

ITALY

C.T. - P. & G. Wednesday, Dec. 10, 1947.

~~At this moment,~~ (The ancient city of Rome is in the grip of a general strike.) It began at midnight, Rome time. The Communists, who yesterday delayed the strike for twenty-four hours, called the walkout tonight - in spite of the fact that the moderate government of Premier De Gasperi made a large concession at the last moment. The cabinet today announced the appropriation of money for public works - a thing the Reds were demanding. Conservative (opinion in Rome is that the real purpose of the Communists is to overthrow the government.)

It may be the beginning, in Italy, of the same ordeal of Red strike violence that France went through. The government at Paris has won out, the Communist union leaders capitulating yesterday - so now the Red strike-focus shifts to Italy, to Rome.

In Paris, moderate Premier Schuman, consolidating his victory over red violence, told the workers of France today that ~~the~~ ^{their} ~~well~~ well being depended ^s on the success of the Marshall Plan. In a nationwide radio address he stated: "with American aid, we can hope for a

progressive amelioration of our standards of living."

Meanwhile, the Paris government has sent back the Soviet note, refusing to receive it. As we heard last night, Moscow broke off negotiations for a trade arrangement with France - and sent a violently worded message, charging the French government with what it called "foul slander." The Moscow verbiage is such that the French government refuses to receive the diplomatic communication and back it goes.



ADD ITALY

The latest - the head of the French trade mission in Moscow has denounced his own government. This mission has been ordered to leave - after the French charged Soviet repatriation agents in France with subversive activities. So now the head of the French mission, ordered out, declares that the Paris accusations against the Soviet people are false. ~~His name is Marabie,~~ This Frenchman who, sent on the mission, now denounces his own government, during the war he served in Soviet Russia and Bland, served with Partisan forces of the Communists.

FOREIGN RELIEF

The latest from Washington - the emergency bill to aid France, Italy and Austria - blocked again, delayed. In the House of Representatives, the opposition poured on amendments, which were voted down, but which still held up the passage of the five-hundred-and-ninety million dollar measure to aid free nations in Europe.

PANAMA

At Panama City, down on the Isthmus, a document was signed today - a document of large and exceedingly modern meaning. It's a treaty whereby the Panamanian Government grants to the United States continued lease on thirteen military bases for the defense of the Panama Canal. These are sites which were used during the war, ~~xxxx~~ under a war time agreement. They are mostly air bases, including the big Rio Hato flying field, which was a heavy bomber center during the war.

Today's treaty was not made without some hot and heavy Panamanian ~~xx~~ argument - the foreign minister down there resigning in protest. ~~¶~~ He complained about the length of the leases - ten years ~~x~~ for the Rio Hato Air Base, with an option for an additional ten year lease. However, a new Panamanian Foreign Minister signed the document.

The modern aspect of the new treaty is - Atomic. The United States has its own Panama Canal Zone, a strip ten miles wide - so why shouldn't we have our air

bases in the zone?

Because bases too close together - too thickly concentrated, might be in too much danger of being wiped out by one single atom bomb assault.

For example, a Congressional report issued simultaneously today suggests that our military establishments in various places are too thickly clustered, and ought to be dispersed. San Francisco Bay is named, the contention being that our bases in that all important area are dangerously concentrated and might be knocked out by one atomic blow.

The same thing goes for the Panama Canal - even more so. The State Department in Washington explains that a careful study and survey shows that Panama Canal air defenses must be scattered in areas outside the Canal Zone, outside the strip ten miles wide. That's the atomic background ^{for} ~~the~~ the treaty signed today.

PALESTINE

(The British are going to start full scale evacuation from Palestine a month before London hands over its mandate. The formal transfer is scheduled for the middle of May, and full scale evacuation will begin in the middle of April.)

Even before that, in March and February, British Troops are likely to withdraw from areas in which either ~~the~~ Jews or ~~the~~ Arabs form a great majority of the population. (Right now British police forces are being taken out of the sister cities of Tel Aviv and Jaffa. Bitterly hostile cities, Jewish Tel ~~Aviv~~ Aviv and Arab Jaffa. British police are being replaced by Jewish constables in Tel Aviv and by Arab Constables in Jaffa.)

All this comes from London, where Parliament is Prepared to stage a full dress debate on Palestine - beginning tomorrow which day is the anniversary of the triumphal entrance of Allenby into Jerusalem thirty years ago. It was on December Eleventh, Nineteen Seventeen that the Army of General Allenby, after conquering the Holy Land from ~~the~~ the Turks, staged its triumphal

march into legended Jerusalem -for the victory. Climax of what was then called, the last crusade.

Well, many things have happened since that day thirty years ago, the news today telling of continued violence and killing in Palestine, Arab and Jew in feud and ~~bliss~~ bloodshed. Today there was a murderous attack on Jewish Farm workers in southern Palestine, six killed.

Word from Damascus is that the Druze of Syria are ready to go to war against the Jewish state in Palestine. The chiefs of the fierce tribes of ^{Jebel} ~~the~~ Druze, ^{the Black Mountain} ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ sent word to the Syrian government that they are prepared to send ten thousand of their warriors. The Druze are a fanatical sect of Moslems, who played a chief part in the war against the French in Syria - before the French withdrew.

From the southwestern tip of Arabia, comes the word that the savage disturbances at the port of Aden have died down - suppressed by the British. In ferocious rioting, seventy-five Jews and thirty-five Arabs ~~were~~ killed.- ~~Jewish homes and shops burned, and nine hundred~~

SIR_EDGAR

In Washington, tonight, it was announced that King George the Sixth of England has bestowed an honorary knighthood on J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the F.B.I. -- an honor not often given an American official -- honorary knighthood from a British king to a subject of a republic.

But we are not to call him "Sir Edgar" from now on, because the Sir part of it doesn't go to anyone outside the British Empire.

And why was J. Edgar Hoover made an honorary Knight Commander of the civil defense of The Order of the British Empire? Because, in the words of King George the Sixth, he made an "outstanding contribution to the allied victory in the field of intelligence and securtiy."

CONTEMPT

In Hollywood, today, those nine movie writers, producers, and directors indicted for contempt of Congress surrendered to the U.S. Marshall. The tenth member of the group who refused to tell a congressional committee whether they are Communists or not didn't show up. An attorney said that writer Dalton Trumbo was ~~in~~ on his ranch in the Tehachapi mountains and couldn't be reached by telephone, but ~~he will~~ ^{that he'll} surrender tomorrow without fail. The defendants were finger printed, ~~and booked by Deputy Marshal George Rossini,~~ and then taken before Federal Judge Paul ~~W.~~ McCormick for arrignment and ~~the~~ posting of bail.

COMET

That comet in the southern hemisphere is evoking new turns of wonder. ~~Last night we heard of the heavenly fireworks causing consternation among Zulus, Basutus and Hottentots of South Africa -- throwing them into fits of magic and voodoo. Tonight the puzzles and perplexities emanate, note from the dark tribes -- but from the astronomers.~~

The celestial visitor has made a splendid appearance in the skies over Australia and the astronomers of the Never-Never Land are calling it -- an unknown comet. Last night we had the assumption that it was Honda's comet, the one named after a Japanese astronomer who spotted a new wanderer of the heavens a couple of months ago. But the Australians think it may not be Honda's comet at all -- but another one, hitherto unknown and not named.

The question of the identity of the bright visitor from outer space brings the latest twist of the ~~fantastic~~. At Melbourne an Australian astronomer, George F. Dodwell, thinks the new comet is one predicted by an aged Hindu, who dwells in Australia -- Ahmar Gaga Singh.

It seems that two weeks ago Ahmar Gaga Singh foretold the coming of a new celestial wonder at about this time -- and the comet may be it.

Astronomer Dodwell declares that the aged seer of India not only forecast the comet, but also predicted another and even greater marvel. He foretold that, in the words of the Australian astronomer, "seven sunspots -- in the Center one of colossal size -- to appear in this area at two minutes past midnight on December twenty-fifth; the night before Christmas, when all sorts of wonders are possible -- including Santa and his reindeer.

Those midnight sunspots are really puzzling, so let's get back to the comet. Another Australian astronomer official government star gazer Richard Wooley at Canberra, describes the phenomenon as having a head like a glowing disc and a long luminous tail. Thousands of Australians saw it last night. In fact the new comet is reported all around the Southern Hemisphere.

Word from South America is that the spectacular new comet can be seen all the way from northern Chile to

Tierra Del Fuego. ~~It seems a pity that we don't get a~~
glimpse of the comet up here, but it's visible only in the
skies below the equator.

Well, maybe we'll have better luck with those
midnight sunspots the huge blotch on the face of the fiery
solar disc with seven smaller sunspots in the middle of the
big one. That's for Christmas night as predicted by the
aged Hindu Swami, Ahmar Gaga Singh. And that brings us to
the Hindu Guru's American Chela Swami Nelson Case Singh.

PLANE

Tonight in bleak Labrador, dog ~~sled~~ teams are on their way to the wreckage of an Army C-54, which crashed and burned in the Arctic wasteland near Goose Bay. Twenty-nine persons aboard, and it is believed that all perished. ~~xx~~ Earlier reports today gave hope that some ~~may~~ have survived - a scout plane reporting that a man waving his arms had been spied near the wreckage. But authorities in Labrador believe that the man waving his arms was a member of an advance rescue crew that ~~may~~ ^{may have} already made its way to the wreck.

ADD PLANE

Late tonight a helicopter was flown in an Army transport plane from Westover Field, Massachusetts, to Goosebay to assist parachutists and ground rescue parties in their attempt to reach the wrecked sky-master plane. Pilots of the Royal Canadian Air Force who have been flying over the area report there is little hope of any of the crew of the American plane having survived.

LIGHT PLAN FLIGHT

Today two small airplanes landed at Teterboro, New Jersey; completing the first aerial flivver-circumnavigation -- circumnavigation by Cub. George Truman and Clifford Evans came back to their home flying field, after winging 'round the world in the smallest planes that ever girdled the globe.

All the way they flew together, in two ordinary commercial small planes, the kind for private use, pleasure flights, and so on. They set records, though not of the sort that are usually headlined -- not speed records or long distance records, or non-stop.

They flew around the world in the Longest time and with the most stops, and the shortest hops. It took them a-hundred-and-twenty-two days and twenty-three hours -- thereby beating the record of Jules Verne's old story, "Around the World in Eighty Days." That is, they beat it in reverse -- they took a lot longer. Making nearly fifty stops in twenty-one countries.

Well, George Truman and Cliff Evans never intended to fly fast, with long jumps; and, they had their way.

RAIN MAKING

At Carson City, Nevada, today a claim was filed, A claim that made Nevada state officials open their eyes in amazement. Out there in the old mining country of the west, many a curious claim has been staked by many a wild-eyed prospector haunted by visions of gold; - but, the one today was something new and perplexing. The operator of a Dude Ranch filed a claim for "water rights in the sky." Not water rights for any river or lake, but for the moisture up in the air. He staked a claim to the clouds.

Richard Haman, a former football player, x manages a twelve-thousand acre ranch, owned by Freeman Fairfield, California oil man. They always need rain out there in the dry sections ■■ of the west, and the ranch manager has been noting new scientific ideas for making rain, dropping dry ice from airplanes onto clouds, and thereby causing the clouds to shed their moisture. Not a bad idea for a twelve thousand acre dude ■x ranch with many an acre parched and dry near the Nevada- California line.

So ranch manager Haman decided he'd go in for the new scientific rain making. But he was puzzled by the legal aspects. Who owns the clouds that drift high above? Who owns the moisture in the air above your property? The ranch manager thought he'd better take care of the legal aspects, so today he filed that claim with the state engineer's office - a ~~st~~ claim to the water rights of clouds above the ranch.

But suppose the clouds pouring artificial ~~a~~ rain drift over onto the ranch next door - how can he recover the rain? Or suppose his land gets rained on, from drifting clouds to which somebody else has ~~st~~ staked a claim? The legal twisters should be a delight to the heart of any lawyer. Legal trouble galore.

Near the ~~du~~ dude ranch there dwells an~~e~~ old Indian, whose profession is that of rain maker. He doesn't use airplanes or dry ice; -- he ~~uses~~ uses tribal magic. Today this aged Indian was asked what he thought about the new scientific rain making and the claim to the clouds. He shook his head in mournful disapproval and

grunted: "Huh, Indian call on God to get rain, white man
fool around with God's work in sky -- get only trouble."
Thus spake the aged Indian rainmaker -- and he might be
right -- would you know, Nelson?