

PARIS

P.L. - Luroco. Friday, March 22, 1940.

In Paris the new but shakey Cabinet of Premier Reynaud has decided to remain in office - this after a bitter debate and a most dubious vote of confidence.

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Paul Reynaud and his slate of Ministers appeared before the Chamber today, and the Premier made a fiery appeal for support. They call him the "fighting little giant", and fight was what he talked today - win the war. "To win means saving everything," he declaimed. "To lose means losing all." He spoke of "sacrificing everything to victory." And he summarized in these words - "My government wishes only to fight." He took a bitter fling at Soviet Russia, and this was important - because the Reynaud ministry, with ^a ~~the~~ large proportion of Socialists, has a ^{TR However} Left Wing look. [^] If this was strategy to please the conservatives, [^] it didn't work so well.)

[^] Immediately there were a series of bitter attacks on the new Cabinet. It was denounced - as not a war government at all, but as a political set-up of leaders of the Left. The assault centered on charges that the new ministry looked a bit on the Red side.

Then came the balloting, and the fighting little giant won a vote of confidence - but what a shakey vote it was, what faint confidence! The majority was two hundred and sixty-eight to a hundred and fifty-six, ~~and that~~ sounds substantial. But *another* hundred and eleven deputies abstained from voting - refused to express confidence. That left the Reynaud Cabinet with a majority of exactly one!

Immediately, there was wonder - Would Premier Reynaud try to carry on with so slender a margin? It's not the way of French politics to try to govern the nation with the preponderance of a mere single vote. Here's ^{odd} one thing that figured in the decision. After having voted its very small degree of confidence, the Chamber of Deputies proceeded to adjourn for Easter, until April Second. The Premier went into a huddle with his Ministers - what to do? Stick to the job, or throw it up? They finally decided they'd stay in office. ~~An official communique was issued.~~ The Reynaud Government ^{to} ~~will~~ carry on at least until the Chamber of Deputies meets again.*

All of which leaves France in a dubious parliamentary

position, in the midst of war. The German Nazis are interpreting the parliamentary squabble as a sign of disunion in France. To the wondering bystander it seems to be - the often incomprehensible way of French politics.

BRITISH SUBMARINE

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It
There ^{s to be} ~~seemed to have been~~ quite a major incident of war,
~~in the case of~~ the first German merchant ship which the British have
sunk. They ^{we} captured quite a few, but this time it was a Nazi
freighter sent to the bottom by a British submarine.

First of all, there was the adventure of it, British
undersea craft daring to go into the mouth of the Baltic, ~~Sea~~, which
Germany dominates. ~~Sneaking~~ ^{Slithering} its way into the narrow Strait of the
Skagerrak., which is a deadly place sown with mine fields. There
the British submarine stopped the German freighter HEDDERNHEIM,
which apparently was carrying Scandinavian iron ore to Germany.
The sub ordered the crew to take to their boats, and then sank
the ship.

The major significance is that the ~~sinking may indicate~~
~~that the~~ British may be embarking on a submarine drive against the
ore ships that provide Nazi Germany with badly needed Scandinavian
iron. During the last World War, British subs performed daring
exploits in penetrating the Baltic and torpedoing vessels of the
German ore carrying fleet. (In the present struggle, Scandinavian
iron retains its vital importance - supplies of metal brought through

f9 { Norwegian territorial waters or ^{across} ~~through~~ the Baltic. London is
eager to cut that supply line, and now a British undersea craft
has sunk an ore ship - something to attract attention.

CROMWELL

Canadian officials today said they were disappointed by the rebuke administered to American Minister Cromwell. Discussing the reprimand issued by Secretary of State Cordell Hull last night, one Canadian official expressed himself this way:- "We are disappointed that such a rumpus was raised over the matter."

It isn't clear ^{in Washington} what the isolationists in Congress will do now, the ones who have been demanding that Minister Cromwell be removed because of the pro-Ally speech he made in Canada. Nor is there anything certain about rumors that Cromwell will resign. Our Minister to Canada is on a visit home, but newspaper men couldn't reach him today. He had an appointment with Secretary of the Navy Edison, and postponed it. The Secretary has announced his entrance into the New Jersey race for governor, and it is believed that Cromwell will seek the Democratic nomination for the Senate. Politicians are wondering how the New Jersey angle will be affected by the Cromwell pro-Ally statements in Canada, and the rebuke they drew from the Secretary of State.

Some are still saying that the Cromwell speech was made by request - a trial balloon.

BOMBER

Here's something that certainly sounds like an exaggeration. A seventy ton warplane! A monster more than twice the size of the present flying fortresses of the Army, which weigh a mere thirty tons each.

The giant bomber will be able to fly to Europe and back without stopping, and carry twenty tons of bombs while making that trans-oceanic round trip. Yes, it does seem like ~~xxxxxxx~~ stretching the story, but the announcement was made today by the Army in Washington. The new bomber, built by the Douglas Company, will be the largest aircraft in the world. It's being constructed at a cost of a million dollars, and the first one is scheduled to be delivered this summer.

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A late bulletin:- They have already given the big ship a name -- "Flying Juggernaut."

EXPLOSION

It sounds sinister to say that today a government arsenal had its fourth explosion during the past month. It might give the impression of sabotage, but that hardly seems to be the case.

The arsenal in question is in Picatinny, New Jersey. Three of the explosions were minor affairs, little damage and nobody injured.

Today's blast rocked the whole arsenal building with its power and a great glass skylight crashed down. Seventeen persons injured.

The official account describes it as an accident which occurred while five pounds of high explosive were being forced through a pelleting machine. The high explosive blew up as it was being handled.

As today was Good Friday, only a skeleton crew was on the job doing emergency work, or there might have been many more injured.

DAM

Down in Oklahoma water began to rise in a much disputed area. Behind the Grand River Dam, the stream began to back up, the climbing waters to form a dam that will cover fifty thousand acres eventually.

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This marks a new step in the row between the Governor of Oklahoma and ~~in~~ the federal authorities. The Grand River Dam is a twenty-two million dollar hydro-electric project built by the government. The cause of the quarrel was the fact that the formation of a huge lake would put the state to a lot of expense in constructing new highways and bridges. The Governor demanded that Oklahoma should be reimbursed to the tune of eight hundred and fifty ~~million~~ thousand dollars. The Public Works Administration offered three hundred and fifty thousand ^{which} ~~but~~ the Governor said that was ^{not} ~~not~~ enough. ~~And so the controversy came to a showdown.~~

TP Last week Governor Phillips ordered the Oklahoma militia to halt the building of the dam. In response to this the government authorities got a federal injunction. That stopped the Governor's martial law, and the construction of the dam went ahead - to completion.

Today the engineers had truckloads of sandbags brought to the scene, and these were placed to block off the water. The stream began to back up behind the dam, and the fifty million acres lake was in process of formation.

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What has the Governor to say about that? At last reports he was undecided whether to continue his fight in the courts or try to enforce his martial law.

NUN

In a town in Italy, a nun lies in her convent cell - and her forehead streams with blood. The pious folk of those parts are not astonished - for this is Good Friday.

It's one of those stories of miracles that seem baffling indeed. Every Good Friday for sixteen years, the sign of wonder has come to Sister Elena Aiello, a nun in a convent orphanage in the City of Cosenza, southern Italy. She takes to her bed,

passes into a trance of religious ecstasy, and from her forehead blood oozes and streams. ^{To the} ~~THE~~ local people it is ^a miraculous stigmātum - a sign of the Crown of Thorns which was pressed upon the brow of the Saviour. This continues until midnight, leaving the nun as pale as the white of chalk, weak and exhausted.

Such is the story of the miracle every Good Friday for the past sixteen years. This year physicians are studying the prodigy. They report that blood indeed is issuing from the nun's forehead - staining the pillows. They say she does not appear to suffer. She lies in a trance with a faint smile on her lips. They

^{doctors} suggest no explanation of the phenomenon which is regarded as a

Good Friday miracle by scores of believers, who kneel and pray outside of the convent cell.

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MARRIAGE

Now is the^d time for a smile and a sigh - a smile for intended marriage and a sigh for the severing of the holy bonds. Of course, in movie circles and café society, there isn't so much sad sighing done these days. Expressions of sadness are likely to be more vigorous, with plenty of picturesque vocabulary. But as I'm old-fashioned -- I'll sigh .

Let's have the smile first, with the announcement of an engagement to wed. Who is the fiancé and who is the fiancée? You know what I mean - fiancé with one "e", and the same word with two "ees". The one "e" applies to George Jessel, the ~~well-known~~ comedian and singer. The two "ees" apply to Miss Lois Andrews, a beautiful New York show girl. Georgie Jessel is forty-two, and has distinguished gray hair. Lois is not yet sixteen, and has no gray hair at all - distinguished or otherwise. ~~Georgie has been~~ married and divorced a few times. Lois hasn't had any matrimonial career, but she is not quite unknown to fame, despite her tender years.

She was in George White's Sandals and sang a song with this classic refrain:- "a smart little girl with oomph."

~~the would-be bride is several years under age, and she has to have her mother's consent to wed. Lois's mama is reported to be hurrying to New York from California, in all that rush to give her consent?~~

~~we hope.~~ *Maybe!*

The melancholy sigh about wedlock ~~several~~^{ed} concerns those two ~~ace motion picture~~^{movie} stars, Alice Faye and Tony Martin. Alice Faye got a divorce in Hollywood today. ~~What was~~ the trouble? It seems rather paradoxical - you might phrase it this way - the widow gets a divorce, and is a widow no longer. According to the proceedings in court ~~now~~ today, Alice was a widow in more ways than one. In Hollywood she was a golf widow. Then last Christmas she and Husband Tony Martin came to New York for the holidays. "But I saw very little of him", she testified today. "He was always playing ~~pk~~ cards or going to hockey games without me." Which made her a ~~poke~~ widow or a hockey widow. "One night while I was ill," she told the judge, "he left me alone to go to some sort of game at Madison Square Garden." Well, they have games of many sorts at ~~Madison~~^{the} ~~Square~~ Garden, so she might have been left a basketball widow, a prize-fight widow, or a six day bicycle race widow. ~~or a~~ *softball widow.*

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Today the California court decided - that being that much
of a widow was cause for divorce.

THIEF

Now let me get this next one straight - it's about a complicated affair of law in JerseyCity. It tells of a series of crimes and arrests about as complicated as the budget. Let ^{'s} us see if I can tell it without getting all tangled up.

Today, Joseph Politowski stole fifty pigeons from Henry Grabowski. Politowski raided the Grabowski pigeon coup. Later on, Politowski sold the pigeons to a man named Samularo. Samularo gave ~~Grabowski~~ ^{Politowski} three dollars for the fifty birds. Having got the money, Politowski proceeded to steal Samularo's automobile. As he drove away in the purloined car, Politowski picked up a friend named Sawinky. Sawinky took over at the wheel and was driving, with Politowski sitting beside him.

That was the state of affairs when the police stepped in. The arrests are as follows:- Politowski was locked up for stealing the pigeons and the car. Samularo, whose car was stolen, was arrested for buying the pigeons - charged with receiving stolen goods. Sawinky, who was driving the car, was pinched for operating an automobile while drunk.

I think I managed to get it straight - the highly

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complicated case of Politowski, Grabowski, Samularo and Sawinky.

Correct me if I'm wrong.

SCIENCE

The scientists had a good time today, a few dozen of them, figuring out something that nobody knows anything about, and won't ever know. The atomic physicists are having a convention in Washington and today the professors got around to the question - "What's at the center of the earth?" They didn't answer - "Go there and find out." They proceeded to go into a lot of mathematics and answered the question with a ~~whole~~ maze of calculus, analytical mechanics, and yard-long formulas¹ of atomic physics. That's the way they found out what is at the center of the earth. Not to keep you folks waiting too long - it's iron. The earth is like a golf ball with an iron core - although you can't play golf with it.

Of course, that's been said before, and the physicists today were not content with anything so simple. In what form is the iron of the world's core - solid or liquid, or something else maybe? It's largely a matter of pressure. So what's the pressure at the center of the earth? That got the atom experts into a lot more mathematics. They produced theoretical equations to show that at the heart of this globe of ours the pressure is three and a half million atmospheres - three and a half million ^{times the} ~~atoms the~~.

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 pressure of the air that we breath. ~~That atmospheric pressure~~
~~comes to fifteen pounds per square inch. Figure it out, and~~
~~you'll see that at the center of the earth the pressure is more~~
~~than fifty-two million pounds per square inch - which flattened~~
~~me right out.~~ But what does it do to the iron? The big-atom-and-
 molecule-men finally doped it out that at such a tremendous
 pressure, the iron core of the earth must be liquid, molten.

One mathematician came forward with an alarming
 hypothesis. He calculated that if the pressure at the center
 of the earth were as much as ten million atmospheres - the atoms
 would be crushed. Think of that! If you happened to go to the
 center of the earth to get a few atoms, you'd find them ^{smashed!} ~~crushed!~~
 And what ~~xxx~~ good is a crushed atom? However, the glad news is
 that the pressure way down there is only three and a half million
 atmospheres! So the ^{center of the Earth} atoms are in first class shape, ~~down there.~~

Happy Easter news. What say
 You can have them ~~or maybe you prefer molecules.~~

Jon - Hugh?

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