

L. T. - SUNOCO - MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1935

ROOSEVELT

There's joy in the White House tonight. Not because its master, the president is going away for a fishing cruise, but because of the reason that has made it possible for him to do so. Mr. Roosevelt couldn't think of going while his friend and confidential secretary, Colonel Louis McHenry Howe was still in danger. Up to this morning the news about Colonel Howe was dark and almost hopeless. We heard that an attack of pleurisy had complicated his condition and that his physicians had given up hope. But today comes the word that the President's intimate advisor has passed the crisis. The good news brought back the famous Roosevelt smile and tonight the President is starting for Florida waters hoping for a little fisherman's luck. Here's hoping their biting Mr. President.

MAGUIRE

A Mr. Gerald Maguire died in New Haven today. Perhaps you think you never heard of Mr. Maguire, you've probably forgotten him. His death brings to mind a chain of events which illustrate how an obscure man can be drawn uncomfortably into the limelight.

Perhaps you do recall the big fascist plot that stood Washington on its ear last November, the plot to make General Smedley Butler, "Il Duce of America". Indeed, old Gimley Eye, the hero of a hundred fights, went before a committee of the House ~~of~~ and testified that a Wall Street bond salesman had offered him a pot of gold to organize an army, lead it to Washington, and proclaim himself dictator! The plot was that General Butler was to have a force of half a million troops. There was no idea of dethroning President Roosevelt. He would be allowed to remain in the White House, but occupy a position somewhat like that of the King of Italy.

Some people grinned when they heard the yarn, but congressional committee investigating the story took it seriously. And General Butler was hailed before the Committee. As a loyal

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American, Old Gimlet Eye felt it his duty to tell all. And he said it was a bond salesman named Gerald Maguire who had come to him with this offer, declaring that he represented a Junta of Wall Street millionaires.

The Committee then sent for Maguire. He turned out to be a chubby, good-natured and quite unimportant salesman. He became a nine day celebrity and soon afterwards fell ill. His illness lasted for several months, and now his brother declares that his death was hastened by the trouble he got himself into.

MUST CORRECTION

Commissioner Adams of the Federal Trade Commission informs me that I stubbed my toe on Friday evening. I was talking about President Roosevelt's request to Congress for stricter regulations of the advertising of food and drugs. Inadvertently I said that, as the matter stands now, Uncle Sam has no control over advertising. That was a slip. Commissioner Adams points out that the government does have power to control advertising. The courts have held that false and misleading advertisements come under the head of unfair business methods. Anybody who is guilty can be hauled up before the Federal Trade Commission, which has full power to prevent it.

So that's that. I often stub my toe.

CHICAGO

Chicago struck back swiftly today, after yesterday's barking of guns and the staccato rattle of typewriters -- machine guns -- the attempt to assassinate the State's Attorney. It has been quite a while since the city on Lake Michigan was the center of crime news in America.

The general impression got around that the mobs had been squelched, that the government was giving them a wide berth. This was largely due to fearless young state's Attorney Thomas J. Courtney. He has made himself considerable of a hero on the shores of Lake Michigan -- a scourge to criminals. Thanks to his vigor and courage and intelligence a dozen of the toughest mobs in the Middle West were broken up and routed.

So now the rattle of typewriters meant that the underworld was trying to take vengeance. The prosecutor was riding in his car with an alderman and two policemen, his body-guards. Suddenly another car roared up alongside. The body-guards hastily pushed Tom Courtney to the floor just before the tommy-guns barked out their nickle-coated message. That has aroused an up-roar of anger throughout Chicago. And Tom Courtney, himself has struck back swiftly -- ordering the arrest of batches of known gangsters. Chicago hummed today with police activity.

Van Ess,

Thomas,

Wilkins

Mar. 25, 1935

DR. VAN ESS, BERTRAM THOMAS
AND SIR HUBERT WILKINS

Three unusual men happen to be sitting here with me tonight, friends of mine, from the ends of the earth. One is an Englishman, one an Australian, one an American. They are three great travelers. One is a missionary, one an explorer, orientalist, anthropologist and so on. The third is the foremost of all living polar travelers. I am not going to ask them to break into this news broadcast and make any speeches. But I will ask each for a word or two about the section of the world he knows the best.

Let's hear from the missionary first. His name is Dr. John Van Ess. For thirty-three years he has made his headquarters at the head of the Persian Gulf, at Basrah, the old city of Sindbad the Sailor. Dr. Van Ess, we all heard the other day how the most powerful monarch in Arabia, Ibn Saud, came near being assassinated, while he was at prayer, in the Holy Mosque in Mecca. What would it have meant if the assassins had killed him?

- Bert. T.

Sir H. W.

- and perhaps the other gentlemen

one other might

If Ibn Saud had been murdered, the deed might easily have had repercussions all over the world. It certainly would have had, throughout the Near East. And the Near East today is like the Balkans, always a possible source of trouble, serious international trouble, because so many international interests run parallel out there. Ibn Saud is an absolute ruler in all that part of Arabia which he controls. And when I say "rules" I mean just that.

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Some time ago an Arab tribesman coming in from the desert reported that he had found a bag of coffee lying on the sand. According to the story, Ibn Saud said: "How did you know it was coffee?" The Bedouin replied: "I kick it with my toe." Whereupon the ruler of Arabia ordered the executioner to cut off that Arab's toe, saying: "I want you to understand that when you see something on the desert that doesn't belong to you, you let it alone."

Whether this story is true or not, he rules his country in a way that makes it unnecessary for us to deliver our valuables in armoured cars as my countrymen do here in New York.

His Highness was good enough to approve of some of my ideas, so he appointed me to the Supreme Council. And ~~eventually~~ eventually, as His Highness liked ~~me~~ to take long vacations in India, ten months at a time, I was for the most part the actual ruler of the country. Of course, it was a large responsibility, but somehow one gets along. And that gave me the chance to do what every Englishman in the East has longed to do -- make the trip across the Rub-al-Khali desert.

Yes, Bertram Thomas, it was a singular bit of luck. As a matter of fact I believe it is a matter of record that I happened to be the first European ever to hold such a position in an independent Islamic state. Originally I was appointed as financial advisor to the Government of Saudi Arabia and then, one of the oldest Sultanates in the world, I had been there a short while.

BERTRAM THOMAS

L.T.:- The second of the three travelers in the room this evening is Bertram Thomas, one of the greatest explorers of modern times. In Southern Arabia is a vast region known as the Rub-el-Khali, the Land of Emptiness. For centuries explorers have dreamed of penetrating it and crossing it. Bertram Thomas, a British political officer, was the first European ever to accomplish it. But before he made his great journey, he had ~~xxxxxx~~ risen in the East to the point where he was Prime Minister to the ~~Sultanxxxx~~ Sultan of Oman, on the Persian Gulf. He is on his way around the world, just passing through New York. Now, Bertram Thomas, that must have been a curious experience for a young Englishman in his early thirties, to be Wazir to an oriental potentate.

BERTRAM THOMAS:- Yes, Lowell Thomas, it was a singular bit of luck. As a matter of fact I believe it is a matter of record that I happened to be the first European ever to hold such a position in an independent Asiatic state. Originally I was appointed as Financial Advisor to the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman, one of the oldest Sultanates in the East. After I had been there a short while,

SIR HUBERT WILKINS

L.T.:- The third of these travelers, the one I referred to a moment ago as the greatest of all living polar explorers, is the Australian, Sir Hubert Wilkins. He is just back from another expedition to the Antarctic. This time he was down there helping his ~~friend~~ friend Lincoln Ellsworth, the American -- the expedition on which Bernt Balchen was the pilot.

Well, Sir Hubert, I got myself into a grand jam Christmastime by telling all about how you gentlemen had flown right across the Antarctic continent. The story came to us by ~~way of~~ ^{way of} New Zealand. And then the next day word came that it wasn't so. What happened? What is the latest news from the South Polar regions?

DUCHESS

Another flyer reported missing has been found, safe and sound. The upper stratum of the English nobility was getting all ready to mourn the loss of the celebrated Flying Duchess, the sixty-nine year old wife of His Grace, the eleventh Duke of Bedford. Her Grace got her nickname through her extreme enthusiasm for aviation. In spite of her years, she was a keen sportswoman. In Nineteen twenty-nine, she made a record flight of nine thousand miles to India and back in seven and a half days. Later she flew all the way from London to Capetown and return. Two years ago, at the age of sixty-seven, she obtained a pilot's "A" license, and is an accomplished radio operator in the bargain.

Five days ago the Duchess took off from London, intending to fly six thousand miles over the Atlas Mountains, across the Sahara Desert to Nigeria and thence to Khartoum in the Sudan. Historic Khartoum where Chinese Gordon was killed and from which Kitchener took his ~~xxx~~ title after the slaughter of Omdurman. For five days nothing was heard of her and it was generally feared that the Flying Duchess had come to grief. In

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fact, the stay-at-home Duke, her husband, who was aide-de-camp, to the late King Edward the Seventh and afterwards to King George, was reported to be seriously worried about his flying wife. To today there's cheer in Burke's peerage because the Duchess turned up at Oran in Algeria, unscared and unshaken, still a perfectly good flying Duchess.

GERMANY

The eyes of the world continue to be focused hard on Berlin.

There's one thing you've got to hand to Hitler. He knows how to deal out surprises. Everybody had supposed that when Sir John Simon, the Beau Brummelish Captain Anthony Eden and Sir Eric Phipps arrived in Berlin they would have to do their conferring over the broken Treaty with der Fuehrer's subordinates, his Foreign Minister, the Baron von Neurath and Major von Ribbentrop.

But, on the contrary, the big shot himself sat in and dealt himself a hand in the inter-national poker game. That gives Europe a chance to hope that something will happen, that John Bull and the Fatherland will arrive at a real agreement.

It is fair to assume that the news from Warsaw made Hitler less independent and cocky than he was expected to be. That news is that Poland refuses to play ball with Germany in any scheme to grab the Ukraine from Russia. They would have had a tough time doing it anyway. So the ancient friendship between

Warsaw and Paris will live on, the friendship that was at its height in the days of Louis the Fourteenth, the grand monarch, the friendship revived when Poland once more became a nation. That kills one of Hitler's fondest hopes. It also makes it difficult, if not impossible, for him to keep the rest of the promises he made to the German people, that he would recover Danzig, part of Czecho-slovakia, and the strip of Silesia which the Treaty of Versailles handed over to Poland.

In the face of the wrecking of his hopes for a Polish alliance, it was more or less natural that der Fuehrer should make a diplomatic rightabout-turn and give a chatty welcome to John Bull's envoys. It is significant that Sir John Simon and his colleagues were received with cheers from the crowds in Berlin.

Hitler has what he thinks is a high card, a powerful reason why England should agree to his plans for a strong army, and navy. The Germans claim that the other Powers should comply with their ideas because a strong Nazi Fascist Fatherland is the

principal bulwark against Bolshevism. That's the prevailing idea in Berlin today.

It is conceded that the peace of Europe depends heavily upon this Berlin conference.

Incidentally, Senator Borah of Idaho is one of those who, like Foreign Minister Laval of France, ridicule the idea of war. For twelve years Mr. Borah, as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, was one of the foremost authorities in the country on international affairs. He points that fifteen years ago he foretold that Germany would eventually break away from that Versailles Treaty. He further said one thing that ought to reassure us:- "whatever happens, Uncle Sam will not get into the mix-up," quoth Prophet Borah.

QUINTUPLETS

Just for a change, here's a bit of news about some people you haven't heard of for a long while, the Dionne quintuplets. There hasn't been anything about them for at least three days. The latest is thrilling. The Canadian authorities got wind of a plot to kidnap the famous Five. Yes, ^a sure enough snatch-plot. The idea was to grab them, throw them into an automobile, and then transport them in an airplane across the border into Uncle Sam's territory. After that I suppose the idea was to blackmail the government of the Province of Ontario for ransom money. As you may recall, the Ontario government has taken the five young ladies under its paternalistic wing.

All this came to light when the news leaked out that the Ontario authorities had placed a guard of ^{red-coated} Mounties over the quintuplets. They've not yet announced who the conspirators are supposed to have been.

Anyway, Emilie, Cecile, Marie, Annette, and Yvonne are safe, and --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.