

L.J. - Lunoco Friday, April 8, 1938.

CHINA

(The Chinese announce a great victory along the line from Tientsin to Fukow. They say they've routed the Japanese who are now in flight, pursued by Chinese planes - bombing ^{and} machine gunning. They've cut the strategic railroad at several places, isolating large forces of Japanese - these threatened with annihilation.)

Such is the Chinese war dispatch, and the victory is hailed by a proclamation from Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Yet he jubilates with a warning, saying to the Chinese people: "Let us not be proud and too satisfied with preliminary successes or discouraged by temporary reverses."

There have been conflicting claims for days about the fighting along the confused far flung battle line in China. And tonight the military situation in the Far East is too complicated and ~~shady~~ shadowy for us to ~~be able to~~ form any judgment about the victory the Chinese announce.

OIL

Great Britain has protested to Mexico about the seizure of the four hundred million dollars worth of foreign oil properties. His Majesty's minister in Mexico City ~~has~~ *today* handed a note to the Mexican ~~gx~~ government saying that Britain considers the seizure -- "inherently unjustified." London asks Mexico to back down and return the oil wells taken from the Shell Company -- British owned.

FRANCE

In Paris, a familiar bit of action is going on, the statesmen trying to form a government. This was ^{as we} ~~easy~~ foretold last night. It was known that the French Senate would ratify its turn-down of Premier Blum's financial program, that Blum would thereupon resign, after which somebody would try to form a new ministry. That somebody is the political war horse, Daladier, of the Radical Socialist Party - really ^a ~~the~~ moderate group *on the banks of the Seine.*
^{Seine}
The Senate scene was dramatic today, the building of the French higher Chamber guarded by soldiers and police - against the threat of Red riots. The proceedings inside were bitter. Premier Blum appeared with his financial program, which the Senators turned down yesterday. The business today was for them to reconsider or reaffirm, and they most decidedly reaffirmed their action of yesterday. They refused to be bothered again with the Blum project, and summarily voted it down by a huge majority. Blum made bitter remarks and there was exchange of angry debate. But there was nothing else for the Premier to do but to resign, with all his ministers.

So tonight the Radical Socialist, Daladier, is trying to

line up political support ⁱⁿ ~~for~~ the Chamber of Deputies, seeking
to form some kind of Senate coalition with moderate elements to
take the place of the fallen Popular Front.

SPAIN

There's little change in the news from Spain - fugitives are still pouring across the French border, and today Barcelona officially admits the renewal of the policy of executions. The Left Wing government announces the imposition of death sentences, and the execution squads are busy. ~~In Barcelona~~

The military situation is pretty much the same, with Franco pushing on in the hydro-electric section of northern Aragon, completing his control of the great power plants that serve Barcelona. The city is ^{is running on} ~~going on with~~ emergency ~~power~~ plants, but the Barcelona war industries must be crippled by the shut-down of the main sources of electricity.

In the extreme north, the Rebels are pushing rapidly along the French frontier - to cut off Barcelona's communication with France. In the south, where Franco's men are on the verge of the sea, the Left Wing man-power is massed for the defense of Tortosa, the city at the mouth of the Ebro River. Still further south, the extreme tip of the Rebel Right Wing is ^{sweeping} ~~stepping~~ down toward the sea, threatening to outflank the defense of Tortosa.

AUSTRIA

Here's late word from Vienna -- another Nazi roundup.

While spectacular preparations were being made to receive Hitler and his election speech, the Hitler police were busy today arresting scores of Vienna Socialist leaders. They're accused of having plotted to resist Nazi occupation with violence and bloodshed, at the instigation of Chancellor Schuschnigg at the time of his eleventh hour attempt to preserve the independence of Austria. The Nazis charge that Schuschnigg confabulated with the Red elements, offered to arm them and incited them to put up a fight. All of this is believed to be a preliminary to a trial of Schuschnigg, Nazis building up a case against him. That's one interpretation of today's arrest of the Socialists in Vienna.

REFUGEES

The plan to aid the ^{German - Austrian} refugees had a new development today. (The President called a conference of prominent Americans, Jews, Catholics and Protestants to consider ways to help oppressed minorities get out of ^{the Nazi countries.} ~~Germany and Austria~~.) When the United States sent the invitation to various nations asking ^{them to form a} ~~a former~~ committee to expedite the migration of the refugees, one point specifically was stressed -- the financing of the migration of the oppressed should be done by private organizations interested in the problem. So now the President is summoning an American group to consider ways in which private organizations and individuals can help.

Prominent among those who received presidential telegrams of invitation are Dr. Raymond Fosdick of the Rockefeller

Foundation; ^{Reverend Samuel Cavert,} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ [^] of the Federal Council of

^{The Most} Churches of Christ in America; [^] Reverend Joseph F. Rummel, *Catholic*

Archbishop of New Orleans; Lewis Kennedy, President of the Council of Catholic Men, Bernard Baruch the financier, and Henry Morgenthau, Sr, father of the Secretary of the Treasury.

They'll deliberate proposals of private American aid -- proposals to be submitted to the International Committee

when it gathers. It should gather for its session before long, because the various nations have been sending in ~~their~~ their acceptances^s at a steady rate -- Italy being the only country that has refused.

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PUMP PRIMING

Yesterday's report is official today - the statement that (President Roosevelt is preparing a giant new scheme for public works.) At the White House press conference, the President said - "Yes", but he refrained from giving any details about the pump-priming plan. Yesterday's version, however, continues to be asserted - a billion and a half dollars to be lent by the government to states and towns, they to spend the money on public works - and pay it back in fifty years without interest.

The President said his plan is likely to be submitted to Congress in the form of a special message - two messages in fact.

~~The text of the pump-priming project~~ The one to outline the latest pump-priming project and the other to discuss the relief problem in general. The President believes that the billion dollars appropriated for direct relief ^{will} ~~could~~ have to be increased, and ~~he'd like to have Congress abolish the restriction holding down the relief expenditure each month to one twelfth of the total fund.~~

W.P.A. Administrator, Harry Hopkins, chimed in with pretty much the same thing before a Senate Committee. He said that more than a billion dollars will be needed for the first seven

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months of the coming fiscal year. And he placed before the Senate Committee ^{an}~~the~~ expansive and ambitious proposal that work relief projects and social security should be developed to such an extent as to take care of just about everything. **B** He thinks this could be fixed so that there would be no need for direct relief, hand-outs, any kind of dole, and everybody in the nation who could hold a job would have a job.

The pump-priming picture is decorated by one huge figure - nine billion dollars. The President said that **Governor** Earle of Pennsylvania had proposed a relief program calling for that prodigious sum to be expended in three years - but the nine billion dollar idea is just one of many plans that have come to the White House.

A delegation of mayors called on the President, the Number One Men of New York, Cleveland, Milwaukee, Boston, St. Louis, Louisville and Tampa. LaGuardia of New York was their spokesman, and he asked the President to dedicate three billion dollars for a task providing work for the jobless. With all the federal relief plans in sight, the total runs up to four billion. Mayor LaGuardia

urged that the bulk of this should be concentrated on measures that would immediately promote ~~employment~~ employment, jobs for the jobless. He spoke in favor of huge public works, wholesale civic improvement, and said it should be done right away, quick action. The building season is here, and the emergency is here also.

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One of the major elements in all this pump-priming is the bill to have the Reconstruction Finance Corporation lend a billion and a half dollars to business, so that industry and commerce can more readily acquire capital for increased activities. That bill, sponsored by Senator Carter Glass of Virginia, was passed by the House of Representatives today, and sent to the White House for the presidential signature.

The new burst of spending was attached in the Senate today. Wadsworth of N.Y. said it's ~~this~~ getting to be more and more like a fairy tale. He said it would lead to ruinous inflation.

STRIKE

There was a rush in Detroit today, a rush to the car barns, strikers going back to work. So Detroit's trolley strike is at an end. It took the Union men two and a half hours today to decide whether or not they'd accept the terms their leaders had negotiated with the Company. But once they decided, it was fast work.

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"We'll have those street cars running in half an hour," was the shout.

And that was no vain boast. The men rushed to the barns, shouting and singing, and soon the street cars were rolling through Detroit again.

The terms of the settlement include a forty-four hour week and the recognition of the Union as the sole bargaining agency - if it can prove that it is supported by a majority vote of the street car employees.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania is celebrating tonight, has been celebrating all day. A statewide holiday, festivities, commemoration, and the highlight, a monster banquet in Philadelphia. For today was officially decreed to be - "Forefathers' Day", dedicated to the memory of those original colonists, the first white men to sail up Delaware Bay and settle on the soil of what is now Pennsylvania. That happened just three hundred years ago today. So this April Eighth is Pennsylvania's Three Hundredth Birthday.

Good old William Penn! Three cheers for that Number One Quaker forefather! But wait a minute! William Penn has nothing to do with this birthday of Pennsylvania; ~~We fondly think of him as the founder of Pennsylvania. But it's not quite that simple. William Penn received a royal grant to the colony, and became its proprietor and dominating figure. But that was after the first settlers had come to Pennsylvania. William Penn had nothing to do with those original colonists who landed to establish their homes three hundred years ago today. They weren't English at all - they were Swedes~~ ^{landed and} ~~who~~ ^{never said} "I tank I go home."

Here's a curious bit of American history. The first

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Swedish settlers were commanded by Peter Minuit - that same Peter Minuit so prominent in the Dutch settlement of New York.

He's the man who bought Manhattan Island from the Indians for *in trinkets & liquor.* twenty-four dollars. But Peter Minuit wasn't a Hollander at all, - he was a French Walloon, equivalent to a French-speaking Belgian today. He merely joined up with the Dutch, and later on went to Sweden and talked up an American venture there. So he was in charge of the party of Swedes who on April Eighth, Sixteen Thirty-Eight, settled down near Chester, Pennsylvania.

But the Dutch in New York had their eye on the venture, and ~~some~~ seventeen years later they descended on the Swedish settlement and took it by force. Then, in that very same year, the English came along, and took *it all from* ~~the original Swedish settlement from~~ the Dutch. It wasn't until twenty-seven years afterward, Sixteen Eighty-Two, that William Penn arrived, with his royal grant - making him the *great* first, Pennsylvanian. That was forty-four years after the Swedes got there first.

So tonight the grand old Quaker is not the hero of the event they celebrate - the birthday of Pennsylvania. *The* ~~unknown ones~~ heroes were the Swedes.

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WEATHER - A

only five justices sitting. It takes six to make a quorum. So it seemed as if the Supreme Court were stopped - postponed because of rain. But at the last minute Justices Hughes and Reed took their places on the bench, although they had stayed out of the case yesterday. So, the proceedings went on ~~amid mazes with the mazes~~^{amid mazes} of legal technicality.

Storms throughout the nation east of the Rocky Mountains. Four inches of snow down in Texas, ^{at} Amarilla. Dodge City, Kansas, a fourteen inch snowfall. Floods in ~~the~~ large area^s of Georgia and Alabama. Water six feet deep in the business section of Prattville, Alabama. At Montgomery, the entire industrial section is under water. A tornado in western Alabama killed eleven people.

The worst of the storm tragedies is reported at Jasper, Georgia. There, on the bank of Talona Creek, a small mountain stream, stood a combined home and general store. The family that ran the store lived in the same building. Thirteen people were ~~in the building~~^{it.} After terrific rains, the creek was running in wild flood. The ramshackle frame building of the store was undermined, ^{and} suddenly it tumbled, people in it and all, into the

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deep raging torrent. Searchers today could find no trace of the building. It had been simply ripped to pieces by the fury of the water - carried down stream in mere fragments of driftwood. It is feared that all thirteen people must have perished.

The storm story tonight takes us far out in the Pacific, to spectacular scenes there. Fearful gales lashing the ocean, and right in the middle of the tempest - the battle fleet of the United States. The ^asqu_^drons on manœuvre have been navigating in something like a hurricane or typhoon, winds at seventy-four miles an hour and monster seas rearing high. Damage to the warships, lifeboats swept away. The battleship PENNSYLVANIA, the flagship of Admiral Bloch, has taken a tremendous beating, huge waves sweeping over the forecastle and quarterdeck. They wrecked several motor boats, and battered the barge of the Commander-in-Chief.

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So tonight that supposedly Pacific Ocean, named after peace, gives us a picture of the United States fleet in the grip of a storm.

ROBINS

I've been asked to say something about the plight of the poor robins. Lee Crandall, Curator of Birds at the Bronx Zoo, telephoned me. Mrs. Vincent Astor^{also} ~~X~~ implored^S me to ask the good folk to help the poor robins. It's Spring, and the robins are here; yet there's ~~snow~~^{snow on the ground over} a large part of this nation. And the robins won't alight on snow, only on ground or grass. So where can they get food? They can go hungry only for a maximum of forty-eight hours. So there's likely to be a tragedy of the robins. A pitiful sight, with thousands of those cheery birds lying dead on the snow. But kindly human friends can feed them. No, not grain. Robins won't eat grain. The Curator of Birds asked^S me to pass along to you this information:- how to feed the robins:- The best thing is to melt beef suet and throw in a handful of chopped raisins. When it is ~~xxx~~ cooled off, crumble it -- idea^l robin food. And they'll eat^l breadcrumbs, ~~breadcrumbs~~ chopped apples, boiled rice; the most luxurious feast for them is canned cherries.

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But don't throw anything on the snow for them.

They won't touch it. Clear away the snow from a space of

ground, and sprinkle the food there, and see how happy you can

make ~~the~~ ^{red breast} robing over the weekend.

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