

L. T. - Sunoco - Friday, Sept. 20, 1935

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 War bulletin - Nahakki Pass captured. The advancing army ~~has~~ ^{has} driven through to Kamalal Plain. No, that's not Ethiopia. That's India. Dispatches from around the world tell us that the British have won their objectives ~~in~~ in that minor war on the Northwest frontier - that campaign about which Major Yeats-Brown, the Bengal Lancer, was telling us the other night.

The world has been hardly aware that a battle was on in that part of the ~~world~~ ^{globe}. Things have been surrounded by all sorts of secrecy. With all the Ethiopian uproar, Britain wages quite a sizeable campaign of her own, without anything much being heard about it, even in England.

It's been no mere border skirmish, Word from London today tells of thirty thousand troops with the most modern ~~equipment~~ equipment of artillery, ~~tanks~~ tanks and bombing planes. And also an Archaic touch, camels. The familiar old quarrelsome beast of the Orient. This powerful force has been driving into the wild hill country to the north of Peshawar, the metropolis at the end of Khyber Pass. A sort of no Man's Land up there, where British troops have never penetrated before. ^{The} ₁ country of the

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Mohmands, whose incessant raiding and sniping has been a pestilence in those parts. The British-Indian government determined once and for all, to subdue the country completely, and keep it subdued by building a network of roads through the rugged forbidding land. It was this road building, as Major Yeats-Brown told us, that excited the ire of the Haji of Turangzai. And the fight was on.

Today we hear that, preceded by flights of bombers, British regiments, batteries and tanks, pushed through Nahakki Pass. The resistance of the fierce Mohmand tribe^s disintegrated, the fighting men scurrying to safety, before the formidable advance. The advancing column debauched on the Plain of Kamalai, heart of the rebel stronghold.

Perhaps you saw the film, Bengal Lancer, — it was a frontier fracas just about like the one in the films.

FLEETS

Last night we talked about air power versus sea power. Today the newspapers are continuing a vivid discussion of what might happen if the catastrophe should occur - the Italian Sky Fleet battling against the British Sea Fleet in the Mediterranean; Quoting Washington and London experts.

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The war-wise men in Washington give us ^{Further} ~~some~~ estimates of ^{actual} the strength of the airplane power of Italy and England. And these graphically confirm what we ^{have} heard all along - that Italy held a big bulge in the air. American Navy men say that for a supreme test of power, Italy could hurl into the sky between fifteen and sixteen hundred fighting planes. They estimate that the air power England could bring to the Mediterranean ^{only} would ^{total two} ~~be about two~~ hundred and fifty, ^{or at most} ~~at~~ three hundred planes. Yes, that confirms common opinion.

But there are some words from London that fly violently in the face of popular opinion - the accepted doctrine that the British Navy would be supreme over Mussolini's ships. Startingly unorthodox, yet it comes from one of England's foremost naval experts, Dr. Oscar Parkes, who is the editor of "Jane's Fighting

Ships", the British Year Book on the Navies of the world. He publishes an article in the "London Daily Sketch", in which he proclaims his doubt that the English Navy could beat the Italians in straight-away ship against ship operations.

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He says, for one thing, that the great dreadnoughts of England would be more of a liability than an asset, fighting in a narrow inland sea, studded with islands, subject to incessant attacks from nearby shores. He explains that Italy has built her fleet with an eye to Mediterranean conditions, has specialized in the craft that would be most effective in fighting among islands and coasts. Rome, he says, was not bound by the restrictions of the London Naval Treaty, as England was. Therefore, Italy has built warships according to the latest ultra-modern ideas. Speed and more speed has been the Roman slogan - not vast dreadnoughts, but smaller craft, with less massive defensive armour, with terrific engine power, and a maximum of weight and impact of guns. The larger ten thousand ton Italian cruisers do up to thirty-nine knots. The lighter cruisers speed at from forty to fifty knots. Concentrated masses of engine power and gun power.

It does seem strange to hear the editor of Britain's

renowned Naval Handbook talking that way, but the worthy Doctor states decidedly that the Italian war vessels might out-speed the Great British ~~the~~ fleet and take the war prize on the narrow tricky waters of the Mediterranean. One thing to be read between the lines is that the British Naval expert blames the London Naval Treaty; which opinion is shared by many a British Admiral, discontented with the way the grand fleet ^{has been} ~~was~~ curtailed and kept down in strength. ^P Perhaps the ^{Sea} Doctor's alarmist analysis was in the nature of a warning to John Bull to look after the King's Navy and do it fast.

ETHIOPIA

Let's take something like this. I do something you don't like, and you go into court against me. And I defy the court, saying: "Try and stop me" then you do something I don't like." I go to that same court which I've been defying and say: "Hey, look what he's doing."

That just about sums up the latest - in the world drama of Rome and London. Mussolini is protesting to the League of Nations against England. After having loudly poo-pooed the League ~~of~~ on the subject of Ethiopia, the Duce is now walking into the League Court and saying - "Look at all those British Warships in the Mediterranean, What are you going to do about it?"

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Rome has instructed its Geneva representative, Baron Aloisi, to tell the League of Nations that the great concentration of the British Fleet in the Mediterranean is wrong, contrary to the League Covenant. It is in anticipation of something that has not yet happened. Italy has not yet gone to war with Ethiopia. So therefore the League has not yet taken any action. So why should England be mustering all that strength - in advance?

Thus argue the Italians to the League, and declare that

the southward swing of British warships is a threat against Italy. If the Italian troops in East Africa are a threat against Ethiopia, why then the British war fleet in the Mediterranean is a threat against Italy. That's the plea that Baron Aloisi has been ordered to make to the League.

The swarming of British warships into the Mediterranean continues, battleships, cruisers, mine sweepers, from England, from the West Indies, from the Orient. And Italian counter-movements are dramatically in evidence. Squadrons of bombers flying from Italy to the Dodecanese Islands, ^{those} Greek Islands held by Italy; ~~They are~~ just off the coast of Asia Minor. Historic Rhodes is one of them. They are right across from the Suez Canal, within easy air striking distance of that vital artery. The Italians are feverishly strengthening their air bases in those islands, so strategically placed for a sky stroke in the direction ~~at~~ of Suez.

And, there are mysteries about Italian ships. Remember the puzzle about the disappearance of powerful British squadrons some days ago? War vessels shrouded in secrecy. Then they turned

up in the Mediterranean, the beginning of the British show of strength there. And now Italian ships have vanished in the same way, troop ships. They were supposed to go through the Suez Canal to East Africa, but they haven't been seen in Suez, *and* are long overdue. The inescapable assumption is that they have been diverted to Libya, to reinforce a powerful striking force there, right on the borders of Egypt, ~~in~~ where they could make a land drive against Suez.

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A man left Geneva today and arrived in Paris; Premier Laval of France. He went home to call a special emergency meeting of the French Cabinet. ~~That's~~ To deal with the British-Ethiopian crisis. They say that Laval is handicapped by a serious internal situation in France. Finances are ^{in a} dangerous ^{tangle}. He was put in office and summoned dictatorial powers to untangle French financial troubles. And then there is a possible flare-up of the old bitter enmity between the left and the right, Socialists and Fascist. And further dissensions - between friends of the League of Nations and friends of Italy. Powerful opinion in France supports Italy and is hostile to action against Mussolini. All of this they say weakens Laval's power to take a strong stand

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against the Italians. ^{include} The news headlines ^{include} some Stock Exchange quotations. They are interpreted as having a peaceful sound, as being a sign that Rome is growing less defiant, that Mussolini is weakening. The quotations come from the Roman Stock Exchange. The general trend of stocks in the Eternal City today was firm, upward. With one exception - war stocks, munitions. They slumped heavily. The wise men look upon this as evidence that inner financial circles in Rome have learned that the ~~the~~ Duce is thinking thoughts of peace; coming around to the prudent idea that he'd better be reasonable. You know, war stocks go up as war become^s more threatening, and sink as peace become^s more promising.

Dark, warlike ^{is} picture of ships; mild and pacific figures in Stock Exchange quotations - these are the contradictory signs this evening in the threat of a clash between England and Italy.

SPAIN

Spain is strongly supporting England in the present crisis. But Spain is having a little trouble of her own, purely political. The Cabinet resigned today. Premier Lerrooux stepped out of office with all his Ministers.

The trouble was that he couldn't come to an agreement with the Agrarian party, the ~~xx~~ party supporting agricultural interests. Lerrooux and the Agrarians couldn't see eye to eye, couldn't come to a compromise. So -- Resignation. But it looks as though Lerrooux might go rightback into office. They say that President Zamora is likely to exclaim -- "Resignation accepted. ^{My Dear} But, [^] Señor Lerrooux, won't you try to form another Cabinet? Please tackle the job with another set of Ministers".

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This morning President Roosevelt said he'd do it this afternoon, and he did - accepted the resignation of Joseph P. Kennedy as Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the body that regulates stocks and bonds in Wall Street. Mr. Roosevelt says he accepts the resignation with reluctance.

When the Stock Exchange regulations were put through in the early days of the New Deal, business and finance looked with glances of dark suspicion, took it all as an attack on themselves. So for the job of running the regulating a man was needed who would inspire confidence and not ~~deepen~~^d distrust in the minds of ~~bank~~ business men. That's why Joe Kennedy was elected - a banker and a financial leader himself, known to be tolerant and moderate. And he proceeded to do what was expected, aroused confidence and disarm^{ed} suspicion in the minds of Wall Street. Now he resigns, telling the President that he would like to be relieved of his duties by Monday so that he can sail for a trip abroad on Tuesday.

This leaves a condition something like that when Kennedy took the job. The Securities Exchange Commission is getting ready

to tackle the problem of the Utilities Holding Companies, to decide what financial superstructures among them should be abolished. The Utilities affair, that famous and desperate battle for the Death Sentence Clause for the Holding Companies, aroused even more doubt and antagonism than the original Stock Exchange regulation itself. So President Roosevelt is now confronted with the same task he had when he put Joe Kennedy on the job - the task of finding a man who will inspire confidence, not deepen distrust. As those ticklish Holding Company hearings approach the question is, who will succeed Joseph P. Kennedy.

RADIO

They are displaying so many radio miracles in New York's Radio Show -- it makes a fellow wonder how many more tricks the wizards are going to flash on us. There's the magic eye and the magic brain and the sentry box tuner. Airplane dials and colored lights, a colored hand indicator. If you're color blind there's a special pointer for you. For the totally blind there's a special device for tuning-in. All these wonders at the 1935 National Electrical and Radio Exposition in New York.

The next thing you know those magicians are going to devise a contraption to catapult an overtime talker away from the "mike." They may have one of those things around here now.

So, before I get catapulted I'd better say--- *but, wait, here's a curious one.*
~~So Long Until Monday.~~

GOLD

This is the story of a city threatened -- threatened by gold. To save the town they've had to issue a decree against the menace of the precious metal. Gold, ~~no~~ getaway!

The city is the highest national capital in the world. -- Twelve thousand feet above sea level, La Paz, Bolivia. It's a fine town, situated in a steep ravine formed by the Choqueyapu River. That's a telltale name. Cho^aqueyⁱapu in the Indian language of those parts means -- gold River. It was one of the places where the glittering Incas of old got their fabulous yellow treasures. That's what the conquering Spaniards were after -- Gold. So in fifteen forty-five the Conquistadores came storming, and started panning the glittering dust in the river ravine. And they founded the city of ^{Nuestra} Neustra Senora De La Paz -- Our Lady of Peace.

They took out all the gold that was easily to be gained, and then abandoned their diggings in the canyon of La Paz. Bolivia turned to mining tin - - her principal expert.

The years of depression did two things ~~of~~ highest Bolivian importance. The price of tin took a nose dive, the price

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of gold zoomed. So Bolivians turned from tin to gold, prospecting and digging in a big way -- especially in the canyon of the Chōqueyapu, at La Paz. They dug along the banks of the river and into the sides of the ravine. They excavated huge beds and drove shafts. So much Bolivian gold digging that the canyon began to change, the land undermined. The very foundations of the city were threatened, buildings in danger of toppling, bridges weakened.

So now the government has had to issue a decree, saying:

"Stop panning". Nobody allowed to dig for gold there any more.

Now the miners are trekking out, patient Indians trudging along,

seeking other goldbearing rivers.

On their way again.

59 1/2 Just as I am. And s-l-u-Monday