

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

News of the French political crisis features a name that might few of us have ever heard before - Antoine Pinay; who tonight, is trying to form a new ministry. And that may be taken as a sign of how bad the political crisis is. The name of Antoine Pinay is little known even in French government circles. A minor political figure, an industrialist of the Rhone Valley, he had a place in the last French Cabinet - and left mighty little impression on the public mind.

Over the weekend, Paul Reynaud tried to form a cabinet. But the Premier who was in power during the dark days when the Nazis marched into France, was unable to line up a coalition of followers of DeGaulle in a combination with the Socialists to the left.

Then President Auriol called in former Premier Plevin, and asked him to take a try. But, Plevin said the situation was too tough, and he didn't think

he could form a ministry. Whereupon, the French President resorted to a minor figure - Pinay. He has one advantage - - standing well, they say, with the powerful Socialist Party. His task, however, is a prodigy of difficulty. This is admitted to be the worst political crisis for France since the end of the war.

NAVAL MANEUVERS

The blue waters of the Eastern Mediterranean provide the setting for a scene of naval might. War games, with the greatest armada ever assembled in peace time - two fleets drawn from the navies of the ~~U.S.A.~~ Britain, France, ~~and~~ Italy *and the U.S.A.*

Tonight, ^{*all these*} ~~the~~ warships are maneuvering between ~~the~~ ^{*the*} Spain and ~~Balearic Islands~~ ^{*the*} and coast of North Africa, in the historic straits leading to Gibraltar.

(The main force, streaming under cover of darkness, is due to assault the Italian island of Sardinia early tomorrow morning. While the second serves as a "decoy" - providing a screen of carrier-borne planes to beat off enemy bombers from the European "mainland.")

Just naval maneuvers - in waters where so many great naval battles have been fought down thru the past 3 or 4 thousand years.

(The truce tents at Pan Mun Jom reverberated today with a thunderous tirade. The author of the vituperation was North Korean Major General Lee, who accused the Allies of "lying, blackmail, stalling, massacring ~~prisoners~~, and complete lack of sincerity. So loud was the Communist General's voice, that Admiral Libby pointed out he was not deaf. ^R "I have noted that the more uncertain you are of your position, the ~~xxx~~ louder you scream at me - I must ask you to moderate your voice ^{if possible.}" ^{said Admiral Libby.} Coming out of the ~~xx~~ tent after the meeting, ^{the} Admiral ~~Libby~~ told reporters that the sessions was "one of the most unpleasant we've ever had. Progress ~~was~~ absolutely nil."

However, in the other tent, ^{things went} ~~there was slight~~ ^{better} ~~progress~~ on one point; the Reds admitting that the U N has the right to veto Russia as a neutral truce inspector.

KOREA

(Over M I G Alley today, sabre jets sent two more Communist MIG's spiralling to the earth in flames. Which sounds almost like a routine announcement. The same story, with our heavily outnumbered jet^s ~~planes~~ out-maneuvering the Reds and blasting them out of the skies.) ~~However,~~ Today's victories ~~create something of a record,~~ bringing the score ~~board~~ for the number of Russian swept-wing fighters destroyed, to two hundred. The fifth Air Force also claims thirty-six more probably destroyed and three-hundred-and-eighty-eight damaged.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD-PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico, today completed a three-day election. ~~At~~ Almost half a million voters-- giving their decision on a new constitution. Which ~~will~~ would provide for home rule. The final returns just in show three hundred and seventy five thousand in favor-_o eighty thousand against.

1
PUERTO RICO

~~Puerto Rico, today, completed a three-day election. Half a million voters giving their decision on a new Constitution, which would provide for "home rule."~~

~~The verdict can be given even before the count comes in. The only opposition was from small minority parties - the Communists and advocates of full independence. Previously, the Puerto Ricans, at the polls, had expressed their desire for the sort of constitution they are getting and gave a heavy majority to the "popular party", which drafted the document.~~

The new "home rule" constitution will now go to Washington, where it will have to be ratified by the U.S. Congress.

SCHOOLS

(The Supreme Court throws out a protest against the reading of the Bible and reciting the Lord's Prayer - in New Jersey public schools.) The High Tribunal, today, voted that it had no jurisdiction in the suit entered by three tax payers who claim they are injured by the fact that the Old Testament is required reading in schools. And the Lord's Prayer permitted. The complaint argues that the Lord's Prayer belongs to the Christian religion - and, if allowed to be read in public school classrooms, that indicates the Christian religion is preferred over all others.

The decision of The Supreme Court today is based on the contention that the complaining taxpayers did not advance any real evidence to show they were ~~inn~~ injured.

(The verdict is of nationwide importance - because the Bible is either required or permitted in schools of many states.) The truth being, of course, that this is predominantly a Christian country in fact, if not under the law.

FOLLOW SCHOOLS

(In another decision today, the court upheld the anti-subversive-teacher-law in New York state -- the Feinberg law. By a majority of six to three, the Justices held that an individual's associations may help to determine his loyalty.) In a dissenting opinion Justice ~~William~~ E. Douglas declared in strong terms against, what he called - "guilt by association". But, speaking for the ~~am~~ majority, Justice Sherman Minton states: "from time immemorial, one's reputation has been determined, in part, by the company he keeps."

HOOF AND MOUTH

The hoof and mouth disease outbreak in Canada brought further repercussions today. In Ottawa, the Canadian Minister of Agriculture went on the radio to announce a ban on all meat imports from the United States. Previously, the U.S. had cut off its imports from Canada to prevent the spread of the disease. Now Canada takes similar action; ~~To hold open the market for our own producers~~ until the disease is removed," as they put it.

ETNA

~~It's like news, in a way, to say that Mount Etna was not in eruption today. Over the weekend, that historic volcano gave all the signs of being about to explode. But, then Etna has always been unpredictable.~~

For the past three days, earthquakes have been devastating villages on the slopes of ^{Sicily} ~~the~~ fire mountain. A densely populated area - where the fields, fertilized by volcanic ash, give five crops a year - but the peasants have to take the danger too - and, tonight, villages lie in ruins. Highways blocked by landslides, or by huge cracks, where the earth has opened ^{on the} ~~slopes of Mt. Etna~~.

Scientists declare they can never tell about Etna; In contrast to that other famous volcano, Vesuvius on the Bay of Naples. Vesuvius behaves regularly, and can be predicted. But Etna is a maverick among fire mountains.

Its eruptions have been reported ever since the days of ancient Greek historians. The deadliest of all, in Sixteen Sixty-Nine - when as many as one hundred thousand lives were taken in a gigantic

explosion. In Nineteen Forty-~~two~~ the volcano erupted without any warning whatever, so suddenly that thirty-four tourists were standing on the lip of the crater, when the blast occurred - and engulfed them. Two years ago, Mount Etna went into a wild eruption and hurled flame, smoke and burning lava for sixty-seven days and nights.

So now, the fire mountain is heaving with earthquakes - and the villagers on those fertile slopes expect the worst. But at last reports, the ^(crater)~~crater~~ was quiet, ^{with} nothing more than its unusual plume of smoke and volcanic ash.

ADD EARTHQUAKE

Late word from Tokyo - ^{an} ~~A very strong~~
earthquake shook the two main Japanese Islands
of Honshu and Hokkaido today - ~~which~~ sending a tidal
wave rolling up ^{on} the shores of ^{both} ~~the islands~~. However,
~~no damage from the quake or the tidal wave has been~~
~~reported so far.~~

Although the quake was rated "very strong"
and was registered as far away as Honolulu, it seems
to have fallen far short of the disastrous shocks
^{that} ~~which~~ hit Japan in eighteen-twenty-eight and nineteen
twenty-three.

KINGDON WARD-LAVERNE MORSE-QUAKE

More than a year ago, we had the news of a cataclysm of nature, ~~the~~ the greatest in recent years. But the story remained mostly a blank, because the catastrophe occurred in one of the remotest parts of this earth - ~~a series of stupendous earthquakes~~ ^{deep} in the Himalayas. ~~In Tibet, along the border of Assam.~~ Since then, the seizure of Tibet by the Chinese Reds has closed the scene of part of the devastation; ~~even more~~ Now behind an Asiatic Iron Curtain.

~~But here's a letter~~ ^{word} I've just received from a mission station among the Kachin Tribes of North Burma. ~~The writer~~ Laverne Morse, one of those adventurous missionaries who travel in the remotest wilds, ^{tells me:} ~~he says,~~ "Recently, I was on a three months' walking tour ^{near the} ~~along the Tibetan border, and the~~ headquarters of the Irrawaddy, ~~River system.~~ ^{That} ~~was on the southern edge of the catastrophe.~~

[>] "The section hardest hit in Burma, ~~he~~ writes, ~~"was the Seingku Valley, just over a high~~

range of mountains from the Sayul Valley of Tibet.

After the great earthquakes," he goes on, "the gorge of

the Seinghku ^{River} was filled to a great depth by landslides

from the surrounding towering mountains. ~~The sides of~~

~~entire~~ mountain ridges slid ⁱⁿ into the chasms below.

Trees and underbrush gone. Only precipitous steep

scarred slopes left. ~~Incomplete reports from the~~

~~Tibetan side~~ he adds, "appear to" indicate that entire courses of rivers were changed."

This letter confirms the vague reports we

had at the time. ~~that the face of mountains was~~

~~altered by the quakes peaks and valleys of the~~

~~Himalayas changing their aspect. We heard, likewise,~~

~~that the convulsions had caused large rivers to change~~

~~their course.~~

The March issue of the National Geographic

Magazine has an article on the Tibet-Assam Burma

earthquake by a distinguished British scientist and

explorer, who has spent some thirty years in that

region, hunting for rare orchids and other botanical

specimens from the Himalayas. Kingdon Ward and his wife were trapped by the earthquake, which they say split mountains! and dammed rivers! He tells us that no stronger earth shock has ever been recorded. They were in the Luhit Valley at the time, at the extreme southeastern corner of Tibet. Their evening meal was over, his wife and the servants were asleep in their tents, and he was writing in his diary by the light of a hurricane lamp. He glanced at his watch. It was eight o'clock, and at that moment he writes that "a most extraordinary rumbling noise broke out and the earth ~~heaven~~ began to shudder. violently. The roar swelled to a deafening roar, and then he says "it was as though the keystone had fallen out of the universe and the arch of the sky were collapsing.

They all ran out of the tents only to be thrown immediately to the ground. They lay there clutching each other waiting for the end of the world.

Kingdon Ward says that those greatest of all mountains - the Himalayas "were in the grip of a

force that was shaking them as a terrier shakes a rat"....."the ~~xx~~ earthquake roared on. Something was pounding the ground beneath us with the force of a giant sledge hammer.....it seemed that the very foundations of the world were breaking up under the violent blows, that the crust on which we lay would crumble like an ice floe in a rough sea and hurl us into a bottomless pit."

And then on top of the roaring of the earthquake came the crash of rock avalanches pouring into the valley on every side, with cliffs cracking off. Kingdon Ward tells us that avalanches buried whole villages, but that loss of ~~xx~~ life was surprisingly small because that part of Central Asia is so sparsely ~~xxxxxxx~~ settled. ~~Then he goes on to give some of the technical reasons for this giant earthquake that occurred two and a half years ago, the story of which is now just coming out bit by bit.~~ The explorer and his wife, and ~~their~~ party were trapped for weeks by the avalanches, ~~And~~ the rivers that changed their courses

And now he is back

~~He has returned~~ with one of the strangest tales ever
out of a remote region
 brought ~~back~~ by any traveller.

The letter from Laverne Morse from which
 I quoted a moment ago concludes with a bit of gossip
 from that remote mission station among the Kachin tribes.
 "The most excitement, locally" writes Laverne Morse,
 "has been from the Tigers on nightly promenades down
 the main street of this village. One Tiger even
 climbed ~~in~~ onto a native porch - and grabbing a man,
 almost succeeded in dragging him off."

So that's the gossip from the village of
 Putao, in the remote region where the Burma jungle
 rises toward the Roof-of-the-World.

MOON

Back in the year of Eighteen forty-four, history was made, when four words were flashed - from Washington to Baltimore. This year, Nineteen Fifty-two, the same four words were sent from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to Sterling, Virginia - via the moon. Which illustrates the fact that scientists of the U S Bureau of Standards have a sense of the appropriate.

(They bounced off the moon, the first intelligible radio signals, the first actual words. And the words they selected were those that Samuel F.B. Morse used, in beginning the art of telegraphy.)
The first telegraph wire was strung between Washington and nearby Baltimore, and the inventor sent that famous message - ("what hath God wrought."

The message via the moon was flashed four months ago - kept secret until now, under security regulations. Previously scientists had been able to bounce signals off the satellite, and receive them, reflected back to this earth. But, never any message that made any sense.)

This time, back in November, they tried it with a transmitter set up at Cedar Rapids, ^{Iowa} - the laboratory of the Collins Radio Company. The receiver was seven-hundred-and-seventy-five miles away - at the Bureau of Standards, Sterling, Virginia. The transmitter was aimed at the moon; and the radio waves took two-and-a-half seconds to make the round trip - bouncing back to the ~~xx~~ earth with a clear message, easy to decipher: "What hath God wrought." !

Scientists look ~~xx~~ to the time when the moon may be used regularly as a reflecting surface, from which radio signals may be bounced, as a feature of communications in peace or war.

A message to the Moon, Nelson -
with no one up there to intercept it?