

Good Evening, Everybody:

Once again we have to salute a humane and intelligent action by an American Insurance company. Last night I conveyed the information that the New York Life had suspended foreclosures of all its farm mortgages in the State of Iowa, provided the Company was satisfied of the good faith and industry of the farmer. Today the Prudential comes out with the announcement that it has suspended all foreclosures on farms occupied by the ~~farmers~~^{owners} throughout the entire United States and Canada. The suspension will be effective indefinitely.

The Prudential informs the New York papers that this affects an investment of two hundred million dollars, and no less than thirty-seven thousand farms in the North American Continent. At the same time, to reassure policy holders the Company emphasizes the fact that this investment is less than one-tenth of the company's resources.

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And now I have a correction to make. When I reported the action of the "ew York Life ~~tax~~ last night, I quoted figures representing that company as holding one hundred million dollars ^{worth} of farm mortgages in the State of Iowa. Mr. Corbett of the New York Life has just telephoned and informed me that my figures are ~~way~~ off. The total of the farm mortgages held by the "ew York Life in the State of Iowa, ~~amounted~~ at the end of 1931, ~~to only~~ ^{totalled} one million eight hundred ^{and} thirty-eight thousand dollars. That sum, says Mr. Corbett, has since been reduced. Mr. Corbett tells me further that the total investment of the New York Life in farm mortgages all over the United States and Canada ^{amounted in 1931 to} ~~was only~~ some twenty-six million odd dollars, ~~and that at the end of 1931.~~ That sum, he says, further represented only one and three-tenths of the total assets of the New York Life Insurance Company. I am ~~asked to make~~ ^{making} this correction because after my report ~~at~~ last night several worried policy holders wrote ~~in to the Company~~ indicating that they

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were ~~considerably~~ anxious concerning ^{the Company's} ~~its~~ assets. ~~So I am~~
glad to make this correction to reassure anybody who is
~~concerned.~~

Meanwhile Mr. Robinson of Arkansas, the Democratic leader of the Senate, is urging the immediate passage of a bill to bring about a moratorium on all farm mortgages.

These statements from the insurance companies have been the first public announcements of their procedure in ~~the~~ ^{domain}
~~in the~~ last few years. But people who are in the know have been telling me for sometime that the attitude of the insurance companies towards their mortgagees has been, in a hitherto quiet way, ^{notably} ~~conspicuously~~ considerate. Not only the New York Life and the Prudential, but other companies have done their best to help ~~the~~ mortgagees to get out of a hole, and wherever possible, to retain their property, figuring that this procedure was for the best interests of the country in general, and the policy holders in particular. And this method of the insurance companies has been a conspicuous contrast to that of certain other agencies subsidized by the Federal Government.

GERMANY

On the very first day of his accession to power as Chancellor of Germany, Adolf Hitler ran into trouble. It came from the Communists and Socialists. And there, by the way, is a bit of news. When Communists and Socialists bury the hatchet and present a united front, that's something to talk about. The Scripps Howard correspondent in Berlin cables his papers that the Communists and Socialists are calling for a general strike as a protest ^{against} ~~to~~ the elevation of the Handsome Adolf to his lofty seat.

So far the call has not met with eager response. For instance, the dock workers in Hamburg proved to be completely impervious to the demands of agitators. So much so that the Communists were driven to try violence. But that proved equally futile. They smashed a few tram car windows and a few shots were fired, but eventually the ^{Reds} ~~roads~~ were dispersed by the police.

There were small riots in Berlin and Breslau. Three were killed, several were wounded, and many more were arrested

when the enemies of the Nazis, ^{Notzia} as the Hitlerites are called in Germany, came to blows. ~~with their enemies.~~

There is an odd situation in this Hitler business. The Centrists, as the members of the party of the Center in Germany are ~~called~~ ^{termed}, have hitherto been rigidly opposed to the Hitler ~~followers.~~ ^{ites.} That is the one fly in Hitler's ointment. He has been ~~hitherto~~ unable to enlist the sympathy and aid of the Centrists who, allied with the Catholic party, are numerous and powerful, though not predominant. The Scripps Howard correspondent cables that Hitler had a conference with the Centrist leader. It is believed that he offered that leader the portfolio of the Ministry of Justice, but it is not generally known how the offer was received.

The kettle was certainly boiling in Germany today. For instance, another dispatch brings the information that the Ex ex-Kaiser Wilhelm in the chateau in Holland where he ~~is~~ ^{has} been ~~in~~ exiled, is packing his trunks. He is awaiting a message from

the Hitlerites to come back and resume his throne. A Labor newspaper in Amsterdam published a story that His former Imperial Majesty had already sent a lot of baggage ~~on~~ ahead ~~of him~~ to Germany and had bought four new automobiles expecting to be able to use them on the highways of the Fatherland.

(Then another report has it that Jews are leaving Germany by the hundreds. As soon as Hitler's appointment to the Chancellorship was reported, the passport offices began to be crowded with Jewish-Germans asking passports on the pretext of taking vacation trips.)

They had a grand torchlight parade in Berlin last night. Chancellor Hitler and President von Hindenburg were cheered vociferously by a hundred thousand joyous marchers.

News from the otherx capitals indicates that Hitler's accession to power has given all Europe a bad case of

(9) the jitters. They cannot forget the inflammatory speeches he made in the course of his climb to the throne. They are afraid that he may attempt to carry out some of the violent ideas that he has preached.)

FRANCE

There seems to be oil on the troubled waters of French politics. The Paris correspondent of the New York Sun cables his paper that M. Edouard Daladier has succeeded in forming his Cabinet. It consists almost entirely of members of his own party (M. Daladier is described as a radical Socialist).

This has been achieved in spite of the refusal of the Socialists -- that is, the Socialists without any other adjective to qualify them -- the refusal of the Socialists to participate in the government. They were offered the vice-premiership and five other portfolios, but they didn't consider that good enough.

So they are not backing up the new premier, who is ^{supposed to be} too radical for them.

JAPAN

A new drive of the Japanese army is under ^{weigh}~~foot~~ in Asia.

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The office of the League of Nations has been informed that three army divisions of the Mikado's troops are on the way by train to the province of Reyho. That means ^{another} thirty thousand men.

And from Mukden comes a dispatch with advices that thirty thousand Chinese troops under General ^{Soon} Sun are on their way to ^{meet}~~attack~~ them. The total number of celestial soldiers in the Reyho province now amounts ^{about} to a hundred and eighty thousand.

GALSWORTHY

Book readers all over the world will be affected by the information that John Galsworthy died at 9:15 this morning in London. His death came only a bare few months after he had been awarded the Nobel prize for literature. He had been ill ~~three~~ months. When Galsworthy was last in New York a reporter friend of ~~my~~ mine asked him: "How on earth did you ever escape a baronetcy?" My friend's question was ironic, because he considered that if Sir ~~Jamba~~ Barrie rated a baronetcy that Galsworthy ought to be at least ^{three} ~~2~~ Dukes rolled in one.

(7) Galsworthy, a very reserved and reticent Britain, for the first time grinned broadly when this question was put to him. He replied tersely: ^{"I escaped - by} ~~By~~ refusing a knighthood."

There's considerable difference of opinion concerning John Galsworthy's place in the Hall of Fame. But I think it must be admitted that whether you like his work or whether you don't, the "Forsyte Saga", as my friend T. R. Smith of the publishing firm of Horace Liverwright, said one evening, the "Forsyte Saga" is unquestionably in the ^{best} ~~old~~ tradition of the British novel. ^{And, by the way, Mr. Smith is not} Galsworthy's publisher.

ASTOR

~~Regular~~ A regular teapot tempest is raging about one happening that I mentioned last night -- the reported engagement of John Jacob Astor, ~~the~~ Third, to the daughter of Prince Toloniaⁿ of Rome. The young lady's mother, an American lady who is separated from her princely husband, denies the report of the engagement. ~~xxxxxxx~~ On the other hand, a ~~young~~^{damsel} ~~lady~~ in Annapolis, Maryland, the daughter of a prominent Admiral of the Italian fleet, is packing her trunks to go back to Italy and officiate as bridesmaid ~~x~~ at the wedding. So evidently there's a difference of opinion. Something tells me it won't be the first time there ^{has} been a difference of opinion about marriage or married life. — not that I know anything about it, but well — you know what I mean.

BRIGGS

Machinery is humming once more in the Ford Motor Company plants. The correspondent of the Brooklyn Times Union sent in a wire that the four day strike in the plant of the Briggs Company, the Company that makes bodies for Ford cars, is practically over. Six hundred of the men were back at work today and the bosses ^{tell} ~~said~~ us that a thousand will be on the job tonight.

BUDGET

Tax payers throughout the country were aroused to a grousing mood today by the account of Mr. Hoover's latest message to Congress. It called to their attention the fact that the House of Representatives has been cutting expenses by increasing appropriations to the extent of one-hundred and sixty-three million dollars *and*

some odd. The House Committee on Appropriations has reported seven supply bills which ^{*went so far as to raise*} ~~increased~~ the President's recommendations by that sum.

POEM

And here's a little ditty that somebody
clipped for me from the Los Angeles Record. It runs
as follows:

"You can lead a horse to water
But you cannot make him drink,
You can elect a man to Congress
But you cannot make him think."

CHICAGO

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Reports are coming in from Chicago that the Automobile Show is in full swing, and, just as in New York, is drawing bigger crowds than ever. The Automotive Daily News states that the show overshadows everything else in Chicago, partly because a number of the larger manufacturers are putting on additional private shows in ~~some of~~ the big hotels. For instance the Packard Hall of Precision was moved bodily from New York to the Edgewater Beach ~~Hotel~~ in Chicago. In order to do justice to that one private exhibition alone, it ~~would~~ be necessary for a person to set aside a whole afternoon.

The Packard Hall of Precision includes many startling devices, such as the stroborama, by which an automobile piston, whipping up and down at the rate of eight thousand times a minute, is made to appear to stand still. There's a light ray ^{gauge} ~~gauge~~ to detect errors to a millionth of an inch, scales to weigh the dot of a pencil point or your signature, a machine to tell you the ~~xxx~~ moisture content of your body, and another that will let you know whether your sweetheart's stockings are silk or not.

GIRL

A curious tale comes over the wires to the ^{N.Y.} Herald Tribune from the pleasant little town of Pleasantville, New York. While it concerns a young person it's hardly a tale for the young. For about a month ~~all of the~~ prominent citizens of the pleasant little town of Pleasantville have been worried by letters containing kidnap threats. They were found on the front porches and on the back stoops of *the aforesaid* ~~the~~ prominent citizens. The terror inspired by these letters was somewhat enhanced when a fire was discovered in the basement of the home of the principal citizen who was threatened.

The text of the letters and the general procedure seemed to indicate that some criminal "master mind" was operating in the pleasant little town of Pleasantville.

Well, the Chief of ~~the Police~~ got busy ~~himself~~ and analyzed the letters. In so doing he discovered the criminal, and who do you suppose it was? It was a ten year old girl. And unless you have doubts about the unvarying innocence of

the young you may be interested to learn that it took five hours of hard questioning by the cops before that child admitted ~~that~~ she had written the letters. *She got that way by an arduous course of reading detective stories.*

Well the tale ends happily except for the little girl. No proceedings were taken against her, it being understood that she would receive the good old fashioned medicine -- - an old fashioned spanking from papa -- no I mean mama because my young friends tell me that when it comes to exceedingly young ladies a spanking from mama is much more to be dreaded than one from papa.

OYSTER

Perhaps you'll forgive me if I repeat once more the ancient American definition of news -- you know, if a dog bites a man it's not news, and if a man bites a dog it's news. This is something that transcends all biting encounters between men and dogs. It comes from Tarboro, North Carolina, in a telegram to the Evening Sun, the famous Sunpaper of Baltimore.

The hero of the story, or ~~perhaps not the hero, but at~~ ~~rather the principal human~~ ^{rather} ~~any rate~~ the principal human character, is named Harvey Pittman, and he deserves to go down into history. Harvey runs a cafe in Tarboro, ~~North Carolina~~. The other day he went to open up his restaurant and found there an oyster, a hitherto thoroughly peaceful unwarlike oyster, and what do you suppose that oyster had done? It had captured a rat. The oyster's shells had closed on one of the rat's feet, and there Mr. Rat was held faster than in any trap that man could make.

Wasn't it Emerson who said that if you make a better mousetrap than anybody else, the world will ^{beat a} ~~be the~~ pathway to your door? Well, there ought to be quite a number of pathways beaten to the door of Harvey Pittman's restaurant even though he didn't make the oyster that caught the rat.

MACHINE

Just as Technocracy faded out of the picture a charming commenatary on the Machine Age in the Sackville Tribune of New Brunswick caught my eye. A motion picture outfit was shooting ^{a few rural shots} on a farm in New Brunswick. When they got through the camera man said to the farmer: "I got some interesting motion ~~picture shots~~ ^{closeups} of your men at work".

"What's that you say?" said the farmer. "Do you mean to tell me your camera caught ^{motion} pictures of my men workin?"

"Sure" said the camera man.

"Well by golly" said the farmer, "Ain't science wonderful."

And ^{now it's time for me to quit working, gas up with} ~~Am through working for the day and so long~~
~~until tomorrow~~ Blue Sunoco and s-l-u-t-m.