

METHODISTS

P.J. - Sunday, April 26, 1939

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The most important assembly in all North America today was not in Washington nor in any state capitol. It was at Kansas City, Missouri. Nine hundred delegates met there, ~~today~~, representing eight million people. ~~They are~~ Spokesmen for three great churches, the Methodist Episcopal, the Methodist Episcopal south, and Methodist Protestants. ~~They are~~ getting together to decide the terms upon which ^{the} ~~these~~ three ~~religious bodies~~ will unite, [^] wiping out ~~the sectarian and confessional~~ differences that have separated them for so many years. ^{Methodist} ~~These~~ delegates in Kansas City from all forty-eight states of the Union and nine foreign countries.

This is a most important historic event for churchmen and church-goers. It brings to an end a schism [^] that has lasted for more than a hundred years, a split that many people deplored but ~~which~~ which it has hitherto been impossible to mend. ~~But~~ From now on, Methodists the world over [^] ~~will have~~ ^{expect to present} a united front.

FLEET

Uncle Sam's Pacific fleet is evidently in a hurry to get back to the western ocean. Most of those warships anchored today in Limon Bay, at the Atlantic opening of the Panama Canal. *After* ~~They'd made a racing~~ *a speedy* voyage from Hampton Roads, Virginia. They were headed by the crack flagship ~~the battleship~~ PENNSYLVANIA.

And here's something interesting. The newspaper were asked to go easy in their reports of the fleet's movements, report only bare details. They were asked not to mention the hour at which the men-o-war entered the Canal or the order in which they proceeded.

COAL

Miss Perkins, Secretary of Labor, asked for a report today from Dr. Steelman, head of the Conciliation Service of the Labor Department. Miss Perkins wanted to know how he was getting on with his efforts to settle the coal ~~strike~~^{tie-up.}, Dr. Steelman's ~~reply~~ reply was:- "The patient is just about the same."

The Secretary is concentrating her own efforts on tackling the job of finding enough coal in case the ~~strike~~^{a deadlock} isn't ~~settled~~^{broken} within a month. There's ~~no~~ ~~supply~~ now, she says, just about twenty-four days' supply of soft coal ~~on~~ the market. But in addition to that, some big scale consumers such as the public utilities companies, keep huge supplies on hand. So the Department of Labor is making plans to meet the demand if it arises.

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DEBTS

Here's a real surprise from Paris. A member of the French Chamber of Deputies has informed Premier Daladier that he is going to move a resolution tomorrow which concerns Uncle Sam. His resolution will urge the French government to reopen the question of the money that France owes the United States as a consequence of the last war. This deputy, whose name is deBeaumont, has a sentimental reason. He says ~~France~~ France ought to do something to wipe out six years of misunderstanding and show her gratitude for the efforts of the United States to preserve the peace of the world.

CONSCRIPTION

(There's nothing surprising in Chamberlain's official announcement about conscription. It has been threatened for some time, but only recently have Hitler's antics aroused British public opinion to the point.) Up to now no ^{London} Cabinet would have dared to say what the Prime Minister announced in the House of Commons today. ~~Still and all, it's rather breath-taking.~~ (Never before has ^{London} ~~the English government~~ ventured to ask for conscription except while war was actually raging) and the country with its back to the wall. The English Prime Minister explained that these could hardly be considered times of peace. In apologizing for the act, he said:- "His Majesty's government have investigated and the investigation shows that the present procedure for mobilization of forces is inadequate in character and quite unsuited to modern conditions." Then he went on:- "The present procedure is based on the hypothesis that war could only come after a period of warning."

Then ~~he~~ ^{he} explained that the bill authorizing conscription would be only temporary. And ~~he~~ added: "We hope it will be passed without delay." ~~He also said: "I need hardly repeat that the~~

object is not to wage war but to prevent it. We are not at war now but every country is straining all its resources, confidence in peace is being undermined, and everybody knows that if war were to come we might pass into it not in weeks but in hours."

The outlines of the bill are that all men between twenty and twenty-one years old will be called for six months' compulsory military training. After that, they will go into the regular army reserve or the territorial ~~army~~ ^{force} the Home Guard.

That would place at the disposal of the government about two hundred thousand men ^{a year.} ~~when all exemptions are deducted.~~ It would bring the strength of John Bull's army, including the reserve, up to nearly nine hundred thousand men. ~~But at the end of three years, there would be ⁴ ~~four~~ hundred thousand more trained soldiers.~~ In other words, ^{British} the number of men available for the army would increase at the rate of two hundred thousand a year.

~~Chamberlain at the same time made it known that he's~~

~~also going to introduce a bill to take the profits out of war.~~

TR The conscription bill is not going to be railroaded through the House. The Government will give the opposition plenty of time

for debate and criticism.

However,

^ The British Cabinet isn't waiting for the passing of that bill to strengthen its defenses. The Prime Minister told the House that he's calling more territorials to the colors, likewise men of the reserve air force to reenforce the anti-aircraft defenses immediately.

The Prime Minister's words aroused the immediate indignation of the opposition, ~~that is of the labor wing of the opposition.~~ The leader of the Labor Party jumped up and cried:- "Is the Prime Minister aware that this decision breaks a pledge solemnly given to this country and repeated only four weeks ago, a pledge that compulsory military service would not be introduced in peace-time?"

Chamberlain replied:- "My conscience is perfectly clear." And he added: "When people have time to consider the circumstances in which we are living, I believe they'll agree with me that ~~they~~^{it} cannot be described as peace-time."

Another Labor member interrupted the Prime Minister when he was saying that provision would be made for conscientious

objectors. The interrupting Laborite shouted: "You'll have plenty of them!" Chamberlain snapped back, "Don't be silly!"

The announcement had one quick result. All over Great Britain men rushed to the recruiting offices of the territorial army to join up. ^{For} Every member of that Home Guard who joins before midnight is exempt from conscription.

EUROPE FOLLOW CONSCRIPTION

Conscription with the right hand; appeasement with the left. After he had finished his speech about drafting all the young men of England, the Prime Minister repeated once again that his government is perfectly willing to discuss a general settlement with Hitler. And he added:- "We are always ready to consider any proposals that may be brought forward for better distribution of raw materials."

He also declined to be insulted by the failure of his ambassador, Sir Neville Henderson, to see Hitler or even Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop. He said there was a perfectly sound and reasonable explanation.

BERLIN

As for ~~Nazi Chancellor~~ Hitler, the rumor is that the news of conscription in England won't make him change a ~~syllable~~ ~~or~~ comma of the speech he is preparing for Friday. If he mentions it at all, it will be to say to his people, in effect:- "There, you see how the capitalistic countries are getting ready to gang up on us!"

It ^{seems} ~~is pretty~~ definitely foreshadowed that the Fuehrer will reject President Roosevelt's message in general though probably not categorically. He has consulted his Number Two and Number Three men, Goering and Goebbels, as well as von Ribbentrop, that is, ~~he~~ has told them what he is going to say. In short, we may expect it to be a typical Hitler speech, ~~of defiance, but~~ with the door left ajar at the end for peace overtures.

He's also going to say something about his treaty with Japan. Incidentally, the third article by General Krivitsky in the SATURDAY EVENING POST, tells the inside story of that German-Japanese treaty. As most people have guessed, the so-called anti-Communist pact was merely a screen for the real

treaty which is a secret one, or was until today. Undoubtedly
the contents of that article have been cabled to Berlin. And it's
not altogether improbable that the Fuehrer will make some reference
to those ^{*Saturday Evening Post*} revelations by one of Stalin's former secret service chiefs.

ROME

In Rome ~~at least~~ the announcement of conscription in England had a pronounced effect. It is reported that high Fascist officials were astonished, had not believed the Chamberlain government would go that far. The move is interpreted by Mussolini's men as a notice to the Rome-Berlin Axis that Chamberlain will make no more concessions to the totalitarian powers. However, the afternoon Italian papers made light of it, said it was unpopular with the British public, and was only put over because of pressure brought by France.

AMBASSADOR

There are rumblings in Great Britain about the new Ambassador to Washington, the Marquess of Lothian. Englishmen have been saying: "Why send a pro-Nazi to the United States?" And it has been announced that a member of Parliament was about to ask questions about it in the House of Commons tomorrow.

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His Lordship stole a march on his critics by making a speech at Edinburgh. It was a speech in which he said caustic things about Hitler, rebuked him for rejecting Chamberlain's offer which the Marquess described as "a road to justice." Then he said:- "The most urgent need at the moment is to build up a solid, irresistible alliance against military aggression." *and he* ~~then he~~ threw a bouquet at President Roosevelt. ~~when he said:~~

~~"He is entirely right in putting the consideration of the economic difficulties of all nations with disarmament in the forefront of his peace program."~~

ROOSEVELT

There'll be at least one person in America who won't
listen to Chancellor Hitler's reply to President Roosevelt. ^{And} That
is ~~President Roosevelt~~ ^{F. D. R.} himself. The Fuehrer begins his speech at
six o'clock in the morning, Eastern Standard Time, and at that hour
Mr. Roosevelt expects to be asleep ⁱⁿ his Mother's home at
Hyde Park.

TELEGRAPH

The Prime Minister wasn't the only one who broke old English tradition today. Londoners were astounded when they saw that famous newspaper, the LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH, with news on its front page! The TELEGRAPH hitherto, like most other English journals of ancient foundation, used to reserve page one for high-priced advertisements. But not any longer. Incidentally, one of the first stories to make page one in the DAILY TELEGRAPH was a cable sent by Douglas Williams, its New York correspondent, on the race to finish the New York World's Fair this week.

SUN OIL

A letter from an indignant listener chides me for being too moderate in saying recently that gasoline taxes exceeded all salaries, wages and dividends of the oil industry. He says, "I can tell a better one than that. Gasoline taxes last year amounted to twice the total wages paid in motor car building.

One dollar in every seven of taxes collected in the country comes through the filling stations." "If they want to balance

Then the letter adds: -

the budgets, just tell 'em to tax a few more commodities *so the way*

gasoline is taxed." *It all this is* ~~That's~~ my correspondent's idea, not mine.

so been I'm not ~~looking for a chance~~ to be mobbed by the producers of

those "few more commodities."

SWAN

Here is the end of the romance

~~Here is an interesting romance from the love life of a swan of two swans which has been featured incidentally, it makes liars out of bird the bird experts. They have been in the newspapers: It has~~

always ^{been} maintained that the swan, like the grey goose, was ~~in~~

^{-mate}
a one ~~sex~~ bird, stuck to one mate all its life and if deprived of that mate would never take another. So there was a lady swan at Bayshore, Long Island. Last Sunday her mate died and the ornithologists, as the bird experts polysyllabically call themselves, declared she would remain a widow all her life.

The day after her mate died the swan received an honorable proposal from a bird who evidently thought that widows, being trained to it, make good wives. ^{But he} ~~he~~ was sent ^{away} ~~to the right about~~ with loud squawking and fierce clappings of wings. ^{For} ~~The~~ gentle looking swan is a tough scrapper, ~~in case you don't know it,~~

Tuesday the gentleman showed up again. Once more he was sent packing, ~~with a flea in his ear. But evidently he felt like~~

~~Shakespeare's King Richard the Third, when paying court to the Lady Anne, whose husband he had just conveniently murdered.~~

~~King Richard, you will remember, said:~~

~~"Was ever a woman in this humour woo'd?
Was ever woman in this humour won?"~~

DIVORCE

The Illinois Legislature is trying to make things tough for the movies. First of all, the House of Representatives is rushing through a bill to forbid double feature programs within the state. And there's a squabble over another bit of legislation which would prohibit the showing of any pictures in which there are actors or actresses who have been divorced twice or more. The Judiciary Committee of the House turned in a report against that bill. But on the floor of the House there was a vote to lay *it* aside, that report, a vote of fifty-six to forty-eight. So it will be debated next week.

If ~~the~~²₁ bill passes, the *divorce-forbidden* movie houses in Illinois will have to confine themselves mostly to newsreels, travel films and cartoons. And of course pictures with Mickey Rooney, Jane Withers and Shirley Temple.

CIRCUS

The news flashe^s ~~along~~ a strange problem, a problem of the circus. It concerns that giant gorilla at the Ringling ~~Brothers~~ show, Gargantua the Great. Gargantua inhabits a large ~~air-~~ ^{conditioned} cage with a smaller section for sleeping quarters. Each day they've got to get him into that smaller section, and he doesn't like to go. ^{and} Nobody dares go in with the monster monkey - ~~the~~ Gargantua has already tried to kill two men.

Last year they solved the problem, ~~brilliantly~~, when they discovered that the ^{Congo} ~~ferocious~~ giant was desperately afraid of snakes. So all they had to do was shove a black snake through the bars of the big cage, and Gargantua would instantly scurry into the smaller one. But now the inevitable has happened, the gorilla has got used to the black snake, and isn't afraid of reptiles any more - doesn't pay any attention to them. They've tried to frighten him into the smaller cage, by bringing up a huge trumpeting elephant, waving its trunk. Gargantua merely roared and tried to get at the pachyderm, ~~and~~ ^{and} the only result was that the elephant was frightened.

So the Ringlings don't know what to do - they're looking for somebody with an idea of how to frighten or persuade Gargantua the Great. *Have you any ideas?*

EARLIEST GREEK

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In Philadelphia today while discussing some archaeological matters with the heads of the University Museum, Mr. Jenks and Mr. Jayne, I heard of a curious incident. The University Museum in Philadelphia has an expedition excavating on the Island of Cyprus. The scientists ~~may~~ uncovered some huge earthen jars. On these they found an inscription in early ~~Greek~~ Greek. In fact, either the earliest or the next to the earliest ^{Greek} inscription that ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ archaeologists have ever come across. When they deciphered it one scientist stated that the inscription concerning a prayer to the ancient gods and many lofty sentiments. But, another archaeologist pointed out that it could also be translated in another way, the trans^{lation}~~cription~~ being: "Put the lid back on this jar", and s-l-u-t-m.

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