

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

(This may be April Fools Day in our land, but it was -- constitution day in India. Also -- Hartal Day. Constitution is a familiar word to us, and doesn't need much explaining. But Hartal is an exceedingly Hindu idea, made famous by Mahatma Gandhi. It means -- passive resistance. In today's instance it meant particularly -- a general strike, a passive stopping of all activity. India's new constitution went into effect and was greeted by a general strike.)

A considerable measure of self government is granted to eleven provinces of Hindustan -- containing two hundred and fifty million of India's population. But the Nationalist Party doesn't think it's enough self-government. And they control six of the eleven provinces. Their principal complaint is that while the new constitution sets up self-governing bodies, local legislatures -- it gives the British authorities the right to veto anything that these legislatures might do. So today they called a general strike, passive resistance, Hartal -- to last for the one day on which the constitution is put into effect.

47

Things were at a stand-still ⁱⁿ Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay, ^{Madras} and other ^{great} cities. Shops were closed, newspaper^s suspended publications, and schools declared a holiday. Processions marched through the streets, waving the flag of the Nationalist Party and shouting: "Boycott the Constitution."

The armed force of the British raj stood in readiness, police and soldiers -- ^{ready} for fear of a wild outbreak. ^{But} Hartal ^{day} passed without any great violence. There were some arrests, on mere charges of blocking the traffic. ★ There was plenty of parading and shouting -- but that's ~~about~~ about all.

It was only a general strike for a day, ^{but} the passive resistance will continue with that slogan -- "boycott the constitution."

The powerful Nationalist Party, predominant in six of the provinces will have nothing to do with the local self-government that was set up today. They won't ^{vote, won't} hold office, won't cooperate. And that promises to keep ^{things} ~~explosive conditions~~ seething in India. ^R They say that the controlling power is still Mahatma Gandhi, although he is in retirement, taking no part in ~~official~~ public life. He is opposed to the constitution, but the hope of the British is that he ^{may} ~~might~~ change his mind.

SPAIN

The Spanish news tonight is a maze of confusion. There's such a tangle of complicated contradiction, that it's impossible to make any reasonable guess about the state of affairs in the unfortunate Iberian Peninsula.

The confusion begins with the military aspect. Madrid makes loud claims of victory, and mentions: - Burgos. That old city is the nationalist capital and the seat of Franco's government. Madrid relates that, for the first time since the early days of the civil war, its troops have crossed the provincial frontier, and are advancing toward the Rebel capital.

On the opposite side, Franco claims a victory, further to the north -- driving against that section of the coast of the Bay of Biscay, which is still held by the Left Wingers.

~~Nationalist report, but~~ Franco claims that his men have crashed through and are surging on.

49

Confusion increases with the protest made by the Left Wingers of that northern Bay of Biscay shore - a protest to the Vatican, to the Pope. It's difficult to think of the Reds making an appeal to the Roman Pontiff. Moreover, the protest complains that the ultra-Catholic Nationalists had been shooting priests on the Left Wing side! The answer is that all is not Red in that northern Left Wing - some anarchists, ~~and~~ ^{but also} strong elements of Basque Nationalists. They are fighting for Basque autonomy, and they're just as ardent Catholics as Franco's men. The report pictures the Basque leader sitting at his desk with a Crucifix before him, as he told of his appeal to the Pope.

Still greater confusion in the (news about more and more mutiny in the Rebel ranks, more tales of revolt within the revolt, outbreaks against the foreign auxiliaries, Germans and Italians.) The latest is a French ~~report~~ ^{rumor} that at Val ~~ad~~ ^{Valiso doletch} adolid, the people broke into a riot at a review of Italian troops, whereupon the Italians had to charge and scatter the mob.

Seething discontent everywhere in Rebel-controlled territory. Rumors from the left Wing side, rumors circulating in the capitals of Europe, give the impression that the Nationalist armies may collapse and disintegrate because of strife within - just as in Russia the White armies went to pieces before the Reds .

But - from the Nationalist side, the denials are sweeping. The Franco government issues a statement denouncing the stories of Rebel dissension as false - Left Wing propaganda. And an interesting denial comes from Rome. We had a report that an Italian regiment broke into mutiny in Spain, the Pavia Regiment. Pavia is a famous old Italian city. But Rome declares the regiment is not Italian at all, but Spanish. How come? A Spanish regiment named after an Italian city? It isn't hard to surmise the answer. (Pavia is an old place of great renown. A dozen centuries ago it was the capital of Germanic invaders, the Lombards. But that isn't the explanation - It's this:) Pavia was the scene of a famous battle.

between the Spaniards and the French ^{for the} ~~who~~ ^{of} controlling Italy. And at the battle of Pavia the Spanish army won a spectacular victory, captured a brilliant French king, Francis the First. So no wonder there's a Spanish regiment named after ~~that~~ ^{the} Spanish victory.

To complete the confusion, ^{now} there's word of dissension and revolt on the Left Wing side, fighting among the radical factions ^{with more mass executions.} The news from Barcelona tells of an explosive situation between the Left Wing Republicans and Communists on one side, and the anarchists on the other. The anarchists have got hold of a number of tanks, and are strongly placed - defying the allied Republicans and Communists.

51
Confusion continues around the international question - what's Mussolini going to do? Rome answers definitely today that no more Italians will be sent to Spain. That would seem to be that, but the rumors keep saying insistently that the Duce will dispatch more of his troops to bolster up the Franco regime. ^{The Madrid govt lodged another protest today against the Italians.}

From all of this confusion comes a belief among the anxious statesmen that the Spanish Civil War has become tangled to such a point that a compromise may be possible - some sort of patched up peace between the warring factions.

RUSSIA

There's grim word from Russia today, quotations from a pronunciamento singular in its fierceness. It is believed that this declaration will mean the execution of hundreds, ~~by shooting.~~ Here are some of the words it uses - "spies, wreckers, class enemies, exterminate, destroy, merciless." Who uses those words? Stalin - in an ultimatum that he has issued to the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

52
(Stalin calls for a relentless crushing of his enemies. After denouncing them fiercely, he says: "It is quite clear that these gentlemen should be destroyed. Exterminated, mercilessly, as enemies of the working class.")

"This is clear and does not demand further interpretation," he concludes with menacing terseness.

Yes, ~~it is clear~~^{all} deadly clear. It needs no interpretation - except perhaps this. Stalin uses relentless words in describing his opponents:- "an unprincipled ~~and~~ ~~idealless~~ band of professional spies and murderers," he calls them. He applies two other terms to the opposition. He calls it

"Trotskyism" (that's familiar) - also "Bukharinism." That word is not so familiar, but it's savagely significant.

(Nikolái Bukharin will soon go to trial before the tribunal of Red justice in Moscow. He's a famous old Bolshevik, a companion of Lenin, one of the topmost leaders of the Red revolution.) He was ~~once~~ editor of the official Soviet newspaper. But he opposed Stalin, was leader of the Right opposition to the Red Dictator, a more moderate group. And so Stalin demands the extirpation of Bukharinism, as Bukharin goes to trial.

53
—

STRIKE

Nearly three weeks ago, on March Twelfth, the headline was - the signing of the peace agreement between General Motors and the Union. What do we find today? Three sit-down strikes in General Motors plants. There have been ~~are~~ three previous ones, since the peace-making - bringing the number up to six. Yet, the agreement called for the settling of all disputes by negotiation, no strikes. What's the answer? ~~the~~ Sit-down strikers today declared that the Company for which they worked was not included in the settlement. This contention is based on the phenomenon of affiliated companies - a ramification of corporations controlled by a giant concern like General Motors. Company officials deny the sit-down argument, and insist that their Company was included in the peace pact.

tho a quick settlement is expected,
Anyway, a hundred thousand employees were idle today

as a result of those ~~three~~ three General Motors sit-down strikes, staged by seventeen thousand workers.)

54
Another problem for John L. Lewis, the big C.I.O. man.
And he has plenty of problems!
The negotiations to settle the Chrysler strike are still waiting

on him - delayed until he returns to Detroit. Meanwhile, he's

tied up in New York with coal mine questions. And these are close to the heart of the one-time miner, who rose from the black pits to become the ace of labor leaders. The Miners Union is negotiating with the coal operators for a new contract - this is in the bituminous industry - not anthracite. The old ^{contract} ~~one~~ expired at midnight last night, and that was the signal to stop work.

The fact is that (today four hundred thousand miners were idle, work stopped in the mines. The miners - out. Out on strike? "No," says John Lewis. He calls it - "a stoppage of work, not a strike.") Nevertheless, it seems to be pretty much the same, ~~as one~~ and raises the question - when is a strike not a strike? Perhaps the answer is - when it creates so little excitement. You'd think that four hundred thousand bituminous miners quitting work would be an agitating headline. But the news caused scarcely a ripple today. One reason ^{is} ~~is~~ the ^{would} miners have been idle anyway. It was a day off for them, a holiday. John L. Lewis Day, in fact, which they celebrated in ^{So any strikes couldn't become actual until tomorrow} honor of their chief. ^{Moreover}, a quick settlement is expected.

STRIKE - 3

It's likely tonight.

So, it all may be a mere stoppage of work on a day when the miners wouldn't ~~work anyway.~~ *have been off anyway.*

Off the New England coast, islanders are marooned, more or less - and this comes under the heading of strike news. The fashionable dwellers on Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard are stranded. They depend on two steamboats for regular communication with the Massachusetts mainland. And today the steamboat workers went ~~on strike,~~ *out* dock hands, linesmen, mess boys. They want a twenty per cent wage increase. They tied up the two boats at the dock, and departed. People traveling to and from the islands had to make what arrangements they could, engaging small boats. Eight of them chartered an airplane and flew the trip.

Another strike item flashes the name of Schwab, Charles M. Schwab, so long identified with steel. But this is no steel strike - it's a potato sit-down. At Loretto, Pennsylvania, the steel magnate has a farm, ten employees on it. The ten demanded a raise. The manager said he couldn't do anything about it. Whereupon the ten followed the prevailing sit-down fashion in an original way. They climbed down into the potato cellar ~~and~~

54

of the estate, and locked themselves in. ^{There} ~~They~~ are sitting down
on sacks of potatoes. And there they remain while the manager
has hurried to New York to confer with ^{the tycoon} ~~Schweb~~ of steel.

RANCH

An empire has fallen, a cow-boy empire - the Hundred and One Ranch, most famous of all. Today it was taken over by a United States Marshal, foreclosed. It is now the property of an insurance company.

The emperor of this cow-boy empire was Colonel Zach Miller, who for years ruled over the Hundred and One Ranch. It occupies a whole corner of northwestern Oklahoma. In the old days it produced a wealth of cattle, ~~the~~ herds on the range. And Colonel Zach Miller and his brothers were opulent potentates. They imported expensive orchestras to entertain weekend parties. They operated a wild west show known as the "Hundred and One Ranch." Five years ago Ringling Brothers - Barnum and Bailey took over their circus. In recent years droughts have cut down the revenue of the cow-boy domain. ^{And} Debts piled up - until today came the foreclosure, ~~of the Hundred and One Ranch.~~

Colonel Zach Miller isn't through, ^{He's only} though, ^{fifty-nine,} and ^{and} he says he is going to start a hoass university and teach boys and to ride ~~x~~ rope the old wild west way.

HOBO

There's one man who must have had a profound suspicion today, suspicion of - April Fool. He's a hobo out in California, living the life of a wandering tramp. ^{For} Thirty years he has been a weary Willie on the road, sleeping in haystacks, riding the rods, chased by brakemen, getting hand-outs at farmers' back doors, living between trips in the hobo jungles - as those ramshackle colonies of vagrants are called. So what could have sounded more like April Fool than the word that came ^{today} to Frank Orsban, in the hobo jungle in the valley of the Santa Anna River, California? It was a message that he had fallen heir to a hundred thousand dollars. And Hobo Frank certainly heard an imaginary echo - April Fool!

28
But it's nothing of the sort. Two years ago, Frank Orsban's uncle died at Fort Wayne. He had been a prosperous farmer and left acres of rich land and money in the bank. And his heir was - his nephew, a nephew that hadn't been heard of for years, a nephew that was a wandering hobo. A search began. They called it the hunt for the lost heir, because Hobo Frank could not be found. For two years the quest continued, with the