

P. J. - Sunoco. Thura, Sept. 1, 1938.

MEXICO.

46

The news from Mexico can be briefed in half a dozen words. Outright rejection of the American demand " is what it amounts to. (Today the Congress of Mexico assembled in a new regular session, and number one on the program was the Presidential message.) As we have been hearing the last couple of days, President Cardenas was expected to say something decisive concerning Mexico's number one problem, the seizure of foreign property - and the protests that other Nations are making against this -- especially the United States. Today he spoke as decisively as had been expected -- or more so.

The Washington protests come under two headings -- the seizure of American oil properties and the seizure of American farm properties. As for oil, Cardenas said that Mexico will not pay the Oil Companies for any sub-soil rights. American capital went into Mexico and procured oil lands, oil fields, oil deposits. Thereupon they built huge pumping and refining plants. All of these Mexico seized, the petroleum fields and the petroleum machinery. Today (Cardenas said that Mexico will pay the American Companies no indemnity for the oil. Not a peso for the

underground deposits of petroleum. That merely re-emphasizes the Mexican stand all along the offer to pay ~~for~~ ^{for} only plants and machinery the Companies put up. Pay how much? And with what?) These questions also enter the controversy.

47

As for American-owned farm lands the Mexican Government has seized, Cardenas declared today there was no ground for arbitration with the United States. Also that Mexico will go on seizing agricultural property owned by Americans. This indicates ~~for~~ precisely what the Mexican reply will be to the latest American protest. The note Secretary Hull sent demanded arbitration in cases of farm property seized and the suspension of further confiscation. Arbitrate on what you have done, and don't keep on doing it. Cardenas' Presidential message today gave the double negative -- no! to both American demands. In fact, the Mexican President stated that in replying to the Washington protest, the Mexican Government will merely repeat its former arguments, which were : - nothing doing.

It was observed that among the foreign diplomats who were present at the Mexican Congressional proceedings today was

American Ambassador Josephus Daniels, He doesn't know Spanish any too well, and ~~he probably~~ ^{perhaps} didn't get the full import of the Cardenas defiance of the United States. In Mexico City there's some surmise that Ambassador Daniels may be reminded of the full import -- reminded by Washington. ^{and-} There's speculation as to whether the United States will withdraw its Ambassador from Mexico City, breaking off diplomatic relations.

48

What of the vast American-owned mines in Mexico, will they come next? And is there any limit to Uncle Sam's patience?

that citizenship is revealed. They must depart within six months, or else be expelled. It is estimated that there are ten thousand of them, ten thousand more possessors of the

The Edict applies to Italy proper, ^{the} Italian Mediterranean possessions, the North African Province of Libya. It does not ^{and} ^{hot countries, the} include the Italian colonies, including

conquered Ethiopia. Or there's some surmise that some of the

ten thousand Jews who have no place to go may be allowed to

live in East Africa - Ethiopia.

JEWS.

The anti-Semitic movement struck hard in Italy today.

There aren't so many people of the ancient house of Abraham within the confines of the Italian nation. Forty thousand has been the

figure usually given, though a recent report is said to show the

number of Jews in Italy larger than had been believed ~~xxx~~ - *about*

seventy thousand. This would seem to indicate a more or less

recent coming in of Jewish people from abroad, and it's against

these that the recent Fascist Edict is directed. It decrees that

all Jews who have entered Italy since nineteen-nineteen, must

leave. No matter whether they've acquired Italian citizenship *or not.*

For that citizenship is ^{*now*} _^ revoked. They must depart within six ~~xxx~~

months, or else be expelled. It is estimated that there are ~~xxxx~~

ten thousand of them, ten thousand more homeless ones of the

race so long homeless.

The Edict applies to Italy proper, ^{*the*} _^ Italian Mediterranean

Islands, and the North African Province of Libya. It does ^{not}

mention East Africa, ^{*and*} _^ ^{*hot countries, the*} _^ the Italian colonies there including

conquered Ethiopia. So there's some surmise that those of the

ten thousand Jews who have no place to go may be allowed to

settle in East Africa - Ethiopia.

49

All of this must seem a strange novelty to the
Italians, among whom the small Jewish element has for so long
occupied a high position in life and Government. It certainly
seems strange to the Vatican, which is in opposition to the
new racial fad. Today the expression from ~~the~~ Vatican circles
was one of disapproval, though there's relief that the Fascist
Edict does not concern people only partly of Jewish blood - as *in the*
case of ~~the~~ the grim racial law *in* Germany. And it's observed that
there's no action against the native Italian Jews, *those* domiciled in
the country for many a century.

On the Germanic side of the Fascist world, there is
news with a different emphasis - something that concerns the
Jewish people a great deal less than it does the Catholic. (The
new Nazi regime in Austria orders the abandonment of all
religious schools. That of course includes Jewish schools, *but*
more than any other it ~~but it also~~ suppresses Catholic parochial schools *so prominent*
and influential in Austria.) All these schools are closed for
summer vacations, and the verdict is that they'll not be allowed
to reopen. The Nazi decree states the outright totalitarian

50

philosophy, that the education of youth is the sole right of the State, religion to have nothing to do with it.

hotel. Tomorrow he'll be taken to an elaborately guarded villa, and there he'll go into conference with a man who broods a small, rather funny looking mustache - Henlein and Hitler.

The Nazi Führer has gathered about him his military chiefs - to advise him in making decisions with Henlein. The leader of the Sudeten German bridge to Hitler, the latest in the negotiations between the Czech Government and its recalcitrant German minority. It may seem odd in the way of national proprieties for a leader of a political faction in one country to go to the head of the Government of another country for counsel and decision. But, national proprieties aside - it's entirely in accord with realities. Czechoslovakia, as the sovereign state, finds its destinies in the hands of other nations - Germany in particular. Today, a Sudeten German spokesman defended the Henlein pilgrimage to Hitler by saying that Britain and France have been consulted about the Sudeten crisis, so why should not Hitler be - with Germany the big part

CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

Today a rather stocky, round faced man arrived at a little town high in the Bavarian Alps. He put up at a local hotel. Tomorrow he'll be taken to an elaborately guarded villa, and there he'll go into conference with a man who sports a small, rather funny looking mustache - Henlein and Hitler.

51

The Nazi Feuhrer has gathered about him his military chiefs - to advise him in making decision with Henlein. (The leader of the Sudeten Germans brings to Hitler, the latest in the negotiations between the Czech Government and its recalcitrant German minority.) It may seem odd in the way of national proprieties for a leader of a political faction in one country to go to the head of the Government of another country for counsel and decision. But, national proprieties aside - it's entirely in accord with realities. Czechoslovakia, as the sovereign state, finds its destinies in the hands of other nations - Germany in particular. Today, a Sudeten German spokesman defended the Henlein pilgrimage to Hitler by saying that Britain and France have been consulted about the Sudeten crisis, so why should not Hitler be - with Germany the big next

CZECHOSLOVAKIA. * 2.

door neighbor? (Lord Runciman of Great Britain is official mediator, and Henlein carries ~~Runcim~~ Runciman advice and proposals to Hitler - as well as the latest Czechoslovak offer to the Sudeten Germans.)

52
So the issue of peace and war may be decided by Hitler tomorrow in his conference with Henlein. Yet, that doesn't seem to sharpen the war crisis - for today it was everywhere felt that the peril has abated. Washington, for example, is of that opinion. The State Department has been in copious communication with our London Ambassador, Joe Kennedy, who in turn has been in equally copious communication with the British foreign office. ~~The~~ *Joe Kennedy's* Ambassador's report to ~~the~~ State Department is such that official optimism was expressed in Washington today - the belief that the Czechoslovak imbroglio will not lead to war at an early date.

CANADIAN STORM.

Today's storm story from Canada tells of a vivid act in nature's melodrama - the terror and fatality of human beings caught in the turmoil of natural forces. The old historic city of Quebec is a town of hills, up and down. In an outskirts, at the base of a steep slope, stood an apartment house wherein eight families lived.

Last night's Canadian storm raged all through the hours of darkness, with a blasting wind and a terrific downpour of rain. The hillside above the apartment house was drenched and deluged, and the soil of the steep incline ^{was} loosened and soggy with water. It merely took a jar, some kind of shock, to send a landslide piling down.

53
The shock came early this morning - a bolt of lightning. The lightning struck ^a tree, at the top, and ripped it with flaming violence. That shook the loosened soil, ~~and it began~~ and it began to move. The slide gathered momentum, and swiftly a vast tonnage of earth ^{was} ~~it~~ on its way down. The landslide hit the apartment house, in which ^{were} fifty people; ~~were~~ - shoved and shattered it, pushed it thirty feet on down the hill. The

CANADIAN STORM - 2.

building collapsed, crashed upon the people within.

It was only the terrifying noise of the landslide that kept the casualty list from mounting high. Many in the house heard the deep rumbling, crunching sound, were alarmed, and scrambled out of the house as it fell into ruins. Five were killed, twenty injured.

Elsewhere, a train was wrecked. Storm and flood washed out the railroad tracks, and the train plunged into the gap. Two trainmen killed - but no fatalities among the passengers.

All over the Eastern part of Quebec province the story is storm and flood, communications disrupted, houses washed away, people left homeless.

SUPREME COURT.

54

The old quarrel about the Supreme Court comes into the news again today, with a White House retort to the charge made last night by Senator Tydings of Maryland. The Senator, in his battle for re-nomination despite the opposition of the President, told an inside story about that much renowned Court fight. And the number one name he mentioned was that of Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes. He said that when the White House drive to enlarge the Court was at a critical stage, New Deal lawmakers made a proposal to him that there might be a compromise based on the resignation of Chief Justice Hughes. The Chief Justice to resign, so that the President could appoint a successor, a New Deal Justice to succeed him.

Today sources of information at the White House made comment in answer to that. In this the name of Chief Justice Hughes was not mentioned, but it was said that administration supporters in Congress did approach the President with the suggestion that one or more of the Justices might step out. ~~They~~ They thought the Court Plan deadlock might be broken, if some anti-New Deal Justices were to retire. The President then could nominate their

5
successors, and thereby make the Court more sympathetic toward
New Deal ideas.

But, says the White House information, the President
refused to have anything to do with that kind of compromise,
saying - he wasn't interested in trafficking in Justices. He
turned it down.

It's interesting to recall what ^{did} happened - one of the
Justices did retire, and the Court ~~En~~largement Plan was beaten,
and later another Justice retired. So the President had two
vacancies to fill with advocates of the New Deal.

ROOSEVELT

Here's a late one just in. President Roosevelt today called for a plan to mobilize the electrical power of the nation in case of war. He had a conference with a committee headed by Assistant Secretary of War Louis Johnson. The President asked the committee to draw up a scheme of large scope which would put the electrical resources of the nation at the service of the government if war ~~should come~~. should come. The President said the purpose is -- "to make America so strong that no foreign nation will bother us."

STRIKE.

56
The Times dispatches in New York today produced these
Baltimore ~~is~~ in the throes of a trucking
strike, three thousand truck drivers out and nearly all the
Companies tied up. A contract with the Union expired at
midnight. All efforts to negotiate its renewal came to
nothing. So today ^{came a} ~~is~~ strike ~~and~~ trucking tie-up in Baltimore.

Assembly leader James J. Hines, the most interested spectator was
District Attorney John F. Delaney of Albany County. Yesterday
Sixie Davis, in his testimony, related that he was a witness to
the up-state murder, saw Dutch Schultz do it. He saw the Albany
County District Attorney was attending the trial, expecting to
hear something more.

He himself has had a statement from Sixie Davis, an
account of how Davis met the doomed gangster, Jules Martin, going
on a train to Albany. In a hotel there was a drunken quarrel
between Martin and Dutch Schultz on the subject of money.
Sixie Davis stepped in to quiet the row, and did pacify matters
for a moment. But the quarrel flared anew, Schultz pulled his
gun and shot Martin, killing him. The Albany District Attorney

HINES.

The Hines melodrama in New York today produced those two choice melodramatic tidbits - murder and romance.

Several years ago, on an up-state snowbank - a body was found trussed in a blanket - a murder victim. A henchman of Dutch Schultz, it turned out to be.

Today in Court, while Dixie Davis testified against Tammany leader James J. Hines, the most interested spectator was District Attorney John T. Delaney of Albany County. Yesterday Dixie Davis, in his testimony, related that he was a witness to that up-state murder, saw Dutch Schultz do it. So now the Albany County District Attorney was attending the trial, expecting to hear something more.

He himself has had a statement from Dixie Davis, an account of how Davis met the doomed gangster, Jules Martin, going on a train to Albany. In a hotel there was a drunken quarrel between Martin and Dutch Schultz on the subject of money. Dixie Davis stepped in to quiet the row, and did pacify matters for a moment. But the quarrel flared anew, Schultz pulled his gun and shot Martin, killing him. The Albany District Attorney

does not believe that Dixie Davis is so innocent of the murder as that statement would make it appear. Davis declared he met the victim by chance on the train. But - may he not have taken the victim to meet Schultz, lured him to murder. So, the shadow of a possible murder charge hovered over Dixie Davis as he testified today.

Today in the Hines case
Defense Counsel Stryker went after ^{Dixie Davis} ~~him~~, in the usual

cross-examining way, made him admit over and over that he was a criminal and a perjurer, indicting his character, his credibility.

The questioning got around to the motives that made Dixie Davis confess and come forward as a state's witness against Hines.

That finally brought this question:-

"Mr. Davis, have you recited all your inducements to testify against Mr. Hines?"

"I have," replied the witness.

Then Stryker asked the witness how many times he had been let out of the toms during the period when he was agreeing to testify against Hines. And the answer was - eighty or ninety times. He was ~~inf~~ let out of prison that often in the custody

of Policemen to visit his Doctor, he said. And not only his Doctor. The cross-questioning soon brought mention of the name - Hope Dare. Dixie Davis said he visited his actress sweetheart, eight or ten times. He swore he just asked the two policemen guarding him to let him go and see Hope Dare. And they agreed. Said he never made any mention of this to prosecutor Dewey because he supposed the police must have told Dewey about it.

So there the case rests at the moment - the Albany District Attorney in Court listening for evidence for a murder charge against Dixie Davis. And - the cross-questioning started Mesopotamia of the "Arabian Nights." Their home town is Basra, the seaport on the Persian Gulf, from which sailed Sinbad the sailor on his memorable voyages. The two brothers, traveling in the Middle East, met the daughter of a United States agent in the Federal Alcohol Tax Department. And the older, Nijib Teonie, married her - to take her away with him to far off Basra, home port of ^{Sinbad} ~~Basra~~. They're booked to sail Saturday on the Normandie. Now the girl's father has intervened. He says he understands that the law of Islam permits a husband to have ^{multiple} ~~more~~

HAREM.

Today at St. Louis, a warrant was issued to keep an American girl from becoming some sort of modern version of Scheherezade or Sultana Suleika or the beautiful ~~queen~~ Mumtaz Mahal.

What do those names ^{suggest?} ~~recall to us?~~ Why, an oriental harem, with

veiled beauties, and a Mohammedan Pasha or Emir wearing a turban, ^{lord and master to not one but many gazelle-}
^{ed damsels.} At St. Louis there are Federal Court proceedings to prevent ~~one~~ a

seventeen year old American girl from becoming a wife in an Arabian harem.

Sojourning in this country, are two rich Arabian brothers, ^{Nijib} ~~Nijib~~ Toonie and Kamel Toonie. They come from Iraq, ^{— land of the Garden of Eden,} storied Mesopotamia of the "Arabian Nights." Their home town is Basra, the seaport on the Persian Gulf, from which sailed Sinbad the sailor on his memorable voyages. The two brothers, traveling in the Middlewest, met the daughter of a United States agent in the Federal Alcohol Tax Department. And the older, Nijib Toonie, married her - to take her away with him to far off Basra, home port of ^{Sinbad.} ~~Sinbad~~. They're booked to sail Saturday on the Normandie. Now the girl's father has intervened. He says he understands that the law of Islam permits a husband to have ^{multiple} ~~two~~

wives - and so it does. Hence he's afraid that, in accordance

with the revelation of the prophet Mohammed, his daughter will

be taken to a harem at Basra, to become ^{Just one of a number of} ~~one of four~~ wives. He

appealed to the Federal authorities and they've responded by

issuing a warrant for Nijib Toonie. So now the case is in the

Courts to be argued by lawyers ^{— lawyers who will take up} matters pertaining to the harem

and the veiled beauties, Mesopotamia of the Arabian Nights and

Basra of Sinbad the Sailor.

And now as they say in Arabia, and
as I haven't said for a long time: salaam
alicum — and s-l-u-t-m!

59

59 1/4