

FLOOD

L.J. - Sunoco.

Monday, April 26, 1937.

46

Nearly two and a half months ago we got through talking about the most distressing, the most disastrous flood, in the history of America. And I suppose most of us thought: "Surely stepmother Nature will be satisfied for this year." ~~But~~ But she's a stern old stepmother. It's the Ohio again. Pittsburgh has been warned. Wheeling, West Virginia, has been told to expect a crest of forty-three feet. Ten thousand inhabitants of Wheeling Island have been notified to be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice. And ~~it~~ here's something worse. Johnstown, the scene of the most memorable of all American floods, is facing another. Already they've started moving people out of business houses on the low ground. The latest report from there is the Connemaugh River is at the highest level it has reached since the disastrous deluge of last year, on Saint Patrick's Day. The lower end of Main Street in Johnstown lies under two feet of water. Hundreds of people have moved to higher ground. Business is almost at a stand-still, no trolley service, schools closed, railroad tracks washed out and trains making detours. In the country districts around

FLOOD #2.

Johnstown some twenty villages are marooned by rising waters.

As a matter of fact the whole Tri-State area, the region where Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia meet, is facing trouble. Melting snows in the hills, long continued heavy rains, have swollen all the mountain streams. Many of the tributaries of the Ohio are out of their banks. Once again the Golden Triangle of Pittsburgh is threatened. The Allegheny and monongahela are raging above the flood level, twenty-five feet. The United States ^{Flood} Observer prophecies a crest of thirty-five feet by noon tomorrow at the spot where those two rivers become the Ohio. Pittsburgh merchants are moving their stocks up to the second stories. The same is going on in the factories in the lowlands. W. P. A. workers are throwing up barriers.

In Cumberland, Maryland, all business came to a halt today. Store-keepers boarded up their fronts and moved upstairs. National Guardsmen and American Legionaries were helping to evacuate entire families in the residence districts. It seems too incredible. Cincinnati, however,

FLOODS #3.

48
which went through such a desperate crisis last January, is
safe. At least that's what the experts say.

SUPREME COURT

Today the case of Angelo Herndon, the Communist organizer, sentenced to a long term of imprisonment in Georgia, is disposed of once and for all. It's a case that has been agitating the liberal and radical wing. Herndon was arrested under a statute peculiar to the State of Georgia. The charge against him was that a member of the Communist Party is by that very fact an advocate of violence and revolution. The Insurrection Act passed by the Georgia Legislature in 1867, the Reconstruction Days, made it a felony to advocate violent resistance to the State. Four years later it was amended to permit the death penalty. Herndon was convicted and received of a sentence from eighteen to twenty years imprisonment. He appelaed to the Supreme Court of Georgia which upheld his conviction, appealed to the United States Supreme Court which at that time held that it had no jurisdiction and referred the case back to the Georgia courts.

This was the second time that the Herndon case came up before the highest bench in the land. And now he goes free. The latest decision of the Georgia Supreme Court is reversed. Mr. Justice Roberts, who wrote and read the majority decision,

declared that the Georgia statute under which Herndon was convicted improperly deprives him of freedom of speech.

And so once more Mr. Justice Roberts establishes himself as among the liberal members of the Supreme Court. And once more the conservative four stand pat.

Another thing that came out at today's session of

the Court concerns everybody. The Social Security Act. The Supreme bench consented to consider immediately whether that old-age pension plan is constitutional or no. ~~You will recall~~ ~~that~~ More than a week ago the First Court of Appeals sitting in Boston turned thumbs down, said it was contrary to the Constitution. Of course, this is a matter of the most vital importance to millions of people, also to the elaborate machinery which the government has set up to handle and pay out those funds. So the Government's attorneys begged the Supreme Court to make a decision on the appeal this Spring. The Court consented. That means that a ruling may be handed down before the First of June. ~~Incidentally,~~ This constitutes a record, ten days from the Circuit Court of Appeals to the Court of ~~ixi~~ last resort.

50

STRIKE

The strike news today has conflict, suspense, human interest; all the elements that the play doctors tell us are essential to good drama.

First of all, the railroad squabble. Up to noon today, it looked ominous. One o'clock was the deadline set for the calling of the strike. If the Federal Mediation Board were not successful by that time, any further palaver was off. The Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, the white collar worker's union, would walk out and take with them some twenty-five thousand freight handlers in the New York district. Naturally, that would mean a ruinous tie-up of rail traffic.

It's between two rival and conflicting unions. One union fighting the other with the companies and the public in the middle.

Just as the issue had reached its climax, the wires from Washington carried a message: The President intervenes! Under the powers granted to him by the Railway Mediation Act, Mr. Roosevelt ordered the strike postponed for thirty days. In those thirty days an emergency committee, which he will appoint, a fact-finding committee, will investigate, confer

with both parties, and try to find a happy solution. Actually that means not a month's postponement of the strike, but two months. Not only does the President's board have thirty days to make its report, but the unions will have thirty days to consider it.

Now for an even more momentous story from the labor capital front. The Carnegie Illinois Steel Corporation spectacularly announces that its' through with company unions. That corporation is the largest subsidiary of United States Steel, so its announcement is of grave and vital import. It means another victory for John Lewis and his C.I.O. The company union, or as the companies call it, "the employee representation plan,"

52
had been for all these years the source of the bitterest grievances that union labor professed to have.

Four months ago, the C.I.O. lodged a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board that the Carnegie Illinois Corporation had violated the Wagner Act. The move announced today removes those complaints, wipes out all that bitterness.

Now for the human interest; ~~in this normally rather dry labor and capital stuff.~~ That now famous agreement between United States Steel and the labor unions was written more than nine months ago by Myron C. Taylor, Chairman of the Board of the Steel Corporation. And the inside story of that event which so astonished the country is told in the current issue of ~~the~~ magazine "FORTUNE." ~~Incidentally, the story~~ ¹⁷ _A disposes of several rumors that have been current. One was that it was Mrs. Taylor who brought her husband and John L. Lewis together. There was also gossip that Thomas Moses, President of the ~~FRS~~ Frick Coke Company, was the intermediary. Still another had it that it was the First National Bank. A fourth bit of gossip was that it was

all due to ~~Madam~~ ^{Miss} Secretary Perkins. And finally there was the quaint yarn that the move was forced upon Mr. Taylor by the house of Morgan.

59

All these are untrue, says FORTUNE. What actually happened was this. ~~Mr.~~ Myron ~~Charles~~ Taylor made up his mind almost a year ago that the philosophy of his predecessor, Judge Gary, was out of tune with the times, Something had to be done to provide a way for labor and capital to work together in harmony. ~~And~~ ^{But} how? ~~could it be done?~~ If he gave in to labor, it meant losing control over the business one had been hired to manage. To fight labor to the bitter end, meant no business at all, ^{so he reasoned.} ~~at any rather for a long time.~~ Taylor sailed for Europe last June to take a holiday at his villa in Florence. There he thought things over and sat down to write a memorandum. He wrote one and tore it up. Rewrote it. Revised; cut it. Rewrote it innumerable times. The final draft was boiled down to a hundred words. Those hundred words represented a whole summer's work. Also, those hundred words are the text of the agreement that now prevails between Steel and the C.I.O. It was those hundred words that made such a breath-taking story on the first day of March,

Nineteen Thirty-Seven.

During the worst throes of the General Motors strike, Myron Taylor had conferences with C.I.O. John Lewis in Washington.

They talked many hours, they talked many days. At the end of it all, the agreement they signed and made public was stated in those same hundred words which Myron Taylor had written in his Florentian villa thē previous summer. And that's how one of the biggest chapters in the industrial history of America came into being!

SPAIN

Today we hear of nothing but Rebel victories in Spain. This morning's news was surprising enough. The Rebel armies had crushed through and captured three mountain fortresses which government generals had boasted would never be taken. Even Napoleon failed to take them, and today they are definitely stronger, fortified in the most modern fashion. Tonight we hear that this victory was followed up, that the Rebels have taken Durango, the key to the government defenses at Bilbao. They've also captured the nearby town of Elibar. If that's true, it means a lot. Not only was Durango a key point, but Elibar is the center of the biggest arms and munitions factories in Spain. The report is unconfirmed, however. Nevertheless, the Rebels claim they not only took those two strongholds but three thousand prisoners. And they add the detail that before the government troops evacuated Elibar they set fire to it and that it was nothing but a vast furnace when France's men marched in.

It looks bad for the defenders of Bilbao! They are reported to be negotiating for a surrender.

BOOK

That book about the Duke of Windsor has now become American news.

Word has come that it was suppressed in England because of the fury it excited in the breast of His Royal Highness. Also he threatened to marry Mrs. Simpson as soon as her divorce decree became absolute, and thus embarrass the coronation show. But the book, "Coronation Commentary", by Jeffrey Dennis, an Oxford classmate of the Duke of Windsor, also has an American publisher. And that firm was in a quandary as to whether to release it in the United States since it is suppressed in England.

I called up Frank Dodd, of Dodd & Mead who have the American rights, and he told me, yes they were going to release it. "There isn't a copy in sight anywhere," he said. "Ever since the uproar over the volume became known, there has been a mad scramble for it." All of which shows again how the suppression of a book makes everybody wild to read it -- also to review it. Already the reviews are out. Harry Hansen ~~is~~ in tonight's N. Y. TELEGRAM, devotes his entire

column to it. "It is much harsher towards Stanley Baldwin and the Conservatives than towards Edward the Eighth," says ~~the~~ *Harry.*

~~Hansen.~~ Then why was the ~~book~~ Duke of Windsor so annoyed?

Most likely
~~Harry Hansen suspects that it was~~ because of its frank comment on Mrs. Simpson. ^{*Reviewer Hansen*} ~~And he~~ adds: "The comments on the uselessness of the Crown, and on the personality of George the Sixth as a dummy symbolizing the dull safety and calm sobriety of the English people is devastating in its ironic implications. It certainly will deprive Geoffrey Dennis of any further favors from the royal family."

Hansen continues: "This book makes me see the loneliness of Edward. He could never fit in; he tried to make the best of official functions but with a wry face." Denis also shows that Edward played the game at every point, saved the country from turmoil and accepted Stanley Baldwin and his backers as the voice of authority. He proves that the monarchy does not bind the dominions to the mother country but to the Prime Minister.

The WORLD TELEGRAM review concludes: "The book is not pleasant reading for the British public just now when the bunting

57

is going up and the landladies are putting "To Let" signs in the front best bedroom to attract the Americans who simply must hail the new king."

PRINCE

Another royal prince went into exile today for love of a woman. That is to say, he used to be royal. Without title, without rank, the regal personage formerly known as H.R.H. Prince Nicholas of Roumania. He arrived in Vienna today with his commoner wife. There he was met at the station by his sister, Princess Eleana who married a former Archduke of Austria.

The company of royal exiles is gradually growing into a multitude.

G-MEN

Two youngsters in Lancaster, Ohio, are envied lads tonight. They played cops and robbers with a real robber.

Cops and robbers has a new name. They call it G*Men. Eight year old Bob Schaefer and seven year old Jack Hauser of Lancaster played it. They had disguises, toy guns, finger-printing equipment, and headquarters in a box-like shack in the rear of the Schaefer home. Last night young Bob went to the shack. Like a real cagey sleuth, he made a careful approach, walking around to see if any criminals had broken in. Imagine his delight when he looked through the window and saw a suspicious looking person sitting at the desk. What was that dubious character doing? Writing a letter.

Like a careful G-Man, Robert pulled his gun. "What are you up to ther?" he demanded. The intruder didn't know he had broken into G-men headquarters. "Shut up," he said. "Here's a dollar. Run along and play." Robert ran along. But the playing he did was not of the kind the stranger expected. Robert flagged a policeman driving a radio car, and said he had just captured a crook. The policeman to humor the youngster went with him. And sure enough, that intruder in the boys' G-men headquarters was

Own Bickel, a badly wanted public enemy. Only a short time ago he had escaped from two of Uncle Sam's officers. He's accused as an automobile thief, a forger, and offender against the postal law. G-Men Bob and Jack. By Gee -- and

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.