

LT in  
Detroit.  
June 29,  
1934.

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, June 29, 1934.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

So you think it's hot where you are?

Well, you ought to come out here where I am, in Detroit. Whew - a hundred and three in the shade yesterday, and it feels like a hundred and thirty-three tonight. In fact it's about too hot to say a feeble hear! hear! in honor of young Henry Cotton, the ~~Sixties~~ British golf pro for the jolly spectacular way in which he has been jolly well marching to victory in the British Open over at Jolly old Sandwich, in England.

Almost too hot to mourn the passing of Zaro Agha, the oldest man in the world, whose ninety-six year old daughter was with him at the end.

## TREES

Here's an interesting idea. I don't know how practical it is but the authorities are considering it seriously. The notion is to plant a shelter belt of trees stretching all the way from the Canadian frontier to the Texas ~~Rand~~ Panhandle. A belt a hundred miles wide.

It may sound a bit strange, but apparently it's not such a cockeyed notion. The scheme was proposed by the American Tree Association and no less an authority than the Chief Forester of the United States is considering it.

The planting would be in strips running north and south. First a strip of trees then a strip of land, which would be untouched. The another strip of trees and so forth. There would be one strip of trees to every miles across, that is a hundred strips. The length of this belt would be thirteen hundred miles. It would pass through North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma. So, presumably we'll soon be hearing a great deal about the whys and wherefores of this idea.

You might think the cost would be exorbitant. But it could be done for seventy five million dollars. Incidentally, it would give work to thousands. And the principal benefit from this scheme would be to minimize drought and prevent the winds from blowing away choice top soil from the farms.

ROOSEVELT

I was wrong last night in predicting that the President in his broadcast would discuss the labor angle and his policies in general. After a day of reflection I'll bet that most of us who heard the Chief Executive on the air have a feeling that he made just about the most skillful campaign speech in the history of political campaigns. The two main points were ~~particularly~~ particularly adroit. Both had the practical angle:-- here's something to do, here's an experiment to make.

Mr. Roosevelt in declaring that the New Deal does not infringe on liberty, asked the people to read the Bill of Rights and find out for themselves. That was clever, because, if you take a look at the Bill of Rights, the New Deal doesn't seem to violate its provisions, with any great violence.

I read that Bill of Rights today. Perhaps many of you did; and I noticed a couple of odd points. Article two reads: "the right of people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." I suppose that could be construed to mean: "gun totin' is permissible." In other words are the laws against firearms enforced under the New Deal, the Old Deal and every other Deal -- are they

constitutional? Or are the gangsters the most constitutional of us all?

Then there's article three which declares that in times of peace, soldiers shall not be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner. I suppose there will be many a rock-ribbed old timer who will observe sourly that -- anyway, the New Deal hasn't quartered soldiers in their houses.

The second thing the president asks us to do is, not to wade through any statistics of recovery, but to sit down and decide for ourselves whether we are any better off personally than we were when the present administration went into power. That was really a bold proposal, because the natural human instinct is to grouse, and find ways in which we are worse off, One of the most popular of human sports is to rake up foolish and freakish things that have occurred under the new dispensation. Freakish and foolish things, of course, are sure to happen in any time of readjustment and transition. And the N.R.A. has provided some prize examples.

WHEELBARROW FOLLOWS N.R.A.

Perhaps the prize example of N.R.A. absurdity was encountered by the village mail carrier in Rumford, Maine. For two or three minutes every day this mail carrier has to use a wheelbarrow to haul the mail from the railroad station to the post office, a hundred yards away. But the State truck authorities informed him that he has got to pay a three dollar license for that wheelbarrow, which is just about three times its value. Perhaps that mail carrier may be able to answer the President's question: "how has the New Deal dealt with him?"

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I happened to be on a Michigan Central Train (air conditioned and cool I'm glad to say) so I missed hearing the President. But I worked this afternoon in the Detroit offices of Western Union, and the employees there were greatly impressed with the charm of our Chief Executive as it came over the radio - as though he had dropped in for a call to reassure them that things are going okay.

ROTHSCHILD

Whatever our own reaction to the New Deal, it certainly seems to have created a profound impression abroad. Almost every expression of opinion from an European source appears to be enthusiastic. For instance, Baron Maurice Rothschild, speaking at the Waldorf in New York declares that our President's policy has actually averted a revolution.

Of course the mere name of Rothschild carries enormous weight whenever money is to be discussed. Baron Maurice represents the French branch of that great house. And he says the most important thing Mr. Roosevelt did was to devalue the dollar.

## BUILDING

But our own business men are of the belief that, for the present at any rate, the President's most important accomplishment was the National Housing Act. From all over the country there is evidence that the signing of this measure has aroused greater confidence. Even some of the conservative prophets are saying that it will put four million men back to work. In other words, a building boom of large scope is expected by some; and it is estimated that it will lift the total of the moneys now being spent on construction to no less than three billion dollars. What is still more significant is that the people interested in this industry are backing up their confidences in a concrete way. For example, the National Retail Lumber Dealers Association has announced a flat reduction of ten per cent in housing materials so as to help the good work along. And that ought to mean something.



N.R.A.

The only war news today tells of the battle on all fronts between Clarence Darrow and General Johnson, with Donald Richberg protecting the General's flanks. To be sure, it's only a war of words. But that doesn't make it any the less bitter, Clarence Darrow may be outnumbered; that is he has two enemies to talk back to, Johnson and Richberg. But that instead of handicapping Mr. Darrow only stimulates him. It gives him a chance to crack two heads with one bit of sarcasm.

The gist of Mr. Darrow's verbal arrows is that General Johnson and Mr. Richberg are lacking in love and affection for the facts. He goes on to say: "I have no time to waste on a proceeding so unprofitable as bandying epithets with these discomfited and unhappy gentlemen."

BINGHAM

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If any rich men's sons mix up in New Jersey labor troubles the Jersey City jail will look like a millionaire's club. Last night I told you about the arrest of Corliss Lamont, the Communist son of Thomas W. Lamont, one of the Morgan partners. Mr. Lamont, to be sure is not in jail at present but he is out on bail waiting to be tried.

One of his colleagues was given a dose of New Jersey justice. This was Alfred M. Bingham, the twenty-nine year old son of the former senator, Hiram Bingham of Connecticut. Young Al Bingham was acting as a strike picket. I can imagine the buzzing and the shocked comment that ran through the good old nutmet state when this news became ~~jk~~ known. Senator Bingham, of course, is one of the most stalwart of stalwart republicans. And the thought of a Bingham, a Connecticut Bingham, doing time for picketing an obscure furniture factory must cause a shudder down every stalwart Yankee spine. Or maybe I should say many Yankee spines.

## BRIDGE

Pomp and circumstance -- all about a big international bridge. There'll be big doings tomorrow on the Canadian border, at the bridge across the St. Lawrence River on the road from Montreal to Niagara. It has just been put in condition to carry vehicular traffic, and will open tomorrow for cars and trucks and bicycles. All sorts of dignitaries will be there, Lord Bessborough, Governor General of Canada, Mr. Bennett, the Canadian Prime Minister, and Governor Lehman of New York. There'll be soldiers and Royal Canadian mounted police, stately parades and military bands. The bands will play God Save the King and the Star Spangled Banner. The Americans will think God Save the King is My Country 'Tis of Three, and will have a double patriotic thrill. At any rate, another bridge is ready to carry Americans north to Canada and Visa Versa. And may they never cross on the run with troops at their heels. And may that bridge and the friendship it symbolizes never be dynamited by Mars and his trouble-making cronies!

MARYLAND FOLLOW BRIDGE

Another gala celebration is being held down in Maryland, where they are having a series of stately pageants showing the history of the great old Commonwealth. This is in accordance with the proclamation of Governor Ritchie to set aside three days in celebration of the tercenterenary of Maryland. It was just three hundred years ago that Lord Baltimore, with a colony of English Catholics, made history by making the first settlement on the banks of the Chesapeake Bay. And if you'd like to see some lovely country over the weekend just hop in your car and drive anywhere in Maryland, especially Route forty I think it is. It will take you through one of the most attractive towns in the U.S.A. -- at any rate the quaintest -- Frederick, Maryland.

"Shoot if you must this old grey head,

But spare our country's flag" she said.

That's the place!

MARIE DRESSLER

They're talking reminiscently along Broadway and out in Hollywood about one of the great and beloved characters of the American stage. Marie Dressler is gravely ill, and her kindly glorious career may soon come to a close. She is as kindly as she is big -- and she certainly is big. She is as humorous as she is kindly. And she never pretended to be beautiful, that is in any flower-like, fragile way.

"I am always sorry for beautiful women" she said once with a doleful expression of sympathy on her generous homely face. She never pretended to be elegant and chic. She went in for homely simplicity. Here's the ~~xxx~~ way she explained it: "I ought to have had a dozen kids and made their clothes and done their washing."

And she has character, a sterling respectability, which enabled her to say: "a lady may stand on her head in a perfectly decent self-respecting way." I'll bet she could do it.

She is a friend of the high and mighty and of the humble and lowly. She keeps up a correspondence with General Pershing and whenever she is in London the Prince of Wales calls on her. But I suppose her best friends are Mamie and Jerry, two

colored servants who have been with her for twenty years and do everything for her from banking her checks to buying her hats. You can guess that from the look of her hats. No matter how she dressed she'd look the same dressed in burlap -- distinguished and queenly.

If Marie Dressler passes along I suppose we'll all have to hum the refrain of <sup>the</sup> fine funny old song: "Heaven will protect the working girl" -- the song she used to sing. And we can be certain that heaven will protect Marie Dressler.

NAZI - AFTERNOON RELEASE

Here's a sporting proposition. What are the odds there'll be civil war in Germany over the weekend? Let's go back to that speech of the Vice Chancellor, Von Papen, attacking the Hitler policies. Of course we all know what a row that kicked up.

The Hitler followers, in retaliation, voted for the suppression of the Steel Helmet League which is on the side of Von Papen. The Steel Helmet League retorted by saying they'd not be suppressed. Hitler's immediate response was to tell his hot head Brown Shirt Storm Troopers to lay off the Steel Helmets.

And now comes the biggest surprise of all. The Brown Shirt Storm Troops defy the leader. Not the Steel Helmets, but the Brown Shirts now defying Hitler himself. The Brown Shirts say they are going to suppress the Steel Helmets, whether their leader, Herr Hitler, likes it or not. And there is where the chance of civil war comes in.

The Steel Helmets, as I mentioned the other day, is an organization of world war veterans roughly comparable to the American Legion. They are disciplined men, trained, not merely drilled, but trained and experienced in fighting. Of course the Storm Troops are also disciplined. But all their fighting has been against more or

less unarmed people, certainly unorganized people. That would seem to give the Steel Helmets the advantage. On the other hand, however, the average age of the Brown Shirt Storm Troopers is twenty-two, the average age of the Steel Helmet war veteran is forty-five. And when you're forty-five, you're not looking for a fight ordinarily. The lust for combat is considerably dulled at forty-five. Anyway, you look at it the German situation right now is in a snarl.

In the face of all this, the curt note sent to Berlin by our Secretary Hull is just a minor pin price for the Nazis. Mr. Hull in commenting on Germany's attempt to hold off on her foreign obligations, utters several unpleasant truths. Says he, almost in so many words: "You have only yourselves to blame for the unpopularity that has cost you so much money. Your unfavorable trade balance is due largely to your anti-Jewish policy. What is more, if you didn't spend so much money buying material to be turned into military equipment, you might be better able to meet your debts."

The main thing in Germany today is: "What is going to happen if the Brown Shirt Storm Troopers carry out their threat to disband the Steel helmets? If Hitler really means what he says in forbidding them to do this, he will have to use the army to protect



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the Steel Helmets. At any rate Herr Hitler has some busy critical hours ahead of him. Some predict explosion this weekend.