

L.J. - Sincere. Thursday, Feb. 12, 1942.

SINGAPORE

A dark veil of doubt and uncertainty shrouds the great and famous city of Singapore tonight.

46
The latest fragmentary indications would seem to show that the British defenders still hold part of the

metropolis of Malaya. This is the ~~latest~~ opinion

expressed by London. Enemy sources claim that the

Rising Sun flag has been raised in the center of the

city, ^{and} that the main army of Japan has marched in.

Yet the Singapore radio station has been broadcasting during the day - fragmentary bulletins marred by bad reception. One of these concluded with the defiant words - "We shall win!"

The bitterest kind of fighting appears to be going on in the city, with the defenders making counter-attacks - though these have been mostly futile. London tells of three counter-attacks, and says that only one scored any degree of success.

The Japanese tell of the British trying to evacuate by ship under heavy bombing, and some of the defenders may be able to escape - though London says in a sombre tone that the chances of evacuating any considerable proportion of the troops are slim.

47
On other parts of the island, ~~XXXXXX~~ Empire troops are holding out with bitter determination. This is particularly true in the section of the great naval base, across the island from the city of Singapore. There the defenders are staunchly resisting attack and are blasting away with their heavy artillery - the mighty guns of the naval fortifications.

These were the latest indications, and things were changing rapidly when they came in --- and things may have changed altogether by now - respecting the fate of the city so darkly shrouded in doubt.

LONDON

The imminent fall of Singapore - if it has not already fallen - is giving the political set-up in London a bad shaking. The British public is described as having its worse shock since the fall of France, and the Churchill Government is facing a crisis. There are new loud demands for a ~~xxxxxxx~~ shake-up of the Churchill Cabinet - but the Prime Minister himself appears to be safe, so great is his fame and prestige. However, political circles in London are admitting frankly that if Java and Burma should go the way of Singapore and fall to the Japs, even the personal position of Winston Churchill will be jeopardized. ^{The} ~~His~~ immediate demand right now is for a stronger and 'abler cabinet, and there's a call for the establishment of what they call - "a government of national union." In this, the dominions and other

48

sections of the Empire would be represented.

Revolt in Parliament is flaring, and this today took the form of an outbreak in the Liberal Nationalist Party. This faction is a part of the coalition supporting the Churchill Cabinet. Three prominent members have seceded from the Liberal Nationalist group. Two of them are Edward Granville and Sir John Henry Morris-Jones. ^H Of late, they've been outright critics of the way the war in the Far East has been going, bitter about Singapore - and for this they were summoned to a private meeting of their party. The meeting occurred today, and the two National Liberal members were censured. Instead of submitting to the censure, they walked out - seceded. ~~They did so with a statement in the following words:-~~
~~"For some time we have been convinced that something more than the present policies ^{and} of the present government~~

~~are necessary to win the war."~~

49

These two seceding members ~~in the National Liberal Party~~ were joined by another - one of the most prominent in the group - Hore-Belisha, former Secretary of State for War. He too has been a critic of the Churchill Government, ~~and today he resigned from the National Liberal Party as a protest against the~~ ~~censure voted against the other two members.~~ It is believed that Hore-Belisha, Granville and Morris-Jones are going to join a group under the leadership of Sir Stafford-Cripps, who until recently was British Ambassador to Soviet Russia. Stafford-Cripps, member of the Labor Party, has now taken a position of criticism. They say he's likely to gain another recruit, a Labor member, Commander Stephen Hall King.

49

All of which points to the lining up of a vigorous faction in opposition to the present Churchill

Government.

In a broader sense, today's events indicate a general seething in Parliament with a possible break-up of established political lines -- all because of Singapore.

The word in London is that Prime Minister Churchill is so concerned about this that he intends to go on the radio and defend his position - giving his version of Singapore. This is confirmed in New York, where the National Broadcasting Company announced that Churchill will be on the air on Sunday -- four o'clock Eastern War Time.

BURMA

The Japs have been repelled at a critical point in Burma. This - at a place called Pa-An. Yesterday we heard how they had broken across the great river barrier of the Salween and captured the key ^{part} ~~city~~ of Martaban near the mouth of the ^{mighty stream.} ~~stream.~~ Pa-An is a river-crossing thirty miles north of Martaban, and there the enemy tried to crash his way across today. The Japanese were defeated, but the latest report from the Burmese capital, Rangoon, states that they ~~are~~ striking again and with increasing force, ~~and~~ Rangoon announces the beginning of what it calls - "the real battle of Burma."

Burma is ^{on} the road to India, and today we have a bit of British political action designed to strengthen the defense of the great sub-continent of Hindustan. India has been offered a seat in the Imperial War ~~Cabinet~~ Cabinet and in the Pacific

War Council. Indian political leaders were invited to send representatives. They say that this new British concession to India is a result of the visit made by General Chiang Kai-shek. China's war leader has been in Bombay, trying to promote the cooperation of the Indian people with the British in the war.

PHILIPPINES

Tonight's late bulletin from General MacArthur has very little to say about fighting. Instead, it concentrates on ^a ~~the~~ proclamation issued by the Japanese commander -- a new bit of enemy suppression. They ~~Japs~~ forbid the publication and distribution of newspapers, magazines and books without ^{Japanese} ~~the~~ permission ~~of the Japanese commander~~.

52
Earlier MacArthur told of trouble the enemy is having with food supplies. The policy of the invaders is to live on the land, but as a result of war, great numbers of Philippine farm laborers have fled into the mountains. In many cases they were evicted from their homes by the Japs, and have gone into Manila. The result is -- shortage of farm labor and farm products. This has caused the Japanese commander to issue a proclamation -- imploring the Filipinos to stay on their farms ^{and} ~~to~~ produce food. The enemy general uses all sorts of sweet words and persuasive statements.

Fighting is still in a condition of lull, but it's only the lull before another storm, we are told.

I heard an eloquent tribute to General MacArthur and his men today from Leighton McCarthy, Canadian Minister to Washington. He called it magnificent beyond words.

It was at a luncheon in honor of Air Marshal Billy Bishop and other Canadian airmen.

⌘ A Japanese column meanwhile has occupied the Philippine Island of Masbati. Near the center of the archipelago, and not of any great importance - although the occupation of Masbati may help to maintain Japanese communications through Philippine waters.

IMMUNIZATION

All men in the Army are to be immunized against yellow fever. The purpose of this was described today by Secretary of War Stimson in the following words:- "a preventative measure designed to make all soldiers available for service in areas where the disease is known to exist."

53
Well, we all know the areas where yellow fever may be expected - the tropics. ^{Africa} ~~And we also~~ ^{South America.} ~~know the regions of tropical jungle where the crisis of war is now raging - the East Indies and Burma.~~

Immuni^zca_λtion against yellow fever is accomplished by vaccination. The vaccine used is a kind of virus prepared in the laboratories of the Rockefeller Foundation - which foundation has done so much memorable work in the conquest of tropical disease. The immunity is specifically against what is called - "jungle yellow fever."

peace."

Then, turning to our international political system, the Republican Executive Director spoke of two kinds of unity - one good and one bad. ~~One~~

"National unity", which he described in these words:-

"Our loyalty to the common state and for the common

welfare." ~~The other~~ ^{And,} "political unity", which would

mean the rule of one single political party without

opposition. Totalitarian nations have political unity,

Kelland pointed out, and ~~then he reasoned:-~~ "When

~~political unity comes in at the door, human liberties~~

~~go out of the window."~~ ^{he} And with that ~~he~~ ^{he} called for

vigorous ~~xxxxxxxx~~ activity of war-time politics -

"that brand of politics," explained Bud Kelland,

"which is the sole means by which the common man can

express his patriotism and his vital interest in the

welfare of his country."

The big Lincoln Day
speech will be made
tonight at the Waldorf
Repub-dinner - by Thos. E. Dewey.

25
Another celebration of Lincoln's Birthday was staged on the Delaware River. The Navy did the celebrating, and in an appropriate way - by launching three new warships. The ten thousand ton cruiser MONTPELIER slid down into the Delaware ~~River~~ at Camden, New Jersey. And the cruisers BUTLER and GHERARDI were launched a few minutes apart at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. These three Lincoln Day warships are being aptly styled - "New Emancipators."

MRS. ROOSEVELT

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt is going to quit her post with the Office of Civilian Defense. The First Lady is in Ithaca for a speaking date at a Cornell celebration. And there she told newspapermen of her intention to leave the O.C.D. "I've always intended to resign from the Office of Civilian Defense when the organization of that office is completed," said she. When? She answered - "very soon."

INGALLS

56
In a Washington courtroom today, the testimony painted a surprising picture - a portrait of a would-be Mata Hari. This occurred at the trial of Laura Ingalls, the well known woman flyer, ~~She's~~ accused of having acted as a Nazi propaganda agent and of having failed to register as such - as the law required.

During the time before we got into the war, Laura Ingalls took a prominent part in the argument against our entry into the conflict. She made numerous isolationist addresses, attacking the administration foreign policy. At the trial now on, the prosecution has shown that the aviatrix was in contact with German agents and received money from them - all this in an exceedingly secret, under-cover sort of way, hidden communications, code words, and all that. And evidence has been presented to show that Laura Ingalls expressed strong pro-Nazi sentiments, Heil Hitler, and

the rest of it. Even after the United States got into the war, she communicated with the German Embassy in Washington.

The defense of the flyer is that she was trying to do a one-woman unofficial job of counter-espionage - trying to find out what the Nazis were up to. She says she tried to join the F.B.I. as a counter-espionage agent, tried several times.

She made a reference to her powers of imagination, and summarized the whole thing in the following words:- "I have a strong imagination," said she. "I saw myself as a sort of Mata Hari, an international spy - and I wanted to serve my country. I was fascinated," exclaimed the aviatrix.

DOROTHY THOMPSON

Today brought a headline from the lofty world of the intelligentsia, where deep thinkers solve world problems. The startling news is this -- Dorothy Thompson, renowned columnist on international affairs was kicked in the stomach and bitten in the finger -- kicked and bitten by a blonde.

It was all a rather paradoxical affair beginning with a Broadway play, ~~called~~ "Cafe Crown". This drama is about a real place called "Cafe Royale" down on Second Avenue, a haunt of the Jewish intelligentsia. Last night, Dorothy Thompson and an escort attended the play, and then adjourned to the real place. ^{TP} They were sitting there among the Jewish intelligentsia, when another couple arrived -- a large and dazzling blonde with her escort. Maybe they too had been to the play and wanted to see the real thing. The blonde, ^{who} obviously ^{had been} ~~had had a few~~ ^{celebrating,} ~~drinks, and~~ was sitting at a table having another.

^{TP} Suddenly she remarked in a loud voice, "Heil, Hitler!"

Which was hardly the thing to say in war-time --

especially at the Cafe Royale. It created a sensation.

8 1/2
Dorothy Thompson tried to ease things by saying, "Don't pay any attention to her, she's drunk." The blonde, however, went on with some more loud Nazi talk about things Jewish. ^{And} The plot ~~was~~ rapidly thickening. ~~ing.~~ Also the atmosphere.

The blonde and her boyfriend were put out of the Cafe Royale. And, as it happened, Dorothy Thompson and her escort were leaving about the same time. She and the blonde met outside and Dorothy Thompson remarked:- "You ought to behave yourself."

59
Whereupon the blonde kicked Dorothy Thompson in the stomach. The columnist responded with a left. Not exactly a snappy punch -- she says it was more a case of trying to push the blonde's face in. The face, however, didn't push so easily -- and the blonde get one of the Dorothy Thompson fingers in her mouth and tried to bite it off.

In the fracas one of the Jewish intelligentsia

landed a punch on the boyfriend of the blonde.

That provided the ironical touch -- because the

blonde's boy friend explained that he was Jewish.

~~It was~~ all very complicated. Too much of a
puzzle for me!

1/2