

L.T. - *Seneca*. Thursday Oct. 10, 1940

BOMBING.

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London today studied the condition of one of its most famous buildings - St. Paul's Cathedral. And here's the verdict. The bomb that hit St. Paul's did heavy damage, but the harm is mostly superficial. The Cathedral built by Sir Christopher Wren remains for the most part intact. The bomb dropped by a Nazi plane struck the roof of the wing, and exploded as it hit. That was the saving grace. If it had gone through the roof and burst inside, it might have wrecked the Cathedral. As things happened, the high explosive ripped a section of the roof to twisted wreckage. That was the ~~fixxx~~ direct damage. But the explosion tore loose a huge chunk of masonry, which fell on the high altar, and demolished it. The major part of the havoc was done by that falling masonry.

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London under the bombs is prepared to turn its entire subway system into a great subterranean shelter. This was indicated today in the House of Commons. The home Secretary, Herbert Morrison, stated it would be impossible to dig a

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system of deep shelters, such as has been demanded. He attacked the demand, saying it was animated by what he called "Mischievous political reasons." He even mentioned the term - "Fifth Column." He said that the people of London could not be fully protected against air raids. "If complete immunity is sought," said he, "the wisest course is to sue for peace now." With that he indicated that since a deep system of air raid shelters could not be dug, the London underground would be taken over.

FOLLOW LONDON.

In today's bombings -- waves of Nazi planes struck not only at London, but at points all over southern England. The British, on their part, hit with especial power at Nazi bases in Belgium and Holland -- places like Liege and

Amsterdam. In this second month of the all-out air war both sides continue to smash at each other with unrelenting destruction -- the exchange of blows between the Luftwaffe and the R. A. F.

RUMANIA.

The Balkan rumor is that the Axis powers are ready for a push through the Balkans and an attack on Turkey. ~~The facts in the matter are:~~ - Rumania seems completely under German domination now. British diplomats at Bucharest are described today as burning confidential papers, and making ready to leave Rumania. The Bucharest authorities today gave orders for the hasty construction of air raid shelters, a sign that they expect war and bombing. German and Italian sources are confidently predicting that Rumania will break relations with Great Britain in the space of a few hours. And there are heavy German troop movements along the fringes of the Balkans.

All of which is factual backing for the supposition that the Nazi-Fascist plan is to strike through the Balkans and at the Dardenelles - Turkey. Though Turkey itself can hardly be the major objective. Further on are Mosul, with its great oil wells, and Palestine - the roadway to the Suez Canal. You might suspect that the Hitler-Mussolini scheme is for the German war machine to roll down from the north toward

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the vital British areas in the Near East, while the Italians drive from the west - in North Africa. The object being - to take the Suez Canal and force the British fleet out of the Eastern Mediterranean.

In all this, Soviet Russia once again stands as the enigma. And some suppose that Hitler's grasping at Rumania is designed to check any possible move by fellow dictator, Stalin.

FOLLOW RUMANIA

Here's the latest on Rumania. It's just announced that President Roosevelt is taking action to "freeze" Rumanian funds in this country. The same as has been done in the case of other countries seized by the Nazis. This is clear evidence that Washington considers Rumania as a captured nation. The ~~an~~ amount of Rumanian funds in this country comes to a hundred million dollars, ^wnot ~~k~~ to be - frozen. Made ^{am} available [^] to the Rumanians or their German Bosse.

FRANCE.

Marshal Petain of France today gave clear expression of his opinion that Nazi Germany will win the war. The aged Marshal was proclaiming a new authoritarian regime for France. There's not much news in that. It has been well enough known all along that France has been preparing some kind of Fascist Government. The head of the regime proclaimed that the Central Policy would be one of reconciliation with Germany. Then he spoke these significant words, significant of his belief: "After the ~~v~~ictory," said he, "Germany can doubtless choose between the traditional peace with oppression, or the new peace of collaboration." That phrase, "After the Victory"- can be taken as a key to French policy toward the war.

The new authoritarian regime provides for all sorts of Government control - "Socially inclined", is the phrase used.

JAPAN.

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(Japan is ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ uttering soft words -
officially at least. The Tokyo newspapers are berating the
United States and Great Britain, but) Today the Mikado's
Foreign Minister made a gentle utterance in the direction of
the new world. The Foreign Minister said:- "I wish earnestly
that such a powerful nation as the United States would not
become involved in the European war or come by any chance
into conflict with Japan because of the China incident."

On top of that, he described Japan's alliance with
Nazi-Germany and Fascist Italy as - a peace pact.

OIL

The British are concerned about shipments of American Oil to Japan. Of course, the United States has put on an oil embargo - but this involves only high grades of aviation gasoline. In the House of Commons today, an M.P. stated that the Washington government had recently okayed shipments of a million barrels of oil to Japan. He asked the cabinet about this. Had His Majesty's government made an attempt to form a joint British-American agreement to ban shipments of every kind of oil to Japan?

To this the Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs replied as follows:- "His Majesty's Government understand that the prohibition placed by the United States government on the export of oil relate only to certain grades. They are now and have been in touch with the United States on this matter," the Under-Secretary concluded.

CEREMONY

At Havana, Colonel Batista, the iron man of Cuba today was inducted as President of the Pearl of the Antilles. El

Presidente delivered himself of some pearls of eloquence, as he took the highest office of state. He has been the real boss of Cuba for some time now, was elected President some months ago, and today took his place in Havana's ornate presidential palace.

In China, there was a Nationalist celebration on the anniversary of China's freedom. The Far Eastern equivalent of our own Fourth of July was hailed by the Armies fighting so staunchly for freedom against Japan. President Roosevelt sent a message of congratulations to the regime of Nationalist General Chiang Kai-Shek - and friends everywhere joined in good wishes.

INVENTIONS.

The inventors are always with us and when anything occurs to stir them to unusual efforts - well, the^{ir} inventions are sure to be marvelous. The British are finding that out *even* if they didn't already know it. *And this is* ~~the~~ one of the lighter sides of that tragedy - the bombing of London.

Today, we have a list of some of the inventions that are pouring in - devices to stop the Nazis.

One is a kind of bayonet attached to soldiers' boots, so the soldier can kick the enemy with the bayonet - kick him in the pants I hope.

Another is a net to catch descending parachute troops. It has a bell attached to it, the bell ringing when a parachutist is caught - something like the old trout line we used to use when fishing.

Another ingenious defender of his country came forward with the idea of tying wires, half a mile long, onto the blades of war-plane propellers. The idea being that as the propeller rotated, the wires would swing around in an arc of

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half a mile, and snare enemy planes.

The prize invention is a chemical compound which floats around in the air. When it touches a Nazi pilot it jells around him. It forms a gellatin which covers and encloses him until he's like a pig's foot in jelly. Wonderful are the ways of science!

SOLDIER'S HEART.

Science has devised another cure - a cure for the sickness called Neurocirculatory Asthenia. ~~Now what is~~ Neurocirculatory Asthenia? A simpler name for it is - Soldier's Heart. Sounds as if the malady might be one of excessive courage, boldness, daring - even rashness in the face of danger. But not at all.

The disease was described today to the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, and the one who described it was Brigadier-General George Crile. The Brigadier-General is that same Dr. Crile of worldwide renown - a prince of Doctors. I shouldn't want to take exception with any such eminent Brigadier-General, but here is the outline he gave of the symptoms of Soldier's Heart - "Rapid beat, nervousness, restlessness, pallor, sweating, and coldness of hands and feet." Those hardly seem to be the symptoms of excessive courage - especially the coldness of feet. So how about suggesting still another name for Neurocirculatory Asthenia?

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Why not)

Just call it - cold feet. Anyway, the Doctor Brigadier-General has found a cure for it - and that should be good news for the Colonel of the Regiment. In battle he may suspect that some of his soldiers suffer from Neurocirculatory Asthenia. Or

Anyway Brig. Gen. Dr. Crile come forth with maybe the Colonel himself has it. ~~anyway it's~~ another triumph of science.

DIVORCE.

In Los Angeles a lady is suing her millionaire husband for divorce, and her bitter complaint cites the fact that he showered her with a hundred and fifty thousand dollars ~~xxxx~~ worth of jewelry. You'd think that would be rather sweet. But, she adds, he forced her to live on beans and mustard greens that a servant gathered from vacant lots. Yes, he kept her in a mansion with a full staff of servants - sending a Butler to get weeds for wife to eat. So their married life lasted only seven months. In that period, ~~xxxx~~ claims the Mrs., her millionaire hubby gave her only twenty dollars for household expenses, which comes to about eighty cents a week. Think of that, some of you complaining wives. And all the while he was showering her with a hundred and fifty thousand dollars worth of jewelry.

Sounds as if he were trying to turn her into a bejeweled skeleton. So she wants a divorce.

BARRYMORE

The love life of the great Barrymore has been publicized so much it's getting to be rather stale, and what could be worse than a love life grown stale. But consider the dilemma the Great Profile faces right now. Of course, a profile should be able to face things, but the features of the latest Barrymore predicament are really intricate. John Barrymore is so much on the outs with his wife that he got a Court Order to prevent her from trying to see him. He is suing her for divorce, and said he feared she would try to force herself into his presence - so he got out an injunction, or something, to keep her from coming near him. And that has turned into something of a boomerang.

John owes sixty-eight thousand dollars in debts. He went to court and fixed up some kind of a deal, and that was all right - until the Judge announced that Elaine would have to be there to sign the documents. She'd have to be in the party consummating the settlement. But how could she -- when there's a Court Order forbidding her to enter the presence of John? One Court forbids it, another Court demands it - and it may be worth sixty-eight thousand dollars to Barrymore. All of which surely is enough to wrinkle the brow of the Great Profile.

WILLKIE.

Wendell Willkie today was flaming his way through New England, blazing with attacks against a third term.

Meanwhile, one of the Willkie chieftains was getting hot with a learned quotation. Sam Pryor, eastern Republican campaign manager, took a fling at the latest literary effort on the New Deal side - a book published by Vice-presidential Candidate Henry Wallace. And Sam quoted Dr. Johnson, the great literary pundit of the Eighteenth Century. "If I have an enemy," quoth Dr. Johnson, "I pray that he write a book." The Doctor was a copious literary critic of his time, ^{so} maybe he meant - I'll write a criticism of my enemy's book. You know, literary critics have a way with books of authors against whom they have a grudge. Sam compares the latest Wallace book with a previous tome written by President Roosevelt's running mate. This latest one is all for Democracy and fiercely against dictatorship. The earlier one, says Sam, was somewhat different. And he today produced photostatic evidence to show that four years ago, Henry wrote

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this way: He referred to the tremendous earnestness of the reformers of the Sixteenth Century. And then Henry Wallace added, quote:—"The only people of this Century who seem to have comparable earnestness, are such people as Lenin, Mussolini and Hitler." Those are Henry's words says Sam.

Well, Dr. Johnson spoke of an enemy writing a book, but suppose an enemy writes two books! Wonderful, says Sam Pryor.

And what I say is SOLONG UNTIL TOMORROW.