

cancel letters

In all its many hundred years of history, the British House of Commons never before had to do what it did today. Both

the House and the galleries were crowded, ~~as it was to be a~~ session of great ~~pith and moment.~~ *They were there* The Parliament was to hear

~~a statement from the Prime Minister,~~ *the Prime* Winston Churchill, ~~an~~ answer to yesterday's *Hitler* ~~diatribe from Fuehrer Hitler,~~ ~~as the burly~~

As ~~figure of~~ the Prime Minister strode down the ~~aisle~~ aisle and took his place on the front Treasury bench, cheers broke out

from members on both sides. ~~But, before he could get up to~~ *had an opportunity*

to speak, there was an interruption. *And* ~~The speaker,~~ *of the House,* for the first

time since that ancient Parliament was created, had to order an extraordinary suspension of the session. *Parliamentary* An air raid alarm had

sounded. Visitors in the galleries cleared out in a hurry

while the members ~~tramped~~ tramped down to the shelters in the

basement of old St. Stephens.

But They didn't stay ~~there~~ long. After half an hour or

so, the session was resumed *while* ~~but~~ the speaker *said:-* "The

House must understand that the red warning still is on," ~~the~~

~~red warning~~ meaning *air-* ~~that~~ *still* raiders ~~are~~ are in the vicinity.

"And," added the speaker, "we are still on the alert".

When the Prime Minister finally got up to speak, he had plenty to say of grave importance, weighty news. ^{First he} ~~of the first things he spoke was a warning. Once again he~~ cautioned the people of the Empire not to be too complacent. Hitler's raids, he said, will be magnified and ~~xxx~~ multiplied in the month to come. But, he cried, taking up the challenge that Hitler had flung, even if the attacks are doubled or trebled, Britain will emerge stronger than before. ~~He went so far as to say, in these words:-~~ "We are going to be a good deal stronger next year than now although we are quite strong enough for the immediate work at hand," *said Churchill.*

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Giving an account of the last few weeks, he informed the country that the Nazi air raids in August had killed one thousand and seventy-five civilians, seriously injured a slightly larger number, and destroyed eight hundred houses. On the other side of the ledger, he reported that the German losses were in the ratio of three planes to every British aircraft destroyed. What's more, said Churchill, the number of German pilots killed is at the ratio of six to one. The British Air Force today, he said, is not only stronger than

at any time in the past but far closer to the strength of Germany than anybody had expected.

The Prime Minister then underlined his warning. Though it will be more difficult for the Nazis to invade Britain from now on than it was in June, nevertheless, said he, "I do not agree with those who assume that after September Fifteenth we shall be free of the menace of deadly attack from overseas."

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~~And then he continued:~~ ^{TP} "We must expect for some time to live under these strained conditions," *he continued - adding: - "But* ~~But he proclaimed proudly,~~

we ~~xxx~~ feel the virtue of the British people will not be found unequal to them. We believe the spirit and temperament bred under the ~~xxx~~ institution of freedom to be more enduring and resolute than anything that can be got out of mechanical discipline."

He contradicted ~~xxxx~~ the German claims about British losses. The House laughed loudly when he ^{*spoke of*} ~~remarked that~~ the Germans boast of having destroyed no fewer than one thousand, ~~xxxx~~ nine hundred and twenty-one British planes in July and August. "The actual figure of British losses," said the Prime Minister, "was five hundred and fifty-eight planes and our loss

in pilots happily very much less," *said he,*

Then he took up the question of the recent re-shufflings in the Balkans. The British Government does not propose to recognize any territorial changes which take place during the war, unless they take place with the free consent and good-will of the parties concerned. Rumania, he admitted, had undergone severe territorial mutilation. On the other hand, he ~~acknowledged~~ ^{added} that he himself was one of those who never approved of the treatment received by Hungary after the World War, and he thought that Dobrudja should be given back to Bulgaria.

As for the Italian threat to Greece, Great Britain will support the ^{Greeks} ~~Hellenes~~ to the utmost if they resist the attack of the Italians. That was announced ^{today, not only} ~~not~~ ^{the} by Churchill but by Foreign Minister, Lord Halifax in the House of Lords. Halifax also made a report on the Far East. Tokyo has been warned that the British Government ~~is~~ is, as he puts it, interested in preserving the status of Indo-China.

Returning to the Prime Minister, ^{Churchill} warned the Empire to be prepared for heavy fighting in the ~~xxxxxx~~ Middle East. Reinforcements have been sent to the Middle East,

meaning the Eastern Mediterranean. And, said the Prime Minister, "This movement was plainly visible to the Italians but ~~xxx~~ was not molested by them. Some of our great ships touched Malta on the way."

That's an important bit of news, by the way. The Italians have been boasting that they had prevented British Naval forces near Gibraltar from joining up with those at the eastern end of the Mediterranean. ^{Churchill's} ~~The Prime Minister's~~ report circumstantially indicates that this claim was unfounded, that the Eastern and Western Mediterranean British fleets are in touch with each other.

Referring to the destroyer transaction with the United States, Churchill said that only ignorant persons believe that ~~xxxx~~ the transfer of those warships is the slightest violation of international law. And the House roared with laughter when he announced that British crews are already meeting those

~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ destroyers "by the long arm of coincidence."

And that's the gist of today's
~~So that's the British~~ reply to the Nazi threats ~~as~~
of yesterday - Hitler's threats,
~~uttered by Hitler yesterday~~

BASES

Here's word from Colonel Frank Knox, Secretary of
the Navy. He says he was misinterpreted yesterday about those
Pacific Ocean air bases that Uncle Sam wants on the Galapagos
and Cocos ~~Islands~~ ^{Cal.} Islands. Knox did not intend the country to
understand that negotiations are actually going on with the
Governments of Ecuador and Costa Rica for leases of those
islands. Said the Secretary:- "I'm sorry if the press gained
the impression that dickering is actually in progress." And
he added:- "No concrete steps have yet been taken toward that
end." At the same time, he emphasized what he said, that it is
highly desirable ^{that} ~~the~~ bases should be established there, and he
^{and hopes} believes ^{can} that arrangements can be made whereby we ^{can} get the
necessary leases. ^{for the defense of the Canal.}

CANADA

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The news tonight tells of
~~We also learn that~~ another large force of

Canadian troops have been landed in England. It was disembarked at what is described as a north British port after a safe and uneventful voyage across the Atlantic. Also, a London newspaper declares that more and more bombers ~~built~~ built in the ~~United States~~ United States and Canada are being flown across the Atlantic in a constant stream. ~~They're being~~ Flown over by British pilots.

RUMANIA

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Stirring days in the Balkans, alarming days; first of all, one prophecy comes true. Rumania comes definitely within the orbit of the Rome-Berlin axis. ~~Secondly~~, King Carol, for the time being at least, is nothing more than a figurehead. General Antonescu, the new Premier, is virtually ^{the} dictator. He took the job only after Carol had agreed to give him supreme and absolute power. ^R Before he would even swear the oath of office, a joint proclamation was issued by the King and Antonescu which suspends the constitution of Rumania, dis-solves the Parliament, limits the ~~xxx~~ powers of the sovereign, and invests the Premier with absolute ~~xxx~~ authority.

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Antonescu, known as the "Red Dog" of the Rumanian Army, is avowedly friendly to the pro-Nazi Iron Guards. He made the statement, "from the bottom to the top I will punish guilty persons responsible unjustly for punishing Iron Guards ^{men} and others.

Incidentally, this is ~~xxx~~ bad news for the Jewish people in Rumania. In a previous regime, when Antonescu was Minister of Defense, he treated the Jews with great severity.

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While Antonescu was dickering with the King, for that

dictatorial job, Hungarian soldiers were ~~xxxx~~ triumphantly marching into Transylvania. They were led by the Regent, Admiral Horthy himself. It was done with much blare of bands and fluttering of pennants, but no fighting. The Rumanian troops withdrew with heads hanging and most civilians already had sadly evacuated.

But elsewhere in Rumania ^{all is not} ~~it isn't all~~ peace and harmony. ^{today,} There was uproar in the streets of Bucharest, [^] a huge popular demonstration. ~~almost amounting to riots.~~ Shots were fired from ~~fox~~ roof tops and fire trucks. Some of the demonstrations ^{one} were shouting for the King, others for the new dictator. ⁷⁷ There was fighting in the streets of the Rumanian capital, but the ~~xxx~~ police got it under control. Later, one of the correspondents heard sounds like the fire of light artillery not far from King Carol's palace.

ADD RUMANIA

As the evening wore on, the scene became even more exciting in ~~Bucharest~~ Bucharest. An American correspondent was watching the riots from the balcony of his office, three hundred ~~xxx~~ yards from the palace. He reported that he was driven back by whistling bullets. Before the demonstration began, that same correspondent had been talking with General Antonescu, and he described the Rumanian dictator as being evidently in a gay mood. Waiting in the ~~xxx~~ ante-room ^{also} were five generals of the Rumanian Army who had joyfully flown to Bucharest by airplane when the news of Antonescu's dictatorship became known.

Here's another cable ~~that came~~ from Bucharest, ~~only a~~
~~short while ago.~~ General Antonescu ^{has} called out the troops to
suppress the rioters and army tanks ^{are} ~~were~~ thundering through the
streets in front of King Carol's palace.

FRANCE

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About a year ago, we were reading and hearing numerous stories about General Maurice Gamelin, the French Commander-in-Chief. A year ago he was described as a man of all the military virtues and abilities. Today comes a cable that ~~he~~ ^{General Gamelin} is to be arrested and court-martialled. To be sure, that cable comes from Rome, and not from any part of France. But there has been gossip about this ever since the capitulation of the Third Republic.

The magazine and newspaper articles, and books analyzing the fall of France are now agreeing on one point. Gamelin, they now say, was all along nothing but a mediocre general who contrived to keep himself in position by dint of his agility as a politician, not as a soldier.

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There's another point on which these post mortem examinations concur. The articles of Andre Maurois in Colliers, the piece of Somerset Maugham in the Red Book, ~~Magazine,~~ and a book by Andre Simone, which has just appeared, are ~~xxxxx~~ unanimous in this accusation: that the collapse of the French Army was due to petticoat influence.

Here's one report from France that is authentic. It's

an announcement by the Ministry of Justice at Vichy. The French Fascist Supreme Court has ordered the arrest of two former ministers of the Cabinet, Pierre Cot and Guy Lachambre, who both at one time served as air ministers.

LAGUARDIA

New York's Mayor LaGuardia was at the White House today. He had luncheon with President Roosevelt and quite a long conference. He ~~wasn't~~^{not} there as Mayor of New York, however. ~~He~~^{was there} ~~but~~[^] as co-chairman of the joint Defense Board for Canada and the United States. As he left the White House, he admitted that he had been giving the President a preliminary report on the work of the Board. When he was asked what was the nature of it, he said, "optimistic in general." A reporter wanted to know whether the cooperation for defense meant that supplies would be sent from here to Canada. To that LaGuardia replied:- "I wish you hadn't asked me that question, ~~but~~^(he went on,) you probably would be safe in assuming as much." The question was pushed still further, ^{as to} whether that meant extensive quantities of supplies. ~~and to that~~^{to which} LaGuardia replied: ~~that~~ "They would not be for a Fourth of July celebration."

He hinted that Uncle Sam would establish two air bases on Newfoundland, one on the south shore, the other on the Avalon Peninsula.

What LaGuardia said about shipping supplies to Canada was in a measure corroborated by General George Marshall, Army

Chief of Staff. The heads of the Army have it in mind to send a few hundred old U. S. Army tanks to Canada for training purposes.

No definite deal has been made yet, or rather not completed. ^{And, no} ~~NO XXXX~~ special authority is needed. The Secretary of War has the right to sell obsolete equipment. The tanks are exceedingly obsolete, capable of only two and a half to three and a half miles an hour. They haven't been used ~~xxx~~ by the Army for many years and in actual modern warfare they would be just about as useful as that many go-carts.

CONSCRIPTION

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The House of Representatives in a few minutes will be taking an important ~~part~~ vote on the Conscription Bill. The vote will be on an amendment, an amendment proposed by Representative Hamilton Fish of New York. Fish wants to postpone ~~xxx~~ conscription for fifty days. That means till a week after the ~~ixx~~ election. He wants a proviso that ~~xxx~~ from now until November fifteenth there shall be an intensive concerted drive to obtain voluntary recruits. In proposing that amendment Fish urged that this amendment would not in any way delay the formation of a larger army.

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Today's debating in the house went on in an atmosphere of considerable excitement. The galleries are filled with anti-conscription ~~ixxxx~~ lobbyists, women dressed in black and describing themselves as the Mothers of America, members of the peace mobilizing in their shirt sleeves. There were even Angeles from Father Divine's Heaven. An Amendment similar to that offered by Ham Fish came pretty near passing in the Senate. The House will also be voting ~~xx~~ soon on another amendment to raise the age

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Conscription - 2

limits from thirty one as the Senate had it to forty-five
years.

Perhaps that's a good
one on which to say
s-l-u-t-m-

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