

DEBTS

L.S. - Sunco. Thurs., April 22, 1937.

The headlines ^{again} flash those familiar old words - war debts.

Great Britain is willing to negotiate with the United States about the money she owes. Object - payment. Yes, these declarations were made in the House of Commons today, but they didn't mean a thing. Of course, His Majesty's government is willing to take up the war debt question with Washington - some time or other. London announces its will to pay - when and if. The statement by Neville Chamberlain, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to the House of Commons today, was merely a repetition of what he has said before and what England has been saying all the time. "His Majesty's government," he declared, "would be ready to reopen discussions on the question of the settlement of the British war debt whenever circumstances are such as to warrant the hope that a satisfactory result might be reached."

(I almost got all wound up in that sentence myself.)

In other words: " Yes, we'll pay, if the proper figure can be arranged. We'll start talking payment, when the time is ripe. But it's not yet ripe."

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From all this we gather that the time is exceedingly green, without a touch of that ripening red which glows on the cheek of an apple. Sour apples, you might call the whole thing.

One interesting angle of the House of Commons debt discussion came with a question addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer by a Conservative member - "Would His Majesty's government settle the war debt, if a fifty year British loan could be floated in the United States?" Interesting - how the resolve to pay money borrowed, is combined with the aspiration to borrow some more. ~~The~~ War debt policy in Europe is pretty much tied up with our own federal law that forbids loans to ~~ex~~ nations with war debts outstanding. A government might figure that it would be good business to make a settlement, merely for the purpose of borrowing some more American cash.

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The whole thing came up in the Commons today as part of a debate about the Chamberlain budget - with a Labor member scolding the budget for making no provision for any war debt payment. The Labor M.P. thought the bookkeeping should have done Uncle Sam the courtesy of making some mention ~~on the~~ of the debts outstanding.

CORONATION

The subject of finances, money, cash, spondulix - takes us on to that glory of pomp and pageantry, the coronation. Because that flame of the splendor of royalty has also - a financial side. In fact, some of the cynical make the remark that money, business, and profit cut much ice in the crowning of the King. So therefore, it is not so surprising that London gives us a few figures today.

The exports calculate that 2,000,000 visitors will be in London; a hundred and sixty thousand people of these, from abroad traveling to England for the crowning event. Eighty-five thousand and of these English-speaking visitors. Thirty-five thousand from Canada, Australia, New Zealand and India. From the United States - fifty thousand. A lot of visitors. ~~Thirty~~ and they will spend a lot of money.

Outsiders going to England will spend over a hundred million dollars. Getting there will cost them for steamship and other traveling expenses, some thirty-five million dollars. Of this, the British colonials will put up eighteen million. The figure for Americans

is twelve million. ^{It} I am told by tourist agencies that the average coronation traveler will stay three weeks in England and will spend about five hundred dollars there. The take in money will come to seventy-five million dollars - in London alone.

The figures paint a picture of what an enormous attraction the coronation is, and how eager people are to get there, especially ^{Colonials and} ~~the~~ Americans.

But there are some folks who may not be so eager.

You might suspect that from a phrase used in a most stately document. The folks in question are the peers ^{of} the realm, the dukes, the marquises, earls, viscounts and barons of England.

They have to go. They're commanded, and are told - "no excuses."

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"Attend the coronation - or else." We discover this in the official document itself, the command sent in the name of the King to the peers by the Earl Marshal, ^{the} ~~a~~ Duke of Norfolk. Here's the way that mandate goes, and observe the words - "all ~~the~~ excuses set apart."

"Right trusty and well beloved", it reads. "We greet

you well. Whereas the twelfth day of May next is appointed for the solemnity of our Royal Coronation; These are to will and command you (all excuses set apart) to make your personal attendance on and at the time above mentioned, furnished and appointed as to your rank, quality, ~~and~~ appertaineth, there to do and perform all such services as shall be required and belonging. Whereof you are not to fail. And so we bid you must heartily farewell. Given at our Court of St. James ^{'s} this twelfth day of April, the first year of our reign. By his Majesty's command."

VENICE

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There was a carnival at Venice today - a feast of welcome. The palaces along the Grand Canal were in gala trim, bright colors, gay tapestries of old, hanging from windows. Gondolas thronged the Canal, and crowds cheered in the Piazza ~~of~~ San Marco. All this - to greet two men in a motorboat. No, they didn't take a gondola for their triumphant progress through the Grand Canal - and that perhaps symbolizes the fact that they are dealing with cold-blooded realistic affairs of state and not dreamy sentiment or Venetian romance. The two men are Premier Benito Mussolini of Italy and Cancellor Kurt Schuschnigg of Austria. They're conferring in Venice, discussing some of the thorniest problems of present day diplomacy.

Tonight, they dine in a glorious Venetian palace of old, where once lived the Poet Robert Browning. The dreamy mood of Venice surrounding this event of hard-boiled statecraft would have been something for the poetic pen of Browning.

~~All sorts of~~ Secrecy surrounds these Mussolini-Schuschnigg conversations, but diplomacy knows what they're about. Italy and Austria have several perplexing problems in the balance,

anyone of which might rack the statesmen's brains.

First and foremost is the question of Nazi Germany.

Hitler wants to get Austria, and Mussolini is opposed to that. Several years ago Italy and Germany almost came to blows, when the Austrian Nazis staged a putsch and tried to seize the Vienna government. Between then and now things have changed quite a lot. Then Germany was still disarmed. Now the Reich is bristling with guns. Then Hitler and Mussolini had no common interest to draw them together. Now they're partners in the Spanish tangle, shoulder to shoulder. Yes, plenty of change. Does that mean there's also a change in the conflict of the two Fascist chiefs about Austria? In a couple of weeks Mussolini will visit Hitler in Germany for an important diplomatic conference.

There are insistent reports that Mussolini is withdrawing his opposition to a Nazi Austria, for he feels he cannot block Hitler away from Vienna any longer. Is this what Mussolini is saying to Chancellor Schuschnigg in that Venetian palace tonight?

Another thing is -- the Hapsburg question. The present Austrian government, in trying to keep free of Nazi Germany, would like to restore the old imperial house, and have an emperor once more. At one time Mussolini was more or less in favor of the Hapsburg restoration -- when he was opposing the Nazis in Austria. They say now he has changed his mind; no Hapsburg restoration for him. Is that what he is telling Chancellor Schuschnigg in Vienna tonight?

Then there's the eternal Balkan question. Italy was chronically at odds with Yugoslavia of the Balkans and the Little Entente. But that's changed. Recently Mussolini made an important treaty with the Yugoslav government, settling disputes, making friends. How does that affect Austria?

Yes, there were angles of hard-boiled, cold-blooded statecraft, as the Duce and the Austrian Chancellor talk tonight in the Venetian palace with its memories of Browning.

HORSE RACE

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The thunder of the hoofs of thoroughbreds echoes in a bit of news we have tonight. It recites that the trophy won by *the renowned race horse* Lexington in Eighteen Fifty-Four will be presented to the winner of the Kentucky Blue Grass Stakes *this year.* Behind that announcement stands nearly the whole history of ~~horse-racing~~ horse-racing in this land for more than three-quarters of a century. The trophy won by Lexington!-, that may stand as a momento of *how the love of racing in* ~~the fact that the history of~~ America has been dominated by Lexington and his descendants.

The greatest horse of all, on the track and in the stud! He outraced all the champions of his time. He broke records in a dazzling sequence. He was the speed sensation of horse-racing back in the Fifties.

After his running days were over, his descendants continued his glory. For twenty-five years the prizes of the turf were monopolized by the Lexington *strain.* ~~string.~~ In the first sixty-one Kentucky Derbies, descendants of Lexington won fifty-two times. Today, every ranking American thoroughbred

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has a Lexington representative at least twice among his ancestors.

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The glory of Lexington on the track was climaxed by his victory at New Orleans in Eighteen Fifty-Four, when an ornate silver punch bowl was presented to his owner, Dr. Elisha Warfield. Since then the bowl has been inherited down the line. One of its possessors was Brutus J. Clay, American Minister to Switzerland in Nineteen Five. He died in Nineteen Thirty-two and left it to his daughter, Mary Jane. Now, it has been purchased by his widow, stepmother to the owner - and she has presented it to the Keeneland Association at Lexington which sponsors the Blue Grass Stakes. This race is a sort of tune-up for the Kentucky Derby, a test race for the derby entries. To heighten the interest this year, the Blue Grass winner will be presented with the ^{Famous} cup that Lexington won.

GABLE

Hollywood's court room drama, featuring Clark Gable, took a new turn today. Two documents were introduced - a birth certificate and a marriage certificate.

Mrs. Violet Wells Norton claims that ^{the} movie enchanter Clark Gable is the father of her fourteen year old daughter, Gwendolyn. She has demanded money from him, pursued him with letters and accusations.

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One certificate produced today registers the birth of Gwendolyn Norton, and bears the signature of one Herbert James Norton, as her father. This Norton had not been previously mentioned in the case. Now, the birth certificate puts him on record as the ^{papa.} ~~girl's father~~

The marriage certificate presents a paradox of dates. It registers the marriage of Herbert James Norton and Mrs. Violet Wells Norton. ~~It~~ Its date is two years after the birth of the child. Yes, a paradox.

Today the attorneys for Mrs. Norton asked the judge to give a direct verdict of acquittal - on the grounds that she

honestly believed that Clark Gable was the father of the girl.

The judge refused. So the case goes on - the woman charged with

misuse of the mails in trying to get money out of ~~Clark~~ Gable.

The comment today is that Senator Clark of Missouri has taken his political life in his hands. The son of the renowned Champ Clark, so long the Speaker of the House, has indeed cast the die. In his address to the American Newspaper Publishers Association, *at their Waldorf annual conclave*, he put himself irrevocably in opposition to President Roosevelt's Supreme Court plan -- which he declared would as good as abolish the high tribunal.

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"In my judgment," he said, "it would be better to have no judicial branch at all, than to have a pitiful shadow of one, subservient to either the Executive or Congress, or both of them combined."

He added that there were officials of the government who were out to dragoon Congress, backed by the power of patronage. *#* That *does* ~~are~~ indeed establish the Senator one hundred percent in the opposition, and he'll have to fight it out along that line in the Senate and in his own state, having taken his political life in his hands, as the comment was today.

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STRIKE

In Maine there are two cities, twin cities, dedicated to the manufacture of shoes. There, intricate machinery turns out an unending stream of footwear - that is the machinery did until about a month ago. Today there certainly was mighty little shoe manufacturing going on in Auburn and Lewiston. A strike has been on there for twenty-eight days, and tonight the twin cities are patrolled by national guardsmen with rifles in their hands, steel helmets on their heads - all the signs of a military occupation.

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At the same time, three strike leaders are under arrest, one of them - Powers Hapgood, Secretary of the New England Council of John Lewis's C.I.O. . He's a graduate of Harvard and a nephew of Norman Hapgood, an old-time liberal writer. After graduating from Harvard, Powers Hapgood found his way to the labor movement by working as a miner, a lumberjack, a farm-hand, a railroad worker. He married a Miss Mary Donovan, who was the Socialist candidate for Governor of Massachusetts in Nineteen Twenty-Eight. In Nineteen 28 Thirty-Two, Powers Hapgood himself ran for Governor of

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Indiana - on the Socialist ticket. In the recent wave of labor trouble, he has been an important figure in the C.I.O. Tonight - under arrest. When he was brought to court today, the judge said: "I think the time has come when there must be a discontinuance of leniency."

All of this follows a wild riot last night in which the strikers battled with the police. In the mad melee, a state police lieutenant was hit by a stone and knocked unconscious.

So today the twin shoe cities are under military control, and the Judge talks about - a discontinuance of leniency.

(Good news - for Canada and the U. S. A., -- the Oshawa General Motors strike has been settled!)

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