

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The weather has been playing funny pranks in the east. In New York City again today there was almost a heat wave. Yesterday went on record as the hottest February Nineteenth since the Weather Bureau began to keep records.

But northern New York State, snow, heavy winds, drifts, snow plows on the main highways, crossroads blocked. Last night I left Mount Tremblant and Lac Mercier in the Laurentians in a blizzard. Today in western New York floods; families marooned, creeks and rivers overflowing their banks, streets under water in several towns. At one point the waters almost reached the disastrous flood level of Nineteen Thirty-Five. At Frankfort, New York, a wall of water eight feet high choked with masses of ice and logs, made a trap for some W.P. A. men who were working in the creek-bed repairing damage caused by the floods of last spring. The eight foot wall of water suddenly rushed down upon them. All thirty-five had a narrow escape, twelve were caught and carried a hundred yards by the torrent before they were rescued.

RAILROAD

Here's a rather pathetic item of railroad news. Many people can remember the days when American railroads in their heyday were being attacked as octopuses, oppressors of the poor, and other epithets in that vein. Nowadays, we are constantly hearing of urgent appeals not only from people ~~who~~ but from entire regions of the United States which run: "Please don't take our railroads away from us!"

Such a delegation appeared today in the Federal Court of New York City. The court had been considering reorganization proceedings connected with the New York, Ontario and Western Railway Company. The line has been bankrupt almost two years. And today the representatives of no fewer than forty communities, in two New York counties, asked the court to do ~~everything~~ everything that could possibly be done to prevent the abandonment of ~~that~~^a line.

CHAIN STORES

There was a setback today to the movement which aims to curb and cripple ~~the~~ chain stores in Pennsylvania. While Ex-Governor George Earle was running the Little New Deal in the Keystone State, his legislature slapped a heavy tax on chain stores. It imposed taxes running from one dollar to five hundred dollars a unit on stores, theatres, ^{and} gasoline stations. It never was in force. The law was practically a dead letter. Most of the chains operating in Pennsylvania got injunctions.

Today the Court of Dauphin County, which means Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, declared that the law was unreasonable, arbitrary, capricious. And said the court further: "It was without any natural, reasonable or just relation to the purposes of the act."

The avowed purpose ~~of it~~ was to raise one and a half millions a year to increase the salaries of teachers, ^{but really to} cripple the chain stores.

LYNCH

Another stormy petrel has flown back into ~~the~~ congressional territory. That's the Anti-Lynching Bill ^{which} ~~that~~ aroused so much anger at the last session of Congress. This time it comes in different form. It's introduced by Republican Senator Barber of New Jersey. Barber declares his measure differs from the one offered to the last Congress, doesn't contain the ~~objectionable~~ features to which many southern senators objected.

TAFT

It's usually interesting when a brand new United States Senator makes his maiden speech. It's particularly interesting when he bears a historic name and has been loudly ~~talked~~ talked of as presidential stuff. Young Senator Robert Taft of Ohio made his debut as a speaker today. And he picked the Tennessee Valley Authority for his target.

One of Taft's first steps as United States Senator was to join the bloc that's working for economy. That's why he picked on the T.V.A. today. In the bill to appropriate money for Independent Offices, there's an item of four million, seven hundred and six thousand dollars to build a T.V.A. dam near Dayton, Tennessee. Taft of Ohio is agin it. Also, a dam at Gilbertsville in Kentucky, to cost twelve and a half millions. ~~The ears were pricked up in the upper House when the new Senator from Ohio declared: "Sooner or later we're going to have to dismiss the organization of the Tennessee Valley Authority."~~ And he added: ~~"We might as well start~~

DEFENSE

Senator Gerald Nye of North Dakota was on the warpath ^{again} today, on the warpath against war. He believes that selling American airplanes and motors to foreign powers will inevitably bring us into conflicts that are none of our business. So today he offered a bill which, if his colleagues pass it, will restrict the selling of American-made aircraft to foreign powers.

Meanwhile, high ranking officers of our army and navy were urging that we should catch up with the procession in the matter of air defense. For instance, Major General Arnold, Chief of the Army Air Corps, ~~he~~ said that the plight of France and England today is due to the fact that they began to arm too late. And he added: "Let us not make that mistake. We must ~~benefit~~ bear in mind that much time is required to build up an air force."

Rear Admiral Cook, Chief of the Naval Bureau of Aeronautics, says we need more air bases onshore. That's the chief necessity of naval aviation, he declared.

BALDWIN FOLLOW DEFENSE:

A recognized authority on military affairs joins the Congressmen who are protesting against ~~these terrific~~ increases in ^{the} ~~our~~ armament bill. Hanson ~~vs~~ Baldwin, formerly of the United States Navy, and former Military and Naval Correspondentⁿ of the NEW YORK TIMES, agrees that, as he puts it, "We must not create a huge military machine for which we have little or no ^{need.} ~~means.~~" On the other hand, he declares, "We must maintain a resonable and useful defense establishment, geared to our strategical and geographical necessities."

He writes ^{is} ~~that~~ in an article called ~~"Our Shield is Our Defense"~~ in the March issue of THE COMMENTATOR. ~~He adds that,~~ "We don't need conscription, we don't need a two-ocean fleet, we don't need tremendous numbers of planes," ^{says he} ~~and he~~ ^{adding:} ~~says further,~~ "To the average man air power means bombs crashing about his home." And Baldwin adds: ~~"We don't want that to happen here. But building four thousand or six thousand planes isn't going to stop it."~~

→ "What we do need," ~~he says,~~ is to repair the present weaknesses in our armed service. Also we need a strengthened war industry back of the man behind the guns, including an aircraft industry capable of turning out great numbers of planes rapidly."

DOPE

For several years now we've been hearing charges that the Japanese government was silently conniving at the trafficking in deadly narcotics, dope. ~~if you prefer.~~ Commissioner Anslinger, head of the New York Narcotics Bureau of Uncle Sam's Treasury, gave evidence before a congressional committee about it. The Japanese government, he says, has definitely failed to cooperate with Uncle Sam in handling dope smugglers. To be sure, the Japanese police do arrest the dealers from time to time. But when they're brought to trial, these international dope peddlers get a sentence of two months in jail. And, said Commissioner Anslinger: "Conditions in Chinese areas under Japanese control are growing increasingly worse."

BUND

(There's irony in a party that is to be held in New York City tonight, a mass meeting at Madison Square Garden. ~~It's~~ a gathering of the ^{German} ~~Deutsche~~ America Bund, the organization that wants to Hitlerize ^{the} ~~our~~ United States.)

~~Now~~ The announcement of that meeting has aroused the ire of ~~all~~ the anti-Nazis. There were protests to the mayor's office against permitting such a meeting. But the ~~reply~~ reply from the Acting Mayor was that "to stop a meeting of Un-American people by force would be ~~just as~~ Un-American ["] ~~as they themselves."~~ So many threats have been heard that New York's Police Commissioner Valentine has made the most spectacular preparations to preserve the peace. The ~~X~~ ^M will be on hand in the neighborhood of Madison Square Garden tonight, twelve hundred uniformed patrolmen, a hundred and twenty sergeants, one hundred plain clothes detectives of the bomb squad, the criminal alien^s squad and the borough squad, fifty mounted men, five mounted sergeants, two motorcycles, three patrol~~ment~~s wagons, one sound truck, one two-way radio car, five captains, one chief inspector, one commissioner -- Valentine himself. — and all the newsreel cameramen in town.

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~~All these~~
A coppers will be there to protect the rights of
free speech of an organization whose unofficial slogan is that "this
country is run by fools and we're going to take it over and run it
according to Hitler's ideas!"

And here, by the way, is a public appeal from Newbold Morris,
Acting Mayor of New York. Says he: "The best way to show your
support of democratic institutions is to shun that meeting as one
shun
would a pestilence."
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SPAIN

The Spanish Civil War simmers down this week to a diplomatic chess game, a chess game with a stalemate. Nationalist Generalissimo Franco reiterates his demand, "Unconditional surrender!!" The defeated Republican government replied: "We'll surrender if you promise amnesty."

There was a report in Paris today that the French government would soon recognize Franco, as soon as several minor points are cleared up. Republican President Azana still refuses to return to Madrid and repeats what he said before to his colleagues and his people. That is, "surrender on the best terms you can get." As soon as France recognizes Franco, pathetic Azanya will consider that his service as President is at an end and he'll retire to the Alps, a private citizen once more.

LONDON

Here's the highlight in ^{the} foreign news ^{tonight.} Mussolini has sent thirty thousand reinforcements to his army in Libya. This was revealed today in the British House of Commons. There had been a big to-do, wild rumors that the ^b [^] Lyban garrison had been strengthened by as many as sixty thousand extra soldiers. So the British ambassador in Rome, Lord Perth, placed a formal question and received a formal reply, "not sixty thousand but thirty thousand."

RUSSIA

About every month we hear a fresh report that Japan has a chip on her shoulder and is just waiting for the Soviet Russian Bear to knock it off. A fresh rumor was added to the list today. The Mikado's armies ~~are~~ digging in along the Siberian frontier. ~~They're~~ **B**uilding a huge chain of underground defenses just like the famous Maginot Line of France on the German border. This Japanese Maginot Line will run from Kalgan north to Dolonor, facing Outer Mongolia, which ~~of course~~ is under Soviet control. They're building a similar line along the Amur River, the boundary between Manchukuo and Russian Siberia.

PERU

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That revolution in Peru ^winds up, in the language of Broadway, as a complete floppo. The score is three killed, including the leader of the rebellion, General Rodriquez, Minister of the Interior. Six others were wounded, three of them civil guards. In ~~the~~ Peruvian ^{prisons} ~~sneezers~~ are several army officers and civillians.

McCALL

At ten o'clock this morning, a young man in Florida was to have died in the electric chair. Franklin Pierce McCall, the kidnapper of five year old Jimmy Cash, had been convicted and sentenced to execution. He had even eaten his last breakfast, bacon and eggs, toast and coffee. As he swallowed his ~~last~~ ^{final} mouthful of coffee the superintendent of the prison appeared outside his cell, and said: "You don't die today, the Governor postponed it until Friday."

McCall walked to his cot and lay down. But in a few minutes he heard a sound that made him shudder. ~~It was~~ ^{The} sound of footsteps marching ~~past~~ ⁺ his cell, the death procession taking another murderer to the execution chamber. That unfortunate was a poet who had made a suicide pact with his wife, killed her and their two children, and then got cold feet on his end of the bargain. As that ~~dismal~~ ^{dismal} procession passed his door, Franklin Pierce McCall hid his head ~~under~~ ⁱⁿ his arm.

Governor Cone of Florida explained his action in postponing the execution, ^{of the kidnapper, said} it was done to give ~~his~~ counsel time to appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States.

FATHER

A carpenter in Chicago named Louis Walter, was divorced from his wife. The woman was given the custody of their little daughter. As the little girl grew up, the mother told her that father was dead. When the little girl asked what was father like, what did he do, what did he die of, mother refused to reply.

That divorce happened forty years ago. The little girl, forty-six years old today, went to look for her father's grave.

Her husband and her twenty-one year old son went with her. She

could find no grave ~~in the family burial plot~~ marked with her

in the family burial plot.
father's name. So she asked the superintendent of the cemetery.

he:-
Said ~~the superintendent~~ "What name? Louis Walter?" Then he
building
pointed to a ~~plot~~ nearby and replied: "Why, Louis Walter lives there at the ~~German~~ Old Peoples Home."

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And there indeed it was that Mrs. Elsie Petersen met ~~him~~ for the first time in forty years her seventy-seven year old father. And the aged man told her: "Your mother often used to carry you past my carpenter shop after our divorce. But she never ~~x~~ stopped, never let me see you."

BURGLAR

Here's a story of an enterprising burglar in New York City.

This item caught my eye while my head was full of the Gilbert and Sullivan ditty from THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE ^{as sung by the} ~~that I heard by the~~

D'Oyly Carte ~~Opera~~ Company. ~~the other evening.~~ You know, the verse

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that runs,

"When the enterprising burglar 's not aburglar'ing,

He loves to hear the little brook agurgling."

The enterprising burglar in this piece of news heard ~~more~~ more than brooks agurgling. ~~Though enterprising, he was not what you might call a judgmentic burglar.~~ He ~~had~~ picked for the exercise of his art an apartment occupied by two young ladies. One of them screamed as the enterprising burglar climbed through the window. The other one, twenty-one year old Miss Fay Gillis, wasted no time screaming. She took up a chair and bounced it off the burglar's head. Then she jumped at him, ~~tore~~ tore several handfuls of hair out of his head, at which the burglar started to run. He ran to the accompaniment of well placed kicks that ^{Fay} ~~Miss~~ Gillis administered from behind. When the police came, they found the burglar quivering, terrified, on the roof. He surrendered to the cops with much relief, saying, "Thank ^{the Lord} ~~God~~ you've come."

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