ turn the international crisis is taking. It's one of a whole series of military moves going on in Italy - preparations for anything that may happen. And what ~~maxxi~~ is it that may happen? That's answered by another dispatch from Rome today.

It's another Italian statement repeating more significantly - that if the League of Nations goes ahead and slaps on more penalties, more embargo, Italy will take it as ~~caus~~belli, the old diplomatic expression, cause for war.

If the League powers cut off the materials that Italy must have, coal and iron and especially oil - then Rome will fight.

The League had it on schedule to shut down on those necessary supplies, but just ~~the~~ other day decided to wait a while. This was at the request of France. And the dope from abroad was

cut.
54

that the Italian ambassador at Paris had told Premier Laval that Italy would regard the League action as cause for war. That's why Geneva called time out and decided to delay. Such was the information then. And today Italy comes more clearly into the open, saying - "more penalties, and we'll fight."

~~It was~~ ^{has} The League delay ~~which~~ caused the jeering outcry - that the United States, with its own attempt to embargo oil to Italy, was left holding the bag. This morning we heard that answered by the State Department in Washington. The declaration was mild in one respect. It said that normal trade with Italy would not be interfered with, only swollen trade, war trade. "Blood money", was the term used. The State Department emphasized that it would go right ahead with its policy. As for being left holding the bag by the League of Nations - the Washington declaration stated that the policy restricting trade with Italy had nothing to do with the League, was entirely independent of the League, was nothing more or less than ^{American} ~~a~~ neutrality ~~on~~ its own.

Apparently London didn't hear about that, because the dispatch now comes along - that the British Government has given

55
Washington a reassuring promise. It was revealed in London today that the Foreign Office has promised our State Department, that it won't be long - it won't be long before the League takes up the embargo proposition; ~~the~~ United States won't be ~~at~~ long left alone in a position cutting off oil from Italy; ~~That~~ England will promptly swing into action to get the League to do the same thing; ~~The~~ thing that Italy intimates will mean - war.

This developed in a meeting of the Cabinet in London today, which also transacted another piece of business that has an interesting, if not threatening, sound. London warns Italy about Lake Tana, that all-important body of water which is the source of the Blue Nile, ^{that} ~~and is~~ ^{the} lifeline of water for the Sudan and Egypt. The Cabinet announces it has word that the northern Italian army in Ethiopia is planning a push into the Lake Tana district - and points out that this is in violation of all sorts of agreements. Reference is made to the Nineteen Six Treaty for the partition of Ethiopia between Great Britain and Italy. That treaty provides that Lake Tana and the sources of the Blue Nile shall be a British sphere of influence. And London declares today that Rome and

16
Mussolini have given repeated pledges to Great Britain that the present Italian invasion will steer clear of the sources of the Nile - ^{and} the Italian army would not go poking ~~in~~ around Lake Tana. So now London warns Rome - hands off. This of course may seem a bit peculiar in the light of Britain's contest with Italy in behalf of Ethiopia.

And this London Cabinet statement that the Italians are planning to drive into the Lake region adds another complication to the highly complicated military situation. Addis Ababa reports great victories, claiming that the southern Italy^{ian} army has retreated and lost all the ground it had gained. And in the north - that ~~the~~ Italian troops were retiring from the important town of Makale, leaving a mere garrison there. And that this garrison probably ~~wouldn't stay~~ ^{want stay long.} The reports the Italians give are just the opposite. They say they are not retreating, but advancing. However, they don't describe their successes as anything important. So it's the old war story, both sides claiming victories, ~~xx~~ with the Ethiopians claiming the big ^{ones.} ~~victories~~

GERMANY

57
Over in Germany - the robber goes to jail. And the one who is robbed - also goes to jail. That's the way some of those complicated German laws work out.

A Dresden family engaged a new servant. And she turned out to be a wonderful housekeeper, neat and tidy, always cleaning up - she kept things spic and span, the way a good German house-frau does. She even cleaned ^{the} under carpets. And that's when she found a collection of gold and banknotes, thirteen thousand dollars' worth. She sneaked the cash, swiped it, slipped out with it.

But the police found out, and the servant who was too neat and tidy was sent to jail. But she has company in the Dresden calaboose.

The employer whom she had robbed ~~was sent~~^{is} there with her - for violating the Nazi law against hoarding money.

WEATHER

58
Some times we come across an ~~obstruse~~ and complicated scientific theory which, when it boils down, is something simple and easy to understand. Here's one. It's a magnetic theory of the weather, propounded by Professor Selby Maxwell of Northwestern University. The professor calls it - "forecasting the weather by astronomy." He has devised an instrument called the magnomé^{ter}, which he says will predict a storm, drought ~~and~~^{or a} cold wave. That sounds ~~obstrusely~~ astronomical and magh^ométric, but it all comes to this:

58 1/2
The attraction of the moon and the sun pulls the solid earth out of shape, not much, but a trifle. The closer the sun and the moon are to the earth, the greater the attraction. The more they pull, the more they ~~get~~^{earth} out of shape. But the sun, the moon and the earth are always on the move with relation to each other. Sometimes there's more attraction, with the earth more out of shape, and sometimes ~~there's~~ less. So - this hard ~~rock~~ rock ribbed world of ours is constantly changing its contour. And these changes cause the atmosphere to flow and eddy around, as water sloshes in a pan when you shake it. These flowing movements of the

atmosphere are the winds, which make changes of the weather. So the professor observes the changes in relation of the sun and the moon and the earth. He figures how these change the shape of this earth on which we dwell. Thus he calculates the way the atmosphere will flow, the way the winds will blow. And, all about the weather. All of this the professor hooks up to changes in the earth's magnetic field.

He foretold the recent gales along the Atlantic coast. He goes ahead to predict that there won't be much snow this winter, and there'll be a drought next summer. And he does it with his little magnometer. And my cronometer says time to say --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.