

L.I. - Saraco. Thursday, July 25, 1940.

THE British admiralty today reports two of the greatest ship disasters of the present war. The first and the worst occurred five weeks ago - was concealed that long by British censorship. One of the world's best known liners was sunk, the Lancastria of the Cunard White Star Line. The catastrophe occurred while the ~~Lancastria~~ Lancastria was taking part in the final British evacuation from France, the time when the French armies were in collapse and the French government sought an armistice and surrendered.

At the port of St. Lazarre, the sixteen thousand ton Lancastria took aboard five thousand three hundred persons, soldiers ~~fx~~ of the British expeditionary force and civilian refugees- some of whom were women and children. The liner was about to sail, but still at anchor, when a squadron of German and Italian planes roared overhead. They bombed the ship with repeated salvos, and scored hits that spelled utter destruction. One air bomb plunged down into the smokestack of the Lancastria.

Then occurred a scene of infernal horror. Thousands

in the water, and the sinking ship discharged a huge quantity of oil - oil that made it difficult to swim. The warplanes machine-gunned the survivors, and dropped incendiary bombs which set the oil on the water afire - such is the account given by survivors. The shore was not far away, but the water was aflame. The British Admiralty today reports that out of ~~fifty-seven~~ fifty-three hundred persons, two thousand four hundred and seventy-seven were rescued. The loss of life, however, may not be nearly as great as these figures indicate. London states the probability that many more were rescued and fell into German hands. How many is not known. So the magnitude of the catastrophe cannot yet be measured.

The second ship disaster occurred last night, when a German motor torpedo boat sank a ship transporting French sailors and officers. These were men from French warships seized by the British. They were elected to return to France, and were being sent aboard a French steamer. The British statement declares that the ship displayed French flags and was brilliantly lighted - so that it could not be mistaken. Nevertheless, in the English Channel a German

motor torpedo boat rushed to the attack. The French boat signalled, with blasts of its siren, to indicate its nationality. But that made no difference. The German motorboat launched a torpedo which struck and sank the ship. London announces that of thirteen hundred French officers and sailors aboard, more than a thousand are known to have been saved.

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From Berlin comes a denial that any Nazi speed boat sank the French transport - sank any ship which was recognizably French.

ROMANIA

The Kingdom of Rumania has recalled its Ambassador to London. This occurs at a time when Germany and Italy are saying that Rumania is joining up with the axis powers and is going to break diplomatic relations with the British. Maybe that accounts for the withdrawal of the Ambassador. But, another version states that the Rumanian Ambassador is being recalled because his sentiments are pro-British. He has been urging his government to follow politics favorable to London. This version declares that relations will be continued, that another Ambassador will take the post in London.

The recall of the Ambassador is decidedly significant, because soon after the news broke, another dispatch flashed across the wires from London. It states that Great Britain has sent a formal notice to Bulgaria - a notice that Great Britain is in sympathy with Bulgaria's claims ~~af~~ against Rumania. Bulgaria wants to get back the Province of Dobrudja, which it lost to Rumania some years ago. So now London openly supports Bulgaria in what would seem to be a reply to the withdrawal of the Rumanian Ambassador.

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WEAPONS

The news today brings reports ~~xxx~~ of new weapons of war. A newspaper in Rome prints a statement from Berlin that the Germans are now using midget submarines with soundproof motors. The importance lies in the sound proof part of it. Anti-submarine tactics nowadays depend largely on listening devices, which pick up the sound of engines and ^{these} locate ~~an~~ undersea craft. Today's story relates that German technicians have found a ~~xxxxx~~ way to equip small submarines with soundless motors that cannot be detected by listening devices.

Over here in the United States, we are told of a new kind of projectile which finds its mark by means of sound. Inventor J. Robert Fish states that he has created a device which can be applied either to a rocket shot in the air or a torpedo which is ~~sixxxxx~~ discharged in the water. In the case of the rocket, the missile would be shot to the approximate altitude of a flying plane, and then it would aim itself at the plane by means of sound. The sound tracking device would cause the rocket to speed to the nearest plane, strike it and explode. In much the same fashion, the water torpedo would have a sound tracking device which would guide it ~~axi~~ against

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a ship for the destructive explosion. The inventor states that within several weeks, he is going to demonstrate the sound directed rocket and torpedo to officials of the ~~GOVERNMENT~~ government.

REFUGEES

There were royal ceremonies at Annapolis today, with the arrival of the first royal family of an European ruling house to take refuge in this country. Luxembourg is a mighty small place, but it ~~is~~^{is} ~~recognized~~ recognized as an independent state - its Grand Duchess a reigning sovereign. Today her family set foot on our shores, her consort, Prince Felix, and their six children. The Grand Duchess herself has remained at Lisbon for the time being. ~~The~~ The royal refugees from Luxembourg crossed the ocean on a United ~~States~~ States cruiser - courtesy due to their rank. They were greeted at ~~the~~ Annapolis with a salute of Twenty-one guns - the number ~~reserved~~ reserved for royalty. State Department representatives were there to greet them, and they were overwhelmed with flowers. Other royal ~~personalities~~ personalities, fleeing from Europe are expected over here, and today's ceremony sets a precedent for the kind of reception they'll get.

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Refugees of another sort were welcomed at Yale today - a hundred and twenty-seven wives and children of Oxford professors. They are guests of a committee of the Yale faculty - Yale offering hospitality to Oxford families that seek safety from the war. The academic children were delighted with the end

of a long and trying voyage. They romped about and shouted with glee. But one of them at least was highly academic. A little lad was asked how he enjoyed the trip, to which he replied severely:- "I have been warned by my superiors," said he, "to dispel no information." The small boy was thereupon informed that dispelling information made no difference over here. He replied solemnly, ~~xxxxxxx~~ "Oh yes, but I am British first, and my loyalty is to my King."

Well, when that youngster grows up he ought to make one of the most austere of Oxford dons, professor of Caldeean archeology or something equally ~~stuffy~~ stuffy.

BLOCKADE

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Today's action by the United States Government concerning the shipment of oil to Spain is two-fold. First, American tankers are forbidden to carry the ^{is} oil to any point outside ~~of~~ the Western Hemisphere. Hitherto, Spain has been one of the few parts of Europe unaffected by the United States Neutrality Law, which keeps American ships out of the war zones. Now, however, Spain is included in the new regulations - so far as oil tankers are concerned.

The reason for the move is the British blockade, of late, American shipments of petroleum to Spain have been larger than ~~normal~~ normal, and the inevitable surmise has been that Spain was passing along the oil supplies to the Germans and Italians. ^{The} British have been a good deal concerned about this. They don't want to antagonize Spain, but at the same time they want to make their ~~blockade~~ blockade as effective as they can - especially with respect to oil, on which the German blitzkrieg must run.

~~Washington explained in today that American tankers~~

Today's American move stopping tankers from going to Spain, is inevitably regarded as being linked with the British blockade - specifically with the British attempt to shut off oil supplies from the Axis powers.

or refuse to issue any such license - as they think best.

So the new order makes it immediately feasible to embargo

oil to Spain - no matter in what kind of vessels the shipments

might be carried. This has the appearance of being still

more cooperation with ^{Britain.} ~~the British blockade.~~ Today's license

order has still another angle. It concerns not only oil

but also scrap iron. And that immediately points in the

other direction - Japan. The Mikado's empire is the number

one ~~ENEX~~ purchaser of American scrap iron. It has been said

repeatedly that we, with our large sales, have been supplying

Japan with the iron for conquest. There have been demands

that the shipments be stopped - and today's action in

~~WASHINGTON~~ Washington makes this entirely possible.

Henceforth any iron shipment to Japan must have a government

license, and the federal authorities can refuse the license

as they see fit.

The way for this sort of move was prepared when the

United States denounced its trade treaty with Japan a year

ago. At that time it was thought that the government might

place some sort of embargo on Japanese purchases over ~~xx~~ here.

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Nothing happened, however, until now.

One comment in Washington is that ~~a~~ today's order is a reaction to the closing of the ~~BURMA~~ Burma road, Japan having used pressure to persuade Great Britain to ~~give~~ block that all-important route along which the Chinese have been getting war supplies for their resistance to Japan. All American material for China went along that Burma road.

~~Now the war is stopped~~ ^{Now} Britain ^{has} yielded ~~and~~ to Japan on that point. So today's move may be a sort of tit-for-tat.

If ~~xy~~ Japan keeps China from getting the supplies we send, why we'll keep Japan from getting out scrap iron, Such is the comment of one of the most important government acts ~~in~~ in a long time.

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The United States today entered a proposal at the Pan American Conference -- a proposal for Western Hemisphere ~~XXXXXX~~ protection against an economic drive by the totalitarian powers. It follows along the familiar line of a Pan American Economic Union -- the disposal of surplus products to be made by a committee ~~XXXXXX~~ representing the twenty-one republics. In other words -- the cartel plan.

Such was the American proposal, but it wasn't the only proposal. There was a whole flock of them today. They ranged all the way from anti-Fifth Column ideas to the mutual aid pledges, etc., etc. Fifty-six proposals in all are reported to have been entered. And that caused the Representative from the ~~XXX~~ Republic of Chile to say that the big Pan American get together had been "converted into a factory of proposals."

The White House explains the resignation of Assistant ~~SECRET~~ Secretary of War Louis Johnson as something merely in the regular course of things. A new Secretary of War has taken office, Henry L. Stimson, ~~xxx~~ and it is always the custom for an incoming chief of a bureau to pick his own assistant.

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However, ~~xxx~~ journalistic gossip inevitably harks back to the famous feud that had the War Department in a state of turmoil for a long time - the quarrel between the Assistant Secretary and his chief, Secretary Woodring. The story goes that Louis Johnson took the number two office expecting that he would presently get the post of Secretary of War. Woodring, however, showed no sign of stepping out of the Number One job. Hence the bitter rivalry which created a situation in which anything the chief was for, the assistant was against, and vice versa.

Then at last Woodring resigned - he says he was forced out. However, Assistant Secretary Johnson did not get the post. Henry L. Stimson was appointed Secretary of war in that sensational presidential move which put two Rpublicans in the

Cabinet. The new Secretary now has picked his own assistant,
Robert Porter Patterson of New York, a Federal judge. So
Louis Johnson is out of the War Department. Still ^{he} does not
leave the Government service. He becomes administrative
secretary to President Roosevelt. One White House secretarial
post is vacant, and he ~~gets~~ gets it. Louis Johnson becomes
what was today called - "the President's-progress-reporter -
concerning-national-defense-affairs."

It appears now that Henry A. Wallace may not retain his post in the Cabinet while campaigning for the vice-presidency of the United States. It has been pointed out that the Secretary of Agriculture passes out a lot of money to the farmers of the ~~maxim~~ nation, and might be in a position to take unfair advantage while going after votes in the election contest.

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Today, after talking things over with the President, Henry Wallace announced that he will remain as Secretary of Agriculture until his formal notification. This will occur about August Twentieth. After that, he'll begin his active campaign. And he may resign as Secretary of Agriculture. His statement, however, left open the possibility that he might get a leave of absence, instead of resigning. "I intend to look up all the precedents," said he, "and decide what is fair and just and right for the American people."

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WEATHER

The weather man promises us relief, and says the heat wave is about to be broken by cooling breezes from the West.

Well, it's about time, Milton Cross isn't it? How do you like it?