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L.L. - Sumoco. Wed., April 5, 1939.

STANHOPE

(There was quite a ^{ruckus} ~~raucous~~ throughout England today over a speech made by Earl Stanhope, First Lord of the Admiralty. In it he broke the news that the admiralty had issued orders to man the anti-aircraft guns of King George's fleet. The purpose was to be ready for anything that might happen.) He added the information that the fleet is taking precautions and that the fleet is always ready. He said ^{all} that last night, not in Parliament, but at a movie show aboard a battleship at Plymouth. ^{The occasion of the utterance} ~~He made the statement to~~

^{was to} explain the fact that the audience was not as large as might have been because several men were on duty manning those aircraft guns.

When the speech was all over, Lord Stanhope's colleagues in the Cabinet realized that he had let a large and formidable cat out of the bag. They jumped to the telephone ^{British} imploring press associations and newspapers to go easy on the story. But it was too late because the papers had been put to bed and anyway the British Broadcasting Company had broadcast the statement by Lord Stanhope. This morning Stanhope's statement was published in screaming fashion.

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In view of the rumors about Italian troops in Albania,

added to the tension caused by Hitler, it was of course a number one sensation. All eyes and ears were opened for what would happen on the floor of the House of Commons this afternoon. What did happen was that Chamberlain admitted what Lord Stanhope had said. Gunners have been held in readiness to man the anti-aircraft guns during the recent tension in Europe. And he added: "It's just normal practice in time of tension."

Putting a bold face, ~~on him~~, Chamberlain continued:

"The incident will serve to ~~ad~~ demonstrate the constant readiness of the navy for all eventualities."

Then he went on to admit that he had asked the newspapers to suppress what Lord Stanhope had said. And he explained he wanted to spare the public unnecessary anxiety. He said that Lord Stanhope's speech had been "unpremeditated."

Of course that left the worthy Prime Minister wide open to his opponents. Sir Archibald Sinclair, leader of the

liberals, rammed it home that Chamberlain's attempt to stifle the story had only given it twice as much publicity ^{as it might have had} all over the world.

~~as it might have had.~~ Then he asked whether the Prime Minister

didn't think the press should be free from interference, to which the Prime Minister replied: "It is proper for the government to make requests from time to time to the ^{the press} press, which I've always found most reasonable and courteous."

The Prime Minister would be shocked by the reply that any American editor would make to such a request. And at least one English newspaper is sensitive on the subject. The LONDON EVENING STANDARD tonight hopes that this Stanhope incident will not give Americans the idea that the British press is "in some measure under direct control of the government." (~~And it continues: "The press is scrupulous in observing wishes of government departments. Occasions have arisen, however, as such is the case raised by Lord Stanhope's speech, when it seems this method is improperly used."~~ ^{continues the Standard,} "Already in the United States," for instance, there is a widespread impression our newspapers are in some measure under direct control of the government. This was fostered by the fact the divorce action involving Mrs. Simpson (the present Dutches of Windsor) was not revealed in the British press.

Says the London Paper:—

"That suppression was not the result of government pressure.

It was made on a decision by newspaper proprietors in deference to the personal wishes of the King."

ENCIRCLEMENT

The next most important news from Berlin is the campaign of abuse against England in the Nazi press. ~~It's the~~

Reaction to that statement of Lord Stanhope's, showing how ready *His Lordship's statement:-* the British fleet is for a sudden attack. ~~"It"~~ sounds like something out of a madhouse", said one newspaper. And another chimes in: "It's another stage in the hate campaign against Germany." And *still* another: ~~says:~~ "The sensational reports in the English press about Albania belong in the same chapter."

Still another report from the German capital concerns Spain. (The Nazis are getting ready to put pressure on Franco. They want him to hurry up and join the German-Italian-Japanese anti-Communist alliance. This is frankly announced as a counter-move to what the Nazis call "England's attempt to encircle the Nazi Reich." It's made quite obvious that the Nazis consider Franco as already in their bag. The Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis will become the Madrid-Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis.

ROME

50 Two dispatches from Europe sound particularly significant. One of them comes from Rome, not exactly official but from authoritative sources. Several Italian regiments have been shipped out from Rome and other Italian cities within the last ^{twenty-four} ~~four~~ hours. But the information doesn't say where they were sent. The mystery of course adds excitement and speculation to the report.

And here's another one from Rome. (Duce Mussolini and Fuehrer Hitler had a long conversation over the telephone. The interpretation is that they were talking cooperation in view of Mussolini's moves in the direction of Albania.) It's significant that this conversation took place just before the arrival of the new Albanian Minister to Rome. It is said that before he left for his new job King Zog's Minister had important discussions with Italian officials in which King Zog took a hand.

The latest on that Albanian situation comes from the capital of Jugoslavia. (The report ~~there~~ is that King Zog isn't going to be obliging about letting Mussolini's troops occupy any of the ports and airports of Albania.) Indeed, the rumor is that he's in favor of resisting. *All of which is* ~~That's somewhat~~ contradictory to reports from Rome. ~~But it's more definite than the story that emanates from Mussolini's capital~~

BERLIN FOLLOW ROME

In line with that, here's the news from Berlin.

German and Italian generals had a meeting in Austria. The chiefs of both Hitler's and Mussolini's high commands went to Innsbruck, twenty miles from the Italian frontier. They'll be in conference for two days. This news, coming on top of those Italian troop movements, would seem to mean something.

FOLO ROME

There's a late report that Italian troops will soon begin to occupy a part of Albania. The dispatch uses the words: "At least ^a ~~the~~ part. " It is said that Mussolini wants to get control of Albanian sea ports and air bases -- ^{to} ₁ counter-act the importance of air bases in Greece that are at the disposal of Great Britain. There's even a rumor that Italian troops have already landed in Albania -- but there's no confirmation of this.

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This news comes from Belgrade -- with the comment that if Mussolini should send his soldiers into the kingdom of King Zog, Yugoslavia will offer no opposition. but the Albanian mountaineers themselves may fight.

Still later -- a report from Albania itself King Zog has summoned his Cabinet for an emergency session.

There's a little prince in Europe today with American blood in his veins. He's more than a prince, he's a Crown Prince.

Queen Geraldine of Albania gave birth to a little boy who's heir to the throne of King Zog. The little fellow certainly chose an important time in the history of his country to be born.

Almost at the same moment, Queen Geraldine's sister, gave birth to a daughter in Budapest. She's ^{the} wife of the Albanian Consul-General in the Hungarian capital. Queen Geraldine, you may remember, is the daughter of an American, one of the Hardings of Virginia, a family that were among the earliest settlers of America.

LEBRUN

There was a tumultuous session of the French Parliament today. That's ~~hardly~~ ^{seldom} news. But the occasion ^{this time} ~~was~~ unusual. The Chamber of Deputies and the Senate sat together as the National Assembly at the historic Palace of Versailles, and for a special purpose. The purpose ~~was to~~ ^{was} to elect a new President of the Third Republic. It was as rowdy an election as anybody ever saw.

Insults and ~~implications~~ ^{implications} flew backwards and forwards, from one side to the other. But ~~all those were~~ ^{the} words ~~which~~ meant nothing.

The result was a foregone conclusion, Albert Lebrun was elected to succeed himself ~~and~~ ^{thus} ~~becomes~~ ^{ing} the fifteenth President of the

Third Republic.

~~He~~ ^{Lebrun} won on the first ballot with five hundred and six out of nine hundred and ten votes. There was also a Communist Candidate and a Socialist, but the votes they received were only complimentary, didn't amount to much. Nevertheless, when the result was announced, there was a wild uproar started by the Communists and the other Left Wingers. They raised the cry, "Resign! Resign!" The Right Wing replied with appropriate insults.

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Then the gentlemen of the Left struck up the "Internationale", -
"Arise Ye Prisoners of Starvation!" The Right Wingers retorted
by trying to drown them out with the noble words and music of the
"Marseillaise", The horrible discordant effect of two bodies of men
roaring opposing tunes at each other was too much for the musical
ears of the President of the Senate. He almost shook the clanker
off his bell, - they use a bell in Europe instead of a gavel -
as he suspended the session. At any rate, Albert Lebrun is still
President of France. His chief function is to lay cornerstones
and be ready to get out of bed at any ~~any~~ hour of the night seven
or eight times a year to receive the resignations of the Cabinet.

POPE

There's keen speculation over an announcement from Vatican City. On Easter Sunday morning, four o'clock, Eastern Standard Time, Pope Pius the Twelfth will broadcast to the world a message ~~of~~ on international affairs. It is believed in Rome that the Pontiff has something of grave importance to say, in fact a Fascist spokesman declares that he's about to spring a new diplomatic move apropos of the war scare.

Of course it is usual for the incumbent of the Holy See to issue a message to the world on Easter. But in view of the feverish European situation, also the fact that Pope Pius was for so many years the Foreign Minister of the Vatican, it seems probable that what he says will have a bearing on those turbulent events.

PATAGONIA

There's wide excitement in the Argentine Republic today.

It's that so-called Nazi German plot to grab Patagonia. In fact the condition is not merely excitement, there were raids by the police, many arrests, and a searching official investigation. *This apparently* ~~It~~ has even cast a blot on the friendly relations between Argentina and Germany.

Pro-Nazi newspapers in Buenos Aires lay the blame on us, say the whole thing was cooked up by the United States. Alfredo Muller, the Nazi Fuehrer of Argentina, has been arrested and put to questioning. Another prisoner is a man who is supposed once to have been a secretary to Dr. Goebbels, Hitler's Propaganda Minister. *TP* ~~The~~ Police raids were made on German centers in the City of Buenos Aires and suburbs, and particularly the headquarters of the Argentine Nazis, ~~which is~~ in the building owned by the Bank of Germany. ~~Company~~ The Argentine cops have seized a number of documents and a considerable volume of Nazi literature.

NEUTRALITY

56
An eminent Republican has broken into speech with praise for President Roosevelt's foreign policy, at least part of it. The eminent Republican is no less an authority than (Henry L. Stimson, ~~former Secretary of State~~, President Hoover's Secretary of State, ~~he~~ appeared before the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate today, ~~to express himself~~. He was the first witness to speak up for amending the neutrality laws as the President has asked. These are some of Stimson's words:- "I agree with the President that there are methods which are 'short of war but stronger and more effective than mere words,'"

And he continued:- "This country is said to supply about one-third of the known raw materials of the world and to account for more than one-third of the known economic and industrial life of the globe. For the past two years we have been busy using these matchless resources in very large part to stimulate the activities and aggressions of our potential enemies."

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Stimson also told the Senators that the present ~~ne~~utrality laws "evidently were drawn under the influence and traditions of the past rather than to face conditions as they exist

at present."

Opponents of revision have urged that powers too broad and authoritative given to a president, might be abused. Said Stimson: "I am not impressed with that fear." ^H Some things in foreign affairs he thinks should be left to a president's discretion.

ARMY

Here's a message from Uncle Sam to all male Americans under thirty-six. It's addressed particularly to those who have been honorably discharged from the regular army and are physically fit. The army is forming a reserve organization of seventy-five thousand modern minute-men. ^{It's to be} ~~It's~~ the regular Army Reserve composed entirely of trained ex-soldiers. These minute-men are to hold themselves in readiness to answer their country's call in the event of an emergency. Those who join will receive an enlistment allowance of twenty-four dollars a year. And the army adds: "Your membership in the regular Army Reserve will not interfere with your job, your business or your pleasure. There are no drills or camps to attend unless you're called to active duty in the event of an emergency declared by the President of the United States."

RELIEF

Here's news indeed about W.P.A. A report in Washington today has it that after June Thirtieth there'll be no W.P.A., as it exists at present. This doesn't mean that there'll be no relief for the unemployed. The suggestion is that it'll be on an entirely new reorganized basis. It should be added, that this prophecy comes from the conservative members of the House of Representatives. The reason is, they say, that after Congress has got through investigating the ~~World~~ Works Progress Administration, it will be scrapped and something new set up in its place. Needless to say, this prophecy is not backed up by the partisans of the New Deal.

3 1/2

LABOR

9
No peace in the labor world, no friendship between the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations. Negotiations are off. There's no doubt about it this time, the word comes from John L. Lewis, President of the C.I.O. The peace conversations which were to have continued tonight are put off indefinitely. However, they may be resumed in the ~~xx~~ future at a date satisfactory to both parties.

2 1/4
The disagreement this time is all about the Wagner Labor Act. ^{The} A.F. of L. wants it changed, amended. ^{The} C.I.O. says, no change, and has particularly turned thumbs down on the pet amendments of the Federation. *And e-l-u-t-m.*