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This has been the hottest May 8th on the Weather Bureau's record, in these parts, but there's a big blizzard in southern Colorado. The temperature climbed to a warm and sultry peak of eighty-seven here in the East; while the town of Trinidad, Colorado, is isolated tonight by tremendous snowdrifts. The icy white fall of the blizzard has blanketed the Rockies with a gleaming coat of deep winter - not so unusual out there. I've often seen a five or six foot snow fall in the high Rockies of Colorado in May - occasionally in June. But that's the weather contrast for tonight -- together with heavy ~~xixx~~ rains in the dust bowl. Throughout the immense zone of the dry storms, heavy ~~xixx~~ rain fell today, to turn the dust bowl into a sea of mud.

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The President's new plan for increasing employment follows simple lines of reasoning. It calls for an expansion of Private industry to create new jobs. That's a sweeping generality, but the President looks into the matter with more precision. Some industries have more likely possibilities for expansion than others. Some seem better suited for a program of growth and development, and these will be selected for expansion. Mr. Roosevelt announced this today, after a series of conferences with big industrialists like Owen D. Young and Walter P. Chrysler.

He pointed to two lines of business as examples of industries that seem to be susceptible of expansion. One of these - railroad equipment. Railroads need a lot of new material, there's a chance for manufacturers to do plenty of business in providing it. The trouble is, what will the railroads use for money - now that sea shells are no good and we've run out wampus? The President says the problem is to reform the financial set-up of the railroads, so that they'll have cash to work with - without the government pouring any more money into them.

The second industry the President mentioned is - housing. That's a pet Roosevelt idea anyway. Today the President

revealed ~~that~~ ^{is} ~~was~~ thinking along housing lines. He told newspapermen of a conversation he had with Walter P. Chrysler, who made the remark that an automobile which a manufacturer can sell for six hundred dollars, would cost thirty-five hundred for a private machine shop to build - ^{---illustrating} the economy of mass production. And that's what's needed in the housing industry, said the President. It is people with low incomes that need their homes improved, mass production methods would cut the cost for them, so that they could buy.

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The unemployment problem looms more and more as a dominating issue in the campaign. Jobs will be the rallying cry as the two candidates battle down the stretch - and maybe I should say the dozen candidates! ^π Don't think the Republicans and Democrats are the only people out to win the presidency this fall. There's a whole string of candidates - including the usual oddities, like the Columbus, Ohio, lawyer, Olin Ross, who calls himself the Demothenes of the American bar, ~~and~~ ^{and} He's out to become the Demothenes of the White House.

The magazine, NEWS WEEK, gives us a spicy biography of

presidential candidate Willard Rounds of Great Falls, Montana.

"The major highlights of his record," declares the periodical, "are three convictions for bootlegging.

Then there's the candidate who styles himself "the most progressive man in the world." Also - "the financial giant of the United States." David Sherman Beach, of Bridgeport, Connecticut, seventy-five years old. Here's his platform: "One centralized government, all voters to own one share of stock in U. S. Incorporated. I'll run the government," he promises, "Like a bank, and pay dividends." Candidate Beach concludes his campaign proclamation with these modest words. "I am the last survivor," says he, "the last survivor of the big three, Washington, Lincoln and Beach."

One of the most interesting platforms of this presidential year, is - the covered sugar bowl. Roland Casad being the apostle of that idea. He claims that sugar bowls without covers get dust in the sweetening, ~~xx~~ which is un-sanitary. He promises that if he is elected president, this will become a nation of covered sugar bowls. He is a rancher

out west, where they used to have covered wagons.

And of course General Coxey is running, the general who led that march to Washington those many years ago. He's a perennial candidate. Now at eighty-two he's out again for the presidency; touring the midwest in a truck and financing his campaign by selling patent medicine. If you buy his medicine you'll cure your personal ills, and if you elect him president you'll sure the ills of the nation. He says his election in a cinch.

ZEPPELIN

Six A.M. is an early hour for most New Yorkers, but ^{Ill}
^{bet hundreds of}
~~But~~ thousands will be up to get a glimpse of the giant silver
cigar that will float across the sky. There's so much interest
in the arrival of the HINDENBURG, that American Airlines is flying
a special service between Newark Airport and Lakehurst, where the
greatest of all airships will tie up to the Navy mooring mast
tomorrow.

The broadcast from the Zeppelin today was quite an
event - the first full musical program ever radioed from an
~~dirigible~~ airship on a trans-Atlantic flight - with a famous pianist
playing Chopin and N.B.C. flashing the ^{be} tingle of sweet sounds
through the ether.

The HINDENBURG ran into a storm, but that ~~seemed to be~~
seemed to be as much of a help as a hindrance. She bucked a forty
mile gale, amid drenching rain. Dr. Eckener, her skipper, radioed ^d
that in half an hour of drenching tempest, ^{the} ~~a~~ huge expanse of fabric
of the HINDENBURG took up five tons of water. That was drained
into the ship's ballast tanks. Dr. Eckener explains that the
HINDENBURG needed some extra ballast to take the place of fuel
that had been burned. So the storm and downpour were something of a
blessing in disguise.

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ADD ZEPPELIN

Sitting at luncheon today, here in Rockefeller Center, sixty-five floors above the city, we were discussing the voyage of the giant new zeppelin. And Frank Mason, one of the Vice-Presidents of the National Broadcasting Company, remarked how many of our friends happen to be on board: newspapermen such as Webb Miller, Karl von Weigand, and so on. But, I have one friend on there who is making the voyage for a reason that may interest you. Flying in zeppelins seems to be the favorite form of relaxation for the explorer, Sir Hubert Wilkins. Some years ago, after a hazardous expedition in the Antarctic, flying over uncharted coasts, filling in blank spaces on the map, just as a holiday, a complete rest from his Antarctic journey, Sir Hubert joined Dr. Eckener on the Graf Zeppelin, and flew around the world.

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Recently Wilkins again returned from the ^{Ant.} Arctic where he had been associated with Lincoln Ellsworth. He stayed in this country only a few days, caught a fast boat, and hurried to Germany in order to board the Hindenburg for its first flight across the Atlantic.

Sir Hubert will arrive just in time to join the Explorers of America in honoring his colleague, Lincoln Ellsworth, next Tuesday evening, at a great banquet at the Waldorf. ^{Ellsworth} ~~He~~ will receive the Explorers Club Gold Medal. Most of the famous travelers of this country will be there, men such as Isaiah Bowman, President of Johns Hopkins, and former head of the American Geographical Society; Stefansson; ex-President Hoover; Doctor Eckener; and a long string of Polar fliers, including Sir Hubert Wilkins, Harold June, Dean Smith, and Captain McKinley.

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ETHIOPIA

54

Today ⁱⁿ the Ethiopian affair is of less interest than tomorrow. Yet, a couple of weeks ago, the fall of Harar, the southern capital, would have made big headlines. Now it's merely a belated replica on a smaller scale of the capture of Addis Ababa. Once more we have the spectacle of a city flying into riot, flames and anarchy, as the Italians close in. ~~on them~~. General Graziani's army had mighty little fighting to do in taking the city toward which they had been battling their way for so long. ^{So} The fall of Harar, completing the last flourish of conquest, comes as an épilogue and anti-climax.

The event scheduled for tomorrow gets more attention - Mussolini's formal announcement of the annexation of Ethiopia. There are hints of his proclaiming something exceedingly spectacular. One report is that he will declare the King of Italy to be also Emperor of Ethiopia. Another version is that he will declare that the Kingdom of Italy now becomes the Italian Empire. More spectacular still is the supposition that he will call it - Roman Empire, a revival of the imperial power of the Caesars.

~~Meanwhile, European diplomacy has turned an astonishing~~

AUSTRALIA

Webb Waldron, novelist, editor and traveler, sends me a bit of interesting information from the Antipodes. Webb says:-

"Australia is booming. Sydney and Melbourne look like New York and Chicago in their peak years -- streets humming, buildings going up everywhere."

That's all. No details. I'm passing it along because I thought some of you would be interested to know that Australia is flourishing.

JAPAN

25
A surprising thing happened in Tokyo today, though in any other country than Japan it would have been fairly ordinary - a criticism of the army. The warlords of the Island Empire have been riding so high that they have been immune from attack in parliament. But today, in the Japanese Diet, a member arose and gave the military machine a tongue-lashing with all the fluent resonance of the Japanese language. Tadao Saito denounced the army for playing politics, and pointed out that when the warlords start interfering with affairs of government, they are likely to use force to gain their ends. And he gave the generals a solemn warning, telling them they'd better not exhaust the patience of the Japanese people. It was a bold thing to do, and it got a cheer from the assembled parliament.

This may be taken as an indication that the militarists have been weakened in the long run by that outbreak of terrorism which the young army fanatics staged several months ago. And here's another indication that may point in the same direction.

The Japanese ~~word~~ "^{Manchukuo}Lawrence of ~~Arabia~~" has been recalled ^{to Tokyo} ~~from~~ ~~Manchukuo~~, Major General Kenji Doihara. He has been the guiding

hand, the master-mind behind the scenes - in Japan's campaign to grasp control of north China. He has been a secret player in the imperial game, something of a mystery man, which was enough I suppose to justify nicknaming him after Lawrence of Arabia.

It seems that General Doihara over-reached himself in that attempt some months ago to grab the northern provinces. The local Chinese authorities were ready to yield to the power of Tokyo and the Mikado, when they discovered that the whole thing was really the doing ~~of~~ and the initiative of one man. A one-man attempt to seize an empire as big as France and Germany put together. That's what bucked them up to make a last minute refusal. So, the Japanese grab only half succeeded.

General Doihara is credited with stage-managing the job of bringing Henry Pu Yi, the one-time boy Emperor of China, to Manchukuo, and having him made Emperor there. Another exploit of his was the rescue of a dominant Chinese official, fixing it for him to escape from Peiping to Tientsin, in a laundry basket.

Now, the "Japanese Lawrence" has been - promoted.

He becomes a Lieutenant-General and is assigned to the staff

at Tokyo. And China is breathing a sigh of relief.

LAWS

57

Scarface Al Capone - trying to get out of Alcatraz! But it's no desperate attempt at a prison break. The one-time lord of the Chicago underworld is trying to crawl out of America's Devils Island through a loophole in the law. They are often tricky and ingenious - those legal technicalities. ~~But~~ In this case we have one that amounts to a mere verbal quibble. The mobster, once the biggest of the big-shots, met his Waterloo before a Chicago Grand Jury back in Nineteen Thirty-One - convicted of income tax evasion. Was that grand jury properly summoned, according to the forms of law? "Yes it was", say Capone's lawyers. The law says that a grand jury must be called by the "senior district judge", and that's just what was done. But the legal experts of the prisoner of Alcatraz point out that the session of the grand jury was also - extended. And the extension was ordered by a mere judge, and this also should have been done by the "senior district judge." That made the grand jury proceeding illegal, and Capone's conviction ~~when~~ should be thrown out - so argue his lawyers. So that's the loophole through which the one-time master of mobdom is trying to creep.

It seems unlikely that the most notorious figure in ~~the~~ prohibition crime history will be allowed to escape through such a finely spun legal technicality. But then the ways of the courts and the statute books are peculiar. It reminds me of a pithy line by Bugs Baer. "The laws of America," says he, "are so elastic that it is impossible to tell where the law stops and justice begins." There's nothing bugs about that statement.

8 1/2
Legal curiosities are a perennial source of wonder, and I've been looking over a few of them in a book just out - called "It's The Law", by Dick Hyman. ~~In Kulpmont, Pennsylvania, it's unlawful to keep a prisoner in jail on Sunday. In South Carolina, if a citizen goes to church on Sunday without carrying his gun, he's breaking a law.~~ If you make faces at anyone in Zion City, Illinois, they can send you to jail. At Brainerd, Minnesota, a city ordinance commands each and every male citizen to grow a beard if he can. Los Angeles has a regulation making it illegal to have any whiskers at all. Waterloo, Nebraska, passed an ordinance in Nineteen Ten, prohibiting any barber to ^t~~each~~ onions between seven A.M. and seven P.M. The law at Berea, Ohio, decrees

that any animal at large after dark shall prominently display
a red tail light. But the prize, ^{says Dick Hyman,} for legal wisdom goes to a

Kansas law, which reads this way: "When two trains approach each other at a crossing, they shall both come to a full stop and neither shall start up until the other has gone." That's the way it reads word for word. Neither can start until the other has gone. Neither can start at all. They can only stay there forever.

But I won't stay here forever, and

SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.

9 1/2