

"Stoopnagle"
in LT's
place.

May 27, 1939

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Col. Stoopnagle - Sinesco, Tues, May 2, 1939

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY: to recoin an old and well-known phrase.

I'm sorry to have to report the illness of my principal, Lowell

Thomas who is temporarily hors de combat with laryngitis. Tonight

I am to be known for fifteen minutes as the lost voice of Lowell

Thomas, a distinction which I very truly delight in possessing even

though the acquirement be somewhat fleeting. Tomorrow night if all

goes well, I shall relinquish the distinction in Lowell's favor,

he will turn over his laryngitis to me and the lost voice shall

be found. Meanwhile, let's see what of real ~~is~~ importance and

perhaps of humor, too, may be found in today's news.

IRELAND

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In Ireland, ^{Premier}~~President~~ deValera spoke strongly today on the subject of possible conscription in northern Ireland. ^{Lord Craigavon} The Ulster Premier wants London to impose its conscription law on Ulster as well as on England, Scotland or Wales. It has been indicated that the Dublin government would oppose any conscription applying to Ireland. And Premier deValera declared today before ~~the~~ the Irish Parliament that his government would consider conscription in northern Ireland ~~X~~ "an act of aggression." He said he has protested to London against any such possibility.

In London indications are that the British government will take no immediate action along the dangerous line of conscription in Ireland. London will wait until war seems about to break out, before taking any such action.

LONDON

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Today Europe continued to speculate about Soviet Russia and the democratic powers. They're still trying to get ~~ex~~ Stalin's U. S.S.R. into the line-up against Hitler and Mussolini, but there are a lot of "ifs" and "buts" about it. Paris reports that Great Britain has definitely decided not to give the Soviet any Far Eastern guarantee. ~~if Stalin~~ Have Stalin join Chamberlain and Daladier - but no agreement insuring Russia against attack by Japan. It is said the London attitude is that nothing must be done to push Japan further into an alliance with Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. A Far Eastern guarantee to ~~of~~ the Soviets would certainly do that.

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DEBT

In the British House of Commons today there was a bit of dialogue which will be interesting to American ears. His Majesty's Secretary ^{for} ~~the~~ War, Leslie Hore-Belisha, was completely silenced by a jibe with a decided American angle.

It appears that the British army bought patent rights on a Czechoslovak gun, and is paying royalties. Still paying the Czechoslovak royalties, despite the seizure of Czechoslovakia by Nazi Germany. Hitler now gets the royalties.

Today ^{the British} Secretary for War ~~Leslie Hore-Belisha~~ was questioned about this, and he was asked ^{if} ~~did~~ he ^{knew} ~~know~~ that payment of the royalties merely increased the financial strength of Germany.

"Maybe so", the Honorable Secretary replied, "but it is not customary for Great Britain to repudiate payments which have been legally contracted."

"What about America?" cried an M.P. And that was the question which silenced His Majesty's Secretary for War. He didn't have a word to say.

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POLAND

(Poland is certainly making warlike gestures -- giving dictatorial powers to its president, as a protection against sudden war. This evening Warsaw issued a decree doubling the number of army officers in active service.) The order is that the period of training of reserve officers shall be prolonged -- four weeks of training period extended to ten weeks. That doubles the number of officers under arms, the ~~effect~~ officers commanding Poland's one million three hundred thousand troops.

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LINDBERGH

Talking for publication is not the Lindbergh way, and so the Flying Colonel hasn't released any public statements about the inspection he has been making for the American aircraft industry. However, we are told of something he has said:- Unless the United States does something about the development of aviation research, we won't be able to catch up with European nations in the next five years.

Lindbergh is said to have made this statement privately to a group of government officials with whom he was conferring. He is quoted as telling them that five years ago the United States led the world in aviation research, scientific investigation, and practical development in the art of flying. He said that during the last five years we've been outstripped. What nation is first today? ~~Lindbergh reported that Germany is first~~ Germany is first in research. ^{Lindbergh} ~~is~~ placed Great Britain second - France and Italy tied for third. What about Soviet Russia? Lindbergh is reported to have declared that Soviet aviation doesn't count - so far as technical ^{progress} ~~process~~ is concerned.

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YUGOSLAVIA

The Yugoslavs are buying a lot of merchandise from the Germans -- merchandise of war. The Yugoslav government today signed an order for one hundred and twenty million dollars worth of weapons -- ten year credit plan, one of those barter arrangements. Mussolini's Italians put in a bid and so did Chamberlain's British -- but both lost out. The Yugoslavs preferred the German offer because of the long credit and because the guns they would get would be from the Scoda plant -- that famous munitions factory which Hitler got when he seized Czechoslovakia. The Yugoslavs preferred the munitions ^{from} ~~from~~ of Scoda.

EXPULSIONS

It looks as if Great Britain and Germany are having an expulsion race. The word from London is that the British government is going to expel more than fifty German Nazis before the end of the month. A little while ago Britain checked out some Germans. Hitler responded by handing some Englishmen their hats. And now London goes in for expulsion at a bigger rate than ever - fifty followers of Hitler who have been engaging in unpleasant Nazi activities in England.

NEUTRALITY

The neutrality question aroused some lively discussion in Washington today: Senator Bankhead of Alabama proposed that Congress adjourn on June 15th, and let action on the Neutrality Law slide over until 1940. Let the present law stand until then. That was vigorously attacked by Senator Hiram Johnson who proclaimed: "It's to the Congress that the people look to keep us out of war." He said that if we got into a European struggle this country would ~~xxx~~ turn into a dictatorship. Destroying dictators, we would get one ourselves -- that's Hiram Johnson's view. The California statesman wants the Senate to stay on the job and devise legislation that will prevent us from getting into any war. He was supported by Senator Connolly of Texas who said: "There's no war in Europe now, but there may be one in the future. The United States will have no business in that war," he argued, "and Congress must decide whether we're to be in it."

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Meanwhile, the administration is being lambasted by its old antagonist, Senator Byrd of Virginia. He described the present state up in Washington with these words:- "The most wasteful and autocratic bureaucracy that this or any other country has ever been afflicted with." He told that to the United States Chamber of Commerce meeting in Washington.

McNUTT

There are some decidedly presidential meanings in the question of some ship passage booked at Manila. The United States Commissioner to the Islands is Paul V. McNutt, who is being boomed in lively style for Nineteen~~Forty~~Forty. He's booked to sail for the United States on May Eleventh. That, however, doesn't necessarily mean that he'll actually depart from Manila.

The political chief of the McNutt boom is Democratic National Committeeman McHale, and today he said the Philippine High Commissioner has been making reservations on ships for months. They're so few liners sailing from Manila, that the prospective candidate books passage on every one - just to be sure that he can sail quickly in case of some political emergency in the United States. A lot of bookings and a lot of cancellings - all for ~~the~~ a stake at the shot of the presidency.

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NEGROES

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At Miami, an unusually large number of ^{negroes} ~~negroes~~ voted in a city nominating election today - such is the claim of negro leaders. Last night the ^{Klu} Ku Klux Klan went into action - to keep the negro vote away from the ~~polls~~ polls. There was a Ku Klux automobile parade through the negro quarter and cards were distributed, saying: "Respectable negro citizens are not voting tomorrow." The Klan paraders hung a figure from a pole, - a figure with this inscription - "he voted." And fiery crosses were burned at various places.

Today, a negro leader made this statement: "The demonstration really inspired the negroes to vote today." ~~said he.~~

W.P.A.

Washington heard the statement today that the W.P.A. Building at the New York World's Fair was not constructed by W.P.A. labor. A government engineer orated this to a House investigating committee. He said that less than eighteen percent of the workers who built the W.P.A. building at the Fair were on relief. The rest of them were plain ordinary union men. He added that the W.P.A. ~~xxx~~ *building* was supposed to cost one quarter of a million, but ~~cost~~ more than half a million. Also -- other government buildings which were constructed by private firms cost twenty-cents a cubic foot, to build. The WP.A. building cost forty-three and one half cents a ^{*cubic*} foot to build.

MURDER SYNDICATE.

In Philadelphia's murder syndicate case, a weird element was introduced today - mention of a mystery poison.

One of the gang that ~~murdered~~ poisoned for insurance is a spaghetti salesman, who has confessed. Now he tells of a deadly dose they used, a poison concoction that produced the symptoms of pneumonia, made it appear as if the victims died of that malady. What kind of devilish dose could that be?

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The spaghetti salesman says he doesn't know the nature of the chemical composition of that witch's brew. He relates the gang of murder merchants bought it from a doctor, getting it through a go-between. Then it was sold at three hundred dollars a pound - mostly in Italian sections to wives who wanted to get rid of their husbands.

Tonight the authorities are checking on this story of a mystery poison.

CASPER

The nation's Number One Lily Pons fan is going to jail - it would seem. He's Arthur Casper, who journeyed from California to Connecticut to see the motion picture and Metropolitan Opera soprano, walked right into her house and made himself at home. Charged with disturbance of the peace, ~~he was faced with an~~ ^{the judge gave him} alternative, ~~The judge told him~~ that he could either go home or go to jail, either return to California or get a year in the hoosgow.

Today Casper decided - no, he wouldn't go home, wouldn't go back to California, wouldn't journey so far away from the vicinity of la Pons, his idol. "I've been disappointed in love before," he explained, "and I'm not going to be pushed around." However, he consoled himself with one cheery thought:- "I've got President Roosevelt behind me," he said confidently, "and He'll ^{stick by} ~~stand with~~ me in this thing." I don't quite know how Casper expects the President to ^{stick} ~~stand~~ with him, certainly not if he goes around to Lily Pons' house again. But Casper is a dauntless fan. When he said he'd take the jail sentence

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today rather than go far away from La Pons, he was reminded that she hadn't the slightest intention of seeing him. Casper refused to believe it.

"I want to hear it from her own lips," he said.

All he heard was the prison door slamming and the key clinking in the lock.

EARTHQUAKE

Earthquake detect^{ers} ~~ions~~ far and wide register^{ed} a violent disturbance today. Calculations ~~indicate that~~ ^{place it} somewhere down in the Mexican area probably near the Mexican Pacific coast, the seismograph needles indicate that the shock today was extremely violent.

~~I just had~~ ^A phone call from Father Lynch ~~of~~, the earthquake expert ^{at} Fordham. ~~He~~ points ~~out~~ ~~to me~~ that on each of ~~the~~ ^{the} past three days there has been a major earthquake. The first one was apparently somewhere out in the bottom of the Pacific Ocean. It has not been definitely located. Yesterday there was a ~~very~~ destructive shock on ^{the} ~~the~~ ~~main~~ ~~island~~ ^{main island} of Japan. ~~Now~~ ^{There's one} somewhere in or near Mexico.

GEHRIG

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Baseball experts have been wondering when Joe McCarthy of the Yankees would bench Lou Gehrig. The famous Iron Horse is hitting a mere hundred and forty-three, and his fielding isn't so lively any more, ^{either.} The Yanks are minus the hitting power of Joe diMaggio, who has an injured ankle - and the team isn't going so well. But Manager Joe McCarthy did not bench his veteran first baseman today. Lou Gehrig benched himself.

Lou went to Joe and said: "The whole team isn't going so good and I'm not going so good myself. So I think," he added, "it would be better for me to get out of there for a while."

So today the Iron Horse was out of the game, broke his amazing ^{world's} record string of ~~twenty~~ ^{two-thousand} one hundred and thirty consecutive games.

DERBY

LAST

Missouri may be famous for its mules, but Missouri also loves horses - especially when they go galloping down the racetrack. Horses are a pet product of Kentucky, which has its famous derby. *I refuse to say "dar-by".*

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Today the Missouri Legislature deliberated on the vital issue of whether or not the Missouri lawmakers should go to the Kentucky ~~derby~~ ^{dar-by} - at the expense of the state. And that would be a high legislative event, with the state senators and representatives taking a vote on the perennial question - "Who's going to win the Kentucky derby?"

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No, the Missouri Legislature will not attend the renowned horserace at the public expense. They took a vote on it today and decided - yes, they would. The vote in favor of the horse-race motion was fifty-two to thirty, a sizeable majority. And that would seem to be that, but it wasn't - because one Representative got ~~ga~~ to his feet and roared a protest. "Shame!" he cried, and then he told why it was a shame - all because of old-age pensions. He said the state is behind in paying the old folks their pension checks. So what would the old folks, and for that matter the

young folks, think of the state legislature junketing to the
dar-by - I mean - derby.

Kentucky ~~derby~~. That argument changed the legislative mind,

and the boys voted to have their previous vote expunged -

and so it was expunged. And so, for that matter, and I.

Do, so long until Lowell Thomas tomorrow.

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