

L.J. - Sunco. Thurs., Dec. 17/36. *Cham*

ROOSEVELT

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(The National debt of the United States has risen to thirty-four billion dollars.) That was revealed today. But at the same time the statement from the Treasury Department shows that Uncle Sam's income is increasing all the time. That's the financial background in a declaration from Washington that President Roosevelt hopes to get the budget balanced in two years from now. How much will taxes be raised? Not at all, says the word from Washington. The President's hope is - that with the increasing income and more economy, ~~the debt~~ he can balance the budget without increasing taxation.

HAMILTON

Here's somebody who won by a big majority -- John Hamilton. That handsome majority didn't happen on last November third. It happened today. At the meeting of the Republican National Committee in Chicago he wanted to resign, handed in his resignation, but the Committee turned it down. The vote -- 74 for John Hamilton, just 2 against. A miniature landslide. Just 2 against him -- like Maine and Vermont.

Another Hamilton figured in the proceedings -- Hamilton Fish, for years the leader of all those drives against the Communists. Today he took the floor in opposition to John Hamilton, declaring that John is a reactionary. The fighter against radicalism declared the Republican Party should turn to Liberalism.

But the Committee by that landslide majority, thought that John Hamilton had managed the Landon campaign as well as was possible under the circumstances. They agreed the party should be liberalized and proposed that the national chairman should be aided by liberal advisors. Maybe four hours from now it will be speak for yourself John.

CUBA

The sugar cane workers staged their march on Havana today and held their rally in the central park -- mass demonstration in favor of the program for rural schools sponsored by Colonel Batista, Cuba's Iron Man. And it looks as if the Pearl of the Antilles might be in for another overturn. Batista's schoolroom plan has split Cuba into two clashing factions.

It proposes to put a tax of nine cents a bag on sugar and thereby raise a two million dollar a year revenue -- this to be used to establish and support rural classrooms for the children of the farm workers on Cuba's broad sugar cane fields. Batista has already established 700 of these, his plan calls for twenty-three hundred more.

But who are the teachers in these classes to be? That's the telltale feature of the affair. The school masters are to be army sergeants -- a myriad of Batistas. Non-commissioned officers are to take their places in front of classes and expound the three "R's" to the children of the cane fields. This educational program therefore has a decidedly military look -- an army affair.

That's what President Gomez and his party are denouncing.

They say the plan proposes to militarize the children and teach them political ideas held by Batista and the army. They declare that all this education with sergeants for teachers is a design to promote army control and a Fascist dictatorship. Not so long ago Batista was quoted as saying -- that he would not hesitate to become a dictator of Cuba, if it were for the good of the country.

Right now the school plan is threatened with defeat in the Cuban Congress. A filibuster is on to block the passage of the bill. It seems to be quite some filibuster. The Liberal leader in the Cuban Lower House declares that he will introduce amendments to the school bill, a lot of them, one thousand and fifty seven amendments. He says that each will have to be acted upon with all parliamentary formality, debating and voting. This will take up so much time that the bill will never be passed. Moreover, President Gomez declares that, if it does get by, he will veto it.

The masses of the farm workers where the sugar cane grows have rallied to the school bill, shouting that it is

necessary for the education of the children of the poor.

They have been staging clamorous meetings all over the

island. The climax came today with the march of the

sugar cane workers on Havana.

CHINA

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The Chinese mystery is as deep as ever tonight. There's an insistant belief among people well acquainted with Chinese affairs that Chiang Kai-shek was really executed by Marshall Chang. This in spite of assertions from China. ~~It~~ One remarkable exploit was performed today by radio - the first American broadcast from distant Nanking. Dr. Kong, Minister of Finance, who has taken Chiang Kai-shek's place as head of the government, was heard with amazing clearness, hardly a touch of interference - across the vast distance from central China to this land of ours. They've been talking about it all day here in Rockefeller Center, at N.B.C. - how the Chinese Finance Minister's ~~ministerxxxxx~~ broadcast was sent by telephone wire from Nanking to Shanghai and then flashed by short wave across the Pacific. Dr. Kong made the declaration, most significant tonight - that while the Chinese government is most anxious about the safety of Chiang Kai-shek, it won't allow the fate of an individual to stand in the way of its policy toward the revolt of Marshal Chang.

It's a paradox of this Chinese mystery - that a state of war is on, yet apparently not a shot has been fired.

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The Nanking government is operating with two hundred thousand crack troops, (German trained regiments) against the rebellious Marshall Chang. This powerful army is moving in warlike array in the Province of Shensi, against the City of Sian.

Today the government sent two hundred war planes in mass formation over Marshal Chang's City of Sian - a giant air raid, but a bombless air raid. Not a bomb ~~was~~ dropped. It was a mere demonstration.

Right after that, (Marshall Chang released one of the government generals whom he had seized, so that this general could telegraph a message to Nanking - a message from Chiang Kai-shek. The captive head of the government declared ~~against~~ himself against any attack on Marshal Chang. He said he didn't want a war waged for his release.) He gave the order - cease firing.

But it was a needless order. They couldn't cease firing because they hadn't started firing. ~~There's~~ no shooting at all ^{so far} ~~apparently~~ in this Chinese civil War.

(Later on, there was another message, which declared

that Marshal Chang was ready to release Chiang Kai-shek -

~~if~~ if the Nanking government would meet some of his demands.

These demands in the first place were - join up with the Chinese

Communists and declare war on Japan.) Just what Marshal Chang

wants now, when he speaks of "some of his demands" - is not

made clear.

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SPAIN

There may be civil war without a shot or a bomb in China - but it's a different kind of civil war in Spain. Tonight Madrid is a scene of destruction and fog. That latest air raid was the most terrific of all. Forty-five bombers went over and blasted the working class quarters, strongholds of Red defense. Frightful destruction and heavy loss of life. Buildings completely wrecked, people buried in the ruins. Today they were digging in those ruins to rescue survivors - but the rescue was handicapped by a fog, a blinding white mist that hung over Madrid.

ENGLAND

Today witnessed the final end of a famous treaty.

Remember that ~~famous~~ Five Power Naval Pact signed away back in
the Harding administration? ^{When} The United States, Great Britain,
Japan, France and Italy agreed to limit the size of their
fleets. [?] The treaty died a natural death to all intents and
purposes when Japan drew out of it. But still the United States
and Great Britain kept up a two-party arrangement. ^T Today that
expired, when Sir Samuel Hoare told the House of Commons that
from now on there would be no restrictions on the British fleet.)
The Anglo-American understanding goes into the waste-basket.

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Sir Samuel announced that hereafter Britain will scrap no more
warships. Five were to be junked in accordance with the Treaty.
Now they'll be refitted and put back into the service.

And Britain will build more warships. The First Lord
of the Admiralty revealed that two hundred thousand tons of new
ships are in the defense program for Nineteen Thirty-Six. These
warcraft will be faster, and they'll carry more aircraft.

And Britain has a new type of naval gun, a fourteen
inch cannon which is said to be more efficient than the sixteen

inch calibre, hitherto the mightiest, ~~giant~~.

Sir Samuel Hoare also intimated that if war comes, Britain might have to draft labor, conscription of skilled workers for armament making. Right now there's a shortage of efficient workers in the ⁱⁿ rearmament program.

KING

This Christmas there'll be a royal Santa Claus in a secluded Austrian village. Ex-King Edward will put on whiskers and a bright red suit with suitable padding and play Kriss Kringle. That's the news from the castle of the Baron and Baroness de Rothschild, who have persuaded the former monarch to make Merry Christmas merrier for the children of the village-- by taking the part of the good saint.

Here's one thing that's denied to the Ex-King - in addition to the crown. He's not Prebendary of St. David's Cathedral any more. By historic tradition, the King of England has certain royal rights at that cathedral. He draws a fee of One Pound a year, and is entitled to preach one sermon a year. However, as the Duke of Windsor, he is no longer King; neither is he Prebendary at St. David's Cathedral. So he doesn't get the pound a year, and he won't preach the sermon. The Archbishop of Cantebury will do the preaching.

The news about Mrs. Simpson doesn't come from the Riviera this time. It comes from London. Mrs. Simpson in London? Yes, but in wax. In Madam Tussaud's renowned gallery of effigies you'll find all the famous people in the world. And now among them -

the American woman for whom a king gave up the greatest crown.

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The British suppressed all publicity about the royal remance

for a long time, but now we have the last word in taking off

the lid - when 'arry and 'arriet, wandering through Madam

Tussaud's, ^{will} stop and gaze at ^{Wally} ~~Mr~~ Simpson, who caused England

to lose its King.

Tomorrow in New York they're going to stage a mass meeting to keep people remembering a man who wants to be forgotten. ~~Distinguished~~ liberals, headed by Mayor La Guardia, ~~with~~ will gather to make a protest in the case of Carl von Ossietzky. He's the German pacifist who was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize -- this after he had spent years in a Nazi concentration camp. The Hitler Government was infuriated by the award, and wants to keep von Ossietzky from getting the prize money -- so it is charged. ^{And} ~~so~~ tomorrow a meeting of the liberals, sponsored by the International Relief Association, will ring with speeches and protests.

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But what of von Ossietzky himself? Today's news brings some word about him. He's been in a hospital of late, and right now is secluded in a private sanitarium where he has been taken --- to avoid public notice. A friend, speaking for him, says his health is better, and he has a chance to recover from tuberculosis and a heart ailment. What the sick man wants -- is to be forgotten. The Nobel peace prize, it seems, is more of a bane than a blessing to him. The international outcry over his case has done him no good. All he hopes now

is that the world will forget all about him. Then, he will be better off -- in Germany.

So ^{tomorrow —}~~they're~~ remembering a man who wants to be for-

gotten.

ACID

Off the coast of Rhode Island a big barge. A high sea running. The heavy, ungainly craft lurching and tossing. The cargo broke loose, and went rolling and bouncing across the deck, fore and aft, from starboard to port.

That reminds one of that classic of oldtime sea-faring stories -- of cannon loose on a pitching deck, rushing helter-skelter. Today's event went that ancient yarn one better -- much better, or worse. The name of the barge was the VITRIC. That sounds rather chemical, something like vitriol. The cargo aboard consisted of hundreds of drums, earboys and jugs of nitric and sulphuric acid. Fifty thousand dollar's worth of those burning, corrosive fluids.

And that's what was running amok on the storm tossed deck; rolling drums of nitric acid, bouncing jugs of sulphuric.

Three men aboard tried to save the cargo, tried to stow it back in place. They dodged around among the hurtling containers of fiery stuff. Then the drums began to burst open. Acid spread everywhere. The tossing waves, breaking against the side of the barge sent showers of spray onto the deck. Sea water, the salt

brine of the ocean -- mixing with the rivers of nitric and sulphuric acid! Any high school student of chemistry can explain what happened, the chemical reaction -- the acrid poison gas that was liberated.

The three men found themselves enveloped in noxious fumes, and it was all they could do to get away. One of them fell, overcome. His comrades dragged him to safety, as they abandoned the barge, and took to a boat. An abandoned barge, and from it rising -- clouds of chemical fumes.

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The swiftest kind of action ends the case of Harry Brunette captured day before yesterday. The gun battle with the G-Men subject of loud controversy last night. Today at Trenton sentenced to life in prison for kidnapping.

WRIGHTS

Here is an appropriate detail or two about today's celebration of the Thirty-Third Anniversary of man's first flight. In Dayton, home of the Wright Brothers, old timers recalled what they thought about the exploit of their fellow townsmen.

Postmaster Grier remembers how he went to the Wright Brothers bicycle shop to see the contraption the two young fellows were building.

"I wanted to see what they were doing," says Postmaster Grier. "And when I saw I suspected they were just wasting their time."

Another veteran citizen tells his reaction when he heard how the Wright Brothers had actually succeeded in flying. "Like everybody else," he says, "I forgot the whole thing in a short time. Just something, nothing, didn't seem to amount to much."

City Manager Eichelberger was inspired to a greater vision. "I thought" he says, "the contraption would probably be a drawing card in a circus."

There's one yarn, probably apocryphal, ^{that seems to summarize} ~~imminently worth while~~ ^{the whole thing:} ~~telling on the birthday of aviation.~~ It relates how an old-

timer in Dayton heard the news of the Wright Brothers flight, and shook his head in profound skepticism. "Nobody will ever fly like a bird," he remarked, "and if anybody ever does, it won't be nobody from Dayton."

That was the good old home town spirit, and

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.

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