

L. T. - SUNOCO, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1935

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY - BOSTON IN PARTICULAR:

How do you classic Bostonians feel about your latest scholarly distinction? I'll bet your academic souls are all worked up about the news of the coming of the great Professor of Home-runology, Dr. George Herman Ruth, -- better known as the Quintuplets of Swat! Yes, there's excitement along the banks of the Charles River and high hat Beacon Hill is all atwitter; and, the lantern hangs in the steeple of the old North Church.

Paul Revere rode a mighty ride, but you ought to see the Babe trotting around the bases, after the ball has gone over the fence. So tonight, in the home of the bean and the cod, from Lexington to Concord, the Lowells are whispering to the Cabots, and the Cabots are whispering to the Lord-knows-who, that Babe Ruth is coming back to Boston. Also - the National League is whispering to the public that the fence-busting monarch of the American League is becoming a National Leaguer.

All those questions which have been agitating the baseball fans, the American public and the national conscience, about the future of the Home Run King, were set at rest Today, ~~when~~ it was announced in Boston that the Braves had got the Babe.

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But it's not "Babe" any more, or "Big Bambino". It's -- Second Vice-President Ruth, also Assistant Manager Ruth. But it's still "Sultan of Swat."

Because, in addition to acting as Second Vice-President of the Club and as Assistant Manager to Bill McKetchnie, Mr. Ruth will play ball as and whenever he pleases, ^{he'll} ~~will~~ take that familiar ~~place at the~~ ^{at the plate} toe hold and bust either his ~~bat~~ ^{back} or the ball.

The New York Yankees have given him his release. The Boston Braves have given him a three-year contract.

It sounds like a rather ingenious compromise. The Babe is past his best playing days. He admits it himself, which makes it virtually unanimous. He still can hit home-runs. But in the field chasing hard hit flies, he's not so nimble on his pins. ~~although I suppose he will have to call them limbs in classic and modest Boston.~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ He insisted on having a manager's job. The baseball magnates naturally wanted to keep the benefit of his immense drawing power, but they weren't so keen about installing him as a manager, **S**o now it's Assistant Manager, with the added dignity ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ of Second Vice-President thrown in -- to add honor and majesty.

Well, it's altogether aesthetic and harmonious that the Sound Vice President and Assistant Manager should perambulate to Boston. Because it was in the scholastic city known as Bean Town that a big lumbering kid from Baltimore made his major league debut as a left-handed pitcher. So the great Home Runner is running home.

FOOTBALL

Yes, baseball is just around the corner -- that corner ~~is~~
~~there~~ ahead. And football is also just around the corner -- that
corner back there. But still there is plenty discussion of the
gridiron game, not so much among the fans at large as among high
dignitaries in Washington. Dignitaries in frock coats, statesmen.
Dignitaries in cocked hats, admirals. And Representative Cochran
of Missouri is getting a good deal of sympathy -- that is, from the
politically-minded gentlemen who make a study of the limited
intelligence and rather feeble will of old John Q. Public. ^P A whole
series of army and navy games every year! Yes, that might be the
basis of a political platform. That enthusiastic sportsman,
Huey Long, has already ^{dramatized} ~~pointed out~~ the vote-getting possibilities
of football.

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The Congressman from Missouri strikes several resounding
notes. One is a ringing note of mid-western patriotism. He
points out that with only one Army and Navy game played a year,
the battle between the fighting services is always staged in the
east. And that isn't fair to the corn belt. The mid-western states
chip in with their share of taxes in supporting the land-fighting
and sea-fighting academies. They pay their hard earned money for

the defense of the nation. But they don't see any ^{Army & Navy} football games!
Is that fair?

The Congressman bugles a note of broad humanity, when he suggests that every section of the country should have an Army and Navy game every year. He proposes four annual games, in four different sections. Although, maybe, there are more than four sections in this great land of ours. Maybe our country is so great and has so many sections, that the logical thing would be for the West Point and Annapolis teams to play a game ^{a week,} ~~every day,~~ all year round. But Congressman Cochran thinks that four interservice games would do.-- maybe as a beginning.

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He complains that when he puts these advance ^{of pigskin} military ideas before the West Point generals and the Annapolis admirals, they give him lots of sympathy, as the lady gave the gentleman in the park. But, that's all. The generals and the admirals provide no action.

FENCING

Let's imagine a paradox: the men's champion is a woman.

But if she is a woman she can't be a men's champion! And if she's
a men's champion, she can't be a woman! ^{— or is she a lady?} Yes, it's a dilemma ^{— a dilemma}
in the person of a tall, slender blonde on the Pacific Coast,
Miss Helen Mayer of California. And the sport is fencing, the
ancient art of the warrior and the duelist.

It all came about because of a shortage of women fencers
in California. Miss Mayer came over here from Germany, where she was
one of the most skillful feminine adepts of the flashing ^{blade.} ~~rap~~ She
had studied thrusting and parrying with the famous maestro, Arturo
Gazzerra. She won seven European women's championships, including
the Olympic ~~championship~~ in Nineteen twenty-nine. She ~~went to~~
went to California to study international law at Scripps College,
and the advent of the Hitler regime persuaded her to stay ^{over here.} Not
being able to find much fencing competition among the California
girls, she went to men's fencing clubs for an occasional bout with
the foils. She defeated every male opponent, and thus automatically
qualified to represent California in the forthcoming men's champion-
ship of the west coast. And that ~~is to~~ raise^s the paradox of a
possible woman men's champion.

The dilemma was placed before the National Fencing officials, and it has them in a ^{dilemma.} ~~quandary~~. There is no rule to cover the case. The best the officials can say right now is that there is an "implied rule", implied in the contradiction of a woman being the best man. The Californians want the dilemma to go through to its paradoxical end. They want Miss Helen Mayer to be entered, just as if she wore trousers instead of skirts, ~~Because~~ she's California's best chance of winning the men's title.

Commonly, the reason why ^{women} ~~men~~ do not compete with men in ^{ship} ~~champion~~ athletics is because the men are supposed to be ^{so} much better-
sure to win. But there's an odd reverse angle in the fencing complication. Fencing authorities say that when a gentleman crosses swords with a lady, he's at a disadvantage. He ~~fences~~ faces a mental hazzard, an emotional handicap. He feels as if he were trying to run a sword through a lady. And if he ^{did} ~~could~~ that, he'd ^{be} ~~be~~ no gentleman. # There certainly are a lot of complications ^{terrestrial life on this planetary ellipsoid.} in ~~the world~~ ^{And here's another} -- the paradox of the hot and the cold.

GLASS

~~And now the hot and the cold.~~ You have to make something hot to make it cold. I heard about that paradox of science this afternoon at a gathering of architects. The conversation turned to a remarkable job of glass-making that's being done, the fabrication of a huge screen of sculptured glass -- a window I suppose you'd call it. It is to decorate the ornate front of the Italian Building in Rockefeller Center.

It was quite natural that the subject should arise, because the architects' reception was being held at the headquarters of the Corning-Steuben Architectural & Glass Works -- the same concern which made the circular screen of sculptured glass that catches the eye in the R.C.A. Building. And that ~~made~~ ~~the~~ ~~lens~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~Mt.~~ ~~Wilson~~ ~~Observatory.~~ ^{gargantuan} the ~~lens~~ ^{telescope} lens for the Mt. Wilson Observatory.

Curiously enough, there is a close relation between that mammoth ^{astronomical} ~~telescope~~ lens and the sculptured glass screen for the Rockefeller Center Italian Building. And the relation is -- making something hot to make it cold.

^{It's} ~~The paradox is~~ explained to me by Arthur ~~Houghton,~~ ~~the~~ head of the ~~Steuben~~ Corning-Steuben ~~glass~~ concern. He told me that

the ~~Rockefeller Center~~ Glass screen was possible only because of the Mt. Wilson telescope lens. The tremendous difficulty in molding a huge body of glass is to get it to cool evenly. If the temperature changes unevenly, it will crack. ~~A~~ ~~Kitchen~~ ~~experience~~ with a drinking glass illustrates this. ~~A mass of~~ glass quite naturally tends to cool first on the outside. That's the trouble. They've got to lower the temperature evenly throughout. And to do this Dr. Hostetter, engineer in charge of ^{the building of} the immense lens, devised a way to heat the outside of the glass by electricity, while the inside is cooling. And thus, by keeping the outside heated by electricity, they are able to cool the whole mass at an even rate.

And they are applying the same system to the great glass screen for Rockefeller Center. It is so thick with sculpture that ~~ix~~ it would crack if they did not put electric heat into it, while cooling it off.

CRIME

When the Department of Justice sometime ago announced its relentless drive against public enemies, an additional note of warning was included. Attorney General Cummings declared that the federal men were determined to kill ~~and~~^{or} capture the big time criminals on the blacklist. Then, that being done, they would start a drive against all the people who were ~~involved~~ involved in sheltering, helping and hiding the crooks.

That threat materialized in a drastic fashion at Dallas, Texas, today. It follows the gun-~~shooting~~^{fire} killing of the desperado Clyde Barrow and his cigar-smoking girl friend, Bonnie Parker, who were ~~shooting~~^{shot} by federal agents some time ago. The government follow-up is that today, at Dallas, a jury in the Federal Court pronounced a verdict of guilty against fifteen of the ^{family and friends of the} outlaw pair. They were charged with conspiracy to harbor fugitives from justice. And even the mothers of the ^{gang man and gang woman} ~~two outlaws~~ are included -- Clyde Barrow's mother and Bonnie Parker's mother, condemned by that verdict of guilty!

I wonder how much of a prison sentence those two women will get for helping their son and daughter? It's one of those cases where common sentiment is in the balance with the sternness of justice.

ROBBER

And there's a court decision in another criminal case that has stirred up a lot of attention -- the trial in Massachusetts of a gang that killed two policemen in a bank hold-up last February. A girl was with them, a girl ^{who should have been of a} ~~usually of the~~ better sort, a minister's daughter. That brought the affair into special prominence.

Today a sentence was handed down by Superior Court Judge Nelson, in the trial of the two men accused of the bank robbery murder. And, it's the extreme penalty -- a mandatory death sentence imposed on Murton Irving Millen and Abe Gaber. The woman in the case is still in jail.

WORK RELIEF

All the newspapers are discussing the possibility of a compromise in the snarl of the Work Relief bill. Naturally all sorts of pressure has been exerted on the lawmakers, both for and against the gigantic four billion eight hundred million dollar proposal, to which the Senate has tied an amendment most unacceptable to the President. The probabilities seem to point to a scaling down of the immense figure. That, they say, is the likely compromise -- scaling down. The figure most plausibly mentioned is a little under two billion dollars, meaning a cut of the original figure by more than half.

The bill is still in the hands of the Senate Committee. The latest word is that the independent Republicans are going to stage a drive to force it to a Senate vote. They've announced they'll pull it out of the committee for a showdown.

The Chairman of the committee is Carter Glass, the fiery senator from Virginia. He says he doesn't mind if the Work Relief bill is pushed out into the open in the Senate -- although he would rather wait until the President returns to Washington from his brief trip to his home in Dutchess County, New York.

STOCK EXCHANGE

I met a red radical recently who took a flaming half hour, denouncing the New York Stock Exchange. Then I met a hard-boiled Conservative who devoted an equally hot half hour to the defense of the country's central financial institution. Both were agreed on a single point -- the influence of the great trading mart. One said it was a bad influence, the other said it was good. Both agreed that it was a big influence.

And that's the key to the wide interest that is being displayed in the latest story from the inner Stock Exchange sanctum -- one of the most prominent brokers on the Exchange calling for a revision of leadership.

It's a headline story of how Edward A. Pierce has come forth with the suggestion that the Wall Street Securities Institution should be headed by a man of the caliber of Calvin Coolidge. His address was made before a meeting of the Exchange Board of Governors -- a secret meeting. No outsiders were present, and only a brief sketch of the proceedings was made public. Today Mr. Pierce

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was kind enough to send me a copy of his address. As I read it, I saw how important to the world of finance those ^{penetrating} ~~Edward~~ Pierce proposals were.

Now, about the call for a Calvin Coolidge ~~wh~~ to head the Stock Exchange. Actually, three men were mentioned -- though not all three by name. ~~This came about in a call for a new set-up in the Stock Exchange leadership.~~ Let me read the passage to you:-

"I felt for years," said Mr. Pierce, "that the Exchange should have a paid President, one who has ~~not any~~ connection with ^{the} New York ~~Stock~~ Exchange or any exchange house. The man should be of unusual type, not a hack politician, not a man of large financial interests.

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"As I told Mr. Whitney (the President of the Exchange), in a conversation some time ago, ^{adds Mr. Pierce,} "I could at that particular moment think of only three men who would have filled the bill -- and of the three men one was dead. I wasn't attempting to be facetious, for ^{Coolidge."} ~~and~~ I had in mind Mr. ~~Coolidge~~ ^{Coolidge.}

No, ^{he} didn't name the other two. Who might they be?

That's something for speculation. You make your guess.

Anyway, that's the behind-the-scene version of ^{the} a new
call for an outsider, a national figure, and not merely a Stock
Exchange figure to head the country's central securities market.

It's along the czar idea, the czar of baseball, the czar of the
movies -- now a Stock Exchange czar. And my domestic

9 1/2 Czarina is waiting for me. So s-l-u-t-m.