

BORAH

Cleveland is still buzzing with rumors, and amid all the buzz and gossip, one thing blazes out more, and more clearly. You can express it in one word -- Landon. When the Pennsylvania delegation took its poll today, it seemed all over but the shouting -- a walk over for Landon. Of the seventy-five Pennsylvania votes, fifty decided to turn to the sunflower candidate. And to make the story complete the New York delegation today decided to go for Landon; eighty-six out of ninety votes.

As for rumors, they clash and contradict. The ticket will be Landon and Steiwer. No, It won't! It will be Landon and somebody else! Borah will bolt, is another shisper still in the air. He won't get his way with the platform, so he'll refuse to support the candidate! Borah is staying in line! somebody else mutters in your ear. He has come to a compromise with the Landon leaders. Others say, William Alien White, the sage of Emporia, is described as the ambassador plenipotentiary between the Kansas Governor and the Gentleman from Idaho, - William Alien White now trying to arrange a platform compromise that will be agreeable to the old time western progressive.

(That name "Borah" looms mighty big in Cleveland - *with a*
~~that~~ question-mark sort of bigness. The veteran from Idaho
has them all guessing. He, in fact, is the one person who puts
a ~~slight~~ damper on the enthusiasm of the Landonites.) This is
so much the case, that there's a rumor that tomorrow may be
dedicated as - "Borah Day". They say the Landon leader^s, controlling
the convention, may pay this singular honor to the old warrior,
and ask the Senator to take the platform tomorrow and expound his
views - that to be the feature of the day, "Borah Day."

The restaurants around ~~over~~ the Cleveland Auditorium,
at meal time, are jammed with senators, congressmen, governors --
the political rajahs and maharajahs of the land. In one of these,
at a round wooden table, over a large bowl of strawberries and
cream, I sat with Senator Borah. He told me many, many things
that I wish I could pass on to you. But, naturally, at this stage
of the Convention, there are ~~many~~ things that presidential
candidates want kept off the record. Some of what he told me
was sizzling hot. It ~~would~~ *will* be interesting to see if he includes

part of it in his speech tomorrow -- if tomorrow is proclaimed "Borah Day". The Senator told me that he feels ~~very~~ deeply that the political battle this year goes right down to the fundamentals, right to the ~~very~~ heart and roots of our government. *He's against eastern conservatism!*

We sat for a long while talking about the days of long ago, when we both were interested in a famous criminal case in the west. Some of you will remember when the Independence Depot, at the mines above Cripple Creek in Colorado, was blown up, sending a whole platform loaded with miners to kingdom come. The man who admitted setting off that dynamite charge was Harry Orchard.

It came out later at a trial in ~~Boise,~~ ^{Boise,} when Orchard was charged with the murder of Governor Steunenberg of Idaho; ~~That~~ was the famous trial in which young William E. Borah acted as the prosecutor, Clarence Darrow as the lawyer for the defense -- one of the most renowned trials in American history. Darrow won.

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I happened to be living at the mines at Cripple Creek when Harry Orchard ~~was~~ blew up ~~the~~ ^{the} station-load of miners. My dad ~~was~~ one of the first surgeons on the job to take care of the casualties. So at the dinner table, at the Cleveland Convention,

I asked Senator Borah what had become of Harry Orchard. He told me that he was still alive, still in the Idaho prison, serving out his life-term. He said that various attempts had been made to get him released, but all had failed.

And then he told me a remarkable thing, that he is sure he would have won that famous trial against Darrow except for an accident. He said Charles Moyer, head of the Western Federation, of Miners, was ready to turn state's evidence, tell the truth. Attorney Borah was to meet him in his cell. Moyer was locked up at the time. As Mr. Borah entered the jail, a deputy sheriff shouted out in a voice that could be heard all through the cell block, that Attorney Borah was coming to talk to Moyer. Bill Haywood, of I.W.W. fame, was in a cell in that same block. He overheard, and shouted to Moyer to keep his mouth shut. And thus it was, Senator Borah believes, he lost the evidence that would have won his case against Moyer and Haywood, who were involved along with Harry Orchard. Clarence Darrow, a shriveled old man, is now in retirement. William W. Borah, United States Senator, is almost equally old. But he looks like a man in his prime, one of the

dominant figures in the Republican Party, the great question-mark of this Republican Convention, and tomorrow they say will probably be "Borah Day!"

LEAD - TECHNICAL

You who tuned in last night will recall how in the middle of the keynote speech, Senator Steiwer stopped suddenly. The reason? Because the public address system for the great auditorium suddenly went on the blink. And that points to today's sensation, the same sort of thing happening in Per. Chairman Bertram Snell's speech. So the big broadcasting companies made an appeal to the Republican management at the Convention Hall -- an appeal for protection. They charged that somebody had been tampering with the wiring, amplification wiring, broadcast wiring. Who could have done it? Democrats? Communists? Mischief makers?

Whatever the answer to the weird question may be -- the Convention leaders promised -- protection. They said they'd have the wiring guarded - so that there will be no repetition of what happened last night, when Senator Steiwer's highly amplified basso-profundo became first a few raucous squawks and then a pitiful whisper and then flickered out. We in the audience could hear no more and the Senator stopped right in the middle of the greatest speech of his life. Surely an embarrassing moment? Something had gone blooey with the loud speaker system.

Showing how utterly dependent man now is on things mechanical. I suppose that was one of the most disconcerting experience in Senator Steiwer's whole life. Although he has said all along that he isn't a candidate both he and his friends hope the nomination will swing to him in case of a deadlock. But many delegates were waiting to hear his keynote address -- then size him up and decide. He knew this. And then -- right in the middle of his speech, in fact in the middle of a sentence that mechanical mishap silenced him.

After the session I was talking to him about it. The perspiration was rolling off the Senator. He said ~~he~~ to me: "That thing couldn't have happened at a more awkward moment. My worry as I stood there was: have I lost my audience? How difficult will ~~he~~ ~~it~~ it be to get them again?" And then he told me how he jumped a few sentences trying to find one that would attract the crowd -- ~~he~~ get it interested -- get it quiet again.

Congressman Chester Bolton, Republican National Committeeman, and Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements,

said he had tried to get complete charge of things mechanical at the convention, but that the City of Cleveland insisted on running that end.

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But you should see the way the newsreels are in force! Massed artillery of cameras! I was talking a while ago to Arthur, chief of the Washington department of Twentieth Century Fox Movietone. He says there are one hundred and fifty newsreel men working away at the convention with three hundred thousand dollars worth of camera and sound equipment. Think of it! And they'll shoot a quarter of a million feet of negative, ten thousand dollars worth of raw film.

All of which emphasizes that new turn of politics -- the importance of a candidate having a good radio and newsreel personality. For oratories and histrionics of the modernistic variety, count increasingly in politics. The Dictators of Europe excel in their performances before the microphone and on film. And we all know President Roosevelt's talent as a radio and motion picture performer. How are the Republicans going to solve this problem? Senator Borah and I have just been talking this over.

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One job for the cohorts of the G. O. P. is to lambaste the New Deal as hard as they can. And they've been doing it with ample vigor. After Senator Stiewer last night we had Permanent Chairman Snell today, and we'll have ex-President Hoover tonight. Congressman Snell did his lambasting with unsparing vigor. He described President Roosevelt as having seduced the legislative branch by billions in pork-barrel patronage. He spoke of the President as sneering and jibbing at the judiciary and shouted: # "He runs the true course of the dictator."

But many expect that the most savage oratorical attack will come tonight -- when ex-President Hoover addresses the convention, the new Hoover. No doubt we'll hear some of the flashing biting phrases that have distinguished the ex-President's public speaking of late -- in contrast to his former subdued, heavy type of eloquence. At any rate, it seemed to be the new Hoover who arrived in Cleveland today, beaming, lively and full of high spirits. He was frankly tickled with the eight thousand enthusiasts who were at the

station to greet him. He said he wasn't going into any conferences, just concentrating on his speech tonight.

So no doubt we'll hear the familiar voice of ex-President Hoover blistering the New Deal with the cutting phrases of the new Hoover.

BLACK LEGION

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Today's wild scare-head about the Black Legion brings the affairs of that weird outfit close to the realm of fancy. It was strange enough to hear how one of the Black Knights had confessed that he was the ~~skull and~~ executioner of the skull and cross-bones. Dayton Dean admitted ~~in~~ coolly in court that he had pulled the trigger in the Black Legion killing of the W.P.A. worker, Charles Poole. And what do we hear today - the accusation that this same Black Hood executioner was out to kill Father Coughlin, the Detroit radio priest.

The story was told by a woman, and has the appearance of bitter domestic enmity - wife separated from husband. The prisoner denies he was ever married to the woman, and tells of having parted from her - after savage wrangling.

But here's her story. She claims she overheard Dean and several other members of the Black Legion talking over the affairs of that sinister order. And she overheard them discussing possible plans for killing Father Coughlin. Dean, she learned, had joined the Radio ~~Priest's~~ Priest's National Union for Social Justice. She says he did it as a Black Legion spy,

and that he was under orders from the Black Legion to hatch a scheme to kill Father Coughlin.

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The prisoner himself says No, nothing to it. He denies the accusation. "I'm an admirer of Father Coughlin", he declared. That profession of admiration seems odd, when you consider the knights of the skull and crossbones are violently anti-Catholic. ~~The~~ Dean explains that, while the Black Legion is against Catholics holding office, this does not mean that all its members have to hate Catholics.

The Detroit authorities are skeptical about the whole thing. It sounds a little too wild - like the revengeful words of a bitter woman. But they remember the recent rumors that the burning of Father Coughlin's "Shrine of the Little Flower" was the work of the Black Legion. They had been investigating that. And now they cannot escape the surmise that the two things may dovetail - the rumor that black hooded incendiaries set fire to the Shrine and today's charge that the skull and crossbones executioner was out to kill ^{the "Radio Priest,"} Father Coughlin. ~~Meanwhile, the~~

Meanwhile, the widow of the Black Legion victim,

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Charles Poole, has been having a desperate time of it, left penniless after the killing of the W.P.A. worker. She has been facing eviction from her home. Now she is getting relief - a W.P.A. job. She has been offered work at a subsistence wage on a book-binding project for Detroit's schools.

ENGLAND

The foreign news tonight points to ructions in the British Government. Sir Samuel Hoare created a sensation in diplomatic circles. When anybody of such significant position in the British Government propounds a scheme to divide the world in six economic units, six super-nations -- that's something to make the statesmen knit their brows and start wondering. But London today was mostly concerned with the immediate effects on His Majesty's cabinet.

Sir Samuel said today that Geneva does not command the kind of loyalty that the various parts of the British Empire pay to London. And he cited the Empire as something the League might imitate. Moreover, he defended imperialism, and said the British Empire was a force for good. Finally, he made that proposal to divide the world into half a dozen economic units. And London can't help surmising that he suggests this set-up as a substitute for the League of Nations.

All of which weakens the position of the League in London and diminishes the prestige of its foremost advocate, Foreign Minister Eden.

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The six economic units suggested by Sir Samuel are something like this:- The British Empire, with its commercial and industrial ties; The nations of the continent; The United States and the Americas; Japan and the Far East -- and a couple of others. All of these units held together by ties of commerce and good will -- something like the British Empire. There's bold imagination in that plan; and no wonder it's today's sensation in European diplomacy.

CONGRESSMAN BRITTAIN

Getting back to Cleveland for a moment, a National Convention is a great ~~in~~ place to meet your old friends. Years ago when I was a young cub reporter in Chicago, a man named Fred Brittain was just starting to climb in national politics, the same Congressman Brittain who for so many years represented Illinois, the same Congressman Brittain who has done so much for the Navy. Fred Brittain told me that he was particularly anxious that the Republican platform should begin and end with some statement committing the Party to an endorsement of the idea of a world revival of better morals. And after that I'll say --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.