

REFUGEES

L.T. - Sunoco. Friday, March 25, 1938.

The "help-the-refugee" movement takes on larger dimensions today, with some explanations by President Roosevelt. (In a press conference at Warm Springs, ^{the president} he was asked a number of questions about the American ^{refugee plan.} ~~plan suggested~~ to twenty-nine nations ~~for the~~ ^{And he gave his slant on} ~~purpose of setting~~ ^{to set} up an international commission that would enable Austrian and German refugees to find homes in other countries - we to admit them to the limit of the legal quotas.

The President was asked whether the proposal applied chiefly to the Jews who are ^{suppressed} ~~suppressed~~ in anti-Semitic countries. He answered that the plan was meant to apply to a great many Christians also - we'd get a certain proportion of Christians.)

The question was then asked - did the welcome to the refugees mean only people from Austria and Germany? Or - did it also apply to countries like Russia, Spain and Italy? The President said yes, it did.

Now, that brings up a curious point. Italy is one of the nations invited to join in the welcome to the refugees. But, Italy is also named as a nation from which refugees will be taken - anti-Fascists, Italians opposed to the Mussolini regime. Italy

the suggestion

to give up refugees and also to take them in - not the same ones,
for that would be too complicated. Maybe it would be a swop,
with Mussolini trading oppressed Italian anti-Fascists for
oppressed pro-Fascists from somewhere else - ^{if anybody} ~~xxx~~ could find some
oppressed pro-Fascists. Maybe ⁱⁿ ~~xxx~~ Russia - although Stalin seems
to prefer ^{liquidating} ~~shooting~~ those old Fascist companions of Lenin. It might
be that Italy would consider it smart and economical to unload
its concentration camps into somebody else's country. ^π One trouble
is - what about the oppressed Communists in the Fascist nations, [?]

How could we take them in, when ^{we've} ~~xxx~~ got a law forbidding the
entrance of Communists into the United States. ^{ππ} This double role

for Italy ~~xxx~~ as both saviour and oppressor seems a bit ^{intricate} ~~complicated~~.
^{word from Washington is that the State Dept.}
^{may be a bit embarrassed by the puzzle.}
^π ~~Maybe that's why~~ The word from Rome is that the Italian government

is likely to turn the whole idea down. One angle is that Italy,
being an ally of Germany, will have to consult Hitler about it,
~~and~~ The prospects are not good that Italy will participate in the
American plan.

Great Britain, on the contrary, is ready to join in -
that's the authoritative word today from London.

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The President in his declaration today made it clear that the refugee proposals apply to every nation that has an oppressed minority. He harked back to the days of yore, when the United States was the haven for political refugees from everywhere, and said that the old time welcome was still a policy of this nation - within the limits of the immigration quotas, ~~for example~~

Well, there are plenty of nations with oppressed minorities. Here's a dispatch from Poland which tells of anti-Semitic riots in Warsaw. They occurred at a technical high school, where nationalist students staged an anti-Jewish meeting of three thousand, and demanded that all Jews be kept out of the school. That was followed by a rowdy disturbance as the crowd stormed through classrooms and laboratories and maltreated Jewish students. *This is all* ~~another~~ reminder of the brutal anti-Semitic wave that is sweeping through nations like Poland, Hungary, Roumania - each with an oppressed minority that would come under the American refugee plan, as the President explains it.

Meanwhile, Austria and Germany are getting ready for the election that will be a gesture of *affirmation for* ~~running~~ the union of the

two countries. Hitler is campaigning, making electioneering speeches - though why does he have to do that? At Koenigsburg, in East Prussia, he made a boastful speech today with one bit of ~~pragmatic~~ braggadocio that had an ominous and formidable ring.

Talking of the near future, he shouted - "I will be the leader of the greatest army in the world's history." And there may be as much truth as bragging in that.

MEXICO

The Mexican government is in a dilemma. (Having seized the four hundred million dollar foreign oil properties, ~~the~~ ^{the Mexico City} statesmen don't know what to do with them. Operate them, of course - but what will they do with the oil? Sell it to somebody - but ~~when~~ to whom? In other words, the Mexican government is looking for customers who will pay ~~that sum~~ with sound cash. ~~The Mexican~~ ^{They} ~~government~~ ^{government} needs foreign currency, to bolster up ~~its~~ ^{their} financial position- but at the same time foreign sales abroad are likely to be complicated by the falling value of Mexican money, the Peso slipping.

^{However} ~~but~~ it looks as if the authorities at Mexico City might get at least one ^{quick} ~~ready~~ customer for oil. There's one nation that stands ready to buy. Guess around a bit, and you'll think of - Japan. The Mikado's minister at Mexico City declared today that Japanese companies are very much in the market for the oil the Mexicans have seized. He explained that Japan ^{gets} ~~get~~ most of its oil right now from California - but the price is high. They'd get petroleum cheaper from Mexico, so they'll place large orders. There's even talk of laying a pipe-line from the east coast of the Mexican oil fields, across the country, to the Pacific side -

where the Japanese could get it much more easily. The pipe-line however, would be exceedingly expensive. Here's a late dispatch from Tokyo which states that Japan may eventually buy fuel oil for its fleet, from the Mexican government.

This Mexican oil situation is most interesting, if not joyfully entertaining. The Mexican government seized the four hundred million dollar oil properties, which were mostly owned by Americans -- and then turns around and sells that former American oil to Japan. Which will bring a wry smile to the patient long suffering countenance of your Uncle Sam.

The Japanese claim they won a great air battle, swarms of planes battling in the sky. The Mikado's men say they destroyed fifty Chinese war planes -- and that figure would indicate just about the greatest air battle ever.

T.V.A.

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The T.V.A. is now formally and finally in the congressional whirlpool. A lot of water rushes over the Tennessee Valley dams and a lot of power is generated, all of which will be matched by the rush of words and the high power conversation when the investigation gets going. It was voted by the Senate today - a joint quiz by a ten-man committee, five senators and five congressmen. The Senate resolution now goes to the lower House, where it is sure to be ratified.

The argument about the investigation found the senators lined up in two factions - friends of the T.V.A. and enemies of the great power project. *The two groups* ~~They~~ disagreed on what the investigation was to investigate. The friends of the T.V.A. wanted to inquire into charges that big companies had been monkeying around and ~~ex~~ getting undue favors. ~~from the government power project.~~ The enemies of the T.V.A. thought the inquiry should look into charges of corruption, malfeasance, on the part of people in control of the project - along the line of the charges made by Chairman Arthur E. Morgan, whom the President ousted.

The two factions got together today with a compromise -

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or really, it's a combination. Both lines of inquiry are to be made. The investigation will consider T.V.A. relations with big companies and also the accusation of fraud.

The opinion of the friends of the T.V.A. was voiced by Administration leader Senator Barkley, who said he was convinced that the probe will reveal nothing corrupt, ~~Administration~~ *and* ~~of the project~~ will merely redound to the glory of the T.V.A.

WAGES

In Washington today a financial figure was named - Thirty Cents. That's not a lot of money, but it takes a dominant place in the long drawn out controversy about the Wage and Hour Bill.

The Bill proposes to set a minimum wage, and the recent argument has been - how high should that minimum wage be? Naturally, the Union leaders want it as high as ^{possible,} ~~they can~~. So today President Green of the American Federation of Labor said - "Thirty Cents," a minimum wage of thirty cents an hour. No worker in the nation to get less than that. He declared that his unions would never accept a Twenty Cent an hour minimum, as has been proposed, but they would take Thirty Cents. That, however - with a condition. A temporary minimum, with the understanding that there would be increases over a period of several years, until the figure was raised to Forty Cents.

SPAIN

(Tonight, the Spanish Rebels are shouting - "The end of the war is in sight!") Today they captured an important objective - a town regarded as the key to the campaign in northern Aragon.

Everywhere along the wide front, the Left Wing troops were in hasty retreat, pursing delaying-tactics, blowing up bridges and buildings, blowing up everything. The Barcelona plan is now to make a stand at fortified lines before the City of Lerida.

That's an important industrial place, and its fortifications are the last line of Left Wing defense. If the swift Franco advance crashes through there, it promises to be a headlong rush to the sea. That's why the Rebels are cheering - "The end of the war is in sight!"

SOUTH AFRICA

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They had an earthquake in South Africa today, nothing violent, a mere mild tremor. But it produced terrifying results in one place - a gold mine at Johannesburg, a deep shaft, far *far* *— one of those tremendously deep mines on the Rand.* below the surface. The trembling of the earth cracked the rock, loosened it, brought about a ~~per~~ terrific fall of stone. ~~so~~ *this* blocked the entrance of the shaft where scores of miners were working. They were trapped.

There was a swift drive of rescue work and sixty-two men were brought out, fifty-seven native black miners and five white men. There may still be some others in the deep shaft blocked by the rockfall.

RACE

Let's paraphrase Shakespeare and say - "What's in two names?" And the answer might be, that two names can be exceedingly appropriate. Let's consider it from a nautical point of view, maritime, oceanic. In the old days of warfare at sea, a first ranking fighting craft with tall masts and spreading sails, a ship of the line, was called -- a man'o'war. Nowadays, in the era of steam and steel armour, ^a~~the~~ giant fighting craft is called -- a battleship. So you might say that the present day battleship is a child of the old-time man'o'war. Now - that's also true of horses. It's most appropriate that a son of that mighty thoroughbred, Man'o'war, should be named "Battleship."

I doubt whether Man'o'War, in his greatest racing thrill, ever won a more exciting track event than Battleship did today. The Grand National is one of the world's great classics, and the Irish Sweepstakes focused triple attention on it. ~~It's~~ Steeplechase that is most spectacular! ^{With} thirty jumps - and thirty-six ^{were} horses in it. One of the smallest of the thoroughbreds was Battleship, a rather pigmy-progeny of the big limbed Man'o'War. Not expected to win either, not a favorite. ~~No American bred horse~~

~~had ever gone flashing over the hurdles to victory in the Grand National~~

Well, the pack went dashing in the swift hur^{ry}~~ry~~ burly of the race - one jump after another. And one after another of the horses fell out of the race. "Fall" is right, those breakneck spills when a jump goes wrong. One of the thoroughbreds was injured so badly they had to destroy it.

It all turned into a nerve-tingling duel down the stretch, a duel between Battleship and the Irish steeplechaser, ~~ROYAL DANIEL~~ Royal Danieli. Royal Danieli looked like the winner, but Battleship challenged him, out-stayed him, and out-ran him. The finish was so close that many people couldn't tell the winner, couldn't see that Battleship won by a neck, — a photo finish.

~~Once~~ ^{proving} again ~~it's proved~~ that Man'o'War is the greatest sire in the world-of-the-thoroughbred. His descendants have made an amazing record on the tracks, a record that came to a climax ~~ex~~ today with the triumph of the appropriately named - Battleship.

And there's racing news from Brunswick, New Jersey.

Stutgers.
Swimming races, and the theme of the story is - colds, cold in the

head, snuffling and sneezing. They are staging the National Intercollegiate Championships, and the fifteen hundred meter free style race was ~~swim~~ ^{swam} ~~swarmed~~ today. The champion was out defending his crown, John Macionis, captain of the Yale Team. It didn't seem any too likely that he'd successfully defend it, because the Yale swimmer has been ~~suffering from~~ ^{having} a series of colds, ~~He has been~~ ~~having~~ an obstinate siege of snuffling and sneezing. But ~~when~~ ^{win} he did, he splashed the fifteen hundred meters in twenty minites and fifteen and a half seconds. So he's still champion - and still has a cold.

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 And now -- here's where I sink into the depths of humiliation. I have made a lot of apologies and retractions on the air ^{in my} ~~many~~ times, but tonight I've got to make the most mortifying explanation of all. It's bad enough to go wrong on a fact or make a sour guess, but the worst of all is -- when you tell an anecdote and fail to get the point across, and ^{then} ~~you~~ have to explain what the joke was.

I've been getting a stream of protests from the ^{— mostly from the ladies —} radio audience ~~all~~ because of a Calvin Coolidge story I told. For example Mrs. John M. Inman of Concord, New Hampshire writes. "I don't believe ~~it~~ there was a word of truth in that sarsaparilla story. It didn't seem just respectful to our former President." ~~xxxx~~ Miss Margaret B. Kelly of Belle Harbor, Long Island says: "It was cheap", and ~~she capitalizes and underscores the word cheap.~~ Mrs. Caroline Tomlinson of Boston, chides me severely. "That wasn't news", she writes, "that was mental smallness on your ~~party~~ part."

[even in poetry]
 I'm scolded by Mrs. Nina Judd of Waterbury,

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 Connecticut. She versifies as follows:

Believe not each accusing tongue
As some weak people do
But still believe that story wrong
Which out not to be true.

Well, it's all because I didn't put across the point of the story. I told an anecdote I had heard of how President Coolidge in his Massachusetts home town invited a party of newspapermen for a drink, and ordered sasparilla -- all around. When each had had his bottle of sasparilla, President Coolidge reached into his pocket brought out a nickel and paid for his own.

Now that does sound like a jibe at the Coolidge economical habits. What I failed to make clear was -- that it was just a joke Calvin Coolidge was playing on the newspapermen. Just a bit of the sly, dry Coolidge Humor. Just a josh. And a story Mr. Coolidge loved to tell.

So I don't deserve to be scolded for being disrespectful to the memory of an honored President. I deserve worse than that - a thorough balling out for telling an anecdote and failing to ^{make} ~~make~~ the point and that I'd better mention this because I'm bound for Mr. Coolidge's home state tonight - bound for Vermont - and So LONG until MONDAY.