

L.J. - Luroco. Tuesday, April 18, 1939.

~~The foreign news just keeps simmering along, with growling and muttering.~~
 Tonight There are things ~~you can~~ ^{we could} blast into an alarming headline, if ~~you~~ ^{we} want to - or ~~we~~ can just consider them coolly, as not so important.

Today, for example, there was a statement by Prime Minister Chamberlain which can be steamed up to something approaching a new set of guarantees. Chamberlain told the House of Commons that the British Government regarded the independence of Switzerland, Holland and Denmark as of the utmost importance. Well, of course the British Government does - always did. Especially Switzerland, the traditional neutral, and Holland next door to Belgium - that Belgium for which Great Britain fought in the World War. (Chamberlain also said that His Majesty's government was holding military conversations with the nations lined up in the democratic front against the dictators.)

Another report relates that Roumania ^{is} ~~was~~ reconsidering its stand with reference to Soviet Russia. (The word has been that the Soviets would come to the aid of the democracies with war materials and sky fleets - not with marching troops, not with the

regiments of the Red army.) Roumania was said to have objected to the Communist war power entering its boundaries. Now, however, it is reported that Bucharest might possibly allow the Red army in, if it were coming to the defense of Poland. All of these discussions reflect the reluctance of nations to welcome Stalin's battalions and their Red Communism.

Then
The German fleet is visiting Spanish waters and will hold manoeuvres in the Mediterranean. Some seem to think that has a sinister menace - although it's hard to understand how Hitler would send his fleet away from Germany if he expected war. One might argue that the presence of the German fleet in Spanish waters and the Mediterranean is a decided sign that Germany does not expect an armed clash.

Another German item tells us that Hitler has nominated a new German Ambassador to Turkey. And he's Franz von Papen. That same von Papen who got into difficulties in Washington as German Military Attache' during the World War. And ^{who} ~~he~~ had such a large part in Hitler's taking the power in Germany, and of late has been in bad with the Nazis. Today's news indicates that von Papen has

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returned to grace in Hitlerland and moreover that Germany is making a strong diplomatic effort in Turkey - because von Papen is one of the ablest of German diplomats.

There are a lot of news bits like these, which you certainly can steam up - if you want to, but who wants to? Maybe it's more amusing to ^{It told of} ~~make~~ a mocking political joke ^{uttered} ~~out of it~~ ~~as was done~~ today by Sir Oswald Mosley, the British Fascist leader. He made a declaration about the business of bawling out the dictators, and then inviting them to guarantee the peace. "The governments of the United States and Great Britain," quoth Sir Oswald, "are like an old spinster, suing a boy friend for breach of promise one day and asking him for another promise of marriage the next day."

The LONDON EVENING STANDARD prints a significant bit of comment that will interest Americans. It concerns the ordering of the United States fleet from the Atlantic to the Pacific - just at the time when President Roosevelt sent his peace message to the dictators. Why that sudden naval move? There has been no clear indication on this side of the water. On the other side the

FISH

Congressman Hamilton Fish denies that he was hissed in any spectacular way in Congress yesterday - when he denounced the

President's foreign policy. ~~He wips me~~ That ~~the~~ hissing story *he*

wires,
was typical of the war hysteria that is sweeping the country.

In typical Ham Fish language he says:- "A Communist, crackpot or other fanatic, hissed, which few members of the House even heard."

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And he concludes with this equally Ham Fish defiance:- "I do not propose to give or ask any quarter in my efforts to keep our country out of war!" ~~says he.~~

LINDBERGH

Here's a question that gets an answer today -- why did Lindbergh come home? It was announced in Washington this afternoon that the Lone Eagle has been called to active duty in the War Department. The world's most famous aviator is a colonel of Army Reserve. Now he's summoned to Army duty. He is appointed to the staff of Major-General Arnold, Chief of the Air Corps. Colonel Lindbergh has been studying military aviation in various European nations. -- ^{Remember how} he hit the headlines in the news about Soviet-Russian and Nazi-German sky strength? [?] He will be able to give some intimate information to our own War Department. ^{But} His principal job will be -- to make a survey of American air strength, air needs and air resources. ^H The Army drafts a reserve officer who is the best-known aviator of them all.

FINANCE

Mighty problems of finance were discussed in Washington today, with the top-ranking money experts of the government putting their heads together for some profound thinking. ^{And} Profound thought was needed, for the problem they were trying to figure out was this - "What about the finances of the United States if war should come?" The conference was staged in the White House. - President Roosevelt called it. Plans were considered for bolstering up the financial and economic structure of this nation - in the event of war. We want our money affairs in as good order as possible if a giant struggle should break out in Europe, and especially if we should get into it.

The financial aspect of war is important indeed. In Nineteen Seventeeⁿ we went into battle with a public debt of less than three billion dollars. Today we have a public debt of nearly forty-five billion^s. The World War cost us nearly forty-two billion^s - that much paid out in about a year and a half of war. The forty-two billion^s includes some thirteen billion^s that were handed out to the Allies. It was called lending, but since they never paid us and

probably never ~~intend to~~ ^{will} hand-out is about right. ~~We went into~~
~~a with a public debt of three billion, and, with all the taxation,~~
~~we came out with a public debt of twenty five billion the public~~
~~debt increased twenty two billion.~~ So Suppose that we should now
pile a vast war spending and a vast increase of public debt on
top of our present public debt of forty-five billion - well maybe
the nation would not go bankrupt, maybe we would not have to resort
to inflation. But where would we get the ~~extra~~ billions upon
billions to hand out to the boys this time? That's the pathetic
question.

RELIEF

The Workers Alliance is an organization of W.P.A. ^{employees.} ~~workers~~

It has called a march on Washington next month - a demonstration in favor of ~~the~~ larger relief appropriations. And it figures prominently in the proceedings of the House W.P.A. Investigating Committee.

Today the Secretary-Treasurer of the Workers Alliance, Herbert Benjamin, appeared at a committee hearing and right off the bat he admitted - that he is a Communist. He said he had been a member of the Communist Party for eighteen years, had been an organizer and a candidate for membership of the Communist Central Committee. And that certainly seems to support charges of Communist influence in the Workers Alliance.

Comrade Benjamin proceeded to deny that he advocated the overthrow of the American government by violence. Quite to the contrary.

"I believe," he proclaimed, "that the principles of the Communist Party support the principles of American democracy." [#] Well, everything is

getting to be most American and exceedingly enthusiastic for democracy

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these days - even the disciples of Marx and Lenin ^{are waving}
the American flag.

D.A.R.

The Daughters of the American Revolution are holding their annual convention at Washington, and of course they've got to give some explanation of that hullabaloo about Marian Anderson, the famous negro contralto who was denied the use of the D.A.R.'s Constitution Hall. ~~That created plenty of argument, with Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt resigning from the American Revolutionary Daughters.~~

Today's explanation was given by Mrs. Henry M. Robert, Jr., President-General of the Society. She didn't mention Marian Anderson or anything about color or race. ~~But she denied that the D.A.R. had indulged in any prejudice or discrimination. She explained it all by a technicality, for renting Constitution Hall.~~ She said they never let the hall be used for an evening attraction which might compete with an afternoon attraction on the same day. Marian ~~Dr~~ Anderson wanted Constitution Hall for an evening ~~attraction~~ and on that same day the place was booked for ^{the} ~~an~~ afternoon ^{attraction} - a symphony concert. ~~The~~ A solo recital might compete with an orchestra, and so the negro contralto was turned down, on that technical ground. That's the official D.A.R. explanation of the incident, which caused so much talk about race, color and prejudice.

WEATHER

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The air forces of the United States Army and Navy were defeated today - foiled and baffled by the enemy. The enemy was the weather. Air manoeuvres were scheduled. ~~today for today~~ Combined military and naval squadrons were to take to the sky and repel a mythical enemy assailing our New England coast. (The Army's flying

fortresses were to join forces with giant Navy bombers in fictitious battle.) But it was raining today, a cloudy, murky drizzle -

Storm warnings along the coast tonight,
ceiling zero. The American squadrons of the air would no doubt have

conquered any imaginary enemy of the same motor driven, propellor

sort. But they were helpless against that invincible enemy - old man

weather. ~~the~~ manoeuvres - postponed.

Blizzards and storms
in the west. ^{and} Heavy rain kept the Ohio valley flood waters in a surge of

menace. All along the Ohio and its tributaries it's the old story of

washouts. However, there's no likelihood of a flood disaster of

Nineteen Thirty-Seven proportions. The weather forecast in the

middlewest was favorable today, colder weather and less rain.

The moist theme of flood takes us to the theme of

baseball - which was almost as moist today. The ball park of the

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Cincinnati Reds was under water because of the rise of the Ohio River.

That didn't wash out any baseball, however, because the Cincinnati

Reds were scheduled to play in Chicago. But it was ^{washed out there,} ~~raining there,~~

^{The same with other games} ~~and that game was postponed. So were most others,~~ all over the two

league circuits. Every game in the east was called off early today,

except in Brooklyn. It would have to be Brooklyn to do the unusual!

The Dodgers decided they'd try to play in spite of the drizzle. ^{And}

^{they} They were to battle their old and hated enemy, the New York Giants.

[^] And the Dodgers lost: - 7 to 3.

(Baseball results)

SHIP

The trans-Atlantic liner CAMERONIA docked in Boston today, and the story was told - how the big passenger boat ~~was~~ was held up by icebergs - stopped by giant frozen masses for thirty-eight hours. The CAMERONIA for more than a day and a half stood still on the sea amid a whole flock of bergs - white ghosts of ice on all sides. ~~It was~~ The first time in years that a liner has been delayed anything like that in the North Atlantic. ^{TP} But no wonder the CAMERONIA stopped and stood still,

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It was ~~on~~ an anniversary, the twenty-seventh anniversary of the sinking of the TITANIC. ^{Surely a} day of ill-omen to steam among icebergs; - ~~and~~ so many of them. In the minds of all the people aboard was the memory of that proud British queen of the seas which struck ice twenty-seven years ago and sank with frightful loss of life - the tragedy of the TITANIC! It would indeed have been a defiance of fate for the CAMERONIA to take any chance with ^{the giant bergs from the Far} ~~the~~ ^{North.} So the liner stopped until the field of frosty monsters had drifted away - on the anniversary of the TITANIC!

PRIEST

The siege of Father Borkowski has finally ended. Eight months ago we had the story how the Polish priest in a Michigan copper mining section was so beloved in his parish that his parishoners wouldn't let him go. The Bishop ordered Father Simon Borkowski to be transferred to another church, but the people wouldn't listen to it. When he tried to obey his Bishop's order, they formed a picket line ~~and~~ and forcibly kept him in his parish house. ^{ff} We haven't heard much about the story since, but the picketing has gone on all the time, Father Borkowski kept in his house in a state of seige ^{all those months --} - until today. The reason for the end of the picketing and the siege is - legal. Father Borkowski's Bishop went to court about it and got an injunction ordering the priest to vacate the parish house ^{ordering} and the people to let him go. ~~and~~ Today the parish bowed to the mandate of the law.

The Michigan mining town of Vulcan witnessed odd sights this morning. A great crowd of miners, farmers and their families gathered outside ~~of~~ the rectory. After eight months of virtual imprisonment, Father Borkowski emerged, and the crowd rushed him - to shake his hand and say good-bye. There was so much

emotion and such a crush that several women became hysterical and had to be carried away. The priest got into an automobile and as he drove off eighty cars followed him in a long procession. They escorted him for seventy-five miles to the town of Pulaski, another Polish settlement, the town to which his Bishop assigned him.

Father Barboffski is now in Pulaski.

THROAT

The novelist Edna Ferber had the theme of a story staged right on her own doorstep today - if Edna Ferber is looking for that kind of thriller. On an estate near her Connecticut home, a man was perched high up in a tree for hours today - threatening to cut his throat. He was a handyman named Carl Carlson, and he sat on a slender limb fifty feet above the ground. In his hand he had a big pruning knife and at intervals with ghoulish laughter he'd make significant motions of drawing the keen blade across his throat and every once in a while he'd nick his neck with the point.

A huge crowd collected, and begged him to come down out of the tree, with his throat unimpaired. He refused with bursts of hilarious laughter. When they shouted, "Please don't!" he'd chuckle and draw the pruning knife across his skin just over the windpipe. When they begged, "Don't do that!" he ^{went ha ha} ~~hesitated~~ and gave his neck a slight jab. That went on for hours, with everybody nerve-wracked.

It all ended in a decidedly Edna Ferber fashion. It was a caretaker from her home who climbed ^{a foreman's ladder} up the tree. The man with the knife appeared to be ^{only half conscious by then -} too weak now to do anything much. The caretaker

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got the knife away from him, ^{put a rope around him and lowered} ~~and helped~~ him to the ground. Tonight
his throat is okay, ^{But} - the doctors are trying to find out what's
wrong with his head.

DOG

Another one of those cases for a Solomon was enacted in a New York court today, when two women pressed their claims for a dog. One said the putch's name was "Spot", the other said the kioodle was named "Jimmy." So the wise judge, the local Solomon, stationed the two ladies on opposite sides of the court and brought the ~~dog~~ ^{hound} in.

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One woman called, "Here Spot!" and the ~~dog~~ ^{canine} wandered over to her in friendly fashion. The other woman called, "Jimmy, nice Jimmy!" The ~~dog~~ ^{mutt} went over to her in an equally friendly way.

A puzzled court attendant addressed ~~the dog~~ ^{man's best friend} by the name of "Aloysius" and the friendly bowwow went to him in precisely the same fashion.

It certainly had the judge stopped - Solomon was stumped. But at this juncture a negro woman called out from the crowd. ~~and~~ She said: "Duke!" "Come here Duke!" ~~she called, and the dog~~ ^{and that pup} almost flew through the air. He jumped on her lap and started licking her face, his tail going as fast as an airplane propellor.

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That was enough for the New York Solomon. The other two claimants made no protest as he awarded the dog to the negro woman, saying:- "His name is Duke." & s-l-u-t-m.

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