

L.S. - Sunco. Tues., Oct. 13, 1936

POLITICS

6  
In Boston John <sup>V.</sup>~~W.~~ Barry, a newspaper man, not only writes lively stories, but also gets into stories just as lively. The score up to now is only two, but these two stand in entertaining juxtaposition. One sprightly affair was with the Roosevelts. The other is with Father Coughlin. Reporter Barry's difficulties with the Roosevelts do not, however, concern the White House clan. It's the other branch, ~~of the Roosevelts,~~ <sup>of</sup> the T. R. lineage.

Remember how last November Cornelius, son of Colonel Teddy, was arrested for shooting ~~at somebody~~ with an airgun - just some collegiate high-jinks? From a dormitory window of the dignified Massachusetts Institute of Technology, young Roosevelt peppered a <sup>passing car</sup> ~~passer-by~~ with pellets. The target was John J. Barry, the Boston newspaper man. Finding himself in the hail of "bee-bees," Barry called the cops, and the august name of Roosevelt got into a police court.

47  
It's this same journalist who today makes the headlines in a row with Father Coughlin. There seems to be some ~~dispute~~ dispute about just what Barry did to provoke the Radio Priest. Father Coughlin declares that the reporter tried to crash a

private meeting at Providence. A meeting was being held behind closed doors, and the newspaper <sup>man</sup> tried to edge in and get the story. There are rumors that in the conference Father Coughlin removed ~~two~~ the two top Rhode Island leaders of the Union for Social Justice, ousted them. That would make it a private meeting all right.

Reporter Barry's version is that he <sup>irked</sup> ~~saw~~ Father Coughlin at a previous interview <sup>when</sup> ~~an interview in which~~ he asked a lot of questions about the attacks the Radio Priest had made on Felix Frankfurter, the well known professor of law, who is said to be an inspiration to the New Deal. Father Coughlin did not like the tone of the reportorial questions, ~~so~~ says Barry.

FF Whatever may have been the genesis of the disturbance - the scene was dramatic indeed! A Providence hotel lobby. Newspaper men waiting for Father Coughlin. Among them, John ~~J.~~ Barry. The Radio Priest appeared. When he saw Barry, things began to happen: <sup>FF</sup> "He snatched the ~~viewer~~ glasses from my face!" says the reporter. <sup>He</sup> "Stepped against me and pushed me against the wall. It was all very unexpected." I should think it would

48

have been unexpected! But the police stopped further hostilities.

Father Coughlin went on to Boston and there he fumed with complaints against the reporter, called him an interloper. And he made the threat that he'd get Barry. To this the reporter laughed.

This afternoon Father Coughlin was in a Boston hotel, secluded, under a guard of police. In Boston also tonight is Cardinal Pacelli, Papal Secretary of State from Rome. He's visiting Cardinal O'Connell, long opposed to the Radio Priest. Rumor has been insistent though denied, that the Cardinal is here in America to look into the political activities of Father Coughlin. There they are -- both in Boston tonight, the Papal secretary of state and the Radio Priest. But it is said they will not meet.

Meanwhile, the two principal figures of the campaign are continuing their oratorical sparring. President Roosevelt is in Governor Landon's home state - Kansas, where today he denounced the Republicans for calling in the Boogey Man, preaching fear, trying to scare the voters. Governor Landon tonight is in Ohio. At Toledo he made an appeal to Ohio workingmen. He talked in favor of union organization and warned labor to be wary of false

friends - meaning the President's labor policies.

Newspapers far and wide are printing stories to the effect that Republicans are afraid to subscribe to their party war chest because of threats some have received.

## GOLD

Today's biggest news is a headline that snaps and crackles with vivid interest and significance - today the United States went on a new kind of gold standard. Those two words "gold standard", ring with meaning, meaning in terms of money. Then the story <sup>continues</sup> ~~goes on~~ with such expressions as stabilization funds, ear-marking, currency ratio<sup>s</sup>, exchange markets, and international speculation. Our vivid headline turns into a maze of technical language, the jargon of finance, intricate and abstruse. Let's see what we can do to make <sup>it</sup> ~~clear~~ clear: - ~~what really happened.~~

20  
First let's state the bald fact. The United States, Great Britain and France have entered into a new agreement to stabilize their currencies. Then let's try to illustrate this by taking a look back at the most famous and dramatic event in American financial history -- Black Friday in Eighteen Sixty-Nine, Jay Gould and the gold corner.

Gould, the mighty buccaneer of finance, struck a tremendous ~~financial~~ stroke - he was buying up all the gold in the country, cornering gold, Then - anybody who had to have

gold would have to come to him for it, and he could charge what he liked. You can see how the price of the metal would shoot skyward. <sup>And</sup> That produced a panic and Black Friday on Wall Street - with desperate financiers having to get gold ~~and~~ <sup>when</sup> Gould possess<sup>ed</sup> it all.

That gold corner was a classic of money speculation - it illustrates what Secretary Morgenthau meant today when he talked about the money speculators and the way they create ups and downs in the value of gold and currency. Jay Gould was operating nationally. <sup>- today's speculators -</sup> They gamble in money internationally. They keep prices on the money exchange bobbing up and down in such a way that a plain, ordinary business man in international trade never knows where he's at. He never can tell whose money will be worth what tomorrow or the next day. An element of uncertainty that ~~hand~~ handicaps world trade.

But how, back there in Eighteen Sixty-Nine, was Jay Gould able to get a corner on gold? There was a lot of yellow metal in the nation, more than Gould could buy. But a great part of this was in the possession of the government. If the

government ~~kept its gold off the market and~~ refused to sell any - then it was possible for Gould to buy up all the rest, *all* the gold stocks possessed by banks and business. So Gould had to persuade the Treasury Department to refrain from selling gold. He did this by pulling strings at Washington.

That gold corner of Eighteen Sixty-Nine was finally smashed. Black Friday was at its blackest, when the Treasury Department suddenly changed its policy and threw ~~it~~ a big supply of gold into the Wall Street market. Jay Gould himself was smart enough to get out from under, and made millions. But Jim Fiske, his partner in the scheme, was ruined. For the gold corner was ~~broken~~ broken.

2  
The United States government was able to do it, because Jay Gould was playing in the national market. But the speculation today is in the international market. So the three biggest financial Powers have <sup>today</sup> combined. The Treasury Department broke Jay Gould's gold corner by selling gold. Today, the three Powers propose to stop the speculators in somewhat the same way - sell gold when the speculators are trying to force

its price up, and buy gold when they are trying to beat it down.

To back up these operations they've got to have a pot of money to play around with. So the New York Federal Reserve Bank, the Bank of England, and the Bank of France have put up a stabilization fund of four billion dollars. This will be used in something like the way the federal gold supply was used in smashing Jay Gould's Black Friday scheme.

53  
Today <sup>financial expert</sup> ~~we~~ called up <sup>A</sup> K. C. Hogate, publisher of the Wall Street Journal, and ~~ask~~ asked him to tell me something about that international money speculation. He told me there has been next to none of it over here. It ~~was~~ has been mostly in France and Holland - gambling not only by speculators but by the general public as well. In Holland, he said, they've been selling everything, even their houses - to buy <sup>British</sup> ~~Dutch~~ Sterling. The French have been selling their gold, to buy dollars - sending their gold over here. That's why we have, right now, half the world's supply of the yellow metal. There's twenty billion dollars' worth of gold in the world, and of this

we have ten billion<sup>S.</sup>

Washington gives out the headline - "A New Kind of Gold Standard." But the British government denies it's returning to gold. Because, in the last couple of years the British public has lost its faith in ~~the~~ Gold Standard<sup>S.</sup>

How it will all work out remains to be seen. The Three governments have left themselves a quick "out" if it doesn't work. The new gold pact can be cancelled by any of the three Powers <sup>on</sup> ~~at~~ twenty-four hour notice.

FRANCE

High in the Bavarian Alps, in a stately house -- a group of men are meeting. And statesmen in many a world's capitol are wondering -- what are they talking about at that conference. If we were there, although we would never get in, we would observe the scores of guards watching everywhere, and they're wearing brown shirts. Storm troopers! -- that's the tip off. Hitler holding a secret discussion with a group of High Nazi chiefs.

We can make a guess of what they are talking about.

Probably that latest German communication to the French Government. They certainly must be having a few words about that -- Berling has protested to Paris because a French leader insulted Hitler -- a French Communist leader.

The insult angers Germany all the more because it was delivered in Alsace, the province on the German border, one that was formerly under the Kaiser's rule. France has had plenty of worry about those Communist meeting in Alsace. Most of the people are strongly catholic, dead against Communism. So there were threats of trouble. Socialist Premier Blum, however, made the Communists cut down the number of their scheduled rallies to

a minimum. And he sent heavy forces of Mobile guards to protect the Reds. So, there was no rioting. Only now -- Germany protests.

The insult to Hitler was delivered in a speech by Communist Chief Thorez. "We prefer an honorable Negro," to a dishonorable Hitler", he shouted.

Moreover Germany protest a big placard displayed at the Communist demonstration. It showed Hitler with a red nose

and between his teeth was a bloody red dagger. I don't know which the Nazis objected to most -- the red nose or the red dagger. They dislike red anyhow, including the red flag.

The affair however, goes beyond any mere matter of insults.

~~The~~ Berlin protests the whole business of ~~having~~ those Communist demonstrations in Alsace. *But what* ~~it is really serious when you ask what~~

right has Germany to meddle with political happenings inside of France? That is answered by one statement in the German complaint. This points out that Germany and France have an agreement that neither nation shall have any political demonstrations in the vicinity of the Franco-German border. Berlin claims that the Communist-whoop-it-up in Alsace violates the agreement. The kind of political ~~xx~~ hoorah that the Nazis dislike most is a parade of red Bolshevism right at the door of the House of Hitler.

SPAIN

56

The picture from Spain tonight is the same thing we've been having - but intensified, deeper colors. The swarming of the Left Wing masses to the battlefront - workmen, civilians of all sorts, hastily armed, hardly drilled at all. More women than ever in the tramping columns. Young women, women not so young, mothers of families - going out to fight. Dispatches from Madrid describe it as a "mass counter ~~of~~ offensive."

The extreme Socialist Premier, Largo Caballero, has made a tour of the war front, where the Fascist lines have Madrid almost hemmed in. The Rebels have been pushing rapidly on the City of Madrid. They've almost reached the historic palace, the Escorial, which is not far from the outskirts of the capital. Largo Caballero saw for himself how desperate the situation was, how the Left Wing defense had crumpled. A mere attempt to hold the lines wouldn't do, not merely the defensive slogan - "They shall not pass!" So he ordered - a counter offensive, a mass counter offensive. <sup>R</sup> That's the reason those swarms of city dwellers <sup>from</sup> ~~of~~ Madrid are on the march, workers, clerks, women. Presumably they will be thrown in mass formation against the

57

mechanized regiments of General Franco - trying to overwhelm  
cannon, machine guns and tanks with the sheer weight of numbers.

There's a rumor that Oviedo has been relieved, but  
it is unconfirmed. It claims that a rebel column has driven  
to the city and raised the siege that has been going on ever  
since the revolt began - with Asturian miners hurling dynamite  
against <sup>the</sup> desperate defenders.

And there's another report that at Bilbao the government  
forces have released their women hostages. Bilbao is held,  
not so much by Reds and Anarchists, as by Basque Nationalists.  
They are said to have contracted with the Rebels for a release  
of women hostages on both sides. That's a merciful note from  
Spain tonight, which is not the usual thing.

WEATHER

Get out your <sup>ear muffs and</sup> ~~winter~~ overcoat! The weather man says

winter is coming. And in many places it has already arrived.

At Green Bay, Wisconsin, the mercury ducked way below freezing,

and there was a heavy snow for three hours. <sup>H</sup> Upper New York State

felt the nip of freezing temperatures and saw white flurries of

early snow. <sup>H</sup> This afternoon at Quebec the kids dashed merrily

out of school for their first frolic on sleds and skis.

~~So in many parts of the country the thing for me~~

~~to say is, So Long Until <sup>H</sup> the Frosty Tomorrow.~~

58 1/2

One evening last week, Doctor Lin Yutang, author and philosopher, was here on the air with me for a few moments. Today I happened to hear him speak at a luncheon, where, with exquisite Oriental finesse and charm he poked fun at certain things in our American life which he doesn't like. For instance, he objects strenuously to shaking hands, thinks it not only unhygienic, but barbarous from an aesthetic standpoint. Perhaps the Doctor doesn't realize that nearly all Western peoples agree with him. The trouble is, it's an ancient tradition, and far more difficult for us to shake off our handshaking custom than it was for the Chinese to get rid of their pigtails.

59

Doctor Lin Yutang also said that he objected to our punctuality, our efficiency, and our discipline. But most of all, he objects to our mania for being punctual. He thinks it's absurd to go to a seven o'clock dinner at seven o'clock. Why not roll in at eight?

I am <sup>inclined</sup> ~~inclined~~ to agree with him. But, wouldn't his idea turn things upside down in the world of radio!

For instance, what if I kept right on talking now for another  
half hour! Ah, have no fear -- I'm going to be punctual to  
the second! And that second has arrived! And ---

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.

59 1/4