

L.T. - Sunoco Thurs. Oct. 11 '34

ALEXANDER

The dangerous European situation tonight focuses on Italy. Quite suddenly the historic peninsula, shaped like a boot, becomes the center of the tremendous agitation that has followed the assassination of King Alexander, ~~of Serbia. At first Italy seemed as far removed from the sensational events as Siam or Kentucky. But today we find~~ Anti-Italian riots <sup>are</sup> sweeping the Jugoslav kingdom, ~~over which the assassinated Alexander ruled.~~ An Italian Consul was attacked in the town of Lublijana. A mob was making a demonstration in front of his consulate. He protested. The Jugoslav police had to rescue the Italian representative from the infuriated crowd.

And then we see the ill-omened name of Sarajevo, the Jugoslav town of the assassination that brought on the World War. Today in Sarajevo a memorial stands in honor of the killer who shot down the Austrian Archduke and his wife. Sarajevo figures prominently in the present anti-Italian rioting. A mob of its citizens stoned the Italian Consulate there.

47

~~Now let's see the influences that inevitably draw Mussolini's Italy into the focus of the disturbance.~~ Italy has been at odds with Jugoslavia ever since the World War, and Italian

sympathies have commonly been with the Croats. The Croats are Slavs who formerly belonged to the old Austro-Hungarian Empire. They lean somewhat to the more northern and western type of European civilization - this all the more because they are largely members of the western church of Rome, rather than the eastern orthodox church. Since the World War the Croats have bitterly resented the domination of the Serbs.

In the anti-Italian demonstrations today we find such accusations are printed in one Jugoslav newspaper - that the assassination of King Alexander is to be blamed on Jugoslavia's national enemies. And this points to Italy. There is talk of moral responsibility, moral guilt, meaning that any power encouraging the Croats, was likewise fomenting attempts to assassinate King Alexander.

Along these lines a sensational statement is made today by the Daily Herald of London. It is to the effect that the King feared assassination incessantly and had told friends that there was a training school for killers in the great Italian city of Milan, where conspirators were schooled for attempts on

his life. Meaning Croatian refugees in Milan.

No such angle, however, occurs in the facts uncovered by the French police. These are to the effect that the assassination was indeed plotted by a Croatian terrorist ring, whose headquarters however was in Switzerland. Two alleged partners of the man who killed the King were arrested today on the French border, trying to get into Switzerland. The police claim they have made a full confession. A third conspirator is being hunted. These men are described as Croats.

The mystery of the actual killer is by no means cleared up today. It appears that he had a forged Czechoslovakian passport. The men arrested are said to have had similar ones. It is believed that the assassin's name on his passport was a false one and that he did not come from the Croatian city of Zagreb. There is some suspicion that he was really born at the city of Trieste, which is now Italian, but which was then Austro-Hungarian.

All of these complicated facts and factors make clear that it was inevitable that Italy should be drawn into the focus of the agitation. That makes it dangerous. The fact that there

is no real detail to implicate Italians in any way does not ease the situation. It will not make Mussolini any more patient with the anti-Italian flare up in Jugoslavia, with attacks on Italian diplomatic officials.

I suppose many of those listening in may have wondered why the famous French Surete, so renowned for its cunning efficiency, could not protect the guest of the nation. If you've wondered about that you are not the only one. They're all excited about it over in France. Albert Saraut, Minister of the Interior, resigned today. His department is entrusted with the protection of visiting potentates. The failure to protect Alexander was so startling and calamitous that the Minister of the Interior resigned. And there is the ominous rumor that the other Ministers in Paris may follow suit. The whole Cabinet may resign. And that would complicate things with the excitement and shouting of a French political crisis.

One story tells us why the French police precautions failed, not because they did not have any warning - they had plenty of warning. They say it was known that Slav terrorists

would make a determined effort to kill Alexander in France.

The police knew enough about the plot to make elaborate

arrangements to meet it. But the arrangements were for Paris,

not marseilles. The Killers had intended to strike at Alexander

in the French capital, but at the last minute they learned of

the complicated police activity. So they swiftly changed their

plans, dropped the Paris plot and hurried to Marseilles. The

French police, concentrating on Paris, believed that Alexander

was in no particularly danger in Marseilles. Hence the ease

with which the plotters moved about in the Mediterranean port,

found convenient place in the crowd, and struck with such

swift catastrophe.

FOLLOW JUGOSLAVIA

51  
Every startling event that shakes the world into sudden attention brings its quota of people here and there who have an odd story to tell. The assassination of King Alexander brings a flash of attention to a house painter at Bridgeport, Connecticut, who says loudly that he has legitimate and royal right to the throne left vacant by the murdered monarch. ~~The~~

The Connecticut house painter's name is Yovanovitch. He's related, he says, to the royal Serbian house through a mutual ancestor - a General Stivanovitch, who lived long ago. The General, he claims, really should have been king but the Turks stepped in and robbed him of his throne. If it had not been for that <sup>event</sup> many a year ago, the house painter Yovanovitch of Bridgeport would be monarch of the South Slavs today.

Is he going ~~to~~ back ~~there~~ to claim his royal rights? Not at all. He says he doesn't want to be king of Jugoslavia. Maybe the throne looks too dangerous. It's just as well; because he won't be disappointed.

It might seem odd for a house painter to become a king. Still, Hitler was a house painter and look at him now. However, he was not a royal house painter and maybe that's why he's ruler of a nation.

GERMANY

52  
French secret agents in Germany have notified their government at Paris that Hitler is planning a large increase of the Germany army. Germany's military power was severely limited by the Treaty of Versailles, which the Germans call the mistreaty of Versailles. An army of a hundred thousand men is the limit.

The French secret service men declare they have found indications that Hitler is planning to build the Reichswehr to three hundred thousand men. And they say it is even worse than that - for the additional two hundred thousand will be recruited for only a year and then a new two hundred thousand will be enrolled.

In that way they'll have <sup>a steady stream of men returning</sup> ~~graduate men returned~~ to civilian life after a year of intensive military training.

That's that

This all has a most familiar historic ring. Napoleon tried to disarm Prussia by limiting her to a very small army. But the Prussians got around that by recruiting their soldiers for short periods, training them intensively in batches. So when the time came, the ~~ix~~ manhood of Prussia was trained for war, ready to jump into <sup>a</sup> ~~their~~ uniform and grab a gun.

JAPAN

53  
More tidings come of Japan's ambition to be the dominant power in the Far East. This time we hear of a dignitary known as the Inspector General of Chinese Customs. He is Sir Frederick Maze, an Englishman. The job has been held by an Englishman for fifty years. It is most important because the Inspector General controls the Customs House at the great free port of Shanghai. England originally got control because she did more business with China than any other nation. But that's changed now. Both the United States and Japan have exceeded Britain in the bulk of their trade with China. So why should the Inspector General of Chinese Customs continue to be an Englishman? *ask the Japanese?*

They ~~Japanese~~ can't see any reason, and because of their peculiar position in Asiatic waters, they think they should get the job. Something worth trying for, because the Inspector General at Shanghai keeps tabs on the facts and figures of commerce, supervises things generally, and is most influential.



SOPWITH

From London comes an echo of the late and much-disputed yacht race. And in with the echo lingers a hint of the hard feelings caused by that great international sports event.

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Last night in London a Pilgrims' banquet was staged, a most swanky affair, as all the Pilgrims' banquets are, celebrated ~~annually~~ in the interests of British-American friendship, -- hands across the sea. The guest of honor was the British challenging skipper, T.O.M. Sopwith and Mrs. Sopwith, and the crew of the Endeavor. Everybody who was anybody was there -- with one exception. All the British and American leading lights were present -- except one American leading light -- Harold Vanderbilt, the skipper of the victorious American boat, the Rainbow. That was curious, because Harold Vanderbilt is in London and is distinctly a somebody, who might be expected to attend a Pilgrims' banquet, especially when the <sup>festive occasion</sup> ~~banquet~~ concerned yachting.

However, at the grand Sopwith celebration Vanderbilt was missing. ~~None~~ Nobody seems to know whether he declined an invitation or whether he failed to get one.

W. T.  
Johnson.  
Oct. 11, 1934.

RODEO

Which is right, ró-deo or ro-de-o? I've said it both ways and been corrected. I believe that ro-de-o is the original Spanish pronunciation, and I've been using it, but Colonel Johnson here in the studio at Rockefeller Center calls it ró-deo. And he ought to know. Because he's the big boss of the capering cowboys and bucking bronchos, -- Colonel William T. Johnson, who has brought the ró-deo, or ro-de-o to New York again this year.

The Colonel has been telling me some of his troubles with his western cow country extravaganza this season -- all kinds of trouble getting bronc's that would buck belligerently and steers that would toss a rider with sufficient abandon. That's right, isn't it, Colonel Johnson?

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COLONEL J:- Yes, and all because of the drought. When the West went dry this summer -- I mean the weather went dry -- the animals didn't grow strong and tough enough to give our cowboys and cowgirls a real battle. So I wired Madison Square Garden and said: "If you want a rodeo this year, you'd better send me

some money or a lot of fodder, to put some pep in the bronchos and the steers. There isn't enough food around here to make them buck a Broadway chorus boy off their back." So they sent me the money, and we got the bronchs and steers around so they'd buck in their old-pre-drought way.

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L.T.:- Yes, and on top of that, Colonel Johnson tells me they're using long-horns this year. Hitherto it's been a case of riding steers, but with the shortage of animals, he was looking around on the ranges out west and found some old-time Texas long-horns, and put them into action.

So the drought which has so greatly affected the economic situation of the country has also had its influence on the ro'-deo, or ro-dé-o.

LINDBERGH

There is another <sup>turn</sup> ~~decision~~ in the Lindbergh case -- on the question of whether Hauptmann will or will not fight extradition **to** New Jersey. It appears now that he will fight. When Governor Lehman of New York signed the papers turning the prisoner over to the authorities across the river, Hauptmann's attorney jumped in with a last minute move -- a habeas corpus proceeding to keep the New Jersey authorities from getting hold of Hauptmann. The case was heard before a New York judge this morning.

57

The judge listened to the argument, and granted a postponement until Monday, when he will give a decision. ~~on this habeas corpus proceeding to keep Hauptmann out of New Jersey.~~

Today happens by coincidence to be the very day when Hauptmann would have gone on trial in New York on the extortion charge, if New Jersey had not interfered. ~~with its own murder charge.~~

The judges in the Bronx <sup>today</sup> scratched the <sup>extortion</sup> ~~extortion~~ case off the calendar.

STOLLS

While the legal proceedings are on in New York in the biggest kidnapping case of them all, Kentucky is staging a kidnapping hunt tonight. It's an exceedingly strange and wicked looking affair -- the abduction of the wealthy Mrs. Berry Stoll. There is all the more terror in the affair because of the inescapable supposition that the kidnapper was a maniac, an ~~id~~ idiot of some sort. ~~He~~ got into the Stoll home posing as a telephone repair man. Mrs. Stoll's maid said he looked and acted like a fiend. He seized the wealthy young wife, terrified her with a gun, struck her with a piece of iron pipe, forced her ~~xxxx~~ into a car, and carried her away.

58  
Mighty few clues are reported, and it is the usual story of unavailing search, ~~and~~ the anxiety of the family, eager to pay the ransom and get the young wife back home.

MRS. ROOSEVELT

The First Lady of the Land had a party today whether she liked it or not. When the birthday cake was cut, she expressed her philosophy this way: "I have a theory", she said, "when you get to be my age birthdays shouldn't be a time to celebrate. The more you forget your birthdays as you grow older the younger you stay."

When she spoke of her age, what did she mean? She meant fifty years. She has reached the half century mark, but ~~she~~ has more youthful activity than most people of twenty-five. She *continues the doings and goings* ~~keeps up the incessant activity~~ with which for so many years she *has* backed up the political career of her husband. Insiders will tell you that it was her genial abilities as a perfect hostess that are largely responsible for Franklin Delano Roosevelt's presence in the White House today.

There was one thing that helped him immensely in his dealings with political personalities *on the way up --* and that was Mrs. Roosevelt's good-humored readiness to jump in and cook scrambled eggs and coffee no matter how late the hour ~~was~~ or how many the guests. *Her* large abilities as a business woman and politician have been magnified by

her predominant womanliness. There is one article of jewelry she always wears, a throat locket, battered, bent and bitten. On that golden locket all of her children cut their teeth. *And a-l-u-t-m.*

59½