

L.T. - SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1937.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Political rebellion is in the wind. And it's aimed at the control and authority of President Roosevelt as head of the Democratic party. The insurgents flared up so vehemently on Capitol Hill that the entire presidential program is in danger. A once docile and obedient Congress is laying back on the traces, saying, "I won't," Where it used to say obediently, "Yes Sir." "Yes Sir!" The rebellion was brought to a climax by the President's latest emphatic declaration.

I mean his refusal to authorize crop loans in distressed farm districts until Congress has passed another ~~xxx~~ crop control bill, ^a ~~modification~~ ^{fic} of the defunct A.A.A.

Observers say that if the White House will insist upon this, any ~~question~~ ^{idea} of an adjournment of Congress this month or even next month will be absolutely out of the question. But Mr. Roosevelt is obdurate and the insurgents in the House are equally determined. It seems to be a case of the irresistible force meeting the ~~removable~~ ^{im} obstacle. One consequence is that Mr. Roosevelt's other pet measure, the wages and hours bill, is up against an absolute deadlock. Administration leaders in the House expected to bring it up for debate next week, get it over with. But they found such a spirit of dissent and resistance to White House wishes that they held a secret meeting today, the speaker, the majority leaders and the Chairman of the Rules Committee, and called the whole thing off. The situation tonight is that the entire Legislative program ~~xxx~~ has come virtually to a dead halt.

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So much for Washington. But political tumult
grows also in New York. ^{There} ~~AND~~ we have the amazing spectacle
of the Democratic Senator Copeland running for Mayor in the
Republican Primaries against Mayor LaGuardia. ^{They filed today.} The political
situation in New York was never so completely mixed up and
messed up since the days of Peter Minuit. An amazing feature
of the spectacle is that Senator Doctor Copeland is also
running in the Democratic Primaries. Maybe between the two
of them he will get ~~in~~ a ⁱⁿ nomination.

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CHECK

Here's a deep government mystery, a puzzle of high official circles. The mystery is -- who took the check that Uncle Sam paid a bygone Russian Czar for Alaska?

When you consider what Alaska is, that piece of paper wasn't so much. Dated August 1st, 1868, signed by F. E. Spinner, Treasurer of the United States, it read: "Pay to the order of the Russian Minister to the United States of America the sum of seven million, ~~wo~~ hundred thousand dollars." If that wasn't a bargain, I don't know a bargain when I see one. It was almost as good a deal as Thomas Jefferson made when he put over the Louisiana Purchase from Napoleon Bonaparte, for a song.

All this comes up because they're having an exhibition in Alaska, and Alaska's delegate to Congress, Tony Diamond, wanted to take the original document to Juneau as one of its spectacular

and historic exhibits. A sort of ironic exhibit:- imagine paying seven million, two hundred thousand dollars for all the wealth and beauty in Alaska. But here's the rub.

That historic check is missing. They can't find it anywhere in Washington. ^{TR} It seems that some thirty years ago the

Treasury lent it to ~~xxxx~~ some ~~exposition~~ ^{exposition}, the word "some" meaning that there's nobody in Washington today that remembers what

exposition it was. It was sent ~~xx~~ back and then placed in the files of the general accounting office. But, the general accounting office hasn't the faintest idea where it is today.

Fortunately, before it got lost, it was photographed. A photostatic copy of that cancelled check hangs on the wall of the office of the present Treasurer of the United States.

In case you haven't heard of him, and you seldom do, his name is W. A. Julian. So it's a copy of that copy that the Juneau Exposition will have to expose. ^{TR Now} ~~But~~ here's a thought. Suppose

~~Comrade Stalin in~~ Moscow disputed that purchase and demanded to see the original cancelled check? Wouldn't that be a story?

CHINA

Thirty miles north of China's ancient capital is the city of Nankou. It overlooks and guards, a pass through the mountains from which the city took its name. For generation upon generation, century upon century the Nankou Pass has been a crucial point in the history of old China. Through it have poured many of the huge historic hordes that from time to time have overrun the country, the Celestial Empire.

And there again today the battle rages. Of its details we know but little. But it is definitely stated that the city of Nankou is right now going up in smoke, that the fire is sweeping its public building including the railway station. The Japanese censorship let through the official communication that the Mikado's army is driving away the Chinese

resisting forces and that the soldiers from the Land of the

Cherry Blossom will soon be in complete possession of ~~the~~ ^{Nankou}

Pass and all that

section of the famous old Great Wall of China.

After ~~hearing of~~ ^{knowing} this (it seems ironic to hear about

a dispatch from Tokio, declaring that war seems inevitable.

If two armies battling desperately over a mountain pass, and an

entire city in flames isn't warfare, that, it seems to me, must

indeed be news. (However, there's this one fact to explain that

paradox: Field-Marshal ~~Sx~~ Chiang Kai-Shek, Commander-in-Chief

of the armies of the Nanking Government, has as yet taken no

part in that fighting around Peiping, has sent no reinforcements

to the armies of North China. However, it is said he is mobilizing

and concentrating, preparing to take a hand in a big way.)

It is from further south of the Asiatic ~~main~~ mainland,

from Shanghai, that the news of utmost gravity comes this evening.

Shanghai's famous harbor, ^{at} the mouth of the Whangpoo River,

is cluttered up today with warships flying the flag of the Rising

Sun of Japan. Twenty-two warships, destroyers, cruisers, airplane

carriers arrived under full steam. And the commanding admiral promptly landed a strong force of Marines and Bluejackets in Shanghai.

All this, of course, is Tokio's answer to the killing of the Japanese Naval officer and seaman by Chinese sentries last Monday.

From our point of view in America, the arrival of that fleet in Shanghai waters is an episode to command far more anxiety than the battle of Nankou Pass. Some experienced travelers and correspondents who know the Far East, interpret the Chinese shooting of Japanese Navy men as a serious and determined effort to involve Europe and Uncle Sam. If the Japanese land a strong force at Shanghai what is to prevent a repetition of the desperate happenings of 1932? And yet it is generally understood that Japan has definitely promised Great Britain that there will be no repetition of the Shanghai Battle of 1932.

What then, does this fleet mean in Chinese waters?

RUSSIA

If the Chinese had hoped to bring ~~Comrade~~ Stalin to their rescue, they're still hoping in vain. From Moscow the only apparent reaction to all this history-making in China, is the same old abracad^abrous silence and a grim dispatch from the Red capital gives us a broad and shuddersome hint of the reason. The blood purge goes on. As this story grows it becomes the more fantastic. The ~~the~~ latest ~~edition~~ addition to the toll of Russians who have fallen before the rifles of the firing squads is 72. They were all railroad workers on the Far Eastern lines. Their offense, so the ~~the~~ dreaded O.G.P.U. tells the world was: ~~the~~ conspiring to wreck the Soviet ~~the~~ railroad artery ~~at the~~ instigation of Japanese secret agents. They have ~~admitted~~ damaged rolling stock, busted up the right of way, even wrecked trains. The ~~the~~ number of Soviet railroad employees in this area who have thus been liquidated now reaches the grim total of 320. All because they were supposed to have been involved in a plot to wreck the Asiatic railroad lines of the Soviet, the lines that would have been vital ~~in~~ in case the Red Union became involved in the Far Eastern War.

SPAIN

In a Spanish Civil War we have a peculiar spectacle today -- a rebellion within a rebellion. This time its Franco, facing the problem of having to control insurgency among his insurgent armies. Mowing down munitions companies with his own machine guns.

The story comes from Madrid. Maybe it should be taken with a grain of salt. The evidence seems to be hearsay, from observers withing the government lines who have been hearing the rat-a-tat-tat of madhine gun fire and even the roar of heavy cannon, but not directed at the government armies.

A similar rumor emanates from government headquarters at Valencia. There originated a report that thirty Spanish officers had been arrested, that three Italian officers were killed fighting in the streets of Malaga, and that three German officers were stripped of their epaulets by their commanding officer and shot after a drum-head court-martial.

NAZI

The episode of the German newspaper men kicked out of England is becoming important. As we have heard in the last few days Hitler's men retaliated by giving the Berlin correspondent of the "London Times " a cordial invitation to go home to London. Not that they had anything against the "London Times" or its correspondent. But they just decided that if newspaper men were being ousted from the British Isles they could do the same as well as the English.

The retort of the British Government is that those three newspaper men may not be the only sons of the Fatherland to be given the gate. In the same breath we learn one real reason for the expulsion of the Nazi scribes. They were heads of an organization to spy upon and intimidate refugees in Great Britain Germans who had fled to Germany to escape the rigors of Nazi rule in their own land. One of them, says an English Newspaper was intimidating the Germans in England and compelling them to become informers upon their friends.

There are twenty thousand German refugees in England today. And the London Daily Herald charges that no fewer than five hundred Nazi agents are spying upon them.

PALESTINE

Discord all over the earth? Yes. But from one spot we hear words of peace, harmony, and conciliation. (From Switzerland. The Zionist Congress which has been anxiously and with much distress considering England's project for a partition to Palestine is talking peace. The Jewish objections to the British proposals were at first so violent that it has been expected the Zionists would resist and protest frantically. On the contrary the sentiments of the Congress at Zurich today were friendly, conciliatory and temperate.) The Congress does not, to be sure, approve of the partition as proposed by the Royal Commission. But instead of resisting, the delegates voted to negotiate with England for the creation of a Jewish State in the Holy Land.

SCOPES

You all remember the famous Scopes trial at Dayton, Tennessee. People are still writing stories about that so-called monkey trial, the days when the partisans of secularism and evolution led by Clarence Darrow met the forces of fundamentalism led by the great Commoner, William Jennings Bryan.

There was an echo of that spectacular affair today down in Waynesburg, Pa.

A middle-aged lady named Mrs. Morris, after serving faithfully for twelve years as the only teacher in a tiny school in the community, was discharged from her job. She appealed and the trial followed. The School Board defended its action on the ground that Mrs. Morris had been guilty of cruelty. She did it with a stout wooden board. In replying she claimed she had done it for good cause. But as the trial progressed it wandered far away from the issue of cruelty. Mrs. Morris was accused not only of applying that three-foot board to the extremity of her young pupil, she was accused of the more painful offense of teaching the Darwinian theory of evolution.

The fourteen-year-old who was whaled by Mrs. Morris was one of the witnesses against ~~her~~ her. He told in detail of the doctrines she had included in her lessons, doctrines about a monkey who had lost his ^{tail} ~~tail~~ and changed into a hairy man and ~~from~~ that began homo sapiens as we know him. Mrs. Morris, in her defense, admitted that she had discussed a magazine article about evolution. But, she claimed, she had not taught it to her young charges as the truth or as science. She had told it as a joke and ridiculed it. And there the trial stands today.

STOWAWAY

Penelope, the wife of the much travelled Ulysses that we had to bother about in our school days, has always been held up to us as a model of true wifely affection. It seems to me that a lady in England went her one better. Five years ago her husband, a prize fighter, left those shores, crossed the Atlantic to become an ornament of the American prize ring where purses are fatter than on the banks of the Thames. For five years Esther Worman repined in solitude. Then she learned that hubby was in New York -- in the cauliflower industry. Having no money she stowed away in the hold of a ship at Tilbury Dock, a freighter bound for America. Esther Worman thought that America surely meant New York. She had not heard that there were other seaports in the U.S.A. It wasn't until many days later that she learned of that trip's real destination:- Houston, Texas.

In the hold of that freighter it was so stifling hot that she travelled for most of the voyage clad only in the garments in which she came into the world. And presently it became even hotter in the ship's hold, for a fire broke out. In extinguishing the fire the ship's master learned of the presence of his stowaway.