

L.T. Suraco . Wednesday June 9, 1938

Some times it's a bit of a drawback to have been born a fellow countryman of Mark Twain's. I realize this tonight since I am reported to be dead. I was called on the telephone by Earle Johnson of the United Press. He informed me that Dwight Young, managing editor of the DAYTON HERALD in Dayton, Ohio had been embarrassed all the afternoon by hundreds of telephone calls on my behalf. There was a report in Ohio that I had been killed in out there in an automobile accident.

But of course the only proper reply is the classic one made years ago by Mark Twain. "Reports of my death have been gravely exaggerated." But he said it first.

This isn't the first time that my demise has been reported. Years ago the DENVER POST carried a story that I had been killed in the German Revolution -- shot through the heart. The story had to be corrected with the amendment that I had been shot through the hat. And now for some lively news.

VOLCANO

That ~~death dealing~~ ^{flaming} volcano in the Philippines

is still erupting. Every three hours columns of flame, smoke and lava spout from the crater of Mt. Mayon. And each time slight earthquakes are noticed in the surrounding country.

President Quezon himself flew to the city of Legaspi to

supervise the job of evacuating people from the danger zone.

Most of them now ~~are in points of~~ ^{have reached} safety, but their farms and

houses are no more.

MEXICO

There's an ironic twist today to that abortive ~~past~~ *Cedillo* revolution in Mexico. It is reported that President Cardenas is confiscating all the property ~~once~~ *former war lord* owned by General Saturnino Cedillo, the ~~last~~ *former* ~~war lord~~ of San Luis Potosi. General Cedillo, once a leader of the downtrodden peasants against the oppressive landlords, subsequently made a landlord of himself. In fact he became one of the largest land owners in the republic south of the Rio Grande. And the report is that ~~President~~ Cardenas is distributing ~~General~~ Cedillo's land among the peasants of the state.

~~And here's an additional touch: Mexico's President is supervising this distribution from his headquarters at a hotel which used to be owned by General Cedillo.~~

SPAIN

It's a thorny road for British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's treaty with Mussolini. Almost every week something happens in connection with the Spanish war to stymie that agreement. One of its biggest obstacles is the prolonged resistance of the Spanish government forces. ^R The treaty between Mussolini and John Bull was predicated upon a swift victory for Franco. But as soon as Franco's armies achieve another success, the government resistance stiffens. Then there are constant episodes such as the bombing of British ships. And today, a seaplane appeared over the port of Gandia on the Mediterranean, south of Valencia. It dropped thirty bombs, most of them incendiary, and ^{it also} machine-gunned the entire port.

~~You may ask,~~ "What has that to do with England?" The port of Gandia was built and is owned almost entirely by Englishmen. A United Press correspondent got into telephone conversation with the British director of that port. And said that Englishman: "This action was deliberate aggression against British property." And he added that the ^{plane} ~~thing~~ seemed to be of German make."

A report ~~was~~ from Gibraltar quotes information gathered ^{by} an American flier who served with ~~by a man who has visited~~ the Nationalist forces. And he says it's

true that the Spaniards under Franco are at loggerheads with the Italians and Germans. The Spaniards do not approve of the bombing of open towns, but they can't control the aviators sent over by Mussolini and Hitler.

(From Vatican City we learn that Pope Pius has registered a formal protest with ~~General Franco's government~~ against the bombardment of civilian populations. This was done after a lengthy audience that Cardinal Pacelli, Secretary of State, had with the Pope.) The protest will be delivered by the Vatican's diplomatic representative at Burgos. He will inform the Nationalist chiefs that the Holy See "deplores the bombardment of civilians anywhere, and under all circumstances, for both religious and humanitarian reasons."

CHINA

Today's news from Canton is even more harrowing.

Fleets of Japanese planes dropped thousands ~~of tons~~ of incendiary bombs which have set fire to the ruins of the city. Entire blocks of Canton are in flames and beyond ~~entire~~ control.

A thick pall of black smoke hangs overhead. In twelve days of raiding the Japanese have inflicted casualties in the neighborhood of ten thousand, with at least three thousand dead. All of the killed and wounded were civilians.

TENNIS

It looks bad for the success of the American Women's Team on English tennis courts. America will have to compete for the ^{Wightman}~~Wightman~~ Cup against England, without Helen Jacobs, who four times won the American Women's Singles Championship, and once was Champion at Wimbledon. Miss Jacobs wrenched her right shoulder at practice, and probably will not be able to play against the English team on Friday. *End of course Helen Wills is already out.*

AIR SERVICE

We'll all have a chance to send letters to Europe by air mail no later than September. That's the announcement made today by Colonel Monroe Johnson, Assistant Secretary of Commerce in charge of air traffic.

Pan American and British Imperial hope to start their joint service in August. Colonel Johnson says that the trans-Atlantic Air Service may also include passengers -- in September.

KIDNAP.

Now that the Florida case is closed, we must ask - what to do about that hideous sort of thing? In the first epidemic of kidnappings that followed prohibition, the crimes were commonly done by professional mobsters. The G-men got the public enemies, dead or alive, and made the snatch racket too hot for the underworld. In recent cases, those hateful crimes are mostly - local jobs, done by amateurs - neighborhood punks. That angle is emphasized today by the final confession of Franklin Pierce McCall.

After admitting first that he collected the ransom money but did not kidnap the little Cash boy, McCall broke down and confessed the kidnapping. He still denies the intent to murder. Apparently J. Edgar Hoover and his G-men accept that final denial. McCall tells fully how he snatched the five year old boy from his crib, and tied handkerchiefs around his face to stop the sound of crying. He carried the child to his home, face still muffled in handkerchiefs, and then he found the little boy was dead. Murder was not his intention, he insists. He merely meant to kidnap and extort ransom. But that

will make little difference according to law.

Florida has a statute that makes kidnapping alone a capital punishment.

One of the most venomous things about these kidnap cases is the way the criminal goes on and collects ransom from the family in anguish, although the victim is dead. McCall went about getting the money in a complicated, blundering, stupid way - went so far as to call to a Negro in a ~~disguise~~ disguised voice, telling him to deliver a ransom note to the father, James B. Cash. That disguised voice probably accounts for the story the Negro told - *of the man who spoke with* ~~he spoke of~~ a foreign accent.

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There's another particularly odious angle to the Florida case. McCall in his first and only partly - truthful confession - tried to implicate the little boy's Uncle, brother of the father. He tried to make it appear that he himself was only partly guilty - the Uncle responsible for the crime. But in his final confession he admits that was all a lie. And the G-men, after investigating the Uncle thoroughly, have exonerated him completely.

Another sinister touch - McCall, having decided on the kidnapping to get some money, had his eye on two other small boys of the town, and then thought that little Skeegie Cash would be easier.

So ~~then~~ there's the kidnap problem as it stands at present - most of these criminals are not professional kidnapers but local, shoddy characters, incompetent, defective. They're the ones to suspect. And what's to be done about it? We'd better think about that.

PENNSYLVANIA.

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The Pennsylvania charges of political corruption break in the news today - the Pennsylvania primaries having been held a couple of weeks ago. The accusations were held off until after the voting. Ousted Attorney General Margiotti wanted to get them into Court, but that was opposed on grounds that this was designed to affect the primary campaign. So the verdict was - wait till the campaign is over, and then wash the smudgy linen, So they're doing that now.

And There's plenty of smudge on the linen, according to declarations made today by the District Attorney of Daughin county. He accuses the administration of Governor Earle on seventeen counts, and calls the Earle Administration - " a system of crime." Here's the way the petition reads:

"The evidence in the possession of your petitioner shows the existence of a system of crime involving conspiracy, bribery, extortion, corrupt solicitation, blackmail, misfeasance, malfeasance, and misdemeanors in office."

After that, the petitioner couldn't think of any more words. I especially like "malfeasance" and "misfeasance". They

FOLLOW PRESIDENT

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take the itinerary of his forthcoming tour. The schedule is
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from there to Marietta, Ohio, for the celebration of the founding
of the Northwest Territory. Then to Covington, Kentucky, for
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fight - just as we heard last night.

Next to Tennessee and on to ~~at~~ Oklahoma. Forth Worth,
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North to
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RETAKE

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California, and right here we learn that the President has never seen Yosemite, ~~Valley~~. Well, you certainly have missed something, Mr. President. And you're mighty right in arranging your trip so that you can see Yosemite National Park. Thence on to San Francisco for an ocean voyage aboard a cruiser.

That trip certainly does come under the heading of - "See America First". A trip for a President. Yes - and a trip for almost any of us. All we need is a car and a few tankfuls of Blue Sunoco and some Sun Motor Oil. That, so far as traveling goes, ^{would be} ~~is~~ enough to justify ^{the} a slogan - Every Man A President.

And now, I want you to meet a distinguished traveler from abroad. He was a Sir when he sailed and a Lord when he landed.

Stamp.

June 87
1938.

INTRODUCTION TO LORD STAMP.

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The theme of railroading is much in the news these days, the plight of the American railroads, talk of Government help, the controversy about a possible wage cut, threats of a railroad strike. And then there are railroad stories of a brighter kind - accounts of new streamlined trains put on by the big lines, the New York Central, the Pennsylvania - miracles of streamline grace outside and streamline luxury inside.

So Let's think of railroading for a moment, and speak of a British peer of the realm. Those two themes don't ~~xxxx~~ clash with any disharmony, for the news tells us that Sir Josiah Stamp has just been created a Baron by King George. And he's a notable British economist, financier and industrial authority. Also - a Railroad man. He rose to international fame during the world war, and right now is a Director of the Bank of England, a member of the British Economic Advisory Council. Also - chairman of the London and Midland Scottish Railway and President of the Associated British and Irish Railways. A

--- now, while on the High Seas, about to
railroad man indeed, ~~now created a peer of the realm.~~
land on these shares, came the word - created
3 peer of the realm.¹² This elevation was rather unusual because Sir Josiah Stamp

INTRODUCTION TO LORD STAMP - 2.

was on shipboard, bound for America, when King George made him a Baron. He has just this moment landed here on business connected with the New York World's Fair of next year. And it's railroading business. So I've asked Lord Stamp to tell us something about his visit, the reason - and about British railroading and, about economic affairs in general. And now here he is, the latest peer of the realm, the man who sailed from England a merely lowly knight - Sir Josiah Stamp - and landed here to find himself a Baron, Your Lordship, the air is yours, to tell us about your visit, if you will.

FOR LORD STAMP.

My visit here, Mr. Lowell Thomas, is easy to explain.

It is ~~part of~~ the desire of ^{the Combined} British railroads to do their part in making a worthy British exhibit at your New York Fair. The London Midland and Scottish Railway are ^{also} sending over the new streamlined "Coronation Scot". When we sent the "Royal Scot" to Chicago and the west five years ago, the reception exceeded all our expectations. Well over three million people went through that train, and five times that number must have seen her. We were deluged with appreciative letters, *people remembering England, and even the technical people had something to talk about.*

We have made a great advance in steam locomotion lately.

And the new "Coronation" engine is twenty-five percent more powerful. *where there is a great exhibition at the moment.* She did the 400 odd miles from Glasgow to London in well under six hours, (average start-to-stop speed of seventy miles per hour) and is scheduled regularly for six and a half hours, which she keeps like a clock. On her test runs she broke records for the longest nonstop steam runs at similar high speeds, and touched one hundred and fourteen miles per hour -- a British ^{steam} ~~super~~ speed record.

By the kindness of the American railroads, and with

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their wonderful cooperation, the train will tour, visiting amongst other important cities, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Washington, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Chicago, Detroit, Buffalo, Syracuse, Boston. May she be an ambassador of good will and a credit to your great enterprise.

As for railway conditions in Great Britain, they ~~are~~ ^{have been} improving and the lines were paying dividends last year on common stock. not at all bad. ~~Suffice it to say that the British lines are~~ ~~paying dividends~~, and that's a symptom of our economic affairs in general. We had our troubles pulling out of the last depression, but things have straightened out rather well. ^{until we, too, began to get the backwash of the new recession and our difficulties here for you again.} Of course it's ideal for all nations to be on an upward economic trend. ~~For a disbalance of prosperity and a disorganization of~~ international trade hurts everybody. We British are trying to do our part, knowing that in the long run what's good for all is good for us. That I can say on behalf of Great Britain.

L.T. :- Many thanks, Lord Stamp, and may your stay in America be all that you want it to be. By the way, your Lordship here is an item just in ^{by radio} from London :-

WINDSOR

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The Windsor trip to the United States, about which we heard last night, will be okayed by Buckingham Palace - that's ~~the latest~~ ^{the latest} report from London. ~~They say~~ ^{A message here tells me} that British Court circles were taken by surprise when the London papers published ~~yesterday's~~ ^{the} dispatch ~~saying the Duke~~ ^{announcing that the} Duke and Duchess were again planning to make that long deferred trip across the ocean.

Buckingham Palace, ~~they say~~ ^{the word is,} will make no objection - provided.

Yes, there are some provisions, not of the grocery store sort but of the priviso kind. No housing investigation, no sociological studies, no ballyhoo of any kind, just an informal vacation trip. And - no spectacular or official receptions such ~~as might~~ as might embarrass His Majesty's government. (No big "to-do" at the British Embassy, and no stately call at the White House. With these ~~xi~~ provisos, it is all right for the former Edward the Eighth and his Duchess Wally to visit America next spring, as reported.)

TENNIS.

Wimbledon is in England and they have English weather, there. So it drizzled today, in the good old-fashioned English way, as the British and American queens of tennis ~~took~~ took the court. In the first match, the stars and stripes drooped dolefully in the moist atmosphere - when American Alice Marble was badly beaten by British Kay Stammers. Alice didn't do so badly at first, but toward the end she wilted - like a starched collar in the wet weather.

The stars and stripes began to float more joyfully, when Helen Wills played Peggy Scriven, and the left-handed English girl didn't have a chance. Helen from the California sunshine out-racketed Peggy right there in Peggy's own British climate.

The stars and stripes ended with a wild wave at the masthead when the doubles match came on. Two American girls beat two English girls - making it two to one for the U. S. A.

OLYMPICS

The United States will take part in the Olympic Games at Tokyo in Nineteen Forty. That has been the word all along, and it was reaffirmed today by Makoto Den, the Japanese publicity chairman for the games. He's in Boston today, and told the newspaper men ~~xxx~~ that when he stopped off at Chicago, Olympic President Avery Brundage assured him that the American athletes would go to Tokyo. He said he had assurance also that Great Britain would send a team.

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Other countries have fallen in line, the mention of which brings to mind one nation in particular - a great far eastern land, with enormously ancient history, a venerable culture, and hard luck right now. Yes, China. Chairman Makoto Den of Japanese publicity was asked - would China participate in the Olympic Games of Tokyo? He replied that Japan would welcome China, extend a glad hand to Chinese athletes. He added that the war would not affect the Tokyo Olympics in any way.

One bright reporter spoke up and asked - "Suppose Chinese war planes should bomb the Olympic Games?"

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To that the Japanese spokesman answered with startling emphasis: "There would never be such a day." Said he.

I should hope not! Imagine the Olympic Games, vast crowds, visitors from all over the world, athletes from many a nation - imagine that being bombed, - the way the civilians of Canton were bombed this week. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ The Japanese Olympic Official said he thought the China would be over -- fairly soon, certainly before Nineteen Forty. At any rate, he says the Olympic Games -- the pole vault, the hurdles, and the four forty, will not be punctuated by the roar of bombs.

AND SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY