

Cowan

46

A prominent firm on the New York Stock Exchange went crash today -- Richard Whitney and Company. It isn't hard to remember the time when the name of Richard Whitney was headlined in the financial news, President of the Stock Exchange in the dark days when the depression was at its depth. Richard Whitney headed the Exchange for five years. *And* today his firm was suspended -- bankrupt. ~~The Exchange announces that it is investigating to find out whether the company had engaged in conduct apparently contrary to just and equitable practices of trade. The New York State Attorney General is also investigating.~~

And there was a suspension on the New York Curb Exchange -- one ~~regular~~ member announcing that he is unable to meet his engagements, bankrupt. *With such news* it isn't surprising that stocks sagged today -- prices went down. *But* they rallied in late trading, and did a bit of climbing.

Maybe that reaction was caused by a couple of bits of optimistic news that flashed along. The American Federation of Labor finds that there has been an increase in employment

TREATY

New England is disturbed about the Trade Treaty the State Department has negotiated with Czechoslovakia. So naturally the New England senators and congressmen in Washington are disturbed too. A series of blasts today against the Czechoslovakian trade agreement -- protests that it will permit foreign goods to ~~px~~ deprive American workers of jobs.

It's chiefly a matter of leather goods, with accent on shoes.

Czechoslovakia is known for shoe production -- and so ~~the~~ is

New England. ~~So~~ we find Representative ~~Joseph~~ ^{George} Martin, a ~~Massachusetts~~

~~Republican~~ Massachusetts Republican declaring today that under

the trade agreement -- "every shoe worker in the United States

must loaf seven days every year ~~so that he can assist in keeping~~ ^{just to help}

~~the~~ Czechoslovakian shoe worker busy." ^{Says JOE.}

~~Advocates of the Treaty respond by saying that the~~

~~opening of world trade would be good for everybody all around.~~

48

47
during the past month -- the first upward trend in employment for seven months. The climb is a mere six tenths of one percent, but anyway it's up -- not down. And today brought signs of an upturn in the automobile business. Buick announces more production and more employment.

RAILROADS

The ~~xxx~~ railroads got their rate increase today, but not as much as they wanted. The Interstate Commerce Commission said -- Go ahead and boost your freight rates ten percent. Some kinds of freight are exempt from the increase -- things like various agricultural products, coal and iron ore. The ~~rail~~roads wanted a fifteen percent increase which would have given them a half a billion dollars more in revenue per year. The ten percent boost ~~they got~~ will give them ^{two}~~three~~ hundred ^{and seventy} million ~~more~~.

T.V.A.

The President is taking a hand in the T.V.A. imbroglio.

He said today that he's making a personal investigation of the bitter row. It's a fight among ^{the} three men who control the great power project in the Tennessee Valley. Two of them are named Morgan, and one is named Lilienthal. You might expect the Morgans to be on the same side, but they're not. One Morgan stands shoulder to shoulder with Lilienthal, battling the other Morgan; ~~they're~~ demanding that he ~~shall~~ resign as Chairman. He accuses them of adopting improper policies. ~~(The rumpus has gotten to the House of Representatives, where there's a resolution for a compromise. The compromise is that all three resign, both Morgans and Lilienthal.)~~

Now the President says he's going to find out all about it. He's calling the three directors to the White House on Friday, and he'll ask them about the charges they're making against each other. What proof have they got for the harsh things they've been saying?

NAVY

49

In Washington they've been talking a lot about cost. Today there was mention of the upkeep. Meaning -- the ~~Navy~~ Navy, which ~~is~~ to be so much enlarged. The cost of that enlargement ~~is~~ to be a billion dollars. But what about the upkeep. Today the proceedings got around to that. The upkeep of the bigger fleet we are to have will be much more than the upkeep of the fleet we've got now -- 20 percent more. ~~The~~ An increase in expense of between 25 and 35 million dollars a year.

OLYMPICS

This evening Japan hastens forward with the word -

"We will hold the Olympic games in Tokyo." They're playing down *the* previous *report* ~~word from Japan the Japanese military side~~ that if the war in China were not over, Tokyo would cancel the Olympics.

Not at all, *said* ~~announced~~ the Olympic Preparation Committee today - it declared that only some new and unforeseen development between Japan and China could cause the cancellation, some major catastrophe of war.

The Tokyo Olympic enthusiasts explain the previous ~~statement~~ about calling the games off emanated from extreme nationalists and militarists, who are opposed to any form of internationalism, and regard the olympics as internationalised sport. But they're a small minority, says tonight's rebuttal - Tokyo will stage the games unless the trouble with China soars to wild turmoil.

DOCTORS - MOSCOW.

*In all my years on the air here's
the wildest tale I've had to tell.*

TP The mad Soviet ~~story~~ of medical murder was ~~expanded~~
like a nightmare at the Moscow trial today; ~~From the mazes of intricate
testimony and confession, let's abstract the story in simple
outline~~ - a sinister fantasy that would make the wildest Roman
pages about Caligula and Nero seem pale.

50
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The dominating theme is that thing of dread - known
previously as the Chēka, called more recently the Ogpu, the Soviet
secret police. The medical murder story begins as far back as the
time of Djerjinsky, merciless director of the Cheka during the
early Bolshevnik days of mass terror and wholesale massacres.
Djerjinsky was the most fearful type of Communist fanatic, the
cold, dogmatic killer, ~~the Communist exterminator.~~ In the course
of time he died a natural death, and at his sickbed two men met -
a young official of the Cheka named Yagoda, and a physician,
Dr. ^{Levin} Levin. They became friends.

As the years ~~went by~~ ^{passed}, both rose high. Yagoda became
head of the Ogpu, as the Cheka was renamed. He did his part as a
ruthless killer, Stalin's chief of Communist terror. He was the

most feared man in all Russia, director of executions. Yagoda searched out the evidence against one time great Bolshevik leaders whom Stalin was resolved to destroy. Yagoda questioned them, made them confess ^{at} frightful Ogpu inquisitions. And Yagoda ~~arranged to shoot them.~~ ^{the} ~~just~~ ^{arranged to shoot them.}

As for Dr. Levin, he climbed to just about the highest medical post in the land of the Soviets. He took no part in politics, was strictly the physician and scientist. ^{As such he} ~~he~~ became head of the Kremlin Hospital, and ~~as such~~ directed the medical treatment of the great Bolshevik leaders.

The Ogpu chief Yagoda made it a point to be pleasant to the Kremlin physician, Dr. Levin - gave him a house, enabled him to get furnishings and luxuries from abroad. Then one day Yagoda talked to the physician about his most important patient - Maxim Gorky, the world renowned writer who was the most intimate friend of Stalin, the Red Dictator. The Ogpu chief spoke especially about Gorky's son - saying the son was no good, was a drunkard, was a bad influence on his father, and it would be a good thing if he were put out of the way. Yagoda pointed out that he was chief of

the Ogpu and responsible for the safety of the Communist leaders -

~~he was~~ responsible for Maxim Gorky's safety. So therefore he

ordered the doctor to liquidate Gorky's son. ~~He stated that in~~

~~this he was backed by Bukharin, the historic Bolshevik leader~~

who at one time was regarded as ^{Lenin's} ~~Lenin's~~ successor. ~~He also mentioned~~

~~another high Soviet official.~~ Yagoda ^{said he would have the} ~~told the doctor he would have~~

^{doctor} ~~him~~ killed if he did not obey.

Dr. Levin knew this was no idle threat. Yagoda could

have almost any man killed in the secret dungeons of the Ogpu.

He was old, willing to die. But
The doctor was not afraid of his own life, ^{but} ~~but~~ he trembled for

his wife and family - ~~for~~ the Ogpu chief would have them killed also.

So he undertook to liquidate Maxim Gorky's son, the first

of the medical murders. As a physician he knew his victim's weakness -

alcohol. Gorky's son could not stand much liquor, though he was

~~addicted to it.~~ addicted to it. The doctor drew Gorky's private

secretary into the plot, and ^{the} ~~his~~ secretary drank with the son, kept

him drunk incessantly. It didn't hurt the secretary, who was a

lustly drinker, but he got the ~~gi~~ victim into a desperate condition

of alcoholism. One day the secretary took the drunken son of Gorky

out of doors and persuaded him to lie almost naked in the chilly wind. The result was a dangerous cold, a weakening of the heart. The distinguished doctor ^{a/}Levin came to give him treatments, *and* administered drugs that were bad for the heart. Thus died the son of Maxim Gorky.

~~The command of the OGPU~~

The command of the OGPU chief was obeyed, but now Yagoda gave the official physician of the Kremlin still another command. Gorky's son had been liquidated because he was a bad influence on his father. Now, the OGPU command was - liquidate Gorky. And once more Russia's distinguished man of medicine felt compelled to obey - or Yagoda would have him killed and his wife and children.

53
The medical murder of Maxim Gorky was of the most fantastic description. The world renowned author was old, feeble and ailing. The worst thing for him was physical exercise, exposure to cold, long walks - and Gorky loved long walks. He was encouraged to take them. Gorky, with the picturesque soul of an imaginative author, loved the sight of fire, loved to watch flames. So they built fires in the open on cold nights, and these

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tempted him irresistibly to go out and watch. There he would stand facing the heat, while frosty winds beat on his back.

Gorky fell ill, his heart bad, and Dr. Levin of the Kremlin treated him with the wrong medicines. ~~He gave him heart stimulants - injections of caffeine, digitalis and camphor.~~ He gave Gorky from thirty to forty injections of camphor a day. It mightn't have been harmful to a healthy man, but it was fatal to the weak and ailing Gorky. So, Maxim Gorky died.

That's how Ogpu Chief Yagoda disposed of two persons who were inconvenient to him - ^{for} it is known that Maxim Gorky had a great influence over Red Dictator Stalin - an influence for mercy. He was opposed to the incessant Ogpu killings. Maybe that's why the Ogpu chief had him liquidated.

Next - Yagoda spoke to the Doctor about his other distinguished patient, Menzhinsky. ~~Who was he? Why?~~ He was the official chief of the Ogpu - Yagoda's technical superior. It was because of his long continued illness that Yagoda was in actual control. If Menzhinsky died, Yagoda would become ^{head} ~~chief~~ of the Ogpu in name as well as in fact. Dr. Levin said that Menzhinsky

was getting along as well as could be expected. Yagoda responded that he could never get well - so what was the use of dragging things on. Liquidate him. And the Doctor did.

For this medical murder he had to drag in another physician, and this brought the whole affair of horror to a dramatic climax. The other physician was Dr. Kazakov, of high renown in Soviet medicine. His claim to fame was the discovery of a kind of *therapeutic* ~~medicine~~ said to be almost miraculous, an invigorator, a rejuvenator - good for everything, a cure-all. It was one of those Soviet scientific discoveries so glowingly publicized. Several years previously, Dr. Kazakov made his first sensation when he treated his first distinguished patient with the cure-all, and it did him a lot of good. That patient was Menzhinsky of the OGPU. Now the Doctor was called in as a consulting specialist to liquidate Menzhinsky - at the command of Yagoda. He prepared some cure-all, mixed into it some other ingredients designed to be deadly - and they were.

A fourth victim was the chief of the State Planning Commission. While that liquidation was going on, ~~a~~ Dr. ²Levin happened to be talking to a ~~high~~ Bolsheviki big-wig who was with

Yagoda in the medical murder conspiracy. This leading light of Communism asked the physician of the Kremlin, whether he had any more distinguished patients who might be liquidated in the same fashion. Dr. ^aLevin said no, whereupon the high Communist seemed to be disgruntled and disappointed.

54
In all this tale of bizarre villiany, how much truth is there? You'll have to guess for yourself. But it was told today in full ~~detail~~ detail at the trial of the twenty-one in Moscow. ~~It was~~ Related by Dr. ^aLevin ^{himself} in the copious and precise manner of a doctor giving a lecture, with emphasis on the technical medical points. ^{And -} It was corroborated by other witnesses, including ^{the} a one-time secretary of Maxim Gorky. ^{Yes,} (By Yagoda too? ^a The former Ogpu chief admitted virtually everything. ~~He~~ Said he was guilty in the liquidation of his superior, Menzhinsky. Specifically - he ^{also} confessed that he ~~had~~ ordered the medical murder of Maxim Gorky.)

Still more was charged against him, crimes still more xx fantastic. His former private secretary testified that Yagoda had a secret chemical laboratory - a laboratory of poisons. There he labored like a devil's alchemist, experimenting with poisons to

57
destroy his enemies. He employed chemists to work out new formulas of death. And then he tried his ^{final} ~~last~~ job of medical murder. (When Yagoda first fell into disgrace and was removed as chief of the OGPU, Stalin put in a new man to direct the hounding of his enemies - Yezhov, the present chief of the secret political police. The disgraced Yagoda tried to poison his successor.) He had Yezhov's office sprinkled with a compound of mercury dissolved in an acid - deadly fumes. For three days in succession the office ^{was} ~~was spread~~ ^{sprayed} with an atomizer, poison in the air for Yezhov to breathe. ^{and} He would have died if the plot had not been discovered in time. - He is still suffering from the poison.

The climax of it all came today with testimony concerning the why and wherefor of the crimes of Yagoda. It was declared that he planned to become chief of the Soviet government. He was out to supersede Stalin and make himself the Red Dictator. He admired Hitler and aspired to become the Russian Hitler - the ^{shrunken} ~~little~~ man who sat in the court of doom today, grey faced, shabby, frightened, down and out - like a dejected hobo. Yagoda, who dreamed of being the modern Ivan the Terrible.

WITCH

They had a witch trial in New England today - no, ~~not that~~
the old witch-burning days have ^{it} come back. It was a retrial, a
belated reconsideration of the case of "Goody Cole". At Hampton,
New Hampshire, two hundred and eighty-two years ago, she was charged
with bewitching cattle. She was condemned and executed. ~~It was~~
New Hampshire's only case of witch-burning - not really burning at
all, but almost as bad.

8
Now ^{to} The folks at Hampton decided ~~they~~ wipe off that black
mark - as well as they could. They couldn't bring poor Goody Cole
back to life again - not after those two hundred and eighty-two
years. But at least they could exonerate her. So today three
hundred Hamptonites gathered in the old meeting house. It was
Hampton's three hundredth annual town meeting, and they voted
58 1/2 unanimously that Goody Cole was innocent. - She had not bewitched the
cattle. This was drawn up in formal documents.

There was only one expression of possible dissent. It was
a letter from a descendant of one of the accusers who made the
charge of witchcraft. This pious descendant is concerned about the
good reputation of his ancestor. He doesn't want anything done that

would cast aspersions on the New England forefathers, because they were merely acting according to a belief prevalent at that time.

9

Maybe so, but I feel impelled to point out one thing that may arouse a bit of New England indignation. The other American colonies didn't go in for witch-hunting - it was quite unheard of in the south, for example. And now ~~xxxx~~ I suppose I might as well start ducking New England ^{snowballs - and} ~~bricks, and~~

9/4

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.