

SIAM

Where do you suppose the latest revolution has broken out? Well, it's about one ~~km~~ of the last places in the world where I'd expect one. It's in Siam.

The news broke first in Berlin. It had been telephoned to the German capital from Bangkok by a German woman flier who happened to be in the Siamese capital on a ^{flying tour of the} world tour in her airplane. For quite a while there was no confirmation of this report. But finally a dispatch from Washington corroborated the story in the Berlin newspaper.

Siam was one of the last few remaining absolute monarchies. But everybody imagined its people were entirely happy under ~~their~~ ^{Prajadhipok. The King} King, ~~he~~ ^{he} was in America last year to undergo an operation at Johns Hopkins. ~~Hospital~~ At that time he impressed the entire country by the mildness and charm of his manners. King Prajadhipok explained in newspaper interviews ^{while he was here} ~~at that time~~ that the Siamese looked upon their king pretty much as their father.

Well, today they seem to be rebellious children. The revolution was led by army and navy officers. They demanded

the establishment of a constitutional monarchy.

Evidently a strict censorship has been clamped down and not many details are available. But it ~~doesn't~~ appear^s that *few* ~~many~~ ^{have been} lives ~~were~~ lost, though the commander in chief of the army, who remained loyal to his sovereign and resisted arrest, was shot. Members of the government were imprisoned in the Royal Palace. The royal family was taken aboard a warship for safety.

The Berlin dispatch reports that ^{Siamese} ~~the~~ population is calm. Tanks and machine guns command most of the streets of Bangkok. Our State Department in Washington ^{was flashed} ~~got~~ news of the revolution ^{by} ~~from~~ the American legation in Bangkok. Historians have been recalling an old prophecy that the dynasty of which Prajadhipok was a member, would last only a century and a half. It so happens that its 150th anniversary was celebrated last April.

The King introduced several modern Western ^{ideas} ~~methods~~ into the life of his people. He imported experts in government, education, and science from both England and the United States. He himself was educated at Oxford, and his entire family speak English

SIAM - 3

fluently. He is not only sovereign, but ^{the religious head of} ~~head of the Church throughout~~

his kingdom. Incidentally, the name for Siam in the language of

its people means the Land of the Free. And the Siamese

seem to be insisting upon more freedom.

ELEPHANT

Talking about Siam, here's an elephant story. Many years ago Napoleon Bonaparte brought back this particular elephant from Egypt^t to France. He was named Siam, and quartered in the Paris Zoo. But he proved a troublesome guest. Siam killed several of his ~~assistants~~ attendants. In fact, he was so troublesome that Napoleon presented him to his father-in-law, the Emperor of Austria. That looks like one way of getting even with your in-laws.

Well, when Siam reached Vienna, he killed a couple more men. He was traded several times, and finally found a permanent home in Budapest, the capital of Hungary. The news came out only the other day. According to a United Press dispatch to the Cincinnati Post, Siam has been a peaceable elephant since he arrived in Budapest. He will beg for coins and accept them gratefully. That is, unless they are pennies. He spurns copper coins. But if you give him silver, he will salaam~~x~~ with his trunk and then buy himself buns with the money you presented to him.

ARMS

John Bull and Uncle Sam have reached a gentlemen's agreement on the questions of both reparations and disarmament.

According to a United Press dispatch to the Brooklyn Times this is being said in London ^{on} ~~under~~ reliable authority. The understanding is that both will follow the same disarmament policy. Both are agreed that reparations must cease. But this agreement is effective only in case the conference ~~is~~ at both Lausanne and Geneva should fail.

~~AND FROM LONDON~~ The dispatch adds that the report of the agreement will probably ^{officially} be denied. But it came from an excellent source. It is understood the negotiations were conducted principally in London. They were held between Ambassador Mellon, acting under cabled instructions from Washington, and Sir John Simon, John Bull's foreign secretary. The principal object of the agreement is to prevent a general European collapse in case the conferences at Geneva and Lausanne fail.

And from Lausanne comes the news that Germany ^{to France} explained today why she cannot continue to pay reparations. What

ARMS - 2

is more, the Germans received a sympathetic hearing from the French Prime Minister.

Premier Herriot and Chancellor Von Papen of Germany were the principal figures at a meeting which was attended by more than twenty ministers and experts of France and Germany. The reports describe how Mr. Herriot ~~was~~ accompanied Chancellor Von Papen to the hotel door after the conference. As the head of the German Government stepped out into the dismal rain, the French Premier uttered a smiling and sympathetic paraphrase of a quotation from the great German poet Heine.

And there's quite a romantic and dramatic touch for you.

Then from Rome comes the information that Uncle Sam's ambassador delivered a message of appreciation to Premier Mussolini for Italy's support of the Hoover Arms plan. "I want to say to his Excellency how much I appreciate the cordial agreement of Italy with President Hoover's proposals expressed so eloquently by Foreign Minister Grandi," *said the American Ambassador.*

The situation as to the President's sweeping scheme

ARMS - 3

is approximately this. Most of the nations in the world support it unconditionally. Great Britain and the British dominions probably will accept it in a general way but with reservations. The only strong opposition is shown by Japan, by France, and by France's allies of the little Entente, that is, Roumania, Czecho Slovakia, and Jugo Slavia.

A conspiracy came to light in a European country the other day, a conspiracy which was foiled. It was a plot to make one of the Fascist leaders king of Czechoslovakia.

According to a dispatch in the New York Evening Post, this Fascist leader was once a drug store clerk. During the war he served in the Austrian Red Cross. He was captured by the Russians. Then he fought in the Czech Legions which conducted a war against the Bolsheviks.

After he returned to the new founded republic of Czechoslovakia, he continued his military career. And the former drug store assistant became chief of the Czechoslovakian General Staff. But he was not satisfied with that. He founded the Fascist party in Czechoslovakia.

Having advanced in such romantic and fantastic fashion, the ambitions of this former druggist's clerk ran away with him. He attempted an upset of the government. But his plot was discovered in time. He was arrested, deprived of his rank as a general, and is now in a Czechoslovakian prison.

CROWN PRINCE

The Crown Prince of Germany is paying a visit to the Dutch seaside resort where his father, the Kaiser Wilhelm, is staying. So the Amsterdam correspondent of the London Daily Herald reported today.

The Crown Prince is accompanied by German bankers and politicians. ~~THEY~~

What is unusual
~~The remarkable part~~ about this dispatch is that the Crown Prince, who has never been on very good terms with his father, has not visited the Kaiser in seven years.

However, according to a United Press dispatch to the Hartford Times, it has been impossible to obtain any confirmation to ~~this~~ ^{of} report concerning the conference they are supposed to be holding.

POLITICS

Our picturesque friend, Alfalfa Bill Murray, looms prominent in the political news from Chicago today. "There'll be a third party", declared Alfalfa Bill, "if the Roosevelt forces succeed in breaking down the two-thirds rule that governs a Democratic presidential nomination."

Senator Carter Glass of Virginia is also dead set against the rule. And of course, Al Smith and Tammany are strong in opposition. Leader Curry of Tammany announced that he and his organization would fight the Roosevelt forces on this issue to the last ditch.

Another third party threat came from Robert M. Hutchins, the 31 year old President of the University of Chicago. But President Hutchins was not concerned so much about the two-thirds rule. The point about which he was anxious was a clear and sharp stand on economic issues in the party's platform. Mr. Hutchins also made a plea for the repeal of prohibition. "Repeal the Amendment", he urged, "for the sake of young men and women."

For the rest, Chicago resounds with preliminary

explosions of the bitter personal feud between Al Smith and Governor Roosevelt; yes, Al Smith and the man who twice nominated him for the presidency; the man who gave him the nickname by which he is so popularly known; the Happy Warrior.

Political observers are even saying outright that this feud may result in splitting the Democratic party as wide open as it was in 1924. Said Senator Hull of Tennessee:

"I see signs of a wrecking movement developing to undermine and possibly destroy the party even as it did eight years ago."

Tammany is frankly against the breaking down of the two-thirds rule. The Roosevelt quarters for their part have taken up the gauntlet to fight Tammany. Historians point out that it will not be the first time a Democratic presidential nominee has defied Tammany. Grover Cleveland was scornfully and vigorously opposed to the New York machine. President Woodrow Wilson was just as vehemently anti-Tammany. Nevertheless this time

POLITICS - 3

the dope seems to be that the New York and Indiana delegations hold the key to the nomination situation.

Several Democratic celebrities ^{arrived} ~~arrived~~ in Chicago today. Mayor Jimmie Walker of New York ^{stepped off the train} ~~arrived at the station~~ nattily dressed in a brown ensemble. When they asked him ~~who~~ he was supporting for the presidency, he replied: "Anybody the organization is for."

Governor Albert C. Ritchie of Maryland was another candidate to arrive ~~in Chicago~~. According to police estimates there were seven thousand friends to greet him at the railroad station.

And by the way, Leader Curry of Tammany, and Leader McCooey of the Brooklyn Machine announced that ^{their} preference for the presidency was Governor Ritchie, with Newton D. Baker of Ohio second favorite. According to a United Press story in the New York World Telegram Mr. Baker has the greatest second choice strength of all candidates. The United Press made a survey of

POLITICS - 4

fourteen state delegat^{ions}~~ions~~ who made informal second choices.~~xxxxxx~~

So far eleven of them ~~are~~ are for Mr. Baker, that is, as second choice with a total strength of 220 votes.

Other dispatches from Chicago verify the reports that Governor Roosevelt will make a dramatic personal appearance before the ~~Democratic~~ Convention. Mr. Roosevelt went to Newburgh today to dedicate a swimming pool in honor of his late aunt. He seemed calm and quiet and unaggressive. He still finds time for his customary joking with newspaper men at the Daily Press Conference. In spite of the stirring campaign and his feud with his old friend Al Smith, there is no haggard look on his face. The newspaper men asked him whether he was going to the Convention. [#] "I'll let you boys know on August 28th", he said. ~~That's~~ ~~is no more than~~ a month after the Convention will be over.

14 .

RELIEF

Now that the Senate ^{has} passed the bill of Senator Wagner of New York, the two billion three hundred million dollar bill to relieve the unemployed ^{it's} now up to a conference between the House of Representatives and the Senate, The ~~H~~ouse, of course, passed Speaker Garner's bill on the same subject a couple of weeks ago. There are a lot of differences between the two measures to be reconciled.

Administration Republicans are confident that whatever happens ~~and~~ and whatever kind of a bill the ^{conferees} ~~conferees~~ finally agree on, the president will veto it.

COMMUNIST

Here's a tale of a man who became a Communist in spite of himself. The story comes from Carmel, in California. Carmel is a small community inhabited largely by writers, painters, actors, and other practitioners of ~~the~~ art and near-art.

Well, the chief executive of Carmel discovered today that he is the only Communist Mayor in the United States. His name is John Catlin. Once upon a time he was a ~~very~~ successful and prosperous lawyer. He gave up his profitable practise and retired to Carmel to become a village blacksmith. And they are saying now that when he discovered himself registered as a Communist, ~~the~~ ^{this is,} smith a mighty man was he - [^]mighty angry.

Mayor Catlin protested that he had signed a petition to permit the Communists a place on the Primary Ballot. He didn't perceive that tacked on to this petition was an oath of allegiance to the Communist party.

Another signer of this petition was Frank Sheridan, ~~the fairly~~ ^{the} well known actor, Sheridan, who ⁱs a staunch Democrat and a friend of Al Smith, was worried about what Al might think of

COMMUNIST - 2

this news.

But so far neither Al nor the Empire State

Building seem to be in the least shaken by the information.

Well, there's another big Varsity boat race today. And again I can't give you the final result.. Of course, I mean the Harvard Yale encounter at New London, Connecticut. Once more they slipped one over on me, and are holding the big race at 7:30 Eastern Daylight Saving Time. Whatever happens in the final event, it will be no clean sweep for either university. The Yale Freshmen crew won its race, but the Harvard Junior crew won its event.

DIVINERS

The Democratic National Convention isn't the only meeting that's in the news. Over in ^{France in the} ~~the history~~ historic old ^{walled} city of Avignon, ^{famous for its} ~~where the~~ palace of the Popes, ~~once existed~~ ~~for a while~~, they are having an international congress of Diviners.

The scientific name for these specialists is Rabdomancers.

They're the people who wander over the countryside with a twig in their hands, exclaiming at intervals: There's water here - or, Underneath ~~xxx~~ this spot you'll find ^{oil} ~~a cabin~~ - or, If you dig here you'll find ^{gold} ~~copper~~, ~~in training their diviners.~~

This is the first international congress of ^{Diviners} ~~the sort~~

that ^{has} ~~is~~ been held since 1914. Delegates ^{have} ~~come~~ from all parts of

France, from England, from Germany, from Belgium, from Italy. They ^{brought along their magic wands. Some are the} all have ^{wands} ~~from the~~ classic hazel ^{and} twig, ^{some are} ~~to modern contraptions~~ of whalebone, ^{and so on,} and steel. There's one old Rabdomancer who has nothing at all. He waves his arms and legs and explains that in that way he can find water, ^{oil} ~~copper~~, or anything else you may want to discover, just as well as with a twig.

DIVINERS - 2

According to a special dispatch in the New York Sun, one of these diviners is a girl. Archeologists have made use of her in their excavations around the ruins of Pompeii in Italy. And in Africa there's a French priest who is convinced that he is one who will be able to repeat the miracle of Moses and find water in the Sahara Desert.

Not only are these diviners in dead earnest, but a great many people believe in them profoundly. As a matter of fact, their services are frequently used in the United States,

though here ^{usually} ~~mostly~~ to find water. ~~and not minerals.~~ I also heard much of these diving wizards in Australia and in Africa.

BRIDGE

~~Do you remember my reporting~~ ^{I told} The other day about that

bridge that was supposed to have disappeared in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania? ^{Just vanished into the blue. It seems they} ~~They~~ were having a graft investigation out there,

and in the course of the proceedings it looked as though a sixty foot bridge had ^{gone where the woodbine twineth.} ~~just vanished.~~ Inasmuch as it was made of steel,

the disappearance of the bridge was considered quite a feat. ^{Oh, but now the}

^{mystery is solved.} It seems it wasn't stolen, and it didn't take wings to

itself. ^{Folks in that locality tell me they have found} ~~It was just shifting while a new boulevard was being built.~~

~~They not only found the bridge, but a photograph of it appeared~~

~~the other day in the Pittsburgh Press. However,~~ the bridge ~~was~~ ^{But}

not in tact. It's rickerrollers - whatever they may be - were

stolen. ^{What I'm wondering is why anybody} ~~They were worth about a hundred dollars. If anybody~~

~~can imagine why people should want to steal a rickerroller? they're~~

~~got no beat.~~ And now I'm going to put on my rickerrollers - what ever they are - and roll out to Chicago to attend the Democratic Convention. And salong until Monday.

June 27,
1932.
LT at
Chicago
Democrat
convention.
B