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Trotsky on the Far East

Leon Trotsky, from his retreat in Mexico in a communication to the New York Times says that unless China and Russia aid her, Japan can gain a long series of victories but cannot win the war. China he states has on her side space, time human masses, the national liberating character of the war. But in order to conduct mass guerrilla warfare, which would render Japan powerless and bring on financial, economic and social catastrophe for Japan, it is necessary to unite the Chinese government and people, to mobilize and direct the initiative and self-sacrifice of the millions of workers and peasants. Trotsky doubts it can be accomplished.

As to Russia Trotsky points out the fiasco the Soviet government has made in Spain by its policies. Moscow supplied arms to Spain, demanding in exchange the suppression of the initiative and independence of mass organizations. The results have been that "Franco did not gain a victory but Stalin-Negrin suffered a defeat." He concludes:

There is every reason to fear that Moscow is applying the same politics at the moment in China. That is why one has to bring into the conclusions an essential limitation. The Mikado goes to meet a terrible catastrophe if Chiang Kai-Shek and Stalin do not save him.

The Chinese have always been a peaceful people, and not given to war. Through millenniums they have conquered their conquerors by passive resistance and absorption rather than conflict. They are a heterogeneous conglomeration of peoples and religions and the only unifying element today is common hatred of "the little brown dwarfs" as they call the Japanese. Whether Chiang can fuse these divergent races with patriotic fervor remains to be seen. But the chances seem against Chiang though a Sun Yat Sen might accomplish it.

Soviet Russia seems too honey-combed with district and suspicion and too disorganized under Stalin's rule of terror for a well unified modern military power like Japan to fear. The communistic crusade that united the nation during the revolution has spent its force and is petering out as the old Bolsheviks face the firing squad. The rosy promises of Utopia have failed and disillusion rules the masses. But Russia is also an oriental nation. The oriental mind has difficulty in comprehending the fatalistic orient.

Japanese Run Amok

Eighteen Japanese bombers and pursuit planes attacked the United States gunboat Panag and three American tankers which were proceeding slowly up the Yangtze river 27 miles above Nanking, sinking the Panag, beaching and burning the tankers. One American seaman on the gunboat was killed, 15 injured, among them two ship officers and an embassy clerk, and 17 are missing. Four separate attacks were made on the American vessels. About the same time three attacks were made on British gunboats on the Yangtze.

The Japanese navy has accepted full responsibility and expressed "profoundest regret" for the "terrible mistake." It is stated that the fliers were unable to see the foreign flags and believed the craft to be Chinese. The same excuse has been forth coming for bombarding other foreign ships and flag covered autos conveying embassy officials.

All of which indicates that the Japanese are running amok in a frantic desire for the speedy conquest of China and again emphasizes the defective eyesight of the Japanese, frequently commented upon by foreign military observers. Or perhaps it is merely reflex of grandiose complex that Japan can conquer the world and so defy it with impunity.

There was a time when the deliberate and unprovoked sinking of a warship or of even a merchantman would have been a cause of war, and it probably would be still if the sunken ships were Japanese, or of other aggressor nations but it will not be in the present instance. Diplomatic relations will be strained, Japan will apologize and make restitution and that will probably end the incident.

"30" for a Friend

Death Saturday wrote the symbolic conclusion to the career of one of Oregon's oldest and best loved newspapermen, R. C. "Bob" Johnson, native of Dallas and for many years a member of the editorial staff of the Oregon Journal for which paper he had reported the proceedings of the state highway commission continuously since the commission was established 20 years ago.

In Oregon's early battle for good roads "Bob" Johnson was a quiet, unassuming but important cog in a big machine. He had probably travelled over as many miles of pioneer mud trails and finished modern highways in the state as any other person, not excluding the engineers engaged in building up the present system. He had an intimate personal knowledge of the road problems of every section, yet never allowed local considerations to influence his state-wide perspective.

Few even of his intimate friends knew or even suspected that "Bob" had lived for 73 years, that he had spent nearly 50 years in the newspaper business on the Pacific coast, or that his experiences including reporting such dramatic events as the Klondike gold rush and the San Francisco earthquake as a correspondent of the Associated Press, for which he established bureaus in Portland, Seattle and Salt Lake.

"Bob" Johnson was of the type of personality, character, proficiency and ethical conduct that make newspapermen proud of their profession.

As Christmas Nears

The approach of the yule season spreads a new atmosphere over the community—a spirit of gladness and cheer evidenced in the stimulated remembrance and consideration of friends and loved ones and the more conscious practice of the principles of Christianity.

But there are those for whom even this season of universal jubilation is drab and dull by reason of circumstances beyond their control, and for whom the community must make provision. It is for these that the Salem firemen carry on their annual toy mending activities, the Salem lodge of Elks stages its annual distribution of gift packages and food baskets which carry the spirit of Christmas into desolate homes, and the Capital Journal cooperating with the Red Cross and other agencies conducts its annual "Adopt a Family for Christmas" campaign.

You can round out your Christmas by cooperating in one or all of these yuletide activities. A telephone call to 3573 will bring you all the information as to how you can assist.

Big Business

By Beck



The Story So Far: A sailor doll has started in an ice-boat to rescue Heiga, a doll, from the white fox when he is stopped by some squirrels whose son is bewitched so that he grows bigger every minute.

Chapter 13

The Worm And The Fir

The squirrels were politeness, itself, when the sailor said he would help them. They untied his arms and legs, apologizing as they did it. "Now," said the sailor, "I think I should see this squirrel that is so big." "Certainly," said the old man squirrel. "He's behind that rock over there." So the sailor walked over to the rock. And there he saw a squirrel as big as a bear, and a pine tree together somewhere.

"Very warm weather," said the squirrel to the sailor. "No," said the sailor. "It's going to snow."

"Never eat berries," said the squirrel. "Then why do you?" said the sailor.

"Oh, because I'm getting bigger every minute," said the squirrel. The sailor was a little disgusted at such conversation. He stroked back to the anxious father squirrel, said, "Take care of my boat. I'm going to walk and see if I can think of a plan."

The Sea Shell Talks

The sailor walked along a woodland path, kicking at the snow. He saw many acorns lying on the ground, and you remember the squirrel that had grown so huge was supposed to eat an acorn to make him shrink again.

"Ho, hum," said the sailor. "It can't be any of these acorns. Wonder where the Woods Fairy is. She must be hiding to teach that squirrel a lesson."

He took his sea shell out of his pocket and asked, "Please tell me what to do. I can't delay here too long." He listened to the shell and this is what he heard:

What is it has thousands of needles and never awakes?

"Why that's a pine tree," said the sailor and he listened again.

And what it is walks both above ground and underground and has no legs?

A Very Prim Worm

"A worm," said the sailor, and he listened again. But this time the shell said nothing. "That must mean that I'll have to find a worm."

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CUTICURA SOAP and OINTMENT

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Washington, Dec. 13—Some folks say women do not know their way around in politics; if it were not for male leadership they would get lost; their place is in the home—with the door shut.

Twenty wise men on the house labor committee now know otherwise. They went into the house debate on the wage and hour bill today in the humble position of having been outmaneuvered by their respected chairwoman, matronly Mary Norton.

This is the Story:
Mrs. Norton has long been working to put wage and hour jurisdiction in the labor department. She does not like autocratic symptoms displayed by these federal boards, particularly the national labor relations board. Unfortunately her committee has different ideas. They took the bill away from her last session when the late Bill Connery was chairman. They reported their own board bill.

When Mrs. Norton became active chairwoman this session, her first official act was to call the committee. She explained to her twenty men it would be much easier to get 218 signatures for the then pending wage-hour petition if they would agree to let her announce that she would offer the labor department amendment on the floor.

It sounded fair enough. The twenty men were skeptical but they wanted the petition signed. They finally agreed "in principle."

She Rewrote Bill
A few days ago Mrs. Norton again called the twenty men. To their surprise she had a complete amendment prepared, involving re-writing of the whole bill. No sub-committee had been appointed to confer on drafting.

There was a suspicion that the Frances Perkins department must have had something to do with it, but Mrs. Norton denied this.

The slowly awakening males also found the Norton changes affected their own pet amendments adopted last session. They balked. Mrs. Norton led her ace. She announced she had given her word to signers of the petition on authority of the committee.

Twenty males squirmed, argued she had only been authorized to say that she—not the committee—would present the amendment. They soon lost that argument. Ultimately they caved in. As one of the now wiser twenty staggered out the door, he remarked:

"We were just outmaneuvered, that's all. We went twice as far as we intended."

Silver Policy
Note—Why Mrs. Norton is so strong for her substitute bill is another story, perhaps several other stories. Here's merely that she talked to a lot of people who are tired of labor troubles. Others say one person she must have talked to is her friend, Mayor Hague, boss of her Jersey City, who is having his labor troubles at home.

Despite all well-inspired predictions to the contrary, the treasury has been planning to continue the existing silver purchase program. That is definite—unless Mr. M. changes his mind at the last minute.

An alliance between the Landon and Borah forces has always been impossible. Now it is worse than that. The ex-presidential candidate of the republicans wanted very much to have a few words with the Idaho lion during the last week end. The Kansas asked his good friend Senator Capper to beard Mr. Borah for an appointment.

Borah's reply sounded something like a reference to a gift of California nuts sent to Mr. R. that same day—with an exclamation point behind them. At any rate it was firmly negative.

Later the three, Landon, Borah and Capper, met in an elevator, shook hands briefly, sent their respective ways.

Radicals Run SEC
Note—The words of Landon's renunciation were not cold on the paper before democratic politicians were wisecracking: "He is retiring, so he can really get out and work for the nomination." It only goes to show the most convincing renunciation of presidential aspirations will not convince everyone. (Incidentally you first read that Landon would renounce, in this spot, Nov. 6.)

What these Frank and Haynes appointments to the securities exchange commission mean is that the last of the Kennedy-Landis moderation crowd is out; a new Douglas crowd is completely in. The original moderates who organized this Wall street detective agency have gradually been supplanted by more active leftist thinkers.

For instance, Mr. Frank was too radical for the old three A's and was purged by Mr. Wallace Haynes is a Wall street new dealer, but he will find himself surrounded by Douglas men in key SEC positions.

Railroad Increases
This does not necessarily portend another SEC crack down on Wall street. Frank, for instance, has been telling his friends this is no time "to hit them on the head."

The plan seems to call for a little occasional kick in the shins for them

at present, the skull-thumping to be held in reserve.
I.C.C. may not grant the whole 13 percent rate increase requested.

bit will certainly give 10 to 12 percent. This is generally accepted. Expert guess based upon studied analysis of I.C.C. coalitions.



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