

Good Evening, Everybody:

The ^{latest argument} ~~now~~ between John Bull and his ancient enemy the Russian Bear, is coming to a head. In fact, it is no longer a matter of reports and rumors. Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald of Great Britain made a statement in the House of Commons today. He told the members of Parliament that ~~in a few days he would~~ ^{he is going to} ask them to pass him a law enabling him if necessary to bar completely all Russian imports from the United Kingdom.

No such step as this has been taken since the war, ^{by any country. The cause, as} ~~The cause for this step, as has been~~ previously indicated, is the arrest of six British subjects in Moscow on charges of sabotage. Mr. Litvinoff, ~~the~~ Soviet Foreign Minister, has already stated flatly that his government will not back down one inch from its intention of placing ~~those~~ six Brito~~ins~~ins on trial.

Mr. MacDonald told the House quite frankly that the

LEAD - 2

situation is exceedingly serious. The existing trade treaty between the two nations expires on Easter Monday. A new one was being negotiated until this business of the arrest of the six British engineers. The report of this arrest, you may recall, led the British government to break off those negotiations. Even that did not cause the Soviet Government to waver.

It is rumored that the law for which Mr. Ramsay MacDonald is asking will be rushed through the House in railroad fashion, and probably be passed with something like the same speed ~~that~~ the Democratic Congress of the U. S. A. is showing ^{these days.} ~~to oblige the new~~
^
~~President.~~

GERMANY

(Things seemed to be easing up a bit for the Jews in Germany. The drive against them has been summarily held up by no less a potentate than President von Hindenburg himself.)

It was the aged war hero who, for one thing, was responsible for limiting the boycott, the picketing of Jewish business houses, to fourteen hours. And reports say that he went the limit in compelling the Hitler Cabinet to see reason in the matter. He threatened that ^{if} ~~that~~ oppressive measures against Jewish-Germans were not discontinued ~~that~~ ~~that~~ he would use the last weapon left at his command -- a declaration of martial law.

This is the one device that could overrule the Hitler Government. Despite the enormous changes in the Constitution of Germany, there is still one weapon at the President's disposal. If he declares martial law, he can put the country under the rule of a general of his own selection, and that general, of course, would have precedence over Cabinet, police, everything.

Meanwhile ~~the~~ Hitler ^{the} ~~Government~~ took steps to put a

GERMANY - 2

stop to the movement^z of large numbers of Jews^a crossing[^] the
German frontier to other countries. They announced that in^{he} future[^]
nobody will be allowed to leave Germany without a special police
permit. ~~stamped on his pasaport.~~

PARIS

Some hopeful news comes from Paris today, news which indicates that the French may be weakening in their opposition to the ^{Mussolini} peace plan. ~~of Premier Mussolini of Italy.~~

This proposal is also known as the four power peace pact because it is Mr. Mussolini's idea that Italy, France, Great Britain and ~~Germany~~ Germany should club together to preserve the peace of Europe. The French have looked askance at the idea, because they were afraid it really meant a ^{rapprochement - a get-together of} ~~reconciliation between~~ Italy and Germany, ^{which might leave} ~~which would leave~~ France out in the cold.

At any rate, the French Cabinet has announced that it is willing to consider the Duce's suggestions as a basis for further discussion.

EVEREST

Here's a stunt to thrill not only airplane fans and ~~but~~ geographers, but everybody. (A hardy band of Englishmen have flown over Mt. Everest, the highest mountain in the world, ~~in an~~ ^{At last they've made it - by} airplane. This is ~~x~~ unquestionably the most sensational stunt of the year, ~~so far~~; and probably will be a twelve-month record at least. Everest, as the textbooks will tell you, is more than twenty-nine thousand feet high. In the party that achieved this feat were the Marquis of Clydesdale, Air Commodore ~~R. F. M.~~ Fellowes, Flight Lieutenant McIntyre of the British Royal Air Force, and Colonel Stuart Blacker.)

Everest, monarch of all mountains, has broken many hearts. Three expeditions, on foot, penetrated forbidden Tibet, and to scale ~~the mountains~~ that terrific peaks. Avalanches killed some, others simply disappeared & never came back. On the last expedition Mallory & Irvine were last seen climbing within a few hundred feet of the top-- and that was.

SIAM

Another revolution is reported from Siam. This one was by way of being a successful counter-revolution, because it was the King who rebelled. He seized the reins of power, suspended the new constitution, established last June, and announced himself once more an absolute ruler, the father of his subjects.

So that puts an end for the time being to Democratic government in the famous land of the white elephant.

ROOSEVELT

(President Roosevelt today sent his seventh message to Congress. It's purpose was to help the farmers, ~~and~~ *in respect* specifically ^{of} their mortgages and other debts.)

Again it was a terse, almost laconic, message. In it he asked the Congress to re-adjust the mortgages and other forms of indebtedness, of the farmers of the nation.

(Among other things the message said:-

"The Federal Government should provide for the refinancing of the ^{farmers} mortgages and other indebtedness) so as to form a more equitable readjustment of the principal of the debt and also to reduce interest rates." Of this, the President said:- "In many instances these interest rates are so unconscionably high as to be contrary to sound public policy." Then he said further:- "I seek an end to the threatened loss of homes and producing capacity now faced by hundreds of thousands of American farming families."

(And, he ~~also~~ ^{added} ~~said~~ that the legislation proposed would not impose a heavy burden upon Uncle Sam's Treasury.)

ADD ROOSEVELT

In connection with this ~~proposal~~ the President urges
a plan for a bond issue of two billion dollars. This would carry
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HOUSE

An unexpected bit of legislation was rushed through the House of Representatives today. This was a bill providing severe punishment ^{for} anybody who publishes secret government information, that is, information the publication of which will be injurious to the safety or interest of Uncle Sam. This bill was presented and put through without warning. This was done at the request of the White House. Reports say that this measure was discussed only in whispers, even in the cloak rooms of the capital. At any rate, it was railroaded without discussion, and now goes to the Senate.

What's the big idea? Maybe our morning papers will tell us.

REPEAL

8

Well, they started ^{actual} voting on repeal today. The first ~~xxxxxx~~ state to break the ice with an ~~actual~~ march of voters to the polls was Michigan.

They are electing delegates to a convention ^{to} ~~which shall~~ decide whether or not Michigan shall ratify the repeal of the 18th Amendment. The returns aren't in yet, but pretty nearly a million voters cast their ballots.

The ^{result is} ~~returns are~~ being eagerly ^{look for} ~~watched~~, and they ^{results} sure will make exciting reading in late papers tonight and tomorrow morning. The Michigan election is considered crucial. The wets have their fingers crossed. Michigan is one of the doubtful states. Governor Comstock said to the voters: "If we vote wet we'll lead the way. But if we go dry the country will never get that amendment repealed."

FORESTS

Uncle Sam is getting busy putting those two-hundred and fifty thousand men to work on forest conservation. There was a meeting in Washington today of Regional Foresters of the U.S.A. ~~It's purpose was to make plans for starting the forestry work authorized by Congress.~~

7
Sacks of mail carrying applications for ~~these~~ jobs are pouring into Washington by the truck-load.

Meanwhile, the State of Louisiana is doing something in this line on its own hook. The Governor of Louisiana has promised a job to every unemployed man in the Northern part of the State. These ~~men~~ will be ^{put to work} ~~employed~~, rebuilding ^{districts} ~~that part~~ of the State which ~~were~~ destroyed by last week's tornado.

LIARS' MECCA

I spent the weekend making a roundabout trip from Washington to New York, the first part of it by airplane in an Eastern Air Transport passenger cruiser, spinning along above the clouds at 155 miles an hour. Then I drove in an automobile up the Susquehanna Trail, along the banks of one of the most beautiful rivers in America, the Susquehanna, to Lewisburg and Milton, Pennsylvania. My visit to Milton was in the nature of a pilgrimage. Milton is the Tall Story capital of Pennsylvania. It is the home of the Liars' Club, for many years presided over by a gentleman who is now eighty-three years old, Willis Faber, Faber the fabricator.

6

The moving spirit in the Milton's Liars' Club at present is the President of the First National Bank, Walter Wilson. Some bankers are born Tall Story tellers and some are not. In fact there are cynically-minded people who are saying at present that too many bankers are eligible to the Tall Story Club. During the weekend I also had the experience of visiting Uncle Sam's new penitentiary at Lewisburg, Pennsylvania -- went there with a banker. And maybe you'll

think that's appropriate too. But Walter Wilson's bank opened at the end of the moratorium and apparently is one of the solid variety that every town needs. The ~~bank~~^{penitentiary} has just been built and is about the last word in penal institutions.

And now in honor of the Liars' Club of Milton, here's tonight's Tall Story:--

TALL

Balfour Bishop, who apparently is a lawyer in Vineland, New Jersey, certainly ought to get the prize this week. Here's what Mr. Balfour Bishop writes me:-

"Christopher Columbus must have used BLUE SUNOCO. Why? Because he travelled three-thousand miles on a galleon."

TOPEKA

They're having an interesting election ~~today~~ today in Topeka, Kansas. It's a municipal election, but the public officials are taking a back seat in favor of Topeka's dogs. For the principal issue in this contest is a doggy question.

For a long while gardeners in Topeka have been up in arms against ^{the pooches.} ~~dogs~~. It seems there are quite a lot of them in the Kansas capital, and they are allowed to run wherever their doggy inclinations lead them. ^{And} ~~It seems~~ those doggy inclinations lead them too often to ^{bury} ~~bury~~ bones in the best flower beds. So some flower fans started the agitation and the newspapers took it up. The city officials got scared and didn't want to take either one side or the other. So they passed the buck up to the voters, inviting the taxpayers to decide whether they wanted an ordinance which would prevent the dogs from burying their bones among the petunias.

Well, the joke is on the city officials, because people are so excited about ^{Fido's} ~~the doggie's~~ bone that they are paying ^{scant} ~~very little~~ attention to the city fathers.

WALKER

Here's news from Jimmie Walker, once more -- yes, ~~of course~~,
the well known playboy ex-mayor. ~~of New York City~~. Jimmie is going
to be married again.

As most people will recall, Mrs. Walker obtained a
divorce in Florida a short time ago. Today Jimmie and Miss Betty
Compton, the actress who has been with him in Europe ever since he
sailed last year, called at the Municipal Building of Cannes, on
the French Riviera. They went for the purpose of finding out what
they had to do in order to be married in France, which is not as
La Belle
simple a matter as it is over here.

So there's an item for the romantically minded.

BEATTY

An old friend of ours showed up in New York today. Some of you may recall that we discussed him over the air a year ago -- in fact he was on the air with me. He was one of our guest speakers last year. And when I say circus, you will guess right away that I am talking about Clyde Beatty, the ~~best~~ hardy fellow who takes his chance twice a day with forty-three lions and tigers.

Clyde Beatty held open house in the Hotel New Yorker today for a bunch of newspaper men. One question they asked him was: "How long are you going to keep this up? And Clyde replied: "Well, I think this will be my last year with such a large number of those big cats. It has been quite a strain on my nerves and I think next year I'll have to cut down on the number of animals in the act."

Beatty told the boys that in the last two or three years he has aged ten years. Actually this extraordinary chap is only twenty-eight. To cope with those forty-three wild man-eaters! He is only five and a half feet tall and weighs less than a hundred and fifty pounds.

I saw Ed Anthony, the famous writer, at the Waldorf today. He and Clyde have just made a movie and written a thrilling book called "The Big Cage."

COP

A New York policeman had an embarrassing experience last night. He is ^{an exceptionally} ~~a very~~ large man and a ^{traffic} ~~perfect~~ cop. While he was on duty a taxi driver drove up, saying that he had a fare in his cab, a lady who owed three dollars fare and refused to pay. The cop asked the lady what about it and she said the hackman was quite right.

So they all went to the nearest police station, hackman, lady fare, and policeman.

While the officer was explaining the case to the desk lieutenant he was astounded by getting a sharp clip on the chin. He looked around bewildered and behold it was the lady who had clipped him. She not only hit him on the chin, she proceeded to punch him in the eye.

And here's the point of the story. The officer in question is a former heavyweight boxing champion of the New York Police Department. And it took all his strength to subdue the pugnacious

lady, who, when she was later brought before a magistrate, declared that she remembered nothing whatsoever of the incident, but if the officer said it was so, it must be so, *she was just anticipating Apr. 27th by a few days.*

AIRWAYS

American Air Transport companies are planning an innovation that to my mind sounds sensational. It is no less than an express service straight across the Pacific Ocean. The plans as published indicate that when this service is organized it will cut the time for mail and passengers from the U.S.A. to Asia from a month to less than a week.

It seems that there is more behind this scheme than appears on the surface. Owing to one thing and another, Europe has made several inroads into Uncle Sam's trade with the Far East. Swifter communications will give a considerable fillip to American commerce in the Far East.

Two routes have been surveyed by Pan American Airways -- one by way of British Columbia and Alaska. The other directly across the Pacific from San Francisco to Hawaii, Midway Island, Wake Island, Guam, the Philippines, Hong Kong, and Canton. On this course the longest hop would be between San Francisco and Honolulu, some 2400 miles. And now it's time for me to hop, and--

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.