

TELEPHONE STRIKE

U.I. - P. & G. Mon. Jan. 30 '50

A telephone strike has been called for February Eight, to begin at Six A.M. Union president Joseph Beirne says that telephone service will be halted across the country, with only enough maintained for emergencies -- like calls for doctors, nurses, police and fire warnings. The companies announce that everything will be done to continue service, in spite of the strike.

COAL

President Truman took no action today in the coal strike -- although a hundred thousand miners were idle in the wildcat walkout. John L. Lewis gave an urgent order for the strikers to return to their jobs today, but the revolt against his leadership continued unabated.

There is some supposition that the President is waiting to see what happens in the resumption of negotiations between John L. Lewis and the mine owners - negotiations which are to be reopened on Wednesday.

ATOMIC

The Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy has been visiting and inspecting various plants -- studying the question of the hydrogen bomb. This was disclosed today by the chairman, Senator Brien MacMahon of Connecticut -- whose statement leads to the belief that plans for an H-bomb are in progress.

At the same time David Lilienthal, Chairman of the Federal Atomic Energy Commission, has more to say about his attitude toward - a hell bomb. Today he told newsmen that he is not opposed, in principle, to the making of the fearful weapon. He thinks the question is whether we should devote our energy to a hydrogen bomb, instead of some other form of national defense. Lilienthal spoke in the most guarded of terms -- and seemed to be trying to dispel reports that he was opposed to the H-bomb on moral grounds.

~~He discounted statements made by atomic~~
~~scientist Professor Urey, who said that if the Soviets~~

had a hell bomb and we didn't, they would be in a position to impose their Communist dictatorship upon the entire world, just by the threat. Lillienthal said he did not believe Americans would surrender to any such threat, and illustrated with a bit of philosophy: "It isn't how long you live, but whether you are a man while you live, that counts," he said.

BOSTON

At MacArthur Headquarters ~~it~~ in Tokyo there is a reaction of surprise and indignation because of what happened in Boston this afternoon -- when the City Council refused to receive a deputation from the Japanese diet. A party of Japanese lawmakers, under the sponsorship of General MacArthur came to America to observe democratic government at work but the Boston town fathers, with expressions of war-time anger, rejected the Japanese delegation -- and in Tokyo there is ~~it~~ disapproval and even dismay among American officials.

INDO*CHINA

The latest news tonight is a Moscow announcement that Soviet Russia has recognized the Communist rebels in French Indo-China. That is - the Viet Nam insurgents who are battling against the autonomous regime set up by France. This move by Moscow indicates that the Soviets expect French Indo-China to be added to the vast Communist world in Asia. ~~Russian~~ Recognition is withdrawn from the regime sponsored by France and is transferred to a Red government of Indo-China.

CHINA

The Chinese Reds make their demand on Tibet -- calling upon that isolated Himalayan country to negotiate with Communist Peking for - "A peaceful liberation of Tibet." That's what the Reds call it; and we know what Communist "liberation" means.

The Red radio denounces the intention of the government of the Dalai Lama to send missions to the western democracies, asking for aid - and tells the Tibetans to send a mission to Red Peking, to negotiate a peaceful settlement. Meaning - a peaceful surrender.

Simultaneously, the Moscow radio announces the arrival today of a delegation from the Chinese province of Sinkiang, which is on the border of Tibet. Sinkiang is one of the provinces named by the Secretary of State Acheson as an object of Russian ambition, and now representatives of that province join the top Chinese who have been negotiating in Moscow for weeks.

What does it mean? In London there's a

surmise that it might be a sign that an agreement has virtually been reached at Moscow. Or - that there's a hitch in the negotiations. Which would agree with insistent reports that the chiefs of the Chinese Reds are not submitting readily to terms that Moscow wants to impose.

In Hong Kong today, there was a violent riot, when five thousand street car strikers and sympathizers got into a raging battle with the police. They held a mass meeting, and the police prevented the use of loud speakers for inflammatory addresses. That started the outbreak, with the mob hurling stones and bottles, and the police retaliating with tear gas - scores injured and sent to hospitals.

MARRIAGE - JAPAN

There is a rush of weddings in Japan, couples crowding to get married before February Fourth. Why that particular date? Well, according to the traditional calendar of Japan, February Fourth begins the Lunar year. And this next will be - "The year of the tiger". According to ancient belief, weddings in the year of the tiger are unlucky. So Japanese couples are making haste to have their version of weddings bells before the tiger comes.

SUN-FO

Chinese newspapers in Hongkong carried a two-column advertisement today -- in an affair which is shocking the sensibilities of the Chinese. The advertisement was inserted by Sun-Fo -- who at one time was premier of Nationalist China. But, more to the point -- he is the son of the venerable founder of the Chinese Republic, Dr. Sun Yat Sen.

Sun-Fo was sued by a Chinese beauty named Nancy Li, who claims that he is the father of her two children. The case went to court, the decision was in favor of Sun-Fo -- but Nancy Li has been continuing with a publicity campaign. So now Sun-Fo answers with publicity of his own, those advertisements in Hongkong papers answering the claim of Nancy Li.

The whole thing is most unseemly, not at all according to the venerable face and dignity recommended by Confucious -- and Chinese editorial writers are calling Sun-Fo a disgrace to the memory of his father, the Revered Sun Yat Sen.

RIOT- ISRAEL

They had an uproar in Tel Aviv today - when six hundred Communists put on a demonstration in front of the Jewish Agency Building. The ~~xxx~~ rioting Reds were supporting a group of fifteen Communists, who were staging a ~~gxmx~~ sitdown strike inside the building. The grievance - a complaint about the distribution of seeds and farm tools purchased with an American loan.

Leftwingers in cooperative villages think they are not getting enough. They denounce America, but love that American aid. So the demonstration was on today, with Communists carrying Israeli and Red flags and singing "the international." Bystanders, not Communists, mocked and jeered, fighting broke out - then the police had a battle on their hands.

BRITISH ELECTION

In Britain the Conservative party is worried because of indications that, even their own conservative party members believe the labor government will win the election. Public opinion polls show the Laborites making gains -- after previous polls had shown the Conservatives to be in the lead. The signs also show a kind of defeatism among Conservatives, with straw votes showing that sixty percent of all the people believe that labor party socialism will win out.

WHALE

At Southampton, England, an ocean liner is being inspected for possible damage -- after a collision with a whale, a leviathan of the deep large and ponderous enough to shake up a twenty-four thousand ton steamship.

The S. S. Orion, plying between Britain and the Orient, was steaming in the Indian Ocean at full speed, eighteen knots. -- *And then --* ~~and~~ bang! The captain says there were two heavy thuds that could be felt throughout the liner. Immediately afterward the crew, looking astern, spotted portions of a whale.

It would seem the giant, ~~was~~ asleep just under the surface, was hit by the vessel, and then was caught in the propellers, and cut to ~~in~~ pieces.

The Orion continued her voyage okay. But putting into Southampton today, an inspection was immediately begun -- to see if the ocean liner had been damaged by its collision with a whale.

TRAIN

Another mishap has befallen Hiawatha -- not the Indian ~~train~~, but the railroad train. Moreover, it is almost the same thing that happened to Hiawatha the last time -- two weeks ago, when the crack streamliner ran wild, out of control, without brakes, and down the hill, speeding for eighteen miles into Milwaukee. This time it happened on the Pacific Coast at Kittitas, Washington and the circumstances were dramatic and picturesque.

The Hiawatha with two hundred passengers aboard, climbed uphill in the Saddle Mountains - and, at the top of the grade, the engineer and fireman noticed that a blaze had broken out in the motor underneath their big diesel engine. They stopped the train and got out. The fire wasn't anything much, except that the flames knocked the airbrake system haywire. So, as they were ^{there outside the cab,} standing on a snowbank, the streamliner started back down the hill. They made a frantic dash to get back into the locomotive, but it was no use -- the Hiawatha was backing too

fast. She picked up speed, and was on her way, for six miles downhill.

The engineer and fireman, left standing in the snow by their runaway train, ran stumbling through the drifts to a telephone, and put in a hurry-up call to the depot down the line: "I have lost my train," shouted the engineer, "it's going down your way! -- ~~and~~ clear the track!" A freight train was on the line, just right for a collision - and the railroad men went into frantic action to get the box cars out of the way.

In the streamliner the two hundred passengers never suspected what was happening. But the conductor ^{did} ~~figured what was wrong~~ -- he set an air siren wailing an alarm, and called the brakeman and a couple of other crew members -- to set the handbrakes.

With siren screaming, the Hiawatha ran through the ~~walk~~ railroad station -- and just missed the freight train. Then ^{it} ~~came~~ came to a stop -- ~~so~~ the

TRAIN.....3

handbrakes ^{doing} ~~are~~ the trick.

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The original Hiawatha was a gentle Indian
~~maiden~~ - but her modern railroad namesake seems to
be a little wild.

SNOW

In North Central Dakota the world is white, the snow so deep that the Red Cross has designated four counties - "a disaster area". Communications tied up, food running short, a snow-bound emergency - and the forces of the Red Cross are converging to give aid.

YUKON

Things take a gloomy turn in the air search for ^{that} ~~an~~ Air Force transport plane, with forty-four people aboard - missing in the Arctic wilderness of the Yukon. The gloom was in the sky, with a heavy overcast rolling in, a blanket of clouds darkening the day and impeding the search. There's gloom also in the reading of the thermometer, sinking ~~temperatures~~ temperatures, bitter northern cold - decreasing any hope for survivors.

SENNETT

In Hollywood today the facts of an oldtime love story were disclosed. ~~A film is being made about~~ Mack Sennett, monarch of slapstick comedy in the old silent films; and it will feature the memory of Mabel Normand, star of those riotous, rowdy Sennett comedies. *Mack and Mabel* ~~they~~ had one of the first of the famous Hollywood romances.

Today, in an interview with Aline Mosby of the United Press, Mack Sennett made public for the first time the story of himself and Mabel Normand.

"Mabel and I met", he relates, "when we were both extras at the old Biograph studio in New York, more than forty years ago. It was boy and girl stuff. Once," he relates, "I gave her a little tow-dollar-and-a-half cameo ring. You never heard such raves - it was the most wonderful thing to her."

Then, presently, he turned producer, and formed the old Keystone Company -- Keystone for comedy cops. He persuaded Mabel to leave Biograph,

and join his movie troop -- as the star. By Nineteen Fourteen, Mack Sennett was a top-racking mogul of the films, and Mabel Normand was world famous -- the tiny actress with the big eyes.

Those were crowded years for Mack Sennett -- crowded with funny policemen, bathing beauties, and a hurling of custard pies. He showered Mabel Normand with diamonds, furs, salary, success. But he did not lavish his time on her. Today he said: "I was running sixteen motion picture companies - and, whenever she wanted to see me, I had a business appointment."

He was too busy, and the result is told in one lingering reminiscence, as Mack Sennett related it today: "Once I remembered," he says, "how she loved that cheap cameo, when we were both extras. So I gave her a five thousand dollar ring. Well, all she said was that it would go fine with her diamond bracelets and necklaces."

So she drifted out of Mack Sennett movies--

and out of his life. She married an actor, Lew Cody, and died soon afterward, Nineteen Thirty.

Mack Sennett never married, and today he sighed: "I wish I had married her." *And that's the story of how Mack missed Mabel.*

OPERA

In New York's Metropolitan operatic flare of temperament, the news is that there will be a conference tomorrow with prima donna Helen Traubel, the Wagnerian star. ~~who announced she would not sing at the Metropolitan next season.~~ She was miffed by the fact that she has heard no mention of a contract -- contrary to the usual custom. But today the word is that she will go into a sort of peace conference tomorrow with the new director of the opera house, Rudolf Bing, who is to take charge next season.

One report was that ~~Helen~~ Traubel was annoyed, because Kirsten Flagstad might return to the ~~Metropolitan~~, and assume prima donna Wagnerian roles. Today Madame Flagstad's American manager, Max Levine, stated that he has been conferring on the subject with the new director Rudolf Bing. All of which is highly controversial because during the Second World War the famous Norwegian soprano chose to be with her husband, who has been accused of collaborating with the Nazis during their occupation

of Norway.

Right now Madame Flagstad is in Europe -- engaged to sing in England next year. Her contract was announced today -- and its terms are surprising. Her fee is to be -- "Room, board and two pints of oatmeal stout every day." Oatmeal stout is a dark bitter beer, like Guinness or ~~port~~ ale. Sounds about right for a husky Wagnerian soprano. Madame Flagstad says she wants no money -- because of what she calls "The warmth and generosity" with which the British people have received her."

At fifty-four, a considerable age for an opera singer, Mme. Flagstad will appear in twenty performances of a masterpiece of English music of the Seventeenth Century -- the opera Dido and Aeneas, by the celebrated composer, Purcell. Pay - two pints of oatmeal stout per day.

Nelson, how would you like to be paid in stout?