

COAL

L. L. Sumner & P. G. O'Donnell, Tuesday, July 9th, 1927.

The southern coal operators have fallen in line - accepting the same contract that the northern mine owners have signed with the union. The decision of the southern operators was unanimous today, which leaves only a few soft coal mines in the Far West among the missing, so far as signing up with John L. ~~kw~~ Lewis is concerned. →

UNIFICATION

(Unification of the armed forces came a step nearer today. The Senate late this afternoon, swiftly approved, by a voice vote, President Truman's plan for a single department of national security.

The measure creates a "secretary of National Security" who will have jurisdiction over separate departments of Army, Navy, and Air. He to have cabinet rank,) but not the heads of the three departments.

The man most often mentioned for the post is the present Secretary of the Navy, James Forrestal.

MARSHALL PLAN

Today's news is that Soviet Russia sent a memorandum criticizing the Marshall Plan to the governments of the satellite countries -- also to the Scandinavian states. This, we are told, has been the extent of the Moscow pressure -- just a reminder that Soviet Russia is against the American program for aid to Europe.

It worked with Jugoslavia, Bulgaria and Romania. They won't participate. Yesterday, Romania was still in doubt, but today said - no. And here's the latest -- Poland has just rejected the invitation.

However, Czechoslovakia, another satellite, has accepted; and so have the Scandinavian countries.

The score now is fifteen nations to attend the Paris conference, five apart from Russia, are boycotting the meeting. And Albania and Hungary still ~~to~~ to be heard from, are under the Soviet thumb.

ATOMIC

The great atomic bomb sensation turns into something of a comedy - if that's all there is to it. A formal explanation was given to the United States Senate today, ~~and the echo is a laugh - always presuming that there's nothing more than the mere innocent merriment.~~

The sensation broke when the New York Sun this afternoon came out with a giant black headline, "A-Bomb secrets are stolen from Oak Ridge files." The story then went on to state the following: "Unknown agents, working from within the atomic energy plant at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, have stolen several files of highly secret data on the atomic bomb." After which the Sun continued in phrases ^(vivid) ~~(vivid)~~ with alarm - saying it had information that this Oak Ridge affair would rival that Canadian atomic spy sensation which featured Soviet Agents acquiring American atomic secrets.

This headline excitement was followed by an immediate buzz of reporters rushing to question officials. Two members ^{of the} joint Congressional Committee on

Atomic Energy stated - yes, they knew something about the disappearance of secret atomic documents. But the ~~place~~ place was not Oak Ridge - it was Los Alamos. That did ^{not} decrease the alarm - Los Alamos, in New Mexico, being even more important than Oak Ridge, in Tennessee. We are told that Los Alamos does the actual job of assembling the bomb - with atomic materials produced at Oak Ridge and Hanford, Washington.

~~Other members of the Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy said they didn't know anything about it. The White House was queried - no result. Presidential Secretary Ross stated that nobody at the White House, from President Truman down, had any knowledge of the disappearance of the files of secret atomic papers. The civilian atomic commission, headed by Chairman Lilienthal, went into a high state of excitement - holding hasty conferences. Stories of spies went drifting around - foreign ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ secret agents stealing atomic secrets. The state of mind in the National Capital was expressively~~

stated by a news dispatch which began: "Official Washington was rocked today." Then in the Senate ^{up rose} ~~was~~ Hickenlooper of Iowa, Chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy - and Senator Hickenlooper made a disclosure. Yes, it was true that secret ~~a~~ & atomic documents had disappeared from Los Alamos. The Senator told the story as follows:

"Early this year, when the Civilian Commission took over atomic control from the Army, it was found that a file of atomic papers were missing. There was an instant investigation - the F.B.I. locating the missing papers and the individuals who had taken them.

These were two Army Sergeants - they swiped the secret atomic documents. Why? What was behind it all - spies, foreign secret agents? No, the two Sergeants just had that old army love for souvenirs.

They were stationed at Los Alamos, on Army duty ~~there~~ there and in March of last year ~~x~~ were demobilized. They were much impressed by the experience they had had, on duty

in the middle of the great dramatic world-shaking phenomenon of the age - the atomic bomb. So they thought they'd like to have a little souvenir. Whereupon they just walked in and swiped a file of secret atomic papers of the most confidential sort.

Then they went home. What ~~did~~ they do with the souvenirs? They locked them up - kept the documents in a safe place, not saying anything about them. Presumably, they realized that it wasn't so healthy to have those souvenirs. They kept the secret atomic information for a year -- until this spring, when the F.B.I. showed up.

Senator Hickenlooper told today, on the authority of the F.B.I. that it is certain no technical atomic information was divulged by the souvenir hunting of the two sergeants - "No effective breach of security," says the Senator.

The Justice Department announced this evening that the two former Army sergeants, names not given, who removed the secret documents, will be prosecuted. However, the department says it's not sure just where or under what statute proceedings will be instituted.

It's a laugh all right, but the mirth rings a trifle hollow when we think about soldiers and sailors getting away with atomic secrets for souvenirs. It doesn't sound so well when we remember all of the stories of the ingenuity and diabolical cunning and desperate determination of foreign spies - especially such as might be commissioned by some foreign government to steal our atomic secrets.

Moreover the aftermath of today's atomic

sensation ~~is~~ brings another curious detail. The New York Sun, in its reverberating story today, declared that at the Oak Ridge Atomic Plant, there are employees whose loyalty is questionable - people with close relatives in the Communist Party. The Sun stated: "The wife of one employee at Oak Ridge is on the staff of the Soviet Embassy in Washington."

What's the answer to that allegation? Today, Congressman Parnell Thomas of New Jersey, Chairman of the House UnAmerican Activities Committee, said - yes, there had been an employee at Oak Ridge whose wife was on the staff of the Soviet Embassy. However, said the Congressman, that particular employee has since been discharged. Well, we certainly should hope ~~xxx~~ so.

SURVIVOR

Today the story was told - how they ~~ax~~ saved the life of an Army airman in a crash on Palmyra Island, a remote bit of land in the Far Pacific. ~~Harua~~

A nineteen year old radio man, ~~who~~ owes his life to radio - saved by a radio ham six thousand miles away.

It seemed as if he couldn't possibly survive - there was no doctor out there on that remote spot in the Pacific, ^{tiny} Palmyra ^{atol} ~~island~~. And how badly he was hurt in the crash is indicated by his own story. He says that when the plane hit, his first thought was fire. So he reached up for the fire extinguisher, but couldn't get hold of it. "I looked," he said today, "and found out why - I didn't have a hand. Then I piled out of the plane in knee high water. I thought," he goes on, "I was stumbling into a big hole. Then I looked down, and saw I had no right leg."

His companions, who were ~~also~~ injured, got him ashore, but there seemed no hope - without a doctor, and they hadn't any idea what to do to help their injured comrade.

But on Palmyra Island, the government maintains a weather station - with a radio operator. He is Steve Barnes of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, and he went into action. It seems that Steve, to ~~XXXX~~ amuse himself during the ~~ix~~ long ~~ixxi~~ lonely hours on Palmyra Island, communicates from time to time with an amateur radio enthusiast at Audubon, New Jersey - Joe Bonsted, a ship worker. Steve and Joe, though separated by six thousand miles, have become pals - in the way of the radio ham. So now Steve called Joe, and told him the trouble out there in the Far Pacific - about the injured Army Airman who seemed to be a goner, because they didn't know what to do to help him.

Joe said - wait a minute. He jumped to the telephone and called the chief surgeon at the Audubon Hospital, Dr. Ralph Davis. So the Doctor got on the job in an exchange of messages with Palmyra Island. Joe, communicating with Steve, relayed the Doctor's instructions, and these were followed by the

comrades of the injured airman - medical advice so good and practical that today the victim of the crash arrived in Honolulu, minus hand and leg, but otherwise in good shape.

BUGSY SIEGEL

Word from California is that the killing of the headline gangster, Bugsy Siegel, may be followed by the murder of Virginia Hill -- in whose Hollywood mansion Siegel was shot to death by unknown assassins. A couple of weeks before that event, Virginia Hill went to Paris, where she is now. The gangland killers are supposed to have followed her there, her life in danger.

This information was given out by Chief of Police Anderson at Beverly Hills. This afternoon he stated: "My information is that the assassins left two or three days ago for Paris." To which he adds: "I immediately cabled the Paris Police to put them on the alert." At the same time, he has requested the Paris police to ask Virginia Hill a number of questions. These have to do with any knowledge that she may have of Bugsy Siegel's reported dealings in gambling and narcotics.

Virginia Hill is described as having been Bugsy Siegel's girl friend, and for a long time Hollywood was agog with stories of her lavish spending. She was suppose to be an heiress, but the California police

declare that this is denied by her two brothers. They say she comes from an average middle-class Alabama family - no heiress at all. The police add that she is known to have been acquainted with other big shots of gangland, and are curious about where she got all the money. She is said to have carried thousand dollar bills and to have bought anything and everything that caught her fancy.

BRITISH SPORTS

London relays a British demand that championship sports events over there be limited to the British. That is -- keep foreigners out of British title events until British athletes have recovered from the war hardships well enough to compete on equal terms with the Americans.

And this would seem to be a reasonable idea - The suggestion was made today that the British better send their beginners in boxing over here, to get some experience in American rings, and learn the tough way of the American knockout. In the London paper, the News of the World, sports writer George Harrison writes: "Far better for us to use American rings as training grounds for our boys, than to import expensive Americans to convert our top fighters into fromage."

ELIZABETH

(The world's number one marriage ^{has just been} announced ^{at} ~~today~~ -- The British Royal wedding that has been rumored for some time.) The hard pressed British will celebrate an event that may take their minds off the hardships of Royalty -- and who doesn't like a wedding with a fine young couple marching to the altar?

Britons will tell you that the marriage of Princess Elizabeth will be the most august nuptial event since the marriage of Queen Victoria, more than a hundred years ago. There are similarities, Victoria having been a ruling Queen when she married, while Elizabeth is Heiress to the Crown.

Victoria's husband was a German Prince, her first cousin, Albert of Saxe-Coburg. (Elizabeth marries a distant cousin, who was Prince Philip of Greece, but whose Germanic ancestry is ~~xxxx~~ much like that of the British Royal family. He has since become a British citizen,) and is now Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten of the ~~xxxx~~ Royal Navy.

The news ^{of the} engagement ^{has just flashed --} announced in London tonight

by a court circular, which states that King George has given his consent. Earlier in the day, London newspapers buzzed with rumors. One story was that there were prospects of a delay, but the Princess insisted -- she had made up her mind about getting married, and didn't want to keep it a secret any longer.

The London word is that Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten recently a Prince of Greece, will become Prince Consort, when Elizabeth succeeds to the throne - the first Prince Consort Britain has had since Victoria's husband Albert. Meanwhile, the young couple will be given a title -- but it won't have anything to do with Wales. Elizabeth will not be made Princess of Wales, because that title is reserved for the heir apparent, and she is only the heir presumptive. That's a fine line of Royal distinction, based on the fact that King George ~~might~~ might still have a son -- who, in that case, would succeed to the throne. He would become the heir apparent - which possibility leaves Princess Elizabeth as a mere presumptive - poor girl.

According to reports from London, it will be an austerity wedding. Morning clothes and lounge suits instead of court dress.

There's a housing shortage in England, so, the Royal couple will have to "make do" in temporary quarters in Buckingham Palace -- after ^{returning} ~~returning~~ from a honeymoon. Where will they go on their honeymoon? Oh to Canada and the United States, maybe.

The rank bestowed on the young couple will be that of Duke and Duchess of Clarence - a title of long, dramatic and often tragic record in British history. Most renowned of the Dukes of Clarence, renowned for a strange, dark and whimsical reason -- was the one who was drowned in a butt of Malmsey wine. Condemned to death in the ferocious days of the Wars of the Roses long ago, this Duke of Clarence made a jovial selection for the method of his demise -- drowned in a butt of Malmsey wine, or so says the old legend. That, of course, should set no precedent -- more recent persons of Royal rank have been known to be drowned in wine, but not quite the same way.

All of which is hardly in keeping with the wedding to be held this autumn. The Royal nuptials will be solemnized in Westminster Abbey by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England.

And now Sir Nelson what news on the Palace of Ivory Court Calender?

And now Sir Hugh what news about Old King Dynafuel?

Today two big London newspapers proposed that for two years those big golf, tennis and rowing events be closed to foreigners -- so that British stars might be able to develop without being killed off by American competition with all the advantage that American athletes enjoy. I've been inclined to wonder -- why didn't the British do that in the first place? They must have realized that, comparing American and British conditions of life, in this after war period they couldn't be expected to compete on an equal basis.

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~~There is London newspaper complaint about the Olympic games to be staged in Britain next summer - the first post-war Olympics. Today, one of the top ranking British sports writers, Ivan Sharpe, writes in the Sunday Chronicle "It is almost impossible," he declares, "To find a British follower of athletics who says we shall get anything but a sorry licking all around." Ivan Sharpe goes on to list the best athletes that Britain has for the Olympics - and gives them not a chance. Still, it's hard to see what the British can do about the~~

ADD COAL

The latest is a Congressional blast against the coal contract. It comes from Congressman Hartley of New Jersey, co-author of the Taft-Hartley Act, who states that the contract which John L. Lewis made with the Mine owners violates the Labor Law, "At least ~~x~~ one clear violation," Says the Congressman.