

CHINA

P.L. - Sunoco. Thursday, Jan. 14, 1943.

Here's something from China. In telling the war news we frequently neglect that brave country in which events are dim and hazy because of distance and isolation. The news today tells of a new campaign in China -- something of a ^{major} ~~new~~ campaign, apparently.

Two weeks ago the Japs launched a big offensive. Chungking tells us that it was a two-fold affair, two Jap drives hurling a total of ninety thousand men against defense positions in southern China. ^{TP} The enemy advanced rapidly at first and

captured several important cities in the provinces of Honan, Anhwei and Hupeh. Within five days they swept across hundreds of miles. The Chinese were unable to resist them; ~~and~~ local forces ^{not having} ~~had not~~ the equipment.

^{TP} Units of the Chinese main army hurried to the critical section, and these fresh troops used tactics which the Chinese call -- "elastic ribbon." This means -- they ^{swung} ~~swing~~ in behind the Japanese advance and recaptured districts through which the enemy had just passed.

The key point was the city of Sinyang in the southern part of the province of Honan. The Japs captured the place, then the new Chinese forces hit them. A bitter battle ensued with the Chinese hammering their way into the city. The Japs hung onto part of the town, the Chinese holding the rest. ^{TR} Today's dispatch states that the battle inside ~~of~~ Sinyang has been going on for sixty hours. ^{And} The fighting is the heaviest that has occurred in China in the past six months. The Japs are bringing up reinforcements in a desperate attempt to drive the Chinese out. Today's news tells how they have failed, and adds that because of those elastic ribbon tactics the big Jap offensive has thus far been a complete failure.

RUSSIA

The Russians report a striking success -- the capture of a concentration camp. The Nazis have made a lot of things odious but nothing more so than -- concentration camp. In the Caucasus the Soviets launched a lightning drive that struck behind the German line. The Red ^{column}~~Army~~ ~~just~~ consisted of tanks, with ~~500~~ soldiers clinging to their sides -- soldiers with tommy guns. With swift advance they went ~~all~~ the way to a big concentration camp, where Soviet soldiers ~~and~~ civilians were imprisoned. They ^{seized}~~captured~~ the place and released the rejoicing captive^s.

All along the line in the Caucasus the Red Army is advancing, but reports^{are} that the Axis troops are offering stubborn resistance. They are defending key ~~xxxx~~ points obstinately -- ~~re~~ railroad stations and highway junctions. ~~They will are~~ Battling savagely to stop the Soviet thrust toward Rostov -- that key point of Rostov, the capture of which by the Reds would result in disaster for the Nazis.

Moscow describes the weather in the Caucasus as abominable, rain and snow pouring from the sky and ^dkeep slush covering the ground. Nevertheless, the Russians are pressing on. They have started an aerial offensive, day and night, against the important city of Drasnodar -- an important objective in the drive toward Rostov.

Berlin ~~xxxx~~ tells of Soviet operations, which Moscow does not mention. Berlin reports attacks along most of the Russian front -- around Leningrad, at Voronezh, the Stalingrad Don Front and along the Black Sea coast.

A dispatch from Zurich, Switzerland quotes a German war correspondent as follows: "The Russian artillery is an inferno. It is followed with infantry attacks by Russian soldiers who seem driven by an uncanny will power to fight with desperate courage." So reports the Nazi war correspondent.

MOSCOW AMBASSADOR

In Moscow today American Ambassador Admiral Standley stated that the United Nations offensive in North Africa has reduced the Soviet demand for a second front, but the Russians are still pressing for action in Europe.

Admiral Standley stated this right after a one hour conference with Molotov, Soviet Commissar for Foreign Affairs. The Ambassador-Admiral has recently returned to Moscow after a visit to the United States. And he said that he had noticed over here an increasing American sympathy for the sufferings and sacrifices of the Russian people and a growing admiration for their war effort.

NORTH AFRICA

In North Africa French troops fighting with our forces report new success. The French are driving in the northern part of Tunisia, trying to smash their way through the Axis line ~~into~~ the coast. ~~It is xxx~~ Mountain country there, and they are pushing through passes between the hills. Today's news tells how they forced their way into several of these passes. The Axis line, however, is strong ⁱⁿ those hills. And we are told that the French will have hard fighting before they can drive to the coast.

A romantic note is sounded in the news that the French in Tunisia are for the first time using an air force of their own. They have been given American built planes, and these have now gone into action. The French call their Tunisia^v air force the Lafayette Escadrille. That's the romantic note -- a reminiscence of that ~~American~~ Lafayette Escadrille of American pilots who fought for France in the previous war.

We have news concerning political affairs in North Africa, ^{too,} The news comes from London. There have been stories of disagreement between the Americans and the British about the administration of French North Africa -- and this harks back to the bitter dispute about the ~~assassination~~^{ed} of Darlan. Today in London Brendon Bracken, Minister of Information stated that Britain and the United States, are not pushing rival candidates for the French leadership. Rival candidates in this instance would mean General Giraud, whom the United States recognizes in North Africa, and General DeGaulle, leader of the Fighting French.

There have been British criticisms of American Commander General Eisenhower, complaints that stem back to his recognition of Darlan. Today the London Minister of Information stated -- "The British Government gave Eisenhower power of attorney in North Africa. We have the utmost possible confidence in ~~our~~ Eisenhower," he added.

SOLOMONS

News from the Solomons tells of a brilliant foray by American ^{motor} torpedo boats. Jap destroyers came nosing around Guadalcanal, presumably trying to land supplies for the Japs there. Our P.T. boats went flashing out at them. They scored two torpedo hits on one enemy destroyer, and one hit on a second. And there were two possible hits on a third Jap destroyer.

Today's Navy communique tells of the usual bombings of Jap strongholds in the Solomons, and goes on with the following about fighting on Guadalcanal: "United States ground forces on Guadalcanal Island, supported by air forces, continued their attacks," says the communique.

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Just how much of an advance the marines and regular army soldiers have scored, is not stated, but they are pushing on. (This is in line with an enemy

{ dispatch which states that the fighting is growing

hotter in the Solomon Islands. The German radio quotes Tokyo as saying that the battle in the Solomons, and also in New Guinea, is increasing in ferocity. And the Japs admit that the Americans have superiority in the air.

GLASS

Today in Washington, the Senate elected a President pro tem. The vote was forty-three to twenty-nine, and it was a tribute to a great veteran of Congress. The new President pro tem of the Senate is the aged Carter Glass, who is ill at his home at Lynchburg, Virginia.

WALKER

The new Chairman of the Democratic National Committee will be Postmaster General ^{Franks} Walker. That's the word from Washington. His name will be presented in behalf of President Roosevelt to the Democratic National Committee which meets at Chicago on Monday.

ff The Postmaster General will succeed retiring Chairman Edward J. Flynn who has been nominated by the President as Minister to Australia. We are told that Walker was reluctant to accept the post, but was persuaded by the President.

FLYNN

The storm about Edward J. Flynn broke in the Senate today. Congressional ructions were promised in the case of President Roosevelt's campaign manager in the last election, who was Chairman of the National Committee of the Democratic Party and who has been appointed by the President as Minister to Australia. And today that promise of congressional ructions was amply fulfilled. It was a Republican storm, and it beat around the heads of the Democrats - that is, around the heads of two Democrats.

The opening
The blast was delivered by Senator Styles Bridges of New Hampshire, and only two Democratic Senators remained to hear it. One was Senator Stewart of Tennessee. The other was Senator Tom Connally of Texas, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. That Committee is going to conduct an inquiry into the question of Flynn's nomination as Minister to Australia.

The general absence of Democrats impelled Senator Bridges to lash out with the following:-
"Evidently", he cried, "the stench of the Flynn appointment has become so nauseating to many members of the Senate, that they have gone to the cloakrooms during ^{(its} ~~this~~ discussion."

~~Senator Connally interrupted with a reference to that familiar theme - "a second front." "The new front about which so many people have been inquiring is here - it's the Flynn front."~~

The charges made by Senator Bridges were blistering. He stated that the law firm in which Flynn is a partner had represented a man with Japanese connections. This man he described in the following words: "Serge Rubinstein, who at the time had large Japanese interests and was closely associated with one Guiji Kassai, a registered agent of the

Japanese government in this country until two weeks before Pearl Harbor."

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And, Bridges alleged that Flynn, when Chancellor of New York City, invested and lost more than a million dollars in public funds in a title and mortgage company to which Flynn's law firm later became general counsel. He ^{also} tried to link Flynn with the notorious gangster Dutch Schultz, saying that when Flynn was Sheriff of Bronx County, he appointed Dutch Schultz Deputy Sheriff.

And of course the Bridges blast got around to the famous question of the Belgian paving blocks. He referred to the story that paving blocks owned by the City had been used to make a courtyard for the Flynn country estate. A New York grand jury investigated the charge and heard Flynn, with a verdict of - nothing to it. The Senator claimed today that the grand jury proceedings were, what he called "improperly handled."

And he stated that the foreman of the jury received a federal appointment in New York City - "two months," said he, "after the Flynn whitewash."

Bridges had on his desk a sort of exhibit A, and he displayed it - a paving block from the Flynn estate. This paving block had been procured by an anti-Flynn committee and presented to the Senators. Calling it "this stolen paving block," Senator Bridges offered to turn it over to the Senate Committee that is to consider the appointment of Flynn as Minister to Australia.

To which Senator Connally retorted: - "I am surprised that the Senator ^{from} ~~of~~ New Hampshire should allow himself to be found in possession of stolen property." He said that Bridges might bring the paving block to the Committee hearing if he wanted to, and went on with a jeer and a jibe - saying that the

TRESCA

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In New York today, the District Attorney stated that a small time Brooklyn gunman is a definite suspect in the murder of Carlo Tresca - the old time Red-radical, romantic-revolutionary, and anti-Fascist editor.

This definite suspect is a second rate gangster from a shabby Italian section. (He was picked up because of a singular coincidence. A former convict, he had to report to the Parole Board, and parole officers noticed that he was nervous and left in a hurry. They followed, and saw him get into a car - a private automobile. This they thought peculiar, because of gasoline rationing. They took the number of the car, and this later turned out to be the same as that of an abandoned automobile which the police believed to have been the murder car in the killing of Tresca.)

The District Attorney today was asked about another person mentioned in the case - a man

described as an associate of Mexican Communists.

Carlo Tresca, who called himself an Anarchist, was an antagonist of the Communists as well as the Fascists. The District Attorney said ~~that~~ he understood ~~that~~ there was an associate of Mexican Communists who ~~was~~ was an enemy of Tresca. "When we find him, we will ask him questions," said he.

COAL

There are two separate investigations of the strike of anthracite miners in Pennsylvania. The War Labor Board has launched an inquiry, and so has a special committee of the Senate. The strike is the one in which coal miners walked out in protest against an increase of the union dues they have to pay.

Today the War Labor Board ordered union leaders, — John L. Lewis included, ^{and} Company representatives, to appear at two P.M. on Friday to state what the Board calls - "the reasons why the anthracite miners are on strike against the national no-strike policy and against the welfare of the nation in time of war."

The Senate Committee is the one headed by Senator Truman of Missouri, ^{which} ~~It~~ is investigating the war effort and began its hearings late this afternoon.

⁴ The strike was denounced today by Secretary of the Interior Ickes, who said: "It shows a reckless

disregard of the public good."

This afternoon ~~Secretary~~ Ickes, as Coordinator of solid fuels, asked the hard coal industry to concentrate on shipping anthracite to the eastern states, the area of the oil shortage. (A shortage of coal plus a shortage of heating oil would make things more difficult than ever for people's homes. The ~~Secretary~~ also asked for increased deliveries of soft coal to areas normally served by anthracite.)

ACTRESS

A court of law is a place of dignity. Our judges do not wear the full bottom wigs that the English jurists do, but the idea is the same - majesty and stateliness. So it pains me to tell of a scene in a Hollywood courtroom today. ~~It was most unseemly and in fact - unladylike. To which one may add that ladies, like courtrooms, should have dignity. Some that I know have more of it than any courtroom - those~~ ^{Frosty} ~~stodgy~~ dowagers. [↑] ~~The story tells how a Hollywood~~ But a lady in Hollywood is different. She ~~is a prominent~~ motion picture actress who seems to have a lot of artistic temperament, ~~She is said to have~~ socked her hairdresser in the jaw, dislocated ^{the} ~~her~~ jaw, and ~~to have~~ got into a nightclub argument in which she lost her sweater. Also, she was accused of driving her car while ~~ix~~ she was intoxicated and while the headlights of the auto were glaring in a dime-out area. She was fined two hundred and fifty dollars for that,

but failed to pay the last instalment. So they had her in court, ^{where} ~~and~~ the movie star displayed ~~some~~ more temperament.

~~XX~~

^{continually} During the juridical proceedings she shouted at the judge. His Honor tried to question her on the subject of drinking.

"Listen," she yelled; ~~"I put liquor in my coffee."~~ "I put liquor in my milk. I put liquor in my coffee - and in my orange juice. What do you want me to do, starve to death?"

She kept on shouting like that while the judge tried to pronounce sentence. ^{But} She drowned him out.

His Honor couldn't make himself heard. Finally he ^{summoned all his lung power and bellowed} ~~delivered the verdict:~~ "I sentence you to a hundred and eighty days in the county jail."

To which the actress yelled, "Fine!"

She got up and started to a telephone but a police matron refused to allow her to make the call. Whereupon the ~~wild~~ movie star swung a haymaker at the matron. Two policemen hurried to the rescue, big burly cops. The blonde beauty of the screen hauled off and knocked one of them down, flat on his back.

She also kicked. The cops grabbed her and had to take off her shoes - "to soften ^{the} her kicks", says the news dispatch. ~~You know,~~ ^{girls,} you can't ^{kick so} ~~do so well~~ ^{patently in} ~~with~~ stocking feet, ^{they say,}

With the kicking softened, the cops were finally able to carry the actress off for those hundred and eighty days in the county jail.

MUSIC

In Washington, the musical Petrillo proceedings became harmonious today. At the Senate Committee hearing concerning the Union ban on recorded music, there was no discord about swing, jitterbug, jive and boogie-woogie. If these were ~~xxx~~ abolished by the recorded music ban, it would be okay. All were in unison about that.

Senator Andrews of Florida spoke of what he called - "this jitterbug stuff." And he added: "First it is sung by a male crooner and then by a female whiner." ~~To this we may add that sometimes it is a duet of crooner and whiner.~~

Senator Worth Clark of Idaho shuddered as he said: "The other night my daughter brought home a piece of sheet music called "Cow, Cow Boogie." *and*
Idaho
The Senator was cowed by it.

8/12
Today's witness for the Union was not Petrillo, but Joseph Padway of the A.F. of L., *who*
~~Representing the Musicians Union.~~ *He* said: "Some of the music played by our members gives me the heebie jeebies."

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All of which leaves me curious about the program that follows this one. Think I'll stick around and listen, after Hugh James tells us what he has to say.

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