

P.L. - Sunoco. Tues., Oct. 3, 1939.

CHAMBERLAIN

The peace news tonight is a great deal more interesting than the war news. The strange state of affairs ⁱⁿ of that amazing European War is such that the word "peace" right now is almost as jittery as the word "war" used to be when the European crisis was dragging toward an open outbreak. In those days, solemn statesmen used to say on all occasions, in season and out - "We seek peace." They'd proclaim their hatred of war with so many platitudes that it had us bored and tired. Now it's just the opposite - at least in London and Paris. British and French statesmen declare fervently and solemnly - "We ~~we~~ ^{then they go on to} reject peace", and ^{and} asseverate their pious intention of waging war. Truly enough, what used to be a fear of war has now turned into a fear of peace. It only goes to show what a mad world this is.

Take today's event. The news gives us the expression, "peace scare", which is the opposite and reverse of the old "war scare." The term is used in the cold and factual realm of finance - Wall Street news. Tidings from the New York Stock Exchange inform us that there was a "peace scare" today which caused a drop in prices. So let's see what were the factors that caused the panicky

fear that there might be an end of war.

It all heppened in London's stately House of Commons, where (Prime Minister Chamberlain made a set of declarations to the members of Parliament. These inevitably concerned the Hitler peace offensive, which is about to burst forth on the world. Chamberlain said "no", but there was a slight hint of "maybe." The Prime Minister indicated in strong terms that the Nazi peace offensive would be rejected, but he also said that Hitler's peace proposal would get at least formal consideration.) And that slight concession was enough to make a headline, start the peace jitters in our own American Wall Street.

Chamberlain talked to the Commons in terms at once cold and vigorous. "No mere assurances from the present German government would be accepted by us," he declared. "For that government has too often proved in the past that their undertakings are worthless when it suits them that they should be broken."

Sounds like an outright rejection, but now comes the following: "If, therefore," said Chamberlain, "proposals are made, we

shall certainly examine them, and we shall test them in the light of what I have just said."

It is characteristic that British parliamentary declarations, while made in the King's English, often have to be translated into plain English. So let's see if we can translate today's Chamberlain pronouncement:- He will consider Hitler's proposal, but he won't do business with Hitler! That seems to indicate that he would do business, if Hitler were out. This is the general understanding the world is taking tonight of Chamberlain's attitude.

Chamberlain's statement about considering a German-Soviet peace proposal was followed by a surprise which, because of the peace jitters, becomes a flare of drama. Lloyd George spoke -- Britain's World War Prime Minister, who is on record as bitterly opposed to any concession to dictatorship. Lloyd George got up but instead of making any fire-eating war speech, he talked caution. He declared that the British government should be cautious about rejecting any peace proposals, should not turn down any suggested settlement without thinking it over seriously. This was so astonishing that it's worth quoting literally: "It is quite clear, "

said Lloyd George, "that somebody is going to submit detailed terms for the consideration of the government. I think," he advised, "it is very important that we should not come to too hurried a decision."

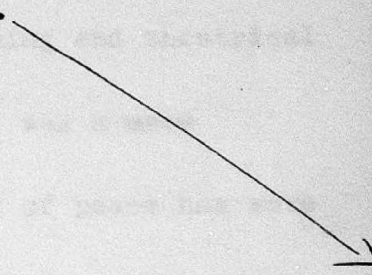
The aged Lloyd George went on to say that no peace should be made without the restoration of Poland, consideration of Czechoslovakia, discussion of colonial questions, and an agreement for disarmament. He declared that a mere temporary patched-up peace would be no good -- there should be a general settlement of all problems. And that, he added, would include Italian claims, Mussolini's demands should be considered. Speaking of a possible general peace conference, ^{he} mentioned the United States. "In my judgment," said he, "it would be a first class mistake, unless you invited not only Russia and Italy, but the United States as well. Lloyd George urged that any Hitler offer should be considered by a secret session of Parliament. A secret session presumably would permit a cooler discussion -- by not arousing popular agitation.

This surprising attitude by Britain's ace opponent of Hitlerism produced quick reactions that were little short of

parliamentary fireworks. Prime Minister Chamberlain answered, though not with fireworks! He's not the pyrotechnic sort. He assured Lloyd George that His Majesty's government would not make any hurried answer to peace proposals.

Then to the front came Alfred Duff-Cooper, Former **First Lord of the Admiralty**. He, together with Lloyd George and Winston Churchill, has been denounced by Hitler as a war monger, and he proceeded to deliver a bitter attack on the statement the Welch statesman had made. "I deeply deplore that speech", he cried. "It will go out to the world with his name at the head of it - a suggestion of surrender."

Lloyd GEORGE flared in answer:- "I should be the last man to say that we should surrender," he shouted.



Duff-Cooper ~~replied~~, admitting^{ed} that, ~~he~~ said he knew that Lloyd George meant no suggestion of surrender, but that his statement would be misrepresented to the world - ~~that it~~ would be taken as an indication of ^{division} ~~weakness~~ in British counsels.

Parliamentary fireworks flamed higher when a member of the Labor Party, George Buchanan, congratulated Lloyd George for what he had said - verbally patted him on the back for his courage in saying it. The Labor member shouted that the masses of the people in Great Britain were opposed to the present conflict. "I never saw in Nineteen¹Fourteen," he stated^d, "anything like the hostility toward war that I find today." This provoked an uproar, with shouts of "No, No", in a ringing chorus of denial.

This parliamentary debate is striking and theatrical only because of the peace jitters. In itself it was a ~~mere~~ reasonable discussion, ^{but} ~~and~~ right now the subject of peace has more drama and ~~tanky~~ panicky thrills than war. So much so that while I've given x several minutes of news time to the debate in the London Parliament, I'll give a ^{mere} split second to the war news. And here it is - none at all, there isn't any.

ITALY

five

The news from Rome tonight headlines/words:-

The United States of America. ^{It} In the British Parliament

Lloyd George may have suggested that the ^{U.S.A.} ~~United States~~

~~of America~~ ~~which~~ should be invited to any possible European

peace conference, Rome chimes in with a report that Mussolini,

is in favor of issuing a formal call to Washington ~~to~~ to take

a leading part in establishing peace. (This Roman ~~news~~ news

follows the return of Count Ciano from his conference with

Hitler. Italian government sources say that in these conferences

Italian-German friendship was reaffirmed -- but on the basis

of Italy staying out of the war -- Mussolini continuing his

intention of not joining forces with Hitler.)

More significant still we are told that following

Ciano's return and report to the Duce, Mussolini has ~~decided~~

decided to take the full burden of proposing a peace that

Hitler and Stalin want proposed. There have been conflicting

rumors ^{about} ~~that~~ Mussolini's role as peace-maker ~~xxxxxxxomexfxyxking~~

some saying he would step forth into the limelight, others

that he would act in merely a formal and ~~perfunct~~ perfunctory

^{through}
way ~~in~~ regular diplomatic channels. (Tonight word from Rome
is that the Duce is likely to go one hundred percent in
trying to get a quick peace. Also, as a number one manoeuvre
-- he will make approaches to the United States. He will
propose a seven power conference, ^{the U.S.A.} ~~United States~~ to be one of the
powers at the table) -- and ^{a most} ~~an~~ important one. The Duce is
said to believe that only with Washington in the lineup
will Great Britain and France consider any peace proposals.
And that sounds reasonable, the only question being -- will
~~the United States~~ ^{we} consent to take any action in Europe that
will produce the peace which Hitler and Stalin want. The
other six of the seven powers would be -- Great Britain,
France, Germany, Russia, Italy and Turkey. Turkey -- because
of ~~the~~ singular importance ^{of} ~~of~~ the Dardanelles in the present
war.

We are told that any Mussolini peace move will wait
until after Hitler's address to the Reichstag later this
week -- depending largely on what the Nazi Fuehrer has to say.

NEUTRALITY

in Washington

The neutrality debate was halted today. The Senate took a recess, out of respect to Senator Logan - who died suddenly. There were tributes to the gentleman from Kentucky, who was popular among his fellow senators. And then the session was adjourned until tomorrow.

So today the neutrality news is unofficial, with reports that the ninety day credit clause in the Neutrality Bill may be dropped. Some Senate leaders are saying that the public is skeptical about cash-and-carry, the cash part of it ^{*if there*} is a ninety day credit. If the credit clause were to be dropped, it would mean that any nation at war buying in this country would have to lay it on the line, instantly and at once, without any time extension whatever.

HOOVER

A set of strong opinions about America and the war are expressed today by Ex-President Herbert Hoover. He was interviewed by Roy Howard, head of the Scripps-Howard newspapers. Roy Howard is a big boss in journalism but he is still the crack reporter that he used to be when he was making his early newspaper success. To Herbert Hoover he took this thesis -- that a war fever ~~was~~^{is} being built up in this country on the theory that the Allies ~~were~~ in danger of being defeated and overwhelmed, that the world faces the eminent peril of a Nazi-Communist triumph. What had Herbert Hoover to say about that?

The Ex-President replied there is always a danger of a build up of ~~emotional~~ emotionalism in war time, but he expressed himself strongly to the effect -- that there was no danger of an allied defeat and a Hitler-Stalin victory. Here is the way ^{the Ex-President} ~~Herbert Hoover~~ reasons it out, in his own words:- "The war is only a month old," he said to Roy Howard, "but the major factors are already emerging. The British and

French can and will control the seven seas despite submarines and airplanes and can sit there until their enemies are exhausted."

In this ~~way~~ ^{that the} we see ^A former President of the United States put all faith in sea power -- and that is orthodox doctrine. As for the war on land he says: "The man power of the allies can defend France unless they take wild adventures ⁱⁿ ~~and~~ ^A military offensives and exhaust their man power. Aerial warfare may be destructive, but that works both ways, and so, as far as all experience goes, is not conclusive in any war."

So, it is the Hoover viewpoint that we Americans need not feel panicky about any possible triumph of Hitler and ~~Stalin~~ Stalin.

CLEMENT

It seems to be more or less definite that the sea raider operating in the South Atlantic is a German pocket battleship. Today at Rio, survivors of the British steamship CLEMENT were permitted to talk. The CLEMENT was sunk in the South Atlantic by the raider, with no loss of life apparently, and her rescued crew was taken to Rio. There they were held incommunicado for a while, not allowed to tell their story, and there was only vague rumor about the supposed raider. Today, they were interviewed, and the crew of the CLEMENT declare that the warship, which sank their merchant craft was a German battleship.

One of those powerful ten thousand ton craft which the Germans developed at the time when the clauses of the Versailles Treaty kept them from building larger war vessels.

BOOTLEG

There are a lot of rumors giving us an interesting tie-up between this present war and by-gone prohibition -- reports so strong that today President Roosevelt made ^{vigorous} ~~strong~~ references to them. ~~And~~ **I**t all concerns German submarines and other sea raiders operating on this side of the ~~Atain~~ Atlantic. Where do they get their supplies, particularly ^{for} their much needed oil ~~and~~ [^] their engines? There are tales of ~~secret~~ secret sources, boats of one kind or another surrepticiously delivering materials to raiders. (One report mentions Santo Domingo, fishing boats of that West Indian Republic. Santo Domingo today comes forth with a vigorous denial.) But more beguiling are ~~extreme~~ stories out of Philadelphia -- prowling German craft are getting the benefit of the methods of old time American rum running. It is said that former bootleg ^{ging boats,} ~~craft~~ idle since prohibition have been running on secret supply trips out to sea. Remember how the rum-running fleets used to operate? Craft dashing in at night with contraband hooch. They are said to be doing it all over again -- this time with contraband gasoline

for German submarines, this in violation of the American Neutrality Law.

Today the President said the government was taking cognizance of these reports and he added: If any of those old time rum-runners are bootlegging gasoline to German submarines they had better stop right away, or else.

And now Hugh what else?