

L.I. - Sunoco. Monday, April 4, 1938.

FLOOD

Flood trouble in Missouri. The St. Francis River is roaring along, hammering at the trembling levees. The top of that torrent is within half a foot of the crest reached in February last year, the year of the worst floods of all. So today hundreds of Missouri National Guardsmen as well as volunteers are cooperating with Uncle Sam's army engineers.

GOLD

4
A gold rush in Massachusetts! Folks within motoring distance of Winthrop, Mass., are rushing to the beach. In the last four days, twenty-three of Uncle Sam's bills were washed ashore and two of them were gold certificates, the gold certificates that were withdrawn from circulation years ago. The rest of them were ten dollar silver certificates. The theory is that a strong box of some ship ^{that} sunk years ago has been opened by the force of the waves. And now those bills are floating to land.

LONDON

There was an unusual scene

~~What a scene there was~~ in London today! Blows struck on the floor of the House of Commons. ^{It} Aside from that, it was a critical day in the life of the Chamberlain Cabinet. The opposition, particularly the Laborites, called for a general election. They wanted to push through a vote of no confidence in the government of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain. They didn't succeed; but, there were warm moments.

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The biggest uproar occurred during question time. A Labor member was asking a question of a Cabinet minister. One of the Conservatives, a former Commander ~~of~~ in the Royal Navy, shouted out: "Oh, go back to Poland!" The Labor member resented the implication that he hadn't been born in England's right little, tight little isle. He walked clear across the floor of the House, slapped that Navy commander in the face, and then complained to the Speaker that he had been insulted. The incident ended with both members apologizing to the speaker, the one who ^{did the slapping} ~~was slapped~~ in the face and the other for the remarks that provoked it.

All of which takes some of the spotlight from
~~of course all this somewhat overshadows~~ the speech made

in his own defense by Prime Minister Chamberlain. One of the

opposition leaders scoffed at the British ~~alliance~~ alliance with Italy, claimed it wasn't worth much. He said: "Mussolini has been hopelessly tricked over Austria, yet in his hour of weakness the British Government went to his rescue."

Prime Minister Chamberlain's principal argument was that it was dangerous to upset the country with elections during the period of rearmament. And he added that the opposition was too feeble to be worth paying attention to.

Then he explained - and this was interesting - the basis of what he calls his realistic policy. Collective security, he said, meant only a defensive and offensive alliance between Russia, France and John Bull. Its actual result, ^{continued} ~~said~~ Chamberlain, would be to divide ~~provide~~ Europe into two opposing camps. So far from contributing to peace, he ^{said} ~~cried~~, "I say it would inevitably lead us to war!"

Then he replied to his British critics who called for the lifting of the embargo on arms to Spain. That, he ^{went on} ~~said~~, "would be followed immediately by a whole flood of arms, munitions and men pouring into Spain from sympathizers on each side." And he added: "But it would not halt there. It would soon extend to the sea.

You would have the sinking of ships and perhaps naval battles and an European war would begin."

AUSTRIA

The Nazification of Austria proceeded ^{apce} with words and blows. The foremost victim of strenuous measures today was William Miklas, who was President of Austria when it was still a republic. A decree of exile was passed upon him. ~~He must flee ^{to} Vienna and must not live anywhere near the former capital. He was graciously given a choice of three places in which to reside:-~~

8
Fuehrer Hitler arrived in his new dominions today, to start the ballyhoo for the so-called election next Sunday. He told a crowd in one town that "it won't be an election but a pilgrimage from the North Sea to the Corinthian Alps." He told a mass meeting of a hundred thousand people that Kurt Schuschnigg, their former Chancellor, was a traitor, and he said: "In future when you are asked what is your home, answer- 'Greater Germany.'"

In Vienna work is beginning on a new monument. It's a monument to the thirteen ~~murderers~~ ^{men} who assassinated Chancellor Dollfuss four years ago. The authorities have given orders that the monument must be finished by July Twenty-Fifth, in time for a celebration.

PARIS

Good news for both Nazis and Fascists went out from Paris today. Facing the most critical time in their history, the French are unable to bring about union and internal peace. It's only a question of hours, ~~they say,~~ ^{they say,} on the banks of the Seine, before Leon Blum's second government will fall with a crash. ^{TR} That comes on top of the announcement that a new and drastic series of finance-bills were adopted by the Cabinet today. They provide for measures similar to the pump-priming method used by President Roosevelt over here ^{a few} ~~five~~ years ago. ^{TR} ~~The word is, as a matter of fact,~~ ^{TR The word is} that not even in the Cabinet itself is there anything like concord and harmony. The ironic thing is that when the Blum Cabinet falls, their successors will practically have to adopt the same measures that caused its fall.

SPAIN

~~There's nothing but gloom news for those who have felt any sympathy for Spain as a republic. It seems to be almost all over except for the final massacres. The armies of Mussolini and Hitler, plus the handful of Franco's men, are virtually hammering at the gates of Barcelona. Further south they ~~were~~ ^{are} battering their way into the outskirts of Tortosa, ~~And that's~~ at the mouth of the Ebro River on the road from Barcelona to Valencia. ~~In other words,~~~~

~~So~~ ^{now} Communications have been cut between the government's two principal strongholds on the Mediterranean.

John Bull and France are no longer considering the farce of non-intervention. The diplomatic report is that London and Paris are watching the situation, hoping to prevent the civil war from ending with mass murders as it began. There ~~is a~~ ^{is} general anxiety now lest anarchy and chaos may break out in the few centers still held by the ^{Madrid} government. This was the purpose of calling for volunteers to leave the city limits of Barcelona and other cities to go to the front and dig fortifications. For this time, any new fortifications they might dig would be useless to stem the ~~entire~~ advance of ^{Franco's} ~~Mussolini's~~ legions.

50
A friend ^{tells} ~~of mine, Fred Smith,~~ told me the reason for the particular philosophy of the fighting around Lerida (accent on first syllable). He used to be superintendent of electric transmission lines in that province. For Lerida was the center of a huge power project built by Americans. Though the work was interrupted, three power houses were finished and the transmission lines completed to Barcelona. Franco already has one of those power houses in his ^{hands.} ~~claws~~ When he has pushed thirty miles further, he will have the other two. That will give him one million horsepower a day. In other words, he'll be able to rob Barcelona immediately of ninety per cent of its power. That means not only subways but street cars, factories, munition plants and most of the houses will be without light or power. ^HLerida, in short, was the decisive and final battle of ~~the~~ ^{the} war. The capture of those power houses puts virtually all Catalonia at the mercy of Franco, and Mussolini.

MEXICO

The eyes of Washington were turned hopefully today toward the federal courts of Mexico City. For it is to there that the center of the big oil dispute has shifted. ~~If that agreement between Uncle Sam and his southern neighbor could be settled by judges what a load that would take off the minds of official Washington! Or for that matter, almost everybody in these United States. As things line at present they present a great big national headache.~~

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(The attorneys for seventeen oil companies, most of them American, appeared in the second federal ~~in~~ district court in Mexico City. They asked the judge to throw out as unconstitutional the executive order of President Cardenas which confiscated the oil properties. Newspaper correspondents in Mexico City tell us gloomily that the petition hasn't much chance.)

~~A good deal of meaning is attached to ^{some recent} shifts that took place in the Mexico ^(M) cabinet. Last August General Cedillo resigned as Secretary of Agriculture. He couldn't~~

R.F.C.

Medicine for sick business, loans ~~for~~ from Uncle Sam!

This has been talked about for months. ^{But} It has taken Congress a long time to get around to doing anything. Today something was

started. The House passed the bill allowing Chairman ^{Vease} Jones of the

R.F.C. to use ^a ~~one~~ billion and a half dollars for long term loans to business. Any man operating any kind of sound business can go

to Mr. Jones, ask for help, and be sure of getting it. The same

measure allows ^{the R.F.C.} ~~Mr. Jones~~ to lend money to states for public works,

to cities, towns, counties, ^{or} townships ~~or what have you~~, for any

necessary project. The bill now goes to the Senate, which is

favorably inclined, having passed a similar measure last week.

At this rate it may be that by Easter the money will actually be available.

SUPREME COURT

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Again Uncle Sam's supreme justices, ~~show that they are in~~
~~highly New Dealish moods~~
what is known as a liberal mood. They passed on a series of decisions
today handed down rulings that
today which some twenty years ago probably would have been in the
completely opposite direction. Their effect is to extend the taxing
powers of Uncle Sam and of the states. The most important ruling
of the day was ~~handed down~~ read by the most recent member of the Supreme
Court, Mr. Justice Stanley Reed. ~~It was the~~ ^{His} first opinion. ~~he wrote~~

Another ruling made public today was significant. It concerned a statute of the Mississippi Legislature, which allowed cities and towns to construct and operate factories. The law was appealed but upheld by the Mississippi Supreme Court. And today the United States Supreme Court refused even to consider whether it was constitutional or not.

The judges also administered a blow to rugged individualism in Connecticut. At Easton, Connecticut, there's a thirty-eight acre property through which runs a pleasant babbling brook. The owner of that property from time to time took a bath in that brook. The City Fathers got wind of this and laid him by the heels. They said he had no right to bathe in his own stream because it emptied into a

public reservoir. That Connecticut gentleman appealed, said he had a right to bathe in his own back yard if he liked. The Connecticut Courts all said to him:- "No, you haven't, you just think you have." So he appealed to the highest court of all. And the nine justices said:- "Sorry, we can't be bothered", or words to that effect.

STRIKE

~~Good~~ news from Michigan, ~~the strike's over!~~ We seem to have heard that ~~before and maybe we'll hear it again before the year is out.~~ At any rate, ~~that~~ sit-down business of the electrical workers in ^{the} Saginaw Valley is settled.

~~That~~ ^{This} ~~much~~ was announced by Governor Murphy of Michigan late this afternoon. Mr. Murphy, ^{who} has been on a vacation in Florida, ^{rushed} ~~jumped~~ ^{north} ~~right up~~ when he heard about those sit-downers in the light and power plants. He called the leaders of both sides into a conference room, locked the door and didn't even let them go out to lunch. As the conference started, reporters asked him:- "Will you use soldiers to put the sit-downers out?" To which the Governor answered:- "No troops!" and he added: "We're going to stick to it, nobody is going home until the argument is settled."

As further details became known, it turned out that actually it is not so much a peace as an armistice. Both the Union and the employers agreed to continue on the same terms as before, to extend until August the contract which expired recently.

Gerard.

April 4th
1938.

MR. JAMES W. GERARD

L.T.:- What effect will all this turmoil in Europe have on travel? Will it keep our American tourists from going over there in such large numbers this summer?

You all remember ^{the Hon.} James W. Gerard, who was our Ambassador to Germany at the outbreak of the World War. Mr. Gerard is with me this evening. ^{And he still} He is one of our authorities on Europe. Would you mind, Mr. Gerard, just making an offhand remark or two on this subject?

--O--

MR. GERARD:- It would be a great thing if we could reverse the procedure for a year or two, get foreign travelers to come over here! Personally, I think it is ^{high} time for Europeans to "rediscover America!"

--O--

L.T.:- If we can get them here, Mr. Gerard, what would you suggest that we show them? Radio City, Rockefeller Center, ^{where we are at this} ^{of} ^{moment, or} course! But what else?

--O--

MR. GERARD:- It may sound trite for me to say this, but I happen to know that Europeans are not at all familiar with the scenic wonders of this continent. *And as you know,* our national parks are almost beyond comparison. If travelers from Spain, Germany, England, Holland, France, Italy, and other countries, would come here and see our giant trees of the Sequoia National Park, the glories of *the* Yellowstone, Yosemite, Glacier, and Ranier; if they would stand on the rim of the Grand Canyon, and ponder for a while, it would do their souls good, and they might go back to Europe with a different outlook on life.

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L.T.:- By the way, I should have mentioned that ex-Ambassador James W. Gerard is now *a volunteer adviser to* associated with *the* ~~our~~ Department of the Interior, assisting the National Park Service *ice* in a campaign to promote travel. The United States Tourist Bureau, with which he is associated, does not compete with travel agencies. It is merely doing all it can to stimulate travel. Just how important *is to us, is* travel, Mr. Gerard?

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MR. GERARD:- It's the third largest industry in America, if that's what you mean. Our tourist traffic each year is a five-billion-dollar industry. Thirty-six of our forty-eight states have organized special bureaus to cooperate with the Federal Government. In California alone it provided ^S~~A~~ employment for one-hundred-and fifty-thousand of the inhabitants of that State. *And here's an oddity:-*

~~By the way,~~ did you know that ~~PA~~ Pennsylvania has a Grand Canyon of her own, a canyon one thousand feet deep? ~~and,~~ if we can stimulate travel it will, of course, interest your ~~sponsor.~~

L.T.:- All this ^{--o--} is of vital interest to my sponsor.

~~L.T.:-~~ Yes, ^{an} increasing number of people do their travelling with the aid of Blue Sunoco.

Many thanks to you, Mr. Gerard -- you've got me all stirred up. I've just returned from another snowy weekend at Mount Mansfield, in Vermont, and I'm ready to start out tomorrow, to see the wonders of America ~~that you~~ about which you have been telling us.

YOHE Here's one that may bring
a touch of nostalgia to you Mr. Gerard!

One of the most dramatic and colorful of true life stories
had its epilogue in a Boston court today.

Almost fifty years ago, a sprightly and most attractive
young American actress went to London. In a long forgotten
musical show called "Little Christopher Columbus", she became the
rage of London, ~~not the only American beauty to reach that apex.~~
She not only delighted the gallery crowds and became the idol of
the multitudes, ^{she also} ~~she even~~ found favor with London society which
took her up with enthusiasm.

58
Her name, May Yohe. Yes, once the owner of the famous
Hope Diamond. She was married, as ^{many will recall,} ~~you may have heard,~~ to the son
of a duke, Lord Francis Hope. Thus the famous Hope Diamond passed
~~in~~ for a while ^{to} in her hands. It was supposed to be a brilliant
marriage. ^{Then,} ~~and~~ there was a nine-day sensation when it became known
that May Yohe had left the duke's son, social position, Hope Diamond
and everything for the love of a dashing American adventurer,
^{son of the Mayor of Boston.}
Captain Putnam Bradlee Strong. ^{That} began a cycle of unhappy years.
From time to time one would read of a once handsome woman singing
58 1/2 in a small, sleazy playhouses, a woman bearing a strong resemblance

to the once gorgeous and glittering May Yohe. One even heard of her selling tickets in movie theatres.

In Nineteen Fourteen she married Captain John A. Smuts, of the Transvaal Smuts family, a family with a gallant record in the Boer War. That made May Yohe a British subject. Today he is ill and has to be supported by his wife. When the famous May Yohe applied for a W.P.A. job, she found she could not get one because she had lost her citizenship. Today she took an oath as an American citizen in a federal court in Boston and thus became qualified to hold a W.P.A. job. May Yohe, once the darling of Mayfair and Belgravia, now a seventy-two year old W.P.A. worker!

And on this tearful note ~~we say~~
~~s-l-u-t-m.~~

59 1/4 I will pass you along to Hugh James.