

L.T. - Sunoco. Tuesday, Nov. 12, 1940.

MOLOTOV

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History was made today when the Soviet Premier and Commissar for Foreign Affairs conferred with Hitler in Berlin. It was the first time Molotov had been out of Russia, the first time that any Soviet Premier had gone to a foreign land. Molotov conferred with Hitler for two and a half hours - and heaven knows what decisions were arrived at.

All is shrouded in the deepest secrecy. All that we can surmise is that when Molotov confers with Hitler, something deep is brewing, some new combination. It was observed that the Foreign Commissar got an impressive, though not gala, reception at Berlin. Also - that he was accompanied by a very large staff. The number of assistants might seem to indicate that some large plan is afoot. ^{HP} The Germans and Italians, naturally enough, are saying the Molotov-Hitler meeting portends great events.

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A more trustworthy indication is the state of opinion in London - pessimistic. British officials are inclined to think darkly that the Soviets are moving more decidedly into the Axis-Japanese orbit. The British are afraid that Moscow, lining up with Tokyo, will cut down assistance to China. ^{HP} Here's

the latest - a flash from Moscow. A high Japanese diplomatic official stationed in Moscow, has gone to Berlin - presumably to take part in the Molotov-Hitler talks.^P London surmises something still worse - that Stalin is ready to cooperate with Hitler in the direction of the Dardanelles and Turkey. There's a good deal of British suspicion that Molotov and Hitler are discussing a scheme for joint control of the Dardanelles - joint control by Germany, Russia ~~and Turkey~~ and Turkey. If the Soviets put pressure on the Turks, ^{then} they could hardly resist Nazi demands. One particular cause for pessimism in London is the report that ^{yesterday} when the British Ambassador to Moscow conferred with the Soviet Assistant Commissar for Foreign Affairs - the Assistant Commissar gave the Ambassador very little information about the purpose of the meeting between Molotov and Hitler. London regards that reticence as ominous.

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GREECE

Today's war story continues to tell of Greek successes against the Italians - Mussolini's men in retreat, the Greeks capturing prisoners and making large claims of victory. TH We get some material today that seems to give some general idea of what has happened. It comes from British military circles in London, and quotes one British expert as saying:- "It looks as if the Italians at first thought the Greeks would not resist. Or, if they did, they would ^{hardly} ~~not much~~ more than make a demonstration, allowing the Italians to overrun Greece without much difficulty." This tends to be confirmed by articles in Italian newspapers which state that the push against Greece was made by little more than frontier forces in Albania - no large mobilization of military power. *Gayda says no preparations were made.*

The British military expert goes on to analyze the operation as something like this:- The Italians made three simultaneous attacks. One, at Koritza, ~~was~~ ^{the} merely to hold ~~Greece~~ ^{pos.}. Second~~y~~, an Alpine division struck through the Pindus Mountains to cut off communications. At the same time there was a third ~~inferior~~ advance, down the coast. But the holding attack at Koritza

failed to hold, and Greek forces pushed into Albania. Meanwhile, the other two drives bogged down in the bad weather. Result -- the Italians **are** having to reorganize their attack.

All this has some confirmation from Italy. A dispatch from Rome denies today's story of Greek victories and states that all attacks were repelled. At the same time, the Fascist forces are described as having halted while their new Commander-in-Chief is busy rearranging the invading army.

A rather singular account comes from Athens. It quotes a German diplomatic official as saying that relations were excellent between Greece and Nazi Germany -- no rift in the friendship. The Italian attack on Greece, he is quoted as explaining -- was a strictly Fascist affair. The Germans have nothing to do with it. This might tie in with previous suppositions -- ~~that~~ in the Greek adventure Mussolini was trying to steal a march on his partner Hitler.

BRITAIN

Here's a late dispatch saying that the London Admiralty announces the sinking of a British armed merchant cruiser. The date was November Fifth, and the Admiralty announcement specifies that the auxiliary cruiser, while defending a convoy, was sunk by an enemy surface raider. So this ~~must~~ ^{is} apply to the German claim that a pocket-battleship-raider had attacked and destroyed a convoy. London claims that most of the ships of the convoy escaped.

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And right off the wire:—
London says that all but 9
escaped. 9 ships lost. 24
got away!

CHURCHILL

An epitaph of Neville Chamberlain was spoken today with solemn formality. Spoken in the House of Commons where Neville Chamberlain played his historic part as Prime Minister. Spoken by his successor, Winston Churchill. It surely was fitting that Churchill, more than any other man, should utter the final parliamentary farewell to the Prime Minister whom he succeeded. Churchill spoke of Chamberlain as a man who had been deceived. Deceived by whom? That needs no guessing. Here are Churchill's measured words:- "Whatever else history may or may not say of these tremendous and terrible years," said he, "we can be sure that Neville Chamberlain acted perfectly sincerely according to his lights. He was," proclaimed Churchill, "deceived and cheated by a wicked man."

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~~So that's British official judgment over the statesman who went to Munich and believed in the pledge of peace ^{that} he got from Hitler, the afterward disillusioned Prime Minister who found that war with Hitler was inescapable, and who resigned his office in a gloomy hour for England.~~

Winston Churchill today disclosed that Neville

Chamberlain had refused all honors, the honors customarily granted to a Prime Minister when he leaves office. Elevation to the House of Peers is customary. Churchill referred back to that previous Chamberlain of great renown, Joseph Chamberlain of Manchester who likewise refused honors. Speaking of his predecessor, the Prime Minister said; "He would die like his father - plain Mr. Chamberlain."

MISHAPS

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Today's news is remarkable for one amazing thing - a whole series of mishaps in which sabotage is or might be suspected. I have here seven separate stories of incidents more or less suspicious, in various parts of the country. The most startling, ~~are~~ the three blow-ups in [†]plants_^ manufacturing explosives - plants at Woodbridge, New Jersey; Edinburgh, Pennsylvania; and Allentown, Pennsylvania. These explosions occurred this morning within the space of an hour. At Atlanta, Georgia, it's the case of an armory destroyed by fire. Seattle, Washington - the discovery of emery dust put into machinery in a plant building naval ships. At Springfield, Ohio, two men ~~were~~ killed in a plant doing national defense work. And[†] at San Francisco, a giant crane collapsed today, at a shipbuilding plant doing work for the United States Government. Yes, an amazing series.

The explosion at the Woodbridge, New Jersey, ~~XXXX~~ powder plant was a violent affair. It shook nearby towns, broke windows far away, and was heard as far as Jersey City twenty miles to the north. ^{Even at} ~~As far away as~~_^ Staten Island automobiles were jarred and shaken. At least half a dozen workers ~~were~~ killed. The first

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flash of news had a most sinister sound. The Woodbridge plant is engaged in the manufacture of torpedoes. That sounded like huge explosive missiles for the Navy. But then it developed that the regular product of the plant consists of railway torpedoes - those ~~kind of~~ fireworks placed on railroad tracks to explode as signals when trains pass over them. However, it is reported that the Woodbridge plant was also doing work for the United States Government, making munitions. And we hear that the F.B.I. is investigating today's explosions - suspicion of possible foreign sabotage.

Edinburgh, Pennsylvania - the explosion there occurred at the Burton Powder Company, in a building where dynamite ~~was~~ packed. This plant makes commercial explosives only. Company officials declared that they had no government orders in the national defense program. So foreign sabotage seems little likely there.

The third explosion occurred in a building where they were making ~~in~~ detonators for blasting jobs. This too was commercial work. Company officials say that no defense contracts were involved,

and they believe there was no sabotage. They say it was probably an accident. Nevertheless, the F.B.I. is investigating. Three lives were lost in that particular blast near Allentown, Pennsylvania

There's decided suspicion of sabotage at Atlanta, Georgia, where a spectacular fire raged in an armory and a million dollar's worth of army equipment was destroyed. Today the Adjutant General of Georgia ordered a National Guard investigation. The manager of the armory declares outright that it was -- sabotage.

The same charge is made at Seattle, where emery dust was found in the machinery at a drydock. The machinery was being used in converting two ships into naval transports. The Seattle prosecutor announced today that he is conducting an investigation. The F.B.I. is also on the job.

Foreign espionage was suspected in that crime at Springfield, Ohio, we heard about last night. However, today, the crime is considered some kind of homicidal revenge.

At Seattle's mishap, at a shipyard which is building ocean-going freighters for the United States Maritime Commission, a monster crane was lifting a deck section that weighed several tons. The crane collapsed and two men were killed today. There are no

details as to the cause; but nowadays when anything goes wrong at a plant doing government work is likely to be regarded with suspicion.

CONGRESS

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The United States Senate had an exceedingly brief session today, met ~~briefly~~ and immediately recessed - in honor of Senator Key Pittman of Nevada. The death of Key Pittman over the weekend evoked an eulogy today from Senator King of Utah. He described the gentleman from Nevada as - "an illustrious American" and said his loss will be mourned throughout the country.

After the brief session, various senators gave their opinions of the Willkie speech last night - calling for unity with constitutional opposition. How did the Republicans regard the Willkie program? Two G.O.P. leaders expressed themselves today. Senator ^SVandenberg and Johnson. "The Republican Party," declared Vandenberg, "will support an attitude of constant vigilance and legitimate cooperation, but with no totalitarian rubber-stamp subservience."

put it this way:-
Hiram Johnson ~~said~~ ¹ "Real unity doesn't mean that men in Congress should abandon their convictions".

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President Roosevelt didn't hear the Willkie address, nor has he read the five point proposal advanced by his opponent on election day, a five point proposal to deal with

what Willkie called -- "economic errors." Presidential Secretary Early explained in these words:- "The President did not hear Willkie last night and hasnot had time to read the speech."

Democratic Chairman Edward J. Flynn was with the President last night at the time of the Willkie speech. "Some time between ten and eleven P. M.," Flynn related today, " I said to the President, 'Oh my Lord, we did not listen to Willkie.'"

All of which should make it clear that today there was no White House reaction to the unity declarations made by the defeated Republican candidate.

WEATHER

The weather story tonight is tragic. Word from Michigan tells of at least two steamers smashed to pieces, and it is feared that their entire crews are lost - thirty-five men.

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The tempest that lashed the Great Lakes played havoc everywhere along the shores of the inland waters - fishing boats lost, all sorts of craft in peril. Seventy-one persons are known to have perished and at least sixty are missing. It's an endless tale of destruction - the devastating fury of the storm. This is now being succeeded by a bitter cold wave, with new evils of frost and blizzard.

SPORT

In the world of sport, the news is -- two people got jobs. The sports concerned are baseball and tennis.

At Cleveland Manager Bradley of the Indians today said to a group of newspapermen -- "Boys, meet the new manager of the Cleveland Indians." And that answered the question that has been buzzing in baseball for weeks. The Indians, of course, are not ferocious Redskins, - savage and stoical. They're the far-famed, cry babies. They complained about their manager, Oscar Vitt, said he made them nervous, agitated their artistic temperament, got them all upset.

The man whome Manager Bradley presented today was a well-known figure -- great old Roger Peckinpaugh, who managed the team once before, and was fired -- in Nineteen Thirty-Three. Now he's hired all over again. His salary is not revealed officially, but report puts it at twenty thousand a year, with a bonus based on attendance. It's probably worth all of that to manage the Cleveland team, which is torn with quarrels, dissension and weeping. It sounds like a nursemaid's job, wheeling aperambulator and singing "Rock-a-bye-Baby." Or maybe Peck will take over armed with a few switches and a couple of paddles.

The other case of job getting in the world of sports gives us Alice Marble -- turning professional. This brings to an end one of the greatest of amateur careers. Ever since Nineteen Thirty-Six she's been the top ranking woman player.

Why is Alice turning pro? So she can sing. "I am turning professional," she said today, "so that I may have the necessary time and money to further my greatest ambition- become a concert singer." The contract she signed today calls for a guarantee of twenty-five thousand dollars. And she'll get a cut of the gate receipts. The prospects are that she'll net fifty thousand out of the professional tour she's about to make. Fifty thousand bucks ought to provide a lot of signing lessons, golf for the tonsils, enough to make the vocal chords thrill like a Tetraxini. And that leaves me just a split second to pass the mike to Hugh.