

P.L. - Sunoco. Monday, June 19, 1939.

TIENTSIN

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(A situation has developed at Tientsin which seems to me almost unique in history. Virtually, the British and French concessions are being besieged by the Japanese army. And yet ostensibly there's no war between Japan on the one side, Britain and France on the other.)

Today
^ The Japanese ~~are~~ ^{still} growing ~~even~~ more aggressive. There's an announcement that they're going to surround those concessions with wire barricades, charged with electricity. That announcement doesn't come from the government, but from a Japanese news agency which is of course strictly censored. ~~Actually, that report was made as long ago as February Twenty Third.~~

There has been talk of reprisals by the British. The Japanese army retorted today with a counter threat. A spokesman for the Mikado's generals said that if the British start anything, the Japanese government will refuse to recognize any longer all British rights and interests in China.

And they're continuing measures to starve out the inhabitants of those British and French concessions. They are allowing large numbers of Chinese to enter, as many as want to.

But only a few are allowed out. That means that the population of the British and French concessions are being increased, and the food problem made more serious.

LONDON FOLLOW TIENTSIN

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Over in London, Prime Minister Chamberlain tried to calm the anxiety of the House of Commons over that Tientsin business. He said: "His Majesty's government still cherishes the hope that a local settlement is possible." However, he added that the situation in the Far East is not quite clear. Originally, the Japanese demanded the handing over of four Chinese suspected of being anti-Japanese terrorists. But since then that original issue has been confused, other and more important issues have been dragged in.

The Prime Minister then gave the Commons a report on the present condition, saying, "The barrier restrictions continue. All British subjects have been held up at the barriers, rigorously searched, and in some cases subjected to indignities." Then he added: "The entry of perishable foodstuffs and ice has been delayed by rigid search and continues therefore to be spasmodic."

That would seem to mean that though the inhabitants of the concessions are being inconvenienced, there is no actual starvation. And the Prime Minister said further: "Normal supplies have been reported to be reaching the market from the adjoining French concession."

WASHINGTON FOLLOW LONDON

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Until now, ~~most~~ ^{many} of us thought those Tientsin troubles were purely between the Japanese and the British and French. In other words, that they are none of Uncle Sam's business. But this afternoon a different story comes from the State Department. In fact from Secretary Cordell Hull himself, who declared that there were broad international questions involved in that Far Eastern situation in which the United States is vitally concerned. ~~That sounds bad.~~

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However, the Secretary declared that we are not concerned in the episode of those four Chinese terrorists which brought on the Japanese siege of the European concessions. It's the nature and significance of subsequent developments that give our government cause for worry. Then he made the statement: "This government therefore is observing with special interest all ~~relations~~ related developments in China ~~and~~ as they occur from day to day."

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And here's the interpretation that Washington observers place upon this somewhat veiled statement from the Secretary of State. The belief is that our government will resist any attempt by the Japanese to play both ends against the middle, to erect a barrier

between American and British interests in the Far East. In other words, we aren't going to let Tokyo play the old Roman game of divide and conquer.

JERUSALEM

More trouble in the City of Peace, which in our day should be renamed "The City of Sorrow." This time the casualties are not Jewish, they are Arab. The bulletin states that eighteen Arabs were blown to the Mohammedan Paradise, and forty -five others wounded, as the result of a time bomb exploding with ghastly results. The time bomb went off in the crowded Arab market in the seaport of Haifa.

Almost at the same moment wires were cut in other parts of the city, and other bombs exploded throughout Haifa.

SQUALUS

A naval board of inquiry was sitting at Portsmouth today, investigating the disaster to the submarine SQUALUS. The Commander of the SQUALUS, Lieutenant Oliver Naquin, was present technically as a defendant. But that was a mere technicality, for Lieutenant Naquin sat around the table with ^{the} four members of the board of inquiry. One of the first questions asked by Rear Admiral Tarrant, president of the board, was:- "Lieutenant, have you any complaint against any of the officers or crew of the ship?"

Replied Lieutenant Naquin:- "I have nothing but praise for the conduct of all the officers and men."

One part of the proceedings was a visit to the submarine SCULPIN, the sister ship of the SQUALUS. The SCULPIN was listed by the judge advocate as one of the exhibits in the inquiry.

Most of the proceedings today could be understood only by technicians. The idea was to try to find out what mechanical cause led to that disaster. ^RThe SQUALUS still rests at the bottom of the sea, and the inquiry cannot be completed until she's brought to the surface.

TAX BILL

The new tax bill seems to be merrily on its way. It was passed by the House in record time today. Now it goes on to the Senate. By tax bill I mean the bill for one billion, six hundred and forty-four million dollars. This is the one that scrapes the tax on undistributed profits, ^{and} ~~it also~~ takes some of the sting out of other taxes, ~~and is~~ Washington's present attempt to stimulate business, bring better ~~ix~~ times.

PROFIT SHARING

Profit sharing between employers and those who work for them comes up before the Senate again. One of the prime champions of this idea is Senator Vandenbrug of Michigan. He was appointed chairman of the special committee of the Senate to investigate. Today his report was made public, and it declared that this plan of profit sharing was essential not only as an aid to labor, but to the preservation of our present system.

RAILROADS

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A sub-committee of the House heard an ominous opinion about the future of the railroads. It came not from a railroad man but from the Assistant General ~~Counsel~~ ^{Counsel} of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and he told the congressmen that if the roads don't go through complete ~~sound~~ reorganization, Uncle Sam may be forced to take them over. The only thing, he added, that could prevent it, would be a huge increase in revenues of the railway lines. And, he said, nobody can see where that's coming from. ~~And~~ He gave one further bit of information that was news to me:- "The United States government already ^{manages} ~~manages~~ about thirty per cent of the railroads of the country either directly or indirectly, *said he.*

Government ownership of railroads? ~~that's a bugbear we've~~
~~been threatened with for years. And now, it's talked of once~~
again. ~~it seems it is already here~~

WAGNER ACT

2
The National Association of Manufacturers, makes a blistering criticism of the National Labor Relations Board. The ~~same~~ counsel for the N.A.M. told a committee of the Senate that the Board and its agents have been intensely partial to John L. Lewis's C.I.O. Moreover, they've been hostile to employers, unfriendly to independent unions and to employees who are not members of national unions. He charged further that the board and its agents have violated many of the elementary principles of fair play. And so far from cutting down the number of labor disputes, they've actually, as he puts it, "sown the seeds for future discord."

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For that reason, the National Association of Manufacturers, pleads for the amendment of the Wagner National Labor Relations Act. It asks especially that the closed shop and the check-off system be declared illegal by Congress and that employees as well as employer should be punished for unfair practices.

The N.A.M. further asks that a clause be inserted into the act in clear and appropriate language, to protect freedom of speech.

Those are just a few of the recommendations.

BUCKNER

There was an improved cast today at the trial of William B. Buckner, playboy broker accused of mail fraud charges. The improvement in the show consisted principally of the presence of Comedian Frank Morgan. Morgan couldn't run more true to form than if a script writer had written his dialogue for him. Frank admitted that he had been approached as a prospect in the Buckner promotions. But he vowed that he had not fallen. He did not bite because it looked too easy. He admitted also that he hadn't ~~made~~ understood much of what was told to him. But he repeated that it all sounded so easy that he invested none of his handsome radio and screen earnings in Buckner's proposals.

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He said he had been told that a Philippine executive was to be persuaded to back laws in the Philippine Assembly, laws to make good the bonds which Buckner was ~~was~~ selling. The prosecutor asked Morgan:- "What Philippine executive?" and Morgan replied:- "President Quezon." Defense counsel promptly jumped to their feet and objected at such remarks about the president of a friendly country. Then the prosecutor asked:- "Was there any discussion as to how this executive could be persuaded?"

Frank Morgan replied:- "They said something about how they would buy the palace and start building another the next day." And he continued:- "What I gathered was that there was some sort of proposition whereby Philippine railway bonds selling at eleven were going to be redeemed by the Philippine government for somewhere around sixty-five."

And that was what Comedian Frank Morgan, as a stock buying prospect, found too easy for his ^{Hollywood} money.

CLIPPER

The ^{first} ~~passengers of the~~ Atlantic Clipper ^{passengers} ~~which~~ are now in

Paris. New York to Paris in forty-seven hours and a half!

The time to Marseilles, the elapsed time, was just forty-two hours and twenty-eight minutes, and even that included an overnight sojourn in Lisbon. The actual flying time from Port Washington to the French seaport was twenty-nine hours and fifty minutes.

Actually, this was a record. The clipper has made eighteen voyages across the Atlantic, east and west, and this was the

fastest of them all. There are over a thousand on the Trans-Atlantic Clipper waiting list. They all wanted to go on the first voyage. But are awaiting their turn.

DIONNE

Big news from Callander, Ontario, the home of the Dionne quintuplets. The famous five have been ordered to do what millions of other women in America are doing. They have to go on a diet. To put it bluntly, the quints have waistline trouble.

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Some time ago, Dr. Dafoe observed that his little charges were getting plump. At first he didn't bother about it. But then the nurses complained. It seems the plumpness of the quints was making extra work because buttons started popping off. That was an argument that even a man couldn't resist. So the doctor has issued the command, no potatoes, no starchy foods.

The woes of women seem to be starting early these days,
say the Quints.

ANNE LINDBERGH

Amherst College last night awarded the degree of
Doctor of Letters ^{to} ~~upon~~ Anne Morrow Lindbergh. Today the Colonel's
lady received a similar degree from the University of Rochester.

I don't know whether that makes her two doctors or just one, but
all the literary critics seem to agree that the beautiful writing
done by Mrs. Lindbergh in her two books does eminently qualify

her for all the degrees that can be offered. *This is the
degree season. Dist. Atty. Tom
Dewey gets a Dartmouth Doctorate.
As the Summer temperature climbs
by degrees celebrities get degrees.*

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A jail break at a woman's prison in Ohio brings to light once more a sensational society scandal. One of the women who broke away from that Ohio woman's reformatory was the central figure in a bloody melodrama that once amazed everybody in Cleveland.

The story began about fourteen years ago. A popular, attractive young woman in Cleveland eloped with a young man named Edward West, son of a well-to-do and well known family. They set up housekeeping on the outskirts of Perry, Ohio, and it wasn't long before the marriage, begun in romantic haste, turned sour in leisurely repentance. The young girl from Cleveland didn't like small town life. There were violent quarrels. One evening, young Edward West was found on the floor in his house, His hands and feet were bound. *He had been killed* ~~his head bashed in~~ with a hammer. When his body was so found, Mrs. West was at a young woman's bridge party in Cleveland. She was having a particularly good time when a police officer came to ask her about her husband.

Eventually she was charged with first degree murder. Her family hired the most expensive lawyers, but the trial ~~came off~~ never came off because she decided to plead guilty to second degree

murder with the consent of the prosecution. For that she was given a life's sentence at the woman's reformatory at Marysville, Ohio.

That woman's reformatory is celebrated for its humane treatment of prisoners and for the efforts to restore the inmates to normal behavior. Last night Mrs. Reilly, the superintendent of ~~that~~^{the} reformatory, went to Cleveland to a club meeting. While she was gone, four women escaped, and one of them was Velma West, who was in there for life, ~~for having bashed her husband's head~~^{for the hammer murder.} ~~in with a hammer.~~ Velma West had been a model prisoner, in fact an usher, and one of those most trusted by the superintendent. She left a letter for Mrs. Reilly, saying:- "I will always hate myself for doing this to you," and adding:- "I was torn between two fires - my love for Mrs. Reilly and my desire for one little adventure before I die."

She also said:- "I will return if my escape causes you trouble." Her escape has caused plenty of trouble, but the last we heard was that she ~~xxxxxx~~ had not ~~yet~~ returned.

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MANHUNT

8 1/2

A wild western thriller was acted out today, not in the wild west but in Wisconsin. Ever since Saturday, a killer has been loose, a two-gun bad man. He's a really dangerous hombre, for last Saturday, running away from the law, he shot and slew two deputy sheriffs. The sheriff got out a posse and put bloodhounds on the trail. The hounds ran sniffing through forest and swamp, and led the posse to a tiny cabin in the scrub pine of northern Wisconsin. The sheriff had a posse of a hundred and fifty deputies to capture ~~that~~^{the} man. But, he was taking no chances. He told his men to take shelter behind trees and boulders. Then they started shooting at ~~that~~^{the} cabin.

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It seemed to the attackers that ~~those~~ shots were coming back from the cabin. After three hours, they thought they would finish the job with tear gas bombs. Then, taking their lives in their hands, they charged and found the cabin full, of, -- *from opposite sides of the cabin* nothing! There wasn't a soul there; those deputies ^{had} been shooting at each other, but hit nobody. And now that bad man is still loose and the defenders of the law don't know where to find him — *having used up all that ammunition. And s-l-u-t-m.*

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