

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:-

More complete reports began to come in today of the toll of death and ruin left in the wake of that hurricane which has been tearing through Texas. J. H. Davis, Secretary to Governor Ma Ferguson, told me today that it is difficult as yet to figure the number of dead and injured, correctly. The early reports coming in to the Governor's office at Austin, indicate that no less than two hundred were killed and fifteen hundred injured. A terrific total. However, Mr. Davis says he hopes those figures will prove to be exaggerated when an official check is finally made.

The hurricane left a wake of devastation all along the Gulf from Tampico in Mexico to Brownsville, in Texas, and a long way up the valley of the Rio Grande. It was the worst storm in the memory of the inhabitants. All the crops in that region are ruined, a terrific loss! A Pan American Airways plane which made a survey of the flood area came back with the information that the coastal region of Texas, all around Corpus Christi, looked like one vast lake.

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Relief is under way. A hundred and fifty soldiers have been sent to the stricken area from Port Van Houston. The complete force of the Texas Rangers has been mobilized and the work is being supervised by the Texas Relief Commission of the American Red Cross. They have dispatched trains with nurses, doctors, medical supplies and food.

NBC.

CUBA

So much for the weather hurricane, now for the revolutionary hurricane. (The drama of Cuba reached new heights today. The swarthy Sergeant Batista and his soldier followers are still in control of the Island, with the ship of state being nominally steered by that Junta of five of Cuba's radical leaders.) Although outward order is being maintained, a state of terror prevails among the American residents. When I was talked to Havana on the telephone today I mentioned that a thousand of Uncle Sam's leathernecks - Marines - were on the way. To which my informant replied with a sigh of relief: "That certainly is good news."

(The atmosphere is charged with rumors, tension and fears. It looked so unhealthy for our countrymen that every steamer leaving Havana today was crowded with American refugees.) In fact I am told that, at the Hotel Nacional, which as I mentioned last evening had been proclaimed American territory with the Stars and Stripes fluttering overhead, more than seven hundred Americans spent the night, including even Uncle Sam's Ambassador Sumner Welles. The rooms of the hotel were crowded with women and children, and the

men had to spend the night in ^{the} corridors and lobbies. The block on which the hotel stands was surrounded by a cordon of members of the Havana Post of the American Legion, ~~of~~ all veterans of the World War. They were equipped with two machine guns and two hundred shotguns.

My informant tells me there is no doubt that Cuba today is being run by a radical-Communist element. From the headquarters of Sergeant Batista it was announced that they possess ten thousand rifles and half a million rounds of ammunition. ~~None~~ Anyone who walks in and proclaims himself ~~in~~ sympathy with the cause gets a rifle and round of ammunition ^{with which} to express ~~that~~ sympathy.

The ruling group seized control of the three local broadcasting stations and it was significant that each speaker started his broadcast with the word: "Comrades". The discourses would run, I am told, something like this: "Comrades, the time to strike is at hand. You have seen Americans and what they have done. ~~so~~ You will know them when you see them. When the time

comes to strike drop them in their tracks whenever you meet them."

Also all the ^{*speakers*}~~strikers~~ announced emphatically they would permit no intervention by the United States.

But Uncle Sam was not without friends. These friends were the thirty-eight thousand members of what is called the A.B.C. the secret society of students so largely responsible for turning out the Machado regime. The A.B.C. are secretly arming and helping individual Americans and the American Legion in every possible way. They declare emphatically that they will not accept the rule of the ^{present}~~president~~ de facto regime unless it is approved and officially recognized by the United States Government.

I was also told that this latest upheaval is not x without its comic opera element. As in so many rebel movements, everybody wants to be ~~g~~ general, although Sergeant Batista who is at present acting generalissimo, denies there is any dissension among his soldados.

N.B.C.

CUBA

The high tension in Havana prevailed in a measure at Washington also. Apparently both the White House and the State Department were able to do little else but get busy on methods of unscrambling the Cuban omelette. President Roosevelt *again* called Secretary of State Hull and Admiral Stanley^d to the White House. ~~to the~~ Of course the trans-oceanic telephone was prodigiously busy conveying conversations between the President and Ambassador Welles. Secretaries were scurrying around like rabbits, and all official Washington was jibbering and chattering like a colony of frightened chipmunks.

In the middle of the forenoon came an order reading:

⑧ "The Seventh Regiment of the United States Marine Corps will mobilize at once at Quantico, Virginia, with full equipment and packed for over-seas expeditionary duty." Thereafter columns of Marines were marching through the streets of Annapolis, Philadelphia, Washington, ~~WASHINGTON, PHILADELPHIA~~ and Norfolk to entrain for Quantico.

Then Admiral Standley, as he left the White House, said: "Instructions have been issued by radio to eight ^{more} ~~small~~ warships

to proceed to Cuba at once."

Meanwhile Uncle Sam's new ten thousand ton cruiser Indianapolis was steaming for Havana with no less a potentate ~~than~~ than Secretary of the Navy Swanson aboard. This was not by order of the President, as Secretary Swanson had been planning for some time to go to Cuba. He was on his way to the ~~Ex~~ Pacific Coast, and his intention was to stop off at Havana on the invitation of Ambassador Welles. At any rate his arrival will be timely. Among the men of war on the spot will be the battleships Mississippi and Maryland, two of Uncle Sam's biggest dreadnaughts. And when they show up in Havana Harbor they certainly should calm the nerves of American residents.

MARCONI

Major General Harboard^o, Chairman of the Board of the Radio Corporation of America, gave out an interesting piece of information today. General Harboard tells us that the Marchese Guglielmo Marconi, the great scientist and inventor to whom we ultimately owe the perfection of the device which enables me to be talking to you now, is going to visit this country next October. The famous inventor will sail with the Marchesa on September 22 nd and one of the principal objects of his visit will be ~~the~~ to see the World's Fair. In fact General Harboard tells me October 2nd has been set aside at the Century of Progress Exposition as "Marconi Day".

NBC

ESCAPE

The escape of the convict Bailey from the Dallas County jail, and that of three men from the Tombs, ~~has~~ evidently aroused a spirit of emulation in New York's mad house at Matteawan, the state hospital for the criminal insane. Four criminal lunatics made a try for it today, but fortunately they did not get away with it. Dr. Raymond Kieb, superintendent of the hospital, tells me the affair ^{started} ~~began~~ early this morning. One of the inmates calmly told his jailer that he had been there long enough and wanted to go home. The attendant just as calmly told him to go to sleep. Thereupon the prisoner swung a chair and knocked the attendant ^{cockeyed.} ~~out~~ A second guard rushed to the rescue and at that three other inmates jumped him ^{and put him to sleep,} The four prisoners succeeded in making their way downstairs into the recreation room of the asylum where they locked themselves in.

And here comes the peculiar part of the episode.

New York state troopers and coppers from the town of Beacon were sent for. The troopers were equipped with gas bombs, three of

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which they threw and then waited four hours for the gas to get in its work and tame those four prisoners. At the end of four hours the troopers broke in the door of the recreation room and one of them flashed his lights and saw one of the inmates with a pistol in his hand. At that the trooper fired, killing the prisoner with the pistol and wounding another. That ended the attempt at escape, but when they came to examine the dead man they found that his pistol was made of glass.

N.B.C.

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BELL BOY

Here's a chance to win a prize or at least a bit of publicity. Mr. Ralph Hitz, who runs the Hotel New Yorker and the Hotel Lexington in New York, the Ritz Carlton in Atlantic City and the Book Cadillac in Detroit, wants a new word to describe a bell hop. Mr. Hitz tells me that the word bell boy has become thoroughly out of date. In the first place they are not summoned by a bell; in the second place they are not boys and he thinks they ought to have a more dignified name. What do you think about it?

N.B.C.

BANKERS

at the Hotel Stevens
The American Bankers Association in Chicago today

expressed themselves freely on the subject of the latest banking legislation;—the emergency laws passed by Congress last summer at the request of the President, after the big crisis in March. On the subject of inflation the bankers ^{*spoke*} ~~declared themselves~~ in guarded terms. The nearest they ~~came~~ to opposing inflation was a resolution disapproving what they call "experimental manipulation of our money system." ~~They also passed a unanimous resolution that the problems of money and banking and a central bank should be considered together and in relation to one another instead of being taken up as they are at present, separately and piece-meal.~~

And oh how those bankers hate the clause in the law providing for insurance of bank deposits. The Bankers Association declared that if deposit insurance is enforced at the beginning of 1934, genuine and serious dangers are imminent. They claim that the putting of this law into effect should be postponed, and they sent a copy of their resolution to ^{*President*} ~~Mr.~~ Roosevelt.

N.B.C.

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WRECK

It was because an engineer failed to see danger signals that fourteen people lost their lives in that train wreck on the Erie Railroad near Binghamton, ^{N.Y.} As usual, after such accidents, a frenzy of investigation has been precipitated. In Washington ^{today} it was announced that the Interstate Commerce Commission is going to conduct its inquiry. Binghamton police headquarters informs me that the District Attorney of Broome County in which the accident occurred, is already making his investigation with the help of the police. When that milk train crashed into the rear of the Atlantic flier of the Erie Road, not only were fourteen people killed, but thirty were injured. The line has been cleared and traffic is normal today. ~~Hundreds of people have come to Binghamton to inquire for friends or relatives who were on the train.~~

N.B.C.

CELEBRATION

(3) I should like to have seen the big aerial show in Chicago today. It was a celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of air mail in America. Part of the show was the spectacle of a hundred planes zooming through the skies over the World's Fair.

Air mail pilots from all over the country were there. Also Captain Lon Yancy, the man who made the flight from New York to Rome, Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, Jimmie Mattern, Bennett Griffin, Jimmie Doolittle, Jimmie Hazlip and Colonel Roscoe Turner. The first air mail flight was fifteen years ago today between New York and Chicago. The pilots on that occasion were Max Miller and Eddie Gardner, who subsequently lost their lives in Uncle Sam's air mail service.

N.B.C.

DEER

That famous deer of Wagkins Glen, the animal that has been on the front pages of every newspaper in America for ten days, has climbed down off his rocky perch at last. But not before getting more publicity probably than ever before happened to any unsuspecting stag. Also he has been the means of ~~xxxxxxx~~ attracting visitors by the thousand to the Glen Park up there in the hills of New York. I understand about a half a million people went to take a look at that poor dumb stag.

It was not until Mr. John Gibbs, Deputy Conservation Commissioner of New York, went there himself, that they finally got the animal away from his ledge. For a couple of days they had put things into his food to numb his senses. And finally today two game wardens were lowered from a cliff overhead and shooed Mr. Deer off the ledge so that he slithered down the twenty-five foot ravine and ambled off into the woods.

NBC.

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was one of Salvino's ~~xxx~~ but that's the way it reads.

SPECS

At Southbridge, Massabhusetts, they are celebrating a birthday this week -- the American hundredth anniversary of specs, glasses, cheaters. Just one hundred years ago the American Optical Company began the manufacture of eyeglasses in America, and the quaint little Massachusetts town has ever since been ~~long~~ devoted to the fabrication of specs. The whole town is celebrating with banquets, receptions, decorations and parades. In fact it is quite a spectacular affair.

The sponsors of the celebration have sent me a few odd facts: - The first use of glasses for reading purposes is ascribed to an Italian some six hundred years ago. The inscription on his tombstone reads:

①
"Here lies Salvino d'Armati of Florence, the inventor of spectacles. God forgive him his ~~six~~^{sins.} Died in the year of our Lord 1317."

I don't know if they figured that inventing specs was one of Salvino's ~~six~~^{sins,} but that's the way it reads.

In the United States, previous to 1833, all spectacles were imported and cost seventy-five dollars or more a pair. That was a lot of money for anybody's peepers. And so the American manufacture of eyeglasses began at Southbridge, Mass.; and all the time it has been in the hands of the Wells family, which is still hard at work putting specs on American noses.

The discovery of spectacles is attributed to the Chinese who wore them on their celestial noses many centuries ago. The ancient mandarins, however, did not need glasses because their eyes were bad. They wore specs for luck, also to denote social and intellectual prominence, just as some people nowadays wear them to look intelligent, and as some dowagers use lorgnettes to put the rest of us in our places.

And my place right now is homeward bound.

And SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.