

Good Evening, Everybody:

That beer bill which everybody thought was settled is all up in the air again. The Senate seems to have thrown a monkey wrench into the machinery by cutting down the alcoholic content from the 3.2 per cent set by the house to 3.05, ~~per cent~~ ~~That means~~ three and five-hundredths per cent.

By making this amendment the Senators made it necessary for the measure to be reconsidered by the House. It was sent back to the representatives today and ^{how they did buck and howl.} ~~the latter objected violently.~~ No record vote was taken on the subject. The House ^{turned} ~~sent~~ the measure ^{over} to a conference ^{committee of} ~~This means that over the week end~~ Senators and Representatives ^{who sleep on the beer question over Sunday.} ~~will try to settle the difference.~~

The Washington correspondents ^{the newspaper men,} believe the conference - ^{the point of view of} committee will adopt ^{that of} the Representatives rather than the Senators.

~~point of view.~~ In other words, the final measure will be to legalize

^{foamy} ^{beverage at} 3.2 per cent. ~~beer.~~ ^{Then} Several members of the House were scornful about the proposal of the Senators, in deference to Mr. McAddo of

California to legislate for three per cent. wine. This is an idea that has provoked the mirth of wine growers and wine drinkers alike, both in and out of Congress. They point out that in setting down limits for the alcoholic content of wine, Senators are trying to do that which Nature herself cannot accomplish. There is no such thing as three per cent wine²₁ or even four per cent wine¹₁ *- or five per cent.* It just can't ~~be~~ be done.

Representative Britton of Illinois, was almost as contemptuous *about three & five hundredths* the idea for which ~~scornful on the subject of three per cent beer, This three per cent~~ ~~might or to be accurate, 3.05 per cent beer~~ comes from England. It was adopted as a standard by British brewers after the British Medical Association told a British Royal Commission that 3.05 ~~per cent~~ beer was not intoxicating.

Representative Britton remarked that it was absurd to copy English standards of beer. ~~English beer~~ Although English ale is good, says Mr. Britton, English beer is terrible. Then he

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said: "If we have to go abroad for our ~~new~~ recipe, let's go to Germany."

9 On the subject of wine one of the spokesmen ⁱⁿ of the House was Speaker Rainey, of Illinois. Said the Speaker: "The wine amendment is an impossible provision."

At any rate, all these points will be ^{wrangles} ~~matters~~ for the Conference Committee to iron out.

Stories are rife in Washington today that the farm measure which Mr. Roosevelt asked for in yesterday's message will have no easy time of it. The House will pass it in short order, ^{ah, they} ~~so~~ say the Democratic leaders. But the Senators are sharpening their hatchets. The Southern Senators in particular are beginning to kick against party discipline and rebel against the speed with which this ^{emergency} ~~new~~ legislation is being rushed through.

The farmers' organizations are considerably exercised over the prospects of delay in passing the relief program for which

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the President has asked. No less than seven of these bodies issued a joint statement to congress today imploring haste in the passing of ~~the~~^{the} measure. These seven farm organizations represent all the various branches and areas of agricultural industry in the United States. And the gist of their plea to the Congress is: "Delay will be fatal."

Good-even ev-by. Let's start with Europe tonight — just for a change

ITALY

One of the big things to watch ~~for~~ in your favorite paper the ^{se}next two days will be that visit of Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald of England to Rome. Premier Mussolini and all Italy are awaiting the arrival of Mr. MacDonald and his Foreign Secretary, Sir John Simon. A great reception is being prepared for the English statesman. They will travel from Geneva to Rome in an airplane. And that airplane will be piloted by no less a magnifico than General ^{Il} Italo Balbo, the Italian Minister of Aviation, ^{Whiskers and all.} Escorting them will be a whole squadron of civilian machines.

It is generally recognized the world over that this meeting between Ramsay MacDonald and Benito Mussolini is one of the critical events of the year. As Mr. MacDonald said in Geneva yesterday, the disarmament conference has flopped. The European statesmen are trying to work out a new line up. ^{Of this} ~~The~~ Il Duce is the crucial figure, ~~in the new line up they are trying to bring about.~~

There's talk that Chancellor Hitler of Germany may also be a visitor to Rome, but ~~of this~~ there ^sis no ~~in~~ confirmation.

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The crux of the story and the principal reason why you'll want to follow ~~this~~^{it} is that according to all advices from European ~~political~~^{right now} political headquarters, the peace of Europe, seems to depend upon Benito Mussolini.

RUSSIA

One of the rows that troubles the waters of European politics is a squabble between John Bull and the Russian Bear.

I mean the indignation of the English over the arrest of six British subjects in Moscow. They were employed on a big electrical contract for the Soviet Government and they were arrested on a charge of sabotage.

Quite a fuss is being made in England over the treatment ~~that is being~~^{handed} out to these British subjects by ~~the~~ Moscow Government. The British Government believes ~~that~~ there ~~is~~ no ground for the charges on which the Russian Secret Service arrested these men. And, there is talk that diplomatic relations between England and the Soviets may be broken off and that the trade agreement between the two countries will ^{be} abrogated.

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CHINA

There's a slight change to the color of the news from the Far East today. The diplomat in charge of the Japanese Embassy in Peiping called on ~~the~~ General Ho, the Chinese War Minister commanding the North China area.

It is said that no matters of great importance were discussed. The ^{significant} ~~important~~ thing is that it was the first visit that has been exchanged between Japanese and Chinese officials since the outbreak of hostilities in Reyho. Furthermore, it is believed that this will be the first of a series of conferences and will break the way for negotiations to settle the Manchurian problem.

Well, that sounds hopeful, but at the same time Japanese bombing planes were dropping their deadly eggs on Chinese positions along the Luan River.

The Chinese ^{were} ~~are~~ attacking in force, but the Japanese, according to their own reports, have successfully repulsed them.

Another piece of news from the Far East is that an attempt was made to blow up the home of the Japanese Consul General in Shanghai. The attempt failed because the bomb used turned out to be a dud. A Korean was arrested by the police on suspicion of having attempted this crime. *The generally blame a Korean in the Far East.*

BASEBALL

Whatever the war situation in Asia and Europe, peace seems to be looming on one front, ~~That is, in~~ ^{the front} Florida, where Babe

Ruth and Colonel Jake Ruppert, owner of the ^{world's champion} ~~World~~ Yankees, ~~are~~ have

been ~~bombarding each other with financial pronouncements,~~
~~arguing about salary.~~

The Bambino, ~~max~~ as all baseball fans know, is still ~~holding~~ holding out against signing up for fifty thousand dollars. And the latest statement of Colonel Jake was that as far as he was concerned, it was fifty thousand or nothing.

The Colonel, they say, is a trifle restive over the necessity of having to stay in Florida for such a purpose right now.

The prospect of beer being legalized makes him anxious to be up north ^{on the beer front getting ready for the big foam} ~~and prepare for the big day.~~ push.

Fred Lieb in tonight's New York Evening Post declares that a compromise is about to be announced. After tomorrow's conference, says, Lieb, the ~~big~~ Sultan of Swat will sign for fifty-two ^{grand.} ~~thousand.~~ That's Twenty-three thousand less than he got last year,

But, ~~it's~~ still enough to keep the Babe in ^{blue Sunoco,} ~~gasoline~~ and golf balls, ~~and~~

EARTHQUAKE

The earthquake sufferers in Southern California seem to be having a dire time of it. In and around Long Beach alone there are more than twenty thousand men, women, and children without homes. In fact, no less than twenty-five thousand in Long Beach were sleeping outdoors last night. And what made it worse was a spell of cold weather.

Of course, I shall receive numerous letters from Iowans, Kansanians and Nebraskans who are now the chief upholders of the native sun ballyhoo in California, to tell me that there's no such thing as cold weather in the neighborhood of Los Angeles. Be that as it may, twenty-five thousand people shivered last night in the penetrating cold brought by a chilling rain that swept over the entire earthquake x region. In fact, the health authorities are seriously worried for fear that the numerous ~~colds~~ colds that will ensue may, ^{bring on} ~~wind up with~~ an epidemic of pneumonia.

The Red Cross, the National Guard and the Rehabilitation Committee have worked night and day to get these homeless people

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under cover, but it has been impossible to come anywhere near ~~the~~
~~completely~~ completing the job in such a short time. Some of them
are under tents. Others are huddled under improvised shelters of
tarpaulin, old lumber and galvanized iron. Others are shivering
in box cars. The need for relief is said to be extremely urgent.

WIVES

Here's something for the men -- I won't say for men only. The ladies are perfectly welcome to listen too, and it's quite proper. *The question before us is: -* How should men choose their wives? I can't remember that ~~anybody~~ anybody hitherto has ever suggested a system. But ^{now} one man has ~~had~~ that much hardihood. He is Lord Baden-Powell, ~~the~~ founder of the Boy Scouts. Lord Baden-Powell has just written some of his confessions in his autobiography. *He* ~~it is~~ ^{is it} called Lessons of a Lifetime. *He* He says that you should choose your wife by the way she walks. His experience as an expert on scouting, has taught him that the gait of a man or a woman is an index to character. For instance, if a person turns his toes out, he is a liar. A man or woman who treads his heel down on the outside has a pronounced taste for adventure. And so forth and so on. The gist of it all appears to be when you're picking your better half you shouldn't examine her face. You should watch her heels. *And* ~~But~~ the joker of it appears to be that in order to judge you've got to take a course in scouting.

Well, at any rate, it's an idea. *We all do a little scouting along that line occasionally.*

CINCINNATI

Two weeks from today there's going to be quite a celebration in Cincinnati. The occasion will be the ~~x~~ dedication of the magnificent new Union Railway Station. Cincinnati has been clamoring for it ever since 1908 and now it is practically completed.

According to my friends of The Cincinnati Times-Star
It has cost forty-one million dollars, and it is so ~~complete~~ ^{elaborate} that railroad officials tell me a traveler will be able to get anything he wants from food, clothing, drugs, ~~and~~ even entertainment enough for a whole day, without leaving the station. In addition to the restaurants and shops that you can find in other stations, Cincinnati's Union depot will have a movie theatre. ~~And that sounds to me like~~ something new in the way of railroad enterprise.

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GOLD

The gold situation has been ^{on the} mended, ~~handsomely~~. Reports from Washington carry the information that over three hundred and twenty-seven million dollars worth of the precious metal ^{has been poured} ~~poured~~ back into the Federal Reserve Banks all over the country. This means more than half of the five hundred ⁺ seventy-five millions which were withdrawn by panic stricken hoarders in the ~~six~~ weeks previous to the bank holiday.

Uncle Sam's Reserve Banks are holding over three billion dollars worth of gold now. And a symptom of the extent to which confidence has been revived throughout the U. S. A. is that only a little more than three million dollars worth of the new emergency currency has been called for, although two billion dollars of it was printed. The gold, we learn, is continuing to ^{return} ~~be brought back~~ into the banks.

BANK DEPOSITS

Here's a little item that seems to indicate the new spirit that is sweeping over the country. The editor of The Brownston~~a~~ Banner, of Brownston~~e~~, Indiana, wires me as follows:

"Within two hours after the State Bank in this locality resumed business under the new regulations, deposits were made exceeding the total capital stock of the bank, mostly deposits in small sums."

STARVATION

A curious sort of story came to light in New York today. The police were notified that some people appeared to be suffering loudly in a Brooklyn flat. An officer was sent to the apartment and found a woman, a man, and a six year old boy, unconscious on the floor. The ambulance was sent for and the sufferers were taken to the hospital.

The physicians at first diagnosed ^{it as} ptomaine poisoning.

Closer investigation revealed the fact that the man, the woman and the boy had not been poisoned. They had fallen unconscious from lack of food.

Detectives went back to the apartment and searched it. Underneath the mattress in the wife's bedroom they found bank books showing a deposit of four hundred dollars in her name, and also sixteen hundred dollars in currency.

When the lady recovered consciousness, the police asked her why she had starved herself and let her husband starve and also her small boy when she actually had two thousand dollars. Here was the woman's reply: "It's my money, my savings. It's up to my husband to support his family. If he's out of a job so much the worse for him. He shan't touch the money I've saved." At that the police threw up their hands, helpless.

BAD WELSH

On March first, St. David's Day, I tried to end with a Welsh expression. Whereupon a Welshman writes me as follows:

"Don't worry, no one will think you are a Welshman after the way you pronounced e-i-s-t-e-d-d-f-o-d," and then he tells me that the way to say it is: "es teth' vud".

Another Welsh lady asks me to pronounce the name of one of the smallest towns in Wales. Here's the way it is spelled:

"L-l-a-n-f-a-i-r-p-w-l-l-g-w-y-n-g-l-l-g-o-g-e-r-y-c-h-w-y-r-n-d-

r-o-b-w-l-l-l-l-a-n-t-y-s-i-l-i-o-g-o-g-o-g--c-h,"

to which all I can say is ogee ~~to~~-gee - o-gee, and why try to talk Welsh

~~much for me so I am passing it along for you folks to pronounce,~~

~~and so long until tomorrow~~ on St. Patrick's Day?

ST. PATRICK'S

~~Of course, today there's another big celebration.~~

I mean, ~~of course the feast of St. Patrick.~~ Wherever there are sons of the Emerald Isle or their descendants, processions marched through the streets and tonight there are banquets, speeches, and merry-makers. In New York City ^{twenty-}~~thirty-~~five thousand wearers of the ^{green}~~green~~ ^{marked up Fifth Ave.}~~were in the line of march~~, and in Boston almost as many ^{were on parade,}~~in~~. In fact, wherever there were enough Irishmen to have a parade they had one. .

And now I'm going to have some more trouble in this pronunciation business. Miss ~~THE~~ Teresa Fleming of New York, writes to ask me whether I want to brush up my Irish for St. Patrick's Day. She tells me, incidentally, that I've been pronouncing the name of the Free State Parliament all wrong. But, she adds ^{that} I have plenty of company because most everybody in America does the same. The name of that Parliament is spelled A-n D-a-i-l, with the accent over the second "a". All American ~~newspapers~~ newspapers omit that accent. ^{She tells me} The words are pronounced - Un Dhaw-il.

And finally Miss ^{Teresa}~~Fleming~~ Fleming gives me another good Irish phrase. Here it is:

^hSLAWN LIV, GUH DHEE, ^wA-MAW-RUCK

(~~the second word is pronounced like the English word "live and let live". Last year you said it like in the English word "alive".~~)

And that means - so long until tomorrow, but, of course, strictly speaking, I ought to say, until Sunday afternoon when I'll be on at 5 o'clock with the prize winning tall story for this week.