

P.T. - Moscow, Monday, Feb. 19, 1940.

FINLAND

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~~The principal news from Finland tonight should be greeted~~  
~~as an old friend.~~ You remember that Eighteenth Division of  
 Stalin's Red army, which the Finns destroyed northeast of  
 Lake Ladoga a couple of weeks ago? <sup>was</sup> It has been destroyed again.  
 The explanation is that this time the news appears to be authentic,  
 the real McCoy.

You will perhaps recall that the first report of the  
 wiping out of that Eighteenth Division was not official, ~~in fact~~  
 it originated in Copenhagen and Stockholm. And eighteen thousand  
 men were supposed to have been ~~wiped out~~ <sup>annihilated.</sup> When the report was put  
 to the acid test, it turned out to be ~~trifle~~ premature, ~~to say the~~  
~~least~~ The eighteen thousand dead Russians shrunk to eighteen  
hundred.

But tonight it <sup>comes as</sup> an official war communique from the  
 Finnish Government ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> Eighteenth Division this time ~~has~~ <sup>has been</sup>  
 officially ~~annihilated~~ <sup>destroyed.</sup>

In almost the same paragraph, Finnish headquarters  
 issued an ~~announcement~~ <sup>announcement</sup> to counteract the triumphant claims uttered  
 in Moscow. The Bolshevik advance ~~has~~ been stopped, say the Finns.

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The Russians declared that they were within a few miles of Viipuri. But the Finns deny it.

Field Marshal Baron Mannerheim has his army entrenched in a new Mannerheim line.

From Copenhagen comes a dispatch that all telephonic communication with Finland had been broken off.

SWEDEN

King Gustav of Sweden is one monarch who usually says

little. So an announcement from him is considered quite

extraordinary. *He has just issued* ~~he put out~~ a proclamation to his people,

explaining frankly the attitude of his government toward the

*Russo-Finnish war.*

~~invasion of Finland~~ Sweden will not send soldiers to help the  
*invaders.*

Finnish against the Bolshevik ~~armies~~. "Active military intervention

would mean for Sweden not only war against Russia but immediate

involvement in a great war with other powers." *S* ~~says~~ *the*

*Popular King of the Swedes.*

ALTMARK

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<sup>was</sup>  
It ~~is~~ quite natural that controversy should rage all day  
around <sup>what is being</sup> ~~that so-called~~ German hell ship, <sup>a</sup> the ALTMARK. The  
British Government was engaged principally in building up a case  
against Norway. That, ~~was~~ by way of a retort to the Norwegian  
protest <sup>against</sup> ~~that~~ the invasion of Norwegian territorial waters and the  
release of those three hundred and twenty-six prisoners by a  
British warship. The gist of the British attitude is that the  
Norwegian authorities were delinquent in their duties, did not  
inspect the ALTMARK properly, did not discover the fact that she  
contained British prisoners.

And the British attitude is reflected in Paris. A  
semi-official explanation was given out ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> the position of both  
the Allies. Passive neutrality is not enough. The neutrality  
of a non-belligerent's territorial waters will not be respected  
by the Allies, unless the neutrals defend their neutrality even  
with force.

On the other side, the Foreign Minister at Oslo made a  
statement to the Norwegian Parliament. The Norwegian Government  
is not interested in the fact that British prisoners were aboard

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the ALTMARK. The Norwegian authorities would have let the German ship use Norwegian territorial waters even if they had known all about those three hundred and twenty-six prisoners on the hell ship. The Norwegian Foreign Minister says that <sup>would be in</sup> ~~this is~~ <sub>^</sub> strict conformity with international conventions.

A ~~The~~ Norwegian newspaper offers one solution for this troublesome and apparently insoluble controversy. The idea is that it should be arbitrated by President ~~Roosevelt~~. The reaction in Washington to that suggestion was non-committal. Secretary of State Hull said ~~he~~ had heard nothing about it, and that it was unofficial anyway. Besides, <sup>the</sup> ~~President Roosevelt~~ <sub>^</sub> is away and nobody has any authority to speak for him.

DESTROYER

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The Nazi report in the row over the ALTMARK <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ a naval victory. In their rage over the seizure of the ~~held~~ ship, Nazi spokesmen, though unofficially, promised unrestricted submarine warfare as retaliation against the British. And tonight another British destroyer lies at the bottom of the sea. H.M.S. DARING <sup>has</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>been</sup> torpedoes and the British Admiralty admit it. At the same time, the Lords of the Navy will not say where ~~this~~ <sup>it</sup> happened. Only five men were saved out of a crew of a hundred and sixty-two. Nine officers and a hundred and forty-eight seamen are missing. That makes the twenty-fifth British man-o-war that the Germans have sunk since the war started, <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ sixth destroyer. She was one of the fastest in the King's Navy, with a speed of more than ~~xxx~~ thirty-eight knots.

CARTER

In Washington, a former officer of Uncle Sam's army, is trying in his eighty-fourth year to clear his name of an old, old charge. Some sixty years ago, Oberlin M. Carter graduated from West Point with the highest rating ever obtained at Uncle Sam's Military Academy. He reached the rank of a captain of the army and one of his achievements was negotiating the forty million dollar option by which Uncle Sam acquired possession of the Pan-American Canal Zone. Captain Carter's friends said that he had saved <sup>his country</sup> ~~Uncle~~ a hundred and sixty million dollars. Later, Captain Carter was in charge of a project for deepening the harbor of Savannah, Georgia. Charges were brought against him, charges of graft. He was tried by court martial, convicted, cashiered, and served four and a half years at Leavenworth.

Today he appeared before a sub-committee of the Senate and swore that he had been framed by that court martial, framed and suffered the ~~the~~ injustice all these years. And he has one good point in his defense, that is the harbor of Savannah, as it is today. Some people describe it as one of the greatest of all engineering feats, as good today as it was when ~~he~~ it was finished forty-four

years ago. There are bills pending ~~for~~ before both Houses of Congress to clear Captain Carter's record, declare him innocent, the victim of a miscarriage of justice.



WAGNER

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Senator Wagner of New York has offered his new Labor Bill to Congress. It is not an amendment ~~or modification~~ of the other statute that bears his name, the National Labor Relations Law. It is not even a modification of that measure. It is, rather, a supplementary bill, and if it were passed it would establish another board with more officials on Uncle Sam's payroll. The idea is to establish a mediation board with three members, each of whom would get ten thousand a year. The functions of this board would be different from that of the National Labor Relations Board. Those three mediators would have the job of urging employers and employees to get together and arbitrate before they start any strikes or lockouts or wage cuts. In other words, the New York Senator would apply to labor in general what the National Railway Labor Act does to the railroads and their employees.

BUILDING

The cost of building materials is going up in the United States. And that in spite of the anti-trust drive by the Department of Justice. We learn this from the Department of Justice itself.

FARLEY FOLLOW BANDIT

Here's interesting political  
~~Going east a thousand odd miles from Chicago, we find~~

News! -

~~the weather, or something, affecting a great political party.~~

The Democratic delegates from Connecticut to the National Convention  
announce that they will have as their first choice <sup>Democratic</sup> the Honorable  
<sup>for the Presidency</sup>

James A. Farley, Post Master General, ~~and more pleasantly known as~~

"Sunny Jim."

STAMPS

I make more than my share of mistakes, I know, but it seems that I took the birthday of Abraham Lincoln for the record-breaking

*Maybe it was the weather.*  
boner. <sup>^</sup> I spoke about Old Abe as having sold postage stamps when

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he was Uncle Sam's Post Master at New Salem, Illinois. It was almost a prize-winner as I learned from William Holm, of Elyria, Ohio;

J. W. Cringan of Toronto; Samuel Porter, Jr., of Pendleton, Indiana;

Warren Bryant Stout of South Orange, New Jersey; E. R. Perry of

Syracuse, New York, and ~~other kind correspondents.~~ *I understand from my office that more letters are pouring in.*

They rub it into me that Abe could not possibly have sold stamps at New Salem, Illinois, or anywhere else in America, a

hundred and four years ago. In fact, he couldn't have sold them

anywhere in the world <sup>*because*</sup> ~~on account of~~ <sup>^</sup> the first postage stamp wasn't <sup>^</sup>

issued until a hundred years ago. Incidentally, that makes this

year, Nineteen Forty, a notable anniversary in the history of

communications. There will ~~be worldwide~~ be worldwide ceremonies

on May Sixth of this year in memory of May Sixth, Eighteen Forty,

when the famous Sir Rowland Hill persuaded the British Government

to reduce postage to one penny a letter and to issue the first

adhesive postage stamps in the world. Incidentally, as I am told by

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Mr. Cringan of Toronto, that stamp is known as the One Penny Black of England.

In memory of Sir Rowland Hill and the One Penny Black, not only <sup>the</sup> King ~~George~~ of England but <sup>the</sup> President ~~Roosevelt~~ of the United States, will deliver addresses, which will be carried by short wave around the world. The British Government is issuing a special stamp to commemorate the event, and probably Uncle Sam's Post Master <sup>General</sup> ~~Jim Farley~~ will do the same.

Naturally, the wonder arises, what did Abe Lincoln and the other post masters do in the days before there were postage stamps? To satisfy my curiosity I called up Uncle Sam and Uncle, speaking with the voice of Mr. McEntee of the New York Post Office, gave me some interesting information. Almost every post master had his own method. Some of them just used pen and ink to mark on the envelope ~~x~~ that the postage had been paid. Others, used hand stamps of various designs. In fact, every post master rolled his own, so to speak. Several of my correspondents rubbed my nose in the fact that Uncle Sam did not issue postage stamps until July, EighteenForty-Seven, and even those were not made compulsory until the law that Congress passed July First, Eighteen Fifty-Five.

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WEATHER

In Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance ", the pirate king says or sings one remark with which everybody must agree. "For such a beastly month as February, twenty-eight days are plenty." This February coming in leap year, has twenty-nine, which according to the present state of the weather, makes it a public calamity.

A squint at Uncle Sam's weather reports leaves one in doubt where people are having the most unpleasant time of it. Which do you prefer - the ice cold rains and gales of the Atlantic coast, or the blizzard that has been blocking ~~the~~ traffic in Kansas, Oklahoma, <sup>and</sup> Texas, <sup>and</sup> sweeping as far north as Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin?

Many people, even learned people, believe that weather has a distinct effect upon human conduct. They would even undertake to prove it for you. <sup>So</sup> Let's take a look at a few specimens of human <sup>more</sup> conduct throughout the world on this Nineteenth day of February.

BANDIT FOLLOW WEATHER

In Chicago, the weather - or something - ~~filled~~ <sup>inspired</sup>

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a holdup man to attempt the well nigh  
~~member of the criminal classes with a recklessness almost~~  
impossible. So far he seems to have been successful.  
~~foolhardy~~ He held up one of the biggest and most famous

department stores in the world, Marshal Field of Chicago. He

got away with seventeen thousand four hundred dollars, <sup>- right at</sup> ~~and that~~

in the noon hour, on a Monday when shoppers are most numerous.

MURDER FOLLOW HEAD

*Here's a problem that*  
~~The problem of the Los Angeles police is nothing~~  
*faces*  
~~compared with that which faces~~ the chief constable of one of the  
Scottish counties of Great Britain. Kinpurnie Castle is the  
seat of the Cayzer family, one of the oldest in ~~Great Britain.~~ *Scotland.*  
Sir Charles Cayzer, the third baronet, was raised to the peerage  
last year and became Lord Rotherwick. Lord and Lady Rotherwick  
went for a walk in their grounds yesterday. Soon after they  
came back, the body of Baron Rotherwick was found full of lead,  
lying just inside the door of his butler's pantry. ~~Between his~~ *at his*  
*feet* ~~was~~ a double barrel shotgun. On the other side of the pantry  
was Lord Rotherwick's butler, killed apparently while he was  
filling a bottle with water.



BOB-SLED RECORD BROKEN

57 had something to do with those bob-sled records that were broken. The weather of course had something to do with those bob-sled records that were broken.

Adirondacks I mentioned that over the weekend two important races were to be run down the track of ice from the summit of Mt. Van Hoevenberg. Perhaps I ought to follow it up by telling what happened;-

On Saturday, LaTour and Bickford, Two speedsters from Saranac Lake streaked down the mountain in record breaking time, lowering by eleven one-hundredths of a second the previous mark for the International two-man bob-sled race <sup>s - a mark</sup> held by Ivan Brown of Keene Valley.

Curtis Stevens and Francis Tyler of Lake Placid were second.

A young lady from Tupper Lake, Isabelle Moffett,

with Gil Jacques of Keene Valley jumped the ice wall between two

turns,

Cliffside and Shady. ~~xxxxxx~~ Luckily neither was hurt.

But of the Winter for bob-sled fans The sensation came yesterday when Bill Linney

and his Lyon Mountain team, with four thousand people lining

the ice shoot, sent his steel sled hurtling down the mountain,

breaking the world's record, and setting an all time mark

for the Lake Placid Olympic bob run.

MONGOOSE

Now back to New York, and surely it must have been the weather that prompted a weird decision by some customs officials at Staten Island. Mr. and Mrs. Armand Denis, the explorers, arrived at Staten Island after <sup>their travels</sup> ~~they had traveled~~ in Africa and India, including <sup>a jaunt to the seldom visited Himalayan</sup> ~~an almost record-breaking visit to the forbidden Kingdom~~ of Nepal. With them they brought several specimens of rare and curious animals. But one of them was neither rare nor curious, and that's the one that made the customs officials behave queerly. It was a pet female mongoose, named Tikki. "Tikkie", as Kipling fans will remember, is the middle name of Rikki Tikki Tavi, the <sup>Mongoose</sup> hero of one of Kipling's most famous stories.

The <sup>Officials</sup> ~~Dogberrys~~ at the customs house ~~decided that~~ <sup>Denis</sup> declined to let the mongoose enter the country, <sup>on the ground that</sup> ~~as a female mongoose~~ <sup>she would become</sup> ~~the~~ a menace to birds. Mongooses, after killing all snakes they can find, turn their attention to small birds.

On the other hand, the customs people allowed Armand Denis to bring in a cat from China. And if there's any animal that kills more birds than a cat, just ask the pheasant and partridge hunters.

Hugh, have you any questions to ask?

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