

ROOSEVELT

P.J. - Sunoco. Now., June 20, 1938.

President Roosevelt allowed himself a little vacation today at his Hyde Park home. ^{But not} ~~It isn't~~ what most people would call a day of rest, ~~though the President didn't do much more than six or seven hours work.~~ ^{The President} He left his yacht, the POTOMAC, at a wharf in Poughkeepsie, ~~New York~~, about ten o'clock, went to Hyde Park, and there found the desk piled high with papers. Most of them, ~~were~~ bills. No, I don't mean the kind of bills that worry you and me ^{— particularly me.} These were bills passed by Congress, which the President has to consider and sign or not, as the case may be. (He's going back to Washington Wednesday or Thursday but he'll be back at Poughkeepsie next Monday in time to see the rowing event of the year, the Poughkeepsie Regatta.)

Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt have now ~~XXXXXXXX~~ successfully married off all their children. ^{Which} ~~He~~ recalls a phrase from Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of ~~RENNER~~ Penzance." Do you remember how the Major General, with a flock of daughters, all of whom were beauties, got rid of them all just before the final curtain? As the Major General ^{himself sang it goes} ~~sang it himself~~ ^{thusly:-}

"For my military knowledge

Though both plucky and adventury

Has only been brought down to the beginning of the
century,

Still in getting off my daughters

Eight or nine or ten or all

I am the very model of a modern Major General."

ROW

While the President was at Hyde Park, there was an explosion in the midst of his official family at Washington. ^{not} It isn't a loud explosion, ~~so far,~~ but it may develop. On the one side is the Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau, on the other, Chairman Marriner Eccles of the Federal Reserve Board. ~~Mr.~~ Eccles thinks the laws passed within the last few years have tied the hands of bankers and that this is exaggerating the depression. He thinks bankers should be given a freer hand in making loans. Secretary Morgenthau disagrees violently. Today he issued an ultimatum. The chiefs of the fiscal agencies of the New Deal must agree on a policy, he says, a policy to make the examination of banks simple but strict. If they can't agree by midnight on Wednesday, he will take it up with the big boss himself, make them explain themselves at the White House.

HULL

It's a far cry to the presidential elections in Nineteen
Forty, but the campaign has begun. It has started with a boom
for the Honorable Cordell Hull, Secretary of State. It was no

organized affair, just a piece of private ballyhoo. ~~But~~ The

Champion of Mr. Hull

~~proposal~~ is an important member of the Democratic Party,

chairman of the House com. on

Representative Sam McReynolds of Tennessee, Said he: "Every

member of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation is for Hull."

And he added: "I am sure if he will permit us to use his name

he will be endorsed by the state convention."

~~Mr. McReynolds is Chairman of the House Committee on~~

~~Foreign Affairs.~~

Foreign Affairs.

EARLE

The war among the Pennsylvania Democrats continued merrily today. The greatest battle was fought in the Supreme Court of ~~the Keystone~~ ^{the Keystone} state. You may recall that the enemies of Governor Earle had ~~xxx~~ set ~~on~~ ^a foot a grand jury investigation in Daughin County, meaning Harrisburg. The Pennsylvania governor took himself to the ~~Supreme~~ Court, and asked for a writ of prohibition. In other words, "Don't let this investigation be started, it's only a political move to damage me in my campaign for senator." ~~You will recall, of course, that Governor Earle won the Democratic nomination in the primary a few weeks ago.~~

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ^{today} turned thumbs down on Mr. Earle. Said the judge: "The court is impressed with the sincerity of the Governor's statement denying all the charges against him. But the Court of Quarter Sessions is the only tribunal under the Constitution that can properly dispose of these issues of fact."

In other words, the Grand Jury ~~investigation~~ will ~~next~~ proceed investigating ^{the} charges that Pennsylvania's governor and some of his official administration were guilty of graft and bribery.

BUSINESS

The Department of Commerce issued a warning to business men, especially exporters. This is the warning: "Before you ship anything to Japan get a confirmed letter of credit, a confirmed and irrevocable letter of credit." In other words, take no chances.

Then the Department goes on to explain: "Exchange restrictions in Japan are being enforced with increasing severity. Therefore it is believed that such ^{an} ~~confirmed~~ irrevocable letter-of-credit offers the American exporter the most satisfactory assurance that payment will be duly forthcoming."

~~Some American firms have suffered~~ The Department hints that some ~~American~~ exporters have suffered because Japanese importers have no means of telling in advance whether or not their applications for exchange permits will be granted.

SPY

(The story of the German spy ring in New York became ~~the story~~ ^{a headline} today. For several weeks a federal grand jury has been hearing evidence. And now it has handed down indictments. Eighteen people were accused of espionage, stealing secrets of Uncle Sam's military establishment. Some of the names ^{mentioned in the trial} were not made public. But it's an open secret that they are important officials in the German Hitlerite regime, ^{and they are in Berlin, Aus} ~~They, of course, will never come to trial. The~~ indictments against them are merely ^s a matter of form.) ~~Uncle Sam can't demand the extradition of a German accused of espionage any more than Hitler can demand the extradition of an American accused of acquiring Germany's military secrets.~~ Two German officers, however, were mentioned by name. ~~They are~~ Both lieutenant commanders in the German Navy, employed in the counter-espionage department of the Defense Ministry of the ^{Third} ~~German~~ Reich.

(All this is a development out of the story of Dr. Ignatz Griebel, the German who became a naturalized American citizen, then fled to Berlin as soon as he was tipped off ~~with~~ that ^{an} ~~the~~ investigation had started.)

Another man accused used to be employed by the Seversky

Aircraft Company. The specific charge is that this gang, which is supposed to include two women, stole plans of airplanes that were being manufactured for our military establishment.

JEWS

The anti-Jewish movement in Germany took a new slant today. The Hitler government issued a decree forbidding all Jewish people to trade on the stock exchanges and official markets of the Reich. However, it is announced that Jewish business houses may be represented on the stock exchanges by so-called Aryan agents.

ITALY

Curious moves were made today on the international chessboard in Europe. ~~As you doubtless know, Duce~~ ^{has been} Mussolini ~~is~~ impatient to have his peace agreement with John Bull consummated. And ~~of course~~ one string to that agreement was a quick finish of the civil war in Spain. ~~So one~~ ^{Here is the} curious move on the chessboard today; ~~is~~ an announcement from Rome:—Mussolini is about to urge ~~General~~ Franco to ~~agree~~ to an armistice. ~~and~~ That's the report, ^{but} ~~from the city on the seven hills.~~ It isn't official. Probably ~~it's in the~~ nature of what is known as a trial balloon. ^{But} ~~It's~~ backed up by the fact that there have been many long conferences between Mussolini's son-in-law, Foreign Minister Count Ciano, and Lord Perth, the British Ambassador.

Now comes ^{word} ~~a report~~ from Paris, ~~which seems entirely~~ ~~contradictory.~~ The French government announces that the Spanish frontier is to be closed. We've heard that before. But there's reason to believe that this time it's the real thing. Everybody knows that the Spanish government has only been able to resist Franco's armies, plus Mussolini's and Hitler's, by dint of aid from France and Russia. And the grapevine telegraph has been

52

informing us for days that British Premier Chamberlain was about to put the screws on Paris and urge them to close that frontier.

So the inference is that the story from Rome is what the chessboard sparks call a gambit, and that the story from Rome is the real move by which the master players expect to make the checkmate.

SPAIN - Follow Italy

And today the fortunes of the Spanish Government armies seem to be in a bad way. To defend Valencia and Sagundo the government General Miaja has been using his best troops. Some of them he's had to withdraw from the West. The Rebels took quick advantage of that. General ~~Quirce~~ ^{Dellano}, the so-called radio general has started a vehement attack upon the Government forces near the Portuguese frontier. Meanwhile, on the Mediterranean front, ~~two~~ two of Franco's armies are closing in like nutcrackers upon Sagundo, one of the most important seaports still left in Government hands.

CHINA

Today's news from China starts off with an execution. A general, commander of the Eighty-eighth Division, was ~~lined up~~ ^{stood} against ^a ~~the~~ wall and shot. Chinese headquarters announced that he was punished for disobeying orders.

That Eighty-eighth Division, of which the ~~Chinese~~ ^{executed} Chinese general was commander, is described as the best of Chiang Kai-shek's troops. ^{His doom} ~~The execution of its commander~~ is interpreted as a symbol. It means still more stern and obdurate resistance of the Chinese armies to the Japanese invaders. The disobedience of the general who was shot is supposed to have been responsible for the capture ^{of the city} of Lanfeng, a couple of weeks ago.

The Chinese ^{today} massed their forces to take full advantage of those disastrous floods of the Yellow River. They concentrated large numbers of troops into the Yangste valley, below Hankow.

But the Japanese ^{now} have two hundred warships and transports along the Yangste. And three hundred Nipponese planes ^{have} sallied forth with bombs and machine guns ^{to rake & blast} ~~the~~ the Chinese armies.

The floods on the Yellow River in the north have done their worst, it is believed. But now ~~waters~~ the waters of the

Yangste are swollen. Thousands of Chinese coolies are working with shovels and sandbags, bolstering the levees. The Yangste is seven and a half feet above its usual level.

RIOT

24
There was a riot in Vancouver, ^{B. C.} ~~British Columbia~~, today,
a riot so serious that it was only stopped by the Royal Canadian
Mounted Police. A number of jobless ~~men~~ had been living for
more than a month at the Dominion post office, ^{and in} ~~also~~ the Vancouver
city museum. Yesterday afternoon the police evicted them. The
jobless men organized, returned to the battle, armed with clubs
and stones. There was a hand-to-hand fight, fifty people injured,
some public buildings considerably damaged. The riot ended when
a delegation of a hundred of these unemployed men walked through
lines of police and boarded a boat for ^{the city of} Victoria. There they ^{will}
tell their troubles to the provincial parliament, ~~in British Columbia~~.

TRAIN WRECK

That train wreck in Montana was even worse than first reports indicated. Wrecking crews of the Milwaukee road were working strenuously all day in the flood waters of Custer Creek. Trying to lift the tangle of wreckage of the OLYMPIAN, the Milwaukee's crack train which plunged into the flooded stream. Officials of the road admit that they can't say yet how many people were killed in that disaster. The total won't be known until first those five cars are salvaged and raised out of the waters and until a thorough search is made of the creek downstream. However, it seems sadly definite, that this was the worst disaster on an American railroad in perhaps fifty years. The total of the dead may be as high as sixty.

And just last Sunday, at my home in the country, one of the head officials of the line, Major Norman Ryan, told me the Milwaukee hadn't had a fatal accident in twenty years.

FIGHTERS

There's a party on tonight such as only radio can throw, a get-together of all the former heavyweight champions and the present title-holder -- although they are widely scattered over this wide land of our. Jim Jeffries and Tommy Burns in California, Jess Willard down in Oklahoma, Jack Dempsey refereeing a fight in Pennsylvania, Schmeling and Louis in their respective training camps. It takes radio to get their voices all together in one program, and N.B.C. is doing it tonight.

here at Rockefeller center

56

All these championship personalities will reminisce and tell about their fighting days. But there's one story that, I'll bet, won't be told. No, Gene Tunney won't mention it -- it wouldn't be appropriate. Because it's about music, the lofty art of tone, grand opera.

I heard about it this way. I was at Chris Cella's rendezvous of writing people, where the favorite place to have your dinner is in the kitchen. I overheard two of the Italian cooks talking, and caught a mention of Gene Tunney's name. They were discussing a prize fighter whom Gene knocked out in a tough fight -- a pugilist named Campolo. The cooks were excitedly discussing the operatic triumph that Campolo had just scored at La Scala, the

great opera house in Milan, making his musical debut as the baritone in "Aida."

I thought they were mistaken, were talking about the wrong man, and had their Campolos confused. ~~(They insisted they were right -- and it was a prize fighter who had become a great baritone.)~~

It happened that Gene Tunney was to join me that evening. And ~~he~~ when he arrived I asked him about it. He said, ~~xxxxx~~ oh yes, he knew all about it. He said that Campolo had been a European heavyweight champion, and when he was over here as a fighter, he was always singing. Gene asked him about it, and the big pugilist said -- sure, he was studying for grand opera.

57
"When ^{we} ~~he~~ fought ^{- he and I -} at Madison Square Garden," ~~xxx~~ Gene told me, "that opera singer hit me one of the hardest punches ~~x~~ I ever took. Luckily he was just a wild swinger with a terrific punch, and I was able to keep away from him, wear him down, and knock him out." *So the singer heard the birdies sing - that night.*

"Since then," related the former heavyweight champion of the world, "I've been getting a letter from Campolo every now

now and then, and he's been telling me that his operatic career has been coming along O.K. In the last letter I had from him he ~~had~~ ^{was} said he ~~had been~~ engaged to make his debut at La Scala."

I told Gene what the two cooks told me -- how his former pugilistic antagonist ^{- the guy who socked him so hard -} had made a resounding success in his debut - and Gene was delighted.

ICEBERGS

58
This is the season of the year when officers of the watch on trans-Atlantic steamers have to be more than usually keen.

~~the watch.~~ ~~It's~~ The beginning of the iceberg season. Uncle Sam's Coast Guard Cutter TAHOE put into Halifax, Nova Scotia today.

Her officers reported that there are ~~ice~~bergs on the way down from Greenland. And they make pretty good time, twenty miles a day.

Some of the ^{ice}bergs are so large and dangerous that they have to

be watched every mile of the way. The TAHOE followed one ~~big~~ vast

58 1/2
floating mass of ice for nearly a week. ~~She was then relieved~~ *A chilly sob*
playing hide & seek with an
~~by the PONTCHARTRAIN, which took over the patrol of that iceberg.~~

ice berg in the mist.

NIGHTMARE

Miraculous things are not uncommon in Philadelphia, Blue Sunoco for example. And here's an addition to the list. Last night a young gentleman of the City of Brotherly Love had a nightmare. He was sleeping in a bedroom on the second story. In the throes of his nightmare he jumped out of the window -- and lit on a sloping roof like a ski jumper, making a bad landing -- rolled down, bounced off an awning, and fell to the sidewalk, perfectly uninjured. And still in his nightmare. In that same nightmare he ran five blocks before he woke up -- running in his nightshirt.

*& now Hugh,
what from you.*

59

9/14