

L.J. - Sunoco. Thurs, May 4, 1939.

*Amman*

COAL

The conference trying to arrange a coal mine settlement issued an ominous report today - complete failure, to come to terms. The representatives of the operators and the union ~~cannot~~ <sup>unable to</sup> agree - a breakdown of negotiations.

*And* it looks as if the soft coal deadlock may turn into a soft coal strike - of much wider scope. The deadlock has shut down the mines in the Appalachian region - not a strike, just a sort of suspension of work. That Appalachian/suspension will now continue - but there's more to it than that. After today's failure to agree, John L. Lewis of the C.I.O. and President of the United Mine Workers, declared that all the rest of the soft coal industry <sup>will</sup> ~~would~~ go on strike. In addition to the Appalachian ~~deadlock~~ <sup>— nationwide.</sup>, there'll be a walkout everywhere else, Lewis said the strike order would go into effect tomorrow or the next day.

This will confront the nation with a crisis. Already, because of the Appalachian trouble, there's a widespread shortage of coal, factories having to slow down, industry curtailed. Today the shortage hit the New York subways, ~~and~~ Mayor LaGuardia ordered the city-owned tubes to cut down service, don't run so many trains - save coal.

KING

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Tomorrow in Washington the President of Nicaragua will get a great reception -- unprecedented magnificence, is the term the United Press dispatch uses to describe it. His Excellency the Nicaraguan president will be greeted at Union Station by President and Mrs. Roosevelt and the official reception calls for a turn out of forty-six hundred soldiers, sailors and marines -- not counting the airplanes. An air show will be staged in the Washingtonian sky in homage to President Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua.

Why all the unprecedented magnificence? Well one interesting point is <sup>that</sup> the Nicaraguan reception <sup>will be</sup> ~~is~~ virtually a duplicate of the honors ~~that will~~ <sup>to</sup> be paid to the British King and Queen next month. In fact, Washington regards ~~it~~ <sup>tomorrow's fiesta</sup> as a dress rehearsal for the royal visit.

~~That royal visit is stirring up a lot of perplexity among the ladies in Washington -- to <sup>curtsey</sup> ~~curtsey~~ or not to <sup>curtsey</sup> ~~curtsey~~. And plenty of feminine knees and feet are doing gyrations in trying to learn how to perform that courtly act of homage. Inexperienced ladies have been known to get their knees out of joint and their feet tangled in trying to curtsey.~~

~~The curtsy question was summed up today by an announcement~~  
~~the First Lady made.~~ Mrs. Roosevelt <sup>today</sup> revealed who will be invited  
to <sup>dine</sup> ~~join~~ with Their Majesties. And that's something to make  
social Washington bristle with curiosity, aspiration, gratification  
and chagrin. Mrs. Roosevelt said that the first official fifty  
families will be invited -- families of top-rank office holders.  
Why only fifty? Well, of course fifty families might seem to be  
enough at anybody's dinner table, but the First Lady explained  
that the big horseshoe table in the White House dining room of  
state accommodates a maximum of one hundred and four guests.  
So, two to the family, there's room for fifty families at the  
horseshoe table -- and a lot of aspiring ones will need horseshoes  
to get in. After dinner there will be a musicale to which from  
two hundred and twenty to two hundred and fifty other guests will  
be invited, and they will be presented to the King and Queen. What  
will they do while being presented? I mean -- the ladies. Curtsy  
or not curtsy?

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Today the First Lady as the hostess refused to be  
precise, definitive or arbitrary -- she's always the perfect  
hostess. She ~~said~~ <sup>said</sup> that if it were in Europe and she were in



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private life she certainly would curtsy to Their  
Majesties. And she laid down the social rule -- always do what  
everybody else does, so as not to be conspicuous. The First  
Lady's ~~an~~ admonitions were certainly ~~the~~ good book of etiquette,  
but they didn't solve the problem <sup>of</sup> whether you should curtsy  
or not ~~curtsy~~ -- especially if you can't. ~~curtsy~~ There's one  
good thing about it. It's in the nature of a curtsy -- that if  
you fall you don't fall forward, not on your face. ~~Consoling~~  
~~when you curtsy on a banana peel.~~



BRITAIN

( British conscription will not be extended to Northern Ireland -- no compulsory military service in Ulster. This was announced today by Prime Minister Chamberlain in the London House of Commons. He indicated that it was a concession to Nationalist Ireland, after Premier De Valera had stated that if conscription <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ applied to any part of Ireland, Ulster included, the Dublin government <sup>would</sup> ~~will~~ consider it -- an act of aggression. Chamberlain said that the Ulster Premier, Lord Craigavon had urged that Northern Ireland be specifically included in the conscription bill. But the North Ireland Premier added that he didn't want anything to happen that would be, as he said "exploited by people not friendly to ourselves." And ~~of~~ course he meant Nationalist Ireland; <sup>not so</sup> ~~that's not being~~ friendly to the Ulster government. So, <sup>his Lordship</sup> ~~he~~ left the decision to London. And London decided -- no ~~xx~~ conscription in ~~xxxxxx~~ Ireland.

~~Chamberlain~~  
~~The London Prime Minister~~ gave the House of Commons some details about how compulsory military service would work. He said the conscripts would get a shilling a day -- twenty-three and a half cents; -- and their families and dependants will get allowances, which in American money would come to a few dollars

EUROPE

5-0  
In the argument between Germany and Poland, both sides are said to be under pressure to go easy. (Great Britain is reported as urging the Warsaw government not to give Nazi Germany a belligerent reply,) London believes that the Polish Foreign Minister will speak a few mild words tomorrow. Colonel Beck is to make an official answer to Hitler's demand for Danzig, *and* is considered sure to reject. British opinion is that he will say "No" with a good many qualifications, leaving the door wide open for further negotiations.

There has been talk that Britain and France might not be willing to support Poland so violently as they recently agreed to do by treaty - so much talk <sup>*of this*</sup> that today Premier Daladier spoke out in denial. Without mentioning Poland by name, he declared it was false for anyone to say that France would not ~~live~~ live up to the obligations to which France had agreed. He continued along that line - with transparent reference to Poland.

(Mussolini is said to be taking an active hand in the Polish-German dispute. The Duce ~~is said to be~~ bringing pressure to bear on both sides. He's urging Poland not to be too defiant -

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and there's a late Warsaw dispatch which says the Polish capital is full of the rumor that Mussolini will try to mediate the quarrel, act as a go-between in arranging a settlement.

(Rome is bringing its influence to bear on Berlin too, Mussolini urging the Nazi chief not to do anything too drastic about Danzig and Poland.) Mussolini is said to be playing the soft pedal with such energy that there's a suspicion that he won't go along with Hitler to any bitter end. There are rumors that the Axis is being weakened by Fascist Italian reluctance to risk a war over Danzig. We hear that the Hitler regime is perturbed by the possibility of Mussolini drawing away. (The simple truth seems to be that there are a lot of people who don't want to plunge the world into the catastrophe of war over the question of whether or not that anomolous free city should go back to Germany, as it wants to.)

(The downfall of Litvinov in Russia has stirred up all sorts of speculation ~~ambiguous and contradictory~~.

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The obvious surmise is that the Foreign Commissar, so prominent



for many years, was chucked out of office because Stalin has turned against the Litvinov policies of lining up with the western democracies. Some think the event may presage a turning of Soviet policy toward Germany ) Litvinov was foremost in anti-Nazi diplomacy, and the Hitler people hated him violently. His retirement is being greeted with Nazi cheers.

But there's another interpretation, which points out that Litvinov was always an advocate of collective security, the old League of Nations sort of thing. He advocated joining up with the western democracies collectively - everything in group. Molotov, on the contrary, is in favor of individual treaties, not collective. Don't do business in a group, but come to an agreement with each nation separately. So the change of policy is merely a change of method of joining up with the democratic powers. That's the interpretation, and there are a lot of others.

( The immediate ~~apparently~~ apparent effect is that the ousting of Litvinov has halted the whole business of bringing Soviet Russia into the Stop-Hitler system. ) London and Paris can

only wait until they find out what the Litvinov retirement really means. Menawhile, (London has not been too headlong in plunging into a Soviet alliance.) ~~The British Tories <sup>are</sup> all tired out with the comrades of Moscow.~~ London has been hesitating, and the reason is that London has received protests against a Soviet alliance, protests made by the Vatican, by Franco's Spain, and by Portugal. Britain wants to alienate none of these powers, and they don't love the Soviets - they <sup>all</sup> lack appreciation of the benefits of Red Communism.

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Romania today made a move toward paying its war debt to the United States. Wants the figures scaled down — settle for a smaller amount.



COMET

Astronomers are wondering - what's to be the name of the new comet discovered three weeks ago? The celestial <sup>wanderer</sup> ~~wonder~~ has already been christened, but now it would appear the christening might not take. The Harvard Observatory received its first word about the comet, <sup>from</sup> ~~an observation made by~~ a Norwegian astronomer named Hassel. So they named it the Hassel Comet - the first astronomer who spies a comet, gets his name attached to it.

But now word comes that the luminous <sup>wanderer</sup> ~~wonder~~ of the sky had previously been spotted by an astronomer in Alberta, Canada. So, by right of prior discovery, it should be called by his name. What's his name? Smith, yes, just Smith. ~~That's a~~ Simple <sup>and</sup> ~~name~~ easily pronounced. ~~Not difficult to say~~ The Smith Comet, as in cough drops.

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All would seem to be serene, except ~~EVERYONE~~ for one still later report. It's rumored that the comet was observed by still another astronomer at a still earlier date. Where, and what kind of astronomer? In Russia, a Russian astronomer. So there's no telling what kind of name that poor comet will get. Maybe -

~~Itvinov~~ Tschai'kovsky.



BEETLE

Now for the news about the neoplectana glasari. In case neoplectana glasari is too difficult for the uninitiated to <sup>pronounce</sup> announce <sup>you</sup> he might just use the initials, N.G. Which, however, does <sup>not</sup> mean "no good." ~~The neoplectana glasari is awfully good~~ according to a scientific report issued by the Department of Agriculture.

~~It all concerns that pestilent and destructive critter,~~  
~~the Japanese beetle, which, however, is not~~ The neoplectana  
glasari. ~~That remarkable creature~~ <sup>the latter</sup> is a parasite that infests the Japanese beetle, along the line of big fleas having little fleas to bite 'em, and so on ad infinitum. The big Japanese beetles have ~~the~~ little neoplectana glasari <sup>to</sup> bite 'em. *If we have more of*

~~The Department of Agriculture has an experimental station,~~  
~~in Whitehorse, New Jersey, where presumably there are no white~~  
~~horses. Those entomological scientists have been studying the~~  
~~Japanese beetle, with a view to its destruction. And they have~~  
~~found the pestilent insect is infected with a parasite that~~  
~~endangers its life, health and happiness. So if we can have more~~

~~the~~ parasites, we'll have less of the beetle. ~~So the logic is~~  
~~cultivate an abundance of the neoplectana glasari.~~

~~That may seem simple, even rudimentary, but there was~~  
~~one fearsome problem~~ ~~ex~~ that confronted the scientists. ~~Suppose~~  
that the neoplectana glasari, while infesting Japanese beetles,  
should also decide to infest human beings? That might be just too  
bad. Because, while it's a good thing to ~~experiment~~ exterminate  
the Japanese beetle, nobody wants to exterminate the human race -  
except maybe Hitler and Mussolini. The new fangled parasite might  
turn out to be some super-scientific cootie. ~~no, not cuties~~  
~~One doesn't mind being infested with cuties.~~ It's no laughing  
matter - if the neoplectana glasari were to infest the human race,  
the human race might die scratching.

But there's no danger. The scientists ~~made an~~  
~~exhaustive research.~~ And now, ~~quite exhausted,~~ they tell us that  
the new fangled parasite ~~does not take to human beings.~~ ~~They've~~

~~tried it, and found out.~~ At least - ~~it~~ doesn't take to scientists.

So it may be the cure for the Japanese beetle.  
~~So they're going right ahead, and cultivate an abundance of the~~  
~~neoplectana glasari, which they thereupon will put on the Japanese~~  
~~beetles - first catching the beetles, I presume.~~



MURDER SYNDICATE

Today the affair of the Philadelphia murder merchants takes a new turn of the sinister-fantastic. In the case of the gang of poisoners who are said to have killed a hundred persons, there are new twists ~~and~~ of bombing terrorism, Nazi and anti-Nazi - and ~~the~~ philosopher, Socrates. A weird jumble of mad elements ~~in~~ one of the most atrocious of murder cases.

Bombing terrorism was used by the murder merchants to silence people who knew too much. This report follows ~~below~~ an arrest the Philadelphia police made today. They locked up a physician, and are holding him without bail on the charge of being - "an accessory before and after homicide," as the legal phraseology expresses it.

The police say he knew about the gang poisonings, but kept silent. And they suspect that a bomb was used to keep him silent. This doctor lives next door to a physician connected with the German Consulate. Last fall a bomb exploded on the doorstep of ~~the~~ German doctor. It was thought to be the doing of the anti-Nazis, terrorism against the Nazi doctor - although the physician protested that he had nothing to do with Nazi activities



either here or abroad.

Today, there's a suspicion that the bomb was really intended for the physician next door, the one who knew too much about the ~~poison~~ <sup>the</sup> gang - <sup>the</sup> mob giving him explosive warning to keep silent. In past months, there ~~have~~ <sup>s</sup> been a whole series of bomb explosions in South Philadelphia. Labor trouble was given as an explanation, but now the suspicion is - terrorism by the merchants of murder. It is revealed today that one of the poisoners already convicted for first degree murder was once arrested when sticks of dynamite were found in his possession.

All of that is weird enough, but here's the climax:-  
~~the gas~~ <sup>the</sup> the poison gang used. The case has brought mention of some mysterious deadly medicine the murder merchants gave to their victims - poison that left no obvious <sup>s</sup> symptom. What was it? Now an answer is given - hemlock. That oldest of deadly medicines, hemlock - which Socrates drank. They say the poison syndicate used arsenic at first, and found it left too much evidence. Then, by some sort of medical advice, <sup>they</sup> changed over to the ancient lethal <sup>all of</sup> potion. Which brings that familiar tragic memory of Socrates and the cup of hemlock.

MODELS

The initials W.P.A. might well stand for an inspiring slogan. W.P.A. - we practice art. ~~There's no doubt about it~~  
~~inxxxxxxx~~ Those W.P.A. cultural projects <sup>do</sup> practice art with a capital A. ~~All of which is inspiring to us art lovers.~~

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Right now the W.P.A. is being investigated by a congressional committee in Washington, and the investigating lawmakers have got around to the subject of art - capital A and all. They've just discovered that when you have artists, you have models, and where you have artists' ~~and~~ models ~~you~~ <sup>they</sup> sometimes don't have so much clothes. ~~You have~~ <sup>Art</sup> - with a capital A. Among other evidence produced before the committee, is a file, an alphabetical card index system so voluminous it's in two sections. <sup>It's a</sup> ~~This~~ file of models ~~was~~ available to ~~the~~ W.P.A. artisits - names and addresses of the models and, <sup>photos too.</sup> ~~pictures of them.~~

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No, not fashion models, posing in various gowns, coats, furs - or even bathing suits. In this case ~~the~~ art with a capital A might stand for anatomy.

I don't ~~x~~ quite know why the congressional investigating



committee is so deeply interested in this artistic aspect.

*there*  
What's <sup>^</sup> to investigate about, except maybe <sup>to</sup> look up a few telephone numbers in the file. Artists must have models, and the W.P.A. must have art, so why shouldn't the taxpayer pay?

There's one hot piece of news about it all - a denial from Washington today. The report is that right after the investigating committee investigated the file of artists' models, *lo and behold the committee* ~~they~~ took a recess - a long recess until next Monday. And the latest flash right off the wire quotes committee members as saying - no, *And now* the file had nothing to do with the recess. ~~The committee members~~ *comes my recess - and a-l-u-t-m.* ~~were not taking time out until Monday to get over the shock~~

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