

L. T. - Sunoco - Thurs. August 12, 1937

BLACK

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Profession -- United States Senator, for the present, right

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The Court knocking out New Deal laws so many and so important;

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tribunal, one of the staunchest of the anti-New Deal Justices

resigned, Mr. Vandevanter, leaving the President to appoint a

successor.

RETAKE

He was most kind, the lady says, and the first thing he did was to lend her a pair of pants.

But instead of allowing such wifely devotion to be rewarded by a reunion With her missing spouse, Uncle Sam's dutiful immigrationofficers grabbed the lady and are shipping her back to where she came from.

And now I'm going back where I came from and

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.

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The Court knocking out New Deal laws so many and so important; the President charging to the counter-attack with his bill to enlarge the Supreme Court, that Court Plan which so recently was defeated in an epic of American political struggle. In the course of the presidential assault upon the tribunal, one of the staunchest of the anti-New Deal Justices resigned, Mr. Vandevanter, leaving the President to appoint a successor.

That sequence of events was dramatic enough in itself, but the suspense was drawn out all the more by political squabbling -- would the President name a Justice while Congress was in session, so the Senate could act on it right away, or would he wait until Congress had adjourned and then appoint a Justice whose confirmation would be delayed until next session? Did the President have the right to name a Supreme Court member while Congress was on vacation -- not sitting? To these quibblings and wranglings Senator Borah added a thorny twister ^{by} ~~xxx~~ seeking to prove through technicalities that the President had no right to appoint a new Justice at all. /

Meanwhile the White House strained the suspense by keeping a profound silence on the question of whom the President intended to appoint. There were all sorts of rumors. But still the White House said nothing -- until today.

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If the question of the new Justice was dramatic throughout, it's answer was most undramatic ~~xxxxx~~ today. It happened in the course of merest routine. Among the papers sent

from the White House to the Senate as a day-by-day matter of course, was a request that the law makers confirm the appointment of Senator Hugo Black of Alabama to the Supreme Court. It was a flashing surprise. Some Senators when they first heard it thought it was a joke. But it was quite true.

How old is ^{Sen.}~~Hugo~~ Black? That's important, because the President's attack on the Court was on a basis that the Justices were too old. ^{Well, the} Senator ~~Black~~ is 51.

What's his background. [?] Rather surprising in some ways, and not surprising at all in others. As for formal education, he never even finished Grammar School. He never went to College. But on the other hand he studied law, graduated with honors from the University of Alabama Law School. He became a police judge, and a prosecuting attorney. During the World War he was a Captain in the field artillery. In 1927 he ran for the Senate seat that had been filled for so many years by Alabama's famous statesman -- Senator Underwood. The tradition was one of southern dignity and grandiose eloquence. But Hugo Black wore a wrinkled suit, rode in a Model "T" Ford, and

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stumped the State. He made speeches at cross roads, general stores and slept with any farmer who would put him up. And Black won. Since then he has been in the Senate -- for ten years.

What are his politics in relation with the New Deal? Judge Vandevanter, whom he is named to succeed, was a stronghold of conservative opposition. Senator Black is just the opposite. He has been with the New Deal from the start, and he is a co-author of the Black-Connery work and Wage Law, one of the pet White House measures. When labor leaders of ^{the} A F of L and the C. I. O. heard of his appointment today they gave three cheers.

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Today Senator Ashurst proposed immediate confirmation of the appointment by the Senate. It takes unanimity for that. But at once Senator Johnson of California objected and demanded that things be done in the usual way, so the nomination is to be considered by a Committee and then passed along to the Senate. There may be something of a battle, although the Senate is expected to ratify the appointment. ~~The~~ The White House move was strategic, for the nomination of the gentleman from Alabama to the Supreme

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Court is expected to go big with the southern Senators who provided so much of the opposition for the President's Court Enlargement bill.

FLIGHT

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(The Russians are doing it again! -- another flight to America ^{via} ~~the~~ the North Pole.) This time it's the most famous of soviet flyers at the controls -- Levaneffsky. Whom they call the Russian Lindbergh. ^{This time} The ultimate destination is likely to be New York but it won't be a non-stopper as the previous ones were. Levaneffsky and his crew of five will make a stop at Fairbanks, Alaska, and then probably at Edmonton, Canada. But it's planned to be the same old story basically, across from Moscow across the North Pole to this Continent.

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CHINA

In Shanghai there are something more than a thousand United States Marines. The British have a thousand troops in the international settlement of that Chinese City. The French have six hundred. These figures are important this evening, because the international settlement at Shanghai is expecting an outbreak of battle at any moment -- a repetition of the Japanese attack on Shanghai several years ago. So the American and European troops are standing under arms, ready to protect the foreigners.

(The expectation of War is based on two simple facts. One is that the Japanese today disembarked some thousands of fighting men at Shanghai. Between five and eight thousand is the nearest count. These troops took up positions for attack in the area of the Japanese concession. The other fact is -- that the Chinese are marching their own regiments into Shanghai, hosts of them, and undetermined number. This evening they await a Japanese attack. It's all so simple, dangerously simple. Each side mustering troops in the face of each other. Both the Japanese and Chinese leaders declare that it is not their

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purpose to start fighting -- but the logic of the massing of the soldiers is too significant for any such disclaimer.

This menace at Shanghai follows protracted negotiations on the score of two Japanese Navy men killed by Chinese troops. Tokio demands satisfaction for this. The Chinese have ~~refused~~ refused to grant it. Now the State of affairs has drifted into a duplicate of a situation before that Shanghai War of several years back.

Meanwhile in the north, the troops of the Mikado have ^{now} captured Nankou Pass. Heavy artillery ~~blew~~ blew the Chinese out of their position. The Japanese pushed on through the Pass, and at last reports there was fighting beyond -- a battle with rifles and machine guns amid some famous monuments of old, monuments of the ming emperors who were ^{not} the glory of China.

FRANCE

The Frenchmen are buying Diamonds -- ~~the~~ though not for Mademoiselle. Frenchmen are romantic, but they also understand frugality. So Mademoiselle of the boulevards is not so likely to get Diamonds as the hot mammas of Broadway. Nevertheless, the ~~the~~ importation of Diamonds into France has increased enormously -- it's three times as large for the first six months of this year as for the same period last year. Fifteen million dollars worth. Imports of Diamonds into France from England have increased twenty-fold.

What's the reason? The French financial troubles!

People want to hoard their wealth, but they're afraid to do it in gold -- because it's likely that the hoarding of gold may soon be made illegal. So they've turned to Diamonds, salting the money away in the shape of glittering gems. And the Frenchman is buying Diamonds, not to give to Mademoiselle, but to put in the sock.

SAILORS

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What do Sailors want -- Sailors in the British Navy? I don't know if that's of any vital, commanding interest on these shores, but the question brings us some odd bits of information this evening -- glimpses into the domestic life aboard a battleship. The British admiralty, in a recruiting campaign, is striving to make life in the Navy more attractive. So now, in an order to the fleet, the Sea Lords publish a list of two hundred and twenty requests sent in by Sailors. Some granted, some refused.

There's a question of colored tablecloths, which are reserved for the use of the chief petty officers only. The Sailors want the same at their mess -- colored tablecloths.

Then there's the dish cloth controversy -- the request that the Sailor's mess be granted more towels for wiping the dishes. This the admiralty has refused, saying sternly that the present allowance of three dishcloths for each ten men ~~was~~^{is} adequate. The bitter pill of refusal was sugar coated -- for ~~the~~ the Sea Lords add that they will give consideration to the desirability of having the

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dish cloths made of better material.

The admiralty was stern and unrelenting in its reply to the demand that at mess each Sailor should be allowed two knives and two forks. The admiralty say they can't see any reason why a Sailor can't eat with one knife and one fork. No doubt the Sea Lords fondly recall the old Nelsonian days when a Jacktar ate his hard tack and salt pork with a Jackknife.

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The old salts seem to be increasing in stature these days, because we find a request for longer baths. The tall Jacktar demands that at seamen's quarters in the royal Navy Barracks at Portsmouth, the baths shall be made longer.

It's all a serious part of the British armament program so important in World affairs, but it does evoke a tuneful reminiscence of H. M. F. Pinafore.

WHARTON

So ~~Edith~~ Edith Wharton will never write another "Ethan Frome" another "House of Mirth". She died today in Paris in her old age. She depicted scenes of society in her novels and she knew, because she herself was of the blue-blood elite, descendant of one of the oldest American families. In her family tree were such names as Howe, Rhineland, Schermerhorn.

her parents belonged to one of ~~these~~ exclusive sets of the

Nineteenth Century. ^{And -} She was a brilliant debutante in her time. ^{Then}

^{she} ~~was~~ married an heir of a distinguished banking family of Boston.

The social register was the book in which she belonged, but the art of writing claimed her in her youth, and she rose to heights of authorship of successful books.

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ROCKEFELLER

Today a Judge in New York said -- "Give this fellow a sanity test and see what's wrong with his brains." The candidate for the mental examination committed the indiscretion of making an experiment to see how smart the police were -- so he says.

The story goes this way. Two years ago the aged John D. Rockefeller received an extortion letter, then another, then a third. There was some stir about it at the ~~ix~~ time, but nothing happened. The police investigated, but nothing came of that -- until now. Detective bureaus have long memories, and today -- two years later, Guiseppe Queirola is under arrest. Police have finally traced those Rockefeller blackmail missives to him. Queirola admits he sent them, but not for any such wicked purposes as extortion, blackmail. He hadn't the least desire to get any money out of John D. Rockefeller. ^{Oh no!} He declares that he merely wanted to see if the police were smart enough to catch him. They were! ¹ and that should answer the question

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decisively. The Judge suspects that there is something nutty in the experiment, and so has ordered the experimenter to Bellevue for a test of sanity.

COLLAPSE

This evening the casualties in New York's tenement house disaster are numbered at nineteen. That melancholy figure is an ugly reflection on conditions that allowed people to live in a decrepit old building which collapsed suddenly into a mass of rubbish. With all our advanced civilization, it does seem strange that wretched buildings serve as sordid dwellings and end as death traps for the unfortunate.

Last night in a terrific ~~rain~~ rain storm the Staten Island tenement was being flooded, water rising. A policeman to the rescue, Patrolman McBreen was getting the women and children out. He had two little girls in his arms, about to take them from the building -- when it happened. The whole tenement sank, tumbled, caved in, collapsed. The flooding water had undermined its foundations and it sank to sudden and utter ruin. The policeman and the two little girls disappeared under an avalanche of debris. They were killed. And similar doom descended upon families that lived in the death trap they called their homes. This evening they are still digging in the wreckage, and number the casualty list at nineteen.

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FARM FOLLOW COLLAPSE

In Idaho there's a farm -- collapsing. Today's news tells how H. A. Robertson's broad fields have had a sudden sinking spell, a ~~ye~~ cave-in, the earth cleaving in a deep ~~an~~ chasm, and into this the whole farm is tumbling. The first signs of sinking were noticed several years ago, as a preliminary. Now the collapse has happened in a big way -- a deep underground rumbling, a quaking of the earth, and the land sags, and slides down into a yawning crevasse. They say that when it's all through the Robertson farm will be a canyon.

Geologists explain that underground is a vast cavern, a regular mammoth cave for those parts. And its roof collapses. The subterranean rumbling was caused by

masses of rock ~~falling~~ falling from the ceiling of the cave, shower of great chunks of stone. ~~Then a part of the cavern~~

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subterranean
roaring down inside the earth
And when that cavern roof gives way, ~~one of~~ one of Farmer Robertson's fields. Strange story that!
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RETAKE

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 59
 subterranean roaring down inside the cavern
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