

BATTLE

Though Uncle Sam is not at war with any of the powers, great or little, one of his ships fought a naval engagement today right in American waters, in fact in Long Island Sound. It happened near Niantic, Connecticut.

The coast guard cutter 404, operating out of the New London base, was cruising the sound ~~in~~ when at daybreak this morning her crew espied a vessel called the Frances, ^{not the Fran - the Frances-} suspected of being in the flagitious business of bringing rum to the thirsty before prohibition is repealed. In short, ^{the Fran, I mean} the Frances is accused by the Coast Guard of being a rum runner.)

The commander of the Coast Guard base at New London told me that ^{his cutter} the 404 signalled to the Frances to heave to. Miss Frances paid no attention. ^{She just wiggled her stern all the faster,} Then the 404, in the traditional manner, fired three shots across her bow. The supposed rum runner immediately threw out a heavy smoke screen and with her four powerful motors working at capacity, dodged around the stern of the coast guard vessel and tried to get away.

Thereupon the commander of the 404 opened fire with his

machine guns. The Frances replied in ^{kind} ~~time~~ and there was a battle which lasted for an entire hour.

The rum runner then tried even more ancient tactics. She swooped in a sharp curve and dashed straight at the Coast Guard patrol, ramming her in the side and causing a wide breach in Uncle Sam's ship. But the crew of the Coast Guard were not to be overpowered that way. They ^{swarmed} ~~swamped~~ aboard the rum runner ^{in the good old fashion of John Paul Jones} and captured her at the pistol point, arresting four men and taking off thirty-six kegs of liquor. ^{But the} ~~The~~ ~~xxx~~ collision had damaged the ~~brow~~ of the rum runner and made ~~xxxxx~~ such a big dent in her that she sank, carrying with her five hundred cases and about seventy more kegs. However, the Coast Guard crew were able to get aboard their own destroyer just as the rum runner was sinking. But then the commander of ^{Uncle Sam's cutter} ~~the destroyer~~ was compelled to ^{speed} ~~turn~~ his vessel to the shore and beach her in order to prevent her from sinking.

I am told that the approach of repeal has stimulated tremendous activity in the rum runners, who are trying desperately to rush ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ illegal cargoes ~~ashore~~ before December 7th. Many of them have been under the delusion that the Coast Guard was slackening up

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in its watchful activities. They were badly fooled, because the
commander at New London ~~to be~~^{tells} me that this affair of the Frances con-
stitutes the seventh such seizure in one month, which is a record for
the New England coast. ~~And you can~~ Correct ~~him~~^{me} if ~~he's~~^{he's} wrong, gentlemen
of the Coast Guard.

NBC

LIQUOR

Another phase of this liquor situation was indicated in Washington today. You will recall that the President recently issued an embargo on the importation of liquor from abroad pending the outcome of the state elections on repeal. It is announced today that the moment repeal is ratified, Uncle Sam will have no power to embargo such imports. The reason is that permits for the importation of liquor have to be issued by the Bureau of Industrial Alcohol. This bureau will automatically cease to exist the moment repeal is certified, or, at any rate, its power will come to an end.

NBC

MINES

Here's some hot news. (Lates this afternoon the President, General Johnson, captive mine operators, and representatives of the United Mine Workers reached an agreement on the coal strike.)

Altho not signed as yet, the agreement calls for the immediage reemployment of a thousand miners now idle, and that the men must be rehired without discrimination.

Operators of ^pcative mines and united mine workers' ₁ representatives will later meet to fix the hours, wages and working conditions, and such agreements as fixed will be posted at every mine.

RIOT

At any rate somebody was wrong in Detroit today. And a riot of considerable proportions was the result. It happened around the premises of an independent factory manufacturing tools and dies. A crowd of some twenty-five hundred stormed the plant, hurling stones and bricks through the windows, overturning the cars of vice-presidents and raising hob generally.

It was not until the police reserves fired several shots that the disturbance was squelched. But, there were no casualties.

NBC

N R A TEST

The first legal test of N R A was made today by a Brooklyn firm. It occurred over the construction of an annex to Uncle Sam's post office in New York City. This Brooklyn firm claims that it filed the lowest bid but that this bid was rejected by the government because the contractors had not subscribed to the N R A Code and did not have the Blue Eagle. So these builders have filed suit in the Supreme Court ~~at~~ the District of Columbia asking for an injunction against the government and stating that the government has no right to reject the lowest bid of a contractor simply because he doesn't possess the Blue Eagle.

NBC

FORD

Another challenge to ^{that bid} ~~the Blue Eagle~~ along these lines has been made by the local Ford agency in Washington, D.C. You will recall that the War Department recently asked for bids for quite a large consignment of automobiles. The Ford agent submitted the low bid, but the Secretary of War announced that although the dealer himself had a Blue Eagle for his establishment, the bid was not acceptable because the ^{parent} Ford Company had not subscribed to N R A.

So today that Ford agency made an appeal to General McCarl, the Federal Comptroller, to give a ruling on this issue.

NBC

DEBT

Whenever France blows herself to a new government, which is once or twice a year, reports become current that the new government will turn thumbs down on the payment of the war debt to Uncle Sam. This report was revived immediately after it was announced that the ship of state would be navigated by Senator Albert Sarrut. The gossip was that the installment due December 15th would not be paid by France. However, this was denied today by people in the confidence of the new French Prime Minister.

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NAZI

A sensational statement on the subject of German armament was made today in a Belgian paper. This journal, which is published in Antwerp, declares that no less than eight factories in Holland are manufacturing arms for the Nazi government.

NBC

FOOTBALL

The Pacific coast has been having its first real winter storm. I hear that the water came pouring down from the skies on the Golden Gate region last night and today with terrific winds; and still more is expected. However, Californians are grateful that the storm held off for that great game between the University of California and the University of Southern California at Berkeley. They had a gate of seventy-four thousand people, twenty-five thousand of them coming the four hundred odd miles from Los Angeles to see it. And what a celebration there was at the Golden Gate after the game! I hear the hotels were forewarned, and removed all furniture and every movable object from their lobbies.

And the game must have been a hum-dinger. That sixty yard sprint of Warburton's, which enabled the Trojans to make a touchdown, seems to have been the principal factor that kept Southern California in the column of teams that have not yet been beaten.

One of the big upsets of Saturday was the defeat which

the Washington Huskies administered to Leland Stanford.

Another weekend event the fans are ^{still} ~~still~~ talking about is the ~~trouncing~~ ^{trouncing} ~~terrible licking~~ the Army gave to Yale.

NBC

WHEAT

Another thing I learned from Washington is that Uncle Sam has got to do a lot of buying in the wheat market yet before he has enough to fill the needs of the Relief Administration. According to the latest figures, the Farm Credit Administration has only bought, so far, an amount slightly less than nine million bushels of the grain.

But Harry Hopkins, ~~the~~ Federal Emergency Relief Administrator, in his first order announced ^d that he ^{would} need a great deal more than that.

While the exact figure is not quoted, it has been calculated that in order to meet properly the needs of all those who are out of jobs, the government will have to buy at least fifty-two million bushels.

And that sounds like plenty of wheat. ^{And you wheat farmers can} ~~it does to me~~ correct me if I'm wrong ^{on that.}

NBC

MRS. ROOSEVELT

An eloquent plea for relief was made today by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt in Chicago. The **F**irst Lady of the Land made a speech to the conference for the "Nineteen Thirty-Three Mobilization for Human Needs".

Mrs. Roosevelt's arrival was characteristic of her in its lack of display. She entered her hotel through a side door and walked up into her apartment through the ^{room where the dishwashers work,} ~~dishwashing room,~~ As the workers stared in amazement at the appearance of this distinguished lady, she gave them the famous Roosevelt smile, with a gracious good-morning.

One of the principal things the First Lady told the conference was that her husband could not do everything. She said that it was impossible to escape realizing that many people among those out of a job were feeling helpless. Then she added, "There are many who seem to think the government can do everything. They fail to realize that even considering everything that is being done, there is still a great deal of suffering."

The situation, said Mrs. Roosevelt, was up to people who had means. Unless the funds for relief are helped out by those who are still well off, taxes will be higher. Voluntary contributions are ^{more} ~~needed~~ ^{need than ever.}

FARM STRIKE

The Farmer's National Holiday Association is not having ~~such an~~ ^{an} easy ^a time of it with its fight to keep produce off the market as it did last May. News from the middle west today indicate^s that there is ^a sharp differences of opinion among the farmers themselves in Wisconsin as well as in Iowa.

A strike by the Wisconsin Milk Pool, a combination of dairy farmers in that state, is scheduled to begin at midnight tonight. But, on the other hand, agricultural leaders there expect that many farmers will fight it and will vigorously resist all efforts to prevent them from taking their milk and butter to the market. They feel that they should keep their markets open, especially Milwaukee, in order to prevent a terrific waste of valuable milk and other produce.

The pickets of the Holiday Association were concentrating today in an effort to block the highways leading to the cities in southern Wisconsin, especially Madison, but they are having difficulty because the

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strikers are by no means in the majority.

An important meeting is taking place today at Des Moines, Iowa. At this will be Governor Schmedeman of Wisconsin and ten other mid-west Governors. They are trying to iron out these difficulties and arrive at the solution of the agricultural situation in their territory.

GOLD

(The price of gold is still mounting, that is, the price paid by R F C for gold newly mined in America. The figure posted at the Treasury today was \$31.96 per fine ounce.) This is fourteen cents an ounce higher than it was on Saturday and forty-four cents above the London quotation.

Some of John Bull's financial experts predicted that this policy of President Roosevelt's ^{would} ~~did~~ not affect the London market.

How true their prediction was will be realized in the fact that even London put up its price fourteen cents over the weekend. *So we can correct the London experts, they were wrong.*

A wireless from Paris, by way of London, relates that the President's gold policy has the French bankers worried. On the one hand, they do not believe that it is Mr. Roosevelt's purpose to drive France off the gold standard. On the other hand, if the value of Sterling falls as well as that of the dollar, it would put prices all over the world on the skids, and that is the last thing the President wants to do.

FOLLOW GOLD

Then, a message from London indicates that this gold business has raised havoc with the money markets over there. One of the first symptoms was a sharp decline in the value of Uncle Sam's dollar. The dollar went down in terms of the Pound Sterling, and meanwhile the Pound Sterling went down in terms of the French Franc, which is still on the gold basis.

There were even rumors that John Bull might enter into a money war in retaliation against this new gold buying policy of Uncle Sam's. Those rumors are not taken seriously in official circles. Those in the confidence of the government realize that President Roosevelt is not looking for any such war, but is merely trying to raise the prices of commodities back here at home.

In fact, many prominent Britishers are watching developments in America quite sympathetically.

The dope is that for the time being the British Treasury will follow the Wilsonian policy of watchful waiting. However, if the dollar should fall so low in value that it will take five or six of them to make one of John Bull's Pounds, then the government would

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be obliged to use its exchange equalization fund to the extent of buying gold in the ~~open~~ open market, so as to offset the effects of Uncle Sam's gold purchases.

NBC

NEW DEAL

From the dignified precincts of Columbia University comes a warning today that there may be dangers in the New Deal. This warning ^{was just been} issued by Dr. William F. Russell, Head of Teachers College in Columbia, in its annual report. ~~which has just been made public.~~

The principal danger that Dean Russell points out is that the present powers given to the White House may destroy all vestiges of democratic liberty. Dean Russell doesn't intimate that our freedom is at all menaced by the President himself. But, he says, unless ~~the~~ American people are taught to understand Mr. Roosevelt's principles and policies and the idea underlying his program, that the new deal may pave the way for others less scrupulous and less intelligent to exercise tyranny in these United States. Dean Russell declares that the acts of the New Deal constitute the sharpest break with the past in the history of the country. And he cites examples from history to show how easily extraordinary powers may degenerate into despotism.

~~---~~ or, correct me if I'm wrong.
That sounds ominous/~~See, xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx going to do a book xxx~~

CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG

Correct me if I'm wrong.

It seems as if I had that phrase on my brain this evening.

Mebbe that's natural. I've been working up a series of questions to test our familiarity with the day's news -- how much we ~~xxx~~ remember and how accurately. There have been a lot of question-and-answer games to find out how much we know about various subjects, - history, biography, science, art. This one tests ~~xxx~~ our knowledge on topics that are alive, every day, -- things I mention in these Sunoco News Items. Well, I've made up a game about the news. It's just published. I had some difficulty thinking up a name for it. The name I finally hit upon is that phrase - "Correct me if I'm wrong." Judging from the numbers of letters I get telling me I'm wrong about this and that, "Correct Me If I'm Wrong" ought to be okay.

BURGLARY

An interesting detective tale turned up today in the police news of New York City. It begins with a day last week when a young couple moved into an apartment in the Bronx. Their furniture consisted mostly of half a dozen mattresses, but only one bed, to contain them, They also brought a large, powerful radio set.

Their neighbors observed that over the weekend the radio was going at full volume all the time, day and night. They also heard the sounds of thumping against the wall. But they paid no attention to it, assuming that these people ~~who are moving in~~ were hanging pictures and doing other ^{carpenter jobs} chores that have to be done when moving in.

Next door to that apartment is a large vault for the storage of furs. When the owner of that establishment opened his doors today he found that almost two hundred fine fur coats were missing, - furs ~~coats~~ worth something like a hundred thousand dollars.

The burglars had ^{gone} ~~got~~ through a thirty inch wall to steal those furs.

Investigation by the police today showed that those many mattresses had been used to deaden the sound of the drills as they

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penetrated the walls; and the noisy radio had been kept going full blast for the same reason.

The owners of the vault thought those newcomers were just hanging pictures. They got corrected for being wrong to the tune of a hundred thousand dollars.

NBC

COLORED ENDING

A colored woman went into a store to buy a collar for her husband.

"What size?" asked the clerk.

"I dun forgot de size," replied the woman, "but ah can jist manage to reach around his throat wif bof hands."

And somebody is sure to reach around my throat with both hands and choke me if I don't hurry up and say

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.