

L.T. P & G. MONDAY, MARCH 30, 1953

KOREA - TRUCE

Is the war about to end in Korea? All, the Chinese at last seem willing to agree to an armistice. A dispatch from Korea states that indication of this comes from none other than the Chinese Premier himself, Chou en-Lai, recently returned from Moscow. There, apparently, he discussed the Korean War with the new Red Czar - Malenkov. Speaking over the Peiping Radio, Chou en-Lai declares that this may be the time for an armistice!

Up till now, the main obstacle to an armistice has been that prisoner-of-war problem. The West has always held that no prisoner should be sent back to his Communist dominated homeland, against his will. The Reds have always rejected this, standing for forcible repatriation of all prisoners.

Now according to Chou en-Lai, the Reda are willing to modify their demands. He states that prisoners who object to going home, should be sent to some neutral state, to begin with; and then later decide what to do with them.

The Chinese Premier proposes that

negotiations begin at once on the question of prisoner exchange.

The Reds had already agreed to an exchange of the sick and wounded. The ~~Chou~~ ^{that now comes from China's premier} statement goes further, and includes all prisoners.

Chou en-Lai notes that the prisoner issue alone has been blocking an armistice in Korea. ~~So, he adds, the~~ ^{And he says the}

logical thing is to take up the question of an armistice as soon as the prisoner problem is settled. In his words, "The time may be considered ripe for settling the entire question of prisoners-of-war, in order to insure the end of hostilities in Korea, and to conclude the armistice."

Western diplomats are ~~described as~~ cautious about the Communist offer. They hope that Chou en-Lai means just what he says. But they don't want to act on his declaration, until they are sure that he is sincere. ~~In the meantime, our~~
~~Commander in Tokyo, General Mark Clark, is said to be drafting~~
~~a reply to the offer.~~

Substitute for last sentence in KOREA - TRUCE.

Meanwhile, in Korea, the fighting has died down. Marines on Vegas Hill reporting the quietest night since the big battle started last week. The sudden lull coincides with the broadcast of Chou En Lai. The Reds possibly holding off to see how the allies react to their offer.

McCARTHY

Joe

Harold

Harold Stassen

Senator Mc Carthy clashes with Mutual Administrator

Stassen. The main point at issue being ~~the~~ ^{our} agreement with Greece, which prevents Greek vessels from trading with Red China or North Korea. Stassen also charged that McCarthy is not cooperating with the ^{Eisenhower} Administration. This, a reference to McCarthy's opposition to the appointment of Charles Bohlen as our Ambassador to Moscow.

Stassen testified before the Permanent Senate Investigating Committee, which is headed by the Senator from Wisconsin. At one point, referring to McCarthy's lack of cooperation with the President and the State Department, Stassen said to him: "I plead with you for cooperation between the two branches of government." To this McCarthy answered: "You needn't plead with me, Governor."

McCarthy himself took up the issue of those Greek ships. He said he was shocked at one of Stassen's inferences - in the words of the Wisconsin Senator, that inference being, "because we accomplish something instead of you or the State Department, it's bad. That if you or

Dulles had accomplished it, it would have been good."

Stassen answered that cutting off strategic supplies from the Reds in China and North Korea is a matter for the Administration. He declared that the work of Secretary Dulles to that end has been "brilliant."

In the meantime, the State Department states that ^{an} ~~the~~ agreement with the Greek Government was made six days before McCarthy's announcement that he had obtained ^{some sort of an} ~~the~~ agreement with *Greek ship owners.*

SPRUANCE

Our Ambassador to Manila denies meddling in Philippine politics. Ambassador Spruance stating that he has not snubbed the liberal party, which is in power in the Philippines.

The charge against our Ambassador came after his dinner in honor of Adlai Stevenson, who is visiting the Far East. President Quirino claimed that many of the opposition party were asked to the dinner, with only a few invitations going to his own liberal party. So Quirino charged that our Ambassador was backing the opposition candidate for the presidency in the coming election.

Ambassador Spruance says it just isn't so. He has advised ~~that~~ Americans in the Philippines to avoid political activities. And he has issued a declaration saying: "I wish to state now that the United States Embassy will observe strict neutrality in the course of the coming campaign and the election."

Ambassador Spruance anxious to show that he is not attempting to side with one party in Filipino politics.

MONACO

Another constitutional crisis in Europe. In Monaco, famous as the home of Monte Carlo, gambling casino.

A news dispatch states that Prince Louis the Third is still unmarried. And the custom is that the ruler of Monaco should marry within three years of ascending the throne. Last November, Prince Louis the Third passed his third anniversary. And we hear that his Crown Council is urging him to marry now.

There is also a hint of that traditional stumbling block of monarchs - the unacceptable matrimonial candidate. In the case of the Prince of Monaco, a French actress. She is described as unacceptable to the Council.

So Monaco is moving into a constitutional crisis. Prince Louis the Third may soon have to make the decision which faced Edward the Eighth in England. He will have to decide between his throne and the woman he loves. A minor matter compared to the decision made by Edward the Eighth.

JIM THORPE

Over the weekend I made a flight via TWA from the Pacific Coast to the Atlantic. And on my way to the airfield I drove by a trailer where just a few hours before

A man died whose name will be remembered for generations to come, may be even as long as there is a recorded history. For as far as we know he was the greatest athlete that ever lived; -- Jim Thorpe. As I sped along the Pacific Coast highway, hurrying down from Balboa Island to the big air base inland a short distance from Hermosa Beach, I passed a trailer park at Lomita. And, there in one of those trailers Jim Thorpe, the Sac-and-Fox Indian, had just passed away. Although he had been acclaimed by all the world, and had walked with kings, old Jim died in poverty. From here in N.Y., I have been trying to find out today, about his funeral. But no one seems to know whether it will be in California, or back in Oklahoma. Somehow it seems to me they should bury Jim Thorpe at Carlisle, Penn., scene of some of his earliest triumphs -- Carlisle, where he played football -- and never has there ever been another Jim Thorpe!

As a newspaperman I have known Thorpe. But, more than that, he above all men was my boyhood hero. Because Jim was at the peak of his career as a Carlisle Indian football star at the time I was playing high school football in a western gold mining camp. At that time, Jim Thorpe was the hero of every American Boy, except those maybe who went to Harvard and West Point--what he did to Harvard and Army made history. But he was doubly a hero to me, because we lived in the West where there were still Indians, and, by chance, and for no good reason at all, my picture on a football team appeared in the famous Spaulding Football Annual the same year that they featured a picture of Jim Thorpe and the Indians who played with him at Carlisle.

Of course, after that Jim went on to even greater heights. His mother had given him the Indian name Bright Path. And for many years he more than lived up to that name. For his star shown as no other athlete's ever did before or since -- not only on the gridiron but in baseball, track and every sport that he tried -- Major League

baseball, professional football, and above all the Olympic Games, the story of which has been told over and over and will be told until the end of time.

You've been reminded this weekend of how Jim became a world hero at the Olympics, in 1912, at Stockholm, of how the King of Sweden, presenting him with his medals and cups said to him: "You, Sir, are the greatest athlete in the world." You've been reminded of how later they found that he had played a few games of summer baseball in the Carolinas; how our somewhat confused high poobahs in sports -- who have never seen eye to eye with those who govern sports in other countries -- stripped the great Thorpe of his medals, and erased his records from the books. But the sidelight on that, that I like to recall is this one.

Our officials sent Thorpe's medals and cups and awards to the man who had been his closest competitor in the Olympics -- and not too close at that. He was a Swede named Wieslander. And, what a magnificent Swede! For years the story has been that he refused even to open the

box of medals and awards, and sent them back with a note that read: "I didn't win the Olympic championship. James Thorpe won it. I do not know what your rules are in regard to amateurism in America, but I do know that Thorpe is the greatest athlete in the world."

As an all-round man the young Sac-and-Fox Indian, whose grandfather was an Irishman and whose mother was the grand-daughter of Chief Black Hawk, Jim surpassed them all.

A few years ago, just before we got involved in World War II, I took Thorpe to the Taft School in Connecticut one day, during baseball season. I wanted the members of the school ball team, and my son in particular to meet him. I could tell they were impressed, for like everyone else in the civilized world, they had heard a little about the fame of Jim Thorpe. But I doubt that they realized they were sitting on the bench, having their picture taken with a man whose name and fame may ring down through the years as long as say, Hercules, or Achilles - almost till the end of time. So, wherever they bury Jim

Thorpe, that place will become a shrine. As for me I hope to get back to the Pacific in time to pay my respects to the man so often called "the greatest athlete who ever lived."

BOAT RACE

From India comes the story of a boat race. But ~~it~~
^{not} ~~is~~ the ordinary kind of boat race. - ~~xxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxx~~

The story ^{is} reported by Robert Trumbull of the New York
Times. ^{The} ~~Trumbull's~~ dispatch states that the race was held in
the moat of the palace belonging to the Maharajah of Manipur.
Manipur being a frontier province in the hills of northeast
Assam.
India, The boat race, no mere athletic competition, but the
enactment of a legendary ritual. So high dignitaries, including
Premier Nehru, were on hand to observe it.

Two boats took part in the race. The first captained
by the Maharajah of Manipur. The other captained by an actor
impersonating the Hindu god Vishnu - that deity known to the
people of India as "The Preserver." Familiar to us for the
many arms with which he is depicted in Indian art.

The two boats moved away from the starting place.
But before the end of the course was reached, the Maharajah

deliberately directed his boat into the bank. And the boat of the god Vishnu won without opposition.

Then the two boats went back to the starting place, for a second race. This time the boat of the Maharajah was permitted to win. The idea of the two races being to show the power of the god Vishnu in the first race. And in the second, to show that the Maharajah is his representative.

The two races were held in the midst of much oriental splendor. The Maharajah being the most magnificent figure of all. He was, in Robert Trumbull's words, "a colossal figure in gold spangled green velvet vestments, and an enormous white turban that spouted long feathers from some exotic bird." Also, says Trumbull, "his immense brown arms were bare, except for tiers of fixed gold bangles. One earlobe dripped loops of gold, so weighty that they had to be supported by lacey golden chains over his upper ear."

The Maharajah was accompanied by local chieftains, garbed in their traditional costumes. They carried shields

and curved broad-swords. Some were decorated with medals of the British Indian Army.

The whole thing, Nelson, symbolic of the traditional devotion of the people of Manipur to the Hindu god Vishnu.

I've missed you on this Western jaunt, Nelson.

And by the way, I'm off on another flight tomorrow, so in my place you will be introducing that top film star -- the resourceful John Wayne.