

P.Y. - Sunco. Tues, May 10, 1938.

RECOVERY

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The House of Representatives heard hard words about spending today. That was inevitable, because the House Appropriations Committee reported favorably on the President's three billion dollar spending and lending recovery bill, and that sent the bill to the floor of the House for debate. The debate began immediately, with the opponents of the bill having their say - and they're saying plenty.

"Wild orgy of spending" - that was the keynote of the attack. Representative John Taber of New York led the assault, with declarations like these: "Here comes another bill," said he, "designed not to relieve the depression but to make it more acute and make suffering more intense." Speaking of the huge public building program, he declared: "We cannot afford it when we are facing a possible deficit of eight billion dollars in Nineteen Thirty-Eight."

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And so the attack went on, hammering along that same accusation - wild orgy of spending.

## FOLLOW RECOVERY

In spite of all the denunciation by the opposition, the Administration is so sure of the passing of the three billion dollar recovery bill that Secretary Ickes, who is also P.W.A. Administrator, asked for applications for spending and building. He called upon municipalities and ~~for~~ public bodies to come forward with their ideas of public improvements to be constructed in their localities.

Since last June the P.W.A. has accepted no applications for new projects, but now it's asking for them - in its confidence that the three billion dollar bill is sure to pass.

"ISMS"

( The proposal for a government investigation of anti-American organizations got an okay from the House Rules Committee today. UnAmerican organizations meaning - Nazi, Fascist, and Communist. Congressman Dickstein is behind the proposed investigation. He declared today that a "bloody riot" will be caused by the ~~proposed~~ Long Island parade <sup>plans for</sup> of the German-American Bund, next week - a parade of a hundred thousand Nazis, they say. )

Lawmaker Dickstein explained his theory of unAmericanism:-

"Communism, at this present point," said he, "is not as dangerous as Naziism. Fascism is far more dangerous now to democracy."

That being said, the House Rules Committee okayed the investigation of Communism, Naziism and Fascism.



C.I.O.

Another proposal for the government to hold a conference with business and labor. This time the suggestion comes from the C.I.O.

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers are holding a convention at Atlantic City and today they were addressed by Philip Murray, Chairman of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee. He's an important Number Two man to C.I.O. leader, John Lewis.

"The President of the United States," said he, "should call together all the interested groups and conduct conferences which might lead this nation out of the wilderness in which it now finds itself." By "all interested groups", the C.I.O. chieftain meant industry, labor, finance and agriculture.

## STRIKE

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An important court decision was handed down today in a case of sit-down strike and the Wagner Act. During the sit-down epidemic in Detroit a year ago, thirty-seven strikers and two organizers were convicted. They <sup>ive</sup> ~~have~~ been appealing on the ground that their conviction was illegal under the Wagner Act. But today the Second Illinois Appellate Court said - No, that law governing labor relations does not protect sit-down strikers.

"There is nothing in the Wagner Act which deals with the subject of violence," declared the Court. "Congress did not, by the enactment of the Wagner Act, deprive the states of police powers to protect property rights."

## PENNSYLVANIA

One big question in the Pennsylvania battle of the Democrats was settled today. Governor Earle fired his Attorney General, Margiotti - because Margiotti wanted to hold a grand jury graft investigation before the approaching Philadelphia primaries. The Governor <sup>had</sup> said the Attorney General's scheme was to put his political enemies on the grand jury pan for the purpose of ruining their chances in the primaries. Today, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court handed down an order decreeing that the investigation shall be delayed until May Eighteenth. That's the day after the Pennsylvania primaries. So Governor Earle wins and the former Attorney General loses - on that particular point.



## ANTI-AIRCRAFT

New sky defense for San Francisco - the army is fortifying the city on the ground to meet attack from the air. In Congress there has been some criticism - that the key cities of the United States were not adequately protected against air raids in case of war. So now the army is answering that by providing more protection - beginning with San Francisco. Secretary of War Woodring announced today that a full anti-aircraft regiment will be stationed at the Golden Gate, the Sixty-Fifth Regiment of Coast Artillery. That outfit, with full equipment for fighting sky raids, has been on the inactive list. It now goes into active service - for the defense of San Francisco.

Next will come other cities - to be fortified against the sky by the use of funds that Congress has appropriated for the army.

*All this while New York is getting set for its first air-defense manœuver.*

## FIRE

There seem to have been fewer fires in Nineteen Thirty-Seven than in Nineteen Thirty-Six. That's revealed today, with a check-up by the National Fire Protective Association. Fire losses last year came to a total of two hundred and eighty-five million dollars - eight million less than the year before. In Nineteen Thirty-Seven there were twenty-three fires with losses of ~~approximately~~ two hundred and fifty thousand dollars or more. In Nineteen Thirty-Six there were forty-two with a damage of a quarter of a million or over. However, Nineteen Thirty-Seven did have one stupendously expensive conflagration - a four million dollar fire. What was that? Why, the destruction of the HINDENBURG.



## OPERA

It is always amusing to take a look at the work-a-day, earty-earthly side of so lofty an affair as art -- like the glory of music, the grandeur of grand opera. Take the operatic doings here at Rockefeller Center. I am told that the other night the Japanese Ambassador came up from Washington, especially to hear the San Carlo Company's Japanese soprano sing "Madam Butterfly". Nobody knew it till he was gone -- no publicity, much grief for the press agent.

I was talking to Impresario Fortune Gallo -- asking him how he ever started in the opera game.

"Twenty mule team, Twenty Mule Team Borax", he exclaimed and told me how twenty years ago he became business manager of a traveling opera company, which was on a trip to South America. He laid out a tour of the United States -- beginning at San Francisco. He had everything fixed, when he got a cable, "Can't begin tour in San Francisco, must start at New Orleans."

So he had to rearrange the entire tour to start at New Orleans. Whereupon, he got another cable. "Find we

can't begin at New Orleans, must start at San Francisco."

Once more he rearranged the tour, and then a third cable

changed it back to New Orleans. Then came the final cable

"Can't make tour at all unless you wire eight thousand dollars for steamship fares."

Gallo had invested six thousand ~~dollars~~ in preliminary expenses, and didn't have the eight thousand -- that was the dilemma.

Later, when he finally got the company here - he noticed two men sitting around, doing nothing - getting paid. He found the company had mortgaged the scenery in South America - ~~had~~ mortgaged it twice. And each time the philanthropist who ~~xx~~ advanced the money sent a man along to watch the scenery, see that it didn't disappear. The two watch-dogs of the scenery were being paid by the company -- salaries enough to pay off the mortgages.

The ~~salvation~~ salvation was - Twenty Mule Team. Gallo

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told me about the King of Borax, a magnate who had made millions out of the twenty mule team product, patron of the arts, with a big amusement park at Oakland. He advanced the cash to bring the company to the United States, and the Impressario was enabled to get rid of <sup>the</sup> two watch-dogs of the scenery.



## CHINA

The destroying hand of war struck at a new point today - the Chinese island of Amoy. That's a small bit of populous land just off the south China coast, right across from the Japanese controlled island of Formosa and somewhat to the north of British owned Hong Kong. Amoy is a thriving and important place - a prime target for the savage devastation of war.

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The Japanese attack on Amoy began today with the inevitable air raids - the bombers dropping their infernal cargoes. But that was only the half of it, because the island was a ~~mark~~ mark for mass<sup>ed</sup> squadrons of Japanese warships. And naval shells plus sky bombs completed the Amoy tragedy. Reports tell of the city wrecked from end to end, buildings shattered, streets blown to ruins - *famous university hit* - a dreadful and pitiful casualty list, thousands of hapless civilians killed, more thousands in flight. Death and flaming devastation everywhere.

The first report of the overwhelming attack by sky and sea sent an American warship on its way to Amoy, steaming from British Hong Kong to rescue imperiled Americans, and three British warships are at Amoy tonight to defend their own nationals. There

are two hundred and fifty Occidentals on the island, eighty of them Americans.

The Japanese are bent not only on destruction but on capture. <sup>Amid</sup> ~~And in~~ the thunder of bombs and cannon, landing parties from warships fought their way ashore. The Mikado's commanders say the Chinese put up a strong resistance, but at last reports they claim they were in control of half of the island.

What's the military meaning of it? Neutral observers think the purpose of the Japanese in taking Amoy is to distract the attention of the Chinese from the battleline in northern China <sup>- where the</sup> ~~for the~~ Japanese right now are launching what they hope to be a decisive attack.

HITLER

( Hitler's triumphal return to Berlin is accompanied by four remarks concerning the one discordant element in his triumphal visit to Rome. That discordant element was the attitude of the Vatican, such as the Pope's expression of displeasure because of the Swastikas displayed in the Eternal City. In Nazi quarters it is being said that the Vatican attitude was -- outrageous, and that the Hitler government may retaliate by denouncing the Concordat between the Nazi Reich and the Catholic Church. )



## LEAGUE

Put off until Thursday - that's the latest in the Ethiopian dilemma of the League of Nations. The day at Geneva closed with the League Council voting to postpone its discussion of the thorny question. But the Council did today decide to hear Haile Selassie in a personal appeal. Great Britain and France are working hard to get the League to recognize the Italian conquest, but the former King of Kings will appear before the Council and argue the independence of his country.

That's the latest, although earlier in the day word was that Haile Selassie would not go to Geneva. His representative in London was quoted as saying - there's no use. Britain and France would have their way, the Ethiopian case - hopeless.

## EUROPEAN ACCIDENTS

It was a bad day in Europe for accidents and fatalities. The first series comes under the heading of aviation, and the datelines are France and England.

At Chartres, where the great medieval Cathedral is, there was spectacular catastrophe in the sky. Two military, one-seated<sup>72</sup> pursuit planes were flying, and they collided in midair. One burst into flames, pilot killed. The flyer in the other took to his parachute and came to earth safely.

At Lyons, a big bomber with a crew of five was making a landing, when it crashed. The entire crew ~~of five~~ perished.

England was hit still harder. The Royal Air Force lost four planes today in crashes in various places - a total casualty list of eight.

## BRITISH COAL MINE

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The name of Chesterfield has a gay place in English - Lord Chesterfield, polished and sophisticated; in his letters to his son ~~was~~ so full of worldly-wisdom, Chesterfieldian <sup>l</sup>manners, and all that. But tonight the name of Chesterfield is tragic in England, the town of Chesterfield and the calamitous mine explosion there today. The latest word is the report from the coal mine officials declaring officially that all the men that remained below in the devastated pits - are dead. Scores were rescued in heroic life-saving work. The total number of fatalities is now counted at seventy-two.

Shifts were being changed in the black pit when the first terrific explosion occurred. Frantic rescue work began at once. And then, two hours later, another detonating blast - to make the catastrophe complete. Shafts blown to pieces, and roaring with flame. The mine filled with deadly fire damp. In one shaft the rescuers were able to get in telephone contact with the trapped men, were able to pump fresh air down to them and save them.

Tonight survivors are telling of the weird horror of



the blast in the coal mine. One relates: "The force of the explosion flung me to the ground, and for some time I did not know what had happened - as coal dust blew around me like a storm."

Today, the name of Chesterfield meant - Chesterfieldian tragedy.

## WOOL-SACK

8 1/2 There's a stately scandal in England, which concerns no less a dignitary than the Lord Chancellor. England is touchy about its traditions, and the Lord Chancellor is the height of tradition. His office is symbolized by the term - wool-sack, which by formal dictionary definition is "a sack stuffed with wool and covered with red cloth on which the Lord Chancellor sits when he presides over the House of Lords." The stately scandal arises from the disclosure that the Lord Chancellor, in presiding over the House of Lords, has been sitting on a cushion stuffed with horsehair. Horsehair, forsooth, horse play, horse feathers, much too undignified for the sitting posture of the Lord Chancellor!

All of this would be disturbing enough, but the turmoil ~~is all~~ the greater because the shocking <sup>horse-hair</sup> discovery has been made by the chairman of the Australian Wool Growers Association. His line of salesmanship is wool, and now he finds that the traditional historic and majestic wool-sack is nothing but horsehair, <sup>- horse-feathers. He has</sup> ~~So now~~ <sup>started</sup> an agitation ~~is afoot~~ to compel the London Government to put wool in the wool-sack - wool from Australia, South Africa and New Zealand, the British sheep growing dominions. Out with <sup>those</sup> ~~the~~ horsehair and <sup>feathers!</sup> Stuff the wool-sack with the softest of fleece for the noble anatomy

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of the Lord Chancellor, who may be, as Gilbert and Sullivan sang -  
"a highly susceptible Chancellor."

9 1/4

And s-l-u-t-m.