

UTICA - KNICKERBOCKER

If any of you were listening in last night you may, possibly, have wondered why I happened to be off the air. And, why Hugh James was handling the news. Well, when 6:45 arrived, last evening, I was all set, ready to give my broadcast as usual, only not in the N.B.C. Studios in Radio City, I was ~~standing~~ on the stage of the Stanley Theatre in Utica, New York, with a crowd of several thousand in front of me, ^{and} Mayor Vincent Corrou (Carew) at my side. In fact the Mayor was ~~not~~ all set to talk for a moment or two about the glories of Utica and the famous Mohawk Valley, ^{and was he disappointed.} One of the engineers ^{needed} to put on an out-of-town broadcast was on hand, but for the first time in ten years something had gone wrong with the arrangements and ^{another} ~~one~~ engineer and part of the ^{essential} equipment was missing. At 6:45 I started my broadcast just as I always do, but for the first time in ten years ^{no} ~~without~~ microphone, and with my ^{voice} going no farther than the walls of the Stanley Theatre.

However, with the aid of the Press Department of the N.B.C. a sheaf of ^{dispatches} ~~idspatches~~ were rushed up to the N.B.C. in ~~me~~

LT explains.
was with
Kriickenbocker
+ Joe Lewis.

Dec. 13, 1939.

and
the studio at Radio City, Hugh James filled in. A tough assignment for Hugh - he hadn't had a chance to look at the news. And he did a great job.

On my way up to Utica I ran into an old colleague, that ace American foreign correspondent, H. R. Knickerbocker whom I hadn't seen since we were in Russia together nearly fourteen years ago. Many of you follow his articles in the newspapers. Some of you will recall how he was thrown bodily out of Germany by Hitler because of some of the things he wrote.

While I was talking with Knickerbocker, the train came to a sudden abrupt stop. A car had jumped the tracks, or something -- not serious. The sort of sudden stop you are likely to have no matter what your form of transportation if you're going at high speed. Dishes flew in all directions, coffee went into passengers' laps, and there was an uproar. Well, in the whole dining car there was just one person who sat as though nothing at all had happened, absolutely imperturbable. He reached for what was left of his breakfast and went on eating without batting an eye, without hardly looking up. That person was the Heavyweight Champion of the world, Joe Louis, at the next table. The sports writers say Joe Louis has no nerves, I guess they're right.

LEAGUE

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A Committee of the League of Nations has finished drawing up a scathing report, ^{about} ~~It started with~~ Soviet Russia. Stalin's country, ~~his~~ government and foreign office, ^{— all get a} ~~gets a pretty~~ thorough going over from the League delegates, who have been considering the invasion of Finland. ~~There's no report from Moscow that Stalin and Molotov are losing any sleep over it.~~

^{It the report —}
~~However, the report~~ recommends that the Soviets be expelled from the League, also that all nations who belong as well as those who do not, including the United States, should hasten to do all they can to help the Finns ^{who are} fighting with their backs to the wall. ~~to defend their country.~~ The report of the Committee doesn't deal ^{alone} ~~only~~ with the attack upon Finland. It reviews the conduct of the Soviet Union ever since it became a member ~~state~~ of the League. ~~It has repeatedly, said the Committee,~~ ~~refused proposals for mediation, one of the most essential,~~ ~~covenants of the League for safeguarding the peace and security~~ of the nations.

^{It}
~~The report~~ does not in so many words recommend the expelling of the Red state, but it does say that the Soviet, ~~he~~ by its own actions, has placed itself outside the covenant of the

League. Therefore it is left up to the ^{League} Council ^{as to} what consequences should follow ~~from that situation.~~

After this ~~paper~~ was made public, it was ^{said in} ~~reported in~~

Geneva that the representatives of the Soviets had left Switzerland.

There was no word of explanation but it is believed that there ^{will be} ~~is~~ a telegram tomorrow from Moscow announcing Stalin's resignation from the League.

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FINLAND

War reports from Finland ^{tonight} are exciting but indefinite and unconfirmed. ~~But~~ From Finland, Stockholm and Copenhagen there are stories of dashing counter-attacks by the Finns, fierce fighting in the east and northeast, where the Russians are trying to push across the narrow waistline of Finland and cut the country in two. ~~There's~~ One report from Stockholm is that the Russians had captured an important town - I can't pronounce it but it's at the head of the Kemi River, also the terminal of the railroad line to the coast on the Gulf of Bothnia. But later the Finns are supposed to have recaptured it.

An official communication from Moscow claims that the Reds have captured a Finnish city fifty-seven miles from the Russian ~~the~~ frontier and are holding it. But the Finns claim to have recaptured that place also. And the Finns announce that further south they have struck back at the Bolsheviks, ^{and} penetrated into Russian territory, north of Lake Ladoga.

ROME

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Early today news came from Rome that the Soviet ^{Russian} ~~ambassador~~
Ambassador to Italy had been called back to Moscow. Nobody paid
much attention until this evening, when it was pointed out that the
Soviet envoy had been recalled without even presenting his credentials
to King Victor Emanuel. In the two weeks that the new Soviet
Ambassador passed in Rome, there were frequent public demonstrations
against the Reds all over Italy and several times Italian ^{police} ~~grenadiers~~
had to be called out to protect the Bolsheviki Embassy.

LORDS

The British House of Lords is famous for being ~~usually~~ one of the quietest debating bodies in the world. In fact rude ^(of the lower orders,) persons have alluded to its transactions as soporific. But an argument went on before Their Lordships today which a Hollywood producer might almost describe as having real oomph. The man who started the ruckus was Lord Darnley, a peer bearing the same name and title as the second husband of the lamented Mary, Queen of Scots. It was Darnley, you may remember, who held the arms of the ill-fated Scottish Queen in Holyrood Palace, while his confederates ~~stepp~~ stabbed her Italian favorite, Rizzio, before her eyes. I should hasten to add that the present Lord Darnley is no relation to the murderer of Rizzio and resembles him only in name.

Nevertheless, what he said today in the British House of Peers provoked a rebuke from the Foreign Secretary, Viscount Halifax. Lord Darnley had begun with a reproach to the Chamberlain Government because it had not taken advantage of the peace ~~fferred~~ offer made by Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands and King Leopold of the Belgians. The government, said Lord Darnley, should have

jumped at the opportunity of obtaining a freely negotiated peace.

Darnley was backed up by a peer representing the Labor Party; and

a spiritual peer, His Lordship the Bishop of Chichester, also

took part. Then up rose Viscount Halifax with a bow to the

woolsack, on which sits the Lord Chancellor, *Spoke the tall, gaunt Viscount:* ~~and said,~~ "I think

this has been an unfortunate debate." Then he added: "It does not

need much imagination to see the damage which such ~~subjects~~

speeches as made tonight are capable of inflicting on the nation's

cause."

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SEA BATTLE

The British Admiralty today were investigating the rumor that their cruiser ACHILLES had been sunk in the South Atlantic by a German ~~battle~~ pocket battleship, ~~It is believed that this Nazi warship was~~ the ADMIRAL SCHEER. British warships ~~are~~ scouring the South Atlantic, but the Admiralty discredited ^{S)} the report. If the ACHILLES did meet the ADMIRAL SCHEER, the battle wouldn't last long. The ADMIRAL SCHEER is not only faster, more moder^{n,} but better equipped all around.

ADD SEA BATTLE

(In a bulletin that just came in, the British Embassy at Montevideo admitted virtually that there had been a sea battle in nearby waters. The way the diplomats phrased it was, that contact had been established between two British men-o-war and one German.) It is believed though not announced that the British warships were the ACHILLES and AJAX, light cruisers, fighting the pocket battleship ADMIRAL SCHEER. The British admit that some damage was done but none of the ships were sunk.

BREMEN

There was violent criticism in Great Britain today, indignation because the great British fleet had failed to stop the crack German liner BREMEN from reaching Hamburg. There were even harsh words because the British submarine which sighted the BREMEN had not torpedoed her.

But there's a sound explanation for that failure. It comes not from the British side but from the German. An officer of the BREMEN declares that the flying boats escorting the great German liner spotted the British sub, whereupon the BREMEN started steaming full speed on a zigzag course. Meanwhile one of the German flying boats swooped down towards the British submarine and the undersea boat was compelled to dive.

Today it was announced that the BREMEN wasn't the only German liner ~~which~~ ^{to} elude the British blockade. The NEW YORK also ~~has~~ ^{long since} reached safe harbor in ~~Hamburg~~ ^{Germany,} She had left New York August Twenty-Eighth, sailed to Murmansk, ^{and} docked in Hamburg November Twelfth. The NEW YORK is the third largest liner in the German mercantile marine.

WINNIPEG

In the far western City of Winnipeg, there are two Communist trustees on the school board. A resolution came up before that board last night, full of indignation against Russia for the unprovoked invasion of Finland. Those two Communist trustees voted against it. They had previously voted against resolutions calling upon Canada to help Finland, also to boycott all products imported from the Soviet Union, meaning, I suppose, ~~principally~~ caviar, ~~reflex, reflex, reflex~~ vodka, Russian ballets and Soviet propaganda.

Today there was great indignation in Canada about those two Red trustees. The rest of the school board is trying to get the city council to remove ^{the pair} ~~that couple~~ of Bolsheviks, though trustees are not appointed by the council but elected by popular vote.

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COMMUNIST

Out in San Francisco a Communist is on trial, William Schneiderman, Secretary of the Red party in California. The Government asked the court to revoke Schneiderman's citizenship on the grounds that he obtained his naturalization papers fraudulently, concealed the fact that he was a Communist.

When he was on the ~~witness~~ stand this afternoon, Schneiderman was asked whether he would fight for Uncle Sam against Soviet Russia. He replied yes, he would; he would bear arms even against the Bolsheviks under the Soviets. But, he added, that *this didn't mean he would approve* ~~that *wasn't* it would not reflect his particular opinion~~ of such a war. ↗

PALMYRA

Uncle Sam is after getting himself some more territory in the Pacific Ocean. Midway between Hawaii and Samoa, ~~there is a bunch~~ ^{are some} ~~of islands~~ ^{small isles} called the Palmyra group. ~~They are~~ Nothing more than ~~some~~ fifty-two coral atolls, in the middle of the big drink. Uninhabited.

Nevertheless, Uncle wants them. He wants to make them into a base for navy patrol bombing planes. The federal government filed an action in the federal court at Honolulu today to assert title to those islands which are claimed by a group of private American citizens. ~~There is already~~ a party of engineers from the naval base ~~at~~ ^{is now} Pearl Harbor surveying ~~these atolls~~ ^{the coral isles} of Palmyra.

TAFT

United States Senator Taft of Ohio ^{has} lost no time replying to the challenge from President Roosevelt. I mean the challenge offering the Republican Ohio Senator a handsome prize if he could show how to balance Uncle Sam's budget in two years. Senator Bob Taft was in Boston today and ~~i~~ his retort to the White House was that President Roosevelt had done it himself once upon a time but had apparently forgotten how. Taft pointed out that Mr. Roosevelt in his campaign had advocated a twenty-five per cent cut in all appropriations, and continued Taft:- "For the first two months of his administration Mr. Roosevelt proved it could be done. After that he forgot all about it."

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The Ohio Senator then told the Boston Chamber of Commerce that he thought it would ~~it~~ take six months to make a complete study of national finance to show how the budget balancing could be done in detail. And he said that the only alternative for a balanced budget is national bankruptcy. If it cannot be done in two years, it cannot be done in twenty.

SCUDDER

The Honorable Townsend Scudder some years ago retired from the Supreme Court of the State of New York and went to Connecticut to live. There he puts in his years of leisure raising dogs, cocker spaniels. An interesting and sporting occupation, but it annoyed the neighbors in Connecticut because there were seventy of those cockers. Like all good honest dogs, they barked, occasionally. Though the neighbors said the occasions were too frequent, ^{remember?} So for two years ex-Justice Townsend Scudder has been arguing the question whether it is good neighborly to keep seventy ^{dogs} ~~cockers~~ at one time. The Board of Selectmen got into the argument, ordered the Ex-Supreme Court Judge to get rid of most of his dogs, ^{and} keep no more than ten. ~~of them.~~

So the Judge did what even some of us lesser more humble individuals, mere laymen, sometimes do. He went to court about it. ~~He asked for a restraining order against the Board of Selectment.~~ He said that whereas his dogs were carefully ~~trained~~, docile and quiet, more than thirty of the neighbors' dogs roamed all over the place at night, quite unrestrained, not ~~only~~ barking, but howling. Such was the argument that Judge Scudder told the Connecticut judge.

Today a Connecticut judge, whose name is O'Sullivan, agreed with his retired brother from New York.

So Mr. Ex-Justice Townsend Scudder may now continue to keep seventy cocker spaniels, bark or no bark.

TEACHER

An old English ditty runs this way:-

"Perhaps it was right to dissemble your love,
But why did you kick me downstairs?"

A Texas man is in court today because it is said that he got into trouble by dissembling a bomb into the home of ^{a certain} lady's brother. ^{The Texan is} ~~was~~ a former superintendent of schools and ~~is~~ ^{is} on trial at Dallas.

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The story was told by a pretty young school-marm. In the intervals between being teacher she was the secretary to the superintendent. In fact, she said she was more than ^a secretary; ~~because~~ because he used to put his arms around her, and kiss her. That ~~happened~~ had been going on, she said, for three years. Toward the end of that time she got ~~bored~~ ^{tired} gave up her job as secretary, confined herself to being teacher. ~~While she grew bored~~ ^{But} her former boss grew more ardent. One July night in Nineteen Thirty-Eight, while teacher was visiting her brother, a souvenir went "bang", which was not so strange as it was a dynamite bomb. It demolished the room but left teacher unimpaired. So unimpaired in fact that she was able to tell her tale on the stand today. And to hear the

defendant's lawyer read some of the love letters she had written.

And did they make her face red!

Texas moonlight, adoration and dynamite, 'tis love that
makes the world go round, and dynamite that
makes the walls fall down.

8 1/2

KNIGHT

A couple of weeks ago, there was an interesting bit of news about a fashionable New York lawyer named Richard Allen Knight, yes, the man who stood on his head in the Metropolitan Opera House. More recently he was in San Francisco, standing on his head for his wife, trying to get her to be reconciled with him. Apparently he didn't get to first base on his head, because the lady arrived at Reno, Nevada, today. They asked her about her head-standing husband. Her reply was that the puzzle to the world in general has puzzled her even more. The only explanation she could think of is that some people can play croquet and her husband can stand on his head. Then she added: ^{"I guess it's} ~~it's~~ a gift, ~~I suppose~~

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if H what gift has
we have you?