

FRANCE

CJ. - P. & G. Monday, Nov. 15, 1948

In Paris, the stage is set for a major political showdown between the DeGaullists and the Queuille middle-of-the-road government. The De Gaullists want to force a general election, when the French Parliament meets tomorrow; but Premier Queuille is determined to block such a move. He still thinks his coalition ~~government~~ can restore prosperity.

In the lower house, the Chamber of Deputies, the premier is said to be able to hold out indefinitely, because he has made terms with the Socialists and the Popular Republicans. ~~Meaning that the moderate elements out-number the communists and the DeGaullists.~~ But in return for their support the Socialists and the Popular Republicans are now insisting on lower prices, higher wages, and an immediate debate on the French coal strike -- to all of which Premier Queuille has agreed.

In the French upper house, the DeGaullists are putting forward De Gaulle's brother Pierre, for president of that body -- the council. But, neither DeGaulle nor

FRANCE 2

Premier Queuille has a working margin in the council of the Republic. The balance of power ~~is~~ ^{there being} in the hands of the Independents. ^{II If the Independents lean} ~~if they go~~ to the right, ~~is~~ support of De Gaulle, then France should get its general election some time in Nineteen Forty-Nine.

COLD WAR

A U. N. spokesman in Paris tonight says that Argentine Foreign Minister Bramuglia has completed the draft of a new formula for settling the Berlin deadlock. This is said to call for a U.N. Commission in Berlin, to see that both sides comply.

Russia to be asked to lift the Berlin blockade. And simultaneously the western powers to allow the Soviet Zone currency to circulate throughout Berlin. The date suggested is December Twentieth - five days before Christmas.

There is no word tonight as to how the western powers are reacting to this, but informed delegates in the Palace De Chaillot believe it will be rejected. The western powers have made it plain that they are opposed to direct negotiations with the Kremlin; although they are ready to welcome any steps toward a settlement of the Cold War initiated in the Security Council.

PALESTINE

^{THE U.N.} *The Security Council--*
In ~~Paris~~ today, the Western Allies failed to
through the
push ~~the~~ Canadian compromise-plan for an armistice in
Palestine, ~~through the Security Council~~. The motion was
opposed by Russia and Syria. They want ~~the Security~~
~~Council~~ to drop all idea of a truce or an armistice; and
instead make a formal peace.

Meanwhile, both the Arabs and the Jews have told
the United Nations that they will not accept any further
peace efforts. Both sides warning that they soon are
likely to start full scale war again although they are
considering the Canadian plan.

In Tel Aviv today, the Israeli cabinet called an
emergency session to decide what answer it will give to
the U.N. demand that the Israeli forces withdraw from the
Negeb. Also to decide whether to renew hostilities. An
informed source in Tel Aviv says, that the Israeli
government is determined to keep its hold over the Negeb,
that it will not give up Beersheba, and that if sanctions
are imposed, Israel will fight. In a broadcast
from Trans-Jordania today, picked up by British

sources, one of King Abdullah's spokesmen said that the Arabs must realize there is little chance of the Jews being beaten at the moment. So hostilities should be terminated temporarily, to give the Arab states a chance to build up their forces.

Later word. A bulletin from Tel Aviv, that Secretary of State Marshall has asked the American consul there to fly to Paris for a special conference on Palestine.

CHINA

4 /
From China ^{news} ~~concern~~ that Chennault is planning to revive the Flying Tigers. A 1949 edition of the A.V.G. to aid the Chinese National Government in its life-and-death battle against the Communists.

///
A dispatch from Shanghai in today's New York World-Telegram tells of General Chennault planning to enlist some two hundred American Pilots to give low flying support to Chiang's hard pressed armies.

This time Chennault wants to equip his volunteer flyers with fighter-bombers, medium-bombers -- and reconnaissance planes. If he gets an okay from Washington, such as President Roosevelt gave in Nineteen Forty, when the Flying Tigers, first appeared on the scene, the picturesque American Air General figures he can put a new sky fighting force into operation in three months time. And that within two weeks the new Flying Tigers should make themselves felt - enough to stem the tide of battle, and stop the headlong rush of the Communist Armies towards the heart of China.

15 /
As the Japanese discovered Claire Chennault

is a redoubtable enemy. We all remember how his original Flying Tigers inflicted defeat after defeat on the Nipponese Air Force -- in Burma and China, before Pearl Harbor. How they avenged the bombing of Hankow, and later fought a long series of successful air battles against great odds. And now later General Chennault won the war in the air in Burma and China by using the same brilliant tactics when he was in command of the fourteenth Air Force.

Chennault is one of the outstanding air leaders of this air age. He pioneered formation flying in this country, and developed the two-plane attack in fighter plane tactics. He is accustomed to getting things done, no matter what the odds. He loves China and hates Communism. To meet him, and know him is an experience. His face is lined and weather-beaten like an Indian Chiefs. The Chinese called him "Old Leatherface" -- which to them are words of high esteem. Many Chinese think he is racially one of them. As a matter of fact he hails from Louisiana

and is a quarter Indian -- Cherokee. His eyes have that penetrating quality, and when aroused he can be ferocious. So much so, that when Winston Churchill saw the Flying Tiger Chieftain at the Cairo meeting, he inquired of President Roosevelt:- "Tell me, who is that man over there?" After F.D.R. had told him about Chennault, said Churchill: "Well, I'm glad he's on our side!"

CHINA

(The military situation in China is apparently worse tonight. A bulletin from Shanghai, just in, tells of the Communist forces having occupied three rail stations south of Souchow. The Red troops carrying out a flanking movement which threatens to isolate this government stronghold.) A Nationalist despatch describes the Communists as having stormed the eastern gate of the city, from which they were repulsed by air and ground attacks.

General ^{issuing} Chiang is said to be rushing rescue columns to the city. But the fear is that the Communist troops, lead by the picturesque one-eyed general Lio Po Cheng ^{ARE} ~~is~~ carrying out the Russian tactics of ^{by-} passing ^{CITIES. AND} main objectives; ~~is~~ pushing ahead, leaving ^A ~~cities~~ towns ~~surrounded~~ to be taken by the main body of troops, following the spearhead of attack. Which, say military experts in Shanghai, maybe a real danger to Southern China.

DOCK WORKERS

The east coast dock workers strike is still on. Sixty-five thousand members of the union are already out. And thousands of other^s, ~~workers~~, whose jobs depend on shipping, are expected to be laid off.

From Halifax, Nova Scotia, tonight, ~~was~~
an announced^{ment} that the dock workers there will not unload any more ships diverted to Halifax from U. S. ports.

In London, the Cunard line has cancelled the sailing of the Queen Elizabeth until further notice. The only British ships to sail for this continent while the strike lasts, ^{will} being those on the regular ^{run} ~~schedule~~ ^{between} ~~from~~ Southampton ^{and} Halifax.

WILMINGTON COLLEGE

In these days of high taxation, it is no longer possible for educational institutions to depend on large gifts from private individuals. This makes the going awfully tough for all of our privately endowed institutions of learning. But, Wilmington College, in Ohio, has found a partial answer. At Wilmington they needed a new dormitory and hadn't the money for it.

So they tried something, never before attempted. The thirty two year old President, Dr. Samuel Marble, asked the students ~~■~~ if they would like to tackle it, try and build it with their own hands, an eighty-five man ^{dormitory} ~~dormitory~~ with baths, kitchens, and so on. The students replied: Why not? Since ~~then~~ ^{the} young men and young women at Wilmington, along with a few faculty members and ~~townspeople~~ townspeople who have donated their time, have put in thirty-five thousand hours of labor. Over the weekend the cornerstone was laid. And already contractors are trying to tempt some of the students to drop out of college and go to work as professionals. They said it couldn't be done.

But the young people of Wilmington College are doing it.

FATHER

From Denmark comes a story of paternal devotion, culminating in a dramatic sacrifice. A Copenhagen newspaper relates how an eighteen year old Science student recently lost the sight of both eyes in a laboratory explosion. When the boy came out of the hospital, he was resigned to a life of blindness - thankful to be alive.

But not so his father, who couldn't bear to think that his son ~~na~~ would never see again.

So one day the father went to the Danish State Hospital in Copenhagen, to see an eye specialist. He asked if there was any chance of his son ever seeing again; and on hearing the eye specialists views, he pleaded with the doctor to remove the cornea from one of his own eyes and transplant it in one of his son's. So the lad at least would have the sight of one eye. Further, the father insisted that his blinded son should not be told of this plan. To all of which the surgeon consented. The boy was brought to the hospital again

and told that he was to undergo an operation. No promises, but he might regain half his sight.

Well, the story has a happy ending. The delicate operation was a success. The boy, and the father, now each have an eye. Thanks to the skill of modern surgery a promising young scientist can continue his work.

ROYAL BABY

Everybody seems to be talking about the royal baby, so I guess I'd better join the chorus.

(In London tonight the Police had to check the noisy demonstrations of the happy crowd outside Buckingham Palace.) So many people were singing and cheering that Princess Elizabeth couldn't sleep. So the Bobbies were told to move everybody on -- to give the Royal Mother a quiet night.

Tomorrow morning the LONDON TIMES will publish a poem which John Masefield, the Poet Laureate, the King's poet, has written a poem in honor of the new prince.

Entitled A HOPE FOR THE NEWLY BORN. It reads:

May destiny, allotting what befalls,
Grant to the newly born this saving grace,
A guard more sure than ships and fortress walls,
The loyal love and service of a race."

Today British Naval guns boom^{ED} off the east coast of the United States as two British battleships complied with orders from the Admiralty in London -- to celebrate

ROYAL BABY -2-

Celebrating

the birth of a royal prince) with a forty-one gun salute.

After the guns boomed out then both officers and men, every man Jack, obeyed the second order: Splice the main brace! Meaning of course, hoist one and toast the lad. A British tradition handed down from the days of Nelson.

In the streets of London town today the regimental bands of the Guards and the Line Regiments of the British Army and Royal Air Force paraded up and down. Crowds all day outside Buckingham Palace -- folks hoping to get a glimpse of the royal father when he goes to register the baby; as he must do just like any other British father.

And why all this spontaneous outbreak of joy in Socialist England. I called a British friend who should know about such matters. I asked him if this rejoicing was because a future king had been born. "Oh no" said he, "The British are not so politically

minded as you Americans. It's merely because they like Princess Elizabeth and her husband! And, when you like someone that way, why you celebrate with them when their baby is born." Then he added: "We do get an heir to the throne in a simple, inexpensive way, don't we?" Then he quoted that quip of George Bernard Shaw, who said that it costs the Americans something like fifteen million dollars every four years to elect a President, while the British get a ruler at the cost of a doctor's fee."

When I asked just how much this royal birth would cost, the reply was: "About five hundred dollars for ~~g~~ the best doctor in London". And they do say that our recent election cost at least fifteen million dollars, not counting money subscribed to the political parties.

~~Princess Elizabeth, my friend went on to say is an economical young woman, and has made over the cradle that was used when she was born. Also she is using the crib made for her younger sister Margaret ROSE. She is also applying for a ration book with~~

clothing coupons for the new prince. Duke Philip will have to look after the matter of getting the prince a national identity card. My friend further told me that Elizabeth and Philip are likely to give the child only three names, instead of that long string of given names, usually associated with royalty.

And how about the royal father? In America a new father is expected - or often ~~he~~ does - hand out cigars to his friends. In England, no cigars. But, the English do have a quaint custom -- called wetting the baby's knob - his head. This means, toasting the youngster, in ale or stout or wine, according to your means. In ancient days, the oldest member of the family present blessed the baby and touched his forehead with whatever beverage was being drunk. So today Duke Philip wet the baby's knob by ordering champagne for all hands - at Buckingham Palace, the household staff included. A royal gesture which must have cost him a lot more than tuppence h'penny; for champagne at present, will set you back about ^{FIVE} a quid a bottle in Merry England.

The celebration I hear will last a week or more. And now, Nelson, before you go out and wet the baby's knob - make us a little speech.