

L.T. - Wed. Jan. 23rd '35

Cowan
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The biggest storm story of the day is provided for us by the Father of Waters, Old Man River. ~~It's a~~ tale of elemental forces on a wild rampage. The mighty Mississippi has reached out with its swirling waters and surrounded a whole town. ~~down in Mississippi~~

While the blizzard was sweeping, the river flooded suddenly, ~~and~~ ~~rushed~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ joined hands with a smaller tributary, and

rushed a circle of turbulent water around the town of Sledge, ^{Mississippi} ~~that~~ ~~is~~ ~~an~~ ~~island~~ tonight, with all communications down, isolated

from the rest of the world, a thousand people marooned. ^{TP} The Mayor

of Sledge waded through miles of water, got to a telephone, and

told the story. He says the Mississippi is ^{now} thirty miles wide

down there, a sea of water, and ice. At some of the narrow points

it is frozen two inches thick. And he gave warning that the people

were in dire distress, the cotton pickers and ~~gait~~ cotton growers.

There are seven dead, drowned or frozen. Food is running short and

clothing is insufficient for the combination of blizzard and flood.

That was the first word from the flood marooned town.

The Red Cross got immediately on the job and with government boats

broke through the ice and went to the rescue.

Ab

WEATHER

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The blizzard is one of the biggest on record, in area anyway. It has been snowing from Canada to Florida, and from the Atlantic seaboard two-thirds of the way across the continent. The earth is white as far west and south as the Rio Grande Valley. Thousands of cattle are reported frozen to death on Texas Ranges near Dallas. On the Pacific Coast violent gales are lashing the sea and shore. [¶] Under blizzard conditions, transportation is having all sorts of trouble, slowed up everywhere, in some places broken down. The motor clubs of the country are asking me to make a plea to children, asking the youngsters to be careful where they go sledding. So I will just remind any of the small folks who may be listening that it is dangerous to go sliding on streets and highways where automobiles are passing. So, do your sledding in public parks or on highways that are properly guarded for play. ^{The N.Y. ~~Motor Club~~ Auto Club asks me to warn motorists that there is 8 inches of snow all the way from the coast to the middle west.} [¶] Meanwhile, the blizzard brings a boom for many industries - coal companies of course, and manufacturers of anti-freeze solutions for automobiles report a big jump. ^{Also snow trains for skiers.} [^] The cold weather has worked havoc with the fresh vegetable crop in parts of the south. That means a boost in the sale of canned vegetables.

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The Wall Street Journal says that the American Can Company alone is shipping more than thirty-five million cans to the South because of damage by frost to vegetables down there.

PRESIDENT'S BALL

The President's Birthday Ball is rising to "Believe-It-Or-Not" proportions this year. What would you say to fifty thousand people tripping the nimble toe in one single dance in one single place?

I heard about it today when I ran across Lucius Boomer, the hotel man who presides over the destinies of the Waldorf. He told me how many dances have been arranged all over the country by the Henry L. Doherty Committee, in charge of the festivities. The moving spirit is Carl Byoir, the publicity executive. The number of presidential dances that Carl has lined up is already over seven thousand more than last year!

And the biggest will be in Chicago - Fifty thousand people dancing on one floor that night. Where? Why at the Chicago Stockyards Arena, a really immense place. All the great hotels of Chicago, such as the Palmer House, the Stevens, the Blackstone and the Drake will lend their orchestras. A total of twenty-one hotel orchestras will provide the music for the fifty thousand Stockyards fox-trotters.

The nation's feet will shuffle on the President's

PRESIDENT'S BALL - 2

birthday, and an ocean of funds will pour into the coffers of the National fight against Infantile Paralysis.

While we are on the subject of dancing, let me observe that through the windows here at Rockefeller Center the night certainly is white - snow. A blinding blizzard sweeping all day. What have fox-trots to do with snowflakes? Well, when I was talking to Lucius Boomer he said it looked as if the snow man were celebrating in honor of the Snow Ball, one of the year's stellar social functions, to be held tomorrow night. New York's hoity-toity paying homage to the Snow Man. Get in trim for that frosty society stare.

I was asked to say a special hello to one hundred people up in Liverpool, Nova Scotia tonight. But, if it's snowing there - like it is here the Liverpool Committee of one hundred is probably lost somewhere in the Nova Scotia snow drifts, - unless they use Blue Sunoco which push their cars through any drift.

LINDBERGH

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The day at Flemington ~~today~~ closed without the appearance of Hauptmann on the witness stand. The State did not complete its case. That's left over until tomorrow. The complications of expert testimony dragged out from the opening of court until the closing.

The question was raised -- what is a dendrologist? Is there any dendrologist? The dictionary defines dendrology as the science of trees. A dendrologist is an expert concerning trees and wood. And the dendrological reasonings today concern the kidnap ladder.

The defense tried to keep the wood expert, Arthur T. Koehler from testifying, claiming there was no such thing as a wood expert, no such thing as a dendrologist. The contention was that the law does not recognize that particular brand of expertness and expertising. Ex And here one of the defense attorneys who hasn't figured so prominently in the trial, jumped into some well-deserved limelight. Fred Pope astonished the public, the jury, the judge and the witness by displaying a copious knowledge concerning lumber. He knew all about beams and planks. This is

explained by the fact that Pope himself owns a small lumber mill. He's a local ^{new} Jersey attorney, and like so many small-town lawyers, has other business activities on the side.

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There ~~was~~ ^{was} a flair of dendrological science concentrated on the vital prosecution-attempt to connect Hauptmann with the ladder. kidnap ~~letter~~ ^{ax} There were two principal clues. The first was the grain in the wood. If you saw a plank, in two, the grain of one piece will match the grain of the other piece. The police found a piece of board removed from the floor of the attic in Hauptmann's house. This piece of board had been sawed from a longer plank. ^R The grain of the strip of wood removed should match the grain of the strip that remained in the floor. The prosecution claims that the strip removed was used in making the kidnap ladder. And the expert today swore that the grain of one of the pieces of board in the ladder matched perfectly the grain in the sawed-off plank in the attic floor. He declared it impossible for two boards to ~~xxx~~ match up so perfectly unless they were merely the same board sawed in two. ^R The second clue was a matter of nail holes. The board removed from Hauptmann's house had been nailed to supports underneath. And it was

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testified that the nail holes in the plank in the ladder corresponded perfectly with the nail holes in the attic. It was pointed out that one nail had been driven in at a slant. And the slanted nail hole in the ladder-piece matched the slanted nail hole in the attic.

~~The dendrological dendrologist's conclusion is that the State produced some technical testimony tending to connect Hauptmann with the ladder.~~ Then Hauptmann's tool chest was brought into court, and it was testified that when the authorities got hold of it all the tools were in place -- save one, a chisel. A chisel was missing, and a chisel was found near the ladder outside of the Lindbergh home at the time of the kidnapping. Hauptmann's tool chest ~~was~~ contained a set of chisels of all sizes, except the three-quarter inch size. The chisel found on the kidnap scene was ^{of} the three-quarter inch dimension. Moreover the kidnap chisel and the Hauptmann chisels are of the same ~~manufacture~~ manufacture.

The arguments about the ladder will be continued tomorrow but are not expected to last long. The State will undoubtedly close its case fairly early in the day. With virtually

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all the testimony against Hauptmann in. ^{FF} Anybody can see that Attorney General Wilentz has been ^{up} ~~heaping~~ a powerful lot of circumstantial proof. As I see it, the only point of weakness in his case concerns that original ^a ~~question~~:- How could a stranger without special information have gone to a house and kidnapped a child? ^{FF we} They brought witnesses to place Hauptmann in the Lindbergh vicinity just before the kidnapping. ^{But} ~~and~~ there ^{has} ~~been~~ no witness to swear that he asked questions, sought information, acquired any knowledge that would tell him about the layout of the Lindbergh household and the room in which the child was kept. And you can depend upon it that this will be one of the central arguments of the defense.

Meanwhile it's fairly definite that Hauptmann will take the stand tomorrow. And I for one am going down to Flemington to get some first-hand impressions of how this singular stolid character tells his improbable-sounding story ^{and how he} ~~from the witness stand~~ ~~and~~ stands up under cross-examination.

ROBBERY

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The countrywide public enemy hunt has graphically featured the ~~xx~~ federal agents of the Department of Justice. Tonight we find another branch of government detectives joining the manhunt - the Post Office Inspection Service. Post office men are concentrating on Fall River, Massachusetts.

It's all because of that daring robbery ^{today} of a postal truck which was on its way to the Massachusetts mill town with money for payrolls, money to the amount of a Hundred and thirty thousand dollars. That was the loot the bandits were after. The driver of the truck, a veteran of twenty years in the government service, was suddenly confronted by ^{four} masked men ^{in a sedan — and} pointing machine guns. They seized the truck. They tied up and blindfolded the driver, ^{later} and tossed him into the road.

The next word was that the postal truck had been found on the highway between Fall River and Providence. The bandits were gone, and so was the money.

Yes, that insolent slap ^{at} Uncle Sam is enough to send the postal detectives on a hot manhunt. It's an old axiom that the post office is a relentless bloodhound in cases involving the mails.

JAPAN

It looks as if we could announce tonight that the long expected Japanese push against China has definitely begun. Nipponese military forces have advanced, storming into the Province of Chahar, ^{with} ~~and~~ a sudden violent drive. For weeks there have been rumors that the Nipponese high command in Manchukuo was about to begin what they call the third invasion of China. The two previous invasions are reckoned as the seizure of Manchuria and ^{the} further conquest of the adjoining Jehol Province. ^{— or Reho —} The third invasion, of which we now hear, concerns the Chinese province which lies to the west of Manchukuo.

Tokio has for some time been laying ground for an aggressive program, by complaining that bandits from Chahar were raiding Manchukuo. The generals of Japan declare that the Chinese are not able to maintain order in Chahar, and are letting the brigands have their own way.

Today's reports of the invasion do not come from Tokio. Japanese sources are silent. The word comes from China, and tells of a bombardment of Chinese military positions and a series of fierce attacks. Japanese artillery banged away and eight Japanese

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bombing planes dropped their explosive eggs. The offensive movement across the Chahar border was directed against towns held by Chinese garrisons, and it was made with a blasting vigor of full military force.

Of course, it may be nothing more than some sort of punitive military gesture, but there are probabilities that would seem to point to a beginning of a military conquest of still another Chinese province. Chahar is of ~~strategic~~ strategic importance. It thrusts northward like a wedge between Manchukuo and Mongolia, which latter is under Soviet-Russian influence. If the province were ^{annexed} ~~next~~ to Manchukuo, it would put Japan in extensive ~~boundary~~ boundary contact with the great world of central Asia. ^{And} ~~But then~~ Chahar is only sparsely inhabited.

R We hear much about Chinese over-population, not so much about Chinese emptiness. But there are many vast stretches of China almost bare of people, and this province which seems the new theatre of Japanese activity, is one of them.

CHINA

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Here's a Chinese echo of that missionary tragedy, the killing of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Stam by ~~Chinese~~ bandits. Their baby was spared and rescued by Chinese soldiers. Word now comes about the bandit chief who committed the outrage, Chen Wing Chow. After the murder of the two American missionaries, Chen Wing Chow and his outlaws were attacked by government troops. The bandit chief was wounded. He was carried away by his brigand gang. Now the report is that he died of his wounds, and the Chinese authorities have found his grave. In Oriental fashion, they have dug him up and hung his head on a pole in the public place, as a warning to other bandits.

There is an echo too of that baby saved from the bandits, now in care of its grandparents. Hundreds of letters have been received from people who want to adopt the child, but the old grandparents answer: "We are going to keep our most prized possession."

WHEAT

Thirty-five years ago, in Nineteen hundred, Benito Mussolini was an obscure young school teacher. In that same year, an Italian professor began to make some experiments with wheat. Today Mussolini, the Dictator, looks to that professor to solve the Italian problem of food for ^{Italy's dense} ~~so large a~~ population.

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The professor, whose name is Strampelli, spent year after year making innumerable tests and tries. He got every sort of wheat known in the world, Japanese varieties, ^{Canadian,} African, [^] American, ^{Argentinian,} Russian. And he crossed and re-crossed the various grains, seeking to create the type of wheat that would be best adapted to the thin poor soil that is found in most parts of the mountainous, rocky ^{Italian} peninsula.

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And they say he has produced something that from this distance looks like an incredible miracle. The magazine "COUNTRY HOME", declares that Professor Strampelli and his assistants have produced the kind of wheat that will ~~grow~~ grow a hundred and thirty-one bushels to the acre. Compared with the average American yield of fourteen bushels an acres - it does sound fantastic.

Nevertheless, the word comes on the soundest authority,

and it may be that Italy will turn into a great wheat producing nation. And furthermore, it is ~~obvious~~ obvious that a hundred and thirty-one-bushel-an-acre of wheat would create something

of an economic revolution all over the world. I'd like to try that crop on that wild mountain ranch of mine in Colorado - a ranch that has always been in the red. If I could get 131 bushels per acre of anything to grow out there where the coyote yodels I'd start on my travels again and it would be more than s-l-u-t-m.

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