

DANZIG

L.I. - Sunoco - Thursday Aug. 10, 1939

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Of course the eyes of the world today were focused principally upon Danzig. More correctly, I should say that the ears of the world were tuned in on the Free City. It was the long expected day on which the Danzigers were to hear the words of Fuehrer Hitler. They came through the mouth of his latest Charlie McCarthy, Albert Foerster, Nazi District Leader of the Free City.

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Those words were awaited with trepidation far and wide. We had seen so many symptoms of violent anti-Polish campaigning. In fact, the Poles issued a warning about that speech. By long wave and by short wave, they announced that any provocative statements, any threats against Poles in Foerster's speech, would be considered an unpeaceful gesture. Not merely unfriendly but unpeaceful.

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The shouting is all over now and the world is going through its preliminary digestion of Hitler's message to the Danzig Nazis through the mouth of Foerster. ^A No word comes as yet to indicate what the Poles thought but that in itself is a

~~He~~ hopeful sign. If they had considered the fulminations of Foerster in the nature of a threat, we should probably have heard from them before now. And in London, official circles breathe a sigh of relief. The British leaders don't consider ~~that~~^{the} speech a menace. ~~But~~ They feel it is defensive, and they ~~are~~^{are} confident that Hitler is not going to start any overt aggressive act in Danzig.

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Something like a hundred thousand people in Danzig ~~themselves~~^{the speech.} listened to ~~those words~~^{the speech.} There were forty thousand massed ~~in~~ together in that famous and historic old market place, ~~where~~ where Foerster spoke, twenty thousand in the streets nearby, while thousands of others listened to loud speakers in every quarter of the Free City. Aside from that, of course, ~~the~~ the message was carried by short wave all over Europe. ~~And~~^{TP} Let's look at some of the words ~~that~~ Foerster uttered. He referred bitterly to the building of the new Polish seaport of Gydnia which ~~the~~ has stripped Danzig of its vital rights with ^{what he called} "loathsome purposefulness." He accused the Poles of having made warlike

agitation and threats. His most ~~ngk~~ aggressive words were that Poland must understand quite clearly that Danzig will not stand alone and deserted in the world. "The greater German Reich," he said, "our motherland and our Fuehrer, Adolph Hitler, are at all times determined to ~~xxxxi~~ support and defend the Danzig Nazis in case of an attack from Poland." Then he added that the people of Danzig may be clearly and firmly convinced today that ~~ix~~ the hour of liberation is coming and that Danzig will again return to the Reich.

~~Of course, as might be expected, he also took a crack at Great Britain and France, as well as Poland, accused them of meddling in Danzig affairs.~~

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Maybe appearances are deceptive, But the appearances definitely are that the speech, which everybody feared might be a bombshell, turned out to be merely a rocket. ~~However, rockets~~ ^{are} frequently used as a ~~danger~~ ^{danger} signal.

On the other side of the Straits, around Algiers

SPAIN

Something happened near Gibraltar today, ~~that looks like~~
~~a threatening gesture on the part of General Franco. A gesture~~
~~against the British.~~

The strip of land that separates that impregnable
rock from the mainland of Spain has long been neutral ground,
~~At either end of it detachments of British and Spanish troops~~
~~are on constant patrol. But according to the ancient treaty~~
~~between Great Britain and Spain, that strip is neutral territory,~~
never to be occupied by troops. And today a Spanish Army used
that neutral ground as the scene of a battle. ~~To be sure, it~~
~~was~~ a sham battle, but apparently a defiant act. An army of
seventy-five thousand of Franco's soldiers went through all
the motions and exercises of a mock assault upon Gibraltar.
Sappers built trenches, emplacements for ~~guns~~, and concrete pill
boxes were constructed, tanks and field guns were included in
that mimic attack. ~~T~~ All this went on while the British
garrison at Gibraltar ~~went~~ were going through air raid drill.

On the other side of the Straits, around Algeciras

~~Another~~ Another anti-British demonstration in the Japanese capital. Some ten thousand people assembled in front of the British Embassy, carrying banners with angry legends about the British. Some observers interpret this as part of a campaign to break up the negotiations between the Japanese and the British over the blockade of Tientsin. The army leaders make no attempt to conceal their eagerness to ~~break~~ break up those conversations.

And the Japanese are beginning to include the Americans in their anti-British campaign. This coming weekend, the second anniversary of the battle of Shanghai will be celebrated there. The authorities are expecting outbursts against the Americans in Shanghai so the officers of ~~the~~ our marines have cancelled all leaves. ~~The American troops in that vicinity are being held in readiness to protect the districts inhabited by Americans.~~

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JAPAN

Uncle Sam seems to have another crow to pick with the Japanese. The latest report is that the Mikado's soldiers have held in detention a number of Americans, nobody knows exactly how many, at Kaifeng. ~~The news is not confirmed officially.~~ The Japanese say they are investigating and that it's doubtful whether all this is true. But the information was received at the American Embassy in Chungking. ~~It came to the ears of our diplomats in a roundabout manner, and the details are vague.~~ What's more, ~~it~~ It will probably be some time before we know whether the report is authentic, Kaifeng is isolated, cut off by floods from the rest of China. And a Japanese spokesman said the report was probably spread by somebody who has had a row with the Japanese authorities and ~~it~~ is giving out this gossip to satisfy a grudge.

EKINS

Duce Mussolini is chucking another American newspaperman out of Italy. This time it's none other than H. R. Ekins, popularly known as "Bud," and he holds the job of Manager of the Rome Bureau of the United Press.

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His dismissal was abrupt and summary. Mussolini's police gave him until one o'clock tomorrow afternoon to leave his capital. In addition to that, the Fascist cops locked up the Rome office of the United Press, refused to allow any member of the staff to enter. Of course the first question is, "Why?" And the answer is, "Nobody knows." The Italian Government so far declines to explain.

I happen to know Bud Ekins. He is not only one of the most capable but one of the most accurate and trustworthy of American newspaper men. You may remember him as the reporter who raced two other newspaper people around the world in nineteen thirty-six. He was then on the New York World Telegram. Ekins came in ahead of both his rivals, Dorothy Kilgallen of the New York Evening Journal and Leo Kiernan of the New York Times, ^{— Brother of John.} He did it in eighteen days, fourteen hours, fifty-six minutes, fifty and a quarter seconds. In addition to that, Bud Ekins covered the Ethiopian War in nineteen thirty-five and China in nineteen thirty-seven.

ADD EKINS

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It seems that Ekins was picked out as the target of the most severe discipline ever taken against any foreign news gathering organization. There is still no official reason given out for this sudden expulsion. But a later report from Rome says it is understood that the cause of it was the report sent out early this week that Mussolini had suffered a heart attack. And it is being said in Rome today that Mussolini himself issued the order for the kicking out of Ekins. He had been manager of the United Press Bureau in Rome ^{for} only one month.

As a matter of fact, we now learn that it was not the United Press Bureau in Rome which sent out the reports of Mussolini's illness. They came from private sources in England and the report was cabled from the London office of the United Press. All the Rome Bureau did was to inquire whether the report was true and then cable stories that from all appearances Mussolini was in good health. So it looks as though the Duce, unable to punish the London correspondents of U. P. took it out on the nearest man he could reach, so Bud Ekins is the Patsy.

VOLCANO

4
There's excitement today in the South of Italy. It's not because of ~~any~~ any new act of Mussolini's. The cause of the excitement is somewhat older than the Duce, in fact some hundreds of thousands of years older. Mt. Vesuvius is erupting once more. Streams of lava flowing down the sides of the historic volcano. At night ~~flames~~ flames light up the skies for miles around.

Though there's excitement, there doesn't seem to be any alarm. Of course tourists are flocking to see the ~~spectacle~~ spectacle in large numbers, but even the inhabitants of the countryside are joining them, regardless of the danger to themselves and their properties. They know Vesuvius of old, at least they think so.

A.F. of L.

55

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor got a free show today. And if stars make a show, it must have been a good one. For ^{there} ~~there~~ were such buskin magnificoes as Ralph Morgan, ^{my gay friend} ~~cute little~~ Binnie Barnes, Frederic March, Edward Arnold, ^{and} Tullulah Bankhead. In behalf of these there was ~~there~~ the President of the American Guild of musical Artists, none other than Lawrence Tibbett. The slogan they tried to ram into the heads of the union chiefs was that only actors should control an actors' union. Thus the gist of their protest against the action of the stagehands union in taking in the vaudeville artists union after it had been fired out by the actors. The actors want to keep their union definitely separated from that of the stagehands.

Ralph Morgan and others from Hollywood appeared: ~~it~~ in behalf of ^{some} eight thousand screen actors, ~~or so he said.~~ Gracious, I didn't know there were so many; but it seems there ~~are, and besides that there~~ ^{also} are seven thousand ~~in~~ junior screen

actors. Ralph Morgan promised that if William Green, President of the A.F. of L does ~~not~~ not give a definite answer before Sunday night, there will be fireworks. Lawrence Tibbett was even more caustic. He says there's a rising trend of dictatorship in the American ~~Federation~~ Federation of Labor and that the actors are determined to stop it.

HUGHES

Howard Hughes, ~~the greatest~~ record-breaker ^{of} ~~in~~ the air,
is going to try for another one. The news leaked out in
Washington when it became known that he asked the Civil Aeronautics
Authority for permission to make a stratosphere flight from ~~NEW~~
New York to Paris. The Civil Aeronautics Authority admitted that
Hughes had made this application but no details are forthcoming
at present. It was supposed to be highly confidential because
of certain diplomatic aspects of the flight. ~~The State~~
~~Department has to be consulted.~~ However, it is rumored that
Hughes is going to make that flight in a new type of ^{Giant} monoplane,
~~a giant craft called~~ ^{called} a stratoliner, ~~that has been recently~~
~~developed.~~

course, includes ground crews.

So it looks as though the
aviation boom will go right on and on.

AIRPLANES

The building up of Uncle Sam's air force is going ahead with speed. You may recall that Congress at its last session appropriated three hundred millions for aviation and anti-aircraft defenses. Some time ago the war department awarded contracts for fifty-four million dollars' worth of planes. Today, the department handed out a lot ~~of~~ more contracts to the tune of one hundred million dollars.

Of the Three Hundred Millions given by Congress, a hundred and seventy millions ~~was~~ are to be spent for planes and the rest for air bases, equipment and the training of additional pilots. The department is adding no fewer than twenty-five thousand men to the personnel of the air force, which, of course, includes ground crews.

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So it looks as though the aviation boom will go right on and on.

EXECUTIONS

For several weeks, Robert Elliott, public executioner for several states including New York and Massachusetts, has been ill. One consequence was that several convicts who have been sentenced to death had unexpected reprieves. There was nobody to take Elliott's place.

Warden Lawes of Sing Sing prison says that since this has become known, more than two hundred and fifty people have asked for Elliott's job. And, here's the most interesting part of it, five of them are women. But, says Lawes, though the female of the ~~sex~~ species may be more deadly than the male, there won't be any women executioners at Sing Sing.

SNITE

8

A home in Chicago was the scene of a wedding today which is probably unique in history. For the ~~brideg~~ bridegroom appeared before the altar in an iron lung. That bridegroom is Fred B. Snite, Jr., who has lived in that iron lung ever since he suffered ~~at~~ an attack of infantile paralysis in China more than three years ago.

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The adventures of young Fred Snite have captured the imagination of the public to a curious degree. He has become news wherever he goes because of the bravery with which he has endured that long ailment and disability, the cheerfulness with which he has lived his life in that cumbersome apparatus for three years. And he has been to plenty of places. In that lung he has crossed the Pacific ocean and the ~~xxx~~ Atlantic Ocean. He has traveled in a trailer to Florida and back, He has seen football games, horse races, everything that attracted him.

Not long ago he went over to France to make a pilgrimage to the famous ~~Roman~~ Catholic shrine at Lourdes. With him went

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young Miss Teresa Larkin of Dayton, Ohio, a school friend of
the sister of Fred Snite. They had been sweethearts for five
years. This evening they are man and wife. And, says Mr.
Snite, the first thing they're going to do is what so many
other brides and grooms look forward to. They're going to
Niagara Falls to see if the water is still falling. *And a-l-u-t-m.*