

P.M. - Sunoco. Friday, Nov. 20, 1941.

It's up to Tokyo now -- that's the word from Washington.

The fate of the Japanese-American negotiations ~~have~~ for a settlement in the Pacific depends entirely upon the response that the Mikado's government makes to the terms that the United States

has laid down. Washington today reiterates the information that those terms are -- no compromise. From official sources in the

capitol we learn that ^{Uncle Sam} ~~Washington~~ demands that Japan must consent to get out of China and Indo-China and shall renounce all policies of aggression -- before this country will consider an agreement.

The belief is that Tokyo can hardly accept these conditions which would mean -- a complete backdown in ^{her} ~~the~~ policy of expansion. So the Japanese-American negotiations would seem to be at the point of collapse.

President Roosevelt stated today that American merchant vessels in the Pacific will not be armed. The neutrality law ^{change} ~~which~~ will not apply to them -- not at the moment. The President indicated that the situation might ^{quickly} ~~change~~ in such fasion that guns would be put on American vessels traversing the waters of the Pacific.

^{The President has gone to Warm Springs - ready to return at a moment's notice!}
Washington ~~advisors~~ tell us of what is likely to happen ^{with Japan} in case the negotiations ^{do} collapse -- what the United States will

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do. They say that the response of the administration would be -- increased aid to China, more American war supplies for the armies of Chiang Kai-Shek. This ties in with the assumption that the

Japanese are likely to push from Indo-China into Siam -- and then

what would we do? ^A Japanese invasion of Siam would immediately

imperil the Burma Road -- which runs nearby. ^{And} The Burma Road ^{is now}

is the sole artery of American aid to China, and it would be a

natural move for the Japanese to cut it -- and stop the aid.

The Washington word tonight is that the United States would not

stand by and let the Burma Road be closed and a highly significant

word is used -- convoy. ^A We'd convoy aid to China just as we're

doing in the case of Aid to Britain and the Soviets. But this ^{latter}

convoying is done on the ocean while the Burma Road is on land.

So they speak of something that has an exceedingly new sound -- land

convoys. The United States would get war supplies along the Burma

Road by means of ^{or perhaps air,} convoying on land. Which would seem to mean that

the kind of war we're now having at sea would be ^{ex} extended to

terra firma -- high and dry on the continent of Asia. These are

surmises current in Washington.

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DESERT

The British say that they have the battle of the desert well in hand. They express complete confidence. ^{The conflict} ~~The battle~~ south of Tobruk continues with mechanized violence, with the Axis panzers fighting strongly. The indication from Cairo is that the New Zealand troops that yesterday joined forces with a detachment of the Tobruk garrison have now established themselves firmly along the line ^{to} ~~of~~ Tobruk. This ^{might} ~~would~~ mean that they have cut off the main German tank forces from a retreat westward. The question, say the British, is - what proportion of the Nazi army units have been able to escape to the west - out of the trap?

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The most convincing support for ^{all} this British optimism comes from the Axis side. Berlin all along has been cautious about predicting the outcome of the great battle south of Tobruk. The Germans ^{alho telling} ~~have told~~ of striking success ^{so} in the fighting, ~~but did~~ ~~have~~ not expressed any loud confidence about the ultimate outcome. And tonight's dispatch from Rome stresses the power of the British offensive. The Italians say the Imperial forces are more numerous in point of men and tanks - the Axis army outnumbered. And Rome says the outcome cannot be forecast.

This might well seem to be advance preparation for the news of the loss of the battle south of Tobruk. ^{TP} If the British win it - what then? They may have a clear sweep across Italian Libya to Tripoli. On the other hand, there are indications that the Germans and Italians may be able to put up another fight at an intermediate point - ~~D~~^eArna. Just what strength they may have to fight another battle, upon losing the present one - is not known.

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Meanwhile, in Ethiopia, the last large center of Fascist resistance has disappeared. The Italian garrison at Gondar has surrendered. That's deep in the interior of the barbaric East African land. The Italians put up a long and stubborn battle, but finally had to yield - many months after the capture of the other Fascist forces in Ethiopia. They say that now only a few small scattered bands are still resisting - a job of mopping up for the British.

So the war in East Africa, to all intents and purposes, is now at an end. And they say that the capture of Gondar will release a considerable force of Imperial troops and equipment, especially warplanes, for the campaign in Libya.

The question of American and British newspapermen captured by the Axis forces in Libya is eliminated tonight by information from both Rome and London.

Several days ago the Italians announced that a ~~toll~~ ^{party of} of American war correspondents had been captured when Axis forces caught a detachment of British troops. The identity of the newspapermen was not known, but now Rome comes forward with the statement that two of them are; Harold Denny, correspondent with the NEW YORK TIMES and Geodfrey Anderson of the Associated Press. Harold Denny is one of the most prominent of American foreign correspondents. He covered the Italian-Ethiopian War several years ago, and was later assigned to Berlin, ^{and afterwards} and reported the Soviet treason trials at Moscow. Rome states that the two Americans will be released later on -- after enough time has elapsed so that they won't be able to reveal military information while the present battle is raging.

The word from London tells of newspapermen who escaped capture. Two are Sam Brewer of the CHICAGO TRIBUNE and Alaric Jacob of Reuters and M. H. Halton of the TORONTO STAR. For days

it was feared that they had been seized by the Axis forces,

but now it's known that they ^{are} ~~are~~ safe.
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RUSSIA

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On the Moscow front, the Germans have accomplished another break-through -- this is announced by the Soviets. Yesterday, the news was that the panzers had crushed through south of Moscow. Today's word tells of a similar event to the north of the City, near Klin. The weather is described as being good for mechanized operations, hard frozen ground, clear skies, and not an unbearable degree of cold. The Soviets describe the Nazi maneuver as more and more definitely one of encirclement. In front of Moscow, they keep the pressure on, constantly attacking ^{the} ~~with~~ powerful fortifications - that's to hold the Red Army forces in that sector. Hold them there - while the drives to the north and to the south grind forward to effect an encirclement. Moscow is now half surrounded, with the Germans pushing on.

SOVIET SHIPS

There's a rumor of a fight between a Soviet warship and Turkish guns. This is said to have happened near the Bosphorus, with the Red warship exchanging shots with the shore batteries of the Turks.

The story emanates from radio stations in territory controlled by the Nazis. It states that a number of Soviet ships have been trying to get through the Dardanelles -- ten tugs, eight tankers, and a giant battleship. The supposition in the background is, of course, that the German advance along the shores of the Black Sea has put the Soviet fleet in a precarious position -- with the Nazis besieging the great Soviet naval base of Sevastopol.

During the past few days, we are told, the Stalin Government has been asking the Turks to permit their biggest Black Sea battleship, the PARISKAYA-KOMMUNA, to pass through the Dardanelles -- the idea being for the Soviet warship to join the British fleet at Alexandria. This the Turks can hardly permit, without coming to blows with Nazi Germany. So the PARISKAYA - KOMMUNA has been hanging around the Black Sea entrance to the Straits -- the Bosphorus. And now the vessel has come to blows with the Turks -- an exchange of shots.

This is the story we get - from Axis radio sources.

FINLAND

Once again Secretary of State Cordell Hull speaks out reproving Finland. He issued a statement today, in which he said, "Every act of the Finnish Government has confirmed our apprehension that it is fully cooperating with the Hitler forces."

Secretary Hull ~~likewise~~ denounces Finland's act in signing Hitler's Anti-Comintern Pact - the recent declaration against Communism."

The opinion in Washington is that Finland's anti-Communist signature is likely to cause Great Britain to declare war against the northern republic - a thing that Stalin is demanding. Also, the United States is likely to declare that the Finns are now in the aggressor nation group. And no more aid to them.

GENERAL

In the previous war in Europe, a French officer named Giraud, was captured by the Kaiser's Germans, and then proceeded to perform a daring exploit of escape. He broke out of a prison camp not far behind the battlefront, and took with him valuable maps and reports of the disposition of German troops along the nearby battleline. He disguised himself as a French peasant, couldn't get across ~~xx~~ to the French Army - but he did succeed in making his ^{through} ~~way back to the~~ German occupied territory and across the border into Holland. From Holland back to France - with his important military information,

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When the present war broke out; ^{that} ~~the~~ same French officer was now - General Giraud. He commanded an army in the campaign that led to the fall of France. His forces were trapped in Belgium, and the General himself was captured - he was made prisoner in one of the sensational events of the ill-starred Flanders campaign and was taken off to a fortress in eastern Germany - the fortress of Koenigstein. There, high ranking French officers were kept.

Today we have the story of an escape - from that

fortress of Koenigstein, and the prisoner who broke out was General Giraud - repeating his exploit of a quarter of a century ago. This time, however, he was not so fortunate. He successfully escaped from the fortress, but later while trying to make his way through Germany, he was recaptured.

LABOR

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The Labor Committee of the House of Representatives today put its okay on a proposed anti-strike law. This is ^{the} a bill that they had been working on ever since the President and Congressional leaders came to an agreement a few days ago. The measure which the Committee has written provides for a voluntary system of mediation and arbitration of defense labor disputes, and it authorizes the Government to seize plants tied up by strikes. The Administration in the past has taken over factories under the authority it already has. The new bill would make that authority more ample and definite.

Moreover, it contains a clause for a "cooling off" period. If a defense labor dispute should be deadlocked, a Mediation Board order could be issued forbidding a strike for a period of sixty days. Two months - for cooling off. The business of prohibiting a walk-out would take the form of an order against calling or assisting a strike. "Assisting in any manner," says the bill. That would seem to cover the matter of picketing - would forbid picketing during the cooling off period of sixty days.

This measure, which now goes to the floor of the House, differs considerably from another bit of labor legislation turned out today by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Sponsored by Senator Connally of Texas, the Senate bill deals merely with the Government right to seize defense plants tied up by strikes. It provides that if a plant is seized, labor conditions shall be frozen during the period of government operation. Wages and working hours would remain the same until private management took control again.

SECESSION

This nation now has forty-nine states - every Thursday. The new state is named, "Jefferson" - once a week. That's the result of the secession movement of counties along the border of California and Oregon - it's a part-time secession. These counties have formed a new state of the Union - but only on Thursday.

We heard some days ago, about discontent ^{out there} ~~in the~~ ~~Siskiyou Mountain area~~, because neither California nor Oregon would do anything about developing the mineral resources in those parts. The ^{local folks} ~~people~~ declared it was a matter of national defense, and demanded the construction of a highway system. Not getting action, they started a secession movement - withdraw from California and Oregon and form a new state. A contest was held to pick a name for this forty-ninth state, and the result was an honor to the third President of this nation.

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Today it appears that the new state ^{of Jefferson} will get going on a part-time basis - one day a week. For six days the counties in rebellion will be parts of California and Oregon, but on Thursday they'll be the State of Jefferson. ~~Maybe they'll want to increase the time limit until they finally become a fulfilled hundred per cent seven-day state.~~

It all sounds rather cockeyed, but the paradox is embodied in the formal proclamation issued today at Yreka. Yesterday, the "State of Jefferson Citizens' Committee" held what they called - "Freedom Day", with a demonstration of rebellion and secession. And now they've decided that they'll go into a condition of separate statehood - every Thursday. Today's proclamation concludes with the following pronouncement: "Until California and Oregon build a road into the copper country," declares the manifesto, "Jefferson, as a defense-minded state, will be forced to rebel each Thursday and act as a separate state."

Well, they seem to have the elements of a good idea. We might apply it to the whole country. Every Monday, for example, the United States might be - say, Afghanistan, the Republic of Plato, or the Kingdom of Heaven, or something. One might even try the idea personally - and be somebody else once a week.

For example, every ^{Friday}~~Monday~~ I might be Hugh James. So I think I'll
~~transform myself into Hugh James every Friday~~
transform myself into Hugh right now.

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