

L.T., SUNOCO, MONDAY, APRIL 9, 1934

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

It seems like real hard lines when American policemen are injured because of rows that originate way thousands of miles away on the slopes of the Caucasus -- or, the banks of the Rhine. First of all, the Armenians are at it again - both in Boston and Chicago.

When death came to the Archbishop in an Armenian Church in New York on Christmas morning it was prophecied that we would sooner or later hear more of this trouble. And sure enough, two factions in Boston, each accusing the other of that sacrilegious crime, have now fought it out on the streets surrounding Boston Common. The affray provided an exciting show for thousands of spectators. But it was no mere show for the police. It took two hundred and fifty coppers with riot guns and gas bombs, to suppress the row. Only one of policeman was injured, but nine rioters, cut with knives and stabbed with icepicks, went to the cooler.

Meanwhile, similar rival mobs were rioting in the name of religion and Armenian politics on the streets of Chicago.

Seven of them were injured, four of them women.

All this time, the New York cops had their hands full, settling a fight between the followers and opponents of Hitler, over in the Borough of Queens.

In one respect, the German riots in New York were similar to the Armenian rumpuses in Boston and Chicago. Both the Hitlerites and anti-Hitlerites had hired halls within a few blocks of each other, in order to spout their loyalties and grievances. Both these meetings were so crowded that overflow crowds met in the street. The results were inevitable, fights, brawls, young riots all over the place, both indoors and out. But no serious casualties in New York.

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RUMANIA

More melodrama from Rumania which, at times has been something of a comic opera country. The sudden arrest of a colonel in the Rumanian army, with twenty other officers, has led historians to call to mind a Serbian tragedy of thirty years ago, the horrible assassination of King Alexander and Queen Draga. For, the explanation that is being given of the arrest of that Rumanian army colonel and his confederates is that they were plotting to murder King Carol and his famous red-haired friend, Madam Lupescu.

There are two astonishing features in this alleged plot. First of all, this army colonel was one of those who helped King Carol regain his throne five years ago. He was the officer who arranged for the airplane which brought Carol back to Bucharest in 1929 when he took back the crown from his son, young Prince Michael.

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Serbian history for near parallel. Queen Draga, the wife of King Alexander, was a Commoner. The King's marriage had been opposed by the principal generals in the army and the chief nobles of the court. When the King married her in spite of their protests the Queen treated her adversaries in toplofty fashion. That is the Commoner Queen went high hat. The end of that was the assassination of the upstart Queen and her King which shocked the entire world and ended the Obrenovich dynasty.

Today in Rumania there are a lot of people who are indignant over the continued friendship between the King and Madam Lupescu, who by the way is the daughter of a Viennese junk dealer. So the interpretation is that this Rumanian colonel and his twenty confederates were planning to repeat the Serbian tragedy of thirty years ago.

DISARMAMENT

The cry of "let's disarm" is being heard again. They are talking about resuming the conference at Geneva ^{on} May twenty-third. And the prophecy is that several of the Powers may be ~~singing~~ singing a different tune than they have at previous conferences.

Of course, the only people who seem really to have talked turkey about this disarmament are President Roosevelt and Maxim Litvinoff of Russia, both of whom declared: "the way to disarm is to disarm." But that suggestion, though politely received, severely shocked the spokesmen of other nations.

One of the issues that may come up at Geneva will be ~~ix~~ between Uncle Sam and the Mikado, ~~Japan~~. As I mentioned a couple of weeks ago, Japan is now claiming that she should have as many warships as the United States. She wants to denounce the present naval treaty. And she probably will be all the more insistent on her claim to equal rights because of the ^{immediate} situation in the Far East. Since April first came and went without any hostilities between the Japs and Russia, the Soviet government appears to have ^{had} a breathing spell, time to strengthen her forces on the Manchurian frontier ^{and} _{an} the Pacific.

Another Power that will enter the conference with a different spirit ~~will be~~ ^{to} France. For ~~today~~ the astonishing news has come to light that LaBelle France has few secrets left, either military or naval. That is one outcome of the corruption revealed by the Stavisky scandal and it explains the widespread arrests of people accused ~~of having been~~ ^{as} spies.

France is dismayed by the belief that Germany knows all about those huge fortifications on the frontier that I described ~~several days~~ ^{a week or so} ago. This dismay is increased by the knowledge that one foreign Power bought for ~~xxx~~ half a million dollars ~~complete~~ ^{the} plans of the new battleship that the French Navy just laid down. In fact, the plans were sold before the keel ~~was laid~~ ^{was laid.}

The ⁿ again, the French War Department adopted a new machine gun, which is said to fire more rounds to the minute than any other of its kind in the world. Plans of that were also sold. And in all this the ~~xxx~~ crooked finger of Stavisky is ~~seen~~ ^{suspected} French agents are trying to discover who were the big shots at the ~~xxx~~ back of all this. But one thing they profess to know is that

Stavisky got ten per cent of all the money. And this situation puts France on a new basis when it comes to talking disarmament.

NAVY

While Japan is talking about naval parity with Uncle Sam, the American fleet is starting a movement of a totally different nature. When the big fleet in the Pacific weighed anchor this morning, bound for the Atlantic, it started something which is interpreted as a gesture of good-will toward Japan. To be sure, this is not officially admitted. The Secretary of the Navy announces that these manoeuvres are just part of the regular plan of the Navy. Before the fleet arrives in the Atlantic seaboard, there will be thirty days of manoeuvres, the greatest peace-time naval show ever staged by our officers and gobs.

Nevertheless, it is generally understood that the President arranged this transfer from the Pacific to the Atlantic, just to show Japan how peaceful and honorable our intentions are. At any rate, it will be the first time in two years that Uncle Sam's major armada has visited the Atlantic. It means also that an entire city in population, some twenty thousand men, women and children will move from coast to coast, overland. The families of the fifty thousand men in the fleet are now leaving San Diego for the east. That surely will be good news for Newport, R. I., Norfolk, Va., and many other places.

ILLINOIS

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Some times an election in one particular place is of national significance. This will be the case in Illinois tomorrow, and everybody will be watching the primaries. For in those primaries some two million voters will provide the first ^{bed rocks} real test of the popularity of the Roosevelt policies. How keen the excitement is may be judged from the fact that already a ward captain has been murdered in Chicago, though the ~~polls~~ ^{don't} are not open until tomorrow.

There is a peculiar situation in Illinois. For many years ^{that state was rock rubbed} ~~it was solidly in the~~ Republican column. In Chicago, as in the state at large, the G.O.P. had the whip hand and used it freely. That grip was broken in ^{Cook County} ~~Chicago~~ a couple of years ago and of course the ^{Roosevelt} nineteen thirty-two landslide made ~~that~~ entire state safe for the Democrats.

So the Republican primaries tomorrow will probably be peaceful enough. Not much of a fight there. But watch the Democrats go to it! It is they who have the jobs to give out, and places on the county committee^s are really worth something.

The most interesting thing to ^{observe} ~~watch~~ will be the manner in

which the congressmen are treated. Several of them now in the House come up for renomination, including Speaker Rainey. However, it is considered practically in the bag for him. The representatives on the anxious seat are those who joined in that revolt against the President, ^{I mean in voting} ~~who voted~~ to overrule his veto of the Independent Offices Appropriations Bill. By Wednesday, we shall probably know what the Illinois voters think of them.

CANNON

An echo of the bitter animosities of prohibition days was heard in the Court of the District of Columbia today when Bishop Cannon of Virginia faced the judge. It was an echo of that savage election campaign in which Herbert Hoover defeated Al Smith in nineteen twenty-eight. Uncle Sam charges that the Bishop and his secretary violated the federal election laws by not reporting contributions of ^{some} forty-eight thousand dollars to the Anti-Smith Fund/. The Bishop retorted that he did not have to report it. All he was required to do, he claimed, was to admit that it was used in the State ~~of~~ of Virginia to defeat Mr. Smith. The fight was taken to the highest court in the land and the Supreme Court went against the Bishop. So now ^{after 5 years} the trial is on and ^{we probably} ~~you may~~ ^{will} ~~expect to~~ see the sparks fly in that Washington court.

H.T.

Hats off to the New York Herald-Tribune. For the second time it has won the prize offered by the Ayer Galleries of Philadelphia for the American newspaper that is typographically the best in the land. Last year this prize was won by the New York Times; the year before that, by that admirable veteran, the Hartford Courant.

The first prize for small newspapers went to the Sheboygan Press of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and among the ^{smaller towns} ~~very~~ small newspapers ^{to} the

Evening Tribune Times of Hornell, New York. And I learn that the Philadelphia Record has signed a contract - the first in this country -- with a guild, a sort of union, of newspaper writers and editors. If we had had one of those in my early reporter days I mightn't have been fired so often.

AIRMAIL

~~We are~~ ^{We are} ~~have been~~ ^{now} learning some interesting things about American aviation. They become all the more interesting, in view of the fact that the industry has been under fire in the last couple of months. ~~I have only just learned that~~ ^{It} ~~In~~ no less than eight European countries, American engines or American planes, or both, are used, in mail and passenger services. When we realize the stiff competition that an American company must have to undergo to achieve anything like that in the face of home competition, we can also realize American aircraft and American equipment are not ^{so} ~~so~~ dusty after all. Not only in Europe, but in China, Japan, New Guinea, and South America, American products are being used in the air. ^{It} This seems ^{a bit} ~~rather~~ ironic after the recent tendency to criticise American organization and workmanship. With the markets of the world to choose from, foreign powers and foreign companies seem to prefer the stuff that Uncle Sam's nephews are turning out.

~~This reminds us that~~ W.B. Courtney of COLLIERS made an air survey of Europe ^{recently and} ~~several months ago~~. He reported that American flying fields and equipment were far superior to anything he had found on the other side of the Atlantic. He said there was not a

flying field in Europe that could be compared with the airport at Newark, New Jersey. I too made a 25,000 mile tour of the airways of Europe back in 1926 and at that time the Continental lines seemed to be way ahead of us. But not so now.

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The death of another army pilot carrying Uncle Sam's airmail has not lessened the worry in Administration Circles in Washington. There are three suggestions for settling this problem. The McKellar-Black bill, which the Senate is not considering, would require the Postmaster General to advertise for bids for temporary contracts for carrying the mail. Some Republican Senators propose an amendment which would restore the airmail contracts that were cancelled, until the government proves they were obtained by fraud. The third suggestion comes from the aviation magnates themselves. They offer the idea that the airlines should be controlled as are the railroads, by a body something like the Interstate Commerce Commission, to regulate rates and so on.

AVALANCHE

It is distressing to reflect that, although the record winter is over, it continues to take vengeance on the human race. In two different parts of the world, Norway and America, the spring thaw, following the ferocious frost, has precipitated avalanches taking a toll of human lives.

Perhaps the most curious was the one in Norway, which resulted in the death of forty-one people and the devastation of a town. It was not the direct action of the landslide that caused all that destruction. A tremendous rock, the size of ball park, falling off a two thousand foot cliff into the waters of a fjord created a gigantic wave that inundated the village and destroyed houses and wrecked fishing vessels.

The terrifying aspect of the avalanche that killed three people near West Point is that it occurred on one of the famous bits of road engineering in the world. The Storm King Highway at this point is literally carved out of the cheek of Storm King Mountain and four hundred feet above the tracks of the West Shore Railroad, at the edge of the Hudson River. It cost New York State a-million-dollars-and-a-half; and it took seven years to build the particular

five mile stretch where those rocks came hurtling down,
crashing into cars and destroying lives. I suppose Old Mother
Nature pulls these calamities on us, every now and then, to warn
us not to be too cock sure.

BANKER

A new kind of detective story. Some ten years ago, two brothers set up as private bankers in the Italian colony of New York. They made ~~it~~ a point of greeting personally every depositor who came in to bring his money. This was the undoing of one of them.

The bank closed, the depositors lost two million dollars of hard earned savings! *The bankers got away.*

That was ten years ago. The other day, one of those depositors wanted to buy some wine. A friend gave him the telephone number of a liquor dealer. The former bank depositor telephoned that number. And the voice that answered him he ^{— recognized it} recognized in a flash as that of one of those bankers who had gone south with five thousand dollars of his hard earned money.

He invited the ex-banker, now liquor dealer, to bring over two gallons of wine. The ex-banker did ~~not~~ recognize his victim. The victim invited the ex-banker into his cellar for a drink. When he got him down there he excused himself, pulled the ladder up after him, closed the trap-door and rolled several kegs against the door. Then he telephoned the police, and today the alleged ex-banker had to face the judge. How ^{'s} ~~is~~ that for a plot?

FISH

I understand I am on the carpet today. It's all over that alleged libel of young Elliott Roosevelt, who said his father didn't catch any fish. This was the day set for the investigation which the President had demanded, the investigation by White House correspondents, who were invited aboard the Nourmahan fifty miles off Miami. The President has announced that he will waive immunity. Are the press correspondents fishing -- or are they investigating. That's the question tonight? If they have been fishing we'll have to make room for about a dozen scribes in the Tall Story Club. (I guess I'd better go along now and start making out diplomas of admission.) And, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.