

VOICE from the Balcony

by FREMONT POWER

CHARLES O'CONNELL, THE MAN BEHIND THE scenes when the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra makes records, came out front yesterday afternoon at the Murat and stepped up on the podium where all could see. The crowd was not large but as the program wore on (not literally), the handclapping grew louder. In fact, before they'd go home, Mr. O'Connell had to explain that the orchestra simply had no more music to play. Thus, the end.

As musical director for RCA-Victor, Mr. O'Connell has had a lot of orchestras under his scrutiny and attached to his headphones. One might conjecture that this has made of him a man devoted to the technicalities. The impression, however, when he takes over as guest director, as he did yesterday.

Mr. O'Connell is not one to work himself up into much of a froth when doing such work, though in the end he doesn't fall far short of achieving the ends obtained by those who do. With flowing (also greying) hair and sans baton, Mr. O'Connell led the orchestra through a well-balanced program.

Apparently the record-maker-director, looks upon conducting in its simpler senses. He devotes his main attention to rhythms and cues, rather than shadings and soul-searchings.

The Mighty Is Calmed

AFTER A bit of "God Save the King" in Weber's "Jubel Overture," the orchestra plunged right into the Beethoven No. 8 in F Major, a symphony not often heard anywhere. As Mr. O'Connell himself says in his book on the symphonies, "Beethoven was perhaps too concerned with troublesome and unmusical things to abandon himself thoroughly to his inspiration. His deafness, already a handicap in his profession, was beginning to prey upon his mind. His brother, Johann, had involved himself in an affair with the landlord's daughter."

There is the essence of Beethoven's might in the Eighth, but not the genuine article. It is light in places, scherzando and menutetto, and that is fine, but its booms are not of the V-for-victory kind. Throughout it all, the orchestra stayed right with Mr. O'Connell, which produced some queer rests, odd at least to one not familiar with the score.

Modern Clarinet

THE FEATURE attraction came with the Debussy Rhapsody for Clarinet and Orchestra, at which point Julio Mazzocco stepped out of the woodwind section and delivered himself excellently.

Notes, Etc.

TONIGHT the orchestra, with Fabien Sevitzky back at the helm, goes to Bloomington, Ind., for its third concert this season. Mildred Dilling, the harpist, will be soloist, with the emphasis on Debussy and Ravel. Leon Zawieski, steps from the concertmaster's post Thursday night for a recital at the War Memorial. No charge to the public and the time is 8:30.

When Katharine Cornell comes to English's next Monday night in "Rose Burke," her hotel accommodations will depend on what hostilities have no objections to dogs. If Miss Cornell can't have her pets in the room with her, then she doesn't stay. Just a little something for the road manager to keep in mind.

URGES WOMEN REGISTER

NEW YORK, Feb. 16 (U. P.).—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt urged registration of women for war work in her weekly sponsored radio broadcast last night.

Black Cat Can't Upset Civic Cast



For all her smiles you'd think Fanchon Fattig never heard of superstitions. She co-starred in "Mr. and Mrs. North," which opened at the Civic on the 13th and will play through Wednesday. That black cat she's holding is a member of the cast, and further-

OUTLAW PLANE FACES BULLETS

Head of State Air Patrol Calls on Army to Halt Mystery Flights Here.

The Army Air Corps pursuit command at Columbus, O., will be asked to step in to halt "mystery" plane night flying over Municipal Airport if the outlaw plane continues operations, Walker W. Winslow, Indiana Air Patrol Wing Commander, said today.

A plane on an unauthorized flight without lights was reported circling the airport Friday night, Mr. Winslow said. Under war time regulations, no planes are allowed to take to the air without specific authorization and flying without light is unlawful even in peacetime, he explained.

Mr. Winslow theorized that the plane was probably piloted by persons unable or unwilling to meet the Civil Aeronautics Authority requirements and abide by wartime restrictions.

"With so many vital industries concentrated here, we can't afford to take chances with unknown planes," he said.

"If these flights continue, we will ask the Air Corps to station pursuit ships here to shoot these mysterious ships down."

"Maybe they won't be so mysterious then."

NUSSBAUM HEADS NEWSPAPER GUILD

Lowell B. Nussbaum, of The Indianapolis Times editorial staff, has been elected president of the Indianapolis chapter of the American Newspaper Guild, succeeding G. Saxon E. Humphreys, also of The Times editorial staff.

Others elected were Herbert Gilligan, of The Times circulation department, first vice president; George Briggs, of The Times advertising staff, second vice president; Walter F. Morse, of The Indianapolis Star editorial staff, secretary; John Cronie, of The Times circulation department, treasurer.

Miss Marian Anding was named correspondent for the Guild Reporter and Edward Decker and Joseph Shepard, delegates to the Industrial Union Council.

BLOOD PLASMA TOPIC FOR CITY CHEMISTS

Dr. J. A. Leighty of Eli Lilly & Co. will address the local chapter of the American Chemical Society at its regular noon luncheon tomorrow in the Hotel Severin.

Dr. Leighty, who has charge of the preparation of all blood plasma received at the Indianapolis Blood Bank, began the de-hydration and freezing of blood plasma as an experimental project.

He will describe the details of the process by which blood is frozen and dried so it can be kept in perfect condition for years.

Neil Kershaw, Indiana section chairman, is in charge of the meeting.

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JAPAN Unmasked

By HALLETT ABEND

Chapter XIII—Thailand Duped

THE SUCCESS OBTAINED by Japan in French Indo-China and in adjoining Thailand, by combining military pressure with political intrigue, immeasurably increased the vulnerability of the American position in the Philippine Islands, placed the British position in Malay and Burma in new jeopardy, and caused justifiable alarm in the Dutch East Indies.

I found the Netherlands in Batavia and other cities of the East Indies particularly perturbed last October. Their strategists feared that the Hui-Nomura talks in Washington might lead to some compromise between the United States and Japan, and that would have meant an indefinite continuance of enormous preparedness expenditures, and no possibility of feeling any assurance of stability or peace.

The Netherlands army and navy strategists felt strongly that America, Britain and themselves should have struck hard at Japan when the Japanese began the occupation of Indo-China last summer. At that time, they said, the Japanese were "over-extended and disorganized," and could easily have been thrown back with heavy losses. But once established in Indo-China, and with many air bases ready, all of Malaya and the Indies were wide open to air raids, and Saigon and Cam Ranh afforded ideal bases for Japanese naval units in case of hostilities.

Early summer of 1940 found the Japanese army and navy advantageously placed for further southward pressures and advances. Hainan Island and the Spratly Islands were securely occupied. Japanese forces were in southern Kwangsi Province and near the northern borders of French Indo-China. They held the important walled city of Nanning.

Tokyo watched Europe, hoping for an early and decisive German victory. That would have meant the transference of at least half of the American fleet to the Atlantic Ocean, and Japan felt that she could then take Hongkong, wrest Indo-China from the French, probably capture Singapore, and take her pick of the rich islands of the Netherlands East Indies. The dream of the "New Order in Greater East Asia" broadened in scope and took on the bright colors of hope.

Then came the collapse of Holland and Belgium, the surrender of France—a magnificent chance for "manifest destiny" to manifest itself in all its rapacious aggressiveness.

Tokyo tightened screws. THE MOVES WERE swift and the pressure strong. Britain, intent after Dunkirk on preparations to repel an expected German attempt at invasion of England, agreed to close the Burma Road for three months and Japan thought that with this source of supplies cut off she could soon force Chungking to come to terms.

With France prostrate, French Indo-China was in no position to resist Japanese pressure and soon became an easy victim of Japan's demands. These demands had first to do with the narrow-gauge railway running from the port of Haiphong, in northern Indo-China, and from Hanoi, its capital, into the southern Chinese province of Yunnan and on to its capital city, Kunming.

This railway was never of prime commercial or strategic importance, for at a maximum it could transport only a little more than 18,000 tons of freight a month, and 3,000 tons of this total was usually maintenance tonnage. But for China, cut off from her own sea-coasts by Japanese occupation and blockade, any avenue of import or export, however limited, was of value.

Enormous accumulations of American-made motor trucks, tires, barbed wire, drugs and chemicals belonging to the Chinese Government littered the waterfront at Haiphong. All of this was later grabbed by the Japanese army.

Japan demanded and was given the right to station Japanese inspectors along the railway, along the two highways, and at the Indo-China-Yunnan borders. These inspectors were army and navy men, in uniform, with a few civilians for the sake of "face."

Then began CHARGES of bad faith; Japan said she had to have troops along the railway and highway. The Chinese, on their side, dynamited bridges and tore up track; frontier fortifications were hastily thrown up, and Chinese troops began to move toward the Indo-China borders. Then Japan, for "self-protection," said she had to have the use of airfields in Indo-China—at Haiphong, at Hanoi and three others along the northern borders.

The Japanese authorities, negotiating with Hanoi reiterated that they wanted a "peaceful settlement," but meanwhile Gen. Ando, commanding the Japanese army in Kwangsi, based on Nanning, moved his share of glory. He wanted toward the border, then attacked French positions, and there was a lot of disgraceful and particularly gory fighting. Tokyo and the Japanese negotiating at

Haiphong said Gen. Ando's move was "all a mistake."

A lone Japanese aviator at Haiphong bombed the native section of that port city, killing a score of men, women and children, and wounding twice that number. Japan was "very sorry" for this, of course. Another mistake. The young aviator, it was explained, acted entirely without orders and solely because of "personal enthusiasm." The wounded and relatives of the dead were given a handful of piasters, and meanwhile military trains from the northern front hauled into hushed Hanoi trainloads of French wounded soldiers and flatcars loaded with encoffined dead. All just a mistake!

Soldiers Moved In

THE JAPANESE HAD their way in the end. They moved about 12,000 soldiers into northern French Indo-China.

While all this was going on, Japanese agents had been unusually busy in Bangkok. The Siamese southern border, where Thailand joins Malaya, is only 400 air-line miles from Singapore. The Thai Government in Bangkok soon began making demands upon prostrate French Indo-China. Thailand demanded redressing of "historical wrongs," insisted upon a rectification of frontiers, the ceding of islands in the Mekong River. Border skirmishes began to be increasingly frequent, then artillery was brought into play by both the French and the Thai forces; both sides began using airplanes for border bombing raids.

Finally Japan acted as negotiator, and a "peace" was arranged, giving Thailand everything she wanted. Then, last summer, under Hitler's pressure, Vichy gave Japan permission to move into southern Indo-China, to occupy Saigon and Cam Ranh harbors, and to use and construct airfields. In this way Japan made a 600 mile southern jump, and obtained air bases within 400 miles, airline, of Singapore, 500 miles from Batavia, and about 250 miles from Penang.

Thailand Duped

WITH THAILAND politically in Tokyo's pocket, with the Siamese armies unable to resist, Japan was at last in the coveted position of being able to drive down the

Malay Peninsula and attack Singapore by land, to capture Penang easily, and thus obtain a land air base from which to raid British shipping in the Indian Ocean, and attack ships taking goods to China by way of Rangoon.

On Dec. 5, 1940, both Tokyo and Bangkok admitted the secret conclusion of a treaty of amity under which each was pledged for five years to respect the other nation's territorial integrity and to consult together on all questions of common interest.

Japan had the stage set then, and the democracies made the mistake of permitting her to ring up the curtain on the first act at a time of her own choosing.

At first the people of Thailand thought they had made a smart deal. But they began to change their minds last summer, when from just over the borders in French Indo-China the Japanese soldiery began to misbehave in the way they always do. From Annam and Cambodia came to Thailand reports of truculent aggression. There were lootings. The women were being raped by the Japanese who professed to wage a "Holy War" to free the peoples of East Asia from "oppression by the white man." Thailand began to be anti-Japa-

nese, and pro-American and pro-British. But it was too late. The dupe was caught.

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