

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
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WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK... By Lemuel F. Parton

Washington. — More and more newspapers throughout the country are demanding that the President invoke the terms of the American Neutrality act with respect to the war—undeclared though it is—that is raging on Chinese soil. These editorial expressions obviously will have considerable weight and will convince a very great number of American citizens that President Roosevelt ought to invoke the neutrality act and, by so doing, proclaim that Japan is the aggressor. That, in simple terms, is what a presidential announcement of application of the neutrality act would mean.

There probably has never been a brutality comparable to the unspeakable outrage which Japan is committing in China; certainly, never in modern times. It is a stain upon the name of the Japanese people and the smooth working of the Japanese military machine will never be able to offset the hostility which the subjects of the Rising Sun are creating by this display of brutality.

Although the Tokyo government has yet to say it is fighting a war, the Japanese aggression in China is just as much a war as though the United States and Canada had taken up arms against each other and had proclaimed to the world that they were belligerents. The very fact that there has been no declaration of war, however, complicates the situation as regards the United States and Great Britain. Unless these nations, along with some others which have interests in China, are willing to shoulder the responsibility that comes when an outside nation says publicly that two powers are at war, neither nation can afford to endanger its neutral position by saying to the world that Japan is trying to subjugate portions of China.

That is exactly what is happening. In spite of the declaration of the Japanese statesmen that their military machine is only protecting Japanese nationals, the whole affair may be treated as pure hypocrisy—as a movement by the Japanese to gain control of new resources, new land, over which the teeming millions from Japan may run as the hordes of Chinese are displaced. The whole thing shows how long we have been fooled by the persuasiveness of the Japanese statesmen.

You may ask: What can we do about it? The answer is exceedingly difficult. I have a fear that we can do nothing because of the international policies that the United States pursued during the administrations of Presidents Coolidge and Hoover and those that are continuing under President Roosevelt.

Only once in all of those years did the American government speak out firmly concerning the apparent Japanese plans and on that occasion the assistance given the United States by Great Britain and France amounted to little more than a whisper.

So now the patience of a great many people is wearing rather thin. I think also, from what I hear in diplomatic circles, that the British lion has begun to bare his teeth and unsheath his claws. Again, to what purpose I do not know, because the United States and Great Britain thus far have discussed no plan for acting in unison. Certainly, without concerted action between them and including France, little can be accomplished. It does seem that they could get together because of the community of interests but either the United States lacks leadership in the circumstance, or there are some bugs under the British and French chips about which we do not know. I repeat that in the face of Japan's devastating actions and the ever-growing threat of her overlordship in the Far East, these three powers ought to work out an understanding by which they can trim the wings of the Japanese war birds.

As the fighting continues on Chinese soil and as one disturbing act after another is committed by the Japanese, I imagine many persons are going to inquire why the United States does not brave world diplomacy and invoke the neutrality act. In that eventuality, there ought to be a clear understanding of the various implications and results that would flow from such an American action. In the first instance, Japan is now virtually self-sufficient in the matter of munitions. If we declare an embargo against shipment of war materials to the fighting nations, I believe it is generally agreed the action would hurt China more than it would hurt Japan. It would result in cutting off supplies which the Chinese sorely need. Americans are wholly willing to sell supplies to them because, generally speaking, it is apparent that the sympathies of American individuals are with the Chinese even

though the government officially remains neutral.

Further, if our President declared that war existed between Japan and China, doubtless Japan would be encouraged to declare war on China formally. In that event the Japanese immediately would establish a naval blockade of the Chinese coast.

In some quarters in Washington, one will hear arguments that the United States ought to continue to keep its hands off the Far East situation. That school of thought takes the position that the United States is not obligated either from a moral standpoint or from the necessity of protecting American interests, to use force in putting Japan back within its own borders.

The basic reason why these thinkers argue against a firm American attitude, however, is that China never has been subjugated. China has been attacked; it has been overrun from many quarters and it is now being overrun again; but it has never been conquered. That sounds like a broad statement but history proves its truth. The Chinese through all of their thousands of years of history have managed to survive and maintain their racial characteristics and traditions. They never have sought additional territory. They have been content to do things in their own way and to absorb Western civilization slowly. In other words, the Chinese have generally allowed human nature to change only as human nature does change through the years.

But what of other world powers? Lately, the Chinese have entered into a treaty with Soviet Russia by which that nation promises not to participate in war against China. The treaty is simple enough and yet what is written there is only a shadow of what it all means. The Soviet, while apparently not desiring to engage Japan in hostilities, is unwilling to see Japan go too far in extending her frontier. It is only a short while since Japan set up the puppet state of Manchukuo. It borders on Russian territory and the feeling along that border has been none too harmonious. It seems quite logical then that the Soviet was desirous of showing to Japan the possibility of an attack from two sides if Japan forces her tentacles too far inland in continental Asia.

Also, it ought to be mentioned that the treaty between the Soviet and China may be influential in Europe. The general understanding is that Hitler has committed Germany to the aid of Japan if the Soviet moves against the island power. Besides this circumstance, the Soviet is unwilling, if one may judge circumstances of the last two years, to encourage the ill will of Great Britain. Dictator Stalin does not want to have Great Britain and France arrayed against him and he can see obviously that Great Britain and France, as well as the United States, must favor China.

Word comes by cable from Paris that the French government has nationalized all of the railroads within the borders of that nation. It may be that this news item will be passed over by many persons with the remark that the condition is several thousand miles across the Atlantic. It is, however, a most significant step because France, along with the United States and Great Britain, long has held to the idea that private initiative and private brains always are better than government initiative and government brains.

I call attention to this development for another reason. It happens that about three years ago members of President Roosevelt's so-called Brain Trust were planning exactly the same thing for the United States.

Strangely, the terms by which the French government, which is now completely socialistic, took over the railroads of France are identical with those which were under consideration by the Roosevelt Brain Trust.

It may be news to many persons to learn that the bunch of theorists who infest our government once actually drafted a bill for action by congress to nationalize the American railroads. That bill would have taken over the rail lines for their bonded indebtedness and would have left nothing at all for the stockholders. The French radicals have done exactly that thing in nationalizing the French railroads.

It may be that "It can't happen here," but I must confess a very deep fear. It seems to me the time has arrived for those who believe in ownership of their own homes, possession of their own money—whether the sum be small or large—to awaken to the trend of world events.

Consolidated News Features WNU Service.

NEW YORK. — Possibly better than "horse and buggy" days would be "square-rigger" days as a phrase of poignant retrospect. There was a touch of nostalgia in the amazingly expert press stories and beautiful pictures of the Newport getaway of the Conrad and the Seven Seas—the only seaworthy square-riggers left in America—on their recent race to Bermuda. Both boats have Diesel engines, for emergencies, but they stow all that, and it is perhaps a bit tactless to bring it up now. This is a machine age holiday.

With all its shortcomings, the power age does enable some people to make enough money to get away from it once in a while. Young G. Huntington Hartford, owner of the Conrad, is the inheritor of a \$200,000,000 chain-store fortune. That's a good beginning for anyone who wants to voyage back into past epochs—whether his taste is for old houses, old prints, old ships, or even a horse and buggy. Simplicity comes high. Mr. Hartford spent \$75,000 getting the Conrad in racing trim.

One doesn't think of a demon squaw player as a sailing man, but Mr. Hartford was a squaw racquet wizerd in his undergraduate days at Harvard, in the class of 1933. He is the only son of Mrs. Henrietta G. Hartford, of Newport and Charleston, getting about a lot, having a wonderful time and probably not "wishing you were here."

He takes a hand in all sorts of sports, and probably stirs more envy with this square-rigger race than in anything he has done or will do. He starts many an old gaffer dreaming he is out on the yardarm in a gale, and that—according to the Prophet Joel—is as it should be, providing the young men keep up with their visions.

Mr. Hartford bought the Conrad from Capt. Alan Villiers, Australian book sailor who sailed her all over the world in his literary argosy. She had settled down in the valhalla of old ships at Brooklyn when Mr. Hartford brought her to life again. The ship was built more than 50 years ago by the Danish government, which later used her as a training ship. Her proper name is the Georg Stage. She's a proud, staunch old ship, with two full suits of sails, decks of teak and two brass cannon on the poop deck. She is 100 feet 8 inches on the waterline.

BARON KONSTANTIN VON NEURATH, German foreign minister, asserts the right and intention of Germany to organize Nazi units abroad. The declaration comes at the peak of a drive by the reich to solidify and indoctrinate its minorities in all European countries and to unite Germans everywhere behind the national socialist regime.

In this activity, Herr von Neurath seems to have displaced the frenetic Rosenberg, of whom not much has been heard lately. The foreign minister is of the ancient Junker clan, close in with the monarchists and the army, of aristocratic feudal background, and his new ascendancy is interpreted by some observers as an indication of the increasing dominance of his allied groups, as against the newcomers who head the Nazi party.

He stems from pre-war Germany, a hefty, ruddy, stag-hunting aristocrat, of an ancient Wuerttemberg dynasty, with slicked gray hair and close-cropped gray mustache. He was a student of law, entering the consular service in 1900. Serving in many foreign capitals, he was ambassador to Rome from 1922 to 1930, and formed a warm friendship with Mussolini, whom he characterized as the ideal ruler. He dislikes public appearances and rarely makes a speech or grants an interview.

WHEN the President Hoover was hit by an airplane bomb, Admiral Harry E. Yarnell assumed emergency command of all American shipping in Far Eastern waters. Since this isn't a real war, just what he can do about such random shooting isn't quite clear—there are no rules to govern the present situation—but, at any rate, he's riding herd on our ships and doing the best he can.

In the Boxer uprising, at the turn of the century, he was an ensign on the U. S. S. Yorktown. As America pursued her "manifest destiny," he hasn't missed any of the major excitements since then. Previously he had been in the Spanish-American war and the Philippine insurrection. He helped occupy Vera Cruz and he was an aide on the staff of Admiral Hugh Rodman when our ships were serving with the British grand fleet in the World War. He rose in the navy through his mastery of engineering techniques.

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Scenes and Persons in the Current News



1—Insurgent troops, led by a single brass horn, triumphantly take over Santander, last important Spanish government post on northern coast. 2—Maybe Max Schmeling is whispering to Mike Jacobs, promoter, what he'll do to Joe Louis in the bout next June for which Mike signed him. 3—Out of breath, but not running from the Chinese is little Princess Yori-No-Miya, fourth daughter of the emperor and empress of Japan, seen in sports at a Tokyo school.

Battle Infantile Paralysis Wave



Preston Springs, Ont.—One of the most serious infantile paralysis epidemics in years has struck the United States and Canada. Science is testing the efficiency of zinc sulphate nose sprays as a preventive among 5,000 children in this Canadian town, where there was a dangerous outbreak. Dr. John Hauch of the Hagmeier clinic is shown treating one of the district children.

Hero Swims 25 Hours for Help

Mobile, Ala. — Addley Baker, twenty-five-year-old seaman pictured here, swam a raging sea for more than 25 hours to secure rescue for the crew of the sinking freighter Tarpon, off Panama City, Fla. His



heroic work made it possible for a coast guard cutter to save eleven men and recover the body of Capt. W. G. Barrow, who went down with the ship. The crew had life preservers and clung to wreckage, awaiting Baker's return.

HITLER'S HALF-BROTHER



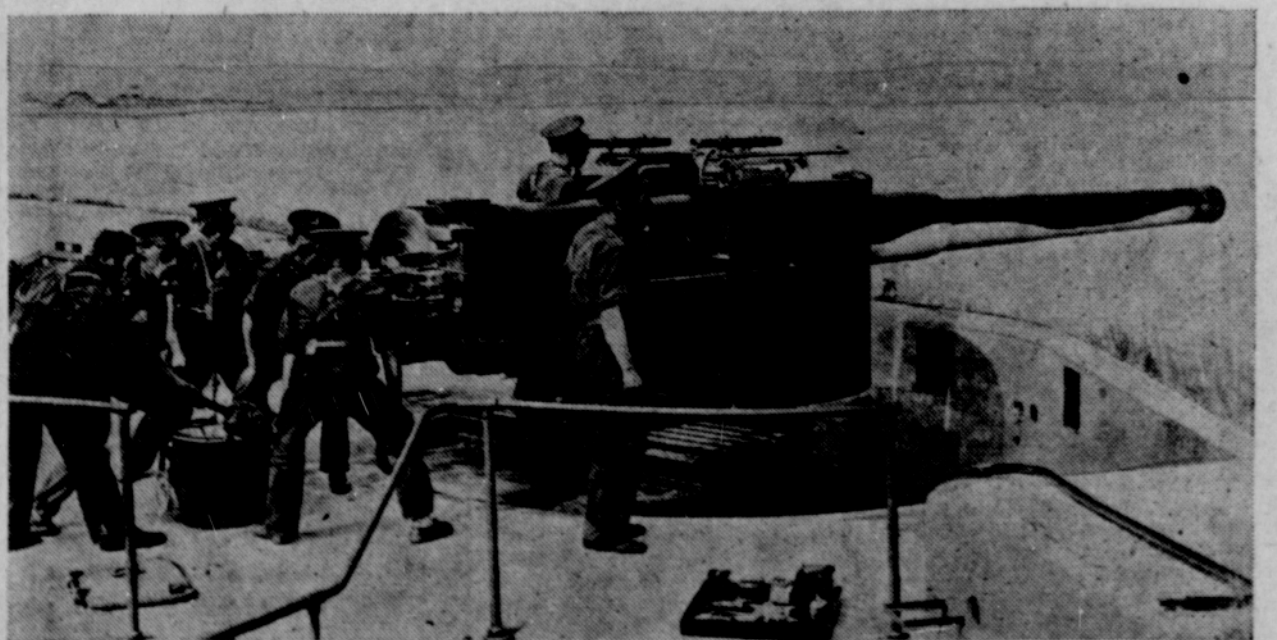
Berlin, Germany.—This rare photograph of Alois Hitler, oldest half-brother of the Nazi dictator, was taken over Alois' indignant protest. He does not permit himself to be photographed if he can help it. He keeps a small inn in Berlin and shuns the limelight.

First "Trailer Widow" Seeks Lift



Revere, Mass.—Mrs. Sadie Hahn, fifty-six, believes she is the nation's first "trailer widow." She married Paul Hahn, fifty-five, last year in a Dalworth, Texas, trailer camp, and spent their honeymoon in a trailer. He recently deserted her here, taking the car, but leaving her the trailer in order, perhaps, that she might pick up a "lift" home.

Roars Louder Than British Lion



Nothe Fort, England.—A gun crew goes into action as it wards off an imaginary enemy during recent maneuvers at this post which guards Portland harbor. The soldiers are from the Dorset Heavy Brigade, Royal Artillery, Territorial Army.