

L.I. - P. & G. Tuesday, February 10, 1948.

PRICES

Good Eve. Everybody.

~~The news about prices tonight concerns not only the great commodity market, but also the retail stores. Prices of grain and live stock broke again today in the great markets of the nation; and, from across the country we have word of price reductions in the retail grocery stores and meat shops - - reflecting the series of slumps at the top.~~

TP Today in Chicago, grain and cotton broke once more, nose-diving for the limit - - and cattle and hogs took a slump, in spite of the fact that farmers kept live stock away from the markets. Farmers, on the selling side, tried to halt the fall of prices, by holding back supplies, and livestock sales today were at low figures. But, in spite of this prices dropped.

TP The story of falling prices applies to Wall Street, too, where stocks declined all along the line today - - a billion dollars in the values of securities, wiped out.

TP Experts continue to tell us that the fall of prices is a logical reflection of better food conditions throughout the world - - food production going up, which brings down the inflation of prices here.

ADD PRICES

This afternoon in Washington, Secretary of Agriculture ^{Anderson} ~~Anderson~~ issued a denial that the crash of the commodity market has been caused by government operations - - government dealings in foodstuffs.

The Secretary also scouted the charge that speculators have had inside government information - - in making profits out of the price decline. In congress, the charge was made today that one speculator in Chicago sold a million bushels of wheat short at such figures that he could have cleaned up four hundred thousand dollars.

Well, it wasn't so long ago that speculators were on the pan because they made money out of rising inflation of food prices. Now it's the other way around - - speculators on the short side, taking profits out of the tumbling act that food prices are doing. They get it coming and going - - the profits and the abuse.

GREECE

(In Greece, the Red Guerrillas have staged their boldest raid - -
bombarding Salonika, ~~That's~~ one of the world's great seaports,
city of a quarter of a million, ^{Salonika today} ~~- - which today found itself~~
under shell fire. A detachment of Reds with artillery, came into
the outskirts, and established themselves on a hill overlooking
Salonika - - from which point they fired on the city with
cannon and mortars.) A shell hit a British guard post, and killed
a British soldier - - while shrapnel exploded outside the
windows of a Hotel occupied by Americans.

At last reports, Greek government forces, pursuing the Guerrillas
had trapped a force of them in the mountains, where the Reds
are now under attack.

DOCUMENTS

There was a lull of suspense today in the war of documents.

After last night's moscow blast, Soviet spokesmen indicated today that another bombardment is imminent - - though how soon is not stated. Actally, that first Moscow release was more in the nature of what lawyers call a "brief", a general outline - - the next installment to come out with diplomatic documents, more precise^r detail. [¶] Moscow charges of course, that Great Britain, France and the United States were responsible for world war two, the accusation being that Britain and France appeased Hitler, while the United States financed Hitler.

[¶] One glaring weak spot in the Soviet assault lies in the attitude of the Washington government during the Hitler period. Moscow is making a counter-attack against the American publication of documents giving a picture of the Nazi-Soviet pact, the Hitler-Stalin tie-up. In that ^hisnated wedding, the Moscow government participated - - it was the doing of Stalin. From the American side of the fence, it may be true that private Americans, mere individuals, may have invested capitol in German industry, after Hitler took power. But what was the attitude of the American government?

The president at the time was Franklin ~~Delano~~^{D.} Roosevelt, who was in the White House all the time that Hitler was dictator in Nazi Germany - - and does Russia charge F D R as having been pro-nazi, tolerant of Hitler? Everybody remembers the constantly anti-nazi attitude of the Roosevelt administrations - - F D R the world's number one figure opposed to Hitler.^{TP} So now it will be hard for Moscow propaganda to put any plausibility into the charge that the United States of F D R, backed Hitler.

That would be ridiculous, coming from the Soviet government, which ^{itself} lined up with Nazi Germany in the Hitler - Stalin pact.

^{TP} In the battle of documents, facts are being brought forward to show that the western powers and Soviet Russia conducted negotiations about the disclosure of secret diplomatic papers captured in Germany. There was some attempt to publish these as a balanced historic record, although they included a lot of dirty linen, which various parties may have wanted to keep from public gaze. The British and French, for example, would ~~have~~ not *have* enjoyed the publication of some of their diplomatic secrets during the period of Munich, when Hitler was appeased.

However, the talks between the western allies and the Soviets broke down - - and, with the bitter soviet propaganda

war waged against us, the whole thing has turned into a battle of documents.



...to this is a... publication of all the
...of the...
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ADD DOCUMENTS

tonight,
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The latest is a challenge issued by Great Britain. London

invites Moscow to join in a complete publication of all the diplomatic papers found in the archives of the German foreign office, papers dealing with the relations between the western powers, Soviet Russia and Nazi Germany. The British propose that everybody concerned, including the United States and France, sponsor a full disclosure without censorship, what the British foreign office calls - - "an historical record, and not a political record." Let every power agree to publish all the German documents, not only what it considers favorable but also what it considers unfavorable.

COMMUNIST

The Department of Justice in Washington has a neat problem on its hands: - - when is a Californian a Scotchman?

This arises in the case of a top communist leader, John Williamson, who was arrested today for deportation.

Williamson, head of the labor department of the American Communist party, is a top flight apostle of the doctrine of Marx, Lenin and Stalin - - prominent for years in the doings of the American Reds. In locking him up in New York today, the Department of Justice announced "the most important communist arrest so far." So now they're going to deport this number one Stalinist - - if they can prove that he is a native of Scotland, not California.

The Department of Justice claims that Williamson, who has been sailing under false colors, false American colors, has, in the words of the charge, "lied all his life." Claiming, that is, to be an American citizen, native born. The state he claims is California, a beautiful state. The city, San Francisco, a beautiful city. And, more than that, it's a convenient city - - because, if you're old enough, your birth registration can always have been burned up in the San Francisco fire. That, according to

the New York Sun is the story Williamson tells - - born in San Francisco in nineteen-two, the record of this going up in flames in nineteen-six - - along with most of San Francisco.

Officials of the Department of Justice claim, on the other hand that the communist big-shot was born in Scotland, and never took out citizenship papers over here, though he has been here for many years. So they ^{are} bringing proceedings to deport him to his native land - - and send the Red back to the bonnie blue hills of Scotland.

BRITISH CARS

In London Henry Ford announces that six-thousand British-made—
Ford cars will be shipped to the United States within the
next six months. American manufacturing resources in Britain
coming to the rescue of automobile starved Americans. And the
deal will produce some sizeable dollar change for the British
— some four million, five hundred dollars to go to the
Ford Company in England, which has a modern assembly line at
Dagenham, Essex, near London.

ITALY

Extra

From Italy, word of disturbances - - some in the style of this present day, others reminiscent of a more romantic past.

The twentieth century kind of trouble is reported from southern Italy, the heel of the boot, where the word is - communism.

The government today arrested twenty-four leaders of both the Reds and their enemies - - after a gun battle in which four

people were killed. ^{IT} The heel of the boot is having a wave of

agrarian communism, a Red agitation among agricultural workers, propaganda for a farmland revolution. Their most active opponents

are the common man party, which is accused of being fascist .

The Reds got into a shooting affray with common man adherents ;

the situation so menacing that the government stepped in today with arrests.

~~The disturbances with a turn of romantic reminiscence, an old~~

~~world flavor, occurred in Sicily - - where today Government~~

forces stormed a prison, and put down a convict revolt. The

trouble started when one of the prisoners was ordered to be

taken away to another place, an island jail.

He's no communist, no ideologist of totalitarian revolution.

He's a bandit, a good old fashioned sicilian bandit - - recalling

picturesque days of old, when romantic Sicilian brigands were favorite figures of story and legend. Even today, apparently, a daring, swashbuckling free-booter remains a popular figure - - at least this one was among his fellow prisoners. They revolted and seized the jail, when their favorite bandit was about to be taken away.

Taken where, to what frightful place? Taken to Elba - - the Island to which Napoleon was exiled. ~~(The authorities ordered the bandit to be sent to a prison on Elba, and you'd think he would have been flattered to be treated something like Napoleon. It should be quite a compliment for a brigand.)~~ But his fellow prisoners didn't want to lose him, hence the uproar, which has now been suppressed - - and the bandit is on his way to Elba.

JEFFERSON LETTER

At St Jose, California, a man who has not revealed his name bid twenty dollars for a battered old box, offered by an auctioneer "as is". The sale was held at the old Morrison Mansion, owned by the descendents of Dr James Morrison who settled in the wilderness of California at the turn of the eighteenth century.

When the delapidated old box was put up, there was just one bid: Twenty dollars for the box and its contents, whatever they might be. The auctioneer banged his gavel, and the bidder took his box and opened it, with lots of curious people standing round - - just to see what he had got.

And what did he find? Among other things was a faded letter with a sprawling flourish signature "Thomas Jefferson, President," the letter addressed to John Randolph of his majesty's navy. A letter signed by our illustrious second President.

The new owner did not keep the letter very long. A Chicago curio dealer offered him five hundred dollars for it, and he sold, making a quick turnover of four-hundred-and-eighty dollars. Another success story for the little man who succumbs to the lure of the auction room, and buys the things that no-one else wants.

PAYCUTS

In Hollywood, producer Sam Goldwyn, that master of the Unorthodox in the realm of speech, has cut all the salaries of his top executives - - and his own. These economies made to meet the lull in domestic business and the loss of revenue to the studio by the British ban on the showing of American films.

Goldwyn
Sam [^] says he has made these cuts to show that he meant what he said when he wisecracked that motion pictures will have to be twice as good, and cost half as much if the industry wants to survive.

Word is, there has been a lot of economy in Hollywood recently, all studios using the axe and the pink slip. But the cuts only affected the little people, writers earning under a hundred dollars a week, messenger boys and fourth assistant secretaries, ~~who were not related to the studio executives.~~

One man ^{up} ~~is~~ a top job did such a good job ^{of} ~~in~~ cutting expenses by letting go the small fry that the studio gave him a five hundred a week raise - - so runs a ^Hollywood story.

Goldwyn says he won't make any cuts among the studio's lower scale workers, but concentrate on better pictures, and larger profits made possible by slashing the salaries of his

executives, who, he says, received the news quite gracefully, because they will get a cut of the profits when the studio makes them. A humane and wise decision by one of the motion picture industry's prominent figures - - Sam Goldwyn who always can be counted on to come up with something new.

MARGARET TRUMAN

The White House denies a report that the President's daughter, Margaret, is engaged to be married. The wedding bells are not about to ring out. To which the White House adds, in the words of the Washington Dispatch - - "There is no information to indicate that Miss Truman has any such plans for the foreseeable future."

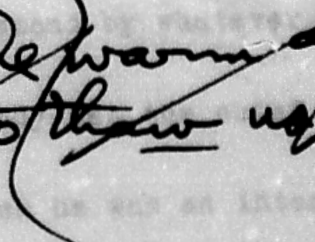
Well, how far is the future foreseeable? Oh, maybe a day or two, or perhaps a minute or two - - if you can judge by the way some young ladies have ~~of~~ suddenly ~~making~~^{making} up their minds. It's an old story about the damsel who has not the remotest idea of marrying anybody, until she meets ^{the right man} ~~some guy~~, and then she can't get to the altar fast enough.

However, Margaret Truman is a singer, a soprano devotedly dedicated to her career. ~~and, as we all know, a soprano thinks of nothing below the loftiest realms of music. Who is that letting out a loud and raucous laugh? Oh yes, it's the Metropolitan Opera House~~

^{but at} ~~But~~ the White House ~~is different~~ ~~and, according to the official~~ ^{ward is that} ~~statement,~~ the music to which the President's daughter is so devoted does not include that famous composition by Mendelssohn.

Or, as White House statement is phrased - - "There is no information to indicate that Miss Truman has any such plans for the foreseeable future." Which verbiage is chilly enough to put icicles on the rose of romance, ~~and give cupid a painful case of frostbite.~~

And now a little warm and friendly verbiage to thaw us out - Nelson.



ADD MARGARET TRUMAN

Hardly surprising then that Frank Handy of Ypsilanti, Michigan, the young man in the case will neither confirm^R or deny ~~the~~ report that he and the President's daughter are about to be engaged. Frank won't even say whether he has asked Margaret to marry him. Says he "I can only stand by whatever was announced in Washington." ^R Frank Handy met the chief executive's daughter in nineteen forty five when he was an interpreter in the State Department, and he has dated her several times since.

He is now Assistant to his father, Publisher of the Ypsilanti Press. Like many another ^Rnewspaperman, Frank probably realizes, that you often have to sit on your best exclusive stories.

How about a story from you, Nelson?

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Over on the other side of the Pacific, China today began a celebration of the Chinese New Year. We, ourselves, attach some symbolical significance to the passing of the old and the beginning of the New Year - - and in China they have ~~what~~ a lot more reason to be symbolical about it. Because each Chinese year has, not merely a number, but also a name - - like the year of the Lion, or the year of the Elephant.

T You can see the symbolical possibilities. Suppose the old year has been called by the name of the Fiery Dragon and it has been full of imperial conquest. Then suppose the twelve[^]-month period ahead is the year of the Dove - - you might hopefully expect this to be a sign of a year of peace and tranquility. So how do the people over in China feel about it, on this Chinese new year? Well, during the year just ending, they've been complaining loudly about official graft and corruption, government greed and inefficiency. Which evils were only to be expected, I suppose, because those twelve months were called - - the year of the Pig - - making everything symbolically correct.

The year of the Pig is now ending, so what is to be expected - -

symbolically speaking? That is what has the Chinese shaking their heads. The new year at hand is called - - the year of the Rat. Not so much encouragement for an improvement of officialdom - - see Pigs one year, and Rats the next. However, let's be as hopeful as we can and extend to the people of China our best wishes for a happy New Year of the Rat.

As I looked out of a frosty window at the Green Mt. Inn at 5 town, VT, this morning the thermometer registered 24 below. But in this time of snow no one seemed to mind. The activity is usual. When the day cold is temporary and clear, people don't seem to be bothered much by extreme low temperatures.

WEATHER.

Cold weather and fuel shortage - - that's the story again today.

Once more during this frosty winter we have to report sub-normal temperatures throughout the nation - - with biting cold in New York and New England. Far and wide reports of official action to combat shortages of fuel.

There are other evils, too - - rivers clogged with ice, heavy damage done. In Delaware, an ice jam in a river collapsed a bridge. Three lives lost - - as vehicles cross ^{ing} the bridge plunged into the river. Fires, too, because of overheated stoves in the cold snap - - a disastrous blaze in New ^{found}land where thirty-four lives were lost when flames devoured a home for the aged and infirm.

From all sides, reports of trouble and hardship, old man winter turning into a regular villain.

As I looked out of a frosty window at the Green Mt. Inn at Stowe, Vt., this morning the thermometer registered 34 below.

But in this home of snow no one seemed to mind. All activity as usual. When it's dry cold - - sunny and clear, people don't seem to be bothered much by extreme low temperatures..