

GERMANY

C.H. - Lumsco. Monday, March 18/55.

Current
7/18/55

46

Every day I'm up against the question of - American news versus foreign news. It's so often a problem - which is the more interesting, an item from abroad or another item concerning matters here at home. Things abroad commonly sound more odd and curious, bizarre and colorful. Of course American news is so much closer to us all. But I don't have to depend on my own judgment ~~for that~~ ^{entirely.}

The radio audience tells me plenty - letters from some saying, "Let's have more news from other lands, other continents." While, still more letters say, "We're not interested in things so far away. Give ^{TP} us more American news." So it's frequently a dilemma. Which is the more important and, - what kind of news item is best to lead off with - domestic or foreign?

Tonight is a big exception. There is no doubt about the most significant news of the day. So, let's begin with Washington, tidings from the national capital. Today Secretary of State Cordell Hull, called to his office Norman Davis, America's Ambassador at Large ^{and} expert on foreign affairs, ~~who~~ ^{he} is in Washington just now. The Secretary of State and Ambassador at Large held a conference. And this was in preparation for a trip to the White House to talk

47
things over with President Roosevelt. What's the subject of this activity in Washington? I don't have to tell you. It all merely goes to show that the weekend announcement of ^{the re-arming of} ~~the army in~~ Germany is not domestic news or foreign news. It's world news. ^H Uncle Sam is keeping in the closest touch with the diplomatic goings-on in Europe. American diplomatic representatives abroad are keeping their eyes and ears open and are in constant touch with Washington. Of course there's nothing much for Uncle Sam to do. He hasn't any great direct interest in that dynamite action of the Berlin government. ^H The immense legalistic point in Hitler's decision to rearm Germany at once, is that it is an open and defiant violation of the Versailles Treaty. ^H But, the United States didn't sign the Versailles Treaty. We ~~renounced~~ renounced it because of the League of Nations angle and made our own separate peace with the German government. So Americans merely want to keep thoroughly aware of what's going on.

48
The great capital city which was the center of action ~~was~~ today is London. The British government is taking the lead in dealing with the startling new transformation ^{of} international affairs. This is natural, since John Bull for some weeks now has

been negotiating with Germany, more or less as the spokesman of the other Great Powers. So now ~~is~~ that Hitler is openly reestablishing the Germany army, and chucking the Versailles Treaty into a wastebasket, it's London that makes the first diplomatic move. Great Britain has spoken to Berlin - and Berlin has promptly replied.

The contents of the British note are secret. But it's known that the protest against Germany's action was spoken in forceful terms. There's nothing that England could really say, except something like this: "We ^{should} like to remind Germany that she has no legal right to rearm. It's violating the Treaties. It may ~~show~~ the European situation sky-high. So we protest."

Germany's reply is interesting. It was made today immediately upon receipt of the British diplomatic ^{note.} ~~protest~~. The gist of the reply is that, having taken this ~~xx~~ decisive treaty-violating-rearmament-action, Germany is still willing to discuss the armament situation with England - as originally planned. This refers to the scheduled conferences to be ~~xx~~ held in Berlin by the heads of the Nazi government with British Foreign Secretary, Sir John Simon. And England is accepting that Germany reply, at least to this extent. ~~Because~~ The latest word is that Sir John ~~Simon~~

49

is going to Berlin precisely as scheduled. He will leave London for the German capital on Sunday, with Captain Anthony Eden, the Lord Privy Seal.

The whole course of action is tremendously interesting. And one inevitable question is suggested - Germany's actions are bold to the limit, but how smart are they? It may be a masterpiece of strategy and timing. It certainly is a startling manoeuvre. Just look at the sequence of events: It all begins with that proposed air-power-treaty of some weeks ago, according to which, by inference and in a roundabout way, Germany would be granted the principle of armament equality in the air, and would be allowed to have a fleet of war planes. This led to the plan for a visit by British Foreign Secretary, Sir John Simon to Berlin to talk the matter over with the Nazi chief. A visit, delayed by the way, for various reasons. Then with that diplomatic mission on schedule and waiting to take place, the German government first announced that it actually already had an airforce, a powerful fleet of war planes, created on the sly. And on top of that, with Sir John Simon's visit still pending, Hitler has ordered the complete

rearming of Germany. ^H ~~And~~ after these dizzy transformations - Sir John Simon ^{decides to go} ~~is going~~ on his diplomatic mission ^{anyhow} ~~to Berlin~~. It looks as if the German government had taken advantage of the armament concession offered by that proposed air power treaty as a signal to go ahead and grab the whole hog - and they timed it in such a fashion that the British Foreign Secretary, when he arrives in Berlin for the conferences, will find the world confronted with that old diplomatic point of logic - the fait accompli, the accomplished fact.

Yes, London is in the foreground, but Paris has even more at stake. But all that Paris can do is ~~to~~ rage and roar. French newspapers today were ablaze with wrath and indignation. And no wonder! That Versailles Treaty, on which the French had based their policy of security and power, has been publicly ripped to shreds in Berlin. But ~~the~~ French government is restraining itself. France does not want war. French diplomacy is trying to steer an even course between the dangers of force on one side and ^{of} weakness on the other. Former Premier Herriot explained it this way today: "We must be neither provocative nor negligent", said he.

And then there's Rome, where Mussolini seems to be placed once more in a strategic position, to swing one way or the other.

The Eternal City right now is balmy with springtime. But the words that come from the direction of the Seven Hills are frigid and icy with realism. Italian comment is phrased this way:-

There are two things which the former Allied Powers can do in the present crisis. Firstly, they can protest to Berlin. Secondly, they can appeal to the League of Nations. Neither one or the other will make the slightest difference, says Rome.

And that cool cynicism will find echoes all over the world. There doesn't seem to be anything that England, France and Italy can do about it. They don't want war. So it looks as if the situation will be met by new diplomatic agreements, a new international lineup, based on the plain fact and reality of a rearmed Germany, a Germany with a full quota of regiments, cannon, warships and fighting planes.

But the question is, with Germany tearing up the Peace Treaty, will the other defeated nations of the World War do the same. There have been conflicting reports about Austria. But it's fairly certain Vienna won't help Hitler. And how about Bulgaria? As for Turkey I guess Mustapha Kemal tore up the peace treaties a long time ago.

Nobody wants war, but Germany's revolutionary and audacious move creates so many new twists and angles, that anything is possible

- - -

A hint of the international tension was seen in a soccer game in Paris. Sixty thousand football fans crowded the French Stadium to watch a French team and a German team kick the football. The Germans won the game. They were hissed and booed. French soldiers and police had to be stationed all around the arena to

keep the French spectators ^{from mobbing the German} ~~to check and avoid a general fracas~~ football players.

The international situation maybe a little ~~ing~~ larger in scope, but it isn't popping half so violently as things out in Ohio. The latest report is that Federal Relief Administrator Harry Hopkins has ^{now} sent an affidavit to the Attorney-General of Ohio, and to the Federal prosecutors at Columbus and Toledo. These affidavits are in support of his blistering charges against Governor ~~Martian~~ ^a Martin L. Davey. ~~The~~ ^{is} The Attorney-General to whom the documents of prosecution have been sent is a Republican. ~~The~~ Governor is a Democrat. So that gives us the interesting political complication of ^a Democratic Administrator ^{is} asking a Republican Attorney-General to prosecute a Democratic Governor.

Meanwhile Governor Davey is ~~xxxx~~ burning up the wires with denunciations of the Federal Relief Administrator. He has entered suit in the Ohio courts, sworn out a warrant, charging Harry Hopkins with criminal libel, and daring him to face the libel prosecution. Since Relief Administrator ~~is~~ Hopkins cannot be extradited from Washington to Ohio to face the criminal ~~libel~~ libel charges, Governor Davey is challenging him to go ^{to Ohio of} ~~out of~~ his own volition and face the ~~xxxx~~ accusations in court.

It all began over the week-end when Relief Administrator Hopkins presented charges before President Roosevelt, ~~and made those charges public~~ -- that a political shake-down was going on in Ohio in the handling of Federal Relief funds. He declared that the shake-down was taking place in connection with the purchase of food stuffs for the unemployed needy. He explained that the Ohio Relief Committees in placing orders with food stuff firms were asking those firms to kick in with political ~~funds~~ ~~with political~~ contributions -- that is, contributions to pay off the campaign debt incurred in the ~~1936~~ election of Governor Davey ~~ix~~ last November. That's the shake-down charge which Relief Administrator Hopkins laid before the President -- that firms selling food stuffs to the Ohio Relief organization were having to contribute to the Governor's political ^{kit} ~~funds~~.

55
Mr. Roosevelt immediately ordered the Relief Administrator to take control of the relief funds ^{away from} ~~out of the hands of~~ the Ohio organization and handle them himself. And the President further directed him to send his accusations to the proper authorities in Ohio to start prosecution, and let the chips fall where they may.

This led to immediate moves in Ohio on the part of the legislature and the Attorney-General -- ~~the~~ proposal^s for an investigation and the possible impeachment of the Governor.

Governor Davey, before his rise to eminence in politics, enjoyed ~~considerable~~^{wide} fame as a tree surgeon. He was once a typewriter salesman and later entered his father's tree surgery business. His political career is a long one. He became Mayor of Kent, Ohio, served nine years in the Ohio legislature, ran for governor six years ago, but was beaten in the Hoover landslide. Last November he ran again and won.-- ^{that was} in the campaign, the political funds of which have now led to all the rumpus.

BUSINESS

56
Months ago Secretary Roper of the Department of Commerce appointed a Business Advisory and Planning Council, to study the industrial condition of the country. The group was made up of business men, representatives of the various industries. They went ahead and made an extensive survey, a survey which they now have turned in. It was made public today. The Council's finding is that business is now about thirty per cent above the low records established by the depression. Even our foreign trade is on the upgrade - with an increase of twenty-seven per cent.

Wages have risen, with still larger percentage figures. There's a general increase of sixty per cent in the money paid to workers. The Council believes that the increase is not enough, because the rise in profits and dividends is marked down as a figure all out of proportion, a jump of a hundred and fifty per cent.

It's all a bit of significant arithmetic, cool figures telling that the trend of business is up, climbing.

MDIVANI

57

Sometimes words have similarities of sound. Take that lovely expression - romance. Now all you have to do is substitute the first three letters. For r put f, for o put i, and for m put n, and romance becomes finance. Yes, those two words do have an alphabetic relation. The question is - do they have any relation of meaning? I'm afraid they do - especially when Forty-two million dollars of finance are mixed in with ~~the~~ romance. So it isn't at all astonishing that ~~the~~ news of the world today should concern itself with money matters in the case of Princess Barbara Hutton Mdivani. Yes, the Woolworth heiress is terminating that celebrated romance with a divorce. She announces that there ~~isn't~~ is no hard-feeling between her and her Prince. He's perfectly sweet and charming. They didn't have any rumpus. They just can't get along. So she's going to Reno.

The Princess of the Five and Ten herself sounds the theme of nickels and dimes when she declares that she will not settle any money on the Prince. She explains that he has financial resources, property in Spain and in other parts of Europe, and interests in the United States. He even has a job, which is most

surprising of all. He has a job with the Georgian Legation in Paris. Just what that Georgian Legation is, might be difficult to figure out. There is one Georgia way down south in Dixie, but that of course isn't the one. Prince Mdivani is from that other Georgia, in the Caucasus Mountains of Russia. And, it's now governed by the Bolsheviks. We hadn't heard lately that the Red Communists were sending noble princes to the European capitals as their diplomatic representatives.

However, that may be, the Woolworth Princess declares that the Prince is on his own. Some people might remark that his own used to be her own - that if he has any money, he got it from his bride. In fact, the reports are that at the time of the marriage, the bride's father settled a million on the groom, and also an income of fifty thousand a year. This does not include such chicken feed as a yacht, a string of polo ponies, and a set of shirt studs of great gleaming pearls, which the bride herself showered on her groom. And there's no need of mentioning those poems she wrote to him, passionate lyrics that have been set to music and soon are supposed to be sung in concert by the still more impassioned Lawrence Tibbet, I don't suppose Prince Alexis

Mdivani would consider pages of verse in the category of cash assets.

But, anyway, the Prince is now on his own. I suppose any man likes to be on his own. I know I like to be on my own radio time, but I'll be on Jimmy Wallington's, unless I hurry up and say,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.