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News Review of Current Events

FASCISTS BALK PARLEYS

Break with Soviet Feared . . . Americans in Shanghai Demand Protection . . . Big Jap 'Push' Still to Come



Back from yachting trip, the President, shown with son James, seems cheerful enough despite troubles of Yanks in Far East.

Edward W. Pickard
SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK
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Russian Note Shies Italy

FURTHER evidence of the complete accord of the two great Fascist governments was revealed when Germany joined Italy in refusing to be represented at the Nyon, Switzerland, conference to end "piracy" on the Mediterranean. The Nazis gave the same excuses as Italy: That the action of Soviet Russia in accusing Italian submarines of sinking two Russian merchant ships and demanding full indemnity made impartial conclusions of the parley impossible, and that the whole affair might better be ironed out by the committee for non-intervention in the Spanish civil war.

So heated were the differences between the Italians and the Russians, it was feared the incident might lead to a break in diplomatic relations, if not to actual armed conflict.

Great Britain, Russia and France went right ahead with their plans for the conference. British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden was instructed, however, to make no proposals which would tend to divide the Mediterranean powers into Fascist and anti-Fascist groups. It was believed he would propose that merchant ships be allowed a naval convoy through the danger zones.

Britain, one of the chief sufferers from the submarine attacks on shipping, was embarrassed shortly before the conference was to begin when a Spanish insurgent cruiser (Italy is known to be aiding the insurgents) commandeered a British merchantman off Palermo, Sicily, and confiscated her cargo of Russian oil consigned to the Spanish loyalist government.

Yanks in Far East 'Kick'

AMERICANS in Shanghai, constantly in danger of their lives, cabled Washington, demanding the protection of United States ships. The American Chamber of Commerce in the war-torn city asked Secretary of State Hull for immediate clarification of the State department's stand. Some of them were bitter toward President Roosevelt, who, from his yacht, had told newspaper men that Americans in the war zone would remain there at their own risk. No deadline for evacuation had yet been set, and when rumors spread that the United States flagship Augusta was making ready to leave Yangtze waters, panic spread among the Yanks in Shanghai.

Many business men, with lifetime savings invested there vigorously urged the President to adopt "a foreign policy with a strong front and keep the American flag waving." One veteran Yank resident circulated a petition demanding that the President "get off his yacht, get on his feet and get some guts above them."

American missionaries and business men protested that the United States' position in the Far East was largely the result of their life's work, and insisted on a more steadfast attitude to keep the American stake in China. The State department replied that there was a broad distinction between getting out of the line of fire and relinquishing privileges established over the years.

Opposition Surprises Nippon

JAPANESE naval guns and bombers carried the war 600 miles south of Shanghai when they attacked the port of Amoy, which

houses a huge Chinese fort and arsenal, opposite the island of Formosa. Their bombs carried little effect and the shore artillery chased the warships, completely disabling one. The battle was but thirty miles from Hong Kong, recently ravished by a typhoon.

Elsewhere along the far-flung front the Japanese were meeting with opposition the caliber of which they had not expected. Along the Woosung front, 200,000 Chinese, including crack German-trained divisions, were successful in holding back 60,000 Japanese; it was said to be the severest opposition the Japs have met since they fought Russia in 1904.

Japanese aerial bombardments continued in the Chapei, Kiangwan, Taichong and Yanchong districts of Shanghai. The continued peril of the international settlement and the French concession spurred the American, British and French consuls to demand of both the Japanese and Chinese that their forces be withdrawn from that vicinity. Scores of noncombatants were daily being killed and wounded there by falling bombs and shells.

One of the war's most sensational military coups occurred in the rocky hills west of Peiping when 4,000 Japanese troops were reported wiped out by the Chinese in ambush. The Japanese line was said to have been driven back five miles by the terrific onslaught, and Japanese commanders were reported more worried than ever over the success of their invasion in this sector.

Another of the war's great horrors was perpetrated when the Japanese bombed a refugee train 30 miles south of Shanghai, killing 300 and wounding 400 noncombatants. Only in the northern province of Chahar did the Japanese make real progress. There they captured the capital city of Kalgan. A commission of 100 "prominent" Mongols and Chinese (many of them known to be associated with the Japanese army) was setting up a new "popular" autonomous government under Japanese control.

Plague Upon a Plague

JOHN L. LEWIS, fire-eating chairman of the Committee for Industrial Organization, let fly a rebuke at President Roosevelt for implied backwatering on campaign promises and hinted at the possibility of a third party in the elections of 1940. In a radio speech he declared: "It ill behooves one who has supped at labor's table and who has been sheltered in labor's house to curse with equal fervor and fine impartiality both labor and its adversaries when they become locked in deadly embrace."

This was regarded as an answer to the "plague on both your houses" which President Roosevelt called down on extremists of both sides in the "little steel" strike. In his campaign for re-election he had "supped at labor's table" to the extent of a half-million-dollar contribution to the Democratic national committee by the C. I. O.

Lewis suggested that it would be a wise move for labor and agriculture to wage their battles together politically.

Chinese Won't 'Cooperate'

JAPAN'S aim in the undeclared war is to make China submit once and for all to her will, the Japanese government virtually admitted through its foreign minister, Koki Hirota. The seriousness of Japan's intentions were obviated when Emperor Hirohito, departing from precedent, referred to the conflict in detail in a public statement from the throne, and when it was revealed that Nippon is preparing more appropriations for her already heavy war chest.

Hirota blamed the Chinese central government for the present fighting because it refuses to "co-operate" with Japan in "maintaining peace" in eastern Asia. Japanese military action against China, he said, was taken to make impossible the recurrence of the current hostilities. "Japan," he said, "has no other objective than to see a happy and tranquil North China and Sino-Japanese relations so adjusted as to enable us to put into practice our policy."

"Since China, ignoring our true motive, mobilized her vast armies against us, we can do no other than to counter by force of arms."

The emperor, in addressing the houses of parliament, greatly impressed his subjects with a review of the war, arriving at much the same conclusions as Hirota had. The session of parliament was called to consider the appropriation of \$592,000,000 for the campaigns in China, raising the total of the nation's war chest to \$737,000,000.

Dodd and Hull Disagree

BY THE time this is printed William E. Dodd may no longer be United States ambassador to Germany. In an interview he vigorously



Ambassador W. E. Dodd

opposed any American representation at the Nazi party congress in Nuremberg. Secretary of State Cordell Hull refused to comment upon Dodd's attitude, but announced that the United States would be represented at the conference which will celebrate Hitler's rule by Prentiss Gilbert, American charge d'affaires in Berlin.

Secretary Hull explained that the action was being taken merely as a friendly gesture to the Nazi government, with whom he said the United States is in complete diplomatic accord. Diplomatic reports have indicated that Dodd, now vacationing here, had made himself unpopular in Berlin because of criticism of the Hitler government's policies. Rumor had it that he might not return to his post.

McGrady Quits Labor Post

EDWARD F. McGRADY, assistant secretary of labor, and chief strike trouble shooter of Mme. Frances Perkins' department, resigned to devote his talents to radio. He left his \$9,000-a-year job to take the post of executive vice president in charge of industrial relations with the Radio Corporation of America, at a salary variously estimated at from \$15,000 to \$50,000.

In a letter to McGrady, President Roosevelt expressed "deep regret," and added, "Your efforts to maintain harmonious labor relations have always been in the public interest and in fairness to workers and management."

McGrady had been one of the federal mediators who failed to achieve a settlement of the C. I. O. strike against "Little Steel."

Hitler: 'Stand by Japan'

A DOLF HITLER, in a manifesto to the German nation, offered to stand by both Italy and Japan in a "defensive fight against bolshevism." He charged that the "two major wars" now going on (the Sino-Japanese and the Spanish civil wars) were the result of "attempts to spread communism."

Germany and Italy's "community of interests" have emerged in recent months, he said, "more and more an element in the defense of Europe against chaotic imbecility."

Postage Stamp War

HONDURAS and Nicaragua were on the verge of running up the curtain on their own little show in honor of Mars, the god of war—all over a postage stamp. Nicaragua issued a stamp bearing a map which showed an area along the Honduras boundary as "territory in dispute." Honduras claimed it was an affront to their sovereignty, citing the Spanish award which both sides accepted in 1906 and which was supposed to have settled the territory question. Honduras were further incensed when Nicaraguan army speakers hinted the Honduran army couldn't lick a postage stamp, and proposed sending troops into that country.

When a Balloon Bursts, Your Face Does This



The facial expressions of this twelve-year-old girl, made with a continuity camera, show the time it takes the brain to react to the bursting of a rubber balloon. These facial expressions, from the start through the finish, are much the same as those of any person subjected to a similar experience.



UNC' BILLY WISHES HE HAD STAYED AT HOME

WHATEVER possessed Unc' Billy Possum to go wandering off way, way into the deepest part of the Green Forest, he did not know himself. He just went, that was all. Perhaps it was something in the air that made him. It seemed as if everybody was doing a great deal of wandering about these beautiful early spring days. It's a way



'How Did Yo' Pass the Winter, Br'er Beaver?' Asked Unc' Billy.

the little meadow and forest people have in the glad springtime. So you will meet them in the most unexpected places, very busy doing nothing at all but looking around.

So Unc' Billy Possum wandered along poking over sticks and piles of leaves, peering with his shrewd, sharp little eyes into every hollow log and stump, and watching for signs of nest builders, for you know

Like Pisa's Tower



Situated on the northwest side of Chicago in Algair park is an old time bell tower having almost the identical characteristics of the ancient, Leaning Tower of Pisa, Italy. This replica has complete sets of old time bells and a set of the famous Deagen chimes, and is about the height of a ten story building. It is 7 feet 4 inches out of plumb.

Unc' Billy has a weakness for fresh eggs. He just can't pass a fresh egg no matter who it belongs to. He always excuses himself on the ground that whoever laid it can lay another, and so no harm is done, which, of course, is no excuse at all. But Unc' Billy seems to think it is, and whenever he goes out to walk in the spring he has his eyes open for new homes of his feathered neighbors.

This particular morning he had come as far as the pond of Paddy the Beaver before he stopped to rest. There he sat down on Paddy's dam to pass the time of day with Paddy, who was swimming about in his pond just as if he hadn't anything else in particular to do.

"How did yo' pass the winter, Br'er Beaver?" asked Unc' Billy.

"Very comfortably, thank you, Unc' Billy," replied Paddy politely. "I had plenty to eat, a comfortable bed, and plenty of time to sleep. What more could I ask?"

Unc' Billy grinned. "Yo' could have asked fo' warmer weather," said he. "Ah done thought Ah was going to freeze to death. Ah done wish a good many times that Ah was way down souf in Ol' Virginny. Ah don't like such a long, cold winter."

"Did you call that a long winter and a hard winter?" exclaimed Paddy. "Pooh! You ought to spend a winter up where I came from. I don't believe that Mistress Spring

has reached that part there yet."

"Then Ah don't want to be any nearer to it than I am this very minute!" declared Unc' Billy. "By the way, Br'er Beaver, have yo' seen any strangers up this way? Br'er Jay and Br'er Crow done go crazy in their haids, Ah guess, for all they can talk about is a big black stranger who stands on two legs and walks on four legs and is as big as Farmer Brown's Boy. They say they saw him somewhere up around here. Have yo'—"

Unc' Billy didn't finish what he had started to ask. He didn't finish because the snapping of a stick behind him made him turn his head. There stood the stranger in black, as big as Farmer Brown's Boy, standing on two legs and with the awfulest big claws Unc' Billy ever had seen! It was all that Sammy Jay had said. Unc' Billy gave a frightened little gasp and shut his eyes tight for just a wee little minute, hoping that when he opened them again he would find that he was mistaken and that there was no great black stranger there after all. But when Unc' Billy opened his eyes he found that they had not been playing him tricks. The stranger was there. Worse still, he was coming straight toward Unc' Billy grinning in the most friendly way.

But Unc' Billy didn't notice that that grin was a friendly grin. All he noticed were the great big teeth that showed. He took just one look and then he started across Paddy's dam as fast as he could, which wasn't very fast because he was afraid of falling in. He didn't once look behind, and as he scrambled along he kept saying over and over: "Ah wish Ah done stay at home! Ah wish Ah done stay at home!"

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The Wealth I Possess

By DOUGLAS MALLOCH

I'VE figured my blessings, I've counted my cares, I've balanced the book of my daily affairs. A column for credits, a column for debt, A place for unkindness I cannot forget. And yet there were pleasures along with the pain, And seldom a loss but had some little gain. I find I have more than I ever have known, Astonished to note all the wealth that I own.

I've figured my blessings but little, I fear; My cares I have counted each day and each year. Forgotten the pleasure, the pain I have kept Forever in mind, ev'ry moment I wept. The loss I remember, the sorrow recall, The happiness hardly remember at all. But now I have taken a balance at last, The joys and griefs of the present and past.

I've figured my blessings, I've set them apart In a book I am keeping, the book of my heart.

I need not set down all the trouble and care, I find I already had written it there. But I had forgotten the love that is mine— It took a whole column, the hate but a line. The joy always greater, the grief always less, I'm really astonished the wealth I possess.

© Douglas Malloch.—WNU Service.

Fall Street Frock



Interesting treatment of the sleeves and waistline features this attractive street frock for fall, fashioned of rust-colored celanese crepe. The skirt is wide and full, and of the new short length.

blows off, you tear your skirt, and you get mad.

It would probably be better to go with the thing untied until you come to a convenient hotel lobby. But if you do that you must learn to walk as though you had on snowshoes so that you won't trip.

Another possibility is to hail the first person you meet, ask him to



Maybe She Should Have Worn Pumps Without Shoelaces.

hold your bundles for a minute and gracefully stoop down and tie up the unwieldy bow.

But we still think the best solutions of all would be a non-slip shoestring. Come on, all you little Edisons . . . get going.

WNU Service.

FIRST AID TO THE AILING HOUSE

By Roger B. Whitman

CRACKS IN CONCRETE

CONCRETE is likely to crack from settlement and from various other causes. During warm weather, and aside from appearances, this may lead to no harm. In winter, however, water may freeze in the cracks, and then with the expansion that occurs, the cracks will become larger, and the damage is increased. This is especially the case with stucco. What seem to be tiny cracks in stucco may be the beginning of a serious injury.

Cracks in concrete and stucco can be closed with a mixture of 1 part cement and 3 parts clean building sand, with only enough water to make a workable mixture. A patch on the surface will do little or no good. To be effective, the patch must be forced into the crack; and the deeper it goes, the better. Narrow cracks should be widened with a cold chisel to make space for the patch. The edges of the cut should be rough, so that the patch, in hardening, will lock itself into place. Whenever possible, the cut should be made wider at the bottom than on the surface, to give the effect of a dovetail joint. In applying a patch, the old concrete should be well soaked with water, so that moisture will not be absorbed from the patch. To gain full density, the

patch should be kept damp for several days.

Small cracks in stucco can be closed with a mixture of cement and water to the consistency of thick cream. This is put on with a stiff brush, the length of the crack, so that it is worked in. Before patching, the old concrete should be wet with water.

In the case of a crack between a concrete walk and a foundation wall, patching can be with roofing cement. This has the advantage of being elastic, and of keeping the crack closed should the wall shift with movements of the earth. The cement is most easily applied by melting it and pouring it in. It may be necessary to make space for it by cutting out the crack with a cold chisel. This method can also be used for closing a crack between a cellar floor and a side wall.

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MANNERS OF THE MOMENT

By JEAN

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WHY doesn't some one invent a corrugated shoestring—or one made of Turkish toweling? Something that won't come untied just as you are rushing to catch a train.

We used to have the theory that the best way to handle an untied shoestring was to tie it again. But without assistance the method is a flop. Your bundles fall to the sidewalk and get muddy, your handbags pop open and scatters its contents from gutter to gutter, your hat