

BIZONIA

C. J. - P. & G. December 18, 1947. Thursday.

That *came into existence*
~~There's a new country in the world~~ today, its name,

Bizonia. We probably shall never find it in an atlas, because it is not destined to last long. The name applies to that part of Germany occupied by Uncle Sam and John Bull. The agreement whereby those two zones are merged into one and governed as an economic whole, went into effect today. The most important feature of it, so far as we are concerned, is that we undertake the greater part of the cost, seventy-five per cent, to be exact.

And arising out of that, as a lawmaker would say in the course of debate, is the fact that our share of the bill during the next twelve months will be around one billion, three hundred million dollars. We also have more to say about the export-import business of the two zones, also the accounting and finance. The physical set-up of Bizonia is not changed. John Bull still carries on as a full partner.

CONFERENCE

There will not be another conference of the Big Three powers, John Bull, Uncle Sam and Russia, after the collapse of the negotiations of the Big Four Foreign Ministers at London. President Truman brushed ^{any such} ~~the~~ idea aside at his ~~press~~ press conference today. ^{the London} ~~That~~ failure, however, has not made him over-pessimistic about the chances for world peace. ~~He is sure it will come eventually.~~

A reporter asked him whether he would consent to meet Stalin himself. Yes, replied the President, in Washington.

Secretary Marshall left London this afternoon for home. President Truman will meet him at the airport tomorrow morning and receive his first hand report. Then,

[^] Tomorrow evening, ten o'clock Eastern Standard Time, ^{to all of us} the Secretary will broadcast [^] his account of what went on at London.

HOOVER

(Former President Herbert Hoover is pushing ahead with the task assigned him, the drawing up of a set of recommendations for the reorganization of the executive branch of our national government.) Today -- ~~only a few minutes ago~~ he revealed the list of the twelve distinguished people who have consented to serve on his special commission.

Among them, W. L. Chenery, Publisher of Colliers; the Honorable Charles Edison, former Governor of New Jersey; that sturdy watchdog of the Treasury, Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia; Governor Frank Carlson of Kansas, also Thomas J. Coolidge, once Under-Secretary of the Treasury. Coolidge, Carlson, Edison, and Byrd will be a special committee to consider the over-lapping of certain executive bureaus.

Others are John Burton, Director of the New York State Budget, Professor William Anderson of the University of Minnesota, and Dean Myers of Cornell -- all on Mr. Hoover's commission.

NEW LEAD ANDERSON

Tonight, in Washington, the Senate passed a joint resolution -- passed without a single objection, a resolution ordering Secretary of Agriculture ~~Clinton~~ R. Anderson to give Congress, and the public, the names of those who have been speculating on the market in commodities.

Today, Secretary of Agriculture Anderson appeared before the Senate Committee on Appropriations -- Anderson subpoenaed by the Committee to answer a question -- would he give the Committee a list of the names of speculators?

The session was behind closed doors in secret, but when it was all over the Chairman of the Senate Committee called in the newsmen and had the official stenographer read them the transcript of the proceedings. This transcript revealed that when Senator Homer Ferguson asked Secretary Anderson for that list of speculators, the Secretary said, "No." Explaining then that he thought the Senator had asked him if he had brought

~~the list with him, which he hadn't. Senator Ferguson~~

But we hear that See,
~~thereupon repeated his question. Anderson replied~~

he would be happy to reveal the names to the Committee

if he could also reveal them to the public. The

Committee took a vote on that. *The result - eleven*
~~the result eleven to~~

to
~~eight against. Whereupon Secretary Anderson left~~

~~the caucus room with a broad grin on his face.~~

This was followed by word from President Truman that he approved entirely of the position his Cabinet Secretary had taken. ~~That it would be quite improper to furnish the Appropriation Committee with the list in secret.~~

~~Secretary Anderson later released the text of the statement he had made to the Senate Committee, in which he said he fully respected the right of Congress to subpoena persons and documents so as to ascertain the truth in matters affecting the welfare of the people; but that the Commodity Exchange Act specifically orders~~

~~officers of the Government to keep confidential all information obtained by the Department in administering that act. That the Attorney General had assured him he was doing only what was right and legal.~~

President Truman told his press conference that the proper procedure, if Congress wanted the names, would be a joint resolution of Senate and House, instructing the Secretary to divulge the names to Congress and to the public.

One hour after Mr. Truman made that statement, Senator Ferguson of Michigan offered that resolution on the floor of the Senate, and it was passed without a singled objection. ^{So} Secretary of Agriculture ~~Clinton~~ Anderson ^{is now} empowered to give Congress and the public the names of the commodity market speculators -- the Government insiders.

An hour after the Senaté acted, the House Rules Committee voted seven to two to bring the Bill to the House floor early tomorrow morning under strict procedure, debate limited to one hour, amendments barred.

PRICES

(The Senate late this afternoon passed a bill to cope with inflation.) And the Democrats offered amendment after amendment to it -- most of them amendments designed to give President Truman wider powers -- which the Republican majority promptly voted down.

In the end, however, by a vote of seventy-seven to ten -- with a number of Democrats joining the Republicans, the bill was rushed through, and sent on to the House, where Speaker Martin said the Lower Chamber probably will okay it in a hurry.

(It meets none of the requests for power for Mr. Truman to clamp down emergency controls over prices and wages, and over rationing. It calls for voluntary action -- each industry to devise and apply plans for priority in scarce materials.) Also, a provision making voluntary agreements immune from prosecution under the Anti-Trust laws.

The Republican Senators were kept in line by their leaders during the debate and voting, all except

Wayne Morse of Oregon, who voted with the Democrats.

The Senators did give the President his own way in two respects. They continued his powers to control exports and transportation. And, they gave him the right to regulate the use of grain by distillers.

TAXES

A Republican leader in Congress has launched a proposal to cut five billion, six hundred millions off the nation's income tax bill next year; ~~and that ought to~~ ^{— — all of which will} give President Truman something ^{more to ponder over} ~~to think about~~ during the Christmas holidays. The author of the measure is ^{Congressman} ~~Representative Harold~~ Knutson of Minnesota, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. The idea ^{seems to be} ~~is~~ to get the Republican Party on record before the President has a chance to reveal his ideas on the subject of taxes.

~~Mr.~~ Knutson seems to hold a rather solitary position on this optimistic proposal. Other Republican leaders in Congress appear to be ~~definitely~~ shy about it. For instance, Speaker ~~Joe~~ Martin told newspapermen emphatically that this is Knutson's bill and that the other ^{leaders} ~~top notches~~ of the G.O.P. do not quite go along with him. But some of the Minnesota Congressman's colleagues do concur. However, it will be several weeks before the lawmakers give it any serious discussion.

WALLACE

Yesterday, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers politely rejected Henry Wallace as a third term presidential candidate, and today Walter Reuther, head of the United Auto Workers, also said that he and his followers had lost interest in the former Vice-President. In fact, Reuther almost implied that he was speaking for organized Labor as a whole.

At a luncheon of the National Press Club in Chicago, he described Henry Wallace as ~~— these were his words:~~

"a lost soul; a great disappointment to a lot of decent people in America." *So said Walter Reuther.*



ADD WALLACE

But, there ^{may} still ^{be} hope for Henry. (Today, in New York, forty-five union leaders urged Wallace to run for President.) These ~~union leaders~~ representing two-hundred-and-sixty-three thousand New York City members of the A.F. of L., C.I.O., and the independent trade unions -- endorsing Wallace twenty-four hours after the Amalgamated Clothing workers had rejected a third party candidacy.

The union men, led by State Senator Kenneth Sherbell of the American Labor Party, held a long conference with Wallace in his offices, and then made public their

letter, urging him to become a candidate. So, ^{maybe}

^{alter Reuther's "Lost Soul,"}
~~lost soul~~ of Chicago workers, is the favored son

in New York, Henry Wallace being urged to run for President.

PRESIDENTS

If the late President Roosevelt had lived, he would in all probability have been a candidate for a fifth term in the White House. ^{So says} ~~That is the considered judgment of~~ a man who ought to know, the Honorable Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy during the First World War, and ~~a man~~ who has held office under every Democratic president since Grover Cleveland.

The venerable ^{Josephus} ~~man~~ told the members of the Women's Democratic Club in Washington today that there is something about the White House and the solemn office of President which does something to a man. ^{That} Few statesmen who have been privileged to ^{take off their shoes,} ~~inaugurate~~ in the national executive mansion have ever been happy after its doors closed behind them.

^{Josephus} Daniels went even further. He declared seriously that out of his long experience and study of the careers of national leaders, he had derived the mature conviction that no man since Andrew Jackson ever left the White House willingly. ^{For instance he said} ~~He declared~~ that Grover Cleveland never quite forgave the Democrats after they failed to renominate him for

a third term in Eighteen Ninety-Six. ^{That} Woodrow Wilson would certainly have been a candidate in Nineteen Twenty if he had not

suffered a stroke. ^{That} Defeat was a bitter pill for William Howard Taft, ~~modified only by a seat on~~ ^{- his grief assuaged only by his appointment to} the Supreme Court of the

United States. As for Calvin Coolidge, Mr. Daniels agrees with most Washington newspapermen that the most taciturn of

presidents out-smarted himself with that "I don't choose to run" phrase, ^{that Cal really} ~~he~~ ^{G.O.P.} hoped it would result in his being drafted by the ^A Republican Party.

The presidential bee goes even further, continued ^{the}

^{veteran}

^A Josephus Daniels. Once a man has even been a candidate for the White House, he never quite gives up hope, never recovers from the sting of that bee.

COMET

Some more news about the Great Comet of Nineteen Forty-Seven, the comet with five tails, the longest twenty millions miles long.

In Capetown, South Africa, Astronomer Royal John Jackson predicts that we in North America will be able to see the comet early in January, probably around the first of the year, about two and three-quarters hours after sunset. Jackson says the Great Comet of Nineteen Forty-Seven is far brighter than Haley's Comet, and that it passed the Sun on December Second, traveling at ninety miles a second. Now it has slowed up, moving away from the Sun at a mere dawdle of thirty miles per second, and that's the speed at which it will be traveling when star gazers on this continent will be able to see it, with its five tails forming and re-forming like wisps of smoke -- a truly remarkable phenomenon, this five-tailed comet.

STORM

Another ship in trouble in stormy seas off the coast of Alaska. The seven-thousand-ton Liberty ship Simon Benson flashed a distress signal that her hull was breaking in two -- water pouring into the hold.

Gales of sixty miles and more an hour are reported to be churning the Pacific all the way from Honolulu to Alaska.

Four ships are rushing to the help of the Simon Benson. Her plight is all the worse ~~but~~ because she carried a cargo of rice, which has become dangerously swollen -- soaked by the water that has poured into it. The crew tonight is frantically shoveling rice overboard.

An army freighter and a tanker are also said to be in distress in those same waters.

BRIDEGROOM

In France, an interesting old wedding custom survives. At the end of the bridegroom's bachelor dinner, the happy man goes to bed in a coffin filled with brush. The ushers then set fire to the brush, and the bridegroom stands it just as long as he can -- then he jumps out! I don't know quite the meaning of this ceremony, but maybe it is intended to point a moral that getting married is better than being burned to death. ~~Remember the saying of~~ *It was I believe, who said* Saint Paul, that it is better to marry than to burn.

Well, those rites were carried out last night, over there in France for a bridegroom named Marcel. They had a splendid feast, and after they had eaten and drunk their fill, they prepared the ritual coffin for Marcel. But Marcel did not jump out of the coffin as he was supposed to do. He was blown out!

The explanation is that an unsuccessful suitor, whom the bride had jilted, had put a couple of dynamite caps in the coffin. And the result is reported to have

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assuaged the jilted suitor's feelings considerably.

What about the bridegroom? He limped meekly to the altar today and limped meekly away, Nelson.