

Good Evening, Everybody:-

(Here's a come back that might be called a somersault. They say that in China General Chiang-Kai-Shek is on his way back to the throne of power. It was only the other day that the formidable General resigned as President of the Nationalist government -- forced out, discredited. But tonight Chiang-Kai-Shek is once more the man of the hour.) And it all comes about in a surprising way.

The General was compelled to step down because of the opposition of two groups. One consisted of the superheated patriotic party, dissatisfied because the Nationalist government did not plunge into war with Japan.

The other faction was the revolutionary group at Canton, which all along has been bitterly opposed to Chiang-Kai-Shek. The Cantonese leaders started a revolt against him. Then they consented to co-operate

1 with him in ~~the~~ opposing Japan, but still
2 they continued to insist that he get out.

3 And finally Chiang had to vacate the
4 Presidential chair, and retire ~~to~~^{to} what
5 seemed to be obscurity.

6 ^{Whereupon} The Nationalist government found
7 itself without a leader. It hasn't been
8 able to find a leader capable of keeping
9 a strong hold on the steering-wheel.

10 Various political sages and wire-pullers
11 were available, but none of them had
12 sufficient military support to run the
13 government. They couldn't make even a
14 pretense of keeping the various Generals
15 and War Lords in line.

16 And so the Nationalist government
17 has been floundering about, with troubles,
18 riots, and disturbances on all sides. As
19 a result, the Cantonese party, which was
20 so bitterly hostile to Chiang and which
21 forced his resignation, has asked him to
22 come back and take control.

23 The right-about-face came when the
24 Cantonese leaders appealed to Chiang and
25 asked him to become President again. He

1 refused politely. The Chinese, ^{as we all know} ~~you~~
2 ~~know~~, are ^{exceedingly} ~~very~~ polite.

3 Then the Cantonese leaders devised
4 a new proposition. They proposed to form
5 a National Defense Commission to unify
6 China and oppose Japan, and they have
7 asked Chiang to become the Chairman of the
8 Commission. And ^{he} ~~Chiang~~ has accepted.
9 They say that as Chairman of the National
10 Defense Commission he will be the real
11 power in China. There will be a
12 President, of course. He will be an
13 elder statesman of venerable reputation.
14 But he will be pretty much of a figure-
15 head. The real pilot will be that same
16 Chiang-Kai Shek, the strong man of China.

17 Such, at least, is the curious turn
18 of events which the International News
19 Service cables from the Far East.
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1 A demand for a complete ~~xxx~~
2 cancellation of German reparations was
3 made before the Young Plan Advisory
4 Committee today. Three neutral members
5 of the Committee have taken a position
6 that Germany can't pay any more
7 reparations and shouldn't be asked to.

8 The nations that uphold this
9 opinion are Holland, ~~Sxxdxx~~ Switzerland
10 and Sweden.

11 The Associated Press ~~notes~~ *cables*
12 however that the other members of the
13 Committee take a somewhat different view.
14 They don't ^{*seem to*} think it possible to put
15 through any plan for cancelling ^{*those*} German
16 reparations altogether.

1 The Hoover moratorium went to the
2 Senate today. This follows right on the
3 heels of its ratification by the House
4 of Representatives last night. The
5 Associated Press wires that the Senate
6 Finance Committee today approved of the
7 moratorium, and now all that remains is
8 for the Senate as a whole to announce
9 its O.K., which it is expected to do before Xmas.

10 While the moratorium measure was
11 being considered by the Senate Finance
12 Committee, Charles E. Mitchell, a
13 prominent New York banker, gave the
14 Committee members his opinion on the
15 subject. He declared that he was not
16 urging that the foreign debts be
17 cancelled, but he added that he did not
18 believe all these debts could be
19 collected without causing revolutions
20 in the countries that had to pay.

21 The United Press quotes Mr. Mitchell
22 as declaring that his great New York bank
23 made over 13 million dollars of profit
24 by floating foreign loans.

1 It looks as though some of that huge
2 mountain of wheat collected by the Farm
3 Board might be used to feed the
4 unemployed. The Associated Press ^{reports} ~~wires~~
5 that the Senate Agriculture Committee
6 today put its O.K. on a measure
7 authorizing the Farm Board to contribute
8 a lot of that wheat to unemployment
9 relief.

10 The plan would be to have the scheme
11 put through before Congress takes its
12 Christmas recess, which begins Tuesday
13 night. I suppose that might enable some
14 of the grain to be put to use as a
15 Christmas present. The foodstuff would
16 be turned over to the Red Cross, and
17 other charitable organizations with the
18 proper qualifications.

19 The Farm Board in its attempts to keep
20 up the price of wheat has piled up 189
21 million bushels. This is being held off
22 the market, and it does seem altogether
23 just and proper that some of it should be
24 used for unemployment relief.
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1 In the ancient city of Rome a new law
2 has just been put into effect concerning
3 the price of wheat^{in Italy}. Last June the
4 Italian grain market was seriously
5 disturbed. Prices were falling.

6 Mussolini promptly put through a
7 regulation which compelled all Italian
8 manufacturers of flour to use at least
9 95 per cent of Italian-grown wheat --
10 that is, no more than 5 per cent of grain
11 imported from foreign countries.

12 And that, wires the Associated Press,
13 did stabilize the grain market. Prices
14 became steady, and the farmers got a
15 decent figure for their product.

16 As a result of this, the Duce has
17 relaxed the regulation. Flour manufactur-
18 ing companies are now allowed to use 25
19 per cent of imported grain. Only 75
20 per cent must be home-grown. And this
21 regulation has been enacted now in the
22 form of a law, which, it is believed, will
23 be sufficient to keep the Italian grain
24 market steady.
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1 Now ~~let me read~~^{for} a vivid sentence.
2 Here's the way it goes: "A slight,
3 timid-mannered man with a Charlie Chaplin
4 mustache grabs the world by the ear ~~and~~ and
5 roars about his plans."

6 That's the way the current Literary
7 Digest characterizes the present
8 belligerent attitude of "Handsome Adolph"
9 Hitler, Germany's Fascist leader.

10 That man Hitler^{certainly} does not lack ~~for~~
11 audacity. That is a point to be
12 remembered in considering the present
13 International situation. And just as a
14 good example of the audacity of his
15 recent remarks, the Literary Digest quotes
16 the Chicago Tribune in telling us that
17 Hitler declares himself as follows ~~He~~
18 ~~is~~ speaking of his Fascist party in
19 Germany.

20 "No organization in the world," he
21 declares, "has such perfect discipline as
22 the ranks of the 750,000 fighters who are
23 enrolled in our party, and they are
24 backed by 15 million voters as shown by
25 recent elections in Germany. This party

1 is absolutely under my control. My will
2 is done." And that does sound something
3 like Julius Caesar or Napoleon or
4 Bismarck or Mussolini, or whomever you
5 please, doesn't it?
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AUSTRALIA

That general election in Australia, the one we heard about last night - has turned out just as expected. The Conservatives won. The Labor party lost out. Most of the members of the Labor Government were defeated, and Conservative members were elected to Parliament in their stead.

INTRODUCTION TO COUNT LUCKNER

Page

11

1 Just ~~before~~ I came to the
2 microphone ^{Dec. 1931} I saw two chaps talking
3 in the control room, and one of them was
4 laughing his head off, with a huge, loud,
5 hearty laugh as my old friend, Count
6 Luckner, the ^{has} dropped in
7 to pick me up. We are going to
8 make this evening's ~~bound for~~
9 Brooklyn on an autographing expedition.
10 Well, I saw the jolly old
11 Sea Devil winking and guffawing a
12 guffawing a guffawing a guffawing a
13 Norman, the ^{here} in the control
14 room, was telling me it must have been
15 out what it was. I couldn't make
16 funny from the Count was laughing.
17 Suppose we go to the
18 my elbow.

19 Come on, what kind of a yarn
20 was Charlie spinning?

RETAKE

Luckner,
Court

Dec. 19,
1931-p. 11

INTRODUCTION TO COUNT LUCKNER

Page 11

1 Just before I came to the
2 microphone here I saw two chaps talking
3 in the control room, and one of them was
4 laughing his head off, with a huge, loud,
5 hearty laugh. It was my old friend, Count
6 Luckner, the Sea Devil. He ^{has} dropped in
7 to pick me up for a jaunt we're going to
8 make this evening. We are ~~going to~~ bound for
9 Brooklyn on a book-autographing expedition.

10 Well, as I said, the jolly old
11 Sea Devil was having a big laugh. He was
12 guffawing about something ~~which~~ Charlie
13 Norman, the engineer ^{here} in the control
14 room, was telling him. I couldn't make
15 out what it was, but it must have been
16 funny from the way the Count was laughing.
17 Suppose we ask him. He's right here at
18 my elbow.

19 Come on, Count, what kind of a yarn
20 was Charlie Norman spinning?

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1 Well, ha, ha, it was funny. Charlie
2 Norman, he tells funny things. While he
3 runs that control board he has plenty of
4 time to think, and he thinks up jokes.

5 Well, Charlie Norman told me one of
6 those Tall Stories. He says he's a
7 member of the Tall Story Club.

8 He said a man was sitting on a dock,
9 fishing. By Joe, he was fishing a long
10 time. Another fellow came along and
11 said: "What are you fishing for, shipmate?
12 By Joe, what do you expect to catch?"

13 And the fisherman said: "I'm
14 fishing for a bi-horn^{ed} bi-wopolus."

15 "Oh ho", said the other fellow,
16 "You'd better look out or you'll catch a
17 whale."

18 And the fisherman knocked the ashes
19 out of his pipe and said: "Catch a whale,
20 by Joe? Listen, boy, I'm using^a whale for
21 bait."

22 (Bi-horn bi-wopolus, by Joe, using a
23 whale for bait, ho ho.)
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1 Well, Count, you're in good form
2 tonight. You tell a Tall Story just as
3 humorously as you relate those hilarious t
4 adventures of when you were raiding the
5 seas during the World War.

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1 One of the things that is famous
2 far and wide in this world is the London
3 Fog, the Old Pea Souper. Many people won't
4 believe the stories that are told of the
5 fog in London. They just can't visualize
6 anything so dense and opaque as a heavy
7 Picadilly pea-souper.

8 Well, it was foggy in London
9 today. In fact it was foggy all over
10 England. The heavy white blanket was
11 unusually dense.

12 Twenty lives were lost in
13 consequence of the ^{blind} white ~~blanket~~ density
14 of ~~that~~ fog. There was a train collision.
15 A ship went ashore in the fog. Then
16 there was a collision between ships.
17 There were 39 accidents on a single road
18 near London, so heavy was that pea-souper.
19 For the first time this year not a single
20 airplane was able to reach the Croydon
21 Air dome.

22 The United Press comments that
23 the visibility was about ten yards. That
24 is you could peer dimly through the
25 pea-souper for a distance of ^{about} ten yards--

1 if your eyes were good. *But only dimly, even then.*

2 I recall I walking along in a
3 heavy London fog once, right across from
4 Buckingham Palace. I was sort of feeling
5 my way along with a cane. I wasn't used
6 to London weather. I bumped into a
7 bobby. A little later I bumped into
8 another bobby. He said "I say, you are
9 not going anywhere. You are the same
10 chap that bumped into me a few minutes
11 ago."

12 Yes, I had run into ~~the~~ same
13 bobby twice in the course of a few
14 minutes and I wasn't going anywhere at
15 all. I was just travelling around a
16 small circular park.

1 Grave tidings concerning affairs of
2 state come from Paris tonight. One might
3 say that these tidings may be of
4 momentous importance to the course of
5 international events. Right now France
6 is one of the most powerful and
7 dominating nations of the world. ~~And~~
8 France is governed by the Chamber of
9 Deputies.

10 And now it appears that when the
11 Deputies are not roasting, they're
12 freezing. Sometimes they sweat and
13 swelter, and then the next minute they're
14 shivering and in danger of getting
15 chilblains.

16 The New York Evening Post explains
17 this peculiar affair by informing us
18 that recently they have installed a
19 modern heating plant in the Chamber of
20 Deputies. The trouble is that they
21 installed too much heating plant. It
22 doesn't seem to be able to produce that
23 moderate, well-tempered warmth that is
24 the essence of comfort. It just fills
25 the Chamber of Deputies with blasts of

1 heat. ■ It practically roasts the
2 deputies. And if there's anything a
3 politician, French or otherwise, doesn't
4 like, it's being roasted. Oratory in
5 the Chamber of Deputies is famous for
6 being super-heated. And when the hot air
7 of oratory combines with the heat-waves
8 from that new-fangled heating system, why
9 the effect is said to make the coast of
10 Guatamala seem like Greenland's icy
11 mountains.

12 The only way they have to cool off
13 the Chamber of Deputies is to open the
14 windows and let in the damp, chill
15 wintry breezes of Paris, and those wintry
16 breezes come sweeping over the super-
17 heated deputies. They say the drafts are
18 something terrible.

19 Recently during an important session
20 the heat became so unbearable that the
21 President of the Chamber stopped the
22 debate for five minutes and had all the
23 windows opened. And pretty soon, &
24 ~~suppose~~, the Chamber of Deputies started
25 to sneeze in a gusty chorus.

1 Of course, the importance of this
2 hot-and-cold combination in a great
3 governmental body is easily imagined.
4 Suppose some grave international crisis
5 were being debated. With the new-
6 fangled heating plant going in full blast,
7 the deputies would very likely get hot
8 under the collar and instantly declare
9 war. And ~~then they'd open the~~
10 windows and the icy drafts would blow
11 in. The deputies might get cold feet and
12 promptly surrender.

13 But seriously, the report is that
14 they have been installing all kinds of
15 modern devices in the old buildings of
16 Paris, and these up-to-date gadgets often
17 ~~don't~~ don't fit into these venerable
18 edifices at all, ~~which,~~ when they are
19 modernized, ^{they} become worse instead of
20 better.
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END

Well, I guess I'd better call it a day -- or rather, a week. Announcer Howard Petrie here has a glitter in his eye. He seems to be bursting with glad tidings of some sort or other. He looks so hot and bothered about it, that I am curious to hear what he's going to say. So I guess we might as well find out, and

SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.