

GOOD EVENING EVERYBOYD:

that
Nothing like Los Angeles flood has happened in southern California in sixty years. There's no river of any appreciable size in that part of the country. The so-called Los Angeles River is normally nothing more than a dry arroyo, seldom any water in it. Today it's a raging torrent, with flood waters sweeping over most of the towns in three counties.

According to the latest U.P. bulletin, forty-five people are known to have perished. How many more there may be, nobody can tell. Many of the dead have been crushed by landslides. The property damage so far runs over twenty-five million dollars, a rough guess. The San Fernando Valley is flooded. South of Los Angeles, the Santa Ana River, usually a tiny stream, has broken through its levies and flooded five towns. Those levies had not been tested since

they were built, almost fifty years ago ^{to} ~~diverting~~ the course of the stream.

Anaheim and other nearby communities have been isolated and ^{are} out of communication with Los Angeles, ~~for twenty-four hours.~~

In the last twenty-four hours, ~~more~~ more than six inches of rain have

fallen ^{and} some thirty thousand square miles are inundated, ^{cut-off} ~~almost~~ isolated from the ~~outside~~ world.

Bridges have given way, all over the countryside.

The broad Roosevelt Highway that goes north along the oceanfront

from Santa Monica is ^{blocked by} ~~clogged with~~ landslides. Between Los Angeles

and Venture, traffic is at a ~~complete~~ standstill. ^{And -} The pressure

of the waters ^{even} has ripped up whole sections of pavement in downtown Los Angeles.

The number of homes flooded or isolated in ~~not only~~

Los Angeles, ~~but~~ Santa Ana, Fullerton, Atwood, Riverside, and

other ~~nearby~~ towns, is beyond counting. Ten thousand people are

homeless. The police have broadcast instructions for ^{talks to} ~~people to~~

stay indoors until boat crews can be sent to the rescue. ^{TF} Tragic

stories come from as far away as San ^{Bernadino.} ~~Benedino~~. There won't be any

trans-continental trains going east from southern California for probably two days. The Southern Pacific, running north through the San Joaquin Valley, ^{is} ~~will be~~ out of commission, ~~for three days.~~
Train crews are being brought from as far away as Tucson, Arizona. Not a train will move in or out of Los Angeles in any direction before tomorrow ~~morning.~~ Half a dozen trains ~~are stalled on the line.~~ But they all have ~~diners and the passengers are comfortable,~~

And then we hear the usual grim tale that accompanies flood stories -- looting. ~~The rains began to subside late today and heartless miscreants started their dastardly work.~~ Guards had to be stationed around abandoned homes and stores.

Surprising news comes also from Nevada. The Amargosa River is normally dry wash in the arid desert east of Death Valley. But rains in the countryside around Tonopah have fallen in such volume that ^{even} the Amargosa tonight is a torrent a hundred yards wide.

KIDNAP

At New Rochelle, a man has sixty thousand dollars ready - a father prepared to pay ransom for his twelve year old boy. All he wants is for the kidnapers to set the time and the way of payment. The Levine boy has been missing for seven days now, and that automatically brings the case under the jurisdiction of the G-men - after seven days, that's the law. Yet they say that the G-men won't do much, not for the moment. They'll hold back until the father has had every possible chance to pay and get the boy.

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All the facts are focused on the terrifying suspense, the mad anxiety. It's the old hideous story of snatching. Public opinion is so aroused that a bill ^{has just been} ~~was~~ introduced into the State Legislature at Albany, authorizing Governor Lehman to post a ten thousand dollar reward for the catching of the kidnapper.

NAVY

Those navy hearings before the House Committee have lasted for a month. What has been the result of all that testimony and expert opinion about fleets and ships and guns and planes? The Committee handed down its report - okay, putting its approval on the billion dollar bill for a bigger navy. The vote was overwhelming - twenty to three, in favor of providing the navy with forty-six new warships and nine hundred and fifty new fighting planes. The Committee drafted an amendment concerning policy. The amendment declares for a policy of two coast defense - a navy to protect both our Atlantic and our Pacific shores at the same time. This may mean still more money for the navy - because Admiral Leahy testified that a two-coast fleet would take three billion dollars to build.

Chairman Vinson said that he ^{would} add another qualification to the bill, a policy declaring that the American fleet is to be used for defense only, mind our own business. It will not have the idealistic purpose of ~~being~~ policing the world and making the world safe for democracy.

So now the House Committee on Naval Affairs has taken its action and the big Navy Bill goes to the floor of the House for debate, which will provide some more fireworks.

JIMMY

One bit of news today brings memories of the Spanish American War, the exploits of the one and only Theodore Roosevelt.

As you ^{know} ~~may have heard~~ Uncle Sam's Navy is going through ~~the~~ ^{its} usual annual manoeuvres. ~~They're taking place not only~~ ^{Both} in the Pacific but ^{and} ~~also~~ in the Atlantic. ~~One part of them on the~~ ^{Today there} ~~Atlantic side~~ ^{— an attack} was a sham attack by the Marines on Puerto Rico.

The principal man-of-war engaged was the flagship NEW YORK. It landed the Marines on a sandy beach at Point Cuchara. ^{And—} Leading the Marines, up to his waist in water was a ^{distant} cousin of the great ~~Rx~~ T.R., Lieutenant-Colonel James Roosevelt.

ISLANDS

~~There's a mighty curious bit of gossip current around~~
~~official Washington today.~~ For years the American dogma has been:
the U.S.A.
~~Uncle Sam~~ has all the territory ^{it} ~~he~~ needs. In fact, ^{wants} ~~we're even going~~
to get rid of the Philippines, ^{as soon as possible.} ~~eight years from now, unless there's~~
~~a tremendous upheaval in public opinion.~~ Nevertheless, we hear
today that ^{Sam is much} ~~Uncle~~ ^{is exceedingly} interested in certain islands in
the South Pacific. ^{Not that Uncle wants any more} ~~He doesn't need them in order to have more~~
~~land.~~ They would probably be highly unprofitable, ~~actually an~~
~~expense.~~ So what's it all about? The answer is, airplane bases.
^{It develops} ~~It came to light~~ that the geographical experts of the
State Department have been studying ^{certain} ~~those~~ islands for a long time.
There have been notes exchanged between Uncle Sam and John Bull
on the subject. ^{For} ~~It seems~~ the sovereignty of several ~~of those~~
~~islands~~ is in question. Most of them are in the groups known as
the the Phoenix, Gilbert and Ellice. ^{Some} ~~A great many of them~~ are even
marked red on British maps; ~~They are~~ Claimed for King George.
But historically speaking, it seems that a number of them were
discovered by American skippers from Massachusetts and Nantucket,
pioneers in the whaling industry. However, it has been the doctrine

of the United States ~~government~~ in time past that lands belonged
to the countries that ~~are~~ occupying and using ^{the} them, rather than
to those who claim ^{them by} ~~their~~ discovery.

RUSSIA

Proceedings in the Moscow courtroom today corrected one anomaly, rectified something that was too strange and unheard of. Last evening we heard the astonishing news that one of the twenty-one defendants on trial for their lives said - "Not guilty." ~~He refused to confess.~~ When an enemy of Stalin faces his doom and fails to accuse himself of all the terrific crimes charged against him - that is news. Today, that was straightened out.

(The twenty-one former Bolsheviks of high rank took their places in the dock. And all eyes were fixed on a drab little middle-aged man - Nicholas Krestinsky, one-time Ambassador to Germany and afterward Assistant-Commissar of Foreign Affairs.) The spectators at the death drama were hungry for further novelty. Yesterday they had their fill of astonishment, when amid the chorus of "Guilty," "Guilty", "Guilty", Krestinsky cried - "Not guilty." The same thing was expected today. All were agog. But all were disappointed. The merciless Bolshevik prosecutor assailed the prisoner with savage accusing words. This time Krestinsky cringed and quaked.

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Today he wailed: "Under the pressure of shame and also because of illness, I said I was not guilty. But now I plead completely guilty to all my crimes." Whereupon, he babbled on in one of those abject confessions,) accusing himself of political crimes that mean death in Sovietland. What changed him from yesterday? You can make your own guess. - ^WWhat induced him to change his plea overnight? That question climaxes the weird, gruesome problem of OGPU confessions.

The proceedings today before the Soviet court feature ^d the name that Stalin hates so much: - Trotsky. There was a fantastic high spot when one defendant confessed that he and others had plotted to kill Stalin and a couple of topmost Stalin leaders.

There was a sensation in the testimony about the mention of - Great Britain. One of the former Soviet leaders confessed that he and his companions had schemed with British agents to overthrow the Soviet government - Britain to benefit thereby.

But all in all, the incessant accusation was -

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Trotskyism. And that's what brings the doom of death - to belong to the faction of the one-time war lord of the Red army, who was a companion of Lenin.

Today's proceedings shed some light on the case of Henry Yagoda, one-time chief of the Ogpu. ~~eyes at~~ ^{also} the trial are on Bukharin, the famous old Bolshevik chief who one time was regarded as Lenin's heir.) But Yagoda sits in the dock, a figure of even stranger fascination. As chief of the Red-handed-Ogpu, the blood-reeking-secret-police, he doomed thousands. What was his crime against Stalin, while he was executing his prisoners? Today Yagoda made a confession that he knew about the Trotskyist scheme of the other defendants. His own Ogpu agents ferreted out their machinations, and reported to him. But he suppressed the information, connived with the Trotskyists, and made no move against them.

(Alexei Rykov, who was a member of the first cabinet of the U.S.S.R., told of a plot to seize the Kremlin itself, storm into that sanctuary of Bolshevism, and there arrest Stalin.)

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That conspiracy was formed in Nineteen Thirty-Three and Four, but nothing happened. Just an item of a Communist confession.

NIEMOELLER

seems to be
There ~~is~~[^] no end to the hard luck of the Reverend Martin Niemoeller, ~~the~~[^] fighting German parson. Technically, he was released yesterday. Today, he was arrested again. *Although* ~~that~~[^] isn't what the Nazis call it. The official definition is that Paster Niemoeller ~~was~~[^] *has been* taken into "protective custody."

The explanation is that the authorities were alarmed by Niemoeller's attitude during his *the trial* ~~trial~~[^], which ended yesterday. His words and his tone led them to believe that the minute he was set free he would continue preaching just as he had done before. ~~he was imprisoned.~~ *today* As the official spokesman [^] said to the foreign newspaper men: "Niemoeller intends to resume activities hostile to the state, therefore, he is taken into custody in order to protect him from attack by zealous Nazis! Loyal Hiterlerites," says the spokesman, "are indignant because Paster Niemoeller received such a light sentence."

SPAIN

Non-intervention in Spain crops up again, this time in a most serious tone. After months of stalling, the European powers seem to be in earnest. There's talk about finally evacuating ~~these~~ ^{the} so-called foreign volunteers who have been fighting Spain's battles on both sides. There was a meeting between French, British and Italian diplomats. And, strange as it may sound, they arrived at an agreement. They set a figure, estimating the number of those volunteers tentatively at ten thousand.

The British suggestion is that commissions be appointed from all countries to supervise the removal of those foreign fighters. And it is understood ~~that~~ Germany is ready to accept. However, there's one string to it. It all depends on Soviet Russia.

FUNICULAR

~~in~~ In the mountains of New Hampshire, ~~the~~ State engineers are nearly through with their work on an undertaking which ~~is sure to~~ ^{will} mean much to the New Englanders ~~of~~ those parts. A great cable has been carried up the side of Cannon Mountain, up and up over the pine forests. Every day baskets are swinging up that cable way, and soon they ~~are~~ will be transporting passengers ~~x~~ from the valley near Franconia, New Hampshire, to the ~~x~~ top of Cannon Mountain, ^{— a ride} by air-line ^{of} more than a mile and a half, [—] on foot a climb that takes hours. ~~#~~ Passengers on this New England ~~teleferica~~ teleferica will be ^h whisked up the mountain in almost no time. ~~#~~ The State of New Hampshire expects to ^{carry} ~~give~~ thousands and thousands of visitors over this scenic cable-way during the summer, and more thousands of skiers in the winter. And, from the top of Cannon Mountain ~~you~~ on skis you can go racing down a number of superb ^{runs} ~~trails~~ such as the Taft Trail and the Copper Mine trail, right across the valley from Peckett's ^{and} ~~at~~ Sugar Hill.

There are quite a number of these cable-ways in Europe, especially in the Italian, Swiss and Austrian Alps,

^{to}
~~that will~~ enable skiers to spend most of their time skiing

instead of most of it climbing laboriously ~~up~~ on the ⁱⁿ seal

skins. This cable ^{way} ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ no doubt will make the

region around Franconia, Cannon Mountain and Sugar Hill

more of a skiing mecca than ever. ^π Why ~~I~~ talked about skiing? That question was put to me by [^] ~~said~~ Jacqueline Cochrane, Mrs. Floyd Odum. ~~to me today~~

America's Number One Air Woman ~~reminds~~ reminded me that this

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^{theoretically} is March and winter is over. But, ^{strange as it may seem} ~~the fact remains that~~

^{to some of you right now} ~~this~~ is the peak of the season for skiers. In the White

Mountains, the Green Mountains, ~~and~~ the Adirondacks and

the Laurentians, the snow invariably is better for skiing

during March and early April than at any other time.

Delightful sunny days, and granular ^(corn) ~~is~~ snow. ^{So wax up} ~~So don't put~~

your skis ~~away~~ and let's go!

^{8 1/2} But wait a moment, before you go here's a startling New England item: -

ROMANCE

rather, a pleasant

that

~~A nice~~ tale of sentiment, came to light in New York today.:-

Eight years ago, a young man from Maine took a bus ride, met an attractive girl, married her. The attractive girl had three sisters, the bridegroom had three brothers. ^{And - lo and behold} The three brothers all married the three sisters-in-law.

That sounds like multiple romance enough for any one family. But that isn't the end of the story. In the fullness of time, the father of those four brothers, cocked a sentimental eye at the ^{widow} mother of the four sisters. ~~Result?~~ Result? Yes, they were married too. And today all ten of them came to New York from the rock-bound coast of Maine, ^{came} for a little celebration. ^{While} Dan Cupid ~~rests from his arduous labors and while seems to have worked overtime in that family.~~

I say s-l-u-t-m.

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RETAKE

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