

SPAIN

L. T. Sumoco - Monday, August 17, 1936

The Spanish Civil war goes into its fifth week and leaves us wondering whether anything will be left of the country or its population by the time it's all over. The appalling death roll, the destruction of property, are almost beyond belief. As reports pour in it seems as though those who don't perish on the field of battle will die before firing squads.

This doesn't take into account those who are summarily shot down or impaled on bayonets in house-to-house manhunts. Indeed, by far the greater number are believed to have been wiped out in this fashion. According to a rough estimate, eight thousand have perished in the open fighting, twelve thousand executed or just plain slaughtered. The list of wounded is believed to exceed fourteen thousand.

(Once again the black flag was hoisted over the prison in Madrid. To the Spaniards that spelled only one thing. Two prominent rebel generals condemned to death on Sunday, shot to death today. In return for that the rebels exacted the bloodiest kind of reprisals. A newspaper man from

Portugal made a guess that in the wholesale executions by the rebels at Badakoz no fewer than one thousand five hundred Loyalist prisoners were annihilated by the firing squads.)

We hear tragic word pictures of women swathed in black, wandering tearfully through the streets to identify the bodies of their executed menfolk. Before they died, they were given consolation by priests who had been fighting in the rebel ranks. The Priests dropped their weapons, put on their cassocks, and administered the last rites of the Church.

There's an ironic touch in another piece of news from Badajoz. It was captured by General Francisco Franco, largely with the aid of his Foreign Legion from Morocco -- and largely with the aid of Moorish regiments. It took the Christians almost eight hundred years to throw the Moors out of Spain. And now in the year of our Lord 1936, back they come, led by a Christian General, fighting in a cause supported by most of the prelates and priests of the Christian Church in Spain. Like another Moorish conquest. The latest reports are of a fierce battle raging in the province of which Badakoz

is an important city. But even the bloodiest civil war could not keep the Spanish away from their national pastime. With the rebels hammering at their gates, the fighting Madrilenos laid aside their guns and for three hours they flocked to the Plaza de Torros, the great bullfight arena of Spain. There they sat, twenty thousand strong, shouting "Bravo!" Particularly when their favorite, El Estudiante, stepped into the ring and faced the foam-flecked bull. Women and men alike, in tattered regimentals or overalls, grimy and worn from days of fighting, shouted and cheered the toreadors, while seven bulls perished.

Usually the boxes on the shady side are filled with immaculate, well-groomed aristocrats, ladies with those exquisite Spanish shawls covering their Paris dresses and with their tall tortoise shell combs. Yesterday those boxes were filled with muddy soldiers and maids. After the corrida was over, they picked up their guns and back they went to the battlefield.

The general Spanish situation tonight is this:--the rebels advancing on all fronts. The Fascist Rebels.

ADD SPAIN

The bombing of the town in France pours oil over the troubled fires of the European situation. A place called Biratou near the Spanish frontier was the target for explosives dropped from a plane. ^RAnd today France is again divided into two camps, squabbling over the origin of that bomber. French Conservatives and Fascists say it was a Spanish Government plane. The Radicals and Communists naturally maintain that it came from the Spanish Fascisti. Premier Blum's government has the job of investigating and trying to decide which it was.

^{French}
P Meanwhile from both sides the government is ~~is~~ urged to take action.

"Also - 2 U. S. destroyers are on their way to Spain tonight to take the place of the Cruiser Oklahoma.

It's difficult to decide which has been the more interesting news from the Olympics in Berlin -- the records or the rows. Just as we had almost forgotten what was done to Eleanor Holm Jarrett, the former backstroke champion, we heard the somewhat startling information that Jesse Owens, the brown bullet from Ohio State University, has also been suspended. *And*

now There seems to be a certain technicality in the situation.

Avery Brundage, ~~the~~ ~~pres~~ head of the Olympic Committee says, "I did not suspend Owens." Nevertheless the fact seems to be that Owens is suspended. Mr. Brundage explains this with the words, "If he doesn't keep the engagement made for him to run in Sweden he automatically suspends himself according to the rules of the Amateur Athletic Union."

It seems obvious that Owens is not going to run in Sweden since at the present moment he's in London. Says he, "I need a rest. I've been running practically all year." And he adds, "It seems to me I've done my part for the A.A.U. in Berlin. In addition to that I ran in four meets since then, four meets in one week since the track events *at the Olympics!* ~~in Berlin.~~"

Jesse's trainer, Larry Snyder, had even sharper comments to make. Said he, "There's monkey business in this whole affair. The A.A.U. is trying to run the Olympics on ~~stir~~ strictly business lines and take over college athletics into the bargain. Somebody's making money somewhere. They're trying to grab all they can and the boys can't even afford to buy a souvenir of the trip."

π Coach Snyder draws a doleful picture of the plight of some of the athletes. He said, "The Boys can't even afford a sightseeing trip. Some have to remain here until August 26th because the trip to Czecho-Slovakia has been cancelled. So they have to sit around the hotel without any money." Jesse Owens himself admitted that ~~next~~

he had to cable home for expense money. But he's spent all that.

He says he's broke & has no choice but

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that the suspension of Owens will prevent him from running in college track meets. But college men at home say that isn't so. Owens's University, Ohio State, belongs to the Big Ten Conference.

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for some interesting discussions when Mr. Avery Brundage returns to America with his athletes.

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It's been too hot to talk or think much about business. But a statement issued on the subject from Washington calls for some attention. "By the end of the year American industry will be out of the red, writing down the results of its labors in black ink for the first time in seven years." ^{At any rate} That's the word ~~which~~ ^{comes} from Uncle Sam's Department of Commerce.

It is ~~xxxx~~ [^] to be observed that this is a prediction rather than a record. If we keep going for the last five months of the year as we ran along for the first seven, what comes in will balance what goes out. That's the estimate of the Commerce Department's figure sharks.

We reached the top, ~~as everybody can readily believe,~~ in 1928. For that year the ~~ex~~ income of American business and industry was eighty-one billions, ~~thirty-four millions.~~ In 1932 we sank ~~into~~ the cellar with thirty-nine billions, ~~five hundred and forty-five millions.~~ ^{But} The figures have ^{been going up steadily} ~~been going up steadily~~ every year since 1932; last year they reached fifty-~~two~~ ^{three} billions, ~~nine hundred and fifty-nine millions.~~ And, says the Department, by the end of 1936 we ought to climb to sixty ~~billions.~~ At that

figure, income will equal outgo. ^RThe Department experts calculate that a business is in the red when it pays out more in wages, dividends, interest and so forth, than it takes in.

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Which ^{has} been going on for seven years ^{— and is to} ~~But it will come to an~~

~~end by the end of~~ this year.

SNYDER

Out in Ohio there's a unique railroad. It's called the Pioneer and Fayette; ~~It is~~ known in transportation circles as the one-man road. One man, Earl S. Snyder, has been for years its President, Engineer, Ticket Agent, General Passenger Agent, Conductor, Master Mechanic, and Call Boy. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday he's a hardware merchant. On Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday he's President, Engineer and so forth, of the Pioneer and Fayette. He's been running it all these years with the help of one assistant, who fires the locomotive, cleans the windows and ~~SWEEP~~ sweeps out the coach.

This is a banner week in the history of that singular line. It has just obtained a new lease of life from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The road runs between Pioneer and Fayette,

^{two} towns in Ohio, thirteen miles apart. Everything went smoothly, along with the *Pennny + the New York central*, until 1933. Then the P. & F. ran into hard times. ~~President~~

~~Snyder applied to the R.F.C. for a ten thousand dollar loan.~~

~~At first the R.F.C. refused, which was a severe check to President~~

~~President Snyder and his daughter, who is the only other~~

Then the locomotive broke down. It cost nine hundred dollars on the installment plan to get a new one. On top of that came the succession of hot dry summers, which meant no carloads of hay for the one man road to haul. Then the new nine hundred dollar locomotive broke down. Chief Mechanic Snyder couldn't fix it so President Snyder had to ask for help. The Interstate Commerce Commission this time has come to his rescue and authorized him to sell seven thousand dollars worth of Trust certificates to buy new equipment, including another locomotive. So President, Conductor, and Chief Engineer Snyder now can continue singing the classic song, "I've Been Working on the Railroad."

STRAW VOTE

The pre-election pastime of conducting straw votes continues unabated. The really striking feature of the second lap of the Farm Journal balloting is the increasing strength of the Union party's candidate, Mr. Lemke. He started in the race much later than Mr. Landon and Mr. Roosevelt, so the votes for him represent only three weeks of balloting as compared with more than eight weeks for the candidates of the older parties. And Lemke seems to be particularly strong in such agricultural states as Iowa, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin.

The final figures among farmers of 29 states give Landon 37,047 ---- Roosevelt 29,828.

BASEBALL

I suppose that as manager of the team that was the victim of the unexpected event, I might give an authoritative version of that triple play that's been in the news today -- the astonishing stunt that was achieved yesterday in the soft ball game between President Roosevelt's team of White House Correspondents and the Quaker Hill Debtors and Creditors.

It was an exceedingly Rooseveltian affair. The President had two sons and a son-in-law in the Correspondent's line-up, while his daughter Mrs. Anna Dall Boettinger was the umpire for bases, -- supported by Sistine and Buzzie. The President himself was the correspondent's manager, and Sec. of the Treasury as their cheer leader.

In the Fifth Inning things looked tough for the White House aggregation. Our Debtors and Creditors put on a burst of hitting and filled the bases, with none out. It was a situation for Casey at the Bat, -- and sure enough there he was. "K. C." strode to the plate swinging a mighty bat -- "K. C." Hogate, our heaviest hitter, three hundred pounds heavy, publisher of the Wall Street Journal, which is a heavy financial newspaper. The White House pitcher, Fox Movietone Cameraman Davis pale and

grim grooved the ball. Casey took a ponderous swing, smacked it square on the nose, a low-line drive. The baserunners -- including yours truly on second--started tearing around the paths but that line drive went squarely into the hands of Shortstop Frank Thompson of the International News Service. He caught at his shoe-tops, whirled and heaved it to Third Baseman Franklin Roosevelt, Jr., who touched third and whipped the ball to Second Baseman Phil Pearl of the Universal News Service. He touched second and forced me. And that made it a triple play -- with Franklin Roosevelt Jr., the pivot man, the President's daughter the umpire who called the decision, the President, the master-minding manager, A big Roosevelt day --- especially with long-legged John pulling down everything in left field. The White House boys reaped the triple play glory, but we won the game.

Entirely trivial -- but a picture of the President of the United States on a day off.

GRAFT

A Professor of Semitics at the University of Pennsylvania has just finished translating some tablets, fourteen of them. These fourteen slabs made of clay are evidently part of the municipal records of the ancient Assyrian city of Nuzi. Their date, according to the professors, was some two hundred years before Moses.

The gist of those records as translated is that there

was a terrific scandal in the rich Assyrian city of Nuzi
some thirty-five hundred years ago. The villain of the piece
was the Mayor of Nuzi. Mayor Kushshiharbe, for that was his
name, is shown up as a racketeer of the most modern type. He was
not content with taking bribes. ~~Ex~~ He swiped the property of the
citizens. He even kidnapped their persons. That puts the late
Kushshiharbe in a class with ^{"Creepy"} Alvin Karpis and other celebrities
of ~~their~~ our ~~own~~ day. He ~~is~~ diverted the water of private
citizens to irrigate his own gardens. He used the labor gangs
from the public camps, the CCC of his day, to cultivate his own
grounds and put up buildings for him. To make ~~the~~ it still worse
he swiped timber which was the property of the King. ~~When he did~~
~~that it seems he went too far.~~ ^{TP} There was a public investigation.
The Judge Samuel Seabury of the city of Nuzi in Mesopotamia
brought to light a list of malefactions on the part of Mayor
~~Mr~~ Kushshiharbe and his gang that makes the ^{political machines of} Tammany Halls of
America ^{look} as innocent as Sunday schools. ~~To be sure, Alvin Karpis~~
~~and Al Capone would probably have considered him a piker.~~ For the
ransom of a private citizen's wife he accepted ^{two} ~~two~~ sheep and a

few pounds of lead. For the brother of another victim the ransom price was one pig. Kushshibarbe after the Kush 3500 years ago. The same yesterday as it is today and

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.