

HALIFAX

R.J. - Lunsco.

Friday, Feb. 25, 1938.

The new Foreign Minister of Great Britain has been a stately figure for years. Nothing could be more stately than a Viceroy of India. And that was what Lord Halifax was ~~not~~^{not} ~~years~~^{long} ago. Perhaps some of you with acute memories may retort: "We never heard of an Indian Viceroy named Lord Halifax." That's true. The nobleman was Lord Irwin then. He has since succeeded to the title of Viscount Halifax.

46
His taking over the Foreign Office creates a rather peculiar condition. He's a peer of the realm, and therefore sits in the House of Lords, and is not a member of the House of Commons. It is the British custom for the cabinet ministers to appear in the Commons and answer to the M.P.'s for their policies. Lord Halifax can't do that. And therein lies one of the important points stressed by the opposition, the Labor Party, which is exceedingly angry about his taking over the Foreign Office.

One viewpoint is that Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain is taking foreign affairs for negotiations with Italy very much in his own hands. Since His Lordship, the Viscount, cannot appear before the House of Commons, ~~he~~^{who} will speak for the

Foreign Office? The Prime Minister himself - that's what Neville Chamberlain announced today. He'll speak to the Commons on points of international policy.

The resigning Foreign Minister, Anthony Eden, stated his position today to a gathering of his constituents. He repeated his claim that the British government is ^{negotiating} ~~engaging~~ with Italy on the basis of a threat, a now-or-never warning from Mussolini. And he said the British-Italian talks, which he opposed, may have the "gravest consequences" for the British empire.

The French were busy debating those British-Italian negotiations today. ~~The~~ Chamber of Deputies staged a long discussion. Officially, it's a question whether or not to give a vote of confidence to the government of Premier Chautemps - on the basis of foreign policy. But the real concern of the debate was:- is Great Britain in its new policy toward Italy abandoning France? That's the worry.

We are told that the French Premier and Foreign Minister were given assurances today by the British Ambassador, who told them that England is still hand in glove with France as much as ever.

47

AUSTRIA

(The Nazi-Germans are still angry about yesterday's declaration of Austrian independence. They say that in retaliation Nazi influence will drive Chancellor Schuschnigg out.) In Italy the jubilation still continues. Mussolini's Fascists are delighted with the independent-Austria-declaration. It's ^{as} ~~all~~ most curious, since the Duce and Hitler are supposed to be so ~~friendly~~ ^{firmly} hand in hand - the Rome-Berlin axis. So, the inevitable question is, "Has the British move to strike up friendship with Italy already had results?" Is Mussolini, in his eagerness for a settlement with Britain, showing signs so soon of drawing away from Hitler?

He certainly seems to be eager for a settlement, because here's a dispatch from Rome announcing that the Italian army in ~~Libya~~ ~~is~~ ~~being~~ Libya is being reduced immediately. Libya is next door to Egypt and the Suez Canal, and heavy Italian forces there are ~~now~~ an irritating threat against Britain. The Rome dispatch declares that a lot of Italian soldiers are being taken out of the colony - temporarily. The temporary angle is emphasized by the statement that the troops are being given

48

furloughs, a sort of vacation of three months in Italy. Their withdrawal will become permanent when and if a British-Italian agreement is definitely made.

Another indication of the Duce's sudden good-will toward England!— London reports that it has word of a big rush in Italy to buy British goods. Italian importers are hurrying to place orders in England. That's the immediate result of the British-Italian negotiations that are now going on.

But what about Toscanini? Odd how ~~so~~ prominently a musician should be in the affairs of ^{the} nation^s. When the Austrian surrender to Hitler was announced, he declared that he wouldn't go this year to conduct the great Mozart Musical Festival at Salzburg. But now, after the Vienna Chancellor proclaimed that Austria would remain free - how does that affect Toscanini? That's what Austria wants to know. Today, the President of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra cabled to the Maestro in New York. The cable reads: "After our Chancellor's speech, we joyfully await your return." What is Toscanini's reply to that? A shake of the head. ^{We are told} ~~The idea is~~ that the event of yesterday has not made him change his mind.

49

NOBEL

A new tragic note ^{today} ~~has~~ entered ~~today in~~ the tragic case of Carl von Ossietzky, the Nobel Peace Prize winner. Remember the story as we heard it some time ago? Von Ossietzky, the pacifist was in a Nazi concentration camp, because he was a pacifist and anti-Nazi. And thereupon the Nobel Committee awarded him the Peace Prize for Nineteen~~Thirty~~-Six. It was wondered then whether the prisoner in the concentration camp would be allowed to receive the forty thousand dollars. Later we heard that von Ossietzky had been set free ~~and~~ was ill, in a hospital.

50

Today in Berlin a fifty-one year old lawyer went on trial for swindling. The charge is this:- at the time when it was doubtful whether Ossietzky would be allowed to have the Nobel forty thousand dollars, the lawyer undertook to get it for him - for a fee of six thousand dollars. Ossietzky gave the lawyer a power of attorney, and the lawyer got the money. They say he admits that he gave ~~fourteen~~ fourteen thousand dollars of it to an eighteen year old sweetheart. He lent other sums to friends of his. When he was all through, the Nobel forty thousand dollars was reduced to six thousand, which is all

that Carl von Ossietzky got. He complained to the police, and now the lawyer is being prosecuted for fraud.

~~It's~~ a bitter aftermath in the drama of the prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp, who won the Peace Prize.

JAPAN

Japan made a significant move today with respect to ~~xxx~~ its puppet state of Manchukuo. It was decreed ^{in Tokyo} that in the case of war Manchukuo ^{is} ~~was~~ to become a part of Japan, ^{under} ~~the~~ Tokio Administration. In Japan proper it's the law that in war time the Army will have dictatorial powers over economic affairs -- business, finance. So now that same thing will apply to Manchukuo. The Japanese Army there will exercise a dictatorship, ^{in case of} war. ^{But there's a war in China. Yes, but not declared. So the decree doesn't apply - not yet.}

CHINA

Today's American warning to Japan grows out of the series of representations in the Far East. The Japanese in China issued notice, saying they were undertaking military operations in central China, and they ^W warned Americans that they might be in danger. The ~~inference~~ ^{meaning} being: - clear out!

The attitude of the American representative in the Far East was - the Japanese might go ahead with their military operations in central China, but that didn't interfere with the right of Americans to stay there if they wanted to - and be protected.

The Japanese issued another warning, demanding that Americans mark their property in such a way that the Japanese could recognize it as American. United States Ambassador Grew replied that he would issue no such order. He said that Americans were marking their property voluntarily - but even if they didn't, the Japanese would be held responsible if it were destroyed.

All this today was ^{made doubly} ~~amplified by an~~ official ^{by a diplomatic} ~~note from~~

Washington to Tokyo. It tells Japan that Americans have a

right to live in China, any place they please, military operations or no military operations. Also - that if the Japanese destroy any American property, they would be held responsible.

52
note,

(The hot argument about airplane versus battleship, came to a climax today with official word from the White House. Congress has been wrangling so much about the relative powers of sky and sea, that now the President speaks his verdict -- and he is Commander-in-Chief of the Navy. His decision favors -- battleships. He declared today that giant dreadnaughts were still the dominating element of sea power.)

While the President was saying this, he was being borne out by some technical figures given before the House Committee on Naval Affairs. Rear Admiral Arthur B. Cook, Chief of Naval Aeronautics, was the expert witness. He described the fire of a modern dreadnaught with nine sixteen inch guns, each shooting 2100 pound shells. Each gun would hurl one hundred shells an hour., making nine hundred shells for all ten. He declared it would take four hundred and fifty airplanes to deliver an equal explosive power in the form of bombs. He reckoned that a squadron of fifteen battleships would shoot the same amount of destruction per hour as could be dropped by 6750 bombers. He said the fifteen battleships would cost ~~over a~~ billion ~~dollars~~ while the 6750 bombers would cost over two billion and a quarter. So, according to the Admiral,

those fabulously expensive sea giants provide a cheaper form of destruction than bombers, which cost so much less per unit.

WAR PROFITS

The Military Affairs Committee of the House has put its okay on a bill to stop war profiteering. They've been wrangling about it, because some lawmakers think it would give the government powers too broad and sweeping. The bill proposes to give to the President the right to establish a price limit if the United States goes into a war - to stop profiteering. Also - powers for a drastic wartime regulation of industry.

54
There's one thing in the bill that has nothing to do with profiteering - it specifies a draft, conscription, making all men between twenty-one and thirty-one liable for military service.

INTERIOR

According to what the Appropriations Committee of the lower House voted today - the Department of the Interior will get a hundred and twenty-five and a half million, which is two million less than ^{was} ~~was~~ asked. In this Secretary of the Interior Ickes will get money for publicity, but not as much as he asked. This publicity item caused a lot of argument, and the amount was scaled down.

STOCK MARKET

The Stock Market went up a bit during the latter part of the day, in spite of a couple of pieces of news calculated to discourage buying. Both concern the automobile industry. The Chrysler Company skipped a dividend, because of the uncertain state of business, uncertain profits, and, General Motors declared a salary reduction for all employees except workers covered by union contracts. ^{A small} ~~a cut~~ for small salaries, ^{a cut} and big [^] for salaries in the higher brackets.

PERSHING

The news about General Pershing is doubly melancholy tonight, because the immediate facts are optimistic, even gay. The General is a bit better, staged a rally ^{today in his desperate} ~~ing in his~~ illness - so much so that he joked with his aide, ^a ~~his~~ sergeant. He smiled, and made a cheery remark.

All of this would be heartening to hear, if it were not for the physician's continued report - almost no chance. The war Commander of the A.E.F. is not expected to recover.

CRASH

In the news this morning - a tragic air/crash of a millionaire private plane. And it's the same story all over again - this evening.

The news this morning told how ^{at} the fabulous San Simeon Ranch of William Randolph Hearst, the multi-millionaire publisher, was waiting for the arrival of distinguished guests - by air:- Lord Plunkett, member of the Irish Parliament, and friend of King George, and Lady Plunkett, daughter of the famous actress, Fanny Ward. Lady Plunkett inherited a million dollars from her father, and ^{was a} ~~served as~~ lady-in-waiting to Queen Elizabeth. The third guest was James Lawrence, son of Sir Walter Lawrence, a wealthy Londoner. They were flying from Burbank to San Simeon in a plane owned by ~~the Hearst newspaper~~ a Hearst newspaper. ~~At the controls was a pilot in the employ of William Randolph~~ ~~Hearst.~~

As the famous publisher, with other guests about him, stood waiting on the porch of the San Simeon mansion, the plane ^{came in through} ~~headed into~~ a fog. It overshot the private Hearst airfield. It turned to come back, but plunged suddenly, crashed, and burst

into flames. Lord and Lady Plunkett were killed instantly. So was the pilot. The third passenger ^{desperately} was injured. All, in sight of William Randolph Hearst and his guests, as they stood on the porch of San Simeon.

This evening's plane crash news comes from Reno - city of divorces. And two of the personalities involved have figured abundantly in divorce court affairs. ^{One} Mrs. Lois Clarke deRuyter Spreckels Clinton, she knows Reno well, having gone through three divorces there in the last six years. ^{The other} ~~and~~ one of her ex-husbands, Number Two, Adolph Spreckels, heir to a sugar fortune. He too has been in the divorce courts three times.

The lady, her ex-husband, and two friends, flew from San Francisco to Reno for a party in divorce town. Maybe they were renewing sentimental memories of the severance of marriage. After a few hours of merry-making in Reno, they got into the plane to fly back to San Francisco. The pilot took off, but at a hundred feet the speeding plane side-slipped and crashed. One wing hit the ground and the plane went over and over like a cart-wheel. The fusilage cracked open, and the occupants were flung out.

The pilot was killed. Mrs. Lois Clarke deRuyter Spreckels Clinton was badly injured. Her ex-husband, Adolph Spreckels, was injured too, but not so seriously - as were the other two passengers.

The lady and her ex-husband now have ^{still more} ~~something~~ to remember Reno ^{for.}
^{Something} ~~for~~ in addition to their divorces.

MANSION

Near Greenwich, Connecticut, there's a Rockefeller mansion, which they're going to tear down - and they'll have trouble doing it. They'll have to blast that Rockefeller home with dynamite, it's so powerful^{ly} and massively built.

58

Percy Rockefeller was a nephew of John D., the king of oil. He had a three hundred acre estate near Greenwich, and this has now been sold to be turned into a real estate development. They've got to remove the millionaire mansion, which is built of massive concrete, ~~the~~ walls ~~are~~ three feet thick - all ~~of~~ special~~ly~~ reinforced construction.

Why did Percy Rockefeller build his home like that? That was revealed today. He had a strange phobia, a haunting terror. He was afraid of earthquakes. ~~He~~ lived in mortal fear of the tremplors that shake the ground. So he built his home - earthquake-proof in the most elaborate way - so indestructible that now they'll have to dynamite it to take it down. And, he carried policies totalling a million dollars in earthquake insurance.

8 1/2

KIDNAP

Here's an old gag in a new setting, a venerable wheeze dramatized with a thrill.

At Buffalo, a passerby saw two men seize a woman, toss her into an automobile, and go speeding away. The quick-witted onlooker took the ~~license number~~ license number of the car, and dashed to the nearest police station, announcing - kidnapping.

Swift detective work, as the cops checked the license number, and put a phone call in to the owner of the car.

"Who was the lady you kidnapped?" shouted the police.

To which the voice on the other end of the wire responded - "That was no lady. That was my wife."

Anyway, that's the way the United Press reports it - an old wheeze in a new setting. — & s-l-u-Monday.

9
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