

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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BRITISH DIPLOMACY

The British barring of Russian Ambassador Litvinoff from an airplane en route to the U.S.A. has increased Washington whispers that it is about time the British did something to clean up their moribund diplomatic service and cut out snubs to people who are trying to help them.

It has long been the belief of Americans, too polite to mention it, that the British embassy in Washington can make more mistakes to the square inch even than Mr. Hull's state department—and many of the state department's mistakes come from trying so ardently to ape the British.

For years the British embassy has sat on its hiltop, well removed from the bustle of Washington, and looked with slightly disdainful amusement upon the hot polloi of congress. An invitation to the British embassy in those good old days was considered by the dowagers as better than an invitation to the White House.

But those good old days, unfortunately both for the dowagers and the embassy, are gone, never to return. However, the embassy appears completely unaware of that fact. And its charming young men go their charming way, saying sometimes too audibly: "We must be nice to Americans"; while the real work of defending Britain takes place in the British Purchasing commission, largely under the direction of hard-boiled Canadians and Australians.

Viscount Halifax is one of the most delightful and genteel persons ever to grace the embassy. He tries hard. But hard as he tries, he cannot overcome the bubbling Charles Peake, who minces around him as if his lordship still were viceroy of India with white and crimson-costumed Sikhs mounted on black chargers outside his palace. In Calcutta, instead of being in a city where politics are very earthy and where the congressman's wife from Keokuk has a lot more influence than the pink tea protocol experts usually seen at the British embassy.

WASHINGTON SOCIETY

Washington is a city where debate may rage furiously on the floor of the senate, but simmer down to friendly story-telling in the ante-room or around the dinner table afterward. This is not always the case, however, and sometimes Washington society becomes so aroused that it is dangerous to invite certain strong-minded people to dinner.

This was true during the fight over Roosevelt's Supreme court bill; and during the Roosevelt-Willkie election campaign; and it is somewhat true during the neutrality controversies today. Old hands at the game of controversy, however, manage to keep their tempers. For instance, seated near each other at dinner the other night were Sen. Burt Wheeler, than whom there is no more energetic isolationist, and Undersecretary of the Navy Forrestal, just as energetically interventionist.

Wheeler was talking about the recent neutrality debate, telling how Roosevelt forces influenced votes by promising jobs and dishing out patronage. Interrupted Undersecretary Forrestal:

"Senator, did the neutrality fight reach the depths of your fight to pass the Wheeler-Rayburn act?" (The Holding Corporation act.)

"No," shot back Senator Wheeler, "I didn't have the patronage."

The two men continued a good-natured discussion of neutrality, Wheeler maintaining that time would prove that his anti-war stand was right. After the war, he contended, history would reverse the present tide of war sentiment and there would be a reversion of feeling if not a virtual French revolution.

"And when the guillotine ax begins to fall, senator," said Forrestal as he departed, "will you be my attorney?"

FINNS VS. NAZIS

Intelligence reports from Europe for the first time indicate friction between German and Finnish troops on the eastern fronts. The Finns are sore because the Nazis have been living off the country and have not been at all scrupulous in paying Finnish peasants for pigs, cows and chickens.

On top of this, the Nazis recently ousted Finnish children from an orphanage at Rovaniemi and used it for the general staff. This made the Finns boil with anger.

CAPITAL CHAFF

The government is paying out more money than ever before in history for use of the wires and ether. Even with reduced rates for official messages, the tolls for telegraph, telephone, cable and radio are tremendous.

Every time a government official picks up the telephone to make an outside call, Uncle Sam pays three cents, the wholesale rate. In telegraph messages the government gets a 40 per cent discount, though there is a minimum charge of 20 cents.

Planning Helps Late Shoppers Select Presents

Despite incessant reminders to "shop early," last-minute shoppers will crowd the stores the day or two before Christmas in a mad search for gifts.

When there is little time left it is best to sit down and think over the problem before leaving the house. This sounds paradoxical, but far more can be accomplished by spending time planning than by rushing around a store without any idea of what is wanted.

A little ingenuity will disclose countless presents that can be acquired with a minimum of time.

Simple combinations of articles make admirable presents. For example, if the friend is a camera addict, combine several rolls of film, a flood lamp and a few flash bulbs into an attractive package.

It is inadvisable to hastily select monogrammed or initialed stationery for an inveterate letter-writer. A very welcome present can be made by enclosing a book of postage stamps in an extra-nice box of plain stationery.

These are just two of many combinations which will satisfy the need for last-minute presents. If you are too tired or too busy to employ even this simple device there are still several other practical remedies.

Fill in that subscription blank for your favorite magazine that has been around the house, and wrap a current issue in an attractive carton with a note explaining that there are 12 more to come. Only be careful that the friend does not already subscribe to the magazine or your present will lose a good share of its interest.

Another welcome gift can be secured at the last minute by telephoning the local theater for a few tickets. Then write a little note, preferably in rhyme, and include it with the tickets.

A little ingenuity will disclose countless presents that can be acquired with a minimum of time.

By all means don't buy things that come in sizes unless you are sure of the size. And don't buy a gift that may have to be exchanged unless the store will exchange the article willingly.

Hollywood Artists Help 'Papa' Look Like Santa Claus

Even Santa Claus is coming under the critical gaze of Hollywood make-up artists who are constantly seeking perfect figures. They believe that something should be done to save his face and figure, pointing out that street-corner Santa Claus are becoming shabbier and more unconvincing every season.

After a lengthy discussion they agreed on the general appearance of what an ideal Santa should have. He should appear about 70 years of age, stand about 5 feet, 10 inches tall and weigh between 175 and 215 pounds, chest and waist girth about 48 inches. His complexion should



be very ruddy. Bushy white whiskers and long eyebrows complete his physical appearance.

The outstanding requirement of Santa's makeup is that it must not be obviously false. It is better to have too little makeup, they agreed, than to have it so apparent that even a child can see it at a glance.

For the benefit of fathers who wish to play Santa Claus at their own fireside on Christmas evening, they suggest that a convincing complexion and facial makeup can be obtained from the average feminine dressing-table.

For best results there should first be a general facial application of makeup foundation, followed by a liberal coating of face powder, preferably an olive tint. The cheeks should then be rouged clear up to the eyes. If lifelike eyebrows are not obtainable, vaseline the natural eyebrows and then dust them over with white talcum powder.

Careful attention to the eyes will help make Daddy look less like himself and more like Santa Claus. To overcome quick identification, eye wrinkles should be enlarged and accentuated with an ordinary eyebrow pencil. If there aren't any natural wrinkles, some can be drawn in at the corners. And just to make doubly safe, slip in a few furrows across the forehead.

Even with the best makeup, however, tall and thin fathers will face an almost insurmountable handicap if they should try to imitate Santa. They probably won't get away with their disguise, but they can have just as much fun trying as their more rotund friends.

ESKIMOS IN ALASKA IMPORT LARGE HERDS OF SANTA'S REINDEER

When San Niklaas immigrated to America and became naturalized into Santa Claus, he used a little wagon drawn by a fat pony for his visits. This was all changed in 1822 by Clement Clark Moore who wrote the immortal poem, "The Night Before Christmas." In this poem Santa's equipage was the "miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer." It has remained a sleigh and reindeer ever since.

Just as Santa Claus was imported from abroad, his reindeer were also imported to America for the Christmas celebration. Santa Claus, however, was merely imported figuratively; his reindeer were actually brought over here.

As a result of government efforts to start reindeer herds in Alaska there are now more than 700,000 of these animals grazing on the frozen tundra of the north. They not only furnish the animals for Christmas displays and parades throughout the United States, but they provide an important source of food and income to the Alaskan Eskimos.

Reindeer were introduced in Alaska in 1891. Several years later Lapp herders were hired to instruct the Eskimos how to care for the animals which are very prolific, doubling their numbers every three years.

Reindeer are caribou which have been domesticated through many centuries. Its flesh has lost the game flavor until now it resembles a cross between duck and mutton.

German Introduces Yule Tree

America saw its first Christmas tree in 1843, historians believe, when August Ingard, a German immigrant, set it up for the first time in this country at Wooster, Ohio. The first Christmas tree to be lighted in an American church was put up in Cleveland.

Oak Christmas Tree

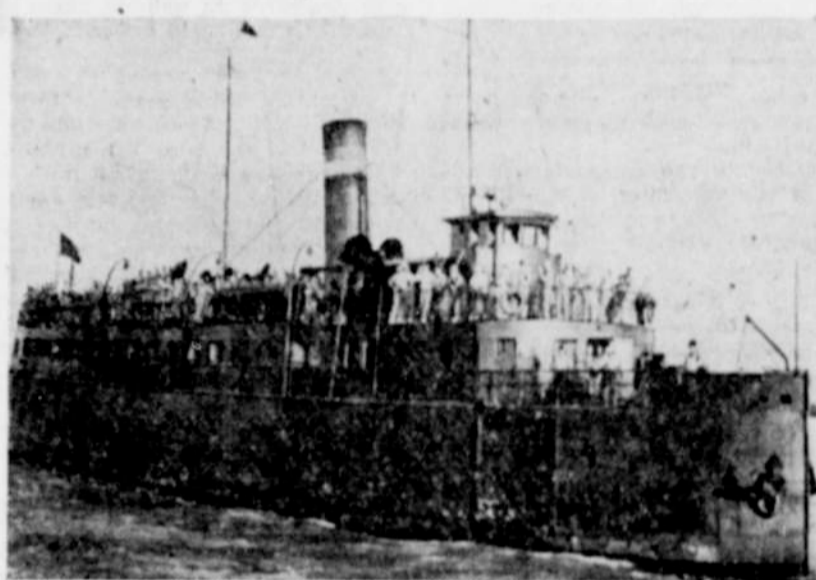
An oak tree served as the first Christmas tree, even though this honor is usually bestowed upon evergreens today.

Singapore Prepares for 'Showdown'



When a new British fleet, headed by H.M.S. Prince of Wales, breezed into Singapore, there was plenty of excitement. Above you see a transport unloading its cargo of Australians and New Zealanders in the port. Below: Australian and British cadets laying a bridge across a narrow creek during "invasion maneuvers" near Singapore.

American Troops Arrive in Dutch Guiana



First picture of American troops occupying Dutch Guiana. The photo shows the American army transport arriving at Paramaribo, Surinam. The troops were ordered into this territory by President Roosevelt to protect 60 per cent of America's bauxite ore for making aluminum, which comes from Dutch Guiana.

Paratroops Going Up to Come Down



Members of a U. S. army parachute battalion are shown walking past a great collection of parachutes on their way to the big C-53 troop transport in which they were taken aloft for an attack on an "enemy airport" during the war games in the Carolinas. The "umbrella men" proved their mettle by taking objectives to which they were assigned—just another day in the life of the paratroops.

Leaders Discuss Vital Labor Questions



Congressional leaders and departmental heads who were called to the White House by the President for a discussion on labor legislation. Shown as they arrived are 1. to r., Rep. John McCormack, house majority leader; Rep. E. E. Cox of Georgia; speaker of the house Sam Rayburn of Texas, and Rep. Joseph Martin Jr., house minority leader.

'Mercy Killer'



Mrs. Edith Reichert, 24, of Brooklyn, N. Y., shown during questioning by police following the slaying of her brother, George Horne, 26, a mental patient at Kings Park state hospital. According to State Police Sergeant John J. Lawson, Mrs. Reichert wept and said "I couldn't see him suffering like that for the rest of his life."

Grand Champion



Grand champion of the sixteenth annual Great Western Live-Stock show held in Los Angeles. He's Guttridge Hickory, an 865-pound Aberdeen-Angus, owned by S. Guttridge, Prairie City, Ore.

New Mexican Envoy



President Franklin D. Roosevelt has nominated George S. Messersmith, ambassador to Cuba (shown above) to be the new ambassador to Mexico. Mr. Messersmith, a "career diplomat," will succeed Joseph Daniels, and will take up his new duties early next year when the retirement of Mr. Daniels becomes effective.

Woman M. P. Arrives



Mrs. Beatrice Rathbone, member of Britain's parliament, has her baggage inspected as she arrives in New Jersey. Her children have been staying here "for the duration."

Apple Ornaments



Santa Claus will get a big surprise when he sees this tree being decorated by a young lady from Virginia. The tree is completely decorated with brilliant red, yellow, green and mottled apples, dried apple tinsel and crab apple lights.

Holly Decoration Used In Pagan Celebrations

Holly has become closely associated with Christmas, but why, nobody knows.

Some claim that holly, with its thorns and blood-red berries, symbolizes the crown of thorns worn by the Saviour. Another belief is that the use of holly as Christmas decorations was handed down by the pagans. The Romans dedicated the plant to Saturn to be used at the Saturnalia, his festival, occurring in December. At about the same time the early Christians celebrated the birth of Christ, and to protect themselves from prosecution, they decorated their homes with holly.

Holiday Decorations

Christmas decorations are an admirable first aid to the Christmas spirit. They usher the holiday feeling into the home and revive that belief in Santa Claus we all need so much. So hang the house with holly and mistletoe. Hang a bow-tied wreath of holly on the door. Bring out the festive candles, decorate the mantel with spruce, and dangle shiny balls where they will capture the eye. When you've made the house bright and gay you'll be aglow with the true Christmas.