

Good Afternoon Everybody:

~~The past seven days have been such a~~  
*So much news this week*  
~~big news weeks that~~ I hardly know where to begin. The two  
dominant features, ~~of course, are~~ the gold standard and ~~these~~  
conferences ~~that are going on~~ in Washington. ~~And, the~~ *Both* two  
are closely connected.

I don't know of anything more difficult  
to understand clearly ~~and with a good insight~~ than ~~that~~ money  
problem ~~which is~~ facing the country, ~~and which has such an immediate~~  
~~bread-and-butter meaning for every single individual in this country.~~  
Einstein's relativity is difficult. ~~to understand.~~ So are plenty  
other doctrines and theories, ~~of mathematical and psychological~~  
~~sciences.~~ But they don't come so close ~~to~~ home. *And* In this money  
problem we have an abstruse piece of economic philosophy, ~~the~~  
solution of which will tell its story in every cottage and apartment  
in the country, ~~is doing so now.~~ For instance I bought  
*butter yesterday & it had gone up 5 cents.*  
~~It's just full of angles, as a newspaper~~

~~man would say. One aspect though seems to be dominant and~~ *One aspect seems to be,*

fundamental. It concerns debt<sup>s</sup>. The people of the country are over-burdened with debts contracted when money was easy, wages high and prices high. These debts are required to be paid now with hard money, when wages are low and prices are low. That is bad all around, bad for ~~the~~ debtors who can't pay, ~~and~~ bad for ~~the~~ creditors who can't collect.

Here we have one of the fundamental ideas of inflation, which is to lessen the value of the dollar, make money more plentiful, so that people can pay their debts with money that is less valuable and more easy to get. What it means in the end is a scaling down of debts.

~~An article by Bernhard Ostrolenk in~~ The New York Times today points out that both the advocates of inflation and the opponents of inflation are agreeing that the burdens of debt must be reduced. The advocates of inflation believe that the way to do it is to lessen the value of money that must be paid to discharge the debts. The opponents of inflation declare that things should be allowed to run their

course, and that the burden of debt would thus be washed out by bankruptcies, voluntary agreements, and so on.



CONGRESS

(That highly controversial subject of inflation has provoked the first organized Republican opposition to the Roosevelt administration.) Headed by Senator Reed of Pennsylvania and former Secretary of the Treasury, Ogden Mills, a battalion of conservative Republican leaders have marshalled their forces to fight the inflation program to the end. They have issued a ringing blast warning the country against the evils and dangers of cheapening the dollar. One point emphasized is that inflation will hit the poor who have their savings on deposit in banks. By cutting down the value of the dollar, you cut down the value of the savings. Of course, that ~~is~~<sup>is</sup> true. Inflation hits everybody who possesses money or fixed incomes. There is sure to be plenty of opposition in the Senate. Senator Reed is demanding that the lawmakers shall take their time and give the nation a chance to "wake up and protest", as he expresses it.

The Republican Herald Tribune remarks, however, that the Senate is two to one in favor of the administration's inflation program.



CONFERENCE

( In Washington the conferences between President Roosevelt and Prime Minister MacDonald of Great Britain have started ~~off~~ the <sup>effort for</sup> ~~attempt~~ <sup>on</sup> world wide ~~action~~ <sup>action</sup> on economic subjects, which is one of the large projects of the ~~administration.~~

The French delegation, headed by former Premier Herriot arrived ~~in Washington~~ <sup>in America</sup> today. ~~and that sets the wheels of the diplomatic chariot revolving at a lively clip.~~

It has been remarked far and wide that Uncle Sam's departure from the gold standard would give your Uncle a point to bargain with in <sup>the</sup> economic negotiations. The British Prime Minister declares that he does not consider the American gold standard move in any way as directed against ~~the~~ European nations. He believes it ~~was~~ dictated by ~~prudence~~ prudent financial policies within the United States.

The French delegation is represented to have been considerably dismayed by the sudden divorce between the dollar and the yellow metal. France is one of the few countries that remains on the gold standard, and by the way,

The Herald Tribune, informs us that the French government has issued a statement declaring that it firmly insists upon remaining faithful to gold. ~~that is the gold standard.~~  
~~I suppose we are all inclined to be as faithful to gold as possible.~~

The development of the financial conferences in Washington make it pretty clear by now that President Roosevelt is tackling the economic problem from a world point of view. ~~Heretofore the United States has been looking at things from a rather exclusively national standpoint, but the President believes that the solution of our troubles will come a revival of commerce and prosperity all around the globe.~~

Arthur Krock, ~~the~~ Washington correspondent of The New York Times, reports that the work of the conference is centering around two main issues: The President is trying to bring the nations to an agreement on money. The idea is to have the currencies of every country stabilized at fixed ratios and in this way to avoid the fluctuations of exchange, which makes the values of national currencies shift from day *to day.*

~~to day. I believe that our withdrawal from the gold standard, puts us in the position of stabilizing our money on sound, international agreements.~~

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The second object of the conference is a series of tariff agreements according to which we will arrange with other nations, we to adjust our tariffs, they to adjust theirs. We ~~will~~<sup>to</sup> cut our tariffs on certain commodities that we want to buy from them. They ~~will~~<sup>to</sup> reduce their tariffs on commodities they want to buy from us. This looks like a ~~mighty large~~<sup>large scale</sup> plan for adjusting our industries to the demands of international trade.

Well, I wonder how it will all turn out? The coming week will tell a great deal. The ~~newspapers~~<sup>daily</sup>, day-by-day, will keep ~~you~~<sup>you</sup> informed of great events that are brewing, events that mean much to each individual and to the world at large. *So don't miss your newspaper.*



CUBA

There is a mood of expectancy down in Havana.

A cable to the New York Herald Tribune declares that Cubans are looking ~~in~~ with lively anticipation to the arrival of the new American Ambassador, Sumner Welles.

It is believed that the coming of Ambassador Welles will start a series of important political developments.

One report is that he <sup>goes to</sup> ~~will give the~~ Cubans <sup>with</sup> instructions from Washington to bring to an end the present government in the Island. The opponents of the government declare that President Machado, who has reigned by force of martial law for three years, has become so unpopular that the only political solution is for him to retire. They believe that their opinion is shared by the State Department at Washington, *and that our new ambassador is going to help him retire.*

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Dr. Herbert  
Adams Gibbons.

~~Dr.~~  
Traveler,  
author.

April 23, 1933.



INTRO. to H.A.G.

Sometime ago I promised I would bring a friend of mine here some afternoon and get him to tell us a little about the Far Eastern tang ~~his~~<sup>he</sup> ~~who~~<sup>a</sup> man <sup>who</sup> has spent his life visiting ~~all~~ of the six continents and the islands of the seven seas, and then writing about what he has seen, particularly ~~their~~<sup>from the</sup> political, economic, and social standpoints.

I knew him first during the World War when his house in Paris was a famous gathering place for statesmen, diplomats, Oriental potentates, soldiers and ~~writers~~<sup>writers</sup>. He has also been connected with the faculties of colleges abroad and in this

country, particularly Princeton. His name is Dr. Herbert Adams

Gibbons. <sup>He is now writing a book on the French Colonies.</sup> Well, Doctor, in a word or two, can you give us

your slant on the turmoil that is still going on in the Far East?



*All right, Lowell, let's look at it this way.*

The Chinese are such splendid fighters and know so well how to give a favorable account of themselves in battle that there must be some explanation of the debacle of recent months in Manchuria and Mongolia and of today in North China. There is. What is happening was not unexpected by those who know actual conditions in the Far East. The Chinese lack unity; they lack leadership. They don't know what they are fighting for; the Japanese and the Chinese of Manchuria do.

There is no united China, with hundreds of millions of patriots <sup>n</sup>burning to repel the hated invaders. China is a civilization, not a nation, and national feeling has yet to be born in the masses of the people. The Chinese under arms are ignorant young peasants and not students fired by an ideal. They are led by utterly selfish men, who are thinking only of their own personal fortunes.

The Japanese soldiers are fighting for a fatherland which is as real to them as ours is to us, and they are quite willing ~~to~~ - eager even - to die for it. They are led by men

who are as ready as their soldiers are to lay down their lives for their country. It is this difference which makes a company of Japanese able to put to flight a Chinese army **copps**.

The Chinese of Manchukuo, brigaded with a Japanese army imbued with such a spirit, have taken on that spirit too, for it is contagious. Under Japanese leadership they show that Chinese fighting qualities are second to none. In the Far East today the Japanese hold the trump cards, and they are playing them to win.



Well Doctor, I wonder what the Chinese would say to that? Now as for the Germans

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The week's news from Germany now-a-days is always sure to include a few curious items. This week's oddity, which is sure to be taken quite seriously by a lot of people in Germany, concerns the attitude of the Hitler government toward the German Protestant Church. The Nazi dictatorship has been talking about its intention to take over the Protestant ecclesiastical organization and ~~now~~ the first step has been made. A wireless dispatch to the New York Times declares that in the State of Mecklenburg a Commissar representing the Nazi regime has taken over the control of the Lutheran Church. Hitherto this control has been vested in a Supreme Church Council. ~~The new Church Commissar has, stepped in, and deprived the Council of its powers, which he now takes into his own hands. His name is Walter Bohm, he is an expert in church law and he is now in command of the Protestant Ecclesiastical Organization of Mecklenburg.~~

A strong protest has been made by the supreme council of the league of Protestant Churches in Germany, who declare that the action of the government in Mecklenburg violates



the principal of the freedom of the Church.

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The report is that the Hitler government intends to appoint a Federal Church Commissar to control all of the Protestant Churches in Germany. This is backed by a group called the German Christians, who represent the young Protestant element in the Nazi party. It is observed that the Reverend Joachim Hossenfelder, the leader of the faction that calls itself the German Christians has been appointed to an official post in the Prussian Ministry on Education.

Well, this Hitler Ecclesiastical project in Germany raises some curious questions. Nothing is said about the Catholic Church. I wonder if anything will be said. It might bring some interesting expressions of opinion from the ~~summit~~<sup>summit</sup> ~~section~~ of that Ancient Hill ~~in Rome~~ in the Eternal City, where the Vatican stands. Hitler, himself, as an Austrian, was born and reared a Catholic. And then we recall the ideas that the Nazis have expressed about a new kind of German Christianity. The ~~probability of shelving~~<sup>proposal of shelving</sup> the Old

Testament and putting in its place the ancient German mythology of Wotan, Brunhilde and Siegfried, as glorified in the Wagnerian music drama. That ought to be of considerable interest to quite a number of German Lutherans.

Hitherto, the Nazis have given most of their attention to the age old faith of the Jewish people, but their activities seem to be spreading in a larger theological way, with Hitler as a sort of German supreme pontiff.

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CIRCUS - BOY SCOUT BALL

Boy Scouts of course never tell lies. But they sometimes know people who do. For instance the winner of this ~~month's~~<sup>week's</sup> Sonoco Tall Story championship is Albert ~~S~~ Akin <sup>of</sup> ~~Brooklyn~~<sup>Quaker Hill</sup>, New York. His prize is to be awarded to him Tuesday night in the presence of two-thousand people in the Grand Ball Room of the Waldorf-Astoria at that gala Circus Ball for the benefit of the Boy Scout fund. There will be a three ring circus, acts from Ringling Brothers biggest show on earth, and acts with such famous stars as Lady Peel (Beatrice Lillie), Helen Hayes, Ed Wynn, Jimmy Durante. Two Cobina Wright orchestras will play, led by Walter Damrosch and George Gershwin. Also thirty side shows. And there the Tall Story champ will be crowned.



## TALL STORY

And by the way, one member of the Tall Story Club sends me a clipping from the Free Press of London, Ontario. The article tells about Paul Bunyan, that legendary French Canadian woodsman, whose exploits are part of the tall legends of the Canadian Northwest. I was interested to read what seems to be an authoritative account of the origin of the mighty Paul Bunyan. He was a real person, a woodsman of the forest, who joined in the French Canadian Rebellion in 1837.

It was Paul Bunyan who invented the double-edged axe. The great idea came to him when he was chopping down a rubber tree and was using an axe with only one edge. At each stroke the axe bounced off the rubber and swung the mighty woodsman around in a complete circle. So, what did he do but sharpen the blunt edge and try it again. The axe bounced off the rubber, swung him around and the other sharp edge of the axe chopped into the other side of the tree. And so, he was chopping the tree down from both sides. That was a great saving of energy, because all Paul Bunyan had to do was to keep the axe bouncing and swinging him around.

## UMBRELLAS

Over in England they know what to do with the forgotten umbrellas. But what about <sup>the</sup> forgotten false teeth?

It seems that Englishmen frequently leave umbrellas in railroad trains, and the English railroads have on their hands a large supply of forgotten bumbershoots, so they have taken to renting them out. At any station on the Southern Railway you can rent an umbrella if you get caught in a shower. Cases have been known where an Englishman rented his own umbrella, which he had forgetfully left on the train.

Now, the forgotten false teeth are something else again. It seems that the Englishman also leaves his artificial ~~molars~~ molars in railway trains. The Southern Railway has stored away twenty-five hundred sets of them. Apparently, they can't rent them to anybody, they can't use them themselves, so they are adjusting their monocles in their eyes and uttering plaintively, "I say, what shall we do with the forgotten false teeth?"



## ODDITIES

How's this for a curious job? There's a man in New York who makes his living writing scenarios for open-air fireworks exhibitions. Carl Getz, the newspaper columnist, tells me that one. And here are several more of his oddities, curious ways in which New Yorkers make their livings:

There's a man who has the job of painting spots on rocking horses; another who owns trained seals and has them perform at private parties; the man who furnishes sawdust to people who have private bars in their homes; a musical stenographer who advertises "songs taken down and arranged for piano, band or orchestra;" then there's Bob Wicks who tatoos for a living, and calls himself "the Rembrandt of the Needle;" his great masterpieces are hidden under red flannel shirts and the sailor's blouse.