

HOW CHINESE CENSORS CUT OR STOP NEWS STORIES REVEALED, SEVERAL SAMPLES SET FORTH

SHANGHAI, China, May 29.—For months foreign correspondents in China have been hopefully waiting to experience a change in the press censorship system enforced by the Chinese government—a censorship secret and unexplained, which constitutes the biggest single problem faced by objective news writers in Cathay.

The desire of a fundamental change is not restricted to the foreign correspondence. Chinese newspapermen have petitioned for a lightening of stern press restrictions at home and some relief has been promised. Various Chinese leaders, both in and out of public life, are known to desire ardently that a new deal be inaugurated for the dispatches filed to newspapers in America and Europe, so that China's story can consistently be told.

Improvement—But Not Enough

Recently there has been improvement. When stories filed from this bureau, for instance, to The Daily News return in printed form it is seen that few have been stopped by the censor and that the majority have gone through without cutting. However, in the opinion of all newspapermen with American ideas of what constitutes reasonable freedom of expression and freedom for objective reporting, the improvement has not gone nearly far enough yet.

One glaring example of "doctoring" by the censor has come to light with receipt here of an issue of The Daily News in January containing a dispatch which, as cabled from the Shanghai bureau, opened with the words:

"Despite tone optimism relative chances British trade Manchuria, which sounded in recent London report by British industries mission to Manchuria headed by Lord Barnby, seasoned opinion among veteran English observers on oriental scene expect no great Manchurian plums."

As sent after the censor had finished his job the printed story reveals the word "Manchurian" was changed to "northeastern", from which the reader could gather, if he knew his oriental geography well enough, that reference was being made to the four northeastern provinces seized by Japan. But that was only the beginning of the censor's operation.

"Manchuria" Too Much

Knowing the dislike of the censors for the word "Manchukuo", and writing for publication in a nation which firmly refuses to recognize Manchukuo, the correspondent of The Daily News customarily has used the word "Manchuria" instead, excepting when the other expression was for some reason preferable. In those cases the word almost invariably was enclosed in this bureau with quotation marks.

But for some unaccountable reason even the old historic "Manchuria" was too much for the censor upon the occasion in question. Although the word appears now and then in the dispatch as published, it has in three instances been changed to "northeastern", as noun. For example, where the dispatch as filed quotes a Briton as saying: "We stand to gain nothing from Manchuria whether we recognize her or not, except perhaps occasional orders which be temporarily attractive", the story as revised by the censor reads:

"We stand to gain nothing from northeastern whether we recognize her or not", etc.

Censor Inserts "So-Called"

Regardless of the pleasure it may have afforded the censor thus to rule Manchuria off the face of the earth and substitute a land called "Northeastern", it must have meant a headache to American readers who had never heard of the place and still were trying to find what the dispatch was about.

Nor did that complete the censor's literary effort. In three sentences where the dispatch, in the course of quotations of authorities, used the word "Manchukuo", he has inserted "so-called", before "Manchukuo". By repetition of that designed as a news story in the American language for American readers into a labored legal document.

In fairness it should be reported, however, that although I have often heard of such distortions of dispatches by censors here, I remember no

ther personal instance in which a censor revolted against "Manchuria".

Dispatches Cut or Stopped

A much more pressing problem is that of cutting and stopping of dispatches. Although recently there has been much less of this, there has been no assurance that a fundamental change of policy has been adopted. For considerable periods, month in and month out, the majority of dispatches may go out with few or no cuts. Again, mysterious periods come when the censors seem to work overtime.

Dispatches dealing with the activities of the communists and Nanking's moves against them are repeatedly censored—sometimes in a manner which has caused given accounts to present quite a different and, from the standpoint of the censor much brighter picture than was intended by the correspondent concerned with reality.

The result has been to play, temporarily at least, into the hands of pro-communist apologists and propagandists who write for magazine or book publication in America, because dispatches on the subject by objective correspondents have been reduced. Sooner or later, of course, correspondents get the facts out, through dispatches or mailed articles; but the delay until mail can reach America means a difference, and meanwhile false impressions have been left.

Object To Opposition Tales

Again, the censors may interfere with realistic attempts to deal with factional opposition to the authority of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and the Nanking Government. This applies, notably, to the activities of Hu Han-ruin and the semi-independent political clique of the southwest. Here also, in the long run, the story of genuine progress toward national unification (for there is such progress) and the story of the big tasks remaining to be told; Attempts of censors to unify China in one fell swoop with a blue pencil fail.

Sino-Japanese relations constitute the third chief category of dispatches which run large risk of censorship. A message from Chicago indicates that most, although not all, copy dispatched from this bureau covering the recent course of events in Japan's move for a Sino-Japanese " rapprochement" has been permitted to go without cutting. But there has been censorship and earlier dispatches on relations between China and Japan have in certain cases, been stopped. Many have suffered serious mutilation.

This, as various Chinese leaders, both public and private, realize, often is a pity from China's own standpoint. Desire of censors to block world knowledge of a given development may result only in blocking world knowledge of the Chinese side of that development, these Chinese viewpoint toward it, while the Japanese see to it that their own interpretation is known. This has happened on various occasions in the past.

Don't Inform Correspondent

And beyond the question of censorship itself is the other big fact of secrecy. When the correspondent files a dispatch and the censors stop it or cut it or a garble it, they do not inform the correspondent. He is given no opportunity to decide whether the dispatch is so badly marred by the censor that he does not want to spend his newspaper's money on its transmission. He is given no opportunity to delete a given sentence if that sentence will go only in a garbled form. And still his newspaper must pay for the transmission of the message.

The present system of secrecy, it is held by many Chinese and foreign observers, cannot be defended on any principle of fair play; and much of the censorship itself in the last year appears incapable of squaring with the desire of patriotic Chinese leaders that China and events in China be presented fairly to the western world.

The average woman has a vocabulary of 8,000 words—but the average man can get by with less than half that number if he can talk in grunts and monosyllables around the house.

Dionnes Sell Pictures for \$35,000

About two weeks ago the Dionne quintuplets closed a deal to permit the use of their photographs on a calendar for \$35,000. It was a good business stroke, highly creditable to the acumen of the youthful capitalists. Upon hearing of it Papa Dionne figured that the time was ripe to strike for a rise. He had been getting \$75 a month which is just about the union rate for being the father of quintuplets. But there is no law in Canada against paying more than the union scale, and he thought it would do no harm to ask for \$100.

The quints considered his application from various points of view. As Yvonne pointed out, it was not filed as a coercive measure, for in the event of its refusal the old man couldn't go out on strike. Emilie suggested that even if he were to quit, the corporation could get along without any honorary officers, having an excellent working staff. But Yvonne argued that quintuplets without a father would raise embarrassing questions; that his office was not nominal, as her sister's remarks had implied, but essential to the reputation of the establishment. Cecile chipped in with the observation that public opinion had to be considered: so Marie moved that dad be boosted by \$25, Annette seconded the motion, and it was unanimously adopted.

At that time the capital resources of Dionne, Inc., totalled \$145,000. Already they have risen to \$175,000; the business is rapidly expanding, and there is no telling to what dizzy heights the gross may attain. For it should be remembered that thus far Dionnes, Inc., has been engaged only in manufacturing news interest. The revenues, aside from private and governmental donations, come almost exclusively from sale of picture and literary rights. The true commercial interest has not yet developed—and that's where the real money lies.

There are scores of manufacturers of cigarettes, face lotions, hair growers, dentifrices, underwear, hosiery and what not who in years to come will fall over each other trying to get testimonials from the quintuplets. Imagine the commercial value, twenty years hence, of a statement signed jointly by Yvonne, Marie, Annette, Cecile and Emilie to the effect that they attribute their health, beauty, vivacity, complexions and appetites, to the vitalizing qualities of Chester Gold Cigarettes. Fancy the vogue their combined endorsement would give to Flavorlast Gum, Cherry-Ripe Lipstick, Nuit de China town perfume or Gargyle's Sanitary Gargle.

We should say that the Dionnes have before them a million-dollar future, and that Papa Dionne has a good job with brilliant prospects. He should regard himself just now as only on the bottom rungs of the ladder of success, with dizzy heights open to a man who is willing to climb slowly and sure-footedly. The time may come when the firm will see its way clear to enlarge its establishment and make a place for Mama. For, after all, she is entitled to a look-in. If it hadn't happened that she was around when the business was established it might never have got a good start.

KING'S SILVER JUBILEE OF WORLD BENEFIT

John Edwin Price, whose featured editorials appear in one hundred and ninety-five papers in the United States, Canada and the Hawaiian Islands, states that England's Jubilee is having a salutary effect on the thought of the world. He said recently, "A rain storm seldom annoys a rock. When some persons are jittery over war scares, when some folks take too seriously a 15% world depression it is good to see a great nation go forward with a magnificent gala jubilee as though nothing else startlingly abnormal was going on. Such an attitude has a steadying influence on lesser peoples with more jumpy nerves." This writer further states that "in looking at the hole of the economic doughnut too many people forget that about eighty percent of the world's population have had jobs and lived about as usual during this depression period now practically behind us."

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NORMANDIE HAS SPEEDY TRIAL; SEEKS RECORD

PARIS, France, May 31—Rightly or wrongly, French experts consider that yesterday's speed of 31.4 knots an hour made over a short course gives the new supergiant Normandie of the French line a chance to break the world's record for the Atlantic crossing when it starts west on May 29.

This great ship about 50 per cent larger than any other afloat, is driven electrically according to what are called "new principles." Experts claim to have been very nervous over her trials.

It is announced, however, that these more than justify the experiments of its constructor and that the Normandie has the best chance in the world to beat the world's record and win for France the "blue ribbon of the Atlantic."

The Mauretania, the "world's finest ship" held the record for nearly thirty years, until it was won by the Bremen of the North German Lloyd with an average speed of 28.53 knots for the entire crossing. This was finally beaten last year by the Italian line steamer Rex. The Rex made a speed of 29.5 knots for 24 hours and averaged slightly better than the Bremen for the entire four and a half days.

The Normandie hopes to beat the Rex. The Germans threaten to put new and better engines into the Bremen and win the blue ribbon back. The British Queen Mary is a threat upon the horizon when it enters the competition a year or two from now. But now it is the opportunity of the Normandie, "the world's only air-conditioned liner."

PREMIER BENNETT PRAISED

A leading New York paper recently gave considerable space to an article praising Premier Bennett of Canada. The news has travelled far and wide that he is endeavoring to see to it that the good things of life are available to an ever increasing number of worthy people. At the same time it is known that he is for maintaining that condition of society in which men of initiative, thrift and habits of work can attain adequate extra rewards for extra effort. The manner in which he was received at the King's Jubilee in London was a source of pride to all Canadians whom he represented and to many in the United States.

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SORBONNE CONFERRED HIGHEST HONOR ON UNIV. OF MANITOBA PROFESSOR

JAMES, May 31—Twenty-nine years old Edward K. Brown, professor of English at the University of Manitoba, was signally honored by the district farmer, near here. The paper Sorbonne today, being awarded the degree of letters for his grandfather during a visit to the works in English on Matthew Arnold and in French on Edith Wharton.

The youthful professor, one of the few English-speaking Canadians ever to receive the coveted distinction death of General Washington and award after the jury had listened to a three hour "defence" of his works. The degree is the highest the Sorbonne can bestow.

TRAUX, Sask., May 21—A trifle older than the "Ulster Gazette" published 135 years ago, and formerly of the University of Toronto, is a cherished possession of Ed. Lewis, a farmer, near here. The paper was discovered among possessions of his grandfather during a visit to the old Ontario farmhouse.

The issue, printed at Kingston, County Ulster, is dated Saturday, Jan. 4, 1800, and contains reports of the death of General Washington and adulation by President John Adams, eulogizing the statesman. Several columns are devoted to news of the Napoleonic wars. Advertisements are displayed in poetic form.

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