

L.T. - P&G. MONDAY, FEB. 12, 1951

(Mt. Tremblant, Canada.)

KOREA.

(The news from Korea tonight tells of a powerful enemy counter-offensive driving south through the snowy mountains of Central Korea.) Which gives us some answer to the mystery of the collapse of enemy defenses south of Seoul; the Red concentrating their forces for this new drive in the mountains. This latest onslaught seems to be aimed at driving a wedge between the Allied troops in the West and the South Koreans in the East. At last word, U.N. forces had been forced to withdraw up to twenty miles along a forty mile front -- back almost to Wonju.

The Reds have thrown fifteen divisions, more than one hundred thousand men into this fighting. Several South Korean units have been scattered by the advancing Reds -- and hand-to-hand battles were reported last night in Hoensong, before that anchor base of the U.N. line fell to the Chinese.

At Seoul too the enemy was again on the offensive.

A Red platoon yesterday thrust across the Han River to attack the city airport before being shoved back across the river by the U.S. Twenty-fifth Division. During the night U.N. forces stabbed across the Han to bring back word that the Chinese have pulled out of Seoul. Leaving the defense of the former South Korean capital to the North Koreans.

ARMY

In Washington today it was disclosed that National Guard Draftees, who have had more than fourteen weeks' training, are being sent to Korea. A Pentagon spokesman would not tell how many National Guardsmen are going to the Pacific, but word from Washington places the figure at between twenty-five and thirty thousand men. This, in addition to the fifteen thousand reinforcements sent to Korea each month as normal replacements for casualties.

The draftees and volunteers will replace South Korean troops who are at present filling the ranks of regular U.S. army divisions in Korea.

BRITAIN

In the House of Commons today, (Prime Minister Attlee announced that Britain is opposed to another Allied crossing of the thirty-eighth parallel in Korea until "there has been full consultation within the U.N.) especially among the countries with fighting men in Korea."

Mr. Attlee also declared that Britain is against any economic or diplomatic sanctions against Red China, until the final hope of a Korean settlement has faded.

"We have put our view to the U.S. Government - and it is a practical one," said British's Prime Minister.

The latest - the State Department has just revealed that diplomatic talks are under way to decide whether U.N. forces should again attempt to cross the Thirty-Eighth Parallel.

INDIA

President Truman asked Congress today to take "immediate steps" for sending a million tons of relief grain to famine stricken India. The President said that shipments must begin by April, if the food is to reach India in time to meet the present emergency. Appropriations for another million tons of grain will be considered later.

Both Mr. Truman and former President Hoover emphasized that we must go to India's aid for Christian humanitarian reasons, if for none other. "It is not our objective in foreign affairs to dominate other nations," said Mr. Truman. "Our objective is to strengthen the free nations through free and voluntary cooperation, based on a common devotion to freedom."

In New Delhi today, Prime Minister Nehru told his Parliament that India will maintain friendly relations with the Chinese Communists, despite the U.N. resolution branding Peking as an aggressor in Korea. Nehru also said he would continue to endeavor to maintain friendly

relations with the United States. Which seems rather odd for him to say when India is depending so much on us to save them from famine.

MANEUVERS

In the eastern Mediterranean, the U.S. Sixth Fleet and the British Home and Mediterranean fleets are tonight carrying out the greatest joint maneuvers ever held in peace time. Off Malta today, seas were rough and winds were high, as more than sixty ships of the three fleets zigzagged and wheeled in mock air and submarine attacks.

The whole operation is highly secret as are the names of the ships taking part, but these are known to include our giant carrier The Franklin D. Roosevelt, also Britain's crack battleship H.M.S. Vanguard. Among the smaller ships is H.M.S. Magpie, the little frigate commanded by Lieutenant Prince Philip Mountbatten, husband of Princess Elizabeth. Land and carrier based fighter and bomber planes are in the war games, too, carrying out air strikes on convoyed merchant ships and the combined fleets.

Word is that special emphasis is being placed on anti-submarine warfare -- on the chances of keeping open sea

lanes, against submarine attack in case of a war with
the Kremlin.

ITALY - FRANCE

The Italian Riviera was the peaceful, romantic setting today for meetings between the Prime Ministers of France and Italy, and their foreign ministers. Word is that the talks, may lead to a Mediterranean defense pact similar to that which already links America with the nations of Western Europe.

Premiers de Gaspari and Plevin had planned only a courtesy meeting for this afternoon; but they were together for more than two hours - while the Prime Minister from Paris described his visit to Washington. We learn that the Premiers also talked over the question of West German troops for General Eisenhower's Atlantic Pact army.

GERMANY

From Germany -- an important headline in one of the most important developments of these times. At Frankfort, the announcement -- that a new Titoist political party will enter the West German elections this coming Spring. The party will be inaugurated formally during Easter week, when one hundred party delegates ~~it~~ will gather to make plans.

This is all the more significant because it follows a Titoist insurrection among the Italian Communists - with great numbers of Italian Reds seceding from the Stalinist faction because of the Soviet demand that Russia come first. Also, in Czechoslovakia -- the Red Party is reported torn by Titoism.

This new German group, in revolt against M^Uscow, claims to be organized in more than fifty cities of Germany. The official statement today gives the view of these Communist ~~insurrectos~~ insurrectos -- that the Soviet bureaucratic tyranny in East Germany is far worse than the capitalism of the West. They demand that all political

prisoners be liberated in eastern Germany, and that freedom of thought be declared.

MARSHALL PLAN

In Paris today, William C. Foster, head of E.C.A., announced his plans for future Marshall Plan Aid to Europe. "We will encourage no frivolities," was how he put it. "In future aid will only be given to urgent defense problems and the most essential civilian needs."

STRIKE - BRITAIN

From Britain tonight comes word that London's eight thousand striking dockmen will return to work tomorrow morning. But this doesn't mean that the strike is over. In Manchester and Liverpool, where the talkout started two weeks ago, nine thousand longshoremen today voted to stay out. This, in what is described by union officials as a "Communist" inspired wildcat walkout.

R.F.C.

In Washington today, President Truman renominated all five directors of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. These include William E. Willett, Walter L. Dunham, and C. Edward Rowe, the three directors attacked last week in a Senate report on charges of "favoritism and influence."

The President, who denounced the Senate report as "assinine," today also went to the defense of White House Aide Donald Dawson, who was named by Senator Maybank as a key figure in the alleged "influence" web.

Republican Senator Wallace Bennett of Utah, of the Senate Banking Sub-Committee, which investigated the R.F.C., tonight predicted that the Senate will refuse to confirm the three R.F.C. directors attacked in the report.

DEBATE

At Norfolk, Massachusetts, a novelty of debate.

Two orators from Harvard staged a competition with two convicts from a nearby prison colony. The convicts won, taking the prize for eloquence. And what do you think the debate was about? The subject? "That the American people should support the welfare state." The convicts took the negative side, arguing against the welfare state -- of which they may have seen enough at the prison colony.

LINCOLN

Lincoln's Birthday brings word of a curious custom that has developed at the tomb of the Emancipator. In Ireland, they kiss the Blarney Stone - while, at Springfield, Illinois, they rub Lincoln's nose. In front of the Tomb, there is a bust of the Civil War President, and visitors give a quick swish of the elbow over the nose, and walk inside. People say it brings them good luck -- and, as a result, Abraham Lincoln has a very shiny nose.

WEDDING

From Teheran tonight comes news of the royal wedding of the King of Kings, Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlevi, to a beautiful eighteen year old commoner, Soraya Isfanđiari. The ceremony itself, in the fabulous "Hall of Mirrors", was simple, in keeping with Mohammedan rites. But the scene was one of dazzling oriental splendor, which might have come from The Thousand and One Tales of the Arabian Nights. The bride's dress, designed by France's famous Christian ~~at~~ Dior, sparkled with six thousand diamonds - a million sequins. More than twenty thousand feathers were worked into the hoops of her crinoline skirt. The bride's veil held in place by a priceless diamond tiara, her high heeled silver shoes encrusted with diamonds.

All added to an Islam scene perhaps equalled only by the marriage of the greatest of all the Caliphs of Baghdad, Haroun al Rashid - his marriage to Scheherazade. That same Scheherazade who told the Thousand and One Tales of The Arabian Nights to stay off her executioner.

Soraya today rode from her home to the palace, not in a golden carriage, but in a golden car - a Rolls-Royce fitted out all in gold. In front and behind rode an escort of ~~1~~ glittering lancers. Deep snow added to the splendor of the scene, sparkling from the minarets of the Shah's Golestan Palace, turning the handsome marble buildings and beautiful gardens into a winter wonderland.

After the ceremony, the King of King's Empress and their special guests of honor sat down around a horseshoe table - to a wedding cake, in eight tiers; five feet high, a copy of Princess Elizabeth's of Britain. Then came the entertainment - a circus flown in specially from Rome.

All this is described in Iran as a "quiet wedding" - normally the celebrations would last a week. But the Shah wants the money usually spent on parties and celebrations given instead to the poor - who will be fed free for a week. There's no word tonight whether the bride wore Stalin's wedding gift, that \$150,000 mink coat, when they left on

their honeymoon!

Nelson, now that Persia has a new Queen to sit beside the Shah on the priceless peacock throne, have you any suggestion for Her Majesty?