

L.I. Simoco. - Thursday, Aug. 28, 1941

WAR

The war headline tonight is that Giant Dam - they've blown it up. This is official - from Moscow, an announcement made by Stalin's vice-commissar of foreign affairs. He states that Red Army engineers have smashed the Dnieper Dam with high explosive, ~~xxx~~ shattering that vast barrier - and opening a deluge of water down the river.

The possible blowing up of the Dnieper Dam has been in the news for days. We heard first that Stalin had given Marshall Budenny permission to destroy the stupendous engineering work. Later the Germans claimed the Red Army had tried to crack the dam, but had failed - it was that massive and they hadn't time. But now it's official. The Stalin policy of scorched earth has come to a spectacular climax. Tremendous explosions - and the mighty barrier of masonry breaks, buckles, and gives way. And out rushes the vast lake that had been backed up behind the dam.

Pride of the Soviet Union, built by an American engineer, the dam stretched in a huge curve half a mile across the river. It was a hundred and forty feet high and generated seven hundred and fifty thousand horsepower. Completed in Nineteen thirty-two, the glory of the five year plan. It was then the greatest dam in the

world, bigger than our own muscle shoals, since then, however, the Dnieper dam has been surpassed by Boulder Dam, Shasta, and the ^{*Grand Coulee,*} Tennessee Valley developments.

Today's event represents perhaps the greatest single sacrifice the Soviets could have made to their policy of scorched earth. They wouldn't let the dam stand because it would have provided a magnificent bridgehead for the driving Blitzkrieg - a broad road across the river.

Moscow admits that the Germans have captured the great industrial plant at Dniepropetrovsk. Berlin claimed this several days ago. And today the Germans added that they forced the passage of the Dnieper. They say they captured an important bridgehead on the river, got across to the other bank, and are driving deeper into the Ukraine:

Moscow denies that the Nazis have cut the Leningrad - Moscow railroad, though this has been stated consistently in Berlin and the Germans come forth with a late claim saying that they're only thirty miles from Leningrad.

PERSIA

18 The war news from Iran tonight is mostly about peace. The government at Teheran is negotiating for a settlement with Great Britain and Soviet Russia. There was a change of ministry, and word came that the new Thheran cabinet was yielding. This emanated from Berlin. London expressed some skepticism - wondering how much the change of ministers in Iran really meant.

A late dispatch from Turkey gives us a report of the terms the British and Soviets are exacting. These call for control over all the strategic points in the kingdom of Iran - including of course the vital oil fields. And presumably they would permit the ~~x~~ transit of war supplies to ^{the} Soviets. In a military sense, this latest Persian war hasn't amounted to much - rapid seizures of territory by the British and the Red Armies, with not much Iranian resistance. As an armed conflict, it wouldn't appear to be nearly as violent as those Persian wars of old - of which Herodotus wrote.

FRANCE

As I suggested last night ~~It turns~~
out ~~It would appear~~ now that the man who shot Laval is not

a Communist at all. Quite to the contrary, he is a French Nationalist, Patriotic, hostile to the Nazi conqueror. Yesterday's report ~~represented~~

represented him as a Stalinist Red. ~~That was in~~ *In* line with the

Nazi policy of blaming all the disorders in France on the communist

elements. Today, however, Berlin came through with a report that the

man who did the shooting was a member of the Free French Movement

headed by General Degaulle. And later ~~the~~ word from Vichy *tells us he* ~~was he's~~

is actually [^]an anti-Bolshevik and a member of the right wing organization.

The Paris newspaper Petit Parisien prints a statement made

Young
by [^]Paul Colette, who did the shooting at Versailles. He tells how

he enlisted in the Legion of French Volunteers joining the Nazi war

against the Communists. He became a member of the group for the

purpose of making a demonstration with pistol fire. He says he had

no particular intention of killing either Laval or Marcel Deat, the

French ~~Fascist~~ Fascist leader. His account is as follows:

"I armed myself," says he, "With the intention of shooting as many as possible of the personalities supporting the collaboration policy. I did not know Laval was coming to Versailles," he continues,

"But I learned of it during the afternoon. I had no trouble identifying him from having seen him in the movies. Anyone would have done as well as Laval," says Colette. Then he adds, "I really wanted to shoot a collaborist to prove my dislike of the policy. I took a position in the front rank of volunteers," he says, "and waited until Laval arrived opposite me. I took my pistol from my pocket, and fired."

The episode of shooting was followed by a prompt search of other members of the anti-Communist volunteers, and we hear that three of them were found to be carrying weapons which they were not supposed to have. This had led to further investigation. It is suspected that there may be some Committee among the volunteers.

The shooting of Laval has intensified the suppression in occupied France. The authorities in Paris, acting in cooperation with the German military authorities, announce an anti-terrorist campaign that will be pressed without pity. There is to be a purge of malcontents, not only Reds but also right wing enemies of the policy of collaboration. Today three victims were guillotined in a Paris prison. They had been convicted of acts of terrorism.

Today's news from France continues to intensify the picture of a country seething with discontent. The Nazis and their Franch allies are trying to cope with ^a~~the~~ situation that has an ~~explosive~~ explosive appearance. There might be a mass outbreak and perhaps a widespread resort to terrorism of ^{the}~~a~~ kind that felled Laval. He, by the way, is still in a serious condition.

JAPAN

The Far Eastern crisis takes a new turn - with the beginning of personal negotiations between President Roosevelt and the Japanese Ambassador to Washington.

There was a White House conference today between the President, the Japanese Ambassador and Secretary of State Cordell Hull, with the Ambassador presenting to the President a personal note from the Tokyo foreign minister, Prince Kono. What transpired at the White House conversation today is of course a secret. But upon emerging, Secretary of State Hull stated that the President had begun personal negotiations with the ambassador for settlement of the differences between the United States and the Far Eastern Empire.

52
Neither the Secretary nor the Ambassador would reveal the contents of the Tokyo note to the President - save for an intimation that it did not concern that latest point of critical issue, American aid for Soviet Russia. The supposition in Washington is that Foreign Minister Prince Kono, in his personal communication, merely asked President Roosevelt to start talking matters over with the Japanese Ambassador. The President acceded, and the discussion began today. Secretary Hull indicated that there would be more conferences between the ambassador and the President.

SIAM

The news brings a suggestion of peace. We are told that the government of a nation deeply concerned in the world crisis is about to offer proposals to end the war - a request to all belligerents that they stop fighting. What nation. Siam - or Thailand, as they now call the Ancient kingdom of the White Elephants. Siam is Buddhist.

Its people are ^{among} ~~probably~~ the most devout of all the followers of that prince of India who was the light of Asia. Buddhism, with its infinite quiet of Nirvana, is a religion of peace. In fact, we are told that the government of Thailand will suggest to the nations at war that peace be made along the principles of Buddhism.

53
A Japanese dispatch tells us that the Siamese are preparing to stage a gigantic peace demonstration. Ceremonies in the Pagodas, with a chanting of yellow robed monks and a ringing of temple bells. And simultaneously the government of Thailand will communicate with all the belligerents, and suggest that they make peace on the basis of Buddhist principles - opposition to murder, to hatred, to jealousy.

It sounds like a good idea, a pleasingly romantic notion,

yet it does sound ironical - the Buddhists calling upon the Christians

to abide by moral ~~principles~~ principles which are so thoroughly Christian. And I wonder how Hitler and Stalin will take to Buddhism.

GASOLINE

24
The investigation of the gasoline shortage began today, and the first witness was deputy Oil Coordinator Davies. He read a fifty-one page statement which included a rattling denunciation of rumors that have been going about - stories that there was no real reason for a crisis.

Deputy Coordinator Davies gave figures to prove that the oil ~~inadequate~~ supply for the east coast states will be short to the tune of more than twenty-seven million barrels. So there is an oil famine, and a real one - said he.

He gave out a lot of other figures and blazed away at ~~xxxx~~ statements that the oil crisis is being over-emphasized to prompt a war psychology. "One cannot but wonder," said he, "If there does not lie behind these efforts to spread confusion and dissention some purpose and sinister plan. Is it possible," he asked, "that we have here an attempt at sabotage?"

Senator Maloney referred to the tanker situation - the fact that the oil shortage has been caused by the transferring of tankers to the service of the British. He read a quotation from a British magazine, the London economist, an article asserting that the

GASOLINE-2

British don't need American tankers. To this Deputy Coordinator Davies replied as follows:- "We have full information from the British," said he, "But it would be inappropriate in open hearing that I ~~discuss~~ discuss the question of British tankers." He added that such matters would be of military significance.

Today's investigation was begun by a sub-committee of the Senate commerce Committee. During the day, the Senate as a whole approved of a resolution to transform the subcommittee into a regular group representing the Senate. So with that extra authorization, the hearings will be continued.

JOB

An example was set today, an important example. For the first time the federal authorities have acted in behalf of a soldier released from military service and have enabled him to get back his job.

Sylvester Carra of New York was an assistant foreman in a shoe factory. He held the job for three years, and then was drafted under the Selective Service Law. He was sent to a training camp and later his father died - which left him with dependents. For that reason, he was discharged from the service.

He tried to go back to work at the shoe company, but was informed that his former post of assistant foreman has been eliminated while he was away. So they had no job for him. Whereupon United States Attorney Harold Kennedy got in touch with the president of the firm - Morgan Grossman. They talked things over, and Grossman agreed to put the discharged soldier back on the payroll at his former wages. Even if they can't make room for him they'll continue his pay as long as he is without a job during the coming year.

The United States attorney issues a statement praising the attitude of the shoe company. "A fine example for other employers," says he.

CHURCH

Today in upper New York state they dedicated - the Cathedral of the Condemned. At Dannemora, the frowning prison there, - they consecrated the first church that convicts in the United States have ever built. It is named after one of the two thieves who were crucified with the Saviour. - ^{They are calling it} "The Church of the Good Thief."

Dannemora is one of the most forbidding prisons in the United States - the tougher and harder convicts are sent there. Three years ago a plan was formed, and a group of convicts, two hundred of them, started to build a church. For construction material, they used stones from an old prison wall built by convicts a hundred years ago. The architectural style they adopted was Gothic - a church with a towering spire, a steeple a hundred and six feet high.

An altar was donated - an historic work of art. It was an altar taken from Europe to the Philippine Islands by ~~the~~ ^{Ferdinand} circum-navigator Magellan in fifteen twenty-one. Some while ago, it was brought from the Philippines to Washington by Mrs. Maria DeLatrobe, and she donated it to the church the convicts

were building in the prison.

Somebody else provided a crucifix - a great sculptured cross carved by the passion players of Oberammergau. Other charitable folk contrubuted a twenty-five thousand dollar pipe organ, a stained glass window of rose color, and finally a marble base relief of a saint - Saint Disamas. Such is the name that tradition gives to the "good thief" on the cross."

So now the church built by convicts has been completed, and today it was consecrated. The most Reverend Francis J. Monaghan, Bishop of Ogdensburg, Presided at the ceremony. The prison chaplain preached the sermon, *and referred to it as "the"* ~~and he said - "It is a"~~ cathedral of the condemned."

W.C.T.U.

We've heard about the soused mackerel and about somebody being as drunk as an owl. But here's news about the intoxicated flea and the pickled jellyfish. The story emanates from the Women's Christian Temperance Union, meeting at Grand Rapids, Michigan.

58 1/2
The ladies of the W.T.C.U. can always be depended upon to have expert information about the curse of drink. And today the following statement was made: "When one drop of ^oalcohol_^ was added to four thousand drops of water, a water flea could not live in the solution." The poor flea just staggered around, emitted a few ~~hiex~~ hiccoughs, and passed out. ~~Sounds like something that happened at a literary party in New York.~~

Then another statement was made. "One drop of ^oalcohol_^ added to a thousand drops of water, ~~xxxx~~ ^{ing}caused a jellyfish to die." ^{Just}~~Yes,~~ lack of self-control, lack of will power - just a jellyfish.

59
The ladies of the W.T.C.U. were also informed that ^salcohol caused grass to wither, ^{just as it will}~~That's a new one. We've known~~ ^{So what}~~sometimes~~ ^{the hootch to}eat the varnish off the bar, ^{but}~~but spilling the drinks~~ ^{wont it do to your tummy?}

After that little sermon, on the conservation of the
innards of man, let's hear from Hugh about the conservation of
gas.

2/12