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WHITNEY

P.T. Sunco. Monday, April 11, 1938

(A stalwart, handsome, well-groomed man, once a leader in the highest financial ^{and social} circles, stood at the bar of Justice today, Richard Whitney, five times President of the New York Stock Exchange, ^{There} ~~came up~~ to be sentenced for theft of securities whose value ran up into ^{large} ~~the high~~ figures.) ~~And he had stolen from his close relatives and from men intimately associated with him in the high financial circles.~~

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He stood there, as prisoner at the Bar, alone save for his lawyer. His brother, George Whitney, of the house of J. P. Morgan & Company, wanted to accompany him, to stand ~~by~~ him at that tragic moment. ~~Incidentally~~ It has come out that his brother has contributed three million dollars out of his own pocket to try to save Richard Whitney from the consequences of his financial misdealings. Today George Whitney stayed home to console Mrs. Richard Whitney, who herself sacrificed ~~part~~ of her personal fortune to try to save her husband. It was a gloomy ~~xx~~ day in that mansion in the fashionable part of New York City, a mansion that now becomes the property of Whitney's numerous creditors.

The guilty man, however, preferred to be alone.

~~as~~ His lawyer said, "My client has come to Court to take it right between the eyes." And that's where he got it. Said the Judge, "Though you have no previous criminal record, it is apparent that your misconduct ~~is~~ extended over a period of six years. As a result you were caught, to use your own ~~own~~ words, like a rat in a trap." (And the Judge ~~concluded~~ *spoke his decree.*)

"I therefore sentence you to an indeterminate term of five to ten years in prison on the first indictment, and five to ten years on the second indictment, the terms to run concurrently."

That was the sentence.
^ With the usual allowance of time off for good behaviour, that

Whitney
means ~~he~~ will probably serve something under four years.

And, as a piece of ~~xx~~ irony it is said that when Richard Whitney goes to Sing Sing, he will probably be assigned to keep the books.

TOWNSEND - FOLLOW FOOTBALL

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Doctor Francis E. Townsend, the Old Age Pension champion, has lost his last fight. He will have to serve his thirty days in jail for contempt of a Committee of the House of Representatives. That is, unless the President intervenes and grants him a full pardon. The aged doctor has put up a long and determined ^{battle.} ~~fight~~ But all along the line the Courts have ^{found} ~~been~~ ^{and} — against him. The Supreme Court today declined to consider his appeal.

HALE

In McCracken County, Kentucky, Joe Hale, a negro, was convicted of murder many months ago. Thereupon he was ~~promptly~~ promptly sentenced to death. But his attorneys appealed. They said the trial was improper and his conviction illegal. And the reason was that in Kentucky, or at any rate McCracken County, negroes are barred from jury service. The lower courts decided against him. But today the U.S. Supreme Court upholds the defendants plea. The court said ~~that~~ where negroes are not allowed to serve on juries, a negro on ~~trial~~ trial is deprived of his Constitutional rights. Accordingly, Joe Hale, convicted of murder, gets a new trial.

FOOTBALL

49

Today seems to be hardly the date for a story about football. But since this one comes from the Supreme Court, ~~we~~ we have to consider it. Apparently even the highest judges in the land need to have some light, interesting subjects to relieve the ponderosity of their labors. And so the nine gentlemen of the gown in Washington are going to look into the matter that Sports writers, college faculties, and the Carnegie ~~Institute~~ ^{Foundation} have all had a crack at. The Supreme Court will decide whether intercollegiate football is an essential ~~Governmental~~ function of universities, or whether it's a gigantic commercial activity.

It all comes up over the question whether ~~the~~ Uncle Sam should get a tax on tickets to football games and other collegiate affairs. The Government says he should. "The staging of intercollegiate football games is not an essential ^{collegiate} ~~governmental~~ function. ~~That has been amply demonstrated,~~ ^{new} says the ~~new~~ Solicitor General Robert H. Jackson, in one of his first ~~briefs to the High Court.~~ "Football games," says the Solicitor General, "are gigantic commercial activities."

(All eyes today are on President Roosevelt.

The whole country has been watching to see how he would take his crucial defeat. by the House of Representatives last Friday. Of course his attitude was foreshadowed in the note that he wrote to leader Sam Raeburn of the House, the note which read: "Thanks for the gallant fight, Sam.")

On top of that the President lost no time sending another message to Congress. It was about that tremendously difficult problem, the railroad^s, one that means much to everyone

of us. ~~As we have observed before, Mr. Roosevelt,~~ has been *The Presidently undoubtedly* pondering over this for ~~studying this for many~~ months, asking information and advice

from every possible source. So it's interesting to see today that in his message he doesn't offer ~~even to~~ ^{and} suggest ^{in a} how Congress shall cut that Gordian knot. ~~what he does is to~~

present^s the problem and dump^s it politely into the laps of the Congressmen. ~~He did convey~~ *He does pass along* criticisms and recommendations

made by others, ~~Particularly he submitted~~ a suggestion ^{from a} ~~to a~~ special Committee of Interstate Commerce Commissioners.

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~~Together with these he sent on ideas from nine other sources.~~

And ~~then~~ he politely intimated that speed was highly desirable.

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The Interstate Commerce Commissioners Committee pointed out one interesting fact. It is particularly interesting since Congress last Friday defeated Mr. Roosevelt's plan for reorganizing and consolidating Government agencies.

The ~~Interstate~~ Commerce Commissioners point out that transportation at present is subject to seven different departments ^{and} agencies of the Government. They suggest, therefore, that all matters relating to transportation of every kind could probably be placed under an independent commission. ~~In other words, they suggest that the Interstate Commerce Commission be reorganized.~~

TP They also suggest that Uncle Sam advance the railroads three hundred million immediately to buy equipment. Railroad chiefs say, "This wouldn't be nearly enough, just a drop in the bucket."

~~And it is particularly interesting to note the President's comment on that -- what he says -- "I refer to this not by way of recommendation, but only as one method~~

which should receive Congressional study."

Washington observers are gazing ^{somewhat} wide-eyed at ~~the~~



~~remarkable~~ ^{today's} change in ~~the~~ tone of the message from the White House.

Must

RELIEF - FOLLOW ROOSEVELT

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While that message was on its way to Congress, the President and his advisers were talking over another and an even more immediate necessity -- relief. And this is going to run into a fight, so the grapevine telegraph from Washington reports. Mr. Roosevelt is going on to still another program of priming the pump. Four billion dollars to get the wheels rolling and bring back recovery. His first request of Congress will be for one billion and a quarter. That to be used on W.P.A. projects. ~~But that's only one item. If the program is carried out, that one billion and a quarter will keep the W.P.A. going only until the beginning of February 1939.~~

Speaker Bankhead of the House said he thought Congress would fall in with the President's wishes. But already the opposition is lining up. ^{Must} ~~It will be~~ the same line-up that defeated the Supreme Court Bill and the Reorganization Bill.

Headaches are growing worse every day in Washington over the state of the country's business. ^{Treasury} Secretary Morgenthau ~~of the Treasury~~ issued an alarming statement today. A few months ago he was among those in the Administration who stood up strongly against priming the pump. On November 10th he said there was no justification for it. On December 8th he admitted business had slowed down. On February 12th he said it was acute. Today he says, "The situation is worse now than it was in February," and he added, "It ^{calls} ~~called~~ for some kind of Government aid." When they asked him what kind, he said, "That isn't for me to say, that's up to the White House."

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MESSAGE FOLLOW BUSINESS

And, here comes an announcement from the White House on that identical subject. ^{The} President ~~Roosevelt~~ is losing no time. He will send a special message to Congress on Thursday, a message on relief, on the economic state of the nation.

And he will tell in detail his suggestions as to how the wind of distress may be tempered for the shorn business lamb.

Later, he ^{is likely} ~~will~~ talk to us all. ~~■~~ On Thursday evening he will ^{probably} broadcast one of his fireside radio chats, and tell the whole country what's what.

STRIKE
STRIKE

54

A shut-down in a body plant in Detroit is having wide consequence. It isn't a strike. The company has closed its factories and sent its eight thousand, one hundred employees home. And, say the company officials "It is because the workers have been ~~slow~~ slowing down, deliberately slackening the speed of production." "And," they ^{continue,} ~~say,~~ "The management ~~manufacturers~~ has found it necessary to send home its employees until the union can control its members and make them live up to their agreement."

The union leaders say "The company tried to speed up the line and the men wouldn't stand for it."

~~The consequence has been that the Plymouth plant of the Chrysler Corporation has been forced to close down because there aren't enough automobile bodies on the assembly line.~~

CANAL

Here's an idea that will interest civil engineers.

It really ought to have come across the wires on April 1st.

A gentleman from Maryland wants Uncle Sam to build a canal clear ~~xxxx~~ across the continent. Not in Nicaragua, or the Isthmus of Tehuantepec or any such practical place. The proposal is that it should start with the Columbia River and then, by connecting the great navigable streams of the United States, go clear across the middle of the continent.

The suggestion was made in all seriousness by a witness testifying before the Naval Affairs Committee of the Senate.

Its purpose would be to enable Uncle Sam's fleet, ~~xx~~ in case of emergency, to cross from ocean to ocean over United States soil ^{or}

maybe play possum in Iowa.

P If it were done, you would see such extraordinary spectacles

as a heavy line of battleships steaming ~~xxxx~~ majestically across

Nebraska.

~~Montana.~~ [^] For, said this gentleman from Maryland, such a waterway

would be no more artificial than the Panama Canal. And, he adds,

"There *would be* ~~xxxx~~ [^] [^] but one cut of four miles, near Butte, Montana, ~~needed~~ to

connect the Columbia River and the Missouri."

If you want a good laugh, break out your Atlas and follow ~~the~~ course of the Columbia, ~~and~~ or the Missouri. You may wonder what strange upheaval of nature has occurred to bring those two rivers within four miles of Butte, or four miles of each other.

CHINA

News reports from China continue in a more jubilant vein. (The Chinese claim they ~~have~~ have the Mikado's invaders on the run.) They also say that they are about to take another city that has been in Japanese hands for weeks, and that an entire division has barricaded itself in that city, cut off from all communication and from all chance of rescue. They have been deprived of their artillery because Chinese guerrillas have wrecked all the roads.

Dignitaries at

Japanese headquarters, as might be expected, make light of the news. One Japanese spokesman said it was ridiculous to believe the Chinese had actually captured the city of Taierschwang. Another Japanese representative admitted the place had been captured, but said it wasn't important anyway. The Chinese declare that their victories have been so significant that their next move will be to recapture Nanking, their former seat of Government.

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ITALY

A small bit of news from Geneva has a vast ironic meaning. John Bull has ^{sent} a communication to the League of Nations asking that the question of Ethiopia be put down as the first to be discussed when the League's Council meets in May.

That can mean only one thing. John is going to reverse himself, turn tail, and ask the League to recognize Mussolini's conquest of Ethiopia. When we recall how long and how bitterly England's delegates fought against ^{Mussolini} ~~the recognition of Ethiopia~~,

how Foreign Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare was forced to ~~resign~~ resign because ^{of yielding halfway to Il Duce} ~~he suggested the recognition of Ethiopia~~, that is indeed

a change. Behind it all, of course, is the forthcoming treaty between ^{London and Rome} ~~John Bull and Mussolini~~, the agreement that ^{it} ~~is~~ hoped ~~to~~ ^{will} ~~be about to~~ remove some of the dangers to the British Empire and relieve some of its fears.

On Mussolini's part, it is understood he will withdraw troops from ^(Libya) ~~Libya~~ that have been threatening Egypt, ^{and} ~~remove~~ his soldiers from ~~Sardinia~~ Spain as soon as Franco is victorious. Both countries will agree on what are their separate spheres of influence in the Mediterranean. London will give Mussolini free

{ access through the Suez Canal to his territories in
} Africa.

Here a late surprise —
a report from Rome that Italy
may return to the League of
Nations — this as a result of
the British move to recognize the
Ethiopian conquest.

PARIS

58

France's new Premier already has cause for fellow feeling with the man he replaced. The ~~so-called~~ moderate Cabinet of Daladier comes slap-up against the same situation that faced Blum when he took office. French industry today is almost paralyzed by strikes. They are spreading all over. By noon ninety-five thousand workers were out; by evening there were no fewer than one-hundred-and-fifty thousand, either out or sitting down in the factories that employed them. That's the problem that new Premier Daladier had to meet even before his first Cabinet meeting was over.

The gravest part of it, from the French standpoint, is that most of the strikes are in munitions plants, factories making airplanes, motors, shells, armour plate, tanks.

The French problem seems to be one of the most serious in Europe at this moment.

POLAND

58/2
Here 's ^{a weird one} ~~an illuminating bit of news~~ from Warsaw, ~~the~~
~~capital of Poland.~~ An instructor in literature at Vilna
University, ~~was~~ sentenced to three years in prison, ^{because} ~~and what~~
~~was his offence?~~ ^{he} He wrote a newspaper article ~~in which he~~
describ^{ing} the late Marshall Pilsudski, Dictator of Poland, as
a ham actor.

ENEMIES

In a pleasant English town on the Kentish Coast lives a lady who is exceedingly pious and disapproves highly of the flowing bowl. Outside her house she has a large placard which reads:- "Beer is man's worst enemy."

Opposite that lady's house there's a church. On the lawn outside that church ~~it~~ there is a large sign which reads: "Love thine enemy."

So all the limeys of those parts love their beer.

And, ^{now} Hugh what from you?

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