

LEAD CHINA

C.I. - P. & S. Monday, May 2, 1949.

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Our American Consul General in Canton tonight is asking all Americans, in South China, to get out -- while they can. He ~~foresees~~ foresees a Communist sweep all the way to Indo-China.

CHINA

The Chinese Nationalists tonight say they have defeated the Reds in a heavy battle at Ching-Yang-Kang; thirty miles west of Shanghai.

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But, another report describes Shanghai as now surrounded by the Communists. Their armies only eight miles from Hangchow, number one rail center.

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Reporters in Shanghai tell of their own troubles: With the Nationalists. Rigid censorship. All news stories blue pencilled and slashed.

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From Canton, the great seaport^{of}/south China comes word that the Nationalists are all set for another currency reform - one more effort to check inflation.

Meanwhile coolies are lighting cigarettes with ten thousand dollar bills.

So the Chinese government - what remains of

it - is contemplating issuing a silver Yuan. Silver being the one currency that has consistently held its value in China since the days of Sun Yat Sen - the silver dollar.

A friend, recently back from Shanghai, tells me that the silver dollar is still the king of coins in southern China. Any kind of silver dollar. The Chinese call them eagles. The original eagles were inherited by the Republic from the Manchus. Many of these were Eighteenth Century Maximillian silver dollars from Mexico. The ~~Em~~ Manchus bought piles of them and over-stamped them with Chinese characters. Then came the American silver dollar; also the English "crown" - the bulky Victorian five-shilling-piece.

Shanghai and Canton are now clamoring for more of these pieces of silver which for long years have been stored away in cellars, and private houses sacksful of silver.

CHENNAULT

Tomorrow the Senate armed services Committee and the Joint Congressional Committee on foreign aid will hear a first hand report on China - from Claire Chennault. The Louisiana-born hard-hitting commander of the Flying Tigers, and later the U. S. Fourteenth Air Force, believes that air power can still defeat the Chinese Reds and save China -- for democracy.

BOLIVIA

The news wire from La Paz, Bolivia, tells of martial law following an outbreak of rioting. Six killed, and many wounded. An armed ~~at~~ack on Government House, by extreme right wing factions, enraged by the Socialist victory yesterday at the polls.

BERLIN

The Berlin Blockade is expected to end next week and the meeting of the Council of the Big Four Foreign Ministers will probably take place during the last week of May in Paris. That is the word in New York tonight given out by what the newswire describes as a well-placed diplomatic source. This statement followed a meeting between U.S. Ambassador-at-large Philip Jessup, Sir Andrew Cadogan of Britain and Jean Chauvel of France.

Earlier today, a Soviet source informed reporters that the Kremlin delegat Jacob Malik and our man, Philip Jessup, were agreed in principle. All that remained said the Soviet spokesman was for an agreement to be reached on the agenda for the meeting of the Big Four Foreign Ministers.

Also, Malik is said to be waiting for Jessup to call him for the final talk at which the official announcement will be made that the Berlin Blockade is to be raised. Up to the present, the British and French

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representatives have taken no part in the discussions, but both London and Paris, we hear, are now optimistic, both saying their men will soon be sitting in on the New York conversations.

EARLY

Steve Early, White House Secretary to F.D.R. today became Under-Secretary of Defense.

In New Deal days Steve Early was one of the most popular of the men around F.D.R. Having been a reporter and a newsreel man, he knew what newsmen wanted and generally gave it to them.

Since leaving the White House, Steve has been a vice-President of the giant Pullman Company. Strange for a new dealer you say? Well, now he's back in Washington, as assistant to Defense Secretary Louis Johnson.

TAFT - HARTLEY

Speaker Rayburn stated today that he will offer five concessions tomorrow, changes in the Administration labor bill: These even to include acceptance of court injunctions, - to prevent strikes in national emergencies.

The strike injunction clause is bitterly opposed by the C I O and the A F of L -- one of the chief reasons why labor leaders want the Taft-Hartley law wiped off the statute books.

In its original form the administration repeal bill calls for a thirty-day-cooling-off period - without any injunctions. But, Speaker Rayburn is ready to make the injunction concession in order to save the administration bill.

RENT CONTROL

There will not be any definite general rent increase. Definitely not, according to Housing Expediter Tighe Woods. He issued that long-awaited rent regulation in Washington tonight. Under this landlords can only raise rents if they can prove that their operating costs warrant the increases.

The Housing Expediter went on to say that he expects a flood of petitions from landlords, but many of these will have to be turned down because many landlords consider capital expenses as operating expenses. All tenants will be informed of their landlord's petition for increase of rent. And that if a tenant complains about the service he is getting or anything else, hearing of the landlord's petition for an increase will cease -- while the tenant's complaint is being investigated.

WEST NUMBER ONE

I'm back at my New York news headquarters tonight - back from the longest jaunt around my own country that I have made in years. And on that jaunt I learned a lot of things, that I'll be mulling over all summer.

One conclusion I came to after I had been on the road for less than a month was, that every newsman should -- every year or two make a down-to earth trip through the small places of this country of ours. When I started out in January I had a break of luck - luck for a reporter -- arriving in the West right ~~xx~~ in the middle of the Great Blizzard. For that was the biggest American news story of the year.

But, outside of that, the whole journey was a news experience of a ~~xx~~ value that it's hard to estimate. Most of this trip was through the open country, smaller towns like Leadville, Walla Walla,

Salem, and Boise; Merced, Reno, Tucson and Durango. The large cities of the West? They're okay. But they are metropolitan in character, as far as world news goes. And it's the smaller cities and towns that opened my eyes - the local papers, the regional wires.

Take Boise, for example -- where for all news they use what is called "the inter-mountain regional wire". Out there in Idaho - I mentioned it at the time -- how fresh and human the line of news appeared to be. In Boise the great bulk of dispatches first clear through Salt Lake on the "trans-continental trunk wire", and there in Salt Lake, a sifting, a selection is made. Over the regional wire in Idaho, for hours you read only local state news, the doings of the legislature for example. To make room for all that local news on the regional wire they have to throw out a lot of

long foreign dispatches!

But, ~~they~~ the press association - those news ore-sorters in Salt Lake - keep the dramatic, the colorful, the odd - all the human stories, and all the big news. That goes right along on the regional wire, along with the local state news. So no wonder it's a bright wire - that regional wire! Lively with the doings of people - a pageant of mankind, instead of a compendium of the solemnities of international politicians.

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Then on the way home when we got to Chicago, for the first time in months an unfamiliar sight: rain! a grey cloudy sky. The first we had seen - for ages, it seemed. We had been on the western trail for nearly four ~~and~~ months and after the blizzards we ran into at the start, there was nothing but that eternal sunshine of the West.

It was the Golden West at it's best. Out there where they would have appreciated rain - in some sections where they need it desperately.

In Tucson, Bill Johnson, publisher of the "Arizona Citizen" had been telling us how in the Tucson area the level of wells ~~has~~ has been dropping -- because of the growing population. The people depend largely on wells, and the water down below is now sinking. You can see what a problem that soon may be.

From Omaha on there was one universal theme of interest which today is the common dominator of concern in two-thirds of these United States: - water! This is true even in the Pacific Northwest. The coastal belt is green with rain, but even in Washington and Oregon, the most of those states are east of the Cascade Mountains, and there it's the same old problem - water!

So no wonder the key to western thinking and politics is -- irrigation, dams, reclamation. Any idea along that line strikes a spark - like projects they are now mulling over, such as the possibility of distilling sea water for irrigation.

All of which is merely an example of the angles you come upon, when on a ~~XXXX~~ news trip you follow the western trail. There are many others, which tomorrow night, and so on for a week or two, I'll mention briefly. Not to forget that Arizona Painted Desert hanging tale that I promised three weeks ago. I haven't forgotten!

PULITZER

That Columbia University announces tonight
~~1948~~
this year's Pulitzer prize for the best biography,
~~goes~~ to Robert E. Sherwood's "Roosevelt and Hopkins."
The award for the best play to Arthur Miller's
"Death of a Salesman." And the Pulitzer Prize novel
of nineteen forty-nine is "Guard of Honor" by
James Gould Cozzens.

POLIO

From Chicago ~~comes~~ the dramatic story of how a twenty-six year-old mother fought for her life on a transcontinental train. Mrs. Shirley Palmer, a victim of polio, on her way across the continent to Ithaca, New York, for treatment. She was wearing a portable respirator. At Laramie, Wyoming, last night the pumping mechanism of the respirator failed. Her husband tried to work the emergency handle. That failed too. Mrs. Palmer was in danger of death. Then the husband spied a beer can opener on the floor. For minutes he ~~worked with~~ ^{worked on} it, and finally contrived to make an emergency handle. It ~~worked~~ ^{did the trick, so}. ~~And for~~ eight hours he sat at his wife's side working the respirator with the beer can opener. While a nurse timed the strokes of the improvised handle to keep the pump in tune with the wife's breathing. At Omaha a new respirator was provided by the City Fire Department, and tonight Mrs. Palmer is safe in Chicago with a new respirator provided by the local hospital. Alive and with a good

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chance of recovery, thanks to her husband's ingenuity
and untiring effort.

STARLINGS

The House of Representatives passed a bill today. A bill which virtually amounts to a declaration of war. War against "Sturnus Vulgaris" - the ~~XXXXX~~ common Starling.

Senators, Congressmen, stenographers, and courting couples, no longer sit in comfort under the trees of historic Pennsylvania Avenue.

The trees and all the buildings, have been taken over by starlings.

So, now the starlings are to be killed. The problem is how to do it. For the starling, is a most elusive and intelligent bird. As wary a knave as ever nature sent to plague the human and animal world.

I hear they out-number the human population of the United States, four starlings to every one of us. Doing millions of dollars' worth of crop damage every year.

But in the District of Columbia starlings have been protected by an old law, which prohibits the killing of any bird.

On the headwall of Mount Washington's Forest Ranger Service, he plunged into a hundred foot crevice. Apparently, Scudder fell, as all he was left with the headwall and down he went. Calling for help, he he went over and over.

... ridge of the Appalachian Mountains. The snow on the headwall has been melting fast. The snow on the headwall has been melting fast. The snow on the headwall has been melting fast.

Local officers saw the young Harvard Professor fall, and heard his cries. They found one of his ski poles. Then, frantically they tried to tunnel through the headwall. But to go.

The student's body found. One week's tragedy by St. W. ...

TUCKERMAN

Pinkham Notch, New Hampshire, a drama of the snows. A rescue party - searching for Harvard Professor Paul Schiller. Out skiing yesterday, on the headwall - Mount Washington's famed Tuckerman Ravine, he plunged into a hundred foot crevasse. Apparently, Schiller fell, as all do who ski on the Headwall - and down he went. Calling for help, as he went over and over.

Joe Dodge of the Appalachian Mountain Club announced during the day that there was little hope. The snow on the headwall has been melting fast, crevasses opening, as they ~~xiwx~~ always do at this time of the year.

Local skiers saw the young Harvard Professor fall, and heard his cries. They found one of his ski poles. Then, frantically they tried to tunnel through the Headwall. But no go.

The latest: body found. One more tragedy for Mt. Washington - ~~huxxfhuxxf~~ home of storms.