

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, MARCH 11, 1940.

48
GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Practically the entire ~~civilized~~ civilized world was waiting today for news from one special quarter. What's happening in Moscow? How are the Finns getting on in their ^{peace parley} ~~dickerings~~ with Stalin? ~~for peace?~~

Rumors ^{are} buzzed ^{ing} in northern Europe. ~~today, like mosquitoes~~ ~~at a picnic.~~ Peace has been concluded! - no! it hasn't! ~~been~~ - the Finnish delegation has left Moscow! - the Finnish delegation is still in Moscow! - the Allies are intervening! - the Swedes are intervening! - British warships have appeared off Petsamo, the Finnish port in the Arctic Ocean, and so on!

A Copenhagen newspaper that is usually well informed, ^{came out with} ~~had~~ an ominous report: ~~According to~~ that, the Finns have been forced to come to terms; unfavorable and humiliating terms.

47
This was soon officially contradicted by no less an authority than the Foreign Minister of the Finnish Government himself. Minister Tanner told the United Press by telephone ^{direct to} ~~to~~

New York that at a quarter to two this afternoon the peace delegation from Finland was still in Moscow, negotiations still going on, but no agreement.

That ~~that is~~ ^{seems to be} the only actual fact that we ^{have} ~~know~~ tonight.

The Russians and the Finns are still dickering.

~~Of course that fact~~ ^{Which} leaves the field open to endless

rumors and conjectures about the terms that Stalin now is exacting

of the Finns. ~~Today~~ ^{Both} yesterday and ~~early~~ today, there were ~~xxx~~

reports that the terms were drastic, crippling, humiliating. ~~But~~

Later this afternoon, ~~there was~~ ^{came} a rumor from Stockholm that the ~~most~~

~~recent~~ Soviet demands ~~had been mitigated, were even milder than those~~ ^{have been growing milder, milder?} ~~that~~ ^{even than the demands} Moscow ~~made~~ ^{made} Helsinki last fall.

Presumably the Finnish negotiators in Moscow ~~xxx~~ were too busy negotiating ~~to have opportunity~~ for anything else. But if they took time out to listen to the radio, they could have heard the official station in Moscow blasting out its usual denunciations of the Finns. In fact, it is reported that the Moscow radio station ^{today} took the occasion to broadcast even more bitterly than usual about Finland and its people.

48
today
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Some good news for the
~~While the Finns were in Moscow, a helpful stroke in~~
Finns comes from
~~their behalf was delivered in~~ London. Prime Minister Chamberlain
made a statement in the House of Commons, ~~He~~ announced ~~to his~~
~~Parliament~~ that "His Majesty's Government and the French Government
have already informed Finland that they are prepared ~~in a response~~
~~from Finland for further aid,~~ to proceed immediately and jointly to
help Finland, using all available resources at their disposal."

This statement was made by the Prime Minister in reply
to a question by the leader of the Labor Party. And Chamberlain added
that the "House will be aware that both the French and British
Governments have sent and are continuing to send material assistance
to Finland."

The inference is that the Allies could have sent even
more but for the attitude of the Swedes and Norwegians. The Swedish
and Norwegian Governments have notified the world that they would
consider the advance of any expeditionary force over their territory
as a violation of neutrality, and would resist the advance of such
an expedition by all means.

~~The news of that announcement by Chamberlain was~~

Chamberlaine announcement
~~of course quite encouraging to the Finns. Probably the best it did~~
~~ought~~ *ought* ~~was~~ to strengthen their *Finnish* hands in *that game now going on in* ~~the negotiations with~~ Moscow.

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However, the Finns have their fingers crossed. ~~For~~ They realize that the phrase "all the means at our disposal", could mean either just as much or just as little as Chamberlain or Daladier want it to mean. The Finns are exceedingly doubtful that Britain and France would attempt to force their way through Sweden and Norway, ~~even~~ ~~to help the Finns.~~

The Finns realize that any continuation of the war on the present terms would mean either the extinction of every man, woman and child, or at least exile. At the same time, ~~they~~ ~~couldn't stomach any dishonorable peace.~~ One member of the Finnish Parliament put^s it this way:- "How could a dishonorable peace be sold to men of an army that ~~have~~^s smashed the Russians on every front but one and made their success on that one so costly that any normal nation would have been aghast at the sacrifice?"

Perhaps
~~Probably~~ we'll know the outcome tomorrow. *So said* ~~That's what~~

Foreign Minister Tanner of Finland ~~said~~ at the end of his telephone conversation with New York *this afternoon.*

50

CANADA

the Finns - help

Here's help for ~~Finland~~ from Canada. A cable has been sent from Toronto to President Kallio of Finland. It was sent by Senator Arthur Meighen, Chairman of the Finnish Aid Committee, former Prime Minister of Canada and leader of the Conservatives in the Senate. He guarantees to supply the Finnish Army with two thousand Canadian volunteers and his Committee is going to raise sixty thousand dollars to finance the expedition. As a matter of fact, two hundred volunteers have already gone from Ontario, five hundred more will be ready to leave in a few days, and another fifteen hundred in two weeks.

WELLES

The latest about the diplomatic voyagings of Sumner Welles is that our mystic Under-Secretary of State had tea with the British Royal Family today.

After he came away from Buckingham Palace, he went to Downing Street, and the rumor is that he told the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary that their cousins in the U.S.A. don't fancy some of the recent censorship incidents. The way he put it in diplomatic language is that certain British war-time measures are having an adverse effect on the attitude of the American people toward the Allied powers.

Sumner Welles made one quick retort to newspaper men. He was asked whether it was true that as he left the presence of Adolf Hitler in Berlin, his own face was gloomier than usual. And Welles replied that as he didn't carry a compact with a mirror in it, he was unable to see his own face.

RIBBENTROP

While President Roosevelt's emissary was in London, Adol f Hitler's was in Rome. The Nazi Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop had a conversation with ~~Duce~~ Mussolini ^{that} ~~which~~ lasted ^{for an} ~~one~~ hour and twenty-five minutes. ~~Of course Foreign Minister Count Siano was with him.~~ Ribbentrop was also received by Pope Pius and a great deal of importance ~~ixxxx~~ is attached to that. ~~visit~~ The Nazi Foreign Minister was no less than sixty-five minutes in the papal presence, ^{— which was considered} ~~and that was~~ extraordinary. The usual formal auditions granted by the Pontiff last ^{from} five to fifteen minutes.

After Ribbentrop's audience with Duce Mussolini, an official announcement went forth proclaiming that the Rome-Berlin Axis is as firm and cordial as ever, the military alliance remaining solid.

As for his conversation with the Pope, the grapevine guesswork is that Ribbentrop expressed the hope that the Pontiff would support any move for peace starting in Germany. And the rumor is that Pope Pius countered with the hope that the Nazis would modify their treatment of the inhabitants of Poland.

HATCH

In Washington the ~~venerable~~ Senators had a merry little wrangle ^{today} about the Hatch Bill -- ~~you know~~, the Statute to forbid office holders from taking part in politics. ~~You will remember that~~ ~~The bill was passed some time ago, but this year,~~ ~~Senator Hatch wants to make it stronger.~~ He wants to have that prohibition extended to cover not only Federal employees but State employees who are paid either in part or altogether with money from Uncle Sam. And, there's the rub! ~~A lot of people don't want that idea to become law.~~ ^{TP} But ~~The~~ grapevine tells us that the bill is going through, eventually. And the Senators in favor ~~if~~ of it won themselves a victory today. Their opponents wanted to sidetrack the Hatch amendment -- push it in ^a ~~the~~ corner to make room for ^{another} ~~the~~ act to appropriate the trifle of nine hundred million~~s~~ odd for the Department of Agriculture.

^{TP} There was a good deal of shouting about ^{this} ~~it~~. But in the end Senator Hatch of New Mexico and his friends had their way. ~~by~~ ~~a vote of 47 to 36.~~ However, the Hatch ⁱ ~~s~~de lost one scrap [^] ~~That was~~ on a proposal to extend ~~those~~ restrictions even further, ~~restrict them~~ to cover office ^{no} and stockholders of companies having

53
57

contracts with the Federal Government. That one was
defeated, 53 to 31.

FUNDS

The Democrats and Republicans have been checking up on their ^{party} pocketbooks. ~~I mean, the two major political parties.~~ They've ~~been~~ taking an audit so as to make their report to Congress that the law requires, ~~of them~~. And the result^s of that audit, ~~is quite remarkable.~~ ^{are interesting.}

~~The Donkey and the Elephant Democrats and C.O.P.~~ alike are not only out of the red:- each party has a ~~nice little~~ nest egg in the bank. The Democrats have their

Jackson Day Dinners to thank for ^{that.} Those functions brought ⁱⁿ the neat ~~little~~ sum of one hundred twenty-six thousand five hundred dollars ~~into~~ the party exchequer. With that they paid off all loans and ^{still} have more than sixty-six thousand dollars in the kitty.

^{As for} ~~But~~ the Republicans, ~~are even better off~~. Though they spent two hundred seventeen thousand dollars in the last two months, on the last day of February they ^{were} ~~had~~ more than one hundred sixty-five thousand dollars ~~in the bank.~~ ^{to the good.}

WEATHER

Old Man Winter fooled the folks in the east today. Just to remind the easterners that the season doesn't end officially until March Twentieth, he swooped down on several states with ~~frosts~~, icy winds and heavy snow. ~~mostly in what the New Englanders call, ~~York State~~~~ Temperatures went tumbling down, highways blocked, and transportation crippled in ~~many cities~~ ^{upper New York State.} And the Weather Bureau says the people in New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania had better have their snow shovels ready for tomorrow.

But there are also signs by which we knew that this winter is on its last legs. I mean the flowers that bloom ~~in the spring~~ ^{in the spring} tra-la -- not in the garden, but at the Annual Flower Shows in New York, Boston and Philadelphia.

57
A flower show is about the only place where you encounter names almost as difficult to pronounce as the places named in Finland. For instance, ^{after nodding to the new Helen Hayes} at the Grand Central Palace I was introduced ^{at a preview.} to a schizanthus. I'd never met one before, at least not to know it by name. This particular schizanthus, I am told, is unique. It was grown by the method that has all farmers and gardeners talking and speculating today - hydroponics. This plant, which as I saw it at the

sweet pea

Grand Central Palace, has something like ten thousand blossoms and it was grown by James C. Auchincloss, in ordinary sand taken from the shore of the Atlantic Ocean, plus chemical nutrients. Amusingly enough, that schizanthus was not allowed to compete with plants grown in the ordinary way. It interested me particularly because a number of people have been saying that in the years to come, not only flowers but most of the vegetables that we eat will be grown by that same method, hydroponics.

Up in Boston, at the New England Flower Show, they have a plant which feeds on hamburgers. No fooling! It's called the Darling Tonia Californica.

56
The Annual Flower Show in Philadelphia, that is being held at the Commercial Museum, is described as the most artistic and g^ougeous that has ever been seen in the City of Brotherly Love.

TREASURE

A spot of news from the West Coast leads us into a picturesque chapter in the history of California. In the exciting, golden days of the Golden State, there flourished a Robinhoodish character named ^{Wahkeen Muroe-etta.} Joaquin Murietta. Stripped of romantic legends, he actually was a highwayman and probably the notion that he robbed only the rich and ^{split} his loot with the poor was nothing but a fable.

At any rate, scoundrel or hero, Joaquin Murietta was the subject of many ~~picturesque and~~ exciting tales. He was a marvelous horseman, always contrived to have better mounts than the officers. Whatever his character, he was a highwayman of incredible speed and nerve, and a nightmare to the sheriff's deputies. In fact, Joaquin was too much for the ordinary forces of law and order, the authorities had to call upon the soldiers to cope with him. The military almost had him cornered in San Juan after he had made a particularly daring and successful raid on the mint at Auburn, California. In that raid he is supposed to have snaffled up the neat little sum of seventy-five thousand dollars in octagonal gold pieces. Joaquin slipped away from the military at San Juan and took refuge in the Franciscan Mission

57

at Carmel for a while.

Old Californios were always convinced that the Franciscan Padres had themselves a rich silver mine somewhere between the mission ranch and the Carmel River. And the legend is that while taking sanctuary with the Fathers, Murietta discovered the workings of that mine and hid there a portion of his loot. The site of the mission ranch is now occupied by a rich and fashionable millionaires' club, the Mission Ranch Club. And here's how it comes into the news. The earth caved in on that property, disclosing a tunnel. And it is believed that this tunnel leads to the lost silver mine of the Fathers of the Carmel Mission and the hidden treasure of Joaquin Murietta.

58

The cave-in happened some days ago, and the news was only permitted to leak out today because the modern owners ~~is~~ of that property kept the secret so as to give themselves time to get mining equipment onto the spot. It is believed that this underground passageway leads to that lost silver mine beneath a ranch house recently occupied by one of the Vanderbilts of New York. The manager of the Mission Ranch House in his underground explorations has already

found mine shafts heavily timbered and the remains of rusty
mining machinery.

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~~A romantic tale this, from old California! At this point I seem to remember reading somewhere that the Mission Ranch Club has a press agent, or, should I say, publicity director? However, if it is a press agent yarn, it is at least a good press agent's yarn.~~

SPAKE

58 1/2
College and university circles were in a considerable upset today over that initiation tragedy at Columbia, Missouri. Hubert L. Spake, a twenty year old undergraduate of the University of Missouri, was found dead in his bed after he had been inducted into a fraternity called Theta Nu Epsilon. ~~It is~~ a secret organization, ^{that} exists against the laws and regulations of the University of Missouri. The dean ~~of the university~~ said the faculty had been doing their utmost to stamp it out. Theta Nu Epsilon, ^{he declared,} ~~he said,~~ is a social fraternity, noted for its convivialty. And at some colleges undergraduates can be expelled for joining it. But in the present instance there's nothing that the authorities of the University of Missouri can do because the membership and proceedings of that outlaw fraternity are so secret and so carefully guarded. So the only recourse left to the faculty is to appeal to the thirty-five or forty members to disband.

59
9 1/4
What news from you, Hugh?