

(Given by Chas. Collingwood)

First returns from the Italian elections show - losses for the Communists. The countrywide battle of ballots was for local offices - but, important as indicating the voting strength of the various factions.

The only returns in thus far are from extreme south and north - Sicily and the Alpine area. In both cases, the Christian Democrats and their moderate allies cut heavily into the strength of Communists and fellow travelers.

ITALY - COMMUNISTS

Italian Communist Leader Togliatti made a hurry-up trip to Belgrade, today - to confer with Marshal Tito. The Yugoslav Communist leader goes to Moscow later in the week for talks at the Kremlin. So the assumption is that Togliatti wants Tito to convey something to Bulganin and Khrushchev, something so important - it has to be conveyed through top level communication.

( This is emphasized by the fact that the Italian Communist leader left Rome, today, before the polls closed in the Italian election. In which, apparently - the Communists were suffering losses.)

FRANCE

There was a violent riot in the port of St. Nazaire, today. Where shipyard workers, directed by Communist leaders, seized the railway station - and fought a pitched battle with police. The purpose of the rioters was to stop the departure of reservists, bound for Algeria.

(Twenty soldiers, recalled to the colors, were to board a train - and some of the reservists, we hear, joined the mob in delaying the train.

The police, showered with stones, used tear gas bombs to clear the railway station and tracks, so the train could leave.

This is the latest in a series of disorders, inspired by Communists - in protest against the dispatch of reserve troops to suppress the rebellion in Algeria.)

MOROCCO

The new government of independent Morocco has reserved the right to negotiate with the United States - concerning five strategic air bases. These are capable of launching automatic bombers that will reach Soviet Russia - and were granted to the United States by the French government in Nineteen Fifty.

In March of this year, France ~~ceded~~<sup>Conceded</sup> the independence of Morocco. With - "interdependence". This latter term meaning Franco-Moroccan cooperation in foreign policy. Today, this collaboration was affirmed ~~at~~<sup>in</sup> a formal accord. With the Moroccans declaring - they will deal with the United States concerning the bases.

(They say they were not consulted when France made the agreements with the United States in Nineteen Fifty. So they are not bound by them. France agrees to that.

All of which would seem to provide a new delicate diplomatic job for the State Department in Washington.)



## INDIA

At New Delhi, today, a romantic page of history came to a formal end, with the signing of a treaty, in which France turns over to India the four enclaves of Pondicherry, Karikal, Mahe and Yanam. Of these, Pondicherry is the most famous - with the city that was once the capital of French India.

It all goes back to the days of Clive, when France and Britain disputed for the possession of the great sub-continent of Hindustan. The British won out, and France was left with four small scattered bits of territory. India, becoming independent recently, demanded these, and France yielded possession. Which, today, was formalized in a document signed by Prime Minister Nehru and the French Ambassador.

(The terms provide that French nationals born in India will have six months to decide - whether to retain French nationality, or become Indian citizens. Cultural and religious establishments in the four enclaves will remain under French ownership. At Pondicherry, the "College Francais" will be operated by the French government.)

(And so French India, which was a great golden realm  
three hundred years ago - comes officially to an end.)

FARM

President Eisenhower, today, signed the Farm Bill - that second measure which Congress passed, after the President had vetoed the first Farm Bill. The new one follows pretty generally, the recommendations he made, and includes - the Eisenhower soil bank. But, in signing, the President said he was disappointed, because the bill does not authorize his plan for soil bank "pre-payments". He wanted to make advance payments to the farmers, at once. But the Democrats objected, crying - election year politics.

SEATON

President Eisenhower, today, made a surprise appointment - naming Fred A. Seaton as the new Secretary of the Interior. The new Secretary has been serving as a White House aide, and was one of the earliest political supporters of General Ike for president. (His name had not hitherto been mentioned as a possible successor to Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay, who resigned April Fifteenth, so that he could run for the Senate in Oregon, against Senator Wayne Morse.)



FEUD

"Today brings one of the most remarkable events in the history of -- inter-service feuding. The Army got hold of a document, extolling the merits of the Air Force. Some Army official thereupon annotated this - with sour remarks. And the annotated version with the sarcastic comment, was "leaked". A copy was received by a Congressman, who made it available to the United Press.

At one point, the document reads: "The Air Force helps to make friends for the United States through its mercy missions and other operations."

In the margin the Army comment reads: "Scares the pants off some allies."

At another place, the Air Force says: "Our air power maintains the free world's safety today."

Alongside that the Army retorts: "What guff!"

Air Force: "The most important fact to be understood is that the Air Force must continue to be the mightiest Air Force in the world."

Army: "Don't stop the dollars."

Quite a duet. The Air Force - praising itself.

The Army - replying with Bronx cheers.



SUPREME COURT

( The Supreme Court upheld a decision, today - against railroad workers whose religious beliefs forbid them to join labor unions. At Los Angeles, two members of the Plymouth Brethren were required to join the Union - under a Union shop contract. Pleading - it was contrary to their religion. They were dismissed from their jobs, and appealed. The lower court found against them, and the Supreme Court lets that decision stand.

The high tribunal handed down a similar decision, today, in a racial segregation case. Upholding the ruling of a lower court - that a Louisiana state law, providing for school segregation, is illegal.)

## HIMALAYAS FOLLOW RECORDING

Tonight, Lowell is somewhere in the Himalayan regions, and I wonder if he's heard this next bit of news. He came from his stamping ground, from Katmandu - the Swiss Segaton there. It's a thriller - one of the greatest exploits of mountaineering on record, a triple exploit.

A party of Swiss climbers began by scaling the fourth highest mountain in the world - towering Lhotse, nearly twenty-eight thousand feet high. This they did on May Eighteenth - and then what? They went on to climb Mt. Everest, the highest mountain in the world - not once, but twice.

Everest was conquered, of course, in Nineteen Fifty-Three, by Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand, and the Sherpa guide Tensing Horkay. That was a tremendous exploit - but, last week, the Swiss duplicated it, on successive days.

The news is just in, having reached Katmandu - where it was sent along to the news wires of the world.

Last Wednesday, two Swiss Alpinists named Schmied and Marmet - reached the summit of Everest. The next day, Thursday, two others, Reist and von Gunten - did the same thing, scaling the pinnacle of Everest.

Hitherto, when mountaineers have achieved a great victory, they have been content with that - for the time being, at least. But those Alpinists made it, not a double play, but a triple play.

And speaking of these regions, here's another recorded broadcast piece from Lowell Thomas, telling of events at Katmandu, where the newly crowned King of Nepal kept him for some days of overtime work as Lowell now explains.

You may or may not have noticed that so far I have made little reference to the actual coronation ceremonies here in Katmandu. This was simply because I knew that within a matter of hours every news wire in the world would be carrying a detailed account of that. All the press association representatives, all the newspaper correspondents in India, flew up just in time to cover the actual ceremony and then what a time they had getting their stories out! Never had the one strand of wire, connecting this remote country with the outside, been put to such a strain. The telegraph line actually goes out from the Indian Embassy, but Nepalese officials read every word and okayed it with the King's seal.

The Coronation events lasted a whole week, the special ambassadors coming, most of them, from adjoining Asiatic countries and the rest of us from Britain, France and the United States, and when we all arrived we were each handed a printed program for the week, a list of all events, where and when, and how we were to dress. Then, at the bottom of our page



of instructions there was a line reading: "Today guests depart." How's that for a straightforward, emphatic way of saying -- the party is over! It's now time for you to go home! And go home that day they all did! All except one and I am that one. However, by special dispensation of the King. I had brought with me a party of twenty-four, two Cinerama camera crews, two sound crews, my old friend, Film Director Otto Lang, long associated with Darryl Zanuck, and another; camera crew whose particular job it is to make a special documentary on standard size film for the King.

Coronation week has been about as hectic as any week any of us ever spent anywhere. Just keeping up with all the functions, and we had to do that or it would have been noticed, that was a full-time assignment, all of which was made more difficult by the fact that we had been assigned a large house, a small palace within a walled compound, on the outskirts of Katmandu, in a suburb called Kalimati. The streets of Katmandu are narrow and always swarming with people, and it's

a minor expedition each time we drive in and out of the city.

The name of our suburb, Kalimati, by the way, means black mud. I suppose this is because only a few hundred yards away there is a large swamp, which, when the rains come, is a shallow lake. I haven't told my companions, but this swamp is supposed to be swarming with cobras and with pythons, too.

Maybe I should have told them so they will be a little more careful when they walk out into the grass at night, but one of the American technical aid people, who have been here for some time, tells me that the cobras do not roam, also that they are much less deadly than in the plains of India and that no one here has ever been known to die after being struck by a cobra.

As I said a moment ago, it has been a wild week, so much happening that we had no opportunity to look around and get acquainted with this Himalayan valley, which, until recently, so few outsiders had ever seen. At the King's request, we are staying on to supplement our material with something about where we are and the people, so for the next few nights



I will comment on life in Nepal, things that for the most part have nothing to do with the Coronation. For instance, today one of the nobles loaned me his spic and span bright yellow car, the license number 46. That means it's the forty-sixth car ever to come to this country, carried across the mountains by one hundred coolies. It's a car General Motors can be proud of, a 1929 open touring Buick, and even though the roads here are sketchy, and a few years ago even more so, the car is still in first class shape; twenty-seven years of almost constant use on Himalayan roads and trails. Henry, how is that?! So long!

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HENRY: Well, Lowell, I believe that was known as the Silver Anniversary model Buick, and a fine car it was, so I'm not surprised that it's still giving that A-No.1 service. Gee, I'd like to see one right now!