

L.T. - Sun, Wednesday, January 17, 1934.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

It looks as though the fuse were burning near that political powder magazine in the Far East again. Rumors of serious trouble came from under the shadows of the Great Wall of China. ~~itself~~. A division of soldiers, ~~composed of~~ ~~ex~~ troops of the Mikado and of the State of Manchukuo, marched without warning into that part of China known as Lungmensu, on the pretext that it was part of Manchukuo. The belief is that this invasion was undertaken on direct orders from Tokio.

Chinese rulers at Nanking filed their usual protests, One of those protests ~~that~~ they've been making steadily for the last three years and with the same invariable result - nothing.

But that isn't the only menace on the further shores of the Pacific. Political wiseacres report that Japan is obviously getting ready for a jump at the Russian Bear. The War Party still has the upper hand in the Mikado's realm. And as usual the militarists are making the appeal to fear. They say that Japan ^{is} in danger of ~~an~~ attack, by Russian airplanes

from Vladivostok at any moment. ~~and~~, Vladivostok is only four hundred miles from the coast of Japan and six hundred from Tokio. Modern bombing planes, of which the Soviet government is gathering a huge force, could easily lay waste all the principal cities of Japan in no time. That's what the Japanese jingoes say. And, they are clamoring for what they call a "Preventive War". In fact, Japan's War Minister, General Araki, has been quoted as saying: "Attack Russia before they attack us. Drive the Russians out of the Province bordering on the Pacific."

As a matter of fact, that Russian province is almost surrounded by ~~the~~ Japanese ^{military power.} There is ~~Russia~~ Korea in the south, Manchukuo in the west, ~~Japan to the~~ ^{and the Pacific controlled by the Japanese Navy} the east, ~~and Karafuto on the~~ ~~northeast.~~ Those who believe in the possibility of another Russo-Japanese War are profesying that Japan, as she did before, will strike first. She will try to take the ~~Soviet~~ Russians unawares and destroy those great air squadrons, ~~Those~~ squadrons ~~are~~ estimated at a total of no fewer than ten thousand ~~px~~ bombing and fighting planes.

SAAR

The affairs in Europe are getting warmer over the problem of the Saar territory, ~~the territory~~ which used to belong to Germany. The Nazi Government of ~~the Fatherland~~ is standing by its guns. Berlin today officially confirmed the report that Germany will have nothing to do with the League of Nations discussion about the ^{Saar} elections. ~~there~~ And today a Socialist delegation from the ^{disputed} ~~Saar~~ territory arrived in Geneva. The ~~ix~~ delegates reported that the Nazis were running a regular reign of terror in that district.

NBC

EARTHQUAKE

Later news from India more than confirms the stories we have had of destruction by earthquake. The Viceregal government of India sent out airplanes to make a complete survey of the territory affected. The sky observers report huge areas of land under flood in Bihar, the United Provinces and Bengal. Thousands of buildings collapsed, bridges and stretches of railroad utterly wrecked, whole cities leveled. Swarming, teeming India land where life means nothing! The earth shook. Catastrophe and devastation. But it's only the flicker of a moment in timeless India.

NBC

DIAMOND

Ah, here's one that answers that question -- what to buy the wife for her birthday. Five miles from Pretoria, in what used to be the Transvaal, - away down in South Africa - two diamonds have been found. They are both white, and flawless. One of them weighs seven hundred and twenty-six karats and the other five hundred karats.

Of course to you and me a karat means nothing, - not much - but you may get some idea of the size of these stones from the fact that the great Orloff, which used to be the proud possession of the Czars of all the Russias, weighs only a hundred and five karats. The famous Koh-i-Noor, which travelers have seen among the crown jewels in the Tower of London, is only a hundred and two and three quarters karats.

These two new stones were found just a short distance from the place which produced the biggest diamond in the world, the Cullinan. This originally weighed over three thousand karats, the equivalent of one and a third pounds.

DIAMOND - 2

~~quarter~~. However, it ~~xx~~ isn't that big today because it was cut up into nine stones. ~~The biggest of these weighs five hundred and sixteen and a half karats and~~ ^{One} is in the royal ~~skepter~~ ~~with~~ that King George uses on state occasions. Another ~~piece of the Cullinan~~ is mounted in the crown of England, ~~and weighs three hundred and nine karats~~. So at present these new discoveries are still the largest diamonds in the world and will be unless they are cut down. They probably would not cost you more than five million of the old dollars or say eight million Roosevelt dollars. *Poooh, nothing!*

NBC

GOLD

Another Virginia brickbat for the President's money policy. Who threw it? Why the Gentleman from Virginia. It concerns the President Roosevelt's proposal to take over the gold supply of the Federal Reserve System for Uncle Sam. Mr. Carter Glass raises the doubt as to whether it is constitutional. This doubt is not shared by the President. The question was discussed as long ago as last spring. On that occasion the Attorney General gave an opinion that the President undoubtedly would be within his rights.

NBC

FOLLOW GOLD

But the President settled an even more momentous problem today. For twenty-eight years the gentleman named Steve Vasilakos has been selling peanuts at a street corner outside the White House. He is known to statesmen, to newspapermen, even to ex-presidents, as Steve-the-Greek. In fact he might even be described as "Peanut-Vender-in-Ordinary to the White House."

Last week the Washington police force swooped down on Steve-the Greek and said: "Move on". Steve replied: "What do you mean, move on? I sella da peanuts to da Prez President Roosevelt, President Taft, President Wilson, President Harding, President Coolidge, President Hoover, President Roosevelt." He sold presidential peanuts to them all. To which the cop retorted: "It don't matter if you sold them to President George Washington. You've got to move on."

But Steve held the fort like his ancestors at the pass of Thermopylae. Said he: "You bigga stiff I see McAdoo and I tella de Prez."

Apparently he did, for today, by executive order from the White House, Steve-the-Greek is still selling peanuts.

NBC

TAXES

There's a big bad wolf waiting for those who have been neglectful about their income tax. Mr. Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasury, is on the warpath, after every nickle for Uncle Sam. His latest idea is to organize a house to house canvass by agents of the Treasury. If the idea goes through, they will come calling on all of us, big and little, with the question, "Did you file an income tax return? If not, why not?"

Mr. Morgenthau calculates that if all back taxes could be collected, your Uncle Sam would be richer to the extent of a trifling eight hundred million dollars.

To paraphrase James Whitcomb Riley's old poem, "The treasury goblins'll git you if you don't watch out."

NBC

LOBBYISTS

The big stick is being polished up for lobbyists in Washington. Some weeks ago Hugh Pearson and Bob Allen, the Washington Merry-Go-Round writers, published a list of prominent Democratic leaders, including national committeemen, who have set up law offices in the capital. What they've actually been doing is lobbying for one purpose and another, using their political influence to put over measures, some salubrious, and some not so salubrious. The attack was carried on by the NATION and the NEW REPUBLIC, who went into still further details about these lobbying activities.

It turns out that the Administration itself is annoyed by the work of the slap-you-on-the-back boys. Secretary Ickes said several days ago that any city or town, that tried to get loans from the Public Works Administration by such means would get nothing. And today the question was put up to the White House. The answer came in unmistakable terms that to President Roosevelt, the Lobbyists are just as obnoxious as they were to his predecessor, Woodrow Wilson, And he also takes a whack at those political big-wigs who as lawyers fight

LOBBYISTS - 2

cases before government departments. He's agin it.

NEC

AIR CONTRACTS

The Senate's investigation into airmail contracts is bringing out ~~still~~ more funny business. Today the Committee heard the testimony of the man who had been secretary to Irving Glover, Ex-President Hoover's Second Assistant Postmaster General. ^{He testified about more destroying of files --} ~~This man testified~~ that Mr. Glover had instructed him before he quit office to destroy all correspondence relating to airmail contracts, in fact all his personal files.

This information aroused the Committee. They insisted that Senator Black of Alabama, the Chairman, should summon Mr. Glover to appear and answer those charges. And so Mr. Glover will be called on to speak for himself.

NBC

MAYOR

Now we hear a deep sound of political rumblings in New York. Mayor LaGuardia has appointed F. D. McLaughlin to an important office. Mr. McLaughlin was campaign manager for Joseph V. McKee who ran against LaGuardia. Something new in politics !- a Mayor appointing his opponent's campaign manager to office! The wise boys say it means an alliance between the LaGuardia and McKee forces for the purpose of tying some more knots in the tail of the Tammany Tiger. In addition, there is a rambunctious revolt within the ranks of Tammany.

PROFITS

Something unique has happened ^{the Pacific Coast,} ~~in San Francisco,~~ If the idea catches on, it will make history. That is, so far as capital and labor are concerned. The Market Street Railway Company of San Francisco made an agreement with its employees. By the terms of ^{it the} ~~this, those~~ twenty-eight hundred employees become stockholders in the company, but in an ~~entirely~~ new way. They become virtually stockholders without investing a cent. They are to receive fifty-five per cent of the Company's net profits instead of wages. The remaining forty-five per cent ~~is~~ are to go to the stockholders.

This doesn't mean that they have to wait until the end of the year to get their pay. They are guaranteed a certain sum per hour and a drawing account. *No weekly pay checks. They get dividends. Which sounds so grand and plutocratic they oughtn't to balk even if they get less.*

NBC

SARNOFF

A few years ago

[^]The world opened its eyes in amazement when the wizards of electricity developed a machine by which several telegrams could be sent over one wire at the same time. The magicians of radio have now done the same ^{sort of} thing. David Sarnoff, President of the Radio Corporation of America, tells us that it is now possible to send three different radiograms simultaneously on the same wave length. ^{David} Mr. Sarnoff ~~also~~ tells us that radio engineers have now perfected a means of sending photographs by radio by ~~mx~~ the use of ~~xx~~ extra-short waves.

NBC

CHAMPION

3

Wait a minute -- here's something really big, a new champion. He is, so please you, the champion needle threader of the world. The tournament was held in San Francisco. This morning it looked as though a gentleman from Alameda had done the trick by running fifty-five strands of sewing thread through an ordinary number five needle. But this afternoon gentleman that Alameda was just nowhere - a rival from Tacoma put him in a back seat, putting seventy-five strands through this same needle.

The late Harry Houdini did better than that. He use to swallow a reel of thread and whole packages of needles, and then produce them out of his mouth with all the needles threaded. Let the man from Tacoma beat that.

CLERGYMEN

A party of three clergymen returned to New York today from a tour unique in American history, and, if I'm not mistaken, in the history of the world. They are a Catholic priest, a Jewish Rabbi and a Presbyterian Minister. They've traveled nine thousand miles, all over the country, eight thousand miles of which were by airplane. They have been holding meetings in twenty-six different states, joint meetings. The object:- religious tolerance and harmony. They cut their tour short to attend the National Conference of Jews and Christians, which will begin in New York on Monday.

NBC

RESCUE

And now a tanker to the rescue. A tanker may not be as romantic as a clipper ship. But just the same, the old girl is today's heroine of the seas. Seventy-five miles off Barnegat a yacht with fourteen passengers -- ten men and four women aboard, was sinking this afternoon. She sprang a leak. The sea poured in faster than the crew could pump it out. A call for help went out over the air, but no rescue ship hove in sight. Just as their plight looked hopeless, the oil tanker hove in sight, lumbering and ungraceful. But she was a golden argosy to those imperiled people. She came alongside, and the next thing you know the Coast Guard received a message that the tanker had taken off passengers and crew and was waiting to transfer them to a destroyer.

NBC

RESCUE ADD

Here's later word from the Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard Cutter THETIS reached the tanker at 6 p.m. tonight, but could not take off the passangers because of the heavy seas.

The transfer will be made when the sea calms down.

BEAR

I think I'll take time off for a minute and explain something that's worrying me. I need help. I'm perplexed, bewildered. And what's bothering me is this: How do you put a bear to sleep?

It's a hangover from Christmas - that hundred pound black bear my sister gave me. I've got the "kitter" in a pleasant homelike cage up at my fur farm. But he's a puzzle to me. Maybe I'm a puzzle to him. I was told that he would hibernate through the winter - he would just go to sleep and keep on sleeping until spring. That's what a bear is supposed to do. A star boarder who sleeps but doesn't eat. But this big fellow is different. He's staying wide awake, pacing around the cage. So, I plaintively ask all you bear tamers, how can I make him go to sleep? If any of you bear experts from the north woods of Maine or the Adirondacks or Canada, are listening in tonight, tell me, shall I give the old boy a sleeping powder? Or shall I get out the old rocking chair and rock him to sleep? Or should I make him count up to a hundred with his eyes closed? Or should I sing him a lullaby? If so, what lullaby? Rock-a-by Bear, and SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW!