

L.T. - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1940.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The beautiful lady spring certainly is taking her time in arriving in some parts of this country. New England has been having a cold wave and winter storms -- rain, hail, thunder, lightning, snow and sleet. At Stillwater, Rhode Island, a thunderbolt hit a factory chimney -- a hundred eighty feet high. The blast of lightning knocked over the tall chimney and it fell crashing onto the factory -- damage, fifty thousand dollars.

In the middle west, snow storms are blustering over large areas - Iowa, Illinois, Indiana. In Chicago today airfield radio stations picked up faint signals from a plane in the sky. The signals said: "We are icing rapidly! All instruments gone!" That plane was flying over Lake Michigan, with ice forming on its wings, and its instruments frozen. A little while later a tugboat on the Lake saw the end of the sky craft stricken with ice - saw it crash into the water. One man was killed. The tug picked up two

survivors.

I myself spent part of the day high up on a snowy mountain where it seemed like mid-winter. Skiing on the spectacular headwall of Mt. Washington with an 83 mile an hour gale blowing clouds of ice particles and snow down upon us. If you want another taste of winter just fill up with Nu Blue and come to the Eastern slopes Inn and ask Harvey Gibson the way to Pinkham Notch and Tuckerman Ravine on Mt. Washington where the snow is now a hundred feet deep.

FRANCE.

France has a new Government - subject always to a vote of confidence in the Chamber of Deputies. That test will be had tomorrow. Today Paul Reynaud completed a slate of ministers to take the place of the Cabinet of the resigned Premier, - Daladier. The list includes ten radical socialists, three socialists, <sup>and</sup> three republican socialists. ~~It~~ Sounds like a lot of socialism; but ~~then~~ the name doesn't mean anything so 'Red or radical in France.

*TP* Others on the list are two independents, three conservatives, and one non-<sup>ny</sup> member of parliament. Such is the minister <sup>to</sup> which Paul Reynaud presented <sup>1</sup> president Lebrun today. The president gave his blessing, and the new governing group goes before the Chamber of Deputies tomorrow.

*68* The Premier - designates <sup>is</sup> a man small in stature, but large in his opposition to Nazi Germany. He has been foremost in antagonism to Hitler and as finance Minister was relentless in his determination to strengthen French economy for a long war. In expressing his attitude toward totalitarian Germany, he used the word - total. "Our enemies," he declaimed, "want a total war. What we want and are determined to get," he added, "is a total peace." By total peace he means a total victory for France.

WAR

TP The war of sea and sky goes on - more German airplane and U Boat attacks against ships on the North Sea. London reports fifty people killed by air and under - sea attack on five ships, four of them neutrals. The ship casualty list since Tuesday. The British ridicule German reports that a British convoy was bombed with damaging effect. Germany claims that warships and merchant vessels were hit by the air raiders. This, the British deny.

TAX

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Income tax figures are on the up grade. For the first twenty days of March of this year, the tax collections are ahead of last year, "comfortably ahead" Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau said today. Last year from March first to March twentieth, tax collections amounted to four hundred and seventy - three million dollars. This year they are six hundred and twenty - one million. A lot more. In percentage figures, this year is more than thirty ~~one~~ <sup>one</sup> percent ahead of last. "Comfortably ahead", is right.

Secretary Morgenthau, however, was not inclined to do a dance of optimism. He pointed out that because of a new law, income tax was paid this year by a million state and municipal employees. Paying for the first time, many of them might not have realized that they could remit the tax money in four installments. They might have paid in full on March fifteenth without knowing that they didn't have to. That might have helped to make the first returns so high - disproportionate. And maybe there will be a decrease later on. So the Secretary said he'd have to wait and see. Instead of dancing with optimism, he said he was keeping his fingers crossed.

He was asked whether he thought <sup>the</sup> boost in the early figures might

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indicate a tax increase that would cover the extra four hundred and sixty million dollars being spent for National Defense.

To this he replied - "No, not a chance."

FARLEY.

Postmaster General Jim Farley <sup>was</sup> ~~had~~ a busy <sup>man</sup> ~~day~~ today. He was in Boston, where some kind of disharmony has been reported in the Democratic ranks. Postmaster Jim is a famous harmonizer of political disharmony, and he's especially anxious to tone down any discordant notes in the Democracy of Massachusetts. Because in that venerable Commonwealth, Sunny Jim is <sup>making his own</sup> ~~taking his~~ chief presidential bid. <sup>Jim is</sup> ~~He is~~ in the Massachusetts Presidential Primary, with both feet. Or, if you prefer, every inch of his hat is in the ring. There has been some report that the Farley candidacy is merely a stalking horse affair for President Roosevelt and a third term. But, the Postmaster General today again insisted that he was in for himself - "regardless", said he; "Of who else is a candidate."

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This Farley affirmation provoked a prompt response from the Democratic vice-chairman in Massachusetts, Patrick Doyle. Said the vice-chairman; "Mr Farley's clear - cut statement has clarified my position. As a delegate to the Chicago convention, " he continued, "I propose to vote to nominate Mr. Farley regardless of who else is in the field-and that <sup>he added</sup> ~~that~~ includes President Roosevelt himself," ~~he added~~.

FARLEY.

*W* With political goings on of that sort in Massachusetts, Postmaster Jim spent the day in a series of interviews with prominent democratic figures - - busy harmonizing. Reporters asked him whether his Massachusetts candidacy might be a move toward a Democratic ticket consisting of Hull and Farley - the Postmaster General for vice - president. Farley refused to make any comment.



DIES.

In Boston, an investigation is reported - concerning the Christian Front. An investigator for the Dies Committee is in the <sup>Hub</sup> ~~Classical~~ City of the ~~Bean~~ and the ~~Cod~~, and today he announced <sup>that</sup> he had subpoenaed five Bostonians to appear before the Dies Committee in one of its forth-coming hearings. The word is that the five will be called upon to answer questions about the Christian Front, the doings of that organization in Boston and in other parts of New England. <sup>TK</sup> The Christian Front claims twenty thousand members in New England.

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BASEBALL

We've heard a lot of names applied to baseball players-"Ivory", being one of the most <sup>familiar.</sup> ~~memorable~~. This, of course, with gentle reference to the crania of the diamond performers. Today, ball players are given a new appellation. They're called "Intangible property." I don't know how intangible they are, <sup>the</sup> ~~babe~~ Ruth for example. There always seemed to be something exceedingly tangible about <sup>the</sup> Babe.

The new expression in baseball terminology is the creation of the Ohio Tax Commissioner-and it is not good news for the ball clubs.

For the commissioner decrees that hereafter in Ohio baseball magnates shall be taxed for the players they own. The decree points out that the connection between the club and the player is not the ordinary employer-employee relationship. The Club holds a special kind of contract, according to which the athletes of the diamond are bought and sold. That makes them property.

And since it's a case of contract relation, they're "intangible."

What's the assessment basis? The player's wages. The amount of money he gets is the guide to his taxable value.

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So, ~~well~~, the next time you go to a ball game you'll see intangible properties pitching curves and hitting home-runs.

DANCER

TP Today at San Francisco a dream came to an end, a tragic end.

TP A beautiful woman at the edge of a cliff. Nobody knows what happened, probably nobody will ever know. Today the coronor handed down the verdict-"Jumped or fell."

Beatrice Lewis was a radiant blond dancer of classic art. She studied with famous teachers of the ballet. She danced as Prima Ballarina with the San Carlo Opera Company. And she made a motion picture success in graceful rhythms of the dance.

Recently, she opened a studio in San Francisco to teach her art and produce creations of the ballet. She saw her chance to realize a dream that haunted her:—

Her imagination was taken by a show place of beauty at San

Francisco - sutro gardens. That's a dreamlike park at the top

of a lofty cliff overlooking the sea. It's a dazzling place of

flowers-and the white grace of sculpture. Amid the blooms and

blossoms stand marbles of classic gods and goddesses; apollo,

Mercury, Venus, Diana. It was Beatrice Lewis's vision to create

a ballet which she would call - A night in Sutro Gardens. It

would begin with the sculptured marbles of Divinities of Greece.---

These seen against a background of flowers and of glimpses of

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the distant ocean. Then the sculptured marbles would come to life and dance: apollo, Mercury, Venus and Diana. Of recent days Beatrice Lewis spent long hours in <sup>that</sup> the garden of the gods, thinking of how she would turn her dream into reality.

Today, a woman on the beach below the towering cliff saw the blond<sup>e</sup> dancer high above. She was sitting on a rock at the very verge where the garden dropped off for a sheer two hundred and fifty foot drop. She was staring out to sea, as if lost in a vision. Then she started out of her trance and rose. It seemed as if her feet might have become tangled in the vegetation that covers the top of the cliff, and that she stumbled accidentally. Or-maybe not. The only certainty is that she topped <sup>l</sup> over the brink. So today the coroner wrote - "Jumped or fell," the tragic end of the dream.

## FISH

Here's a little classic about the cold wave they had in Florida a couple of weeks ago. Or did they have a cold wave? I suppose by this time folks at Palm Beach and Miami have got around to saying that the icy spell was exaggerated, just a lot of newspaper talk.

Well, I have a letter from an old friend Merle Guise, a mining engineer from Colorado and Alaska. He has been looking into gold prospects in South Carolina and Georgia and went on south to Florida to do some fishing. At Key West he found fish, all right - a lot of them floating on the surface, numb with cold, so frost-bitten they couldn't swim. Merle Guise tells me he tried to kid a Key West Editor about the iced fish in Florida waters. The editor had an explanation. He buttoned up his overcoat, adjusted his ear muffs, and said the fish had been frosted up north, and had drifted in that condition down to Florida, had been carried south by the current. He didn't attempt to elucidate why the shivering fish hadn't thawed out in balmy waters. Moreover, the Gulf Stream, the principal current in those parts, flows north. The Key West editor, his teeth chattering, said:- "It never really gets cold in Florida."

HANDWRITING

Plenty of people in this country have bad handwriting, and are proud<sup>of</sup> it. But wait a minute, you chicken scratching scrawlers-

You should be ashamed, appalled, and utterly downcast. Because

today we hear that bad writing is costing American business

eighty million dollars a year. <sup>TR</sup> So that's what you're doing to

our country, you careless calligraphers who fail to dot your

I's and cross your T's so elegantly. <sup>TR</sup> I'm glad I am saying this

instead of writing it-because my handwriting isn't so good either.

<sup>TR</sup> The dire statement <sup>about the wasted</sup> of eighty million dollars a year, is made by

Mrs Doris Almy, president of the National Association of

Penman Teachers and Supervisors. <sup>— it would be!</sup> quite an exercise in penmanship

to write <sup>just</sup> that; <sup>^</sup> The calligraphic association is meeting in Atlantic

City, and today the alarming truth was told. The eighty million

dollar a year loss is caused mostly by illegible sales checks

and the misreading of figures. It seems that in stores the clerks

frequently scribble the sales checks so incomprehensibly that

business gets all balled up and a lot of money is lost. <sup>TR</sup> Said the

Handwriting President to day; "I defy anyone to read most of the

sales slips that go to the offices of a department store."

<sup>TR</sup> Then scornful reference was made to Horace Greeley. That great

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HANDWRITING

and historical Editor was famous for the worst of handwriting-

and he was Proud of it, <sup>So</sup> says the lady professor of penmanship; *and she*

*adds:-*  
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"Horace Greeley was great, but he would have been much greater

if he had been able to read his own handwriting." I don't know

what kind of reply Horace Greeley would have written to that,

but it wouldn't matter-because what he wrote would have been

illegible anyway.

## CLOTHES

Here are some figures about the clothes worn by Mr. <sup>and</sup> Mrs., and Miss average American. The sartorial statistics were given out today by the labor department, which has made a national survey of the logs we wear. The average man spends forty-nine dollars a year for clothes, the average woman, fifty five dollars. Mr. America gets himself a new overcoat once every five years, on the average, and pays twenty - one dollars for it. He arrays himself in a new suit once every two years, at a cost of twenty-four dollars. Mrs America buys a new winter coat once every four and a half years, and pays thirty-two dollars for it. One silk or rayon dress a year. Cost - six dollars.

What's the largest item in the city woman's clothing bill? You've probably guessed the answer already:-Silk stockings. These figures are the mathematical background for the commonly observed fact that Americans by and large are the best dressed people in the

world. *But the figures are not so impressive, are they? They hardly suggest that as a nation we are extravagant sartorially. I wonder if those figures indicate, are a sign of anything? Whether you believe in signs or not here's Hugh James to tell you about one sign you can all believe in.*