

L.I. - Linnoco. Tues., May 9, 1939.

VATICAN

~~And now what~~ ^{What} about that call for a peace conference issued by Pope Pius the Twelfth? ~~This was reported, and, what is there to~~ ^{it} ~~it~~ Tonight's news from Rome indicates that the Pontiff will not call any five-power peace conference. ~~Such is the statement made by high Vatican officials.~~

From other sources we hear that the Pope did make a suggestion for a conference to Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Poland - for a settlement of the German-Polish dispute and other international quarrels. He suggested to these nations that he might call such a conference, if they were agreeable to the idea. The papal suggestion, however, was discouraged; Poland in particular objected - Poland remembering the result of the Munich Conference, which sealed the doom of Czechoslovakia. So Pope Pius abandoned the idea. That is - he turned to another ^{plan} ~~idea~~ for peace.

Advices from Rome indicate that the Pontiff is now trying to get the nations to open negotiations with each other for the purpose of mediating the claims that Germany is making on Poland - Danzig in particular. The Vatican hopes that the urging by the head of the Catholic Church will put the mediation idea across. And -

Ab

that this may be followed by an international effort to adjust the difference between Italy and France.

WINDSOR

From London comes a denial of the rumor that the Duke of Windsor communicated with his brother, King George, about the Windsor radio address yesterday. ~~The~~ Reports circulated that the ex-King spoke by wireless telephone to the present King aboard the liner EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA. ~~and~~ It was pointed out ^{today} that the liner is not equipped with wireless telephone although there might have been communication by wireless telegraph. The whole thing is now denied by sources close to Buckingham Palace. It was ~~pointed out~~ ^{said} that there would ~~be no need of~~ ^{have been no need for} the Duke of Windsor to get ^{the} approval of his brother and sovereign for an address so thoroughly non-political as his plea for peace.

I have a hunch that Britain ^{now} doesn't feel so happy about ^{all} ^{that} ^{of} excluding the Duke of Windsor's talk from the air. Today there was worldwide favorable response to that peace plea which was spoken in such sincere and affecting tones.

RUSSIA

Soviet Russia stays in the limelight in connection with alliances and agreements. And that limelight is flooding on a lot of Russian question-marks. (Will the Soviets enter into a pact? And if so, with whom? A pact with the democracies? Or maybe with Hitler.)

The suspicion of the possibility of a pact between the Nazis and the Communists keeps on stirring in the international news. And Hitler seems to be encouraging the rumor. (The Nazi press is talking about a possible agreement with Moscow,) and the significant thing is that the Nazi press control is doing nothing to suppress the reports - just lets them ride. In fact, Hitler officials are talking up the idea in their own peculiar phraseology - phraseology which hangs on the assumption that the Stalin regime is actually abandoning Communism and is becoming more or less Fascist. Today, a high Nazi official said:- "An agreement between Soviet Russia and Nazi Germany is out of the question. An ~~xxxxxxx~~ agreement, however, between National Socialist Russia and Nazi Germany is a possibility always."

~~It is difficult to tell what these German rumors may.~~

~~mean whether it's anything serious or just flying a kite. They~~
~~seem rather more like kite flying after~~ a dispatch from London
today ~~which~~ declares that Roumania has decided to accept the
Soviet Russian guarantee. Roumania has been fighting ~~mighty~~ shy
of the Red-flag-kind-of-assistance to be extended by Moscow,
Roumania not ~~extending~~ ^{giving} any welcome to the Red army. But today
the Soviet Ambassador to London told Foreign Secretary Lord
Halifax that King Carol's government has agreed to permit the
Soviets to guarantee the ~~Nazis~~ independence of Roumania.

That might seem to be decided progress for the
anti-Hitler peace front which Great Britain has been lining up.
However, other word from London indicates that Soviet Russia is
certain to turn down the British proposal for an anti-Hitler
agreement. (Britain wants Dictator Stalin to guarantee the smaller
nations against attack by Germany. Stalin wants a military alliance
with ^{Britain and} France; the Russians are saying that the British proposal ~~does~~
doesn't say what Great Britain and France would do if Hitler should
attack Soviet Russia.) The Soviet worry is something like this -
~~if Russia~~ if Russia underwrote an anti-Hitler pact and were to

49

go to the aid of the smaller nations and get into a war with Germany, why then Britain and France might stay out of the picture and let the Soviets fight Germany alone. Stalin doesn't like that kind of alliance.

(A late dispatch from Moscow gives us an official statement by the Soviet government. This statement declares that Great Britain's proposal to include Russia in the anti-Hitler front doesn't offer anything for the Soviets' own security.)

London wants Moscow to agree to come instantly to the rescue if Great Britain and France are attacked. But if Russia should be attacked - that's something else again.

SCANDINAVIAN

50
The Scandinavian countries today turned down Hitler's anti-aggression treaties. The Nazi Dictator, as part of his response to President Roosevelt's peace proposal, ^{suggested to} ~~proposed to~~ Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland that Germany ~~would~~ guarantee them against aggression. Hitler's idea was reciprocal treaties, each side guaranteeing the other.

Today the Foreign Ministers of the Scandinavian countries, meeting in Stockholm, decided - No. They wouldn't join Hitler's anti-aggression scheme, for the reason of - neutrality. The Scandinavian idea is to be completely neutral.

The Danish Foreign Minister hesitated somewhat, not wanting to offend Germany. Denmark is the only one of the four Scandinavian countries that has a common frontier with Germany, and the Danish Prime Minister proposed that the refusal be accompanied by some sort of friendly gesture toward ^{Hitler.} ~~Germany.~~

QUINTS

At Callander, Ontario, curtseys were practiced a lot today. It was fivefold practice, quintuplet practice. The quints started in learning the courtly way of curtseying when they meet Their Majesties, King George and Queen Elizabeth. They'll have their first railroad trip when they go to Toronto to curtsey before the sovereigns of Britain. A special private car will take them for the thrill of their first choo-choo train trip. And meanwhile they're learning to curtsey - plenty of practice for tiny knees and toes.

ROYAL COOKERY FOLLOW QUINTS

Other Canadian preparations for the royal visit concern the important question of the royal bill of fare. We are told that when Their Majesties arrive at Quebec, they'll start dining on edibles prepared by no imported French chef. An Englishwoman will do the cooking, Mrs. Barbara Jackson. ~~She~~

cooked for Lord Bessborough when he was Governor-General of Canada. Before that she prepared the meals ~~for the~~ ^{at} Government House, ~~at~~ Perth, Australia, and when the present Duke of Windsor, then the Prince of Wales, visited Australia, he liked Mrs. Jackson's cooking so well, he presented her with a souvenir brooch.

Correspondent Douglas Williams wires
that the menu for Their Majesties, George and Elizabeth,

will include such delicacies as Canadian speckled trout, Ontario asparagus, and souffles with Canadian maple syrup. Mrs. Jackson

has been informed that the King and Queen prefer to dine simply ^{and lightly.}

However, ~~Mrs. Jackson~~ ^{she} will serve one of her more elaborate

creations, a dish of Canadian ham braised with champagne, covered with brown olives, stuffed with cloves and served with pickled

peaches. And that should delight the royal palate, *or any palate.*

COAL

52
There was a soft coal conference at the White House today, with the President urging the mine owners and the union to start negotiating again and ~~try~~ try to end the labor deadlock. In a conference that lasted for an hour and a quarter, the President pointed out the perils of the soft coal labor trouble - the coal shortage that was confronting the nation. As a result, the operators and the union chiefs agreed to start peace discussions again. They have been doing plenty of negotiating without getting anywhere, but they'll have another try beginning in New York tomorrow.

As to the details of what happened in today's conference, C.I.O. John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers, and Charles S. O'Neill, spokesman for the mine operators, issued a joint announcement that any statement about today's conference would have to come from the President.

REORGANIZATION

The President went on reorganizing today. Under the Reorganization Bill, he is empowered to switch around and consolidate government bureaus in the interest of simplicity and efficiency. Some weeks ago he sent his first reorganization proposal to Congress, various bureaus combined to make things less complicated.

53

Today Congress got the President's second reorganization proposal, a scheme for a lot of new consolidations. It would take a long time to tell about them all, and we can summarize by saying that at present a number of bureaus are scattered all over the place in highly illogical fashion, and these the President wants to redistribute, reshuffle. And some he wants to abolish.

Right now the Bureau of Lighthouses is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce. The President wants to transfer the lighthouses to the ~~jurisdiction of the~~ Treasury. That might seem not so logical, until we reflect that the Treasury has charge of the Coast Guard. ^{So} The Lighthouse Bureau is to be combined with the Coast Guard, and that ^{seems} reasonable enough.

nt } At present, there's a Foreign Commerce Bureau connected with the Bureau of Commerce, and there's a Foreign Agricultural

REORGANIZATION - 2

Service connected with the Department of Agriculture. The President proposes that both of these foreign bureaus be transferred to the State Department, which is in charge of all foreign affairs.

One of the troublesome government bureaus has been the Bituminous Coal Commission, which has been involved in all sorts of arguments. Abolish the Bituminous Commission, says the President, and transfer its functions to the Department of the Interior.

He also proposes the abolition of a couple of obsolete agencies created during the World War. There's a War Finance Corporation, hanging on needlessly twenty years later. And there's a Director-General of Railroads, reminiscent of government operation of railroads during the World War.

These are examples of the kind of reorganization the President proposed today, and it doesn't look as if he'll encounter any particular opposition. Congress made little objection to the first White House proposal under the Reorganization Bill, and today prominent Republican Senators were saying that the second proposal looked all right to them.

SUN OIL

We live and learn -- and out at the automotive section of the World's Fair I learned that life actually begins at forty for thousands of the men who build the cars ~~you and~~ *we drive.*

~~is a fact.~~ In the automobile plants men between the ages of forty-five and sixty draw the highest annual earnings, and ~~in~~ ~~these plants,~~ more than half the men over forty were over that age when they were hired. It's been said that the automobile industry dragged us out of two depressions by refusing to be licked, and now, certainly it's lighting the way to prosperity for middle-aged workers by proving it's brains not age which is important. ~~and true measure of American respect for the~~ ~~rights of individuals.~~

25

BOMB

Today at San Jose, California, the headquarters of the state relief administration was crowded, - when in walked a disgruntled applicant for relief. "Look here," he shouted, and in one hand he had a bomb. He ~~threw~~ drew his arm back to hurl the bomb, but before he could toss it there was a terrific explosion. The bomb exploded in his hand, blew his arm off and hurled him to the ground unconscious. The explosion in the midst of the crowd didn't injure anybody else, though some people were hurt in the panic that followed.

MURDER

Philadelphia's ~~murder~~ poison syndicate case came to a new and startling climax ^{today} the merchants of murder struck again.

After all the arrests by the police, and after charges that two hundred victims were poisoned -- the gang is still striking.

Philadelphia police say they are now using their ~~poison~~ poison tactics to remove members of the mob who might talk and tell.

Yesterday a man died, today the word is -- poison.

The police were looking for him, suspecting him of the death of his wife -- she believed to have been a victim of the ~~murder~~ poison syndicate. They say the chiefs of the merchants of murder still at large were afraid he would give information to the police so they ~~struck again~~ removed him.

GLASSES

Some people have unreasoning prejudices. Take the case of a man arrested in Germany. He certainly does remind one of a bit of rhyming done a few years ago. That witty writing woman, Dorothy Parker, wrote a ^{co} couplet that went like this:

"Men seldom make passes

"At gals who wear glasses."

That was answered by the poet Ogden Nash, who was then making a stir with his cockeyed rhymes. Oogie Nash wrote the following line:

"The girl who is spectacted

"Seldom gets her nectacted."

Maybe the fellow over in Germany read that poetry exchange, because here's what the ^{Munich} police charge: ^{That} He went about at night and when he saw a girl who wore glasses he'd sneak up to her and snatch her glasses right off her nose. They say that in the past two years he thus grabbed spectacles from the faces of seventeen girls. ^{One man} ~~he~~ ^{who} certainly made passes at girls ^{who} ~~that~~ wore glasses.

What did he do with all those pairs of specs? The story relates that in some cases he'd put a pair of girl's glasses on the street car tracks. Then he's laugh with a ghoulish glee when

a trolley car came along and ground the spectacles to bits.

^{I've} They got him in jail, ^{now,} and if I were the judge ~~I'd~~ I'd sentence
~~him to be stared at all day long by four-eyed girls wearing~~
~~great horn-stumped cheaters.~~

BASEBALL

Here's a bit of news that raises the question -

"Is baseball growing soft?" No, I don't mean softball - that's hard. It's probably going to be exceedingly hard tonight for a lot of gentlemen who are too distinguished to be very young.

Bob Ripley's Believe-It-Or-Nots will be in a terrific softball

battle with ~~me and~~ my Nine Old Men at Madison Square Garden, *the official opening of the soft ball season.*

A dispatch from Detroit tells us that Connie Mack,

58
Manager of the Philadelphia Athletics, is going to stage a

try-out of a new kind ~~with~~ ^{of} spikeless baseball shoe. Or rather, spikes that ~~are not~~ ^{wont} spikes ~~when they hit you in the leg.~~ ^{when they slide into you - I mean the runner.}

Connie, ~~who in his time has been known to make hard ball still harder, must be mellowing with age - he's becoming chicken-hearted about what can happen when a runner comes sliding to base with spikes flashing high.~~

It seems that a Detroit inventor has devised a kind of spike ~~sh~~ with a sheath of rubber. When a ball player is running and his feet are trampling base-paths, the rubber sheath is pushed back from the spikes - so that he can get the usual grip on the ground. But when he throws his feet up for a slide, the rubber

8 1/2
covers the spikes and it can't slash into the legs of an opposing infielder.

Connie Mack announced today that he is going to have two of his players try out the safety spikes, Pitcher Chubby Dean and Rookie First Baseman Nick Etten. If the experiment works out all right, maybe all baseball will take to the new invention designed to eliminate the peril of the flashing spikes.

Well, Ripley's Believe-It-Or-Nots and ~~I~~ my Nine Old Men don't wear spikes. We find plenty of peril in softball without them - going lame, pulling a charley horse, and collapsing from exhaustion.

It's likely to be that way tonight at Madison Square Garden, all for the benefit of the ^{boys of the slums of New} ~~New York Boys Club~~

59
York. Father Flanigan of Boys Town and Mayor La S. will umpire, calling balls and strikes on Gene Tunney, Col. Ted Roosevelt and similar athletes, including your exhausted broadcaster who is on his way there now - and s-l-u-t-m.

59 1/4