

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
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'Social Defense' in Russia

Washington. — The Associated Press carried a dispatch from Moscow a few days ago that had more in it than just the announcement that certain oppositionists among the Soviet leaders were to be executed. The dispatch reported that 16 confessed conspirators against the Soviet state were sentenced to death by the firing squad as the "highest measure of social defense" of a government.

It reported a new stage in the so-called progress of Communism in the Russian state. For the first time since the Bolsheviks came into power they ordered the death penalty for some of the leaders who marched in the Revolution of October, 1917.

So we have a clean sweep now of the men who sat next to the dictator, Lenin; the men who were his closest advisors in council are out of the way, and in their place remains the extensively practical and strong-willed executive, Stalin, who has in this instance declined to allow theory to interfere with a condition.

Here is the picture. Leon Trotsky in exile and under sentence of death if he returns into Russia. Zinoviev shot to death. Kamenev also executed by a firing squad (he will be remembered as an outstanding pillar of Bolshevism). Tomsky, a suicide. Rykov, Bukharin and Rodek under investigation by the dreadful OGPU. A hated secret service is looking into the records of Sokolnikov and Pyotakov. The latter two have been important advisors to Stalin. But what is all of this about? The answer is simple. While these men were charged with plotting the murder of Stalin, with conspiracy, beneath it all lies the thirst of men for power. Through all of this since the fall of the Russian empire and the execution of Czar Nicholas, the Communists have pushed forward. The strongest of them have traveled. That is the why of Stalin. Yet as most always happens under any circumstance where the will of a few men runs free, they have inflicted to the last degree the power that they have gathered unto themselves. In so doing they have not failed to reserve unto themselves such considerations as they thought necessary—a perfectly human trait of character answerable only where a whim becomes a will and there is power to carry it out.

Between Stalin, who was able to enforce his will, and Trotsky, who dwelt in the stary heavens of theories and dreams, there is only a theoretical difference. Each wanted Communism. Trotsky considered the problem in the terms of world revolution; Stalin thought of it as the Russian state and recognized his capacity to carry his plans through in that jurisdiction. So the Stalin-Trotsky feud, as it has turned out to be, has become ferocious and any one who has gone contrary—even entertained thoughts contrary to the will of the mighty Stalin—committed a sin against the state. And a sin against the Russian state under Stalin means to disappear.

It seems to me there is an important lesson for the American people in that situation. Stalin, along with Hitler and Mussolini, is always right. It matters not what the people may desire, what their philosophy of life and living may be, how they propose to encourage or accept responsibility for self-government, the dictatorship continues. Many times in these columns I have criticized bureaucracy in the federal government. There are so many bureaucrats in Washington now that some one has bitterly described them as locusts. It may seem quite a jump from bureaucracy to dictatorship but the difference actually is very small. When the people of the United States concede to the federal government such rights as the federal government attempted to exercise in NRA and even to a greater extent in the AAA, they are taking the first step to grant to a centralized government the authority that leads to absolute control of the person and everything that person does.

Lesson for Americans

There are conditions undoubtedly that need to be remedied before our form of government is anything like perfect. There is always to be considered changing conditions and the changing whims of people themselves. But I entertain the conviction that so long as the American people are unwilling to accord increasing powers to the federal government, the nation as a whole will go forward, civilization will progress and we will enjoy having a government.

The transfer of William C. Bullitt from his recent post as ambassador to Russia to a similar assignment in France upon the resignation of Ambassador Straus has occasioned but very little comment, but it seems to me in view of all conditions and circumstances that it

should attract attention. He will take up the job as the chief American diplomat at Paris in most troublesome times, the most difficult, perhaps, that have confronted an American diplomat anywhere since the days of 1911 to 1916. Appointment of Mr. Bullitt then, it would appear, is a move that calls into consideration not only the conditions which he will meet as our ambassador but also his qualifications for the job.

It is to be remembered, first, that the post of ambassador to Paris is the second highest in rank among our foreign diplomats. It is a post that always has called for about the best that our nation can turn out in the way of tactical representation even though we always count the assignment to London as the No. 1 ranking post. The reason is that we seldom, if ever, have had the problems to deal with in the case of the London government that continuously arise between the United States and France. We always have been friendly with France in modern times, but it can not be denied that there has been constant friction between the two peoples. The same has not been true concerning Anglo-American relations. Hence, the job at Paris has always been regarded as more difficult than that at London.

As for Mr. Bullitt's capacity, there is a general feeling that he is not an outstanding diplomat. He has achieved success in some lines, yet I believe the consensus is that in so far as his recent service at Moscow is concerned, the Russians can claim much greater success in dealing with the United States than we can in dealing with the Soviet.

Those of us who were present as observers in Washington during the days when Foreign Commissar Litvinov met with President Roosevelt in the series of conferences that resulted in recognition of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics can not fail to recall how Mr. Bullitt labored to accomplish that recognition. It will be recalled as well that Mr. Bullitt insisted throughout these negotiations how "we" would follow recognition. He held that the 13-year old policy of non-recognition, held by Wilson, Harding, Coolidge and Hoover, should be cast aside in the interest of trade, predicting a great flow of commerce between the nations. President Roosevelt eventually made that the real basis for granting recognition.

None of the predicted trade has come about. None will be possible until the Soviet finds means of paying for American goods. American business men are a bit old-fashioned. They want to be paid for what they sell.

After what some critics have called Mr. Bullitt's "dismal failure" at Moscow, he is promoted to the French post. The selection comes at a time when French internal politics are boiling. It comes likewise at a time when the Washington government is striving to expand American exports and when it is hoped that there will not be a further decline in outbound shipments such as official figures of the Department of Commerce show has taken place in trade with Russia.

Senator James Couzens of Michigan who is up for re-election this fall has sort of upset the apple cart for the Republicans, although they profess not to be particularly worried. The senior senator from Michigan has always served in the senate as a Republican but now he makes the announcement that he is going to support President Roosevelt for re-election and that brings the senator's regularity as a Republican into question.

Senator Couzens has been a powerful man politically in Michigan in years past. He has served his city, Detroit, and his state and the nation in a distinguished way. Obviously, such service builds up an important political following but, according to superficial indication, no one knows exactly how much remains of that following. This statement assumes that the senator's strength is not as great as it used to be and all current information supports that view. Yet, in politics, nothing is certain and that is the reason why Senator Couzens's action has proved disturbing.

Former Gov. Wilbur M. Brucker is seeking the Republican nomination for the senate in Michigan and thus the incumbent has his difficulties in getting the nomination because the Democrats will have a candidate of their own. Be it said in favor of Senator Couzens, however, he was fair with the voters of his party by announcing before the primaries what his attitude would be respecting the presidential candidates and his sincerity in this regard may have some effect. On the other hand, it is difficult to say how dyed-in-the-wool Republicans can remain with Senator Couzens after an announcement by which he virtually has read himself out of the party.

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OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Brief Resume of Happenings of the Week Collected for Our Readers

Salem—Marion county churchmen circulated petitions for a local option vote on prohibition on the coming ballot in November.

Molalla—A recent forest fire near here now under control was reported incendiary by the state forester. Arrests will probably result.

Oregon City—Thirty thousand Steelhead fingerlings were released in the Clackamas headwaters as the first move to restore it as one of the foremost streams of the country.

Vale—By means of a siphon, four and a half miles long, water from the new Owyhee reservoir is being carried across Malheur valley and into the canals of the Owyhee project on Dead Ox flat.

Salem—Salem, Klamath Falls, Eugene and Pendleton will all have traffic surveys with a view to adopting a uniform traffic regulation system in all Oregon cities.

Klamath Falls—Eradication has been completed of poisonous tall larkspur on 200 acres of grazing land in the Varney Creek section of the Klamath cattle and horse range, by the national forest service.

Portland—Word has been received here that Oregon's mineral output for 1935 was \$1,966,685, an increase of \$750,610 over 1934. Of further interest is that the output of minerals in 1931 totaled only \$319,703.

Salem—The State Racing Commission funds were increased by \$11,800 resulting from the recent dog races held in Portland. These funds are allocated for the support of Pacific International Exposition, Oregon State fair and county fairs.

Oregon City—An old bedstead with rope springs was displayed at the Territorial Days celebration here recently. It was once the property of Joseph Meek, first United States Marshall for the Oregon country, and now belongs to Mrs. Ivy of West Linn.

Milton-Freewater—The 1936 prune crop comes to a close with a total of about 700 carloads having been shipped. Growers will receive \$32.50 or more a ton, which was the price set at the beginning of the season by the Blue Mountain Prune Growers' cooperative.

Klamath Falls—The highest price for barley since the World War is reported here. Two dollars and 16 and one-fourth cents per hundred weight was paid recently for Hanchen. Nearly all the barley of the Tulelake district has been reported sold.

Warrenton—A yield of from \$75 to \$100 per acre is expected by D. M. Moore on his 18 acre tract of Rustica, a tobacco plant high in nicotine content. Part of the crop will be dried for nicotine dust, used in fighting plant disease; and the remainder will be harvested green for use in nicotine sprays.

Wallowa—The Bowman-Hicks Lumber company here owns enough standing timber to keep the Wallowa mill operating at full capacity eight hours a day for 27 years, Sundays alone excepted, according to H. N. Ashby, general western manager for the company. Full capacity is recognized to be 55,000 feet, the normal eight hour cutting average.

DROUTH AREA COWS HERE

Salem—Oregon ranchers have purchased approximately 4000 feeder cows from the drouth areas of eastern Montana and Wyoming already this year.

Most of these cows were bought outright at prices below quotations of previous years. A large percentage are pastured in the Klamath and Lake areas and will be placed on the market later in the year.

SALMON SEASON DISASTROUS

Astoria—More lives were lost during the fishing season which just ended than in any year since the days of sailing craft when storms took such tragic toll. Seven gill-nets were claimed while on the river. High mortality has been attributed to hazardous attempts for fish on the bar when salmon were scarce elsewhere. The hauls have been the lowest in years while prices have been the best since 1930. Four Astorians collapsed in their boats from heart failure due to over exertion; and three were drowned, two in a storm, and the third from falling overboard with an anchor as its chain pulled his clothing. Loss of gear was unusually heavy.

Salem—The first applications for state bank charters since 1928 have been made by Bend and Baker businessmen for two new financial institutions. The last state bank chartered was in Seaside eight years ago.

Bend—The Shevlin-Hixon lumber yards were the scene of a spectacular accident recently when 17 empty logging cars were derailed by splitting a switch. No one was injured. Several cars crashed into a concrete building but it withstood the force of the crash.

What Irvin Cobb Thinks about

Honoring Amos 'n' Andy.

SANTA MONICA, CALIF.—Because Amos 'n' Andy paid a mythical visit to this community, the grateful populace will dedicate a bronze tablet in Palisades park, which is not only a beautiful park but is regarded by some enthusiastic citizens as being practically the main entrance to the Pacific ocean.

That's California pride for you—the kind that inspires us to pass resolutions endorsing the sunsets.

Well, I don't believe there's a small city in this country that has finer sunsets than Santa Monica. And when better ones are available for towns of this size, Santa Monica will have them. Our boosters' clubs will attend to that.

What I'm getting at, though, is that any fellows who've given as much joy to the world as Amos 'n' Andy deserve a whole set of plaques. If they don't wear out, thinking up their stuff until I get tired of hearing it, they'll go on forever.

"Hello, Kingfish."

Vocal Contortionists.

Why must tenors make such funny faces when they sing? And why must a lady vocalist clutch both hands to her tum-tum when she reaches after a high note, as though she'd just felt the first pangs of cholera morbus? And why must there ever be any professional pianist who also is a professional dandruff fancier and looks as though he should be gone over with one of these sand-blasting machines that they use to clean off office buildings. Just ordinary soap and water wouldn't do.

And, oh, why does a basso insist on singing at great length of the joys of life at the bottom of a coal mine and, for an encore, rock me in the cra-hadle of the da-heep until I'm as seakick as a cow? Hasn't anybody since Rutherford B. Hayes was President, thought up a new song for bassos? And isn't anybody going to do so before the sands of the desert grow cold? It looks like years and years to wait.

France's Diplomatic Game.

WHILE France was asking us to enter into a "neutrality pact" as regards Spain, it would appear she even then was extending very material "sympathies" to the loyalist side. Anyhow, Italy thinks so, and Germany, too. And now Portugal sprouts unrest and Great Britain issues threats.

Since we already were neutral—and, if we have any sense, will keep on being as neutral as a stop-and-go signal—America didn't need to enter any pacts. And if we continue minding our own business we'll have neither a sick headache nor a fresh batch of uncollectible foreign loans when the present mess is over.

The point is that France seemingly has been caught playing a double diplomatic game.

Wholesale Mercy.

WHO killed Cock Robin? Who cares? Dead, isn't he? His widow and orphans can go on relief, can't they? But how about pretty Boy Sparrow? There's the one to think about—so young and so gifted and ambitious.

The Women's Aid Society for the Freeing of Criminals—How soon can we get that poor lad out into the sunshine once more? He takes aim so much better in the sunshine. Must we wait until he breaks out?

The state parole board—Not at all, ladies, not at all. Just be patient a little while, then leave it to us.

Gov. Mushy J. Sapp—But why wait? When I think of that bleak Alcatraz and that hard-hearted Uncle Sam I'm proud to have some wholesome sentiment in my soul. Pass me that pardon blank.

Pretty Boy Sparrow—Well, happy days are here again. Say, I never did like that canary much either. Where's my tommy gun?

The Wisdom of Frogs.

A LADY naturalist at the Smithsonian in Washington has been experimenting and she says that frogs not only listen to political speeches on the radio but, by their croaks at the finish, indicate a deep appreciation of same. This helps to confirm an opinion I've had all along, that the only end of a frog which should command my entire approval is the end the legs grow on—especially when fried in cracker crumbs.

On second thought, though, maybe the frog has more brains than I'm giving him credit for. When you applaud at the end of a broadcast there's no chance for an encore.

IRVIN S. COBB.
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IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By REV. HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, Dean of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. © Western Newspaper Union.

Lesson for September 13

THE COUNCIL IN JERUSALEM

LESSON TEXT—Acts 15:22-29; Galatians 2:1, 2, 9, 10.

GOLDEN TEXT—For ye, brethren, were called for freedom; only use not your freedom for an occasion to the flesh, but through love be servants one to another.

PRIMARY TOPIC—How to Settle a Quarrel.

JUNIOR TOPIC—How to Settle a Dispute.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—What Is Christian Living?

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—How to Live as a Christian.

Although the first council at Jerusalem (Acts 11) had decided that "to the Gentiles also hath God granted repentance unto life, the question did not stay settled, for there were persistent Judaizing teachers who now contended that even though the Gentiles could be saved, they had to come into the church by way of Judaism and fulfill the Jewish rite of circumcision. This raised the vital and fundamental question of

I. Grace versus Law (Acts 15:1).

The entire future of the gospel ministry was in a sense dependent on the solution of this problem. Christianity is the only religious faith in the world that presents justification by grace, all others follow the path of works. The question now was, shall works of the law be mingled with grace—can Jesus Christ alone save men, or is salvation through Jesus Christ, plus something else. How was such a serious question to be settled? Should argument and strife be permitted to go on until the stronger party prevailed? Better judgment indicated the desirability of

II. Council Rather Than Controversy (vv. 2-21).

There may be times when it becomes the duty of the Christian worker to take an uncompromising stand for the truth of God and refuse to be moved, come what may. But certainly there should be no such spirit in dealing with differing interpretations of Scripture on the part of sincere and earnest Christian brethren.

The question was honestly and carefully considered by the second council at Jerusalem, with the result that there was a

III. Vindication of the Preachers of God's Grace (Acts 15:22-29; Gal. 2:1, 2, 9, 10).

After presenting a plain disavowal of those who had troubled them and subverted their souls (what a serious thing it is to teach error concerning God's Word!), the council being of one accord gave recognition to Paul and Barnabas as men who had "hazarded their lives for the name of the Lord Jesus."

No man should think more highly of himself than he ought. Humility is a Christian grace which well befits a sinner saved by grace. But the Bible abounds with admonitions to honor one another, to recognize the laborer as being worthy of his hire, to give recognition to those who are over us in the Lord. How long is it since you or your church comforted and encouraged some faithful teacher, preacher, missionary, or other Christian worker, by giving such recognition as the council at Jerusalem gave to Paul and Barnabas?

The final decision of the council is sent not only by Paul and Barnabas, but also by a committee from Jerusalem, a gracious gesture of fellowship. Courtesy is not out of place in dealing with even such difficult things as controversies on Christian doctrine—in fact it should be most in place in such a situation. But as a matter of record they also sent

IV. A Letter Which Brought Great Joy (Acts 15:23, 31).

After addressing the Gentiles as "brethren," this letter, which has been well called "the Magna Charta of Christian liberty," reviewed briefly the history of the matter, disposed of the subverters, commended Paul and Barnabas and then without mentioning circumcision at all puts upon the Gentiles "no greater burden than the necessary things." And what were these? Purity of life, as those who were enjoying Christian liberty. The law of Moses need not be kept as a ground of salvation. They were saved by grace. But grace can never be the cloak of careless living, nor can liberty in Christ be interpreted as license to live in sin. We are set free in Christ, not that we may sin, but that we may "go and sin no more."

Following an Ideal

Blessed is he who carries within himself a God, an ideal, and who obeys it; ideal of art, ideal of science, ideal of the gospel virtues; therein lie the springs of great thoughts and great actions; they all reflect light from the Infinite.—Pasteur.

Our Own Pleasures

It is only a poor sort of happiness that could ever come by caring very much about our own narrow pleasures.—George Eliot.

Foreign Words and Phrases

Après nous le deluge. (F.) After us the deluge (attributed to Madame de Pompadour, in reference to signs of an approaching revolution).

Bordereaux. (F.) A marginal note; a memorandum.

Chef-d'oeuvre. (F.) A masterpiece.

De nihilo nihil fit. (L.) Nothing comes from nothing.

En deshabille. (F.) In undress.

Ne plus ultra. (L.) Nothing beyond; the utmost; perfection.

Ippissima verba. (L.) The very words.

Mens sana in corpore sano. (L.) A sound mind in a sound body.

In hoc signo vinces. (L.) By this sign thou wilt conquer. (Motto of Constantine.)

Wie Gewonnen, so zerronnen. (Ger.) As won, so flown; "light come, light go."

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