

April first has come and gone, and still the long-threatened war between Russia and Japan has not broken loose. It was the beginning of this month, which the war lords, they said, had picked for the outbreak of hostilities in the Far East. However, April has come and still no war. Yet, the frontiers between Japanese and Russian territory bristle with rifles and machine guns.

A statement by Alexander Troyanovsky, the Soviet Ambassador to Washington, is additional proof that the war peril is not just an idle dream. The Red Ambassador told the Foreign Policy Association in Cincinnati that:- "The danger of war is acute. The international situation is as tense as ever, as tense as it was in nineteen fourteen." And Mr. Troyanovsky issued<sup>a</sup> warning to ~~the~~ Japan when he declared:- "Russia wants peace. But she will not surrender one foot of her land even for the sake of maintaining peace."

And that sounds like Stalin, who said some time ago in still more picturesque terms:- "Those who attack us will get

such a decisive blow that they will learn to keep their snouts out of our potato patch." Thus spoke the Man-of-Steel. And in that remark you hear the coarse lusty voice of the Russian peasant.

Stalin's ambassador in our midst, however, is not the peasant kind -- though he looks more like a fighter than a diplomat. His father was a professional soldier, and Comrade Troyanovsky himself fought in the Russo-Japanese war. Then he went to the University of Moscow to study chemistry. He got mixed up in the revolutionary movement and was banished to Siberia by the Czar. When the Red flag was hoisted above the Kremlin that was a lucky day for Comrade Alexander Troyanovsky. He became Ambassador to Tokyo; and now he's the first Red emissary to this most uncommunistic land <sup>making</sup> official speeches, in Ohio.

Meanwhile New York has been welcoming the first Russian ship to enter an American port since the Soviet government has been recognized. For the first time in history the Red flag of world revolution appeared in your Uncle Samuel's waters. Bringing a cargo of wine from the Caucausus.

INSULL

The Insull comedy passes to a ridiculous climax. And the joke is at the expense of Uncle Sam. After chasing the ex-millionaire of Chicago across land and sea, after finally running him to ground, the authorities discover that they neglected to procure a warrant for Insull's arrest.

That may sound curious in view of the fact there is a warrant out for him in the state of Illinois. But, a point of international law is involved. To procure the extradition of a man from one country to another, a warrant has to be signed by the President of the United States. And this the law officers neglected to procure. The Turkish authorities now say to Uncle Sam's emissaries:- "Here's your one-time Sultan of Chicago. Take him away!" To which Uncle Sam's men were obliged to reply:- "Thanks awfully, but we can't use him right now."

So it may be necessary to send a special agent from Washington to Istanbul with a presidential warrant. All of which must make Mr. Robert Skinner, our Ambassador to Turkey, feel somewhat embarrassed. Meanwhile the seventy-four year old

ex-millionaire languishes in a Turkish jail, than which there are no jails less pleasant -- unless the reforms of Kemal Pasha have included the notorious dungeons of Turkey. A week in an old-time Turkish prison was sufficient punishment for almost any crime.

The events in the Insull case sharply illustrate the striking change that has come over the former Ottoman empire. Turkish justice, for an age, was proverbially slow, devious and corrupt. In the case of Insull, it has functioned like greased lightning -- in contrast to Greece.

Meanwhile, of course, another nice point of international law is involved. The Greeks claim that the Turks arrested Insull on ~~what~~ what is virtually Greek soil; that is, the deck of a ship flying the Greek flag. The answer of the Turkish government to this complaint has been merely silence. However, one can hardly imagine two <sup>countries</sup> ~~countries~~ going to war over the fallen millionaire of the American Middle West.

## HITLER

I wonder how long things can continue without an open break between the Nazis and the Catholic Church? Hitler is now faced with the outright disapproval of the Vatican.

A severe criticism of Nazi propaganda has been sent forth by Pope Pius. It indicates that the high prelates of the Church in Germany are in revolt against Nazi ideas. That can be seen in the wording of the message which the Pope sent to Catholic Youth organizations in Hitler's domain in which he says:- "We know that the situation of Catholic youth in Germany causes great anxiety among your bishops."

Also there is the Pope's characterization of certain features of the Nazi creed, as:- "propaganda for a new outlook on life which points away from Christ and back to paganism."

Fifty years ago the mighty Bismarck fought a fight against the Vatican -- and he did not win. Can Hitler do any better than the Iron Chancellor?

## DUEL

Four shots rang out in the chilly morning. Nobody was hurt. Nor a hair was harmed on a head. Just another duel.

What made this one interesting was the locality chosen by the duelists. They met on the rifle range in the shadow of the famous towers of fair Carcassonne. There beneath those same walls, where knights of old tilted with lances. The modern duelists fired two shots apiece, with the usual results. They did not kiss and make up. Both of them expressed the ferocious desire to continue the fray but, they wanted better weather for it. It was too cold, they said, to shoot straight. Their animosity is explained by the fact that both are deputies and one deputy called the other an "ignoble person." And them is fightin' words in France.

This kind of dueling sounds harmless. But with people shooting at each other some day one of the seconds is going to get hit.

## ABYSSINIA

Premier Mussolini appears in a new role -- enemy of romance. And a royal Abyssinian romance at that! It was highly interesting to learn that a marriage had been arranged between Prince Lij Araya of Abyssinia and a Japanese picture bride -- meaning selected from a picture. An interesting combination, that --, the Kingdom of the Queen of Sheba and the Land of the Rising Sun. When it was learned that the wedding was off, there was considerable speculation as to the reason. But now the truth comes out. It was the Duce who turned Roman thumbs down on this curious alliance. Evidently he did not fancy the idea of Japanese influence in a land so close to Italy's African colonial possessions. Incidentally the bride's parents have not been enthusiastic about the flight of the Abyssinian-Japanese cupid.

## ELEPHANT

Let's talk about elephants for a change. I don't mean the highly trained intelligent animals press agented by Dexter Fellow's of the circus. Nor do I mean the tame but ponderous pachydryms on which your offspring takes a ride when you go to the zoo.

The elephants that we know and love are very different from the ferocious brutes who have been creating a reign of terror in the southern parts of the Madras presidency in India. They have been raising havoc with the crops, with public works, and with the population. Every forest division in Southern Hindustan at present has three or four rogue elephants, untamed monsters who threaten human lives, root up fields and impoverish entire districts. In one place a solitary bull rogue has stopped all road repairs. He rips it up and throws everything around. He is so savage that the coolies refuse to work on the road. In other places, the road repair gangs stay on the job with armed guards protecting them.



However, people who are authorities on elephant <sup>lore</sup> ~~nature~~ inform us that the rogues are not entirely to blame.

In almost every case it has been found that <sup>they</sup> ~~rogues~~ are elephants who have been wounded or are suffering from some disease.

One missionary <sup>recently</sup> had an exciting time with a rogue <sup>that</sup> ~~who~~ was doing immense ~~xxxx~~ damage in his district. Incidentally, he got an object lesson in the tremendous vitality of these animals. ~~So~~ One moonlight night he tracked the elephant down.

When he got to a distance of twenty yards, the <sup>rogue</sup> ~~subject~~ charged.

The missionary pumped three bullets from <sup>his</sup> ~~xxx~~ point two five four rifle <sup>right</sup> ~~into~~ its head. The elephant dropped and everybody thought that was the end of him. But he got up and walked away into the jungle, where it was unsafe to follow him at night. The next day the missionary resumed the chase with a large force of hunters.

Suddenly, the elephant charged him from behind. The missionary planted three more shots in its head. The rogue fell but got up again and plunged back into the jungle. Finally, the entire resources of the district were engaged in the job of hunting down

that solitary tusker. And when they finally ~~got him they~~ found ~~no~~ <sup>him, dead there were</sup> fewer ~~than~~ six bullets in his ~~head.~~ <sup>brain.</sup>

DUKE

I understand that Miss Doris Duke, the tobacco heiress, has not only ten million dollars but a sense of humor. <sup>And —</sup> She must have needed it on her visit to Mexico.

When she hopped out of a plane in Mexico City, the fact that her name was Doris Duke meant nothing to the Mexican immigration officials. Neither did her passport. Mexico, like Uncle Sam, has a law prohibiting the entry of any foreigner who cannot produce enough money to guarantee that he or she will not become a public charge. Now, it is a peculiarity <sup>that</sup> ~~of~~ most rich people <sup>like most poor people</sup> ~~that they~~ seldom carry any large amounts of cash with them. So when the <sup>Aztec</sup> immigration cerberus asked Miss Duke how much money she had with her, all she could produce was <sup>two dollars and thirteen cents and</sup> a check book. And check books mean nothing to Mexican officials <sup>— or any officials.</sup> It was not ~~only~~ until she was able to prove that she was visiting Mexico as a guest of the American Ambassador, Josephus Daniels, that they finally let her in.

# There's a situation for a novelist:- "Richest girl in America stopped at the gate because she <sup>might become a public charge.</sup> ~~can't show any money."~~

DR. JARMAN

Almost the first to feel the depression were the colleges and private preparatory schools. But everywhere I have been recently I've heard the same story. The prospects for these institutions are much brighter.

I understand that only about fifty colleges in the country came through last year without going into the red, and without cutting salaries. Doctor Lewis Jarman, President of Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, Virginia, told me about this. His college is famous for its beautiful women; and right through the depression they had a waiting list. So President Jarman's college was one of the fortunate fifty.

L.T.

## ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt has the political dopesters guessing. They are trying to dig up some subtle reason for his decision to extend his vacation for another week.

Us simple souls hardly think any deep and devious explanation is needed. Maybe the President is making his vacation longer because he wants a longer vacation! Nevertheless, he seems to have some of the Congressmen puzzled and wondering whether he has anything up his sleeve.

Of course, that fishing trip has its unusual points. Except for Woodrow Wilson's wartime visits to France, no President has ever been away from Washington so long at one time -- particularly with Congress in session. In addition to other imposing matters of state, Mr. Roosevelt's prolonged absence aboard the Nourmahal has made it necessary for the Gridiron Club to postpone their annual dinner. It was to have taken place Saturday night, but as these functions would be incomplete without the President, the date has been pushed ahead to a week from Saturday. Arthur Sinnott, editor of the Newark News tells me that this year's Gridiron harlequinade is going to rougher on celebrities than ever. With all sorts of low comedy poked at the high and mighty.

BILLS

Of course it may be that the President is staying down there with the tarpon, the fightin' sail fish and the ~~frine~~ friendly barracuda, just to leave Congress a clear field for the fight over the Securities Act. The din arising from this fray is considerable. All over the country committees have been formed to agitate against the passage of the Fletcher-Rayburn measure. Forty-three committees in forty-three key cities, and no fewer than forty organizations of bankers, chambers of commerce, and so forth are on the warpath to stop the passage of the bill. But Jesse James, I mean Jesse Jones, Chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, feels optimistic about the situation. He prophesies that the banks eventually will lose their fear, both of the Securities Act and of the bill to control stock exchanges. He does not offer any reasons for his prophecy, however.

Representative Sam Rayburn of Texas declares the attacks that are being made on his pet measure are exceedingly unfair, some of them untruthful. For my part, this is one of the issues on which I emulate the late Bert Williams and say: "Ise ~~not~~ neutral, Jedge, Ise neutral."

## BONUS

There is considerable justice in the complaint made by the American Legion and other organizations of veterans. They say that people are being misled about that Independent Offices Bill, the bill that was the occasion of that revolt against the President.

I have received wires and telephone calls from all parts of the country on this subject. One of them comes from Gene Hill of Marion, Ohio, the home of the late President Harding. Mr. Hill points out that the two hundred and twenty-eight million dollars appropriated for that bill is not, as some people have charged, a hand-out to ~~gx~~ veterans. Only eighty-eight of those two hundred and twenty-eight millions will be paid to former soldiers. The rest of the money restores ~~es~~ the cuts ~~that were~~ made in the ~~bill~~ ~~of~~ pay of government employees.

CONGRESS

We Americans have one peculiar attitude. We elect congressmen to go to Washington and pass laws and then spend a large part of our time praying for ~~them~~ <sup>our statesmen</sup> to knock off work as soon as possible and go home. So perhaps many people will be encouraged by the information that Congress may adjourn far earlier than we had hoped. When the session opened, it looked as though the ~~boys and girls on~~ <sup>legislators on</sup> Capitol Hill would be lucky if they got through by May fifteenth. But now it seems possible that they may end their labors in two weeks. And, they ~~say~~ say, it is the disposal of the Independent Offices Bill that is responsible.

However, there is still plenty of work for them to do. For example -- the Tariff, the Securities Bill, the Airmail question, Taxes, and government control of cotton growers. Settling all those questions sounds like a good deal more than a fortnight's work.

AGES - ENDING

The <sup>latest</sup> ~~new~~ edition of the Congressional Directory ~~is~~  
~~out.~~ It reveals some interesting things about the gentlemen  
of the House, but not about the ladies -- I mean on the  
subject of ages.

The male Senators don't mind telling how old they  
are. The venerable patriarch, Senator Thompson of Nebraska,  
is eighty. The youngest is Congressman Monaghan of Montana,  
he is twenty-seven. The average age of the men in the Senate  
is fifty-eight, in the House of Representatives fifty-three.  
President Roosevelt is fifty-two. I can't tell you anything  
about the ages of the lady law makers. The information is  
not listed in the Congressional Directory. Ladies don't tell.  
So how old is Ann? Well, if Ann ~~XXXXXX~~ is a member of  
Congress, we don't know. She's mum about it; and it's time  
for me to be mum about everything.

And -- SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.