

Good Evening, Everybody:

We have a bit of cheering news with which to start the new month. It comes in an announcement issued by Uncle Sam's Department of Commerce.

Secretary Roper had ordered a questionnaire sent out to ~~thousands~~ business associations all over the country asking their opinion on conditions. We ~~has~~ learn from Washington that the Department had emphasized the fact that it was seeking facts and conservative opinion rather than manufactured optimism.

All the associations who were so queried sent in answers that were encouraging. For instance, the National Association of Credit Men told the Department of Commerce that it made a survey of the country recently. This survey showed a considerable improvement in collections throughout eighteen of the states. Then the Tanner's Council of America reported an increased demand for leather goods and firmer prices.

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The Cotton Textile Industry declared that conditions so far as both employment and production were concerned, compared favorably with those of 1928. Reports to a similar effect were made by the American Iron and Steel Institute, the National Electric Manufacturers Association, and the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, and other ^{key} industries.

And there you are.

N.B.C.

WAR DEBTS

It seems curious that no matter how often the Roosevelt Administration expresses itself on the subject of war debts, rumors continue to float around that the attitude of the United States Government on this vexed question has changed. Undoubtedly these reports gain currency because in the classic phrase, the wish is father to the thought.

Officials of the Administration issued another statement on this subject today. The gist ^{is:} ~~of this is~~, and it is emphasized ~~by~~ ~~declared~~ that the policy of Uncle Sam on the question of these war debts is ~~not~~ absolutely unchanged from what it was when President Roosevelt took office *March 4th.*

The statement goes on to explain that the President's position is the same that it was last November before the election. Throughout his campaign Mr. Roosevelt said he considered that any ~~xxxxxx~~ debtor nation has a right to submit propositions to Uncle Sam. On the other hand, no such proposition has been made, and the government has made no move whatsoever towards a settlement or compromise of the war debts.

PRAGUE - THE LITTLE ENTENTE

I have just received a wireless dispatch from Czecho-Slovakia from the Prague. It states that the nations belonging to the Little Entente, in conference today, declared themselves in favor of the cancellation of all war debts.

GENEVA

Here's a wireless message just in from Geneva.

The delegates to the Disarmament conference held another secret session today, in fact so secret was the session that Lord Londonderry, the British air minister had great difficulty getting in,

It was decided that the conference on disarmament should come to an end this Saturday morning - a recess for three weeks, possibly longer.

This move, some observers at Geneva are saying, "means the conference is at ~~the~~ end of its rope and that further discussions are being cloaked in secrecy to avoid its gloom from spreading to the opening of the London Economic Conference."

FARM

Here's something for the farmers. The House of Representatives today passed the farm credit act. This appropriated a fund of a hundred and twenty million dollars to lend money to farmers for the purpose of helping them to buy implements and also to aid them in marketing their products.

At the same time Representative May of Kentucky introduced a bill to help agriculture. This aims to help people, without any source of income to ~~buy idle farm lands, so as to~~ *establish homesteads for themselves on farm lands* ~~now idle, so as to~~ *establish homesteads for themselves.* By the terms of this measure Uncle Sam will finance such people up to fifteen hundred dollars each. One-third of this would be to buy the land, one-third to help them get farm implements, livestock, seeds, and so forth, one-third for food, clothing, and living expenses until they get on their feet. They will be given twenty years in which to repay the government. Uncle Sam is to buy these ^{idle} lands for not more than ten dollars an acre, and no person will get more than twenty acres.

Whether this bill will be passed seems to be a question. The House took no action on it whatsoever.

N.B.C.

MORGAN

There was an unusual scene today at the Senate investigation into the doings of bankers. This occurred when J. P. Morgan shook hands with Senator Couzens of Michigan. The Senator has been one of the sharpest cross-examiners of Mr. Morgan. In fact, his attitude has been decidedly acid. But they shook hands cordially and chatted for several minutes.

The next most important thing in the proceedings today was the publication of another list of prominent men to whom the House of Morgan gave the privilege of buying stock at a price lower than the market. This concerned the shares of the United Corporation.

On this list was the name of Edgar Rickard, who was for many years an assistant to ex-President Hoover when he was food administrator. For the rest ~~the names~~ most of the prominent names have already been published including those of secretary of the Treasury Woodin, Mr. John J. Raskob, and General Pershing.

N. B. C.

MARTIN

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An interesting function in the world of aeronautics took place in Washington. President Roosevelt, on behalf of the Aeronautic Association of America, presented the Collier trophy to Glenn Martin. This is the highest ^{award} ~~reward~~ in the gift of the Association. It was given to Mr. Martin for his achievement in developing a two engine high speed weight carrying airplane, which has established new and astonishing records.

Incidentally observers commented on the fact that in presenting this trophy to Mr. Martin the President was in a somewhat paradoxical situation. Several days ago Norman H. Davis, Uncle Sam's Ambassador, told the Arms Conference that the U. S. A. advocated the abolition of bombing planes. And Mr. Martin to whom the President made this presentation, is now engaged in building two score giant bombers for the U. S. Army.

N.B.C.

MAIL

Additional power was voted to the President today by the U. S. Senate. In this case it is power to modify the contracts for both air mail and transoceanic mail.

(8) The Senate also adopted an amendment which limits the salary of any official of any company receiving a subsidy from the government for the carriage of mail. The amendment states that no mail contract can be made with either an air transport company or steamship company in which any official receives a salary ⁷ more than seventeen thousand five hundred dollars a year. In other words, if you are going to deal with Uncle Sam, you can't have any high priced executive who receives a staggering wage.

N.B.C.

CONVICTS

They're having plenty of excitement throughout Kansas and Oklahoma over those eleven convicts who made such a sensational escape from the ^{Kansas} state penitentiary ~~of Kansas at Lansing~~, yesterday. They released all the hostages whom they had captured and taken with them, including the warden, several guards, and the three young women whose car they had ~~captured~~ ^{seized} after breaking out of the Pen.

Warden Kirk Prather told me that they were all released near the town of Pleasanton, Kansas, late last night.

As soon as the penitentiary officials got loose from the escaped convicts they spread the alarm.

7 Today the troops of two states, Kansas and Oklahoma, are pursuing the fugitives. They are believed now to be in the Smoky Hills some twenty-five miles south of Welsh, Oklahoma. ~~FFF~~

From what I learn, one of the greatest man hunts in that part of the country since the historic jail delivery from Leavenworth, Kansas, several years ago, is now going on. In addition to national guardsmen from Kansas and Oklahoma, fully

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armed Sheriff's posses are scouring the bad lands in the Osage Hills. The Warden tells me he believes they've got the felons surrounded. Everything's quiet in the prison, and there are no indications of further trouble.

But It looks as though there were bound to be a tough fight when the troops and deputies come to close quarters with these convicts. They're a desperate lot. Among them are three killers, including Wilbur Underhill, who organized the escape. I am told that he is considered the boldest man in that part of the West since the days of Jesse James and the Quantrill gang. So the pursuing forces expect ~~a tough time and~~ plenty of gun play. Incidentally, one of the fugitives has a broken right leg from a shot fired by one of the guards.

The Warden tells me further that two of the seventeen year old girls who were kidnapped and released later, said the men, desperate as they were, were ~~exceedingly~~ exceedingly polite to them and did not harm them at all.

Altogether a thrilling yarn with picturesque features.

N.B.C.

WATERWAY

Well, from now on you can ship anything you want from the Great Lakes to the Gulf, all the way by water. The famous new waterway from New Orleans to Chicago was opened today with all the obligato of booming cannons, cheering crowds, and blaring bands in picturesque old New Orleans. The first two boats sailed from New Orleans today for Chicago.

This ends a fight that has been going on for twenty-five years, a fight between the railroads on the one hand, and the merchants and producers of the Middlewest and South on the other. The Engineering office of the United States Army informs me that it is estimated that not only grain and farm produce, but all sorts of raw and finished goods to the value of millions of dollars will be carried every year by this new route from Illinois to Louisiana. The waterway cost a hundred and two million dollars. The expenses were borne partly by Uncle Sam, partly by the State of Illinois, and partly by the Chicago Drainage District.

It ought to be fun to make that trip in a motorboat.

N.B.C.

FLIER

A lad with an unusual record lives on Long Island where many of the big airports in the vicinity of New York are located. This boy, although only thirteen years old, has already established for himself a reputation as a skilful~~x~~ air pilot. In fact, he made two solo flights when he was only eleven. Unfortunately for him, those were the last solo flights he will be able to make for another five years. The day after his achievement was published in the newspapers, the Department of Commerce enacted a new ruling. This ruling ~~prohibits~~ ^{forbids} anyone under the age of eighteen to fly solo.

The thirteen year old boy's name is Jack Chapman. He comes from a family addicted to feats of daring. His father, who goes by the nickname of Frog Chapman, is a motor car racer, His uncle is Harold Chapman who holds many outboard motor boat ~~records~~ ^{records}.

N.B.C.

SOONG

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There was quite a scene, in fact, almost a riot on the waterfront in Brooklyn today. The occasion was the departure for Europe of Dr. T. V. Soong, Chinese Minister of Finance. Dr. Soong who has been in Washington conferring with the President, left today for London to take part in the World Economic Conference. A band of Communists having heard of Dr. Soong's departure, had assembled to give him a send-off in the Bronx fashion. As a thick fog delayed the departure of the vessel, the mob increased and became threatening. However, a detail of ~~of~~ one hundred of New York's finest arrived on the spot with clubs and other weapons of offense and spoiled the Communists' fun.

Incidentally, the fog raised hob with a number of people who were coming home. No less than six vessels which had carried some thousands of holiday makers ~~xxweekx~~ on week-end cruises were held up outside New York harbor off the Ambrose Light.

N.B.C.

DERBY

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This was a big day in England, a day really more important than any national holiday. That is, in the eyes of Britishers, large and small, rich and poor, young and old -- Derby Day, or as they say in dear old England, Darby Day.

We in the U. S. A. have some difficulty in realizing what Darby Day means to a Britisher. Unless we are horsily inclined, we of the general public take our big races with interest but not so religiously as John Bull takes his Darby.

On this occasion Epsom Downs, where the historic race ~~is~~ ^{is} run, ~~is~~ ^{is} crowded with a mixture of people that you could hardly find elsewhere. On the road to the Downs the limousines of the King and the princes of the blood, of the peerage and the richest people in the ~~country, were~~ side by side with tincans of ancient vintage, even with the donkey shay of the London coster. There's a real Democratic carnival spirit on the Downs.

The feature of today's Darby is that it was won by Hyperion, a horse owned by the Earl of Darby himself, the present head of the house which founded this classic event a hundred and

fifty years ago. In all those hundred and fifty years only three Earls of Darby have won the race named after them.

Hyperion was a six-to-one shot, and won easily.

Furthermore, he ran the course in record time. A horse called Statesman owned by an American named Victor Emanuel came in third. The favorite, a horse named Manitoba, was way behind.

YACHT

Here's an ultramodern item. A yacht was stolen.

A friend hunted for it for two days in an airplane. Spotted it from the sky in Jamaica Bay, called the New York air police. Planes swooped down and at the point of the gun, captured the yacht thieves.

GOLF

Here's a golfing curiosity. Over in England a one-armed golfer recently won two cups in one meeting.

The golfer in question is a former army officer. He was wounded during the war and about five years ago began to have trouble with his right arm. For three years he played with his left, ~~arm~~, his right arm hanging in a sling. A couple of years ago he had to lose his right arm but found that three years' practice with his left had given him such skill that he was able to go on playing.

Although he was originally right handed, he's now playing better golf with his left than he did with two arms. And he finds that under most conditions he can drive a ball over two hundred yards.

To play with one hand so well that you can win cups from men who have no such handicap seems to me quite an achievement.

SCOTCH

We haven't had a Scotch story for quite a while. Here's one I found in the current issue of the Literary Digest.

A Scottish minister was making the rounds of his parishioners and encountered one whom he hadn't seen in quite a while. Said the minister:

"How has the world been treating you Jock?"

And Jock replied sadly: "Very seldom."

Literary Digest.

ENDING -- Penn. Dutch

I used a Pennsylvania Dutch ending about a year ago that got me into considerable difficulty -- because, the sentence I used didn't mean what I thought it did. Some one had played a little joke on me, and the words I gave out over the air were, so I was told afterward, ^{were} not exactly what one would use in polite "society." However, I have just received another letter from the land of the Pennsylvania Dutch.

Henry Brinker writes me from Allentown, Pa., over near where my Quaker ancestors lived a hundred years ago. He assures me that the sentence he has sent along is absolutely *— pure as the driven snow,* okay. So I'll take a chance. I'll take his word for it and use it.

As they say in Pennsylvania Dutch: "Möchs gude bis maurer." The ^{literal} ~~exact~~ translation of that ^{is} ~~is~~ "Make it good until tomorrow." — or s-l-u-t-m.

L.T.