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Today London relayed ~~rather~~ startling word from Finland -- that the Armies of Finland have had a setback. The dispatch phrases it -- "suffered reverses". There's no hint of what these reverses might ~~be~~ -- if any. Not on the Mannerheim Line, says Helsinkie. ^Q ~~The~~ Finnish spokesman denied officialy that the Red Army had broken through Finland's great fortified front -- at any point. Quite to the contrary. Today ^{the} Helsinkie ~~dispatches~~ continues to describe repulses of heavy Soviet assaults, with grave losses.

Reports come through that Vipuri, Finland's second largest city was flaming today -- set afire by the bombardment of Soviet long-range guns. But Vipuri has been bombarded ^{frequently, so that} ~~before to hardly~~ ¹ can hardly refer to ~~report~~ what is described as -- a Finnish reverse.

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Perhaps the rumor may apply to the Eastern Frontier, between the two previous fighting areas -- Lake Ladoga and the Arctic Circle. The Soviets were severely beaten ⁱⁿ ~~and~~ both of these sectors, but now ~~are~~ reported to be launching a new attack, in ^{the} ~~between~~ -- about half-way between Lake Ladoga and the Arctic Circle. It may turn out that the Red Army has made an advance there, giving rise to the Helsinkie report of -- reverses.

FINNISH BONDS

The Senate today put its okay on the resolution asking the Securities and Exchange Commission to expedite - bonds for Finland. The S.E.C. is requested to do what it can to go through the formalities of permitting Finnish bonds to be placed on sale to the American public. The vote was overwhelming - sixty-three to three.

However, doubt is expressed ^{as to} whether the Finns will take advantage of this and float a bond issue in this country, ~~selling securities to American investors to finance its fight against the Soviets.~~ Some Finns over here expressed the opinion they ^{don't} ~~didn't~~ think much money could be raised that way.

RUSSIAN RELATIONS

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Secretary of State Cordell Hull today informed Congress that Soviet Russia has broken ~~the~~ promises it made. This refers to guarantees the Soviets gave when the Red regime was recognized by the United States early in the Roosevelt administration, and diplomatic relations were reestablished with Moscow. The Secretary's declaration was most formal, ^{politely} ~~boldly~~ expressed. He described the Soviet behavior in these words:- "not fully living up to the obligations."

Violations by the Stalin government have concerned the Soviet promise not to engage in Red propaganda in the United States. Secretary Hull mentioned in particular the Congress of the Internationale in Moscow in Nineteen Thirty-Five. Memory goes back to that affair, and we recall that the American Communist leader, Earl Browder, made an address before the Communist Congress, in which he told of plans for Red propaganda in the ^{U.S.A.} ~~United States~~. ~~Browder's trip to Moscow, by the way, was the one during which he used the passport ~~which~~ he got by making a false statement - the false statement for which he has been sentenced to four years in prison. His statements ^{that} ~~in Moscow~~ caused the State Department to~~

complain to the Soviet Foreign Office that the anti-propaganda agreement was being violated. Secretary Hull today reminded Congress of the reply which Moscow then made - the usual disclaimer, the contention that the Soviet Government was not responsible for the doings of the Communist Internationale.

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That was old stuff, and by no means convincing - for everybody knew that the Internationale was merely a creature of the Kremlin. However, the diplomatic correspondence was dropped.

Today there were rejoinders in Congress - that Secretary Hull merely referred to Red propaganda of some time past, ~~He~~ and didn't cite the recent expose of Communist agitation - as revealed by the Dies Committee. Was or was this not still more violation by the Soviets?

Another point mentioned today by the Secretary of State concerned the arrest of American citizens in Soviet Russia, ~~putting them in jail and holding them there without any right of recourse to American diplomatic authorities.~~ The most striking case of this was the headline affair of Mrs. Alma Rubens - the American citizen who with her husband was jailed in some

mysterious business that has never been cleared up.

In all of these matters there are disputed questions of the interpretation of the Soviet promises.

EGYPT

There were war-like sights in the old land of the Nile today, tremendous military display, the march of the Egyptian, British and Hindu troops, artillery, motorized columns. This before the eyes of French General Weygand who commands for France in the near East.

We're told that today's war display in Egypt is all a part of the ~~general~~ ^{of} allied war preparation, ~~which includes~~ ⁱⁿ Egypt, Palestine and Syria, and is connected with the military power of Turkey -- friend of the Allies. Britain and France are said to have a million men under arms in the near East, ready if the Soviets should make a push in that direction -- toward the oil field ^s of Persia; toward Mosul oil ~~results that are~~ ^{of so much} importance to Great Britain. Conversely, the allied war ~~matter~~ ^{power} in the near East ~~may~~ might be aimed at the Soviets ^{own} oil deposits -- at Baku in the Caspian Sea, not far from the frontiers of Turkey.

BRITAIN

The word from London is that Great Britain is sending another rejection to the United States -- ~~a~~rejection of the American protest against British action in cutting off exports from Nazi Germany, goods originated ^{ing} in Germany and ~~being~~ sent abroad on neutral ships. The London ~~account~~ ^{argument} is reported to be that Great Britian ~~has~~ taken a ^{firm} ~~same~~ attitude toward other nations on this question, and will have to do the same toward the United States.

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TRADE

The administration trade treaty policy was okayed today by the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives. There are fourteen Democrats on the Committee and ten Republicans. The vote in favor of the reciprocal trade treaties was fourteen to ten. Yes, strictly partisan. All the Democrats voted for the administration policy and all the Republicans against it.

THIRD TERM

The word today is that Wisconsin will be the first state to express itself on the Third Term issue. Third term supporters have filed the President's name in the Wisconsin primaries - a slate of delegates pledged to Franklin Delano Roosevelt or whatever candidate he may designate. The primaries will be held on April Second.

The President has already ^{been} entered in the Illinois primary, but that one is held on April the Ninth. The Wisconsin folks will vote seven days earlier.

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One thing that ^{Pelley}~~the big Silver Shirt man~~ had to say seemed to reach up to the nebulous heights. He told how applicants for membership were required to state the exact hour and minutes of their birth. Pelley said the purpose of that information was - in his own words, "mainly metaphysical." That also sounds as though it might be a bit astrological. Up there in the stars or, shall we say - the moon? You might call it astral. Or - what's the adjective derived from moon?

DIES

52
The chief of the Silver Shirts told a lot of things to the Dies Committee today about the activities of his Silver Shirt organization. He said it was organized along military lines, but was never armed - had no weapons. He did a lot of talking about how he knew that Communist elements were planning to overthrow ~~the United States~~^{our} Government, and how his Silver Shirts ~~are~~^{were all} ready to stop any such thing - and take over the government, if that were necessary ^{in order} to save the nation from Red revolution, with Silver Bill as boss

He talked against the Jewish people, and in favor of Hitler. And he profusely praised the Dies Committee - said that the Committee had ~~in~~ unmasked the Red groups and plots, and had done the work that the Silver Shirts wanted ~~to be~~ done. So maybe the Silver Shirts wouldn't be needed now, said William Dudley Pelley. His ~~la~~udation of the Committee got on the Committee's nerves. Praise from certain quarters can be worse than damnation. So Chairman Starnes told ~~Pelley~~^{Silver Bill} to stop showering the Committee with roses ~~- roses~~^{-- silver} wearing Silver Shirts, for a complicated figure ~~of~~ ~~speech~~.

STAMPS

Postmaster General Jim Farley has some more trouble - as if Jim hasn't plenty already, with the approach of presidential nominations and the presidential election. This new headache for Jim originates right in his own department - the post office. And it concerns one of the brightest ideas in the Farley administration of the mails - the philatelic aspect. You know, the first run of stamps which are prized by stamp collectors.

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It appears now that there has been a bootlegging of those prize stamps. The Post Office Department is getting out what is called - "the famous American series." The first of these is the Ralph Waldo Emerson stamp. Supplies of the Emerson variety were sent to postmasters throughout the nation with orders that sales should not begin before February Fifth. On that day, the sale of the new stamp would begin officially in certain selected cities - a sort of Emerson world premier, or coming-out party. However, before that official release date, cancelled Emerson stamps began to appear - bootleg Emersons, they are being called. In some cities they were sold in advance of the official date. In various places like Salt Lake City, and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, postmasters began

the Emerson sale on January Twenty-Seventh. The result is that a lot of collectors, picked up the new stamps while other enthusiasts were still waiting for the official date. These enthusiasts are highly indignant.

Today there was a demand that the stamps procured in advance should be black-listed. No self-respecting philatelist should have anything to do with a bootlegged Emerson. And loud complaints have gone to ~~Postmaster Farley~~ Postmaster Farley, - more trouble for Jim!

RADIO

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There's Pan-American news about radio, brought by the new United States Ambassador to Peru. The Lima Embassy is being taken over by R. Henry Norweb, and he has just flown in from the Inter-American Communications Conference at Santiago, Chile.

Interviewed at the Biltmore today, Ambassador Norweb explained that the Inter-American Conference made important decisions concerning radio. One is designed to clear up a lot of bother that has beset radio and aviation. Hitherto, a pilot flying from one Pan-American nation to another, has had to change his radio adjustments - because of different wave lengths used in different countries. ~~By~~ He might have to do this several times in a brief span of time, while flying over the smaller republics. Passing from Nicaragua into San Salvador, the wave length changes. And then proceeding on to Guatemala, the wave length changes again. It has been confusing, if not dangerous to flying.

The conference in Chile has put an end to all that, by decreeing that all of the Pan-American nations shall use the same wave length for radio in aviation.

ART

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There's news from the world of art. In New York they've taken a vote, on an awe-inspiring subject -- old masters. At the Museum of Modern Art, of which Nelson Rockefeller is President, they have on display a priceless collection lent by the Italian Government. Michaelangelo, Raphael, Titian, Della Robbia -- the sort of thing that ordinarily you'd have to go to the famous galleries of Italy to see. Crowds have been thronging all day long and in the evenings. And a vote has been taken to see which of the old masters those thousands of Americans preferred.

The advance bets were on Raphael's "Madonna of the Chair," So well known and of such sentimental appeal -- an appeal vividly expressed in a letter that one man wrote. "Eighty-five years ago," says he, "my mother saw Raphael's 'Madonna of the Chair' in Italy. She brought home a photograph of it, and as a child my whole ambition was to be able to see it some'day." He continues that he is sixty years old and only now has ^{his desire} ~~that ambition~~ been gratified. "Lastnight," he writes, "I could hardly sleep. Today my ambition

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is realized. This Museum," he concludes, "will never quite know what a wonderful thing it has done in one man's life."

So the bets were on Raphael's "Madonna of the Chair", but when the vote was counted -- there was a surprise. The winner was Titian's portrait of Pope Paul the Third. The New York public is being congratulated on that choice. Museum Director Alfred Barr analyzes the Titian masterpiece in these terms:- "It is, says he " a profound and subtle characterization of an austere old man, painted in sombre colors with the greatest technical and aesthetic reserve." The "Madonna of the Chair" was second in the popular choice.

~~And then -- there are three horsemen, three horse show judges, to be congratulated in still another contest of art. An exhibition is being held for the benefit of French civilian relief, an exhibition called -- "The Horse in Art." Director Karl Freund had an inspiration. Instead of having the horse pictures and sculptures judged by art critics, why not have it done by horse show judges? So three were invited. They looked over the horse art, but as horses -- and awarded blue ribbons. The result brought~~

AIRPORT

The row between New York and Newark has come to a climax - a congressional climax. The quarrel between the two cities for airport honors may even bring about a congressional investigation. In Washington today, New York's Mayor LaGuardia told a congressional sub-committee that he would welcome ^{a quiz} ~~an investigation~~.

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It's all because Newark has for years been the main terminus of airline travel to New York City, and now the big town wants to swing sky travel to its own airport, at North Beach - called "LaGuardia Field." The field is the apple of Mayor LaGuardia's eye, and the dream of his heart. Now, it appears, New York City has contracted with big airlines - for them to use the North Beach LaGuardia field as a co-terminal, along with Newark. This Newark opposes, and today its Mayor ^{Ellenstein} told ~~the~~ congressional sub-committee that the deal had been put across by what he called "collusion" with the officials in New York City.

58 1/2

To this Mayor LaGuardia responded in his customary lively fashion. He spoke in lofty encomium of his own airport, and referred to Newark's flying facilities in opprobrious terms. The opprobrium became dramatic when the Mayor told the Committee

how one airline official came to him and asked to be allowed to use the New York Airdrome instead of the Newark field. "The other day he came to me," exclaimed the feelingful Fiorella, "and went down on his knees and said, 'For ^{Heavens} ~~God's~~ sake, Fiorella, let me sign, let me get out of that dump.'"

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Senator Barber of New Jersey spoke up in defense of the fair city ^{of Newark}, which is the metropolis of his own fair state. He resented the LaGuardia approbrium cast on Newark, to which the unfaltering Fiorella responded - that he wasn't talking approbriously about Newark, but only about the Newark airport.

59 1/4
And Hugh what are you talking about tonight?