

L.I. - Luroco Monday, August 28, 1939.

MOSCOW

46  
A curious bit of information just came from Russia.

It concerns that sensational treaty between Hitler and Stalin.

It was to have been ratified tonight by the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union. Instead of ratifying it, the Soviet announces that ratification has to be postponed until later in the week.

Rather puzzling, that one. ~~One cannot easily see any sound reason for it.~~ The interpretation placed on it at Moscow is that Stalin himself ordered a delay of ratification because of the chaotic state of ~~the~~ European politics today.

TOKYO

A still further consequence of the Hitler-Stalin alliance is reported from Tokyo today. As you may remember, the news of the Moscow-Berlin Axis ~~just~~ flabbergasted the statesmen of Nippon. *And,* The Cabinet of Baron Hiranuma almost automatically resigned.

Even the war lords of Japan felt that the turning of Hitler to Stalin needed a complete change of orientation in Japanese policy.

Baron Hiranuma declared that he held himself unequal to the responsibility of dopping out a new formula. ) So today the Emperor

Hirohito sent for a veteran officer of the army, General Abe. *Ab-ey.*

~~That hardly sounds like a Japanese name but that's the way he~~  
47  
~~Spells~~ *ed* - A B E, *but not pronounced Abe.*

<sup>a</sup>  
Abe received the imperial command to form a new cabinet.

And we learn that this has considerable meaning for us. It means that the anti-British, Anti-American war lords will take a back seat as a result of General Abe's taking over the government. At least that's the gossip from Japan. Abe is supposed to be in favor of closer cooperation with Great Britain, *and* ~~with~~ Uncle Sam, ~~and with~~ ~~other third powers.~~

And here's a bit of news from Hong Kong which sounds



like a symptom of this new Japanese attitude. The war lords  
<sup>the mainland across from the city</sup>  
 are withdrawing their troops from ~~the border~~ of Hong Kong which  
<sup>has been fearing</sup>  
 for weeks ~~was in almost hourly expectation of~~ attack by the  
 Japanese.

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 1939.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

In general the truth about the news tonight, the big news from Europe, is that there <sup>virtually</sup> ~~practically~~ <sup>authentic</sup> isn't any. Hundreds of thousands of words have come over the cables and through the air. <sup>But</sup> Most of them convey nothing but conjecture, guesswork, rumor. The big question of the day, "Will there be war?" can be answered by only one man, <sup>that is</sup> answered accurately, ~~that is~~. <sup>By</sup> ~~That man is~~ Hitler. For the rest, your guess is as good as anybody's. The known facts that are actually new are so few you could put them in your eye without having your vision impaired.

The most concrete of those known facts, ~~if~~ bare, <sup>almost</sup> skimpy, and can mean anything you choose:— ~~By that I mean~~ the arrival of the British Ambassador, Sir Neville Henderson, in Berlin, carrying the reply of the Chamberlain government to Hitler's demands. What that reply was is actually known to the



*British*

government and by now also to Hitler and his advisors. It is

generally understood that Sir Neville's message rejected the

*In fact it*  
Nazi Fuehrer's demands. <sup>is</sup> is related that as he climbed aboard his plane outside London, a reporter shouted at him, "Good luck!"

To which he replied: "Thanks, I shall want all I can get."

*Jim*  
(Our Postmaster General Farley, visiting in Ireland,

told reporters that he had inside information there would be no

war. As it's impossible to know how sound Jim <sup>'s</sup> ~~Farley's~~ source of

information may be, it <sup>is</sup> impossible to take much stock in such a

statement.) <sup>P</sup> But, here are the factors which are considered to

*tonight:-*  
weigh the scales in favor of peace. Though the British message to

Hitler rejected his demands, *it is said to leave* ~~it left~~ the door open for further

talk. That's one factor. Another is an official report from Rome

that Premier Mussolini is making every effort to lessen international

tension and support the cause of peace. Then again it is known

that although twelve million men are mobilized in Europe, only

one quarter of Mussolini's are mobilized. It is also announced

that there are constant consultations between the Duce and the

Fuehrer. This leads to the rumor of a five power conference to

settle the quarrels. There is a report from Rome stating that Mussolini has been hard at work trying to evolve a peace formula. Also, another peace factor is that Hitler has not yet set any definite date for military action.

50  
Here <sup>is</sup> ~~are the factors on~~ the other side. Hitler has made negotiations difficult by openly demanding not merely Danzig and a corridor across the Polish Corridor, but the entire Polish Corridor to be returned to Germany! Then there's the fact that Hitler turned down Daladier's proposals, also of course the repeated proclamation that France and Great Britain will stand by their promises to Poland.

Moreover  
The German propaganda campaign about Polish atrocities <sup>with</sup> ~~again~~ does not weigh in favor of peace. Also, ~~that two and a half million men under arms, admittedly at their wartime stations, many parts of the German border are closed.~~ The Polish government today protested against that German atrocity propaganda. Also, railway service in Germany has been tremendously cut down. Some of the crack express trains are traveling several hours late.

50  
The first actual formal proclamation of mobilization was made in Europe today. However, <sup>not</sup> ~~it wasn't made~~ by one of the



great powers. The government of Queen Wilhelmina of the  
Netherlands <sup>today</sup> mobilized army, navy and air force in view of the  
fact that German soldiers are digging in on the German side  
of the Dutch border. And, Switzerland  
mobilized, today.

## RATIONS

Every store, every shop, every place where things can be bought in Germany, was crowded with housewives and others today. They were hurrying to stock up with the necessities of life before their government starts holding them down to strict and limited rations. One shop in Danzig hung out a sign reading:- "Store closed for three hours on account of the crowds." Surely a novel reason for closing a store!



## CHILDREN

One of the peculiar spectacles throughout Great Britain today was that of thousands of school children going through a grim rehearsal, <sup>learning</sup> what they have to do, in case, ~~of war~~. Some of them got up at six o'clock in the morning and rushed off to school. Over their shoulders, instead of text books, they carried gas masks. However, their teachers carefully avoided any mention of the word "horror." They were not told anything about the terrors ~~of~~ and brutalities of war. They were taught that it is all a sort of lark and <sup>in</sup> ~~that evacuation, in~~ case they have to leave the cities where they live <sup>it</sup> will be just like a holiday. Arrangements will be made to billet all city children in country homes with the government paying the bill.

CANADA

The government of the Dominion of Canada has already begun taking precautions, ~~in case Great Britain becomes involved in a war.~~

52  
A special train pulled into Halifax, Nova Scotia, today, carrying equipment, crews and officers for an anti-aircraft defense

establishment. At the same time, a flight of seven royal Canadian

bombing planes were sent to the Eastern provinces from Calgary, in

Alberta. 13,000 volunteers have answered the Government's call during the first three days.



## SPAIN

Here's the latest about Spain. (According to London, Franco's Ambassador, the Duke of Alba, has given assurance to both Great Britain and France, that no Spanish naval bases and no ~~air~~ airdromes will be used by any belligerent.)

This is due partly to one action of the British government which forbade the sale of any foreign securities owned by Britishers. That kept a round billion dollars' worth of stocks off the market. At any rate so say the Wall Street experts. They point out that in November fourteen, the condition that forced the closing of the stock exchange was a huge volume of selling orders from Europe.

Another contributor to this extraordinary calm was the fact that in spite of all these war scares, business in the United States continued to go on as usual.

Of course the price of wheat went up everywhere. And in the money market, the English Pound took a drop, went down two pence cents in New York.

Sweden and Finland dropped out of the Sterling bloc. That is, they no longer kept their currency rate according to the English Pound.

## MARKET

A curious phenomenon of the day was the behavior of the Stock Markets all over the world. *One might have* ~~ordinarily, one would~~ expected terrific stock exchange excitement. Instead of that, the brokers and traders were amazingly calm.

23  
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Of course the price of wheat went up everywhere. *And,*  
in the money market, the English Pound took a drop, went down twenty-five cents in New York.

Sweden and Finland dropped out of the Sterling bloc, that is, they no longer fix their currency rate according to the English Pound.



## AMERICANS

54  
Many thousand Americans in Europe went through some anxious hours. So many vessels cancelled their sailings and others cancelled their landing at British ports. One American liner sailed for New York with passengers sleeping on cots in the public rooms of the vessel. However, <sup>Americans in Europe</sup> ~~they~~ received cheery news today. Our embassy in London has been at work making arrangements to help them get home. A Dutch liner has been chartered to take some of the people who couldn't get passage ~~on the regular lines.~~ <sup>on the regular lines.</sup> ~~And~~ American citizens living abroad are acting as volunteers to help tourists get home.

Some of the Americans in Italy will have to work <sup>for</sup> their passage, ~~home.~~ The sailings of Italian passenger liners have been cancelled. So, many of the travelers will have to come home on a freighter. <sup>an American</sup> ~~Now~~ The law reads that if <sup>a</sup> freighter carries passengers, the captain must sign on a larger crew and seventy-five per cent of the crew will have to be American citizens. So some of the tourists will have to "sign-up" in order to obey the law. <sup>W</sup> Aside from this, in case of emergency, Uncle Sam's European squadron is standing by. The cruiser TRENTON and two destroyers are now stationed in the

Mediterranean and will be used to evacuate American<sup>s</sup> if necessary.

In France American residents and travelers got a slight foretaste of what war means. *They had to take all* ~~Before they could send off~~

cablegrams, ~~they had to take them~~ to the Commissary Police to be okayed before the cable companies would ~~even~~ consent to accept them.

*at New York today*  
And passengers who landed from the French liner NORMANDIE

~~today~~ got a similar foretaste. They were not allowed to send any radiogram during the course of the voyage. Even messages sent to the passengers were censored. And at night the great steamer tore across the Atlantic with lights out.



FORD

Here's the opinion of Henry Ford on world events.

"There will be no war", he says. "It's all a big bluff." His reasoning is that, "They don't dare have a war and they know it."

You may recall that in Nineteen Fifteen, Henry Ford chartered that famous "Peace Ship" and gave a lot of people free passage to Europe in it to get the boys out of the trenches by Christmas. <sup>Mr. Ford</sup> ~~He~~ now says that all wars might be prevented if people would only leave the cities and go back to the land. England's reason for going to war, says Henry Ford, is that she doesn't make enough use of her land.

56  
Then he told of the challenge that he had taken up in England. A prominent Britisher had told him that the British Isles couldn't raise enough food. Ford said he didn't believe it, bought up a lot of small farms, and consolidated them into a cooperative organization. Last year, he said, his cooperative farm had sold fifty thousand dollars' worth of brussels sprouts alone. So I suppose we may take it that his recipe is, "more brussels sprouts and fewer anti-aircraft guns!"

## FARMER

One of the first casualties of the war, before it's even declared, was a farmer's wife in New York State. She's a woman of Polish blood, married to a man of German origin. They had a heated discussion over the quarrel between Hitler and the Poles. It ended by the German farmer taking a shotgun and shooting his Polish wife. However, he did not kill her, and the chances are she may recover and go on with the argument.



## SQUALUS

57  
After ninety-seven days of trying, the salvage men of Uncle Sam's Navy have finally raised the submarine SQUALUS to the surface. With her grim cargo of twenty-six dead men, she was brought up today from the forty fathoms of water where she had been lying more than three months. It was an ~~almost~~ herculean job ~~of salvage~~ of salvage that the Navy accomplished, a heart-breaking job too, with many setbacks and disappointments.

Curiously enough, a dispatch from Liverpool, England, of this same day, brings word that the British submarine THETIS was also brought up from the deep. The THETIS sank only a few days after the SQUALUS. It was no elaborate salvage job, however, that brought the British under-water boat back. She was washed in by the tide this morning, carried in shore eight and a half miles by the current.

DIES

58  
Some more interesting testimony was given to the Dies Committee today. It concerned William W. Pelley, the rabid anti-Semite and Fascist agitator. He's the man who organized the so-called Fascist Silver Shirts. An investigator for the Dies Committee has been looking into Pelley's record. And he testified that Pelley was convicted at Ashville, North Carolina, for having violated the North Carolina Securities Law. He was sentenced to imprisonment but his sentence was suspended on payment of a fine and costs. However, he was put on probation for five years.

58 1/2  
Pelley, in addition to organizing the Silver Shirts, had founded a printing press for the printing of books and papers on spiritualism and the Occult. The thing went bankrupt in NineteenThirty-Four and the prosecution of Pelley followed. The investigator charged Pelley with having diverted more than a hundred thousand dollars of the funds of that printing press to his personal account and other enterprises.



DICKINSON

59  
Here's an opinion that ought to interest Shep Barclay, Ely Culbertson, Oswald Jacobi, in fact all bridge players. Bridge, says a certain public character, may be the beginning of crime. That's the latest opinion from Governor Luren Dickinson of Michigan. He was addressing a conference of the Seventh Day Adventists of eastern Michigan. "The criminal," he said, "has to start somewhere. And he may start at a bridge game and the next thing we know he's after something of large dimensions."

59 1/4  
That's almost as harsh as some of the compliments the partners in a bridge game fling at each other after they've gone down five tricks in spades, double and vulnerable. ♠ S L H + M.