

L.J. - Sunoco Thurs., Jan. 11, 1940.

FINLAND

The story that Stalin is going to bring to trial a lot of high officers of the Red Army for their failure in Finland is typical of the Communist Utopia. Perhaps it's the more plausible because of the Moscow announcement that Commissar Kaganovich, head of aviation production, has been dismissed from his post. Not surprising, perhaps, for the Red air force has not shown up any too brilliantly in Finland. But, on the other hand, this ~~EEKKKA~~ Kaganovich is a brother of one of Stalin's closest colleagues. Both of the Brothers Kaganovich, in fact, have been considered top men in the Stalin group, which controls immense Soviet Russia.

~~The report that Red army commanders are to face trial because they lost battles ties in with the Soviet habit of attributing failure to counter-revolutionary plots and the Trotskyites. The Red army is permeated with political ideas like that, as personified by political commissars who represent the cause of Communism in every Red army unit.~~

~~A curious instance of this is found in stories that~~
~~are come~~ From Finland today, ^{come} stories showing how the Red regime tries to build up the ^{political} commissars with the Soviet troops. On the

body of one soldier was found a proclamation ^{using} ~~incorporating the~~
~~glory of the political commissars.~~ The proclamation uses
these words:- "Commissars are responsible for the fighting power
and lives of the soldiers," ^{It adds:-} ~~It relates~~ "The death of a commissar
is a heavy blow to soldiers." And, ~~it adds~~ "Commissars are the
fathers and souls of the troops."

~~The~~ Commissar^s, as one might say in Americanese, ~~are~~
"some potato!" ^{ed} However, the Finns ^{produced} ~~brought~~ a notebook found on the
[^] body of a commissar, with a list of the names of soldiers ~~whom~~
~~the commissar~~ suspected of discontent. They had complained about
the food, some so disgusted ^{with} ~~that~~ the Red army rations that they
^{^ ^ ^} had thrown the Soviet chow on the ground. Others were marked down
as having stirred up trouble. The commissar had them on his list.

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^{And,} Here's a characteristic note from Helsinki. The
Finnish government today told the public to stop using white cloth
for any purpose. The reason - the army needs all the white cloth
it can get for those disguises the Finnish soldiers use in fighting
on the snow - the white costumes that make them almost invisible
against the snow.

AIR WAR

The war in the air is showing new activity, though here we encounter something of a paradox. Last night I told how British warplanes had flown to the German coast. I added, that there had been no bombing, just a reconnaissance flight - as reported by London. So I was a bit astonished by headlines this morning, which told that it had been an affair of violent air fighting and thundering bombs. This news came from Denmark, points near the German sea bases. The stories were positive and circumstantial. They told how long the sky fighting yesterday had lasted - all day. And they described in what fashion the German air bases had been hit by bombs - one high explosive missile had damaged a strategic dam, on top of which is an important section of military highway. To all of this London ^{continued to reply} ~~replied~~ insistently - No. The British Admiralty stated that its planes yesterday had conducted nothing more than a reconnaissance flight, that it was all over by ten o'clock in the morning, there had been no all-day air battle as reported. And further - no bombing at all.

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It is significant of this strange war that the echo should be repeated today - no bombing. German air squadrons made

extensive flights to Britain all day long, flights ~~extending~~
from northern Scotland to southern England. ~~Flights of~~ British
fighting planes met them, fought them, and drove them off -
a series of wild battles in the air. The Nazi planes made some
machine-gun attacks on ships near the coast, but the British
communique insists - they did no bombing.

There's irony in today's news of Nazi merchant ships
trying to evade the British navy. From South Africa the familiar
story - a German merchant vessel was scuttled by its crew, when
it was spotted by a British warship. But the irony comes from
the far north - off Iceland. A nazi steamer tried to make its
way back to Germany via northern waters. It ~~was~~^{is} reported sunk.
No, not sunk by a British warship or even by its own crew.
It hit an iceberg - the old tragic theme of the North Atlantic.

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NAVY

Admiral Stark, Chief of United States Naval Operations, today raised the possibility that the Allies might be defeated. He didn't predict this, he said the United States must be prepared to face that possible eventuality. The Admiral, testifying before the Naval Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, continued his argument for increasing the strenght of the Navy - as provided in the budget the President sent to Congress. The budget calls for a twenty-five per cent increase in naval strength. The Admiral said that even this was not quite enough. But most of all he stressed the idea of - build now. A mere program ^{want do--} ~~is not enough~~ - start building ships, say it with steel! Admiral Stark put it this way; ^{he} said he doesn't want - "a paper navy." ~~That's the Admiral's~~ ^{is} ~~urgency, he mentioned the~~ Then to explain the urgency, he mentioned the Allies. "The United States," said he, "must face the possibility of an Allied defeat and measure the strength of a potential enemy." ^{-- so thinks the United States} We must consider even the remotest possibility - ~~that's the Admiral's~~ [^] ~~idea~~ chief of Naval Operations.

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SURTAX

The President is said to be in favor of a surtax to pay new costs of national defense - a surtax on income taxes, is the idea. The White House wants Congress to provide some way of raising hundreds of millions of dollars to pay for more ships and guns. The President thinks that Congress ought to figure out the way, but he let's it be known that a surtax of ten per cent might not be a bad idea. It would work this way - everybody would add ten per cent to his income tax. If your tax came to a hundred dollars, you would send the government a hundred and ten. Or if you'd ~~annually~~ normally pay a thousand, you'd have to raise it to eleven hundred. There's some notion that such a new surtax might be made retroactive - cover taxes on incomes earned in Nineteen Thirty-Nine, as well as those of the coming year.

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Some tax experts in Washington are pointing out that if a ten per cent surtax were levied in the highest brackets, the ~~present~~ taxpayer would be left with virtually no income at all. Take some multimillionaires who pay as high as seventy-nine per cent in income taxes. Adding ten per cent to that would take about half of the income which the regular tax would leave, ~~them~~.

HULL

Secretary of State Cordell Hull today opened the fight to preserve his dream of a lifetime - the policy of reciprocal trade treaties. He was the first witness before a congressional committee that is considering the trade treaties and the effect they've had. Secretary Hull took a high international tone, saying ~~that~~ the commercial pacts that he has been negotiating are good for the nation and good for the world. He said that the nations of this earth face new anarchy unless commercial channels are opened more and more - a way toward peace.

Secretary Hull's trade treaty position was immediately attacked by the Republican members of the committee. Their chief spokesman today was Representative Knudsen of Minnesota. He challenged the ~~Cordell~~ Hull statement that the program of commercial agreements was an aid to world peace, and the Minnesota Congressman proceeded to recite a list of ^{the} wars that have begun since the United States policy of reciprocal trade treaties has been in effect.

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MINE

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

No definite news about the eighty-seven men entombed by a coal mine explosion ^{at Bartley} ~~in~~ West Virginia. All day long rescue parties labored to get to the remote depth where the miners were working when the explosion occurred. Several bodies ^(have) ~~had~~ been recovered, and there's only the smallest hope for the others, - the eighty-seven still to be accounted for. The cause of the disaster is a mystery. All that is known is the old dark story - there was an explosion in the coal mine.

FRENCH PRISION

From France today comes a story of two bright boys, ~~two small sons of a guard in a prison at Marseilles. The two,~~ ^{who} ~~lovely lads~~ foiled an underworld plot ^{for} ~~to bring about~~ the escape of France's Public Enemy Number One. He's a bandit ^a ~~apche~~, called by the benign name of - "Angel Face." Diabolical Angel Face was the leader of a ~~gang~~ gang that committed a notorious crime two years ago. They robbed the special gold-train, ~~specially~~ ~~guarded train~~ carrying a treasure of government gold, ~~was held up~~ ~~as it passed through a suburb of Marseilles, and the bandits got~~ away with a fortune of loot. ~~That exploit earned for their~~ ~~leader, the rating of~~ Angel Face, French Public Enemy Number One, ~~he~~ was captured, and recently his angelic visage has been an ornament to a prison at Marseilles. His pals have been scheming to get him out, and that led to today's episode of the two bright boys.

~~The pair of small~~ ^{they} Sons of a prison guard [^] were strolling along the street outside the jail, when they saw an automobile draw up. A couple of men in it, ~~he~~ paying no attention to the lads, hauled out a ladder and set it up against the prison wall. When they threw a rope over the wall, ~~The~~ two boys gazed and understood -

an escape. They were bright enough to know what to do - but they couldn't do it. They trotted along looking for a prison guard to warn, but couldn't find one. That left them in a dilemma. They could see that in a minute the escape would be made.

They were smart kids all right, and one shouted, as if to the other:- "Here come the gendarmes!" And the other replied:- "Oui, Oui, the gendarmes." The two men with the ladder ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ heard what appeared to be the random shouts of children, and thought the gendarmes were indeed coming. Abandoning the rope and ladder they jumped into their automobile and went speeding away. *Leaving* ~~That~~ Angel Face in the lurch. *Up there* ~~He was~~ trying to get over the wall by means of rope and ladder, when he was caught.

TREASURE

~~Of late~~ We've been hearing of ^{that} a new attempt to find the fabled treasure of Cocos Island - called "The Loot of Lima;"

The news ~~told~~ of a sailing ship expedition that went to the remote island in the Pacific, ^{isle} and later a rather cryptic message was ~~was~~ flashed by wireless - ^{ed:-r} ~~the~~ treasure discovered, at least part of it.

~~Still later we heard that the treasure-seeking schooner, the SPINDRIFT, was missing - it set sail from Cocos Island to get more supplies, and was overdue.~~

~~Now the word is that the treasure-hunting ship has put in port at Costa Rica, and we get some more word about the discovery of the treasure, an elucidation of the brief message that flashed the word. It sounds rather typical of the treasure-hunting state of mind.~~

Today One of the seekers of the "Loot of Lima" explains it this way:- ~~The story tells how~~ centuries ago treasure from the Cathedral of Lima was being transported on a ship, when the crew turned pirate, seized the treasure and buried it on Cocos Island. The ancient tale records that the loot was buried in a cedar chest. Today's ~~the~~ ^{story} ~~treasure-seekers remind us of~~ ^{refers to} the cedar chest angle and continues with these words:- "In our excavation we have brought to light

pieces of cedar foreign to the island. This convinces me that we have located the spot, as indicated in maps and papers."

So the flashing word of the discovery of the "Loot of Lima" boils down to this - they have found ^{some} pieces of cedar, ^{but not} ~~foreign to~~ *the treasure.*
~~Goose Island, which presumably are fragments of the cedar chest in which the church treasure was buried. All of which may mean something, or maybe not.~~

LIQUOR

At Greenburgh, New York -- James Edward Williams was a black man and a large man, a negro tall, broad shouldered and brawny.

And, James Edward Williams was a man with a thirst, a man of capacity, who took his drinks and plenty of them. Today he was on trial in New York for illegal manufacture of liquor. He operated an illicit still that turned out ^{vast quantities} ~~thousands of gallons~~ of fire water.

And This was his defense:-- he did ^{not} make the ~~lotch~~ commercially to sell it. That would be against the law. He was manufacturing those hundreds of gallons of whiskey just for his own consumption. That's the argument the attorney for the defense had to make. The judge exclaimed in amazement: "A hundred-gallon still for his own use?"

The prosecuting attorney added, "And there were sixteen hundred gallons of mash up there?"

The attorney for the defense looked blank for a minute then conferred briefly with James Edward Williams. And came up with this reply: "Well, that's not much."

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"And this is not much," said the judge as he sentenced James Edward Williams; ~~to~~ "six months in jail!"

WOMEN

We have a scientific analysis today which shows that women don't weigh as much as they used to - as if we needed science to tell us that, the way the ladies go dieting these days. The "Journal of the American Medical Association" states that a ~~the~~ survey reveals that the average woman of today is from three to five pounds lighter than she was seventeen years ago. And that affects women of all ages from co-ed to grandma, three to five pounds lighter.

Most of us won't have any difficulty in guessing the reason why, the slenderizing fad being what it is, ~~But~~ leave it to science to make the explanation ponderous. The "Journal of ~~the~~ American Medical Association" puts it in these words:- "A gradual change from the emphasis^a on quantitative caloric needs to the present consideration of qualitative needs."

That's the doctors' way of saying - ~~they diet~~ ^{why the little}
~~reduced~~ woman is littler. Just reducing.

CONGRESSMEN'S WIVES

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In Washington today a class in public speaking was begun for Congressmen's wives. It is customary for a legislator's lady to pitch in politically, and help hubby ~~to~~ get reelected. For the past several years wives of Congressmen have been taking this course of study, the art of making political speeches - and getting votes. This being election year, the class opened in a big way - three hundred and fifty Congressional spouses there as pupils. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt was in attendance. The First Lady is quite a publicist in her own right, and she offered the class some sound advice about election oratory.

The teacher, Mrs. Hugh Butler, expounded today's first lesson, and began with the subject of hats. She told the congressional wives - "When you take the stump, don't wear one of those freak new hats." She described some of those latest fashions in headwear as looking like - a streamlined egg-beater. She reminded them of the importance of the farm vote and said the farmers don't like the weird ^{slant} ~~shape~~ of those cockeyed bonnets. Hiram and Cy prefer the wife to use the egg-beater in the kitchen instead of wearing it on her head.

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Today's political lesson in forensic elocution continues on the subject of clothes:- "When making an electioneering speech, don't wear brilliantly colored gowns," so teacher told the congressional ladies. ^{Don't blind your audience.} When clothes are too loud they distract

attention- take the mind off the political wisdom. "Don't wear short skirts," she warned. ^{Don't blind the audience. Don't take} ~~They distract the attention of the men~~ ^{the men attention} ~~to the audience, and take their minds~~ off the political wisdom.

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The instruction in the art of Ciceronian eloquence includes another fine point. Teacher told the class:- "Don't let it be said back home about the wife of Congressman So-and-So that her slip shows." ~~No, that might be fatal - some great lawmakers might fail to be reelected because his wife's slip hung down too~~ ~~and~~ ^{that might} ~~would~~ be a fatal slip, not of speech - but of the petticoat.

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It all sounds funny, especially this:- The wives of Congress were solemnly warned - "Don't try to be funny, don't tell jokes." Women, said teacher, lack the sense of humor that men have. She ~~she~~ added darkly, "They ~~do~~ usually can't see the point of the joke themselves."

~~It isn't difficult to vision a possible tragedy.~~

~~Congressman Smith's wife making a stump speech to farmers, and she~~

Q freaks new hat, her
~~wears a freak new hat. Her~~ clothes ~~are~~ too loud, her skirts

too short, her slip showing, and she tries to tell a joke.

P.S. Congressman Smith ~~was not reflected~~ *snowed under.*

59 1/4 Another P.S. :- Here's Hugh.