

L.S. - Sunoco. Monday, March 14, 1938.

AUSTRIA

(Adolph Hitler, to the cheers and screams of thousands, today entered in triumph the ancient capital of the Hapsburgs. The last conqueror to ride triumphantly into Vienna was the Emperor Napoleon.

And so Austria becomes part of the German Empire.)

The triumph of Hitler and the Nazis. But to others a dark and terrible tragedy.

Tragic consequences have come already. Office holders, government employees known to be hostile to Hitlerism, unfriendly officials, have been herded into concentration camps.

(Among the Jews - hysteria, panic. Many of them trying to flee across the frontier today were arrested.) So were others for trying to draw money from the banks. Vienna, once the gayest of European cities, is today in the iron grip of Draconic north German laws.

Upon Hitler's entry, those not approving took refuge in storm cellars or elsewhere. For today it wasn't safe even to be on the streets of Vienna unless you joined in the chorus of "Heil Hitler!"

The original program had been that Hitler should not

make his radio address until tomorrow. But when he arrived at his headquarters in a hotel, the cries for his personal appearance were overwhelming. "We want Hitler," they yelled. "Let the Fuehrer speak!"

48 So he stood on the balcony of his hotel and shouted his cry to the crowd. "He said:- "An oath has been sworn today by Germans from the Rhine to East Prussia, from the North Sea to Vienna. That oath is that never again, whatever happens, will this German Reich ever fall assunder. We Germans are seventy-five million now. Nobody can force us from our road. No threat, no misery, no violence, can ever cause this oath to be broken."

Around the hotel as he shouted those words was a crowd of a hundred thousand people. Some of them climbed up lamp-posts and hung from trees in order to get a glimpse.

Thus history was made today. And maybe more is in the making. I heard Ambassador Dodd say today at the Town Hall that it would be Czechoslovakia's turn next. Not at once, but at the next moment of opportunity.

PARIS

France will keep her word to all her allies. This declaration was made in ringing terms today from Paris. Harrassed though he is with the efforts to organize a new cabinet, Premier Blum and his colleagues stand firm on that. There was a meeting between Mr. Blum, Foreign Minister Paul-Boncur and the Czechoslovakian Ambassador at the Quai d'Orsay today. At about the same moment, the new French Ambassador to London was telling Downing Street that his country would ~~stick~~ ^{stand} fast to the Czechoslovakian alliance. And, the terms of that treaty are quite definite. If Czechoslovakia is invaded, France ~~will send troops~~ ^{goes to War. Meaning France} ~~in order to do so she~~ would have to march through Germany. ~~So that means that an~~ Invasion in the east would be followed ~~promptly~~ by an invasion of Germany in the west. ~~As a matter~~ ^{And that} ~~of fact, it~~ would touch off a whole European bonfire.

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~~Of course his tactics have been unvaryingly effective. He's like a prize fighter who says at the beginning of a fight "I'm going to punch you in the nose". You wait and wait and no ~~punch~~ punch in the nose. Then after many rounds have slipped by and the threat is forgotten along~~

That
In London it was a ~~comes that long promised punch in the nose. So it was a~~
jammed audience ~~who~~ *Neville* listened to the British Prime Minister today; ~~They~~ heard ~~the~~ Chamberlain say that Germany's

seizure of Austria deserves the severest condemnation. And added that "His Majesty's government emphatically disapproves of actions such as those of which Austria was made the scene".

~~But~~ Still speaking carefully he ~~said~~ *added:-* "The British government

are unable to regard the events in Austria with indifference or equanimity. *But what will Britain do. Says* ~~They he added, the immediate result must be~~

~~to intensify our uncertainty in the security of Europe and~~
Chamberlain
~~he added further~~ the situation justifies a review of the

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defense program. In other words John Bull is going to arm more than ever.

Soon after the Prime Minister had said all that

Sir Samuel Hoare the Home Secretary spoke over the air,

called for a million volunteers to serve ~~as~~ ⁱⁿ ~~volunteers in~~

an air raid patrol. ^{Said he: -} ~~And he said "the most disturbed~~ ^{"the} ~~more~~

disturbed is the continent of Europe, the more important

it is for us to make every possible preparation."

And the Dutchess of Atholl who is a member of the House of Commons called for a modified form of conscription in Great Britain. There should be some form of part time

training in military service for all men of military age, ^{said she.}

^{So in London, the response}
~~The only way to halt further aggregation and the devastating~~
^{is "plans for more armament."}
~~war is a great declaration by Great Britain to stand with~~

~~other peace loving nations~~

One question today seems to have all observers puzzled.

What does Mussolini really think of Hitler's coup? The Duce no doubt expected Hitler to seize Austria. But not so soon.

Anyhow two facts stand clear:- Mussolini wired ~~congratulations~~ congratulations to Hitler acknowledging that curious telegram in which the Feuhrer, at the eleventh hour, informed the Duce.

But, correspondents observe an eloquent about-face in the government-controlled press of Italy. Up to last week, they were praising the idea of an independent Austria. Over night, and without warning, those Italian editors have had to do that painful job of what is known in America as "flopping the paper," with the German army standing at the head of Brenner Pass, gateway from Teutonia to Italia.

What does the Vatican think of all this? Here's the answer:- The Vatican is worried and distressed. The official newspaper of the Papacy says:- "A sad shadow already has been cast by acts of the Nazis against the Church of Austria." And then it asks: "Will the Austrian people, whose glorious traditions are Catholic, be spared?" The article indicates that the Holy See is gravely worried.

MARKET

Not the least dramatic effect of the Austrian coup was that on the world's money markets. The securities of European countries went tumbling down to new low points. Austrian Seven Per Cent Bonds, which weren't any too high before, flopped even lower. And the Franc tumbled to the lowest point ~~which~~ it has seen in twelve years.

All of this of course was to be expected. The corollary was a rise in American stocks. This was also obvious. People taking their money out of foreign investments rushed to put them into America's. Uncle Sam's dollar went up on every market. So also, though to a lesser extent, did the Swiss Franc, the Pound Sterling, and the Netherland's Guilder. As for the Austrian Schilling, people quit trading in that altogether. They didn't know what would happen to it.

With Austria a part of Germany, nobody knows what way ~~that~~ ^{the} financial cat might jump.

WASHINGTON

Official Washington ^{today} kept a strict official silence about the Vienna scene. What people said privately of course was another matter. But the attitude remains firm: "Maybe it's too bad, but it's not our ^{official} business."

The only public demonstration was made by a group of young pacifists. Carrying banners, they paraded up and down in front of the German Embassy, until the leaders were arrested. ~~by the cops.~~ Under a federal act recently passed, it's against the law to picket the houses of foreign diplomats. As one group was disbursed by the police, another would take its place. In the end, some thirty-five young people, mostly boys and girls around the age of twenty, got a free ride in the Black Maria ~~and were taken to the sneezer.~~ ^{— off to jail.}

^{Also,} There was a good deal of scurrying around by the diplomats from the smaller countries. Count Potocki, Ambassador from Poland, called at the White House. As he came out he said he had visited the President to "discuss European affairs generally." Shortly after that, Dr. Hurban, Minister from Czechoslovakia, went to the State ^{Dept.} ~~House.~~ And, he had something to say. It was a message from his government. Czechoslovakia will fight if she is invaded by

Hitler's Brown Shirts. He also conveyed a piece of information from Prague, the capital. The Czechoslovakian War Minister had been advised by Berlin that German troops now in Austria will not approach any closer than fifteen miles to the Austrian-Czech border.

In Washington, as all over the rest of the world, the Swastika flag made its appearance over the front door of Austrian Legations and consulates. In London and other cities, the Austrian diplomatic officers were preparing to quit their jobs and turn over their affairs to diplomats from Berlin. Some of those diplomats, those who don't care for the Nazi ideology, will never return to their homeland again.

Tonight, I can only repeat what I said to Columnist Dinty Doyle at the White House Correspondents banquet:- "While heads of European nations were snarling at each other our President and Secretary of State were laughing at jibes and jokes the newspaper men were poking at our own Washington scene."

SPAIN

(In Spain victory ^{seems to} ~~evidently~~ ^{ing} hovered over the ~~armies of Hitler's~~
~~ally, General Franco,~~ ^{banners.} The Rebels have captured the City of Alcaniz, th
~~that's less than fifty miles from the east coast of Spain. Alcaniz~~
~~is a keypoint that stands like a spearhead thrust at the main~~
government line from Barcelona to Valencia.) ~~It's just about sixty~~
~~miles northeast of Teruel and about the same distance from~~

^H ~~Taragona.~~ This news comes ~~ix~~ not from Rebel propaganda forces,
~~but~~ from Hendaye on the French frontier. ^{They say} ~~That means that~~ the
insurgents ~~are~~ near the southern border of Catalonia ^{are} and advancing
rapidly.

^{And} That gives ~~some~~ color to the report that Catalonia is
about to secede ^{from Spain,} ~~Of course, Catalonian independence has been a sore~~
~~question for centuries. It sounds today as though that province,~~
~~the richest in Spain, is actually severed from both Madrid and~~
~~Valencia.~~ There was a report in Paris that Barcelona was about to
ask help from the Popular Front government of Premier Leon Blum.

{ This rumor was helped on by the observation that the ~~R~~ Spanish
Ambassador in Paris paid a visit to the new Prime Minister and
Foreign Minister today.

CHINA

In the Far East, brave claims are made by Chinese headquarters. The War Office in Hankow says the Chinese won a series of victories. The Japanese line of communications is threatened and the drive of the Mikado's armies on Hankow has been stopped.

Of course this report was contradicted by the Japanese and the British authorities sound skeptical about it. It is no secret that Tokyo is making under-cover negotiations for peace. And until that effort has definitely failed, the Japanese drive on Hankow will be slow.

WHITNEY

A quiet scene ~~took place~~ in a New York court room today. Behind it ~~was~~ ^{The} unfolding of an absorbing and pathetic, human and social tragedy; ~~the~~ story of Richard Whitney, former head of the New York Stock Exchange, ^{It} makes one think of some of the ~~greatest~~ novels of Balzac, and ~~Charles~~ Dicken's Dombey and Son.

For people outside ~~of~~ New York to get the essence of that drama one has to go into the background of Richard Whitney's family. The importance of it is by no means confined to the fact that he was five times head of the New York Stock Exchange.

You've got to think of a man born in what many people consider the most ~~a~~ favorable conditions. His family though not ~~EXIEN~~ extravagantly rich ^{was} ~~so~~ considerably well off to do. Imagine then an exclusive ~~and expensive~~ private school followed by one of the ~~most~~ fashionable universities. ~~From that he~~ ^{Then on to a Wall Street firm,} ~~graduates into a firm~~ rock-ribbed and respectable. His wife his children, practically all his connections loomed large in the social register. ⁰⁷ ~~They are~~ the select few whose social

position is so assured that they never have to think about it.

So, one can well imagine the amazement on the Stock Exchange last Tuesday. People would almost have soon expected the failure of the Federal Reserve System as the firm of Richard Whitney and Company. So when that firm was hammered -- not merely suspended but expelled -- the news was received with a stunned silence as floor members gasped for breath.

The scene played in ^{the} New York Court Room today was simple and brief. Mr. Whitney was called to the bar to be arraigned. Well groomed and immaculate as ever -- ~~he is a~~ handsome figure of a man -- he pleaded guilty. ~~He~~ admitted that he had stolen one hundred and five thousand dollars from a trust fund set up by his father-in-law. Two of the people to benefit by that trust fund ~~were~~ his own wife and sister in law.

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No other inkling was given in court of the chain of events that led up to ^{all this} ~~that scene~~. We don't know yet how the former President of the New York Stock Exchange became a

defendant, admitting his guilt at the bar of justice. Perhaps

we shall learn later. ^H The punishment for ^{the} ~~this~~ offense ^{so far admitted} ~~provided~~

~~by the New York law~~ is from five to ten years, in Sing Sing.

~~That is, unless the court suspends sentence.~~

T.V.A.

The squabble of the Tennessee Valley Authority becomes wider and more complicated. Friends of the New Deal in Congress gave way a step today. Senator Norris of Nebraska, father of the T.V.A., consented to an investigation by five senators. He had been fighting the idea for days, so his yielding is quite significant.

But that doesn't simplify the argument. Members of the House say they want to be in on the show. ^{So} It won't be an entertainment confined to senators. Members of both Houses ^{want} ~~have~~ [^] ~~get to have~~ front row seats.

MULE

I frequently get letters from people praising this that or the next thing -- some personality, some cause or other. Today I received a fervent missive in praise of something so sympathetic that I'm going to pass it along. It is a heart felt tribute to -- the mule, old hee-haw big ears.

The writer is Homer Croy, who tells me he has plenty of reason for his mule enthusiasm. In Homer's new novel called "And the novel is going strong." "Sixteen Hands" -- the hero is a mule. ~~The reason for that is~~ *the mule hero is* that Homer Croy owns a mule farm out in Missouri, so he knows the critters. And, he has all the more devotion to them right now because of the boom in the mule market. The recent prevalence of war and ~~the~~ threats of war has created an increased demand for mules. They are used to carry a lot of light artillery and food supplies in rough country. They are not so gun shy as horses. So in the past several months prices in the mule market have increased by twenty dollars a span.

So no wonder Homer Croy, mule novelist and mule farmer is elated about his favorite animal. In fact, he started a propoganda campaign. He compares mules with horses.

"A mule, he writes me, ~~xxxx~~ "won't stand under a tree when its lightning. A horse will and get ~~himself~~ himself killed. You can ride a horse into a den of rattle snakes, but you can't a mule.

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So the Croy four-square hard-tail
~~So Homer Croy's~~ gospel is that we should change

the term ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ horse sense. Instead we should say -

-- mule sense. To which the response is hee-haw, and,

9 1/4
So long until tomorrow.