

Good Evening, Everybody:

A significant statement was made today in London by the Right Honorable Neville Chamberlain, King George's Chancellor of the Exchequer. It concerns the forthcoming debt conference between Uncle Sam and John Bull at Washington. And the gist of it is this: Great Britain does not look upon that conference as a ~~great~~ "swapping deal". Furthermore, there is no prospect of England^s returning to the gold standard until, as Mr. Chamberlain put it, "we are certain that it will work better than it did just before we left it. Great Britain", ~~he adds,~~ "believes in a stable international standard of value", ^{he added,} but there are many conditions to be fulfilled before she returns to gold." The idea that Great Britain was prepared to make concessions in return for ^{the} scaling down of war debts is, ^{as} he puts it, erroneous.

ROOSEVELT

Meanwhile the President-elect was issuing a statement from his winter ^{home} in Warm Springs, Georgia. Mr. Roosevelt, ~~he~~ says ^{he} has neither given nor received any definite proposal dealing with the war debts or with moratoriums for Uncle Sam's debtors. George Van Slyke wires the New York Sun, that Mr. Roosevelt was emphatic about this because of the numerous and conflicting reports from European capitals on this subject.

MOTORS

John Bull took a whack today at Uncle Sam's motor car trade. The British government has placed automobiles on the list of goods ^{that from now on} ~~which~~ must be at least fifty per cent ~~of~~ British — in materials and labor in order to qualify for preferential tariffs when they are imported into Great Britain. This is in accordance with the pact made at Ottawa last summer. It will affect all those American automobile manufacturers who have plants in Canada. Also manufacturers of radios.

CABINET

The wiseacres are still busy filling Mr. Roosevelt's cabinet for him. A wire to the Brooklyn Times-Union indicates that the job is almost completed, and this is the slate they have written:

Secretary of State - Senator Cordell Hull of Tennessee or Owen D. Young of New York, *altho Mr. Young says he's out of it.*
Treasury - Carter Glass of Virginia

The War Department they have handed to former Governor George Dern of Utah

Senator Walsh of Montana, as mentioned before, ^{is} to have the Department of Justice

And, of course, Chairman Jim Farley is to be *elevated from* ^{of New York to} Post Master General. *thing commissioner*

The Navy ~~Department~~ ^{portfolio} is still open, and the Secretary of the Interior, so the grape-vine dope has it, will be either Bronson Cutting of New Mexico or John B. Elliott of California. While the ~~Secretary~~ ^{Department} of Agriculture will probably be handed to Henry A. Wallace of Iowa. The

portfolio of Commerce will be offered to William H. Woodin of New York, but he probably won't accept, and the Department of Labor will go to Miss Frances Perkins who was ~~was~~ New York State Labor Commissioner under Governor Roosevelt.

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Senator Hull of Tennessee has been in conference today with Mr. Roosevelt at the little White House in ~~Warm Springs,~~ Georgia.

It should be added that the New York Times today carried a story in which the President-elect offered to bet the correspondants at Georgia that ~~the~~ ^{his} guesses on the cabinet would be eighty per cent wrong.

IRELAND

A mail train in Ireland was derailed today and two men were killed. They have been having a strike of railway hands and some of the rails were ripped up. It was supposed that this was done by the strikers.

GERMANY

It ^{has} been almost three months since they had an election in Germany, so they ^{are} decided it's time to have another. The New York Evening Post informs us that (President von Hindenburg today dissolved the Reichstag, ~~the German parliament,~~ and ordered new elections for March 5th. The decree of dissolution has not been promulgated yet. It was merely handed to the new Chancellor, Adolf Hitler, to use at his discretion.) It probably will be sent to the Speakerⁿ of the House without giving ~~the~~ Parliament any opportunity to ^{re-}assemble.

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This means that Hitler and his principal supporter, Alfred Hugenberg, will have complete power in Germany, ^{for the present.} ~~The Cabinet,~~ ~~according to one of the Berlin newspapers,~~ is going to ask the President to proclaim a national emergency. This will give the new government almost absolute dictatorial powers.

KAISER

Some new documents relating to the war were made public today. They consist of private ~~documents of~~ ^{papers from} the former Kaiser's personal archives. The New York World Telegram publishes a cable relating that one of these is a letter that Wilhelm wrote to his gunt on the very eve of the war in July 1914. In this letter the former Kaiser lays the blame for the war on England and Russia. The late Czar Nicholas, he said, virtually stabbed him in the back. But the chief villain in his eyes in 1914 was England. "The full responsibility for the European conflagration", he wrote to his aunt, "rests only and solely with England."

Well, today most people seem to think that the question "who started the war" is purely of academic interest.

COLONIES

Political observers are predicting that one of the first things the Hitler government will attempt will be the regaining of Germany's lost colonies. It ^{has} been one of the main points in ^{the} speeches of the Nazi leader that the treaty of Versailles must be denounced and that Germany should have her colonies back. Most of them are held by Great Britain and France. They are valued at some twenty-five billion dollars, *if you are interested in buying them.*

RAILROAD

The last steam train between New York and Philadelphia left ~~the latter city~~ ^{Philly} at four o'clock this afternoon. Beginning today there ^{to be — in fact is} hourly electric train service between the two cities. The electrification, which has been completed as far as Wilmington, has cost the Pennsy one hundred million dollars.

Grand March

Well, that's something new, right up to the minute. But here's something to remind us of the old days. What has happened to the Grand March that used to be the high spot at every grand ball? Has it disappeared forever? The answer is, by no means! Very nearly the most important social function in America each year is the Annual Charity Ball when all of New York society leaders get together. And tonight's the night. It's the oldest traditional ball in America. It takes place at the Waldorf ^{Astors} and an army of naval leaders, heads of society and visitors from Europe, will take part in a good old fashioned Grand March, led ^{my friend} by Major Gen. Dennis Nolan, with Miss Kissel on his arm.

E. E. Dunn, a representative of the Sun Oil Company, writes me from Atlantic City. He happened to be calling at a private home and when he was announced as the Sunoco salesman, a little girl spoke up and said:

"Now Mother, we can have some Sunoco in our omelet." It developed that her curious remark was the result of one of Jimmy Wallington's ^{inspired} announcements, in which ^{Jimmy} ~~he~~ said ~~that~~ there would soon be Sunoco gas in every hamlet. Little Mary thought he meant ~~Sunoco~~ in every omelet. *No Mary I'll take mine in my gas tanks.*

BLUE LAWS

Those Sunday blue laws in Pennsylvania about which there ^{has} been so much squabbling ^{of late} ~~the last few~~ years, seem to be definitely on their way out. At any rate, a preliminary victory has been won by the advocates of liberalism. The Pennsylvania House of Representatives ^{today} passed the first reading of the ^{bill} ~~law~~ to repeal the Blue Laws. Among the witnesses whose opinions were heard was Connie Mack, the veteran manager of the ^{Athletics} ~~Philadelphia~~ Athletics.

However, the President and Secretary of the ~~League~~ Lord's Day Alliance declared the fight is not over yet, and ~~that they're going to stick it out to the bitter end and prevent, if possible, any change in Pennsylvania laws.~~

~~Meanwhile over in Delaware the State Senate concurred in the bill passed through the House to repeal Delaware's prohibition enforcement act. The bill will now be sent to the Governor of Delaware for his approval.~~

CONVENTION

Another interesting change is contemplated in *the State of* Pennsylvania. A bill has been introduced into the ~~State~~ Senate at Harrisburg, to abolish the direct primary system and restore the ancient method of nominating candidates for state and county offices at conventions. The old style state convention, say sponsors of this bill, not only were more fun, but they were more efficient in bringing out the right kind of candidates. The direct primary law, they ^{maintain} ~~say~~ has made no change whatsoever in the boss rule of parties.

~~The last state convention in Pennsylvania was held in 1912, and the last one in Philadelphia was in 1906. They were colorful dramatic affairs, these old conventions, and the scene of many a daring and spectacular piece of intrigue.~~

PUTNAM

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Now for a hold-up story with a somewhat novel
that all of today's newspapers are featuring.
slant to it. A couple of bandits walked into a
drug store in Brooklyn ~~last night~~ and drew pistols.
That store had been robbed four times before. In that
store was the sister-in-law of the owner. The sister-
in-law's name is Miss Grace Putnam and she is a collateral
descendant of General Israel Putnam, the Revolutionary
War hero. Well, Miss Grace Putnam certainly showed *her*
~~it~~ *stuff*. When the bandits told ~~Miss Putnam~~ ^{*her*} "To stick
~~them~~ up and get in back there," Miss Putnam did nothing
of the sort. She turned on them scornfully and
exclaimed: "Get out of here, you devils, you." Thereupon
the robbers took to their heels; in fact they ran so fast
they almost tumbled ~~into~~ ^{*over*} each other getting to the sidewalk.

TAXES

(4)

I have here a communication from the Automobile Owners League of Massachusetts. You may ask what is the Automobile Owners League? Well, for one thing, it ~~is a sign~~ ^{an indication} that the owners and drivers of motor cars are tired ~~to~~ of taking it ~~on~~ the ~~neck~~ ^{chuk} from legislatures. They are tired of being looked upon as a sort of Golden Goose whenever a law maker doesn't know where else to turn to raise revenue. Heretofore the fighting against the enormous and increasing gas and oil taxes has been done by manufacturers of motor cars and the motor truck and petroleum interests.

But now it looks as though ~~the~~ ^{car} owners are waking up and have come to a determination to quit being the goat. ~~Motor car owners who naturally are voters~~ ^{They} are going to take ~~direction~~ ^{direction} action, ~~and~~ ^{to} see to it that the law makers listen. ~~The Leagues of Automobile Owners are being formed in other states as well as, Massachusetts, and~~ The movement is growing ~~and~~ ^{spreading} throughout the country.

CHILD

All France today is having a loud chortle at the expense of a committee of ~~the~~ foremost French authors. As the correspondent of the ^{Phila. Eve. Ledger}~~New York Evening Post~~ tells us, a prize is given every year for the best piece of literature produced by a child under thirteen years of age. So this year the Committee, consisting of some of the foremost French writers of the day, awarded the prize to a little girl of eleven for a pretty tale about a nightingale, a cuckoo and a donkey.

After the award was made and published, some fellow with a long memory ~~xxx~~ was mean enough to point out that the eleven year old girl's piece was a plagiarism. Not only plagiarism. It was copied from a famous French classic.

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The Committee of foremost writers who awarded the prize are now busy explaining why they didn't recognize a fragment of the French classics in the eleven year old ~~xixx~~ little girl's work.

One of them is so angry that ^{he says} it's the last time he'll ever serve on a prize-giving jury. And ^{that's something else to} ~~it's all~~ added to the gaiety of ~~the~~ nations.

EDEN

A real Garden of Eden, a true lovers' colony has been discovered in the Galapagos Islands. There on a tropical island are many unusual things. An expedition went ~~down~~ there with the representatives of the Smithsonian Institute, the San Diego Zoological Society, and the University of Southern California. The scientists ^{were on hand} ~~went down~~ to do zoological research but they have found other things besides.

The description in the ^{Cincinnati Times-Star} ~~Philadelphia Evening Ledger~~ carries the information that this Garden of Eden in the Caribbean tropics is ~~n~~ on Post Office Island. This is supposed to be the loneliest post office in the world. Incidentally, it functions without any government supervision.

The post office itself is an old wine cask. It was placed there on the island by a British Naval officer in the last century. Inhabitants of the Galapagos Archipelago put their letters in the barrel. Occasionally passing steamships stop to pick up the post and deposit therein letters they have for the settlers.

~~Incidentally, the settlers receive mail about an average of twice a year.~~

Among those settlers are a German scientist and his mate, two people who decided sometime ago that the world would be well lost, for love, and so they have founded it. The scientists found the lovers completely happy and not regretting any of the institutions of the civilization they left behind.

These are the Ritters I told you about a couple of years ago.

SPATS

A quaint morsel comes over the wires from Akron, Ohio.

A correspondent of the Newark News reports that the Sheriff of that community, Sheriff Ray Potts, astounded the Akronites by appearing at his office with bright yellow gloves on his hands and spats ^{protecting his} ~~around his~~ dogs.

Well, you can imagine that many people in Akron grinned loudly at the thought of a sheriff wearing spats. Personally

I don't see why a sheriff shouldn't wear spats. Still it doesn't seem to be ^{quite compatible with the shrievalty. I'm sure you all know what a shrievalty is.} ~~shrievalty~~. Among the loudest gigglers were Sheriff

Ray Potts's deputies. ^{Picture} ~~Imagine~~ then the dismay of those deputies

when the following notice appeared on the bulletin board of the

County Jail in these words: "Notice to all deputies: On and

after February 3rd all deputies of this county are requested

to wear spats all the time they are on duty."

Signed Ray Potts.

And there's joy today in the ~~town of~~ Akron ^{tonight}.

ENDING

When you find something facetious in the portly and dignified Boston Transcript it is quite an event. The Transcript tells us of a Boston vicar who was appealing to his parishioners on behalf of the Christmas Dinner fund: "What we want, my friends" said the vicar, "is not abstract sympathy but concrete plum-puddings."

If that vicar were to go on the lecture platform and had to eat in some of the places that travelling lecturers have to ~~eat in~~ ^{frequent} he'd find plenty of concrete

plum pudding. *And that concrete plum - pudding is the desert course to my broadcast tonight and*
~~With which I make my bow and say,~~ ^{solong}
until tomorrow.