

# Sharper World Power Lineup Results From Russ-Finn Clash; Japan, Italy Maintain Silence

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)  
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## INTERNATIONAL:

### Finlandia

Russia's invasion of Finland provided the first authentic touch of fierce conflict which observers have seen in the European cat-and-dog fight which started September 1. Carnage was spreading but so was peace talk, because most of the civilized world (except Germany and Japan) was outspoken in its denunciation of Soviet aggression.



Barracks and officers' quarters at Fort Laramie. "Bedlam," where the Christmas ball on December 25, 1866, was dramatically interrupted by the arrival of John ("Portugee") Phillips with his message of disaster at Fort Phil Kearney, is the two-story frame structure at the extreme left in the picture.

Plucky, even though pathetically outnumbered, the Finns surprised most military experts by stalemating the enemy along a 750-mile front. Off Hango, one Russian de-

ber 1 has been as coherent as the gibberish of a Mongolian idiot. Officially the Italian government was sphynx-like, but there was no doubt about the feelings of a mob of uniformed Fascists who cheered before Rome's Finnish legation and hooted before the Soviet embassy. Though moving softly, the fine Italian hand was seen encouraging formation of an anti-Communist bloc in the Balkan states, where the Soviet bear will positively strike next.

Germany was silent, and with good reason. To denounce the Reds after Adolf Hitler's great show of friendship with Moscow would mean either (1) the repudiation of Der Fuehrer and a subsequent admission that the allies are right, or (2) a simultaneous war on two fronts against two hostile enemies (Russia on the east and the allies on the west). But a good sign of the average Nazi's sentiments was the pro-Finnish demonstration in Hungary's parliament.

How about Japan? Britain believed the recent Jap-Russian truce had paved the way for Finland's invasion, but Shanghai and Tokyo observers thought otherwise. Said an anonymous Jap army major: "It is a good lesson. It proves what we have always suspected, that Russia cannot be trusted."

Japan, Italy and Russia were obviously the nations to be watched, but no one could accurately predict their moves.

### The Other War

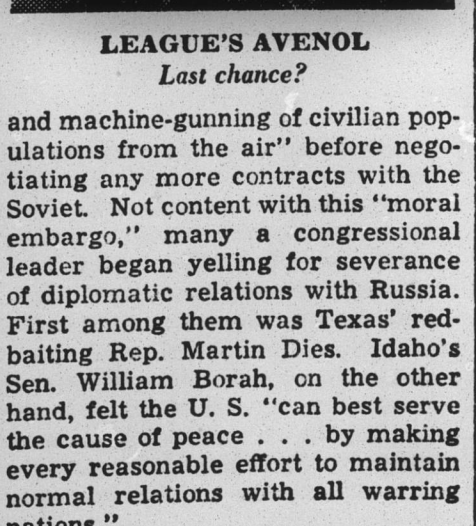
Thousands of older French soldiers were released from the western front as the allies settled on their new strategy: Fighting Germany with seapower and economics instead of land offensives. There was no great show of seapower, although the disastrous allied shipping losses from Germany's magnetic mines had apparently been stopped. British aviators bombed Heligoland, the Reich's North sea naval base, claiming they had scored direct hits on several warships. But the biggest news was the new allied blockade on all German exports, designed to strangle the Reich's sources of foreign exchange. In the middle of this strange warfare the Vatican dropped an even stranger—though promising—note. Pope Pius XII declared a Christmas truce.

### American Reaction

Thoroughly startled when Russia ignored his plea that civilian bombings be avoided in the Soviet-Finnish invasion, President Roosevelt issued an unprecedented statement: "Despite efforts made to solve the dispute by peaceful methods . . . one power has chosen to resort to arms."

This silenced spiteful critics who hoped to capitalize by pointing out how the President had erred in recognizing Russia back in 1933. But it didn't silence New York's Communist *Daily Worker*, whose front-page editorial accused the U. S. of provoking war against Russia "by using Finland as a pawn."

Next the President asked manufacturers and exporters of planes to remember "the unprovoked bombing



LEAGUE'S AVENOL  
Last chance?

and machine-gunning of civilian populations from the air" before negotiating any more contracts with the Soviet. Not content with this "moral embargo," many a congressional leader began yelling for severance of diplomatic relations with Russia. First among them was Texas' red-baiting Rep. Martin Dies. Idaho's Sen. William Borah, on the other hand, felt the U. S. "can best serve the cause of peace . . . by making every reasonable effort to maintain normal relations with all warring nations."

Comment from Britain's publicity-wise George Bernard Shaw: "Finland would probably not have refused the Russian offer . . . had she been acting . . . in her own interests, but Russia believes that Finland thinks she has the backing of America and other western powers."

## NEWS QUIZ

(Know your news? One hundred is perfect score, and deduct 20 for each question you miss. Any score below 60 isn't to be bragged about.)



1. This man is eating breakfast. Who is he, and what important political step did he recently take?
2. In New York, George ("Romero") Lowther III, whose wooing of Eileen ("Juliet") Herrick was opposed by her parents, obtained a court order and a 10-day truce after which he was supposed to be free to marry the girl. Did he?
3. Princess Louise of England, daughter of the late Queen Victoria, made news in what way?
4. What swept across the Philippines: (A) a diphtheria epidemic; (B) a typhoon; (C) a spirit of independence.
5. Petsamo, in northern Finland, site of a fierce Finnish-Russian battle, has a temperate climate even though it's inside the Arctic circle. Why?

Answers at bottom of column.

## POLITICS:

### Norris Advice

Not until the Jackson day dinners January 8—if not later—is President Roosevelt expected to say yes or no on the third-term issue. Early this month, while Washington correspondents did their best to trip up the President on a commitment, Nebraska's sage old Sen. George Norris gave the White House some advice: Say nothing until a commitment is unavoidable. His reasoning:

"The President is the ideal leader of the common man, and if should be eliminated from the scene, no other leader . . . progressive people against a united, reactionary one. . . . The progressive element would be divided into groups which would go down to defeat in a convention where the united opposition might succeed in nominating a reactionary . . ."

## COURTS:

### Labor Defeat

Painful to 57 corporations, individuals and organizations was the Supreme court's decision upholding a justice department anti-trust suit. The decision held them liable to prosecution, charged with fixing milk prices, controlling supply and suppressing competition in the Chicago area. Most pained, however, was labor. Reason: One defendant is the milk wagon drivers union.

This is Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold freed to prosecute organized labor in his investigation of building trades, a probe which was opposed by A. F. of L.'s President William Green on the ground that unions are exempted from such anti-trust prosecution by the Clayton act.

But labor's fear goes deeper than that. If the justice department is upheld against labor unions in its building trades conspiracy case, the unions can be prosecuted in restraint of trade every time they call a strike.

## MISCELLANY:

### Ouster

Dragged from his office and fired because Gov. E. D. Rivers said he was using the "prestige" of his office to further his political ambitions, Georgia's Highway Commissioner W. Linton Miller began fighting for reinstatement.

### Terminal

At Kansas City, four railway companies (Santa Fe, Burlington, Rock Island and Missouri Pacific) planned to spend \$1,000,000 on a new produce terminal, making the city a mid-western market center.

### Subsoil

In Mexico's supreme court, where is being argued that nation's right to expropriate oil holdings of foreign countries, Justice Jose Maria Truchuelo argued that subsoil belongs to the nation; therefore foreign oil companies never really owned the oil.

# December 25, 1866, Marked the End of An Heroic Ride and It Halted a Gay Christmas Ball at Old Fort Laramie



Barracks and officers' quarters at Fort Laramie. "Bedlam," where the Christmas ball on December 25, 1866, was dramatically interrupted by the arrival of John ("Portugee") Phillips with his message of disaster at Fort Phil Kearney, is the two-story frame structure at the extreme left in the picture.

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON  
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

CHRISTMAS night, 1866, at historic Fort Laramie on the old Oregon Trail.

A Christmas ball was in progress in the two-story frame building where all the social activities of the post were held—"Bedlam," they called it, because it was where the unmarried officers were quartered. In sharp contrast to the cheery scene inside—the warmth, the music and the soft light of candles and kerosene lamps—was the darkness outside, made more desolate by the whistling wind and the biting cold.

While the festivities were at their height, across the snow-blanketed parade ground a horse staggered. Its rider reeled in his saddle as he urged the weary beast forward. When at last he drew rein before the lighted building and painfully dismounted, the horse dropped in its tracks.

A moment later a huge figure, clad in a heavy buffalo overcoat, leggings, moccasins and fur cap, lunged through the door of "Bedlam" and uttered out to the middle of the room. The music stopped with a crash, and several of the women screamed at the sight of the strange figure which stood there swaying from side to side like a great brown bear.

As several officers rushed forward, the man in the buffalo coat lifted his hand wearily, pulled off his cap and gasped: "Fetterman and 80 men have been wiped out by the Sioux at Phil Kearney! Carrington must have help at once!" Then he dropped in a dead faint at their feet.

This messenger of disaster was "Portugee" Phillips, and his 236-mile ride from Fort Phil Kearney to Fort Laramie, in the dead of winter and through a country swarming with hostile Indians, was one of the most remarkable exploits in the annals of America. Compared to it, the historic rides of Paul Revere and Phil Sheridan sink into insignificance.

The reason for his heroic ride was the now-famous "Fetterman Massacre" in which the Sioux and Cheyennes on the morning of December 21, 1866, killed a force of 76 soldiers and two civilians led by Capt. W. J. Fetterman, Capt. F. H. Brown and Lieut. G. W. Grummond.

That afternoon another detachment went out from the fort and recovered their mutilated bodies. Soon afterwards the weather changed, the thermometer dropped to 25 degrees below zero and a blizzard came howling down upon the grief-stricken garrison, who fully expected the Indians to follow up their victory over Fetterman with an attack on the fort.

The blizzard piled snow against the stockade so rapidly that forces of men, working in shifts of only 15 minutes because of the bitter cold, were kept busy shoveling it away lest the drifts should become so high that the Indians could use them to climb over the palisaded walls. In this crisis Carrington decided that the only hope of saving the remainder of his command was to secure reinforcements from Fort Laramie, 236 miles away, the reinforcements for which he had been vainly asking for several weeks.

But there was no telegraph line nearer than the station at Horseshoe Creek, 40 miles from Laramie, and the only hope of getting a message through was by courier. So the commander called for volunteers. But none of the soldiers were willing to take the risk.

Then John Phillips, a civilian, stepped forward. "Portugee" Phillips they called him because of his Portuguese parentage. He would go, he said.

Before leaving, Phillips asked if he might see Mrs. Grummond,

The story of the subsequent career of "Portugee" Phillips is an all-too-familiar story of the proverbial ingratitude of republics toward men who have served them well. In the years that followed his heroic ride he was employed in various capacities around the frontier posts in Wyoming. But he was continually hunted and harassed by the Sioux who looked upon him as the man who had prevented their following up their victory over Fetterman by destroying the whole garrison at Fort Phil Kearney. They drove off or killed his cattle and when he tried to get compensation from the government for his losses the Court of Claims gave him a judgment for the sum of \$2,210.

Then it was discovered that Phillips, born of Portuguese parents on the Pacific coast, was not a naturalized citizen of the United States at the time of the Indian depredations on his property. So the claim was not allowed! Later he became a naturalized citizen but still the claim was not paid.

Broken in health by the exposure and strain of his perilous ride and his treatment at the hands of the revengeful Indians, Phillips died in Cheyenne November 18, 1883, at the age of 51, leaving a widow and a child in straightened circumstances.

It was not until 33 years later that the government took official recognition of his heroic ride. In 1899 Senator F. E. Warren and Congressman F. W. Mondell of Wyoming, aided by affidavits provided by Carrington (now a brigadier-general) and Mrs. Carrington (his second wife) succeeded in obtaining the sum of \$5,000 for Mrs. Phillips in partial recognition of her husband's services in 1866 and his losses at the hands of the Indians.



Monument to "Portugee" Phillips near the site of Fort Phil Kearney.

Among the tributes that have been paid to "Portugee" Phillips is this poem, written by Griff Crawford and printed in the *Kansas City Times* on March 3, 1929.

### I'M RIDIN' FOR LARAMIE

I'm goin' to Laramie—down the divide;  
A headin' for Laramie—goin' to ride  
The trail as I find it and gaugin' the  
breath  
That blows from the Big Horn, a-singin'  
with death,  
I'm hopin' for luck when I'm makin'  
it through  
The brakes that are hidin' the clan of  
the Sioux.  
They're waitin' out there in the coulees,  
I know,  
But it's death if I stay—and a chance  
to go.  
So, here's a goody-bye to the pards at  
my side—  
I'm tryin' for Laramie—down the divide.  
I'm tryin' for Laramie. No one can tell  
The cunning that lurks in the minions  
of hell  
That wait just beyond where the spent  
bullets fall.  
Nor measure the storm that is king  
over all.  
With its cold, bitin' sting and the drifts  
layin' deep,  
And the wild, drivin' wind that comes  
down with a sweep,  
I'm knowin' the trail will be long at  
the best—  
I'm knowin' the risk and I'm takin' it  
the test—  
And hopin' and prayin' that somethin''ll  
guide  
Me straight into Laramie—down the di-  
vide.  
I'm tryin' for Laramie—crawlin' it  
through  
The scarp-rasin' ring—and I'm foolin'  
the Sioux;  
I'm freezin' a bit—but I'm warmer in-  
side—  
And soon I'll be out where I'll chance it  
and ride  
The wind has a sting and the fog is  
rough,  
But I'm out—and away—and my broncho  
is tough.  
The trail may be long but it's worth it  
to know  
I am fightin' the miles and I'm buckin'  
the snow  
For help—and I'm grinnin' for makin'  
it through  
That circle of death—and I'm foolin' the  
Sioux.  
I'm ridin' for Laramie! Somehow the  
creep  
Of cold in my veins wants to put me  
to sleep  
And the hours—and the days—and the  
weeks—and the years  
And the drummin' that sounds like a  
snell in my ears—  
And the eyelids that's froze to my cheeks  
sorta seem  
Like a phantom of night or the hell of  
a dream  
I'm freezin' I know, but I'm ridin' it  
out—  
From Kearney to Laramie—swayin'  
about—  
I'd grin, if I could, for I'm makin' it  
through  
From Kearney to Laramie—foolin' the  
Sioux.  
L'ENVOI.  
We're here, little boss, and our journey  
is done;  
The bugles are ringin', we've made it  
and won.  
The sting that is bitin' my flesh doesn't  
count;  
I'm watchin' the soldiers ride out as  
they mount  
A headin' for Kearney. I'd cry if I  
could.  
They're headin' for Kearney—I know that  
they would!  
I'd like to be ridin' the ice-pelleted track—  
Be ridin' for Kearney a-leadin' them  
back—  
And watchin' the fight as they're beatin'  
it through  
That hair-litin' circle and whippin' the  
Sioux.

## RUSSIAN WEAPON

Top photo shows how Soviet troops are bedded down in wing compartments. Over site of attack they are parachuted (below) to the ground.

stroyer was sunk and two others badly damaged by coastal batteries. While civilians fled bomb-wrecked Helsingfors, hardy soldiers fought off the Soviet advance in the north. They even drove the invader from snow-bound Petsamo after the Russians had taken that city with a new weapon—dropped by parachute.

Foreign Minister Valino Tamm appealed to the world for "effective help" as well as sympathy. Later he tried to reopen negotiations with Moscow through the Swedish minister there, but only a few hours earlier the Soviet had made its own peace—with a puppet "democratic republic of Finland." Finally, in desperation, Finland appealed to the League of Nations.

## Embarrassment

For three years the frightened league has "played dead" whenever a political question was broached. Last spring Secretary-General Joseph A. C. Avenol ignored Albania's protest during the Italian invasion, and a recently scheduled meeting to hear Poland's protest over her Russian-German invasion was politely called off for fear of embarrassing the Kremlin. Reason: Russia's Ivan Maisky is league president.

This time the league had its last chance to retain international respect. Secretary Avenol dispatched the Finnish protest under pressure from France and Britain, who saw a chance of forcing Russia to show her hand. This hope was dashed when Russia announced she would not attend the meeting. Nor did any observer expect the lesser neutral nations to support either side in this controversy.

Instead the peace seekers looked to Italy, a non-leaguer, and Japan, whose foreign policy since Septem-

## NAMES

... in the news

- Jan Sibelius, Finland's idol and world-famed composer, denied by telephone from his home in Helsingfors outskirts that he was dead, a bomb victim.
- Harold D. Jacobs, ex-Washington newsman, was made "stooze" wage-hour administrator until congress will okay an army man for the job (Col. Philip Fleming of St. Paul).
- Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt showed up for the third day at un-Americanism committee hearings, watching Texas' Rep. Martin Dies hunt Communists in the American Youth congress.
- Attorney General Frank Murphy refused A. F. of L.'s request that unions be exempted from anti-trust laws, thereby avoiding implication in the current inquiry of building industry irregularities.
- King George VI of Britain braved a rough channel crossing to join his army on the Western front.

## News Quiz Answers

1. Tom Dewey, New York district attorney, who announced his 1940 C. O. F. presidential candidacy.
2. No. Though legally free, "Juliet" claimed she was still held captive.
3. He died.
4. (B) is correct. It was the worst hurricane there since 1908.
5. The Gulf Stream, which originates in the Caribbean sea some 8,000 miles away.