

~~SECRET~~

Hullo everybody!

It's a tale of horror that comes to us from Spain tonight. A lurid picture of a once brave and colorful civilization crumbling to pieces. This is the sixteenth day of the bombardment of Madrid, and still General Franco's guns rain down their shells on the city. Meanwhile the Basques, their province laid in ruins, send a pathetic appeal to the outside world. "Save our women and children," they beg, "three *hundred* thousand need food, shelter, refuge from the worst horrors of war."

"For the men of the Basque country we ask nothing," said President Aguirre of the Basque Republic. "We can face the greatest sacrifices with calm to defend the liberty of our people. But I believe the nations of the civilized world will come to the rescue of three hundred thousand ~~men and~~ *✓ children* women in Bilbao who need refuge."

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Valentine
Williams.

Apr. 29, 1937

Apr. 30.

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A series of empty villages and hamlets in flames! Peasants have set fire to their farms before deserting them, so that they might not shelter the invader. And all these refugees have crowded into the beleaguered city.

47 The Governments of Great Britain and France want to help. But how? It will be a Herculean task to evacuate those three hundred thousand civilians. Just to feed and house them will cost one hundred thousand dollars a day. The plan is to divide the expense between the powers by distributing the refugees among various neutral countries: France, England, Belgium and the rest. But before such a wholesale evacuation can be carried out the opposing Generals must give their consent. There must be a truce.

Even war-hardened Europe is shocked by the grim stories that come from the ancient land of the Basque. Already General Mola's advance guard is within twenty miles of Bilbao. His troops entered the blazing ruins of ~~Guinica~~ Guernica, the original capital ~~of the land~~. As for the defenders, they were driven out of Durango. They are fighting every foot of the way.

The prospects are for a desperate last-ditch battle outside Bilbao itself.

48 Edward the Eighth told a friend of mine that the hardest job in the world was being a king. Well, the next hardest seems to be that of being husband to a royal princess who is heir to the throne. That's what Prince Bernard^h of the Netherlands has already found out. His honeymoon with the young Princess Juliana is scarcely over but already the young couple's mode of life has set all tongues wagging. Bernard^h and his princess are too gay for the sober-minded Dutch. They've ~~xxxx~~ shocked church members particularly by their conduct on the Sabbath. They travel around, play games, are seen in public places of ~~xxxx~~ amusement on Sundays. In fact they go out to have a good time just as though they were ordinary ~~gax~~ folks.

This has brought about almost a court crisis. Ministers of the Reformed Church have lifted their voices in protest. Newspaper editors have scolded the young people. The grey-haired Prime Minister, Queen Wilhelmina's advisor has shaken a reproving head. They say he has gone to the Queen to insist that Bernard^h and his Juliana must really mend their ways. Gossip around the

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 court has it that the Queen has read the Riot Act to her
 daughter. She had told her that as heiress to the throne,
 future queen, she must ^{not} behave like a light-headed young bride.
 She's got to conform to Dutch conventions, Dutch traditions,
 Dutch ideas of how members of the ruling house should conduct
 themselves. I suspect that Queen Wilhelmina has talked to the
 Prince like a Dutch mother-in-law as well. Meanwhile the
 government is said to be looking around for a ~~suit~~ suitable
 counsellor to ^{give} ~~the~~ Prince Bernard ^{the right steer} on Dutch ideas of deportment.

PARTY

50 The French government is going to give a party. It will probably be the biggest ever given since the Roman emperors used to entertain the entire populace of Rome in the Coliseum. The guests will be twenty thousand Americans, members of the American Legion who were also members of the A. E. F. Twenty thousand of them, including wives. I should say it will be the most spectacular example of hospitality in history. These twenty thousand legionaries and their wives will be entertained for six days with the best of French food, the best of French wine, the best of everything that France can offer. And that's a large order.

The sailing date is early in September. All the boys have to do is to get themselves to France, ~~themselves and~~ their wives, ^{too} if they choose. After that their responsibility ends. The French Government takes care of everything from the day they land until the day they reembark.

STRIKE

The strike trouble became more acute in Trenton, New Jersey today. It centered around the plant of a rubber company whose workers have been out for three weeks. Some of them gave up the fight this week, went back to work. Against the other, the company got a restraining order from the Court of Chancery. And today Governor Hoffman of New Jersey ordered a strong detachment of state police to enforce that order. So the Governor is living up to his warning, some time ago, that he would not hesitate to use the armed forces of the state in strike crises.

In another city, rubber companies have a totally different story to tell. In Akron, Ohio, the Firestone workers have been out for eight weeks. And that strike was settled today with a most important agreement. The Firestone Company accords to its employees the first agreement ever made for a thirty-six hour week. That's making history!

In Detroit a majority of the Packard workers voted to accept the United Automobile Workers of America as their sole bargaining agent. In Maine the strike has spread to no fewer than 19 shoe factories.

Aluminum

~~VALENTINE WILLIAMS - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1937~~

~~GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:~~

The federal government took a defeat in the courts today. It's all about that prosecution of the Aluminum Company of America as a trust. The Aluminum lawyers went into the United States District Court in Pittsburgh and obtained an injunction. This restrains the Attorney General from prosecuting the case, which ~~the~~ he had brought in the District Court of New York. So that prosecution has to be held up for the time being.

52 This isn't the first time a suit of this kind has been brought against the Aluminum Company. Another Attorney General tried it twenty-five years ago. But that case came to nothing. It was settled by consent ^{and} ~~of~~ what is known as a consent decree was entered. The corporation had been doing business under the terms of that settlement for all these twenty-five years.

~~Lead~~ 2 Aluminum

And that's the ground on which they obtained their injunction today. That Nineteen Twelve case, say the Aluminum barristers, parallels in detail ~~with~~ the complaint that the Attorney General filed a few days ago.

The injunction granted by the Pittsburgh judge is only temporary. So the prosecution of the Aluminum Corporation ~~xxxx~~ as a trust is halted for the time being.

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So Sherlock Holmes is dead. To English-speaking audiences the name of William Gillette was linked with the master sleuth almost as closely as that of Conan Doyle, his creator. Eighty-one is a fairly ripe old age, but when I met and spoke to Gillette a couple of years ago his voice had the same rasp, his eye the same glitter, his smile the same charm, as had entranced England and America in those thrilling melodramas "Secret Service," and, of course, Sherlock Holmes nearly forty years ago. Gillette was an innovator, a pioneer -- he was for always trying new sound and light effects, on the stage. In private life he was by way of being an inventor, with a decided bent for machinery. At his estate on the Connecticut River, he built a three-mile railroad with a two foot gage which ran through the woods, through tunnels, under trestles. He built every foot of it himself, built the two locomotives and used to drive them. He particularly enjoyed blowing the engine's whistle to scare the deer off the tracks.

Machinery in fact was his principal hobby. In the early days of the War, he offered his ~~xxxx~~ services to the British

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Government as a mechanical engineer. Though he had no degrees from engineering colleges, he had every qualification. But some clerk in the British War Office looked him up in "Who's Who," learned his age, and ~~it~~ wrote on the application -- "Too old."

In other respects, he was a peculiar character. Unlike most other actors, he was not convivial, quite the opposite. Indeed, he was aloof though not unfriendly. Whenever he came to London, the leaders of the English stage did their best to entertain Gillette at the Garrick Club and elsewhere. But Gillette, though always charmingly, managed to dodge any kind of a party.

NEUTRALITY

The Pitman-McReynolds Neutrality Bill is on its way through Congress. In spite of the criticism that has been hurled at it from all sides, both House and Senate passed it with a rush. It's one of those eleventh hour "must" laws because the present measure expires at midnight tomorrow.

It was promptly sent by airplane to President Roosevelt for him to sign at once.

56 There was a big upheaval afoot in Uncle Sam's Department of Commerce. The Air Bureau, target for so much harsh criticism since those disastrous transport crashes, is all up in the air-- in for a thorough reorganization. A good many experts have been saying that its obsolete methods are mostly to blame for those accidents in the mountains, for those lives lost.

So now it's going to be split up into seven divisions. These will be devoted to airways engineering, airways operation, safety and planning; also divisions to supervise statistics and information, inspection, regulation and enforcement.

The engineering division, of the utmost importance, will be run by Charles I. Stanton who has been chief engineer of air navigation for many years. Operation will come under the direction of Earl F. Ward. He will handle all operations on the network of federal airways and radio communication. One feature of this reorganization will be an Advisory Committee composed partly of civilians and of representatives of all the aviation interests in the country.

57

SHANGHAI

We've been told that "great ^{*oaks*} ~~acorns~~ from little acorns grow." But they don't grow as fast as a little squabble in Shanghai which almost developed into one of those international ~~sindicates~~ incidents. Opposite the small shop of a Chinese, in Shanghai, lived a Japanese. The Chinese shopkeeper's apprentice borrowed a rat trap from the Jap. Not much harm in that, but he forgot to return it.

After several weeks, the Japanese lost patience. He bounded across the street and without any banzais, demanded the return of his trap. One of the sarcastic words he used about people who borrow things and don't return them, was resented.

58 What began with words, finished with blows. The first thing known, the entire population of the quarter were taking part in the battle of the rat trap. Actually, not much damage was done. The Japanese was slightly injured, the face of the Chinese apprentice was severely slapped. But the uproar redounded all over the International Settlement. Presently, word went out that an outrage had been committed, that another Japanese had been attacked by a Chinese mob. But before the troops were called out,

58 1/2
the police arrived on the scene. They settled things quickly by arresting the Chinese apprentice and hauling him before the Japanese Consular Court. There the tale of the rat trap was told in grave detail but ended with good humor. That was fortunate, because the row had reached such dimensions that in another five minutes it might have developed into a military episode.

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And that would have been particularly awkward for Tokyo at this time. On this, the thirty-sixth birthday of the Mikado, his ministers are assiduously and apparently in all sincerity, trying to bring about a new attitude, a new friendship in the Far East. In fact they've started diplomatic conversations with both London and Washington to this end. They want John Bull and Uncle Sam to cooperate with Nippon in bringing prosperity to China, order out of chaos in Celestial finance.

59 1/4
And that's my ^{order} ~~to~~ to leave you not until tomorrow.