

IRELAND

L.I. - P. & G. Wednesday, Feb. 18, 1948.

Here's a mention that will sound like a mistake - Irish Prime Minister Costello. For years ~~it~~ it has been - Irish Prime Minister De Valera. But now comes a change in the Dublin ~~Parli~~ Parliament. (De Valera was defeated today, and a new Prime Minister was chosen - John A. Costello, a Dublin lawyer.

All this was foreshadowed in the election on February Fourth, when De Valera's party, while gaining a large plurality ^{in the Dublin parliament,} failed to win an outright ~~majority~~ majority.) It was reported then that De Valera might head a coalition government. The coalition part of the prophecy was correct, Ireland now having a cabinet that represents a combination of Parties; - but, De Valera is not the head of it. (His own party had enough votes to retain control by forming an alliance with one of the smaller parties, like the labor group; but, that failed to happen.) So ~~the~~ today the vote was seventy-five to seventy against the veteran Irish leader who for so long has seemed to be the very personification of Ireland.

~~The coalition that takes control is a~~

~~fusion of all the parties, except De Valera's, and includes all shades of opinion - from violent Republican to pro-British. Obviously, it would seem to be a shaky sort of coalition, liable to fly apart - and that's the ground for Dublin opinion that the political instability may soon result in a new election. However all that may~~
Costello^{tonight} is the Prime Minister^{and} De Valera^{is} the leader of the opposition.

It's the first time the tall gaunt Irishman with the Spanish name has been out of power since Nineteen Thirty Two. Legend surrounds him as the only top leader who survived the Easter reb^llⁱoⁿ during World War One. All of his fellow chieftains in that revolt were shot. De Valera was spared, given a prison term, because of the assumption that he might be an ~~immigrant~~ American citizen. He was born in Brooklyn of a Spanish father and an Irish mother.

This background of Easter reb^llⁱoⁿ and sinn fein has always been the great source of his political influence with the people of Ireland - so ^(why) ~~why~~ has he now

stepped down? Dublin explanations of De Valera's reverse in the election have a rather ironical sound. The sole surviving leader of the Sinn Fein Easter rebellion aroused opposition because he was not active and strong enough in moving to end the ~~part~~ partition in Ireland - and bring Ulster into union with Southern Ireland. That's one large reason cited in the stories from Dublin - which go on to say that the Ulster question is becoming increasingly hot throughout Ireland.

PALESTINE

~~A late bulletin tells of Arab attacks~~

~~on~~ Twenty-eight American Jewish leaders, -- ~~these~~ members of the United Jewish Appeal who had recently arrived from the United States, ~~Today they~~ were travelling in a convoy ^{today} which twice ~~was~~ ambushed by Arabs. The American Jewish leaders drove through a hail of bullets that spattered ^{like rain on their} ~~right~~ steel armored cars. They got through unharmed, says tonight's bulletin, just off the wire.

GREECE

In Louisville, Kentucky, Loy Henderson, who is ~~Sec~~ Secretary of State Marshall's top expert on Greece, warned Soviet Russia that the U.S. will not stand by and let Greece fall a victim to international communism. A blunt warning to the Soviets by ^{Sec.} Marshall's ~~Director of the~~ State Department, ^{director} of Near Eastern affairs.

Henderson said that the Administration will ask Congress for ~~some~~ more military aid for Greece; and he hinted strongly that money alone may not be enough ~~if~~ the situation in Greece continues to deteriorate.

He spoke of Guerrilla atrocities, of the desperate plight of the Greek authorities, and he warned that the Marshall Plan will fail in Greece and be what he termed "seriously threatened" throughout Europe unless the Communist guerrillas are not soon wiped out. "The Greek guerrillas" said ^{Loy} Henderson, are using the weapon of terror - a weapon civilized peoples and governments cannot employ; and he warned that international communism in its desire to obtain control

over Greece, may create a situation with which "the armed forces of Greece alone could not be expected to cope." Those are the words of the State Department's top man on Greece, to which he added this: "the United States cannot afford to succumb to a doctrine of sterile defeatism." The closest any American official has ever come to stating that the United States - if necessary - will consider sending ~~its~~ armed forces to Greece.

SOVIET COMPOSERS

The drama of the Soviet composers comes to the usual ending - at least in the case of two of them. Today's news tells how they have confessed and promised they'll sin no more.

A few days ago we had the astonishing story of how the central committee of the Communist Party in Moscow had issued a blast against the ~~four~~ most famous of Russian musicians, condemning their music as modernistic, ~~and~~ ^{and} bourgeoisie. ~~not at all according to the party line. They were given stern warning that hereafter they'd be better compose symphonies and operas with a correct political slant.~~

So what have we today? (The new^s dispatch from Moscow tells of a ~~four~~ general meeting of the Union of Soviet composers, called to discuss the damnation hurled by the Communist Party. One of the composers condemned was world-famous Prokofiev, but he was not there. He was ill, but, he sent a letter. From one of the great modernist musicians, it was utterly abject. Speaking of the way the central committee reviled his

music Prokofiev wrote: "This historical decision separates the decayed tissues of music from the healthy ones."

Prokofiev thanked the party for the beating he has taken. He says the walloping has helped him in what he calls -- "correcting his mistakes."

Another composer put under the ban was Murdaeli, who wrote an opera that ~~touch~~ touched off the blast. He appeared in person, for the ritual of eating crow in the Communist fashion. He had special reasons for devouring that unsavory bird. ~~The first and only performance of his opera "Great Friendship" was attended by Stalin and the other big shots of the Kremlin - and, as music critics they were devastating.~~

Over here the music critics may write hard things about a new opera. But, when Stalin doesn't like the music, it's an explosion. A musician seldom agrees with an unfavorable criticism, - but, Murdaeli does. In his confession he said⁴² according to the official Moscow newspaper report, - "that he fully recognized⁵ the justice of the estimate given by the central committee of the

Communist Party to his opera."

And, he described^s his composition as "A creative defeat." (In his confession he gave the reason for his musical misdoings, a reason which the Moscow press quoted as follows: "in the race for novelty he took up the road of false musical composing and a formalism alien to ~~from~~ the understanding of the people.")

And another of the condemned composers is - Shostakovich, hailed for years as "the lion of Soviet music". He is not mentioned in the account of confession and recantations. Still to be heard from. (Could it be that Shostakovich is not confessing and recanting? ~~th~~ That would be a miracle in Soviet Russia, where the composition of music has to be in accord with the taste of the boss politicians -- and follow the party line. A later dispatch from Moscow states that a statement from Shostakovich is expected next -- his confession.)

ANTARCTICA

Our story last night about Antarctica has a new development today. Yesterday the President of ~~Chile~~ Chile stepped ashore in the farthest south to claim possession of a section of the polar continent - ~~and all~~ *of which now appears to be just* ~~that would seem to have been~~ part of a large ~~summit~~ concerted move. Because now Argentina chimes in with a declaration on the subject.

Today the government at Buenos Aires served notice on the nations of Europe that Argentina does not recognize the existence of European colonies or possessions in Antarctica. The claim is that the south polar continent represents a southern extension of the Americas, and is part of the Pan-American sphere of hemispheric defense, as provided in the treaty signed at Rio De Janeiro last year, *That* Pan-American pact, in which the United States was prominent, proclaimed a zone - ~~a~~ north to south, a security zone. So what about ~~the~~ Antarctica?

In Washington, Secretary of State Marshall declared today the the security zone in the treaty, does

not include the south polar lands claimed by various European nations, including Great Britain. But this opinion expressed by our Secretary of State is contradicted flatly in Argentina.

~~That South American Republic is having a hot argument with Great Britain about the possession of the Falkland Islands, which lie east of southernmost Argentina. - And this Falkland Island argument is now tied in with the whole question of the southernmost lands. Such is today's Argentine interpretation of the American Security Zone provided for in the defense treaty.~~

The concerted character of the Latin-American moves is illustrated by a statement emanating from the President of Chile, who right now is on the South Polar continent. Today he declared that attempts by European powers to gain possession of the ^{lands around the South Pole} ~~southern lands~~ will be, in the ~~same~~ words of the President of Chile - "directed against all the nations of the American^s."

~~All of which would seem to raise large questions. The two South American countries basing their~~

ADD ANTARCTICA

The latest is a dispatch from London stating that the whole dispute may be turned over to the United Nations -- this argument about both the Falkland Islands and Antarctica. The British would like to have the matter settled by the International Court of Justice at the Hague, but it may be that the U.N. will have to decide the question of the South Polar Lands.

FLOODS

Flood waters moving down the Ohio River, threatening inundations in Ohio and Indiana. The big thaw is still on - as it is throughout the East, springtime weather. The result has been that ice - jammed rivers have broken up, flood crests moving down stream. This is the story along the Ohio, and the Mississippi too.

BUDGET

The senate votes to cut the Truman budget to the tune of two-and-a-half billions. That slash in the amount of spending for the next fiscal year was okayed by a joint Congressional budget committee, and immediately went to the Senate - where the vote was quick and decisive. Even the Democrats made no ~~effort~~ effort to block the proposal to reduce the Truman budget in the amount of two-billion, five-hundred-million dollars.

CHINESE RELIEF

(President Truman wants five hundred and seventy million dollars for China - that much to provide non-military aid. In a special message to Congress, the President was not too hopeful about the ~~prospects~~ prospects of the Chiang Kai-Shek Government in its battle with the Communists; - but ^{he did} recommend five hundred and seventy million dollars worth of American help.

The latest, a prompt Republican protest -- that this plan for aid to China is "inadequate", because it fails ~~to~~ to include military aid.)

POLITICS

Washington today went into a political buzz -- as a result of that special Congressional election in ~~New York~~ ^{that part of the city known as} The District ~~is in~~ the Bronx, ~~and is~~ normally democratic by a huge majority. ~~But~~ ^{As we heard last night} Henry Wallace's candidate won, beating out three others, including the regular Democrat, ~~and~~ piling up more votes than the three others combined. The Wallace candidate was ~~backed~~ ^{back} by all the Leftist elements, in revolt against the Democratic Party; and they made a surprising show of strength - which has the most obvious meanings in the Presidential election. If the Wallace third party in November can do as well in other similar districts of New York City, things will be bad for President Truman, running for reelection.

Hence those immediate reverberations in Washington - the Republicans hailing the Wallace Party victory as a sure sign the Leftist Third Party will chip off enough Democratic votes to make New York State safe for the Republican candidate. Nor do the national Democratic leaders minimize the political sign. They are

frankly alarmed.

They say the surprise result ~~of the District~~ in the Bronx was because the Democrats did not go to the polls, while the leftists voters did. The Bronx district has a registered vote of ninety-six thousand ^{of whom} ~~and~~ only forty thousand cast ballots. Which does give color to the Democratic argument; and ~~which~~ also emphasizes their alarmed warning ^{that} the Democratic Party had ~~had~~ better find ways to get the voters out. This was stated today by National Chairman McGrath, who declared that the party fight cannot be won unless, in his words, every Democrat resolves to get out and vote.

BRITISH DOCTORS

(In Britain the doctors have voted to boycott socialized medicine.) This was announced today in a poll ~~was~~ conducted by the British Medical Association. The labor government has passed an act of Parliament providing for free medical, dental and hospital service for everybody -- the doctors to be paid by the government. The British medical association is much opposed to this, and put the question to the doctors of Britain.

The result shows that more than eighty-nine per cent are against the plan for socialized medicine and eighty-seven percent are in favor of a boycott. ~~That huge majority of British doctors declare that they are willing to participate in a general refusal to serve under the government plan for socialized medicine.~~

(Meanwhile, the labor party chiefs have indicated that they will go ahead, boycott or no boycott -- though how you can give medical service without doctors would seem to be a problem.)

TREASURE ISLAND

In San Francisco, the Navy has revealed details of an extraordinary desertion. A sailor absent-without-leave, in his own back yard, ~~as it were~~, for two years, and never taking a day off. This gob, living for two years on his own base, but never answering a role call, ^{-- just} living the life of Riley. All the privileges of a sailor's life, and none of its chores.

It all happened on the U.S. ~~Navys~~ Navy's romantically named "Treasure Island" ~~that was made~~ ~~shunk of land~~ in San Francisco Bay. On ^{February} ~~February~~, twelve, Nineteen Forty-Six, twenty-three-year-old James LeRoy Telfer of Wichita, Kansas, decided to go "over the hill!" ^{Oh,} How far? [^] Just round the corner. Telfer didn't show up for roll call one morning. Instead he changed his name to Leroy Johnson and continued to live on Treasure Island as a water tender, third class. But instead of tending water, ~~on~~ whatever a Navy water tender does, he went to work as an unofficial sports director. He earned a few dollars umpiring baseball games, became manager of the WAVES softball team, and

became a valued member of the bowling team. His spare time he filled in with odd jobs that brought in enough dollars for him to eat at the PX. At nights he slept in some abandoned barracks, staying in bed in the mornings instead of "showing-a-leg" with the others, who thought he was a guy with special privileges.

But ~~Telfer~~^{he's} is in the brig now! He made the mistake of telling some of his pals how he was getting by, ~~as an absentee~~^{- a WOL} on his own base. The story became a topic for "scuttlebutt!" ~~Navy rumor that is.~~

The security police heard it; and so, they counted noses on Treasure Island - the noses of all the men in sailor suits; and, they found they had one too many. A water tender third class with no chores, and no pay. ^{And} That's why James Telfer, manager of the ~~XXXXXX~~ Treasure Island WAVES' softball team, has been formally charged with desertion, although he never took shore-leave from the island for two years.

BRAIN SURGERY

At Fort Logan, Colorado, Virgil Gomez was discharged from the hospital today, and headed back to his farm in New Mexico. No more headaches; an end to the numbing paralysis from which he had ~~been~~suffered ever since he came home from the war.

It's a story of a miracle of modern ~~XXXXXX~~ surgery.

Remember the story of Virgil Gomez?

Last September this G I survivor of the Death March on Bataan, went to a hospital complaining of recurring headaches and a numbing pain down one side of his body. The doctors found a two inch nail that had been driven in his skull by a Japanese soldier when Virgil Gomez was in a prison camp.

The doctors at Fort Logan hospital were not sure they could remove it successfully. They told him so, and said it was up to him. For weeks he ~~was~~ pondered over it - while his head throbbed. ~~It~~ Then he said to them: "I want to live and work that farm of mine. So go ahead."

Two months ago one of the best brain surgeons in America performed the operation. Today, two months later came the good news. He apparently has recovered. And Virgil Gomez now can go back to his farm. He was game. He gambled for the highest stakes -- and won.

And now back to you, Nelson.

LONDON

Today in London, fame came to Michael Moses Poluck, a taxi driver. This afternoon, the London papers headlined his name and featured pictures of the moon-faced cabbie. The story is an oddity, but the new sudden renown of taxicab driver Michael Moses Poluck may be taken as a sign that England, labor government or no labor government, socialism or no socialism, sticks to its old ways and ideas. Which is a thing we've noted before.

Today Michael Moses Poluck was driving his taxicab past Hyde Park Corner, one of the busiest traffic intersections in London. The cab was an old one, the traditional British kind, a tall cab, high enough inside to accommodate gentlemen in tall hats, those London toppers. Michael Moses Poluck was edging along in the traffic, when - bang. The car just behind, hit him, and the result was a case of locked fenders. In high indignation, Michael Moses Poluck got out. The offending automobile was a sleek private car, and its driver emerged. You know the familiar scene - some slight

encounter between automobiles and the two drivers climb out as if ready for battle.

Michael Moses Poluck made a belligerent approach. "What's your name?" he demanded truculently.

The other driver replied in about the same tone as if he were saying Smith or Jones. He said: "The Duke of Edinburgh."

Michael Moses Poluck stared and in the car that hit him he saw the wife of the offending driver - Her Royal Highness, Princess Elizabeth, Heiress to the Crown.

The Cabbie says he felt embarrassed. He stammered - "Well, I don't know what to do now, Sir." And he didn't. The car that hit him was undamaged, while his cab had a ripped fender. ~~According to taxicab union company rules, he was required to make out a full report, placing the blame where it belonged. Ordinarily, he would have addressed wrathful questions to the driver of the car that hit him, and even the Lady in the car.~~

Well, they may have a labor government and they may have socialism, but a Duke is still a Duke, and a Royal Princess

heiress to the Crown, still illustrates that Shakesperean line - "Such divinity doth hedge a King."

At ~~that~~ moment the embarrassment of Michael Moses Poluck was relieved by a London Bobby who came up and took over the formalities of writing out the report of the ~~af~~ accident.

All of which is front page in London tonight with headlines and photographs. Michael Moses Poluck was interviewed extensively, and he is quoted as saying: "I had visions of being hung, drawn and quartered."

Have you a vision tonight, Nelson?