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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1941

Unseen Hand

Eggs Thrown in Detroit Treated To a Priest's Incantations

With all Europe turned to murder and destruction, an egg-throwing by women demonstrators in Detroit seems too mild to notice. But when the personage (and likewise tomatoed) in the British Ambassador to the United States, and when it occurs while Lord Halifax is on his way to see the head of the Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit, the affair becomes a little more than impolite. It becomes a sign of something to be dealt with.

The place is significant. Detroit is the principal stamping ground of the Irreverend Father Charles Coughlin, Fascist rabble-rouser. The sex of the agitators is likewise significant. Women fall more easily under the spell of Coughlin's demagoguery than men. Their better natures are most significant of all. "Down with England!" and "Halifax is a War-Monger!" are two of the standard themes of the malevolent priest's radio and editorial harangues.

There is no evidence to show that these rabid women—an unlovely chorus of cronies, we dare say—were set upon the Ambassador by the clergyman. But their behavior and their purposes trace directly to his evil influence. Whether or not they proceeded under his orders is beside the point.

Poor Tammany

It Did All It Could—But La Guardia Was Invincible

La Guardia won—it wasn't what politicians would call a comfortable majority. His plurality was 133,841 votes. Those ballots, only seven per cent of them cast in the election, gave him his third victory over Tammany Hall and a chance to run New York for four more years.

It wasn't the same old Tammany, that opposed La Guardia this time. Any sentimentality toward the "Boss" was purely coincidental—and on Tammany's part, regrettable.

This time Governor Lehman, Big Jim Farley, and many another Democratic stalwart were lined up with Tammany, to bolster its strength in populous Brooklyn. Tammany is perennially strong in Manhattan. Bill O'Dwyer, a leading district attorney, was run against La Guardia. It was a stroke worthy of Tammany's craft.

But it didn't count. On the strength of his own excellent record, the American Labor Party's support and the President's endorsement, La Guardia came out on top.

The obvious conclusion is that no matter what sort of plaudits rogues, Tammany's reaction to the people can't recognize the stripes and odor of a tiger in the big city's Democratic Party.

Joiner

F. Graham's Clubs No Proof Of the Company He Keeps

The Hon. Leland M. Ford, a Congressman from California, was holding forth in the House this week on the subject of Mr. John L. Lewis, the CIO and the National Mediation Board. Turning his attention to Frank Graham, a member of the board, he proclaimed ominously: "I point out that Mr. Graham has associated himself with not less than ten front organizations of the Communist Party. To that extent, he has aided the Communist cause in this country."

commissions, movements and federations than any other man in the country. It would be impossible, we wager, for him to name the organizations of which he is a member, much less to give the barest information about what they stood for or what sort of persons were running them. He is North Carolina, if not the world's, champion joiner. The trait may be a little absurd but there's nothing sinister about it.

Walter Watt

Himself and His Friends He Held Strictly Accountable

Last night died one of the noblest old Romans of them all. Proud, aristocratic, polished, a classicist in speech and literary taste, Walter W. Watt was a gentleman of the old school, and more. He was one who permitted no violation in himself or in those who enjoyed his respect from the absolute straight line of right and truth and fair-dealing.

At 82, the old man's acquaintance-ship had been cruelly thinned. Elders he looked up to—such men as Joe Caldwell, Dr. Brevard, Col. Ham Jones—had quit this mortal coil so long ago that about the old man's fondest remembrances there was a mustiness. And he himself was living on borrowed time. The blood in his veins ran irregularly and close to the surface. His breath was unequal to the rounded periods in which he spoke. His dear wife with whom he had lived in close seclusion had died several years ago, and that took the heart out of him.

But the noble old Roman lived on and defied the chemical process of disintegration that leads inevitably to death. He permitted himself—could not deny himself—the angriest contempt for those who in his creed had earned it. A fire-eater, one who added to start at the furious verbal confabulations for the sheer excitement of dousing them with his indignation, he continued to flout the instructions of his physicians, and so survived a half-dozen illnesses and attacks of any one of which would have laid low a lesser battle.

The old man had his soft side. Once you had earned his approval, you were his friend. Once you had become his friend, he would stand up for you against all hell itself, provided he thought you were in the right, or even honestly mistaken. And he so loved companionship, and by his nature and his explosiveness had so limited himself in the enjoyment of it.

Long Chance

Russia Weakens Her Far Eastern Armies Again

In transferring 750,000 more soldiers from Siberia to the southern front, Russia is taking a fearful chance. It is a chance no nation would consider taking unless in desperation.

The dispatch telling of the transfer does not say definitely that the Siberian troops were part of the Soviet Red Banner Army, guarding the Manchurian frontier. It must be presumed, however, that some of them were; and that the Soviet power in the Far East has been weakened again. Even if the Red Banner Armies have not been depleted, their reserves have been drained away. These 750,000 troops were stationed in Siberia where they could be called to the western front, or in the event of a Japanese move, to the east. If Japan moves now, the Russian armies will have the scantiest of reserves. An army without replacements, either in men or in equipment, is doomed.

Of course there are a good many reasons for this. The one that appeals most to me is rather difficult for personal reasons to write about. Yet a little reflection it should be too obvious to be obscured by any personal considerations.

LEADERSHIP HASN'T BEEN GIVEN A CHANCE

Where are the unquestionably great men and leaders, either in the legislative or the executive departments, whose demonstrated genius and leadership have made them positions of unquestioned authority? That there are some men of quality is not in question, but that there are any who, because of that quality, have been given their heads, remains yet to be shown.

It is getting far along enough in this emergency for this kind of man to begin to appear. In England, they had certain men in this and in World War I. Grant, Lee, Jackson and Sherman had their heads well above the rank of the common soldier.

WHO ARE THE MEN OF A BATTLEFIELD ABILITY?

Who are they now? There is too much possibility of unfairness in naming either military or political leaders. But the mere question is enough. Who are they now? The question deserves an answer. Every reader can supply his own.

The fact is that we have not developed more than a few of these. None has been given a chance to do his stuff. It is a system of government that has kept authority and one man set against another until none goes wholeheartedly into the job. We have got too rambunctious he gets his.

Generally speaking, it is a gallery of eunuchs. The legislative and fiscal policies are such as to make full speed ahead difficult. The executive departments are full of men who are constant changes to new and ever more indefinite goals under a great lack of planning and direction.

DOMESTIC POLICIES ARE NEGLECTED

Much of the same thing is true in the domestic departments. Really great men, in both houses, are being crowded out. The House members vote that the great domestic legislative policies, with our wholehearted support, are neglected.

There is a lack of a high school education, the external stars shine out when it is dark round the night. The getting pretty dark but the eternal stars seem to have missed the train. It is a pity that they can't make their presence seen in the light of the President's vast inner enlightenment.

It is time to make a searching analysis and criticism of the tactics and strategy of the Axis. The Axis foreign policy, political, and military. For it needs to be made clearly that so far it lacks for the public, at least, clarity, energy, unity and purpose.

ARMY IS TO GUARD AGAINST UNFORSEABLE

The President has said at various times: To keep the army away from the Western Hemisphere and to defeat Hitler. And obviously we must create a large and efficient army for service in case of unforeseeable developments in this hemisphere.

WHAT, HOWEVER, DOES DEFEATING HITLER MEAN?

Does it mean defeating the German army in the field? Or does it mean defeating the Hitler regime in Germany, and eventually making peace with a legitimate and honorable German government, on the basis of a new constitution of Europe, and a new constellation of the relations between Europe, the Americas, and the British Empire?

THE POSSIBILITY OF A BATTLEFIELD ABILITY

The possibility of establishing such a battlefield diminishes daily. The military might have been maintained in Russia had the British and Americans been prepared. But if the Russians are driven to the Urals, it is beyond my power to see how a position can be established there which would promise victory.

GERMANY CAN MUSTER OVERWHELMING ARMY

If so, what will be the relative size and advantages of the forces? Let us pretend that the Germans have lost by then a million and a half or even two million men. They have lost probably a million to date in Russia alone. But they are still able to call upon a trained army of six million. Hungary, Slovakia, Rumania, Bulgaria, Finland, and the Balkan states are all at their disposal.

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How Good Is He?

As we get it so much power is now dangerously concentrated in the hands of the Government, it has become as much as John L. Lewis. The Nazi, to us, seems a type that would not only march the condemned man to his doom, but omit the usual hearty breakfast.

as well as any on earth, and Russia was preparing for a total war when it was in Russia in 1927.

RUSSIAN FAULTS IN ORGANIZATION

Where the Russians have proved themselves inferior is in their leadership and organization. That is partly Russian and even more the fault of the Communist system, which has succeeded in decapitating the best brains of the army and removing all individual initiative.

What's Wrong With Mussolini

There is a saying (or if there isn't, well coin one) that nobody is so proud as an islander. An Indian-American journeyman on Manhattan Island has just returned with an anecdote about that proud old bit of land off the Massachusetts coast. It seems that the schools up there were asked to write a short essay on Mussolini (they don't know). One of the youngsters, the action of an old man, wrote without a murmur's hesitation set down a pure and perfect poetic sentence to begeth the school.

Oh, Any Old Time Will Do

We're now dropping of all our rooster-and-shovel anecdotes before the Government puts a prohibitive tax on our floor stock. At Camp Davis, a recent selection of a recent second lieutenant without saluting him, and you know what happened: the selectee, the terrific howling out, which merged into lecture on the salute—how given, when, and to whom. When the second lieutenant finally came to a full stop, the selectee asked him, in a friendly way, "You want one now?"

Senator Soaper Says:

The surface. There were plow-unders in those days. The neutrality act seems about to follow the Hut-Sut song into history, with millions more too clear as to what either was all about.

Thanks to the X-ray, a magnificent painting which for 200 years has been good enough for the artist, is found to be a daub by some contemporary.

By Herblock



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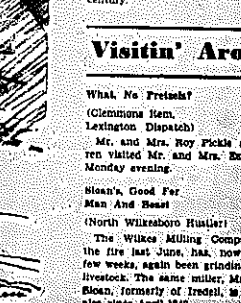
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