

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1937.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The most dramatic repercussion from the Spanish imbroglio ~~so far~~ was heard over the Mediterranean today. On the face of dispatches from Rome, it looks as ~~if~~ though Russia and Italy might break off diplomatic relations at any moment. It began with a note from Moscow to the Italian Government which flatly and in so many words accused Italy of having sunk two Russian freighters in the Mediterranean. The Soviet note described this as an act of piracy, demanding an apology, damages, and the punishment of the guilty submarine commander who torpedoed those two Russian vessels.

~~Not~~ Ordinarily, a note like that is taken under advisement, talked about, thought about, in the customary fashion of diplomats. But that isn't what happened in Rome

today. That preemptory Russian note was delivered to Count Ciano. The Italian Foreign Minister immediately hurried over to the Palazzo ~~de Spazio~~ ^{Venezia} and showed this sample of Soviet note-writing to his father-in-law and boss.

It took Premier Mussolini only a few minutes to tell his son-in-law to invite the Moscow government to go jump into the Black Sea or the Baltic or whatever lake they preferred. In the language of diplomacy, Count Ciano informed the Russian Embassy that the accusation is rejected and that the Italian government refuses even to consider it any further.

Diplomatists in all the European capitals were shaking their heads when this news broke over the world. That might easily be the long expected stroke which will plunge all Europe into the long expected war. However, it isn't easy to see how a war between Russia and Italy could be anything but a matter of belligerent articles in the newspapers and still more violent explosions over the radio. When I was in Rome, Count Ciano told me that a radio war had been already raging for years, a war in which rival governments pollute the air with defiant

charges, counter-charges, challenges and retorts. However,

it's interesting to recall that ^a Russian ^{army did once fight} ~~soldiers have fought~~

ⁱⁿ ~~an~~ Italian ~~soldier~~. In Seventeen Eighty-Eight and Eighty-Nine,

the great Russian Field Marshal, Suvaroff, defeated the French ⁱⁿ ~~Italy~~ ^{Italy} and advanced almost to the gates of Milan. For the brilliance of his campaign in Italy, that Russian Field Marshal received from his Czar the title of "Prince Italiski."

The latest growlings between Moscow and Rome are described as being all the more serious because they ~~happen~~ happen in a week when tension has been growing tighter every day. For days France and John Bull have been trying to get Mussolini and Stalin into a discussion to cooperate for the prevention of war along the Mediterranean trade routes. ~~He~~ Shortly before he received that note from the Soviet, Count Ciano had announced that he would attend those discussions. "Italy ~~expressly~~ accepts the invitation of the French and British governments in principle," he said. But today a ~~unanimous~~ spokesman for the Italian government asked the question: "How can we sit at the same table with the representative of a

country which makes such unfair and unjust accusations against us?"

A later bulletin from Moscow conveys the ominous information that (Stalin is prepared to convoy Soviet merchant vessels thru the Mediterranean with warships. That is, unless Italy gives satisfaction for the sinking of those two freighters.) And of course Italy will do nothing of the sort.

CHINA

About the gravest thing in the news from the Far East today is that the Mikado's warships have invaded British waters. A squadron of Japanese cruisers, destroyers and aircraft carriers sailed smack into the seas around the British crown Colony of Hongkong and snapped up two Chinese customs cruisers. This took place only twenty miles from Hongkong, right on the line of communication between Hongkong and the swarming Chinese seaport of Canton. Those Chinese Customs cruisers were officered by Europeans, principally Englishmen. They were sent ashore in sampans.

It isn't quite certain yet whether the Japanese squadron made these captures actually in British territorial waters. The British Naval Command of the Chinese station is investigating. But it is definitely established that one Japanese destroyer had just been in British waters before the seizure. What's more, a British steamer on its way from Hongkong to Canton was twice stopped by a Japanese destroyer and finally returned to port.

All this does little to soften the anger of the British, which recently was roused to a pitch when that Japanese

pilot machine-gunned the British Ambassador. Today Downing Street received from the Mikado's government a reply to the British note of protest. And -- it could hardly be described as satisfactory. Foreign Minister Hirota rejects, temporarily to be sure, London's claim for satisfaction and indemnity. It hasn't yet been proved that it was a Japanese pilot who wounded the Ambassador. Such in the Tokyo contention.

(Today seventy thousand of Japan's crack-shot troops were hurled in a hammerhead blow against an army of one hundred and fifty thousand Chinese near Shanghai. Meanwhile the Mikado's airplanes darkened the skies, raining bombs of destruction on the secondary China-line, on hundred miles long and to the west of Shanghai.) Casualties on both sides run into the thousands.

In the North the Emperor's battalions pressed on their drive into the province of Shantung. Casualty lists enormous. We learn today that the Japanese High Command admits that they have no fewer than thirty-two divisions in China's North, divisions of from eight thousand to sixteen thousand each, a terrific concentration of forces.

Meanwhile the Nanking government was making a seemingly futile gesture, an appeal to the League of Nations.

BELGRADE

It was a tense and hectic day over in Yugoslavia. This was the fourteenth birthday of the boy king, Peter the Second. Pomp and ceremony had been prepared to celebrate the boy king's anniversary, including a glittering military review. But the young king was not allowed to take part in his own show. The atmosphere was so stormy that he was taken from Belgrade, the capital, to his mother's castle at Bled.

What's it all about, this disturbance in Yugoslavia? It's a religious quarrel. The age-old dispute between the Orthodox Greek Church and the Roman Catholics. For some months, the government, headed by Premier Stoyadinovich, has been negotiating a concordat with Rome. This has infuriated the extremists among the Greek Orthodox.

Grumblings and rumors have been so ominous that the government foresaw sanguinary rioting on the king's birthday if not an attempted revolution. So Premier Stoyadinovich forestalled any such uprising by a bold act. Hours before the military review was to take place, he sent out squads of armed police and arrested his

opponents by the score. Among the men thrown into jail was an important leader of the opposition party.

In such an atmosphere was the military review in honor of the young king's birthday held; with the young king himself absent -- a Balkan hamlet without the Prince of Denmark. His uncle, the Prince Regent Paul, presided over the show. But he was surrounded by a heavily armed and numerous guard of police. Curiously enough, members of all the faiths, Roman Catholic, Orthodox Greek, and Moslem, were with the Prince Regent as the gaily dressed battalions of the Yugoslav army marched past.

ARGENTINA

Down in Argentina, the land of the tango, and the Gaucho, they've been holding an election. They've been voting not only with ballots but with bullets. The worst election rioting occurred in the more cosmopolitan districts, the regions around Buenos Aires; the most violent disturbance on the Avenida De Mayo, the boulevard which is the pride of Buenos Aires, and one of the most beautiful in the world. Groups of radicals seized the occasion to make a demonstration in force in the heart of the capital. Pistols were fired and bombs exploded. The police finally had to fall back upon tear gas to restore order. When the returns were all in, several people were wounded, one killed, and many arrested. Nevertheless, we hear from Buenos Aires that it was a normal and fairly quiet election.

What about the result? Argentina's new president will be Dr. Roberto Ortiz. He's the candidate backed by President Justo who now holds the throne. As further returns kept coming in this afternoon, it seemed manifest that the government's candidate had won out.

Further north from Buenos Aires, two Central American republics seem on the verge of war: Nicaragua and Honduras! They are hurling bananas of defiance at each other, talking of mobilization, and all because of a postage stamp.

A few weeks ago, the Nicaraguan government put out a new issue. And their legend on these new stamps described a certain district on the frontier between the two countries as "territory in dispute". That infuriated the Hondurans. "There's no dispute about that territory, it belongs to Honduras!" says Tegucigalpa. "What do you mean it isn't in dispute?" We're disputing it," replied Managua. As a matter of fact, there has been an argument over that strip of boundary land for almost twenty years. So far the latest hostilities between Honduras and Nicaragua have been confined to a newspaper and radio war. But if that becomes any more acrimonious, there will be gunfire and bloodshed, once again over a scrap of paper.

LABOR

In more respects than one this has been an unusual Labor Day. It was unusual first because in most parts of the country the weather was at least decent.

In the second place, curiously enough, it was Labor Day with virtually no labor news, that is no fresh news, no events, no threats of fresh strikes, on the whole a peaceful picture of the labor situation. Of course there were speeches and statements. The President made one. President Roosevelt, made public a blunt declaration that both the unions and the employers had made many unfortunate and avoidable mistakes in the past year. And John L. Lewis delivered an oration at Leechburg, Pennsylvania, in which he compared his C.I.O. to the A.F. of L. And you won't be astonished to learn that he thinks more highly of his own organization than he does of Mr. William Green's. Madam Perkins Secretary of Labor, issued a complimentary and optimistic statement, reviewing the situation. There was to have been a brotherly

love

at San Francisco,
parade, a procession of all the unions, both those belonging to the C.I.O. and those of the Federation. But several of the A.F. of L. unions boycotted the parade.

At Oakland they had not one but two parades. The teamsters, who belong to the Federation, declined to drive any trucks for the C.I.O. marchers. However, the musicians, who are also a Federation union, declared themselves neutral and played impartially for both organizations.

MONTAGUE

John Montague the young golf player whose friendship with movie stars attracted the attention of the police was released from prison today in twenty-five thousand dollar bail. The Judge at Elizabethtown, New York who fixed the bail ~~six~~ described him as ~~another~~ another Jean Valjean, Victor Hugo's unforgettable hero. You may recall that this twentieth century Jean Valjean was brought back from California by the New York police, accused of having taken part in the robbery of a road house years ago. His progress on the golf links and his friendship with Bing Crosby and other stars got him into the newspapers and that's how the police recognized him.

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But here's ^a still sadder part of the story. A young man ~~named~~ named Roger Norton served two and one half years in prison for his share of that hold-up. He did his time, paid his debt to society and has been living respectably ever since. Today police arrested him at Cleveland and put him in jail ~~xx~~ as a material witness. When arrested he was holding a job as a truck driver and had gone straight ever since he was released from prison. So now, in spite of his good record he is thrust into the crime limelight

once again.

Norton was arrested in order that he might testify against Montague whom he has identified as one of the four men who held up that road house years ago.

RACE

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This has been a great weekend for Rudy Kling of Lemont ,
Illinois. Yesterday, as you have heard, he won the Greve
Trophy Race, the hundred mile event, in the National Air Races
at Cleveland. And this afternoon, matched against the crack
racers of America, he won the Thompson Trophy, one of the
blue ribbons of air racing. For two hundred miles he drove his
tiny monoplane that has been nicknamed the SPEED KING and came
in ahead of the field, a field including Roscoe Turner, who
~~took~~ third place. It was almost a camera finish between Rudy
Kling and Earl Ortman of Los Angeles, who won second, ~~prize~~

ADD RACE

At Detroit, two hundred and fifty thousand people saw H.A. Mendelsohn of Detroit win the ninety mile gold cup race in a walk away. Though the gold cup has been a national event for motor boat speed fans these many years, this was the first time it became an international event. The experts had been prophesying that Count Rossi de Montelera of Italy would be an easy victory. In fact it was expected that the speed boats from Europe would run away with all the honors. But the best that Count Rossi de Montelera could do was second place, a poor second.

Meanwhile, there was a yacht race on Lake Pontchartrain, near New Orleans. The rivals were seven governors, Governor Leach of Louisiana, Browning of Tennessee, Bibb Graves of Alabama, Rivers of Georgia, Allred of Texas, White of Mississippi, and Happy Chandler of Kentucky. The prize was a ten cent tin coffee pot. Those southern magnificoes raced in sloops and the champion this year was Governor Hugh L. White of Mississippi. Governor Leach of Louisiana came in second, though Governor White had stated before the race that his sailing uniform ~~was~~ had so much

gold and brass on it that it would take a crane to hoist
him aboard. Governor Jim Allred of Texas brought his sloop
across the line in third place.



BREVITIES

Now for a glance at some of the other happenings all over the world.

In Indianapolis, Matt Leach who was discharged last week as head of the Indiana State Police pursues his feud with J. Edgar Hoover, who directs the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Leach says he will ask Congress to investigate the F.B.I. Mr. Hoover's bureau had complained to the Governor of Indiana that Leach did not cooperate with his agent. It was on that account that the Governor dismissed him. Leach says that Hoover's charges were untrue and that Hoover is a Hitler.

In Southern California rival groups of nudists are engaged in a war of words. Each group says that the other is an faker, not real nudists; the women wear brassieres and many of the men wear pants. "A nudist in pants is no nudist at All" is their slogan -- AND SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.