

L.T. - SUNOCO, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1934

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

There was a regular epidemic of Bank robberies country today. No less than four were reported within the space of five hours.

Down in Coleman, Texas, a bunch of crooks took thirty-five thousand dollars from the First National and kidnapped five of its employees. These they released later on.

The biggest robbery of all took place at Pennsgrove, New Jersey, where you cross the Delaware f^ro the short cut to Washington. The Federal Reserve Bank in Philadelphia had just sent a hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars to the bank in Pennsgrove to make up a payroll. As the two messengers were walking into the bank, they were held up by four gunmen. I learn from the New Jersey State police that the car used by the robbers had been stolen in Reading, Pennsylvania. They abandoned it, and transferred their loot to another car.

The third robbery today took place in Rochester,

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New York. There four armed bandits got away with twelve thousand dollars.

But the most sensational crime occurred at Needham, Massachusetts, just outside of Boston. There the attack was made on the Needham Trust Company. The sound of the burglar alarm brought a policeman on the run. The gang opened fire on him through the windows with machine guns. The policeman fell. He was struck by seven machine gun bullets. A second policeman and a fireman dashed to the rescue. They too were shot down and are in a critical condition. One of the bank employees, in charge of the vault, was shot through the hand.

Then, the four robbers, their faces masked, made a spectacular getaway. They took the Treasurer and Cashier of the bank with them, and made the two bank officials stand on the running board of the car. This of course tied the hands of the police, who could not shoot at the robbers' for fear of hitting the treasurer and cashier. Finally, the

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robbers threw the bank officials off the car. With almost incredible insolence they went to another branch of the same bank in Needham Heights and tried to rob it. Here, however, they accomplished nothing. They rushed in but were frightened away without getting any money.

NBC

GOLD

Money markets the world over are still ~~all~~ ~~acquirer~~ acquirer.

And all because of Uncle Sam's new policy in pegging the price of the dollar. The price of gold jumped up again in London. And that part of the London Stock Exchange where gold mine shares are ~~XXXX~~ traded in was in a ~~real~~ tumult.

And in Paris, financial circles were in an even more violent ferment. People ~~are~~ falling over each other, ~~in France~~, shipping gold to New York because of the high premiums it ^{now} brings ^{over} here. Consequently, there were heavy gold withdrawals from all French banks. ^{And} ^{French} The government is ~~beginning to get~~ ^{getting} worried.

NBC

AIRMAIL

A rumpus is looming in Washington over the airmail subsidy investigation. The Chairman of the Committee said today that he was going to ask the Senate to cite one member of the Hoover administration for contempt. None other than former Assistant Secretary of Commerce, the popular Bill MacCracken. The Committee asked Mr. MacCracken to produce certain correspondence. He refused. Late today the Senate did cite the former official for contempt.

NBC

AIRPLANES

Oh yes The House of Representatives is ^{*showing some*} ~~feeling~~ curiosity _^ ^{*over*} ~~about~~ the size of ^{*the*} profits made by manufacturers of airplanes. _^

The Naval Affairs Committee of the House has asked the Sub-Committee on Aeronautical Affairs to investigate and learn how much the Companies make on airplane contracts.

NBC

CREDIT

The Reconstruction Finance Corporation has a new job on its hands. The organization is trying to fix things so that we can do business with Russia, South America and the Balkans, especially Russia. The principal necessity is credit. The latest idea in this direction is to establish a trading bank ~~which would~~^{to} provide credit for both exporters and importers.

NBC

EUROPE

Here's a piece of news that Europe won't like very well. The United States Senate has passed again that bill of Senator Hiram Johnson, the bill forbidding any financial transactions with foreign governments who are in default. This bill was passed today with certain modifications suggested by the White House. It forbids the purchase or sale of the bonds of any foreign government or any political sub-division of any foreign government that is in default, that means in default not merely to Uncle Sam but to any American citizens. None of these governments can in future do business over here.

NEC

LABOR

The Roosevelt Administration is now getting to work to fulfill its campaign promise for uniform labor legislation. Miss Perkins, ~~the~~ Secretary of Labor, has asked the governors of all states to send officials of the State Labor Departments and also representatives of the wage earners to a conference in Washington. This conference will be held in a couple of weeks to draw up a program of labor laws to help some forty million wage earners throughout the country.

NBC

TAXI STRIKE

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Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers had to do something today that they rarely do. They had to walk. And what a day they had for it! The reason was a strike of taxi drivers. If they had been deliberately waiting for a day that would cause the maximum inconvenience, they could not have picked a better one. Yesterday evening ~~the~~^a soft slushy snow was falling all over Gotham. This stopped about midnight and today that snow was packed down hard, making a surface both on roadways and sidewalks that was just an invitation to break your neck.

Some fifteen thousand taxi drivers were out today and they expect to double their numbers before tomorrow. What do they want? Higher wages and their union to be recognized.

^{has}
It ~~is~~^{has} been a singularly peaceful law-abiding strike so far. Police headquarters tell me that they've had no calls whatsoever for the emergency squad to handle striking taxi drivers. The only call of the kind came from N.R.A. headquarters, where a mob of some two hundred striking

TAXI STRIKE - 2

waiters were putting on an act. Most of the big hotels in New York are still picketed, but nobody except the pickets seem to pay much attention. Far more tales of assault and of savage beatings come from the waiters' strike than from any other.

NBC

Bruce Lockhart.

former Director,
British Intelligence
Russia.

Feb. 2, 1934.

INTRO TO BRUCE LOCKHART:

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Now about a book and an author. The book called British Agent for sometime now has been a best seller. The author is Bruce Lockhart, for years almost a legendary figure, as a director of British Intelligence during the World War and later during the war between the Reds and the Whites in Russia.

The time was when the Bolsheviks if anything strange or dangerous happened, blamed it on the mysterious Englishman, Bruce Lockhart. The author has just landed from England. He's here with me -- quiet and suave, not the Machiavellian-man-of-mystery sort, apparently.

Bruce Lockhart was in Moscow as the head of a British Mission. Russia, during the early days of the Bolshevik control was in a state of dreadful turmoil. Then two dramatic events occurred -- two events that launched the Red Terror.

A Russian shot and killed Uritski, the head of the Cheka, the merciless Bolshevik Secret Police. The next day a girl named Dora Kaplan shot Lenin twice. Lenin was dangerously wounded.

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That began the reign of terror. That night Lockhart was asleep when he was awakened with a revolver pointed in his face. A party of agents of the dreaded secret police took him to the Cheka headquarters. There he was brought before Peters, a hollow-faced man with pinched lips, and eyes with a metallic stare. He was one of the chiefs of the Cheka. And immediately Lockhart heard the ominous question: "Do you know Dora Kaplan?"

It happened that Lockhart did not know the woman who had shot Lenin. But merely denying it might not have done much good. He was then asked about Reilly, an evasive British Secret Agent. And he was asked other questions. But the ominous thing was that query: "Do you know Dora Kaplan?"

He refused to answer on the grounds that he should have diplomatic immunity from such an inquisition. He was taken to a room where, with another Englishman, named Hicks, he was held prisoner. Then came the climax -- the test. It was a somber, dramatic scene.

Mr. Bruce Lockhart would you tell us about that bleak morning in the prison of the Cheka?

FOR BRUCE LOCKHART

I'm not likely to forget it. I was sitting with Hicks, waiting. It was six in the morning. The door opened and a party of Cheka agents ushered a woman into the room. She was dressed in black. Her eyes had great black rings under them. We guessed it was -- yes, Dora Kaplan.

The Cheka agents were watching her face. They were watching our faces. We guessed that they hoped to see some sign of recognition pass between ourselves and the unfortunate woman. But we didn't know her. And, she didn't know us. She preserved a stony composure. Perhaps it was her lack of any expression that saved us.

She went to a window, and leaning her chin on her hand, looked out. There she remained motionless, resigned to her fate. Then the agents of the Cheka took her away. She was condemned and shot. She had tried to change the course of history by assassinating Lenin. She never knew whether she had succeeded.

(b)

As for ourselves, after the Communists found that we had nothing to do with the affair, we were released.

FOLLOW BRUCE LOCKHART

That's how, while history was being made, Bruce Lockhart adventured in the perilous career of a British Agent, as he has now come over here to tell, on the platform in person.

FIRE TRIAL

There's one thing that must be said for ^{or against} the

German government:- It sticks to its guns and thumbs its nose at all criticism. Those three Bulgarians who were

tried and acquitted of having set fire to the Reichstag are still in jail. They have been removed from Leipzig

to the state prison in Berlin. ^{Now -} As a great concession,

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NBC

RUSSIA

Captain Stevens, U. S. Army high altitude flier, says that the Russian balloon disaster will not deter Uncle Sam's stratosphere experts. They are going up in a balloon three times as big.

Those three Russian balloonists, before they were killed, established a record that will be hard for Stevens and his companions to beat. The instruments found in the car of the Russian balloon show that they had reached an altitude of thirteen and two-thirds miles, almost a mile higher than the American record. The Americans hope to go several miles higher than that.

NBC

PHOTOGRAPHERS

There's going to be quite a show in New York tonight at the Hotel Commodore - unusual is the word. Its unusual feature will be that the place will be full of celebrities but not a camera in sight. The affair is the Fifth Annual Ball of the New York Press Photographers. Among the magnificoes who have promised to be present are Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Gov. and Mrs. Lehman of New York, Mayor LaGuardia, Postmaster General Jim Farley and Al Smith. Plenty of photographers but no cameras this time.

NBC

HUNGERFORD

Now for an
~~Here is~~ another one of those Horatio Alger stories.

(4)

This one is real. It comes from Montreal. At the age of fourteen, a young Canadian lad lost his father. Without a cent in his pocket, he trudged twenty miles to get a job in a railroad shop. He was employed as an apprentice at the noble sum of four dollars and eighty cents a week. When his work in the shop was over, he studied at night. So, in short order, he became first foreman of the round house, then master mechanic. In fact, he went right on up the line of promotions, - superintendent, general manager and vice-president. Today the news comes from Montreal that S. J. Hungerford, the man I've been talking about, has been appointed President of the huge Canadian National Railway. The President of the C. N. R. is really the ruler over a vast ~~province~~ *realm*. He has to run not only the railroad, but a string of hotels, a fleet of steamships, and what not!

BRIDGEPORT

In running through a stack of papers that came to my desk today, I found an interesting item in "Bridgeport Life," in Oscar Dannenberg's column. Carveth Wells recently wrote a book ~~that~~ about Russia, entitled KAPOOT, full of extremely uncomplimentary remarks about Russia.

"Believe it or not" Ripley sent Carveth a postal card from Moscow, which read, "Dear Carveth:- Come back to Russia and get shot!" Instead, Carveth has showed excellent judgment. He has gone to a paradise of the Atlantic, Bermuda, where no one ever gets shot.

L.T.

GROUNDHOG

When I awoke this morning I thought it was just February 2nd. But letters from various parts of the country remind me that it is also what the Scotch people know as Candlemas, the day of the Feast of Wives. To us it is more popularly known as Groundhog Day, the day on which that animal is supposed to peek out of his hole and, if he sees his own shadow, to crawl back in as quickly as he can. In many parts of the country it is believed that if the groundhog did see his shadow on this day, we are in for another six weeks of winter. Though why we should need a groundhog to tell us that is rather beyond me. Dr. Blair, the Director of the great Bronx Zoo, says that all groundhogs are liars. He has one that hasn't been right in years. So it's a natural time for liars to get together. The annual liars banquet will be held in Greenville, Ohio tonight.

But whatever the groundhog says, the weather sharks tell us that we're in for another snow storm. That sure will make it perfect for the big skii tournament at Salisbury Mills,

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Orange County, New York, Sunday afternoon, in which many of the foremost skii stars of the land are going to perform on Norseman Hill.

NBC

WEATHER

Whenever I talk about these cold snaps I get letters from Canada, saying: "You folks south of the border don't know what cold is!" Leslie Shore of River Bend, a hundred and fifty miles north of Quebec, tells me they think nothing of zero weather. Sometimes they really don't know how cold it actually is because the mercury in their thermometers goes down to forty-one degrees and beyond that point even the mercury freezes. F.C. Mattocks, an assistant engineer of the Canadian National Railways in Hornepayne, Ontario, tells me that in that part of the country children are accustomed to going to school in a temperature of thirty-five below, and they have thermometers there which register sixty-three below. David Gillespie writes from Magnetawan, Ontario, two hundred miles north of Toronto, that they just begin to feel brisk at thirty-eight below. I wonder what and where is the low record for this year?

Louis Raminet

METROPOLITAN

Here's a new idea that sounds admirable. Some of Uncle Sam's relief money is going to be used to put young folks through school. The Federal Emergency Relief Corporation has set aside between five and seven million dollars for this purpose, to help both young men and women finish the year at both colleges and universities.

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That brings us to a riot that took place today -- a riot in the Metropolitan Opera House, a riot of applause. John Charles Thomas, making his debut as the baritone in LaTraviata, scored an uproarious hit. He stopped the show three times. The audience made him take bow after bow before they would allow the melodious proceedings of LaTraviata to go on. He stopped that show. And that stops this show - And SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.

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