News Review of Current Events

YARNELL DEFIES JAPS

American Admiral Refuses to Remove His Warships From the Yangtse River . . . Congress and Politics

Here Japanese soldiers with fixed bayonets are seen rushing a Chinese position in a part of Suchow which the Japanese artillery had reduced to flaming ruins. There, as elsewhere, the defenders practically destroyed the city before retreating.

Edward W. Pickard
SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK

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Japan's Demands Rejected

AMERICAN warships will remain in the Yangtze river and will go to any place where Americans are in danger. This despite the demands of Japan. Naval officials of Japan asked that all foreign warships leave the Yangtze river area between Wuhu and Kiukiang because the invaders were about to start an offensive toward Hankow, provisional Chinese capital. But Admiral Harry E. Yarnell, commander of the United States Asiatic fleet, rejected the demand sharply. Furthermore, he at once planned an inspection trip up the Yangtze and through the war zone, and he did not ask Japan's permission.

Admiral Harry Yarnell

These three "principles" of American naval operations in Asiatic waters were set forth by Admiral Yarnell in his note to the Japanese:

The United States navy will retain complete freedom of movement on the Yangtze, and will proceed to any place where Americans are in danger.

The American command will not change the color of its warships, which are painted white, to conform to any color scheme suggested by the Japanese.

The United States does not regard the warning of Japanese naval officials relative to the Yangtze as relieving the Japanese "in the slightest degree" of responsibility for damage or injury to United States warships.

Chinese claimed the drive of the Japanese on the central front was held up by Yellow river floods. Chengchow, once a prosperous railway center, was still held by the Chinese, but had been reduced to ruins by Japanese shells and bombs and by the Chinese themselves in pursuing their "scorched earth" policy.

Japanese air raids on Canton continued by day and night. Perhaps 10,000 persons had been killed there, many thousands were injured and the metropolis was shattered. A great portion of the population fled from the city.

Kennedy to Resign?

AMBASSADOR J. P. KENNEDY left London for the United States and, according to the London Daily Express, he intends to report to the President as soon as he arrives in Washington on his plan to settle the British war debt, and then will resign his post. He has held the position only three months.

Healing Party Rifts

THOUGH it was believed Tommy Corcoran and his "eliminating committee" would continue the efforts to "purge" the Democratic party of opponents of administration policies, the President himself undertook to repair some of the breaks in the party ranks. For instance, he invited Senator Gillette, victor in the Iowa primary, to the White House where they took off their coats, ate luncheon together and, according to reports, planned common action against the Republican enemy in November. Also, it was disclosed, Mr. Roosevelt had sent word to the New York Democrats that the renomination of Governor Lehman would be acceptable to him. He has not liked Lehman since the governor came out against the court packing bill. There had been a plan to run Lehman for senator and Wagner for governor, but this switch presumably is now out.

Gov. Lehman

Railway Aid Postponed

WHEN the leaders of the senate and house made up their minds to adjourn congress not later than June 15, they went to the White House and told the President the proposed legislation to expedite the reorganization of railroads would have to be postponed to the next session. They agreed, however, to put through two other railway measures. One permits RFC loans to railroads without interstate commerce commission certification. The other establishes a special unemployment insurance system for rail workers.

Sloan on Wage Law

ALFRED P. SLOAN Jr., chairman of General Motors, told the stockholders of the corporation that federal legislation for minimum wages and maximum hours will increase unemployment, penalize small business and further unbalance the entire national economy. He criticized the spending-lending program as recovery medicine and said "There certainly is nothing in the picture to warrant optimism so far as the immediate future is concerned, or to establish my confidence as to any intelligent solution of our difficulties."

A. P. Sloan Jr.

Sloan said that one of the two major contributing causes of the present depression has been the unstabilizing of the national economy by too rapid an increase in wages and too rapid a shortening of hours in many key industries—thus unbalancing purchasing power in relation to prices.

The second cause, superimposed on the first, Sloan continued, "is the fact that there has been developing a growing lack of confidence and a fear as to the attitude of government toward business, as well as to economic policies that have been enacted as affecting the national economy and penalizing the operating effectiveness of industry."

Martin Suspends Five

PRESIDENT HOMER MARTIN of the United Automobile Workers suspended five members of the union's international board on the ground that they were disturbing union harmony. The five were Vice Presidents Richard T. Frankensteen, Wyndham Mortimer, Ed Hall, and Walter N. Wells, and Secretary-Treasurer George Addess.

Lindberghs on Island

COL. AND MRS. CHARLES A. LINDBERGH and their two sons are now established in their new home on little Illiec island just off the Brittany coast of France. Illiec island is large enough only for its castle, formerly the home of the opera singer, Mme. Adelina Patti. It is near St. Gildas island, home of Dr. Alexis Carrell, American scientist with whom Lindbergh developed the mechanical heart.

Son James Won't Run

JAMES ROOSEVELT, son and secretary of the President, rejected a citizens committee's request that he run for lieutenant governor of Massachusetts, declaring "I feel that I have an obligation above all else to remain at my duties in Washington."

Nazis Win in Elections

HENLEIN'S Nazi Sudeten party won an overwhelming endorsement from voters in Czechoslovakia's German districts in a landslide decision which featured the country's final municipal elections.

In the Czech districts President Benes' party gained substantially, while the Socialists and Agrarians held their own. Communists also showed a gain in the Czech areas.

Few incidents of violence marked the day and no Czech troops were in evidence. Great Britain, acting to avert a fresh war crisis, received permission from the Czech government to station observers throughout the larger election districts.

Our Slump Worst

ACCORDING to the monthly bulletin of the federal reserve board, the present business depression is more severe in the United States than in any other industrial country in the world.

The manufacture of war materials in other countries was pointed out, however, as one of the principal supports to business activity, many other industries showing almost as poor results as in the United States.

The social security board reported that during March two out of every thirteen persons in the United States received some form of public aid, federal, state or local. The total number was estimated at 19,700,000. The statistics did not embrace farm subsidy payments, the federal housing program and other planned economy measures.

Plan Relief Politics Quiz

HARRY HOPKINS, head of the WPA, asserted that the renomination of Senator Gillette by Iowa Democrats showed that his vast organization was not playing politics. But prominent Democratic senators are not so sure this is true, or will be true during the remainder of the year. Ten of them signed a resolution, introduced by Millard E. Tydings of Maryland, calling for the appointment of a senatorial committee of three to investigate any charges of politics in relief that may arise during the 1938 election campaign. The resolution made no reference to the Iowa primary in which Hopkins backed Otha Wearin, the loser.

Senator Tydings

The ten signers of the resolution, including both supporters and critics of the Roosevelt administration, were, besides Tydings: Adams of Colorado, Bulkley of Ohio, Burke of Nebraska, George of Georgia, Gerry of Rhode Island, Hatch of New Mexico, King of Utah, McAdoo of California and Wagner of New York.

Senator Hatch said he would try again at the next session to impose restrictions on participation by relief workers in party conventions or other political activities.

House Unseats Jenks

ARTHUR B. JENKS, Republican, who had served 18 months of his term as representative from New Hampshire, was unseated by the house and replaced by Alphonse Roy, Democrat, who was declared defeated in the 1936 election. The vote to oust Jenks was 214 to 122. When it was announced, all the Republicans, Progressives and Farmer-Laborites and some Democrats marched out in a body as a gesture of protest.

The action by the house was apparently taken to aid the campaign of Senator Fred Brown of New Hampshire for renomination. Roy has a large following among the French population of Manchester, N. H.

Eight Army Flyers Die

EIGHT army airmen from Chanute field in Illinois were caught in a storm, lost one wing of their big bomber and crashed in a farm field near Delavan, Ill. All of them were killed and the tanks burst into flame. Three of the victims were commissioned officers.

Kidnaped Boy Dead

LITTLE James Bailey Cash, five years old, who was kidnaped from his home in Princeton, Fla., was found dead by federal agents, his body lying in a clump of palmetto. The $10,000 which his father had paid for the lad's ransom was recovered.

Franklin Pierce McCall, twenty-one years old, a truck driver, was arrested by J. Edgar Hoover and his G-men and confessed the crime. He said the boy was accidentally killed by suffocation before the first ransom note was delivered to his parents.

Huge Navy Plane Planned

THE house appropriations committee included in the second deficiency bill an additional million dollars for construction of the world's largest military plane, and the navy department is now ready to go ahead with the construction of the monster, which may weigh 50 tons. The original model will cost upward of $3,000,000.

Rear Admiral Arthur B. Cook, chief of the bureau of aeronautics, said the new plane would exceed considerably the 5,000-mile range needed for a nonstop round trip from San Francisco to Honolulu.

Speaking of Sports

Sons of Italy Make Up Star Baseball Club

By GEORGE A. BARCLAY

THERE are enough Italian boys in the big leagues to do a Verdi opera, with principals and chorus warbling in the mother tongue. Not that these fellows are singers. Ball playing is their business and their performance on the diamond is making the brilliance of these second and third generation sons of Italy a tradition in the national game.

Take a census of the Italian-Americans in the National and American leagues and you'll find there are 17 of them and if you add a coach there would be 18 in all.

Put them all together on a ball field and you'd have a team that with the exception of pitching would be able to hold its own with any club in the big leagues. Let's start behind the plate. Well, there's Ernie Lombardi of the Cincinnati Reds. He is a heavy hitter and a crafty receiver who would be a first-string catcher wherever he went. He'd have plenty of help from Gus Mancuso of the New York Giants. Although Gus is beginning to show signs of wear and tear he is still good enough for a pennant winning team. For third string catcher, Angelo Giuliani of the St. Louis Browns would do nicely.

JOE DI MAGGIO

Star Infield

At first base you would have your choice of Dolph Camilli of the Brooklyn Dodgers or Zeke Bonura of the Washington Senators. Dolph would probably get the call for the job because of his greater speed and superior fielding ability, although Bonura would command respect because of his hitting.

Second base on this Italo-American team might be a problem. To begin with, there's Tony Lazzeri, now utility man with the Chicago Cubs. Tony was a big gun for years in the New York Yankees' offense and defense and that team seems to be feeling his absence this year. Age would probably keep Tony from playing regularly, so the call would probably go to Tony Cuccinello of the Boston Bees whose fighting heart and fielding skill have helped make the Bees a terror for other National league teams this spring. Then there would be Lou Chiozza of the New York Giants, who though crowded out of a regular job by the acquisition of Alex Kampouris by Bill Terry, still can give a good account of himself.

There would be no contest at third base. Cookie Lavagetto of the Brooklyn Dodgers who led the league in hitting this spring would nail down that job without half trying. Shortstop, of course, would go to Frank Crossetti of the New York Yankees, because of his superb fielding and his timely hitting. Frankie isn't as fast as he was a few years ago, but he's still good enough for the big time.

The incomparable Joe Di Maggio, centerfielder of the New York Yankees, would head up the outfield. He would probably be flanked on one side by his brother Vincent of the Boston Bees and by Johnny Rizzo who started the season so sensationally with the Pittsburgh Pirates. Phil Cavaretta of the Chicago Cubs would also be in the fight for an outfield job.

His best chance would be to nose out Rizzo, for Vince Di Maggio is recognized as one of the classiest fielders in the business and he is crowding his way toward the .300 mark. Melvin Mazzera of the St. Louis Browns and Tony Bongiovanni of the Reds would be utility outfielders.

The pitching staff would present problems. There isn't a pitcher of Italian ancestry in the big show who compares in skill with the others. It seems that the sons of Italy have preferred positions where their speed and general all-around ability give them a chance to play regularly every day. So only Julio Bonnetti of the St. Louis Browns and Joe Cascarella of the Cincinnati Reds would be possibilities.

Oscar Melillo, coach of the Browns, would draw the assignment of manager in view of his long experience and his splendid career as a player. Melillo was one of the first of the American-Italians to demonstrate his race's proficiency on the diamond.

A Champ Passes

THE fight trade is looking to Lou Ambers to provide some stiff competition against Henry Armstrong when they fight for the lightweight championship July 26. Experts who saw Barney Ross bow to Armstrong in New York recently are of the opinion that Ambers will make a creditable showing, but that the tan-colored whirlwind will win.

As long as his speed holds out, Armstrong will probably prove too much for any fighter he meets. Ambers is not as far along the backward trail as is Ross, but he is not likely to prove a match for the swarming tactics of the Negro.

Ross' announced decision to retire is a wise one. "Barney's through," was on everybody's lips the night of his last fight, even though he gave championship exhibition of gameness. Barney, who had never been knocked out, stood the punishment for 15 rounds in spite of the referee's desire to stop the fight. And no champion, when he has come to the end of the trail, could feel a deeper satisfaction in his achievements than Ross.

Bred in the dingy poverty of New York's East Side and reared in the tough ghetto of Chicago, Ross rose to pugilistic eminence by sheer merit. When he won the Chicago Golden Gloves featherweight title in 1929, as an awkward kid, he attracted the attention of Sam Pian and Art Winch, who ever since have been his managers.

They handled him shrewdly and four years later had him winning the lightweight championship from the veteran Tony Canzoneri. In 1934 Barney won the welterweight championship from Jimmy McLarnin. In a return bout with McLarnin, Ross was beaten, but came back in another year to regain that throne. He held it against all comers until he met the dusky little Armstrong, regarded by many as the greatest fighter of his weight since the famed Joe Gans.

Here and There—

CONNIE MACK, seventy-five-year-old manager of the Philadelphia Athletics, continues to surprise the fans. Adding a couple of ex-college boys to a team that was regarded as the laughing stock of the American league, he has made the Athletics a club to be reckoned with . . . Don Lambeau, 200-pound son of the Green Bay Packers' coach, will enter Fordham in the fall. He's a fullback . . . Wee Dickie Kerr, former White Sox pitcher who was the hero of the 1919 world series, has returned to organized baseball as an active member of a Mountain States league team. Kerr is forty-five years old . . .

Bunny McCormick, Notre Dame's right halfback the last two years, will spend the summer delivering ice at Livermore, Calif., before accepting a full time position with an oil company in California . . . All American league batting champions since 1931 have been infielders . . . Ted Duay, young New York Giant catcher, turned down a scholarship at Rutgers to play professional baseball. "I'd rather catch Carl Hubbell than be president of Yale," he said.

Flag Insurance?

WHEN Bill Terry, manager of the New York Giants, acquired Second Baseman Alex Kampouris of the Cincinnati Reds recently, he turned a neat deal that makes his team a real pennant-contender. The Giants were stumbling around until they got Alex. Various players trying to substitute for Burgess Whitehead, who is probably out for the season because of illness, gave poor performances at the keystone sack. Kampouris brought an end to Terry's worries.

ALEX KAMPOURIS

Little Alex, who is the only Greek boy in the big leagues, is not a heavy hitter, but he does clout them occasionally for extra bases and break up ball games as a result. Alex, who batted only .249 last year, drove out 17 home runs. It is as a sure-fire fielder and a player with dash and fire that he will be of value to the Giants in the race.

Kampouris, who came originally from the Pacific Coast league, is a resident of Sacramento, Calif. He attended the University of Southern California and was the youngest student ever to graduate from that institution.

Wally Berger, whom the Reds got from the Giants in exchange for Kampouris, hit .285 last year and tied Alex's record of 17 home runs.

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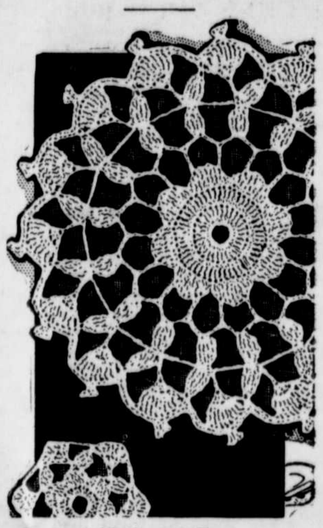

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