

The European suspense is still suspended tonight. (The Czechoslovak government has handed its answer to London and Paris - replying to the British-French advice that German Sudetenland be turned over to Germany. What is the Czech response? - [?] Yes or no? Surrender or resistance? Neither one nor the other - mere suspense.)

Here is the official communication issued at Prague this evening. "The Czechoslovak government," says the announcement, "this afternoon delivered a note to the French and British ^{emissaries} ~~ministers~~ ~~to Prague~~ in which it explained its position toward the proposals transmitted to the Czech government by the British and French governments.* The communication ~~further~~ characterizes the reply in these words - "an answer making possible the further development of conversations with sense and good-will."

That diplomatic verbiage means, in plain English - we will consent to talk it over, that's all. Obviously sparring for time, obviously putting off the terrific decision.

But there's a later bulletin. It says the Czechs demand St. B. + France alter their consent to the German demand. What about Hitler? Will he accept the delay? Every account indicates that he demands a decision quickly, without any delay

of sparring for time. Yet the ~~communication~~ ^{signs} indications are that

nothing will happen until ^{after} the next Hitler-Chamberlain conversation.

Here's the latest: - their meeting
~~Apparently these two are to meet again on schedule, in spite of~~
~~scheduled for tomorrow has been put off until~~
~~Thursday. This because of the~~
~~today's ambiguous Czechoslovak reply, neither YES or NO. The British~~

~~Prime Minister and German Fuehrer will debate what to do about the~~

~~Czechoslovak failure to consent or refuse. Chamberlain is supposed~~

~~to fly to meet Hitler again tomorrow~~

The danger is that something unforeseen may touch off an explosion, such a thing as might occur in the skirmishing now going ^{along} ~~on~~ the German-Czechoslovak border. Reports have been coming in telling of raids against Czech border patrols - raids by the free corps of Sudeten German fugitives that has been formed in Germany.

Berlin chimes in with claims of raids by Czech troops ~~across the border~~
~~from Germany. ^{the} That sort of thing ^{that} might easily flare into a pitched~~
~~battle somewhere, with the whole thing developing into major~~
~~hostilities.~~

Today, a late dispatch from Berlin claims that the Czechoslovak government is so thoroughly unable to maintain peace and order in the Sudeten-German areas that it has appealed to the Sudeten leaders themselves. This statement is made by the official

German news agency, which tells of Sudeten discontent flaring hotly. The Prague government asking the leaders of the Sudeten party for help - that ~~from~~ very Sudeten party which Prague outlawed--
^{now} requesting them to persuade their followers to keep quiet and orderly. Such is the German claim, which adds that the Sudeten leaders refused the plea from Prague.

And then there are the Hungarians and Poles - demanding their slice of Czechoslovakia. Regent Horthy of Hungary conferred with Hitler today; ~~He is~~ pressing his demand that the Czechoslovakian border area, containing seven hundred thousand Hungarians, be turned over to Hungary. And the Poles are shouting their demands. They want ^{the} ~~a~~ small section ^{around} ~~of~~ the City of Teschen, which they claim Czechoslovakia took away from them by violence. Polish shouts are ~~ringing~~ ringing - "march on Czechoslovakia!" And in Teschen today the Poles staged demonstrations for union with Poland.

In all these minority fringes of Czechoslovakia, there's an up-surge of the minorities, and anywhere there might be a minor explosion which would touch off the dynamite of war.

What about Soviet Russia? Reports have been insistent

the U.S.S.R.
that ~~Soviet Russia~~ would do nothing - unless France did something.

(Moscow is bound by a treaty to support Czechoslovakia against attack, but only if France comes to the support of the Czechs. Would the Soviets go further and aid that much bedeviled little nation, even if France stood aside? The report has been - no, Russia would not fight Germany ^{— just} alone for Czechoslovakia.) Of this there's official

evidence this evening, though negative evidence. At Geneva, the Soviet delegation issued a bulletin, which reads as follows:

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"Yesterday the Czech government approached the Soviet ~~government~~ with a request whether the Soviet government would fulfill its obligations under the Czech-Soviet pact - should France do the same."

"The reply," says the Soviet bulletin, "was in the affirmative."

Meaning - Russia will, if France does.

In Italy, Mussolini made another fiery speech, in which he told the Italians to be prepared for war, if it should come. Once more he called for a sweeping solution of the whole Czechoslovak minority problem by partitioning the country, cutting loose all the discontented minorities.

About the only good word for the hard pressed little

democracy comes - from Rome, ~~yes, but~~ from a special part of Rome, the Vatican. The official Vatican newspaper came out today in praise of Czechoslovakia, saying that its intentions are peaceable and its methods reasonable. "The Prague government," declares the Vatican newspaper, "has manifested the most constructive intentions and exerted the most meritorious efforts throughout." Friendly words from the Vatican, which, however, has no army with which to back up friendly words.

LEGION FOLLOW EUROPE

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In No place in this country was ~~more~~ there more
^{today} interest in the European crisis than in Los Angeles, ~~where there~~
~~were great doings today.~~ ^{at} The American Legion Convention, The
legionnaires staging their grand parade, marching men with the
blaring of bands, military ceremonies, and flights of airplanes.

All rousing and gay, yet amid the gaiety, the men who
fought in the A.E.F. twenty years ago were thinking ^{—wondering:—} is it to
happen all over again?

The European war crisis turned into a violent war at Kansas City today, with six policemen and three clothing store clerks waging a pitched battle against one little negro. There was fighting and slugging, battering and bruising all over the clothing store before the nine could subdue the one small dusky scrapper. And all because of the European war crisis.

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The little negro walked into the clothing store and went up to a dummy clad in military uniform - the uniform of a major of the United States army. While a clerk protested vainly, he proceeded to take off his clothes. While another clerk joined the protest, he ~~xx~~ stripped the major's uniform from the dummy and started to put it on. By this time the clerks brought in the police, but even they couldn't persuade the little negro to stop arraying himself in the uniform of a major of ^{Uncle Sam's} ~~the United States~~ army. They had to use force, and the battle was on. Two policemen tried to suppress the negro, but ~~they~~ couldn't hold him. Another dashed to their aid, and was bitten in the leg. Three others joined the fracas, and the six cops aided by the three clerks, had a prolonged struggle before they were finally able to get a cotton quilt around the prisoner and tie him up.

In the police court the little negro explained: "I guess I was listening to too much war talk."

Too much war talk, and apparently he got in the spirit of it, and decided to be a soldier and go to war - and chose the uniform of a ~~United States~~ major for his military career.

And I'll bet henceforth he'll be known as major!

MASSACHUSETTS

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There are no great national issues involved in today's primaries and, anyway, only the earliest scattering vote has come in. In a way, it's just a contest between two single letters in the alphabet, H and C. Except for those two letters, the names of the two ^{major}~~mentioned~~ candidates for the Democratic nomination for governorship are precisely the same - Hurley and Curley. Governor Hurley running against Ex-Governor Curley. The early returns give the H slightly the better of it - Hurley leading Curley by a small margin.

On the Republican side, those same first early returns are all for Leverett Saltonstall. He's leading in the ^{run}~~contest~~ for the nomination for governor. — scheduled to meet either Hurley or Curley in the political hurly-burly.

HURRICANE

The hurricane has missed Florida. The United States Weather Bureau announces that the big blow changed its course during the night, turned away from the Florida coast, and headed north toward the Carolinas. So the Weather Bureau ^{has} ordered storm warnings up all along the shore between Wilmington and Cape Hatteras. They say the Carolina coast won't get the full blast of the hurricane, which will sweep along the sea some distance off shore. But the coast will get the outer fringe of the storm, and the warning is - look out for violent gales!

WEATHER

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The wet weather far and wide brings flood stories from places so widely separated as the Mississippi River and Connecticut. At Dubuque, Iowa, the river is rising so fast ~~that it is~~ ^{it's} threatening to cut off the city's water and electricity. Five hundred people have been washed out of their homes. The Mississippi is expected to rise to a height of twenty feet ~~and six inches,~~ ^{— along about now — just} ~~and that's only about~~ a foot below the record river height set nearly sixty years ago.

————— 0 —————

The rains in the east brought a mishap of water to Glastonbury, Connecticut. Water piled up ^{with} ~~at~~ such pressure behind a reservoir dam, that the dam gave way and the flood swirled down the valley. The Hartford-New London highway was washed out. And one of its main bridges crashed ~~down~~ under the impetus of the flood. Other roads are under water and four other bridges are down. ~~From~~ ~~the reports of other~~ There are reports of other bursting dams and of still others that seem ~~to~~ about to give way.

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Near East Deerfield, Massachusetts, ~~there was~~ a railroad wreck because of the downpour. Two men were killed when a freight train ran off the track; ~~That was~~ caused by a cloudburst which washed so much sand and gravel over the railroad line at one place, that when

the train ran into it, there was a lurch and a plunge off the track.

And in the case of ^{the} a big train wreck in California,

the explanation is something else - human failure. The latest report of the collision of two trains at Los Angeles states that a brakeman became confused - ~~and he~~ threw the wrong switch. One passenger train was on the siding, as the other came roaring along on the main line. They should have passed, one whirling by the other - but, ^{he} ~~the brakeman~~ threw the wrong switch. So the on-coming train ran on to the siding track and crashed head-on into the train that was standing there. Number of fatalities - nine, with more than forty injured. Passengers were trapped in the collapsed steel coaches and had to be cut out with blow-torches.

YACHT

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Here's a fable that turns out to be true. Of course they called it a fable ~~when~~ when the word got round how somebody gave away a yacht to a perfect stranger. But now it seems that John Nairn did it, he's a busy inventor and he gave his sixty-eight foot yacht, WINNETTA, to William Langford, a former Texas cow puncher - although he had never met the cow puncher before. Well, inventors are supposed to do odd things, aren't they? And ^{he's} ~~this is~~ a busy inventor.

Today in New York Inventor Nairn told the reason why. He said he was so busy with his inventions he didn't have time to look after the boat. So while it lay at the dock, some vandals got aboard and stripped it of its brass fittings and all the equipment they could carry away. Whereupon, the busy inventor proceeded to sell the sails and the auxiliary engine - too busy with his inventions to look after them.

That was the state of affairs when he met Cow Puncher Langford at the dock, and they got into a conversation. The cow puncher said he certainly liked the looks of that boat, the WINNETTA, so the inventor took him aboard and showed him the craft from stem to stern. The ~~xxx~~ cow puncher grew more enthusiastic than ever about

^{the} ^NWINETTA, whereupon the busy inventor said - "You can have her."

[^] *with that — and a wave of the hand —*
And [^]~~thereupon~~ he gave the yacht away - just too busy with his

inventions to own one.

The cow puncher says he plans to have the gift refitted,
and then if he can raise the money, he'll sail the ^NWINETTA for a cruise
around the world. Sailing, sailing - while the busy inventor is busy
with his inventions.

P.S. There's another version of the story which explains
the busy inventor gave the boat away because of disappointment in
love. But that's piling it on too thick. It is sufficient to be *an*
inventor —
~~busy with inventions~~, without also being in love.

BASEBALL

The rain today didn't help the Pirates, although they have been praying for rain. The more baseball games ~~that are~~ washed out between now and the end of the season, the better it will be for the Pittsburgh team - games their rivals can't play in the attempt to catch up with them. Of course, if all the rest of the bat and ball contests of the season were washed out, the standing of the teams would remain just as it is today. And, as the Pirates are ahead, they'd win the pennant - they'd be rained right into the pennant.

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However, today's rain, although it drowned out all scheduled games in the National League, didn't do the Pirates any direct good - because all the postponed games are scheduled to be played off as double-headers later in the week. Each team started a new series in one town or another, and will have a chance to play all postponed games as double-headers - unless the rain keeps on. ^a
~~The~~ postponed game is cancelled only when no place can be found for it in the last series of the season between two teams.

All this creates a curious baseball situation, with the possibility of the Pittsburgh Pirates being floated on their way to the pennant, by the rain. Possible downpour of good luck.

JEWELS

In the City of Naples, where Mount Vesuvius rears its smoking head, two men were arrested today. The police got on to them, because they were selling magnificent jewels for a fantastically small price. With this, an amazing story is revealed, something hitherto kept secret. The diamonds, pearls and emeralds the two men were peddling for so little, were part of a collection of royal marriage jewels sent for the wedding of King Zog of Albania. ^π Some melodramatic tale of international jewel thieves? No, quite different ⁻⁻⁻_^ stranger!

When the Albanian King Zog was married some while ago, with much worldwide publicity - he wanted some splendid gems to present to his bride. So he communicated with a Paris jewelry house, and they sent him a gleaming collection, from which to make his choice - half a million dollars' worth. The jewels arrived duly at the royal Albanian City of Tirana, where all was bustling with preparations for the King's marriage. His Majesty, Zog, picked out a few rare stones for his bride, and the rest of the half million dollar collection was sent on its way back to Paris.

It was sent by the sky route, aboard a big passenger plane - but disaster befell that airliner. Flying across Italy, something

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went wrong, - ~~an air disaster~~. The plane crashed high in the mountains of Italy, and all aboard were killed. Peasants from the hilltop ^{towns} came, and found the wreck - found also the jewels - hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth. Simple country folk of the lofty valleys, they knew nothing about the treasure in their hand. ^s ~~But~~ ^{Then,} two men came ~~along~~ and offered them a hundred and fifty dollars for the gleaming gems that Paris had sent to King Zog. The peasants couldn't resist the lure of so much money as a hundred and fifty dollars. ^{So} ~~and~~ ^{and} they sold the jewels - sold nearly all. Only a few thousand dollars' worth were left by the time the authorities got to the remote scene of the crash.

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Since then, the Italian police have been looking for the two men who bought the treasure for almost nothing, and today they found them. They were selling the jewels for ten or twenty times as much as they had paid for them. - ^{But} ~~and~~ ^{and} even that was next to nothing.

9/14 *and s-l-u-t-m-*