

L.T. P. & G. Friday, April 22, 1949.

Garden City, Kansas.

Change

The Communists were storming across the

Yangtze today between Nanking and Shanghai. That was east, downstream, from Nanking, the nationalist capital. Yesterday the Reds forced a crossing to the west of Nanking, upstream. So now, with an attacking horde of three hundred thousand, they have crossed on both sides of the Capital city -- which seems about to be isolated. Moreover, today's drive on the downstream side also threatens Shanghai -- the Red forces tonight being only forty miles away from that great river port of the Far East.

Reports continue that Chaing Kai Shek may take command of the final desperate defense -- the retiring war leader today conferring with heads of the present Chinese Government. However, one report today was that the purpose of the conference was to persuade the one-time generalissimo to give up some political and military powers that he still retained even after retiring in the face of the Red surge.

Today emphasizes yesterday's explanation of the river battle between the British and the Communists. It is pointed out that the masses of Red artillery were waiting tensely for the beginning of the offensive, the zero hour -- and were in a mood to open fire on anything in the river. The British sloop Amethyst happened to be there on routine patrol, and they blazed away -- bringing on the fight between warships and land guns.

The British sloop Amethyst is still trapped up the Yangtze, cut off from the downstream section by Communist guns and the Red surge across the river.

The British boat, still being shot at, has been able to make its way still farther upstream, and take refuge in a creek. British naval authorities at Shanghai have all but abandoned hope of rescuing the battered craft.

Today a big Sunderland flying boat of the Royal Air Force tried to bring aid and land alongside the stricken vessel -- but was driven off by Red gun fire. As the British flying boat swooped down to the water it was the target for a hail of shells and

bullets, and had to zoom up and away to escape destruction.

Today the crews of the Amethyst buried their dead, seventeen, in the gray waters of the Yangtze.

In Washington today, there was Congressional attack upon the China policy of the Truman administration. Expressing grave alarm at the sweep of the Reds, Senator Knowland of California, declared that, under our Far Eastern policy, China has been betrayed.

FOLLOW CHINA

In London the Cabinet will hold an emergency meeting. The British Government is said to be afraid of losing face in Asia -- not unlikely with China Communists beating up British warships. Could cause plenty loss of face. But what can great Britain do about it? The Chinese Communist regime is not recognized - not even by Soviet Russia.

CHURCH

Today brings an answer, a most official answer, in the Roman Catholic controversy at Boston -- three professors dismissed from Boston College, a Jesuit institution, and a Jesuit priest censured by Archbishop Cushing for supporting them. All this after they charged that Boston College was teaching - heresy.

The Jesuit institution taught that salvation could be had outside the Roman Catholic Church. The view of the three professors and the priest was that salvation could be had only within the Church - and Boston College, supported by Archbishop Cushing, denounced that view as leading to bigotry and intolerance.

So now the official decision today. It comes in the form of a new catechism issued by the Roman Catholic hierarchy of the United States, taking the place of what is called the "Baltimore ~~Catechism~~ ^{Catechism}", the authoritative religious guide for Catholics during more than sixty years. The new catechism, of course, does not differ in dogma from the old one: But it does restate articles of belief, and applies them to new

conditions in the modern world. For example, it states that no Catholic can fulfill his ~~amx~~ duty of attending mass by doing so on television. Not, that is, unless he is unable to go to Church. If he actually cannot go, then television will suffice - but not otherwise.

But now the part that pertains to the controversy in Boston. The new catechism clearly upholds the view of the Jesuit College and the

Archbishop. It presents the doctrine that - "outside the Church there is no salvation;" but this doctrine, in the words of the catechism -- "does not mean that everyone who is not a Catholic will be condemned".

"It does mean" the statement goes on "that no one can be saved unless he belongs in some manner to the Catholic Church - either actually or in desire."

This is related to Divine Grace, which applies to all people who seek goodness and virtue.

The catechism declares: "They who remain outside the ~~am~~ Catholic Church through no grave fault of

their own, and who do not know it is the only true Church, can be saved by making use of the graces which God gives them."

So there is the present official Roman view in one of the most important questions in any Christian Church, (and it would seem to be an authoritative judgment in the controversy at Boston.)

COMMUNISTS

At the Communists trial, in New York, a one-time party member from Cumberland, Maryland testified this afternoon that in Nineteen Forty-five a Communist meeting was informed that Soviet Russia would be able to invade the United States via Siberia and Alaska. Charles Nickodemus, the former Red, told of an address by Albert Lannon, party director for Maryland and District of Columbia. He quoted Lannon as saying he saw no prospect of an internal revolution in the U.S. for five or six years - and even then, Red revolt was impossible without the aid of the Red Army. He said the Soviets had five hundred thousand troops in Siberia, and ~~also~~ added: "Russia could invade Alaska and come down through Canada". While this was being testified in ~~New~~ New York, Paris witnessed a spectacle of an American labor-leader addressing a Communist rally called a peace conference over there. Donald Henderson, President of the C I O food, tobacco, and agricultural workers union, stated: "United States has become the headquarters of world imperialism".

METROPOLITAN

The Metropolitan Opera mystery deepens today, with a police search in Atlanta for a blue Packard sedan, stained with blood and driven by a man without legs. This follows the disclosure of indications that the Metropolitan Opera tenor, German born Juhn Garris, was shot in an automobile - perhaps taken for a ride in gangland style. An examination of the body, found in an alley, shows that the singer was killed by one shot fired into his body below the arm, suggesting that he was sitting in an automobile and shot by somebody next to him.

This deduction by the police was followed by a tip from a parking lot attendant, who told of a blue Packard sedan driving in to park. He says he noticed stains on the back seat, floor, stains that looked like blood. ~~Also~~ Also, there were several cardboard boxes in the rear of the car, stained in a similar way. He says the car was driven by a man without legs, who operated the car with special pedals -- and, on the ground, made his way around on rollers. When the police tried to find the car, it

was gone, and they put out a widespread alarm for a blue sedan, blood stains, legless driver.

Along with this, there is testimony from members of the Metropolitan Opera Company, (given when their special train arrived in Memphis yesterday, the metropolitan being on tour - a performance in Atlanta followed by a performance in Memphis.) Today the police quote singers as declaring that ~~that~~ the murdered tenor, on the operatic trip, was accompanied by a man, a stranger to them. They don't know his name.

Some strange clues in the Metropolitan Opera murder mystery.

SUBSTITUTE METROPOLITAN

Dallas, Texas is having a most dramatic opera performance tonight - the Metropolitan from New York giving Verdi's masterpiece, Otello. Work of profoundly tragic music, based on Shakespeare - and the Metropolitan gave Otello a few days ago in Atlanta. There the roll of ^{Cassio} ~~Cassio~~ was sung by the tenor, John Garris, who shortly afterward was found in an alley, murdered -- the murder mystery of the Metropolitan. It just happened that the Met was scheduled to open in Dallas with that same opera, and tonight a brilliant audience thronged to a performance of a musical tragedy overshadowed by a tragedy of real life.

Meanwhile various murder clues have fizzled out -- including one that mentioned a blue Packard sedan, described as stained with blood and driven by a man without, nothing to it and the murder mystery of the Metropolitan Opera remains blanker than ever.

EX*DUST BOWL

Nearly all of us, from time to time, have asked the question, whatever became of the dust bowl? We all vividly remember the terrifying stories that came from Kansas, Eastern Colorado and Oklahoma, of how the winds ~~had reared up some hundreds~~ ^{tore up thousands} of square miles of farm lands, carried it away, ~~and left~~ ^{leaving} nothing but desert. ^{of} Tens of thousands of people fleeing. The ~~tragic~~ tragic story of man's folly, the vengeance of nature, ^{and} of day turned into night. Well, I'm broadcasting this evening from one of the places that had the dubious honor of being called "the capital of the dust bowl", a town with a name that seemed ironic then - Garden City, Kansas.

^{Driving} ~~on my way~~ East from the mountains I began asking about the dust bowl when I approached the edge of it, at LaJunta, Colorado. There the two local newspaper men, Al and Spence Burtis, told me how the farmers in their section had been prospering greatly, with so far no threat of returning dust storms, LaJunta growing steadily, ^{and} here at

Garden, City, Kansas, ~~it's~~ the same.) ^{TR} Editor Reed of the Daily Telegram ^{tells me} ~~says~~ that Garden City has almost doubled in population since those days that were turned into night, [^] since the year of the dust bowl.

This not merely because underneath the soil they have tapped the largest natural gas reserve in the country, but because there has been an un-ending series of successful ~~gas~~ crops.

Remember how we were told that the dust storms had ruined a vast farm area? ~~But~~ It didn't seem to work out that way. ^{after all.} ^{and} The rains came, [^] everything grew and flourished ~~just~~ as before. The wild lands that had been nothing but pasture were plowed for the first time, and nearly everybody ~~was~~ became rich.

Editor Reed of the Garden City Daily Telegram (like the Burtises at LaJunta) cited many examples ~~xxx~~ to illustrate this. ~~Said~~ Said the: ~~Editor:~~ "The year of the dust bowl many of the farmers couldn't even afford to pay their subscription^s to the paper, which we had cut [^] in half, to three dollars!"

I remember one subscriber to whom I kept sending the paper, for nothing -- a dust bowl farmer who was flat broke. Today from those same acres, he has made three quarters of a million dollars."

But will those great dust storms ever come again? Experts here at Ordan City tell me that the farmers, most of them, remembered ^{ing} their ~~lesson~~ lesson, ~~and~~ have adopted farming techniques that ought to ^{prevent} ~~benefit~~ any such disaster reoccurring. However, they qualify ^{id} ~~that~~ ^{with the charge} ~~statement~~ by telling ~~me~~ that near the Kansas-Colorado line, around Lamar, Colorado, and in several other areas, the farmers have been running wild, plundering the soil, making quick fortunes during the past six years. ^{And} They fear ~~the~~ great dust storms will start again from those sections, ~~and~~ perhaps pick ^{ing} up in momentum, ~~and~~ ^{over} ~~once~~ ^{again} bringing disaster ~~once more~~ to a large area. That's the element of uncertainty.

HEALTH PROGRAM

The Truman health program was presented to Congress today -- all signs being that it will not get far. The plan emphasizes national health insurance. In his message to Congress President Truman argues it would not interfere with the freedom of the doctors and patients.

But opponents charge - socialized medicine. The Washington word is that the Truman health program is likely to have tough going in this Democratic Congress.

MONTGOMERY WARD

A drama of American business was being enacted today in Chicago, in an auditorium of a great commercial firm. The rows of seats were occupied by stockholders from all over the country. What was the occasion? Why, the Chairman of the Board of Directors was up for reelection, a grim ~~star~~ stony-faced man of seventy-six.

The firm - Montgomery Ward, the giant four hundred-million dollar mail order house. The Chairman of the Board, Sewell Avery, seeking reelection and vindication.

Montgomery Ward has been having a battle of executives, a top level revolt against Sewell Avery. The trouble had led to the resignation of the company President, all nine Vice Presidents and two members of the Board of Directors. And that left the huge concern without any top executives. After which Sewell Avery appointed eight hand-picked vice-Presidents of his own last week, while he, himself, as Chairman of the Board, assumed the duties of Company President.

The revolt of the executives, and the mass exodus of the high officials, culminated in a final crisis today, with the meeting of the Board of Directors of Montgomery Ward- they to vote their judgement - Swell Avery to be reelected or defeated as Chairman of the Board.

This drama of business has a background of large events in the recent history of American commerce and industry. The story goes back to the depression, and Wall Street crash of Nineteen Twenty-nine, the business collapse that lasted so long. Montgomery Ward was hit hard, and by Nineteen Thirty two was losing eight million dollars a year - that much in the red. Something had to be done, and in stepped J P Morgan and Company.

The House of Morgan was a stockholder in the great mail order company, and used its vast prestige and influence to name a candidate for running Montgomery Ward. J P Morgan and Company selected Swell Avery, who had made a striking success with the U S Gypsum Company. Avery was called in by the

Morgans to save the sinking mailorder empire.

Swell Avery, always a rugged character, named his own terms - one hundred thousand dollars a year and a large option for buying stock. He made such good use of that option, by the way, that today he is the largest individual stockholder in Montgomery Ward.

Two years ago after Swell Avery took control the deficit of eight million dollars a year had been transformed into a profit of a million-six-hundred thousand for the year. From red to black, even though the depression continued.

His methods were stern and strong, his character illustrated by one of the famous episodes of the New Deal. Montgomery Ward had a wartime strike, and the Roosevelt administration ordered the Army to take over -- a thing not uncommon during the war. Avery refused to yield, refused to leave his office even his office chair. He compelled the Army to move him out bodily. A couple of soldiers carried him out

in the chair - which was photographed for a news picture that was famous in those days.

That was the personality behind the recent battle of the executives, the personality of the seventy-six year old tycoon who faced the stockholders meeting today. The revolt of the executives, we are told, was mostly a matter of personalities, not merchantile policies. The Chairman of the Board, arbitrary and dictatorial, ~~refused~~ ^{refusing} to let the company president and nine Vice Presidents have the authority to which they thought themselves entitled.

Some important stockholders went to the meeting today to vote against ~~Mr~~ Sewell Avery and his heavy-handed methods. So what's the decisions? The answer to that question was to be found in a set of figures.

Montgomery Ward has, right now - eighty-eight million dollars in the cash box -- that much money on hand. Last year the mail ~~and~~ order and chain store sales of the company topped the billion

dollar mark - Montgomery Ward ^{is} doing better than a billion dollar business. The profits were record-breaking, and set a new high of more than sixty-eight million dollars for the year. Which meant the stockholders were paid earnings of ten dollars and twenty-eight cents per share of common stock.

So no wonder we are told that Sewell Avery went into the Chicago meeting today with his Board of Directors. Solidly behind him. No wonder, likewise,

~~that the stockholders at the meeting sensed in the need to reelect him as Chairman of the Board. The latest is that they have re-elected Sewell Avery~~ ^{Chairman of the Board} amid tremendous applause, ~~giving that answer in a drama of American business.~~