

This evening the most dramatic thing in the news is --words, bitter phrases, scathing denunciations. The speaker is a little aging man with a goatee. A rather grotesque figure his name once spelled world wide fear and hatred -- when he was lord of the Red Terror and Commander of the Red Army. What does Trotsky have to say? He breathes vengeance, cries out that he is going to unmask one of the greatest crimes in history and avenge the victims.

That followed brief word from Moscow. (The Soviets are always curt in announcing executions. It is merely stated that the sixteen men convicted of plotting with the exiled Trotsky to kill the Red Dictator Stalin have been shot.) But were there sixteen? That's the number of the defendants on trial. Nobody would question the number of the executions, unless Trotsky himself had raised the question.

Speaking of two of the defendants, he says: "Nobody will know whether the Ogpu's spies, Holzmann and Olberg were really executed. Thus he raises the surmise that two of the sixteen men convicted and reported shot, were really not executed at all.

Trotsky adds a further creepy thought -- will the other two, the Ogpu spies, go on living under other names and be promoted by Stalin?

Trotsky, now at Oslo, Norway sits stewing in rage as he sees his name reviled in Russia, his party crushed, his colleagues put to death as Trotsky plotters. All he can do is issue statements:

In one of these today he sadly recalls the names of the Red Lords of Communist Russia, when Lenin was alive and king-pin of them all. Then on the Politburo, the supreme organ of power, were: Lenin, Trotsky, Zinovieff, Kameneff, Rykoff, Tomsky and Stalin. Where are they today? Lenin dead. Trotsky in exile. The next two names (Zinovieff and Kameneff? Those two famous veterans of Bolshevism head the list of the confessed plotters just executed.) And the next two names, Rykoff and Tomsky -- Rykoff is implicated, has killed himself. The last name on the old list of Lenin's Politburo -- is Stalin. And today he is the Red Dictator, clearing his enemies from his path, removing all those old Bolshevik heroes who created the

Soviet regime.

We can imagine Trotsky's feelings as he sits there in Oslo.

Moscow, in condemning his colleagues, named Trotsky as the arch-plotter. Today he demands a trial, no he won't go to Moscow to face Stalin's court of Red Justice. He demands an impartial trial -- in Norway. He insists on an international court of Communists decide upon Moscow's charges against him. And maybe he will have his way. Maybe there will be an international Communist court, in a mock trial of Trotsky. And that no doubt would be just as strange and curious as those deadly fantastic trials in Russia -- but wouldn't mean anything.

SPAIN

No wonder there is an international move to check the horrible brutality of the Spanish Civil War. No wonder the French and British governments are reported to be getting together in an attempt to persuade both sides, both the Reds and the Fascists, to stop the reign of terror and murder. The move is said to have originated among the ambassadors of the various nations to Spain, ambassadors who have now taken refuge across the border in France. They are not trying to stop the civil war, nothing so ambitious as that -- they merely want to persuade both sides to halt the executions and the mass killings of prisoners. And it's no wonder, when we look at the news from Spain tonight!

At San Sebastian, the Left Wing authorities began a round up of women and children, families of Fascist sympathizers. The women and children to be held as hostages. Already there are fifty en hundred men political prisoners there.

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And the word flashes that the Left Wing authorities have just had a hard time ~~in~~ keeping the Red mob from storming the jails and killing the ~~prisoners.~~ ^{prisoners. They} ~~They have~~ succeeded in holding back the Radical fanatics only by promising that for every life taken by the bombardment of rebel planes, five of the hostage prisoners will be shot. Then came a report that a hundred had been killed by Rebel air bombs. That meant the murder of five hundred hostages. But the Left Wing authorities deny ^{ied} the report of heavy casualties from the air raid. The latest seems to be ^{that} the sky bombers killed only four persons - ^{which} ~~that~~ seems to mean the lives of twenty hostages.

Madrid gives us a picture just as grim and savage.

A revolutionary tribunal ^{has been} ~~is~~ set up - and that recalls the revolutionary tribunal of the French Revolution which sent thousands to the guillotine. The Red revolutionary court in Madrid is working night and day, ~~is~~ clearing the prisons. The jails of the Spanish capital are crammed with political prisoners. Even the convents have been turned into jails. This host of captives is to stream in swift succession before the revolutionary

judges, and ^{then to their} ~~heaven knows the~~ fate. ~~that they await~~. The new court is created to satisfy the raging demand of the Red militia for action against the traitors in prison. ^R Merciless as it all sounds, they ~~claim~~ ^{say} the new revolutionary tribunal, by having some sort of legal procedure, is better than the ~~present~~ present state of affairs - with the Red workers conducting private execution parties of their own in remote suburbs of the city.

So no wonder the other nations are taking action - trying to persuade the return to some sort of humanity in Spain.

ABD-EL KRIM

Tonight there's a headling packed with implications of strange romance - war and terror, historic reminiscence, horror, dread and absurd comedy. The headline reads -- "Abd-el Krim has escaped from his island exile." That's the insistent report.

The present Spanish Civil War harks back to the time when the Spanish African army was dreadfully beaten by Abd-el Krim. That defeat led to the dictatorship of Primo de Rivera in Madred, the overthrow of King Alphonso, the establishment of the Spanish republic and the present fantastic horror.

Twelve years ago Abd-el Krim built a sudden, powerful empire of nomad tribes in North Africa. France joined Spain and crushed him. The embittered Spaniards wanted to shoot him, but the French had another destiny reserved for him. And this takes us to a reminiscence of American politics.

Right now we have a presidential campaign storming through the summer. Thirty-two years ago it was the same thing over here. I told a little while ago how the Republican National Convention in the Roosevelt-Bryan year whooped things up with the slogan--"Perdicaris alive or Raisuli dead!" The famous bandit Raisule had kidnapped a Graeco-American citizen named

Perdic aris. The Sultan of Morocco had paid a fat ransom for the release of Perdicaris, and Raisuli grew richer and more powerful year after year.

Then the old bandit chief was crushed by the young empire builder, Abd-el Krim, who inflicted on Raisuli a frightful death! Had him walled up in a cave, entombed alive, with four of his preetiest wives. That was an orthodox horror -- because the Prophet Mohammed grants to a Moslem the joy of four wives.

Now when the French whipped Abd-el Krim and had him a prisoner, what did they do with him? They sent him to a remote island, exile him -- with his two favorite wives, Fatima and Aicha. Abd-el Krim might have reflected bitterly that he had allowed Raisuli, the orthodox four wives.

On the Island of Reunion off Madagascar, in the Indian Ocean, they gave him a mansion to live in - an income of seven thousand dollars a year. Seven thousand a year is a good income on a remote island in the Indian ocean -- even admitting that-----

some consins and neices)
Abd-el Krim took ~~a sizeable family~~ with him ~~in the beginning.~~
But ~~that~~^{the} family has since increased. It now numbers thirty-six persons. If Paris had allowed the mighty sheik to have the orthodox four wives, instead of a mere two - Abd-el Krim's family would be still larger. And his financial difficulties ~~would have been~~ still greater. As it is - he says he cannot support a family of thirty-six on seven thousand dollars a year, even in the Indian Ocean.

Recently, he made representations to Paris - not outright requests for more money. The sheik is too proud for that. But he conveyed vivid hints through indirect channels - that he wanted a raise. Paris paid no attention to the request. So now the report, ~~that~~ Abd-el Krim ~~has~~ escape^s from Reunion!

Maybe ~~it~~ he's just ducking the bills on the first of the month. Or maybe he thinks that Paris will raise the ante² to get him back.

Such is the story that hit the headlines today. The French Ministry of Colonies thinks enough of Abd-el Krim to issue an official statement that it knows nothing of his reported escape.

Paris is trying to get in touch with Reunion Island, to check the story.

BLACK LEGION

The Black Legion today gives us the problem of defining a word -- ~~the word~~ syndicalism. The news tells us that fifteen more ^{hooded} members have been ordered to trial on charges of "criminal syndicalism."

That sounds a bit puzzling -- since syndicalism is commonly taken to mean a form of red radicalism, ^{or} particularly violent form. And my ~~Burr and Wagner's~~ dictionary bears that out -- defining syndicalism as a form of labor organization which originated in France. The reddest ~~x~~ of the Left Wing extremeists in war-torn Spain today are the syndicalists -- sometimes called anarcho-syn^{di}calsists. The anarchist part of it gives the final touch of red.

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However, no matter what deeds are ^{charged} against the Black Legion, nobody suspects the hooded terrorists of being red radicals. Their chief claim is that they're out to fight socialism and communism, ~~and~~ even the faintest shade of pink. Put,
We find the answer to the paradox in the legal fact that the laws drawn up against criminal syndicalism include every sort of plot against government -- not only red plots, but all

kinds. And the fifteen Black Legionaires indicted today are accused of a wild scheme to attack and capture government buildings, such as arsenals. That kind of Black Legion revolutionary foolishness puts the boys under the law against criminal syndicalism.

~~In addition to this formidable charge the latest Black Hood defendants are accused of a whole string of other crimes — perjury, assault, black-jacking, and a conspiracy to kill a newspaper publisher.~~

LANDON

(Governor Landon's tour of the east came to a high spot in Buffalo today -- huge crowds, thunderous cheers, showers of confetti ^{and ticker} tape. The smiling candidate specialized in greeting children.) He beamed as he accepted a basket of roses from Polish-American kiddies. And at the railroad station he made a sudden escape from his police escort to rush over and shake hands with a toe-headed urchin in overalls. That's good old presidential strategy. It's ^{even} been known for a president to kiss a baby as he issued a declaration of war.

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Democrats are arguing that the Governor tossed one small crab apple ^{of discord} into the New York Republican situation - when at Ch^{at}augua he denounced the teachers' oath of loyalty. The bill to enforce ^{the oath} ~~the~~ has been sponsored by Republican leaders in the state, and it is supposed that they may be chagrined at the Landon declaration that teachers should not be ^{singled} ~~singled~~ out from the rest of the population and made to abjure radical beliefs.

Republican strategists are nodding approval of the mild, moderate tone of the Landon speeches thus far - no blazing, hell-bent for election attacks on the Roosevelt administration,

no flaming, skin 'em alive excoriation. They say it's good policy, and point to two shining examples - one example being Al Smith, the other Franklin D. Roosevelt. ^{TP} They recall that Al Smith, in his tremendously effective campaign, ^s did not ~~shoot~~ ^{shoot} the cannon crackers too early. He saved them for the closing stretch, the final climax. He took it mild and easy in the beginning, and worked up to his high point just before election day.

And President Roosevelt right now is taking it easy.

He ^{too is} not blasting away with all his political ammunition. Just the reverse. He's out of the ^{oratorical} ~~campaign~~ battle for the time being. ~~Today at the White House, he had a long talk with Senator Glass~~ ~~of Virginia, one of his most caustic critics, who, however, is~~ ~~not taking a walk.~~ Tonight at midnight the President starts on his drought tour, but he has stated ~~that~~ with the ~~strictest~~ emphasis that it is strictly non-political. ^{He says he's tackling} ~~he is talking~~ nothing but drought relief as he goes west to look over the ^{belt of} ~~district~~ dryness and confer with ^{the executives of} ~~governors of~~ drought states - including Governor Landon. ~~THEY'LL~~ They'll meet across the dinner table,

the two rival candidates - the dinner on the presidential train, to which F.D.R. has invited the drought governors, including his political opponent.

So that's taking it easy in the earlier weeks of the campaign. The Republican strategists interpret it as meaning that the President is reserving his oratorical ammunition for the later crisis of the political battle. They point out that the President is supremely well known to the nation, while Governor Landon has to make these early speaking tours of his to get acquainted. ^{And -} He is making them on the take-it-easy plan - reserving his own oratorical ammunition for the crisis.

8 ^{And} I suppose the crisis will be critical indeed when those rival stores of oratorical ammunition begin to explode.

TOWNSEND

At Cleveland today the question was raised - "What's the cost of O.A.R.P.?" And the answer was - "O.A.R.P. has cost a million dollars." A million bucks ^{For} ~~with~~ ^{But} four letters. ^{And-} Those four letters stand for Old Age Revolving Pensions. [^] It costs money to organize a nationwide political movement, as Dr. Townsend admitted on the witness-stand today.

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The big financial angle came up in the course of an attempt to throw O.A.R.P. into receivership - legal proceedings instituted by the Reverend Alfred J. Wright, a former Townsendite leader, whom the Doctor has chucked out. The present legal proceedings remind one of the late lamented congressional investigation of the Townsend Plan - money matters ~~are so much~~ in the foreground.

Dr. Townsend testified on the witness-stand that he had complete control of the O.A.R.P. cash register. Of all that came in, it was up to him to say how it ~~could~~ go out.

I don't suppose there'll be any national indignation over the fact, which the Doctor admitted - that he used O.A.R.P.

dollars to pay his wife's railroad fare. She took a number of transcontinental journeys on the choo-choo train. A wife's railroad fare has got to be paid, for she can hardly walk from coast to coast - and presumably her travels ~~was~~ ^{were on some} O.A.R.P.

business. And now I'm traveling on some m-o-n-k-e-y business. And e-l-u-t-m.

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