

LOWELL THOMAS - SUNOCO - MONDAY, 6/26/33

Good Evening, everybody! I'm in Chicago tonight; have just flown in from the East to take a look at the World's Fair. So far I have only had a bird's-eye view, so I can't tell you much about it. I am going to visit it for the first time, by night, as soon as they turn on all that immense flow of electricity we've read so much about.

Chicago, as the world knows, is a city of superlatives. Everything here is the greatest in the world. For instance, from my window in the world's greatest hotel, the Stevens, I could look down on Grant Park of the world's greatest city park system. And just across the way, I could see the brilliant splashes of color that make me wonder if I am back in Bagdad or Bombay, buildings of bright purple, orange, flaming red, Nile green, and colors that I don't know the names for. While high overhead soar the cars of a lofty aerial railway, the towers of which you can see from your airplane as you approach Chicago, miles and miles away.

Well, they tell me that the Chicago Fair is unlike anything ever put on this side of Mars, so I am anxious to go out and have a look. But before I do here are a few news items:-

ADD LONDON CONFERENCE.

Senator Couzens ~~ix~~ of Michigan threw an oratorical bomb at the World Economic Conference late this afternoon. He said the Conference was on the wrong track. Prices cannot be raised simply by inflating credit and money, he said, and business cannot be increased simply by reducing tariff duties. The remedy Senator Couzens suggests is huge projects of public works construction throughout the whole world, similar to those being undertaken through the Public Works policy laid down by President Roosevelt.

NBC

LONDON

And here is unexpected news from London. Both John Bull and France backed up Uncle Sam today in the principal ~~key~~ clause of our suggestion to the World Economic Conference concerning a new world-wide monetary policy. This is a proposal to reduce what is known as the gold cover -- that is, the amount of gold necessary to cover currency.

Raymond Gram Swing cables the New York Evening Post that Great Britain and France likewise concurred in the resolution offered by Senator Key Pittman of Nevada that part of the metallic reserve for currency be in silver as well as gold. This will be welcome news to the Western silver states. But what percentage of coverage shall be in gold and what percentage in silver is not yet announced.

The agreement to these principles proposed by Uncle Sam was reached in an executive session behind closed doors. The surprising feature of this news is that it was believed the principal obstacle to these proposals of Uncle Sam's was the opposition of France.

Another subject that occupied the attention of the delegates in London today was the question of wheat. That is,

a proposed agreement among the nations to restrict the production of this grain. Negotiations in the matter were delayed because as I learn by a wireless report from the other side of the world, the Australian Federal Government has not yet obtained the consent of a majority of the states comprising the Australian Commonwealth to agree to this restriction.

Delegates from Argentina are also waiting for fresh instructions from their home government.

FOLLOW LONDON

At the same time in Washington the Department of Agriculture announced that success seems probable for the plan to cut down the production of cotton in the United States. The Department is carrying on a campaign for this purpose. In fact, it began this morning.

The Farm adjustment administration announces that it is considering a similar plan to control the production of cigarette and cigar tobacco.

Old King Cotton also has a prominent place today in the news regarding business improvement. The consumption of American cotton throughout the world in May reached the highest figure since October 1929; in fact, the third largest on record.

Commodity prices went up today. The Wall Street Journal informs us that cotton went up three dollars a bale, to the highest level in two years. I have also just learned that there was a tremendous boom today on the Chicago Board of Trade. All grain prices soared to record heights.

The Rock Island Railroad reports that its operating income
May
for this year was almost five times as large as for May last year. A similar favorable report comes from the Southern Pacific Lines.
L.T.

CLEVELAND

When I got off the New York Central train in Cleveland early this morning the Pullman conductor told me that he could tell conditions were improving in the country. He said travel by rail had increased tremendously. As a matter of fact, even the upper berths were occupied. I had a few hours to wait for my plane so I decided to see how things were going in Cleveland. Cleveland, of course, is one of the largest cities in North America, one of the great cities of the world. I knew that Louis Seltzer, brilliant editor of the Cleveland Press, could give me accurate information. He reminded me that Cleveland depends greatly on the steel industry. For that reason, he said, Cleveland was one of the first to suffer, and now Cleveland is one of the first to come back. Editor Selzer told me that the mills were working to 50 and 60% of their capacity, some of them running three shifts.

I found Halle Brothers, one of the great department stores of Ohio, busy, and the heads of the departments just leaving a meeting where they had discussed General Hugh Johnson's straight-from-the-shoulder speech last night, on the subject of National Recovery. Mr. Halle said that everything had improved greatly since my last visit to Cleveland.

Louis Seltzer called my attention to a striking article in today's Cleveland Press. It's a scoop. And the man who put it over is none other than Karl Bickel, the head of the great United Press. Karl Bickel has succeeded in getting the first exclusive interview that Adolf Hitler has given since he became Chancellor of Germany. In his interview Hitler told Karl Bickel that the day of Parliaments is passing, and he urged the people of the United States not to judge Germany too quickly. It's an interesting and important article. So be sure and get your local paper, the one that ^{uses} ~~is~~ the United Press service.

The Cleveland Press ^{also} had an interesting editorial today, complimenting Harvard University for conferring an honorary degree on Alfred E. Smith. ^{The editorial concludes:-} ~~And it ends by saying,~~ "But we hope that Dr. Al Smith will not acquire the Harvard accent."

L.T.

GOLF

American golf players provided a dramatic episode this afternoon at Southport, England, where the tournament for the Ryder cup is on. The players involved were Walter Hagen, Captain of the American team, and Gene Sarazen. Throughout most of the first round, Hagen and Sarazen were three down to the Britishers, Percy Alice and Charles Whitcomb. But later in the afternoon they put on ^a gallant rally which brought them to the end of the first round all square with the Britishers.

The Prince of Wales flew down from London for the tournament this afternoon.

NBC

ROME

There's great excitement in Italy. It's over that bomb which exploded yesterday in the great Cathedral of St. Peters, in Rome.

Italian police have arrested one suspect, a Spanish citizen. I have just learned from one of New York's great Italian newspapers, the Corriere D' America, that the man they arrested threw the bomb into a g crowd of Holy Year Pilgrims, and stood in the middle of St. Peter's Square until the thing exploded. Then he ran away. He was pursued by an officer of the Fascist militia. As he passed the fountain in the middle of the Square he threw something into the water. The Fascist officer fished in the waters of the fountain and found a water-soaked Spanish passport. Roman police informed a correspondent of the Corriere D' America that the man admitted throwing the bomb. Although a Spanish citizen, he was born in Alexandria, Egypt.

Four people in the crowd of pilgrims were injured. The crime was particularly dramatic because of the strained relations between the Republic government of Spain and the Vatican.

BERLIN

(Reports from Berlin indicate that the Nazis there are now undertaking to control the Catholic Church throughout the Fatherland just as they have taken over regulation of Protestant organizations.) H. R. Knickerbocker cables the New York Evening Post that the Hitler government has arrested all leaders of the People's Party in Bavaria; that means the Catholic Party. Before making arrests the Munich police searched the houses of Catholic leaders and claim to have found evidence of disloyalty to the Hitler government. The Catholic Center Party is now the only religious organization in Germany which the Hitlerites have not yet tackled. Knickerbocker says their turn comes next, probably with ⁱⁿ the next two weeks.

L. T.

HARRY FRANCK

(Monday - Chicago)

Ah, here is one that will interest a large number of young men - and some will be disappointed. And no wonder. Some weeks ago I mentioned that my friend Harry Franck was starting on a trip around the world and that he intended to take several young men along. As a result of the remark I made on the air, Mr. Franck was snowed under with applications from thousands of young men and young women also.

I also said that when Harry Franck made his final selections I would announce the names of the lucky young men. Well, the selections have been made. Mr. Franck has just wired them to me, and here they are.

First let me state that he based his selection on special qualifications, such as a fluent speaking knowledge of French and German, special mechanical ability, skill on the typewriter, and so on, and so on.

Of the thousands who applied, at least five hundred had the necessary qualifications. Five hundred of them would have been satisfactory.

Harry Franck, the modern Marco Polo, is associated with an organization known as "World Letters." He is going to send back communications to people all over America, from every country that he visits on this long journey around the globe. An altogether new idea.

But now for the lucky men who have been selected out of the thousands who applied. The two young chaps who will go are Beach Conger, Jr. of Ann Arbor, Michigan; and John Quincy Jennings of Lakewood, Cleveland, Ohio. The four who have been selected as alternates are Leland C. DeVinney, a Michigan boy of the University of Wisconsin; Arthur Lawrence Vogelback of Rockeville Center, New York; Charles F. Barlow of Springfield, Ohio; and Thomas N. Davidson of Ocean Grove, N. J.

Well, they are the lucky fellows, the first two, I

mean, but you can all travel vicariously with Harry Franck if you write to him, care of World Letters, East Aurora, New York.

HOOVER

A sensational bit of news concerning the recent Republican administration broke in New York today. A Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee of the United States Senate is in New York inquiring why the late administration delayed so long with its prosecution of the alleged crimes in Harriman National Bank of New York. The first witness was the United States Attorney George Medalie, who told the Committee the delay was due to a request direct from the Treasury. The Secretary of the Treasury at that time was Ogden Mills. Nugent Dodds, former chief of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, testified that he was the official responsible for the delay. He said the reason for holding off was his opinion that a big banking disaster might result if Joseph Harriman, founder of the Bank and former Chairman of the Board, were indicted at that time.

A most unusual event in Masonic circles is taking place to-night. In Boston they are celebrating the "200th anniversary" of the founding of Saint John's Lodge. Robert Jennings, Master, of Saint John's, wires me that St. John's of Boston was "the first regular and duly constituted lodge of Free Masons in America. Just two hundred years ago to-night at "The Sign of the Bunch of Grapes Tavern" at the corner of King Street and Mackerel Lane in Boston, the historic lodge was founded." It was done on the instructions of a deputation of the Right Honorable Anthony Lord, Viscount Montague, Grand Master of Masons in England.

To-night in Boston there are present representatives of other Masonic lodges from various parts of America as well as foreign lands. This is considered an historical event of major importance in American Masonic circles.

BORAH

Senator Borah of Idaho underwent an operation at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore today. Officials of the hospital inform me that the Senator's condition is satisfactory. He probably will remain there for three weeks.

QUAKE

New York police and scientists were equally confused today by a mysterious tremor that shocked a large area of Westchester County and Southern Connecticut. The police were swamped by calls from frightened citizens who reported what they believed to be an earthquake which shook their homes. But the seismograph at Fordham University recorded no earthquake and the scientists there were of the opinion that the shock must have been caused by an explosion. However, there has been no report of any such explosion as yet.

MOTHER-in-LAW

A resident of New York has an original idea. It is a school for mothers-in-law.

The inventor of this notion is Arthur Cremin, director of the New York Schools of Music. Mr. Cremin thinks mother-in-law is a much abused person. He admits that she frequently causes trouble, but he says that in most cases it is not the poor lady's fault. Hence his idea of a school for mothers-in-law. The basis of the curriculum will be to get the old ladies to study music and Mr. Cremin thinks a musical mother-in-law will never make any trouble in the family. I would be interested to hear what other musicians have to say on the subject.

News Release.

TALL STORY

Do you remember when we picked the Tall Story Champion of America two years ago? Bruce Barton, Kermit Roosevelt, Ely Culbertson, Gar Wood, Count Luckner and several of my friends were there to induct him into office and the man we crowned as Tall Story Champion of America was Arthur Brady, a butcher and grocer of Bristol, Pennsylvania, with a flair for lying and telling 'em tall.

Well, Old King Brady sends me a line about a sign he saw the other day above a roadside restaurant near Bristol. It read:- "Clams and Oysters Eat Here." Well, here's one oyster who is now headed for that Century of Progress Exposition to get an eyeful. And that means it's time for me to be a clam and say

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.