

GOOD EVENING EVERYBOYD:

A whole series of forest fires are now burning in California tonight. New ones were touched off during the day by flying sparks of embers from the Number One blaze -- that spectacular sweep of flames which swept down upon mansions of the movie colony.

The big fire is raging on a fifteen mile front, with fifty thousand acres of woodland ablaze. Eight hundred homes have been destroyed, among them many palatial country places of famous Hollywood stars. Blonde English actress Madeline Carroll, brunette beauty Mary Astor, funny fellow W.C. Fields, Directors Frank Lloyd and Clarence Brown -- today their homes have all fallen victim to the forest fire.

The blaze is threatening the houses of Miriam Hopkins, Richard Dix, and Director Frank Borzage. The million dollar Arrowhead Springs Hotel owned by Film Producer Joseph Schenck was among the first to go.

In the Riviera district, Los Agglees, a shift of the wind sent

tempest of flames roaring over a ridge and bearing down on the half a million dollar ranch left by Will Rogers. Crews of men with hoses fought the advancing blaze on the outskirts of the ranch. The buildings were evacuated, Mrs. Will Rogers and her sons ^{fleeing} ~~leaving~~ their imperilled home.

~~The fire struck right into Topanga Canyon, where many movie stars have their homes. And it's threatening Malibu Beach, that fabulous area of Hollywood grandeur.~~ One death is reported in the movie colony - though not from flame. The wife of a musical director for Twentieth Century Fox was twelve hours getting things ready for a flight from flame. Then she was so exhausted she took a sleeping potion, overdose - fatal.

Another big blaze, a hundred miles to the east, swept down today on San Bernardino, and sections on the outskirts of that city were ablaze. In other ^{parts} ~~sections~~ towns were isolated, homes evacuated - in one of the worst epidemic of forest fires in California history.

COLLEGE

At Oklahoma City the county attorney ~~xxx~~ today started an investigation of an organization of high school students and college students. The authorities want to find out whether it is a movement for social revolution or just a fantastic joke. They can't quite make up their minds -- revolution or joke.

The outfit in Oklahoma City consists of twenty-four members, ~~xx~~ from seventeen to twenty-five. They hold secret meetings, and one member admits that they practice rifle and ~~xx~~ pistol shooting and fencing. Their ~~uniform~~ uniform is black shirt, black trousers, and black boots -- which sounds Fascist. Their leaders are a commissar and a vice-commissar, -- ~~xxx~~ which sounds Communist. One of the members said today that they are neither Fascist or Communist but most of the ~~members lean towards~~ *side uncertain* *of their directions think they lean* toward the left.

He said their program was derived from a study of Edward Bellamy, Plato and Aristotle. Bellamy ~~is~~ the author of a *Looking Backward. — about Utopia.* ~~book about a sort of Utopia.~~ And on the subject of Utopia Plato and ~~xxxxx~~ Aristotle had a lot of Greek words for it.

2 The schedule of action calls for -- a bloodless revolution, a change in our economic order, and specifies that everybody in the country should be given cash certificates these to be spent by the end of the year -- which sounds something like Dr. Townsend or California's ham and eggs.

This bloodless student revolution ^{is} called the C.C, which stands for Curiosity Club. And it does seem ^{like} ~~like~~ a good deal of ^a curiosity.

Some say that the Oklahoma City ~~revere~~ revolutionaries are ~~is~~ just one group of a wide spread organization -- other groups in other cities. And, there is a suspicion that the Curiosity Club in Oklahoma City was insighted by outside influence. Some talk of -- California men.

~~It is~~ ^{and} either a social revolution or a fantastic joke. The authorities are trying to find out which. ~~They~~ are rather inclined to take it seriously.

FOOTBALL

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I've hardly mentioned football this autumn. The wars of the gridiron apparently have been completely overshadowed by those real wars abroad, and threats of war. But, it would hardly do to pass up football tonight. All day, football flashes have been coming over the wires, sprinkled through the rest of the Thanksgiving news.

Still, the gridirons of the country don't sizzle on turkey day quite like they used to. Quite a number of big teams have already finished their seasons. Many others are taking today off, getting set for the climax on Saturday.

The thing that struck me about the football news that came tapping in over my press wire was that almost every story, from every corner of the country, began as follows:-
"The university of so-and-so wildcats, opposed the university of such-and-such Tigers on a snow swept ~~fx~~ field before utteen thousand shivering fans." Yes sir, that's the way the story came in from down in Knoxville, Tennessee, where the University of Tennes played what I am told was an important game with the University of Kentucky, Tennessee sweeping over Kentucky forty-six

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to nothing, like the snow swept over that southern gridiron.

More amazing still, away down south in Birmingham, Alabama, it was the same story:- game played before shivering fans, in the snow, with Alabama winning a close one over Vanderbilt, seven to nothing.

Outside my window here at Rockefeller Center, a sleet storm is raging. Cars are skidding up and down Fifth Avenue, and the ice rink in Rockefeller Plaza is covered with snow.

Surely a dirty night to be driving home from a football game.

Columbia and Brown did an intelligent thing: ~~They~~ played their game this morning, so the crowds wouldn't have to drive home through a stormy night. As you no doubt know, Brown whaled the daylights out of Columbia in a spectacular game, thirty-six to twenty-seven, with the redoubtable Sid Luckman winding up his college career with some of the most daring, ~~spectacular and~~ successful passing ^{ever} ~~that~~ he has done. ^Q ~~One~~ striking ^{thing} ~~point~~ about that Brown-Columbia game was the fact that thirty-one of Brown's thirty-six points were made by one lad, a player named Hill.

I wonder what effect that scoreless tie between Cornell and Pennsylvania will have on the so-called Ivy League championship. Will it put Dartmouth back on top? The University of Pennsylvania staged a surprisingly good fight.

Carnegie Tech came through with a hard fought victory over North Carolina State. Missouri beat Kansas. The latest from the Rocky Mountain region was that Denver was winning over its old rival, the University of Colorado.

A sight of relief must have gone up in the Rocky Mountain conference when Wizer White was finally graduated last spring. And, the word from the far west is that the University of Southern California is leading in the game over U.C.L.A.

Oh yes, that important pro game between the New York Giants and the Brooklyn Dodgers, ended in a tie, which may have considerable effect on the national championship in pro circles.

Remember how, several weeks ago, the girls out at the University of Iowa, called the fellows on their football team sissies? Well, Coach Tubbs of Iowa was notified today that his contract would not be renewed. The co-eds win!

FATHER HUBBARD

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I've just been told of an interesting language experiment. It was made among the Eskimos by Father Hubbard, the Jesuit explorer who for years has haunted the polar shores of Alaska. He's in New York to give a lecture at Carnegie Hall.

The Eskimo, all the Arctic distance from Greenland to Alaska, talk the same language. Father Hubbard tells me how some years ago the great Explorer Rasmussen, a native of Greenland, met the missionary priest to the Alaskan Eskimo, Father LaFortune. Rasmussen spoke the language of the Greenland Eskimo. The priest knew the speech of the Eskimo of Alaska. Yet the two ~~understand~~ understood each other quite well.

Father Hubbard, ~~on~~ on the expedition from which he has just returned, put this language phenomenon to a test - using the Eskimo themselves as the subject of the ~~experien~~ experiment. At King Island, in Bering Sea he took a party of seal hunters aboard his boat, and went navigating with them for two thousand miles along the Arctic coast. He took them ashore, and threw ⁱⁿ the in with Eskimo of those parts to see how they'd talk to each

other. They understood each other perfectly -- hardly any difference at all between the languages of the Eskimo groups two thousand miles apart.

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So the Jesuit explorer believes that the present Eskimo people have not been along their present Arctic shore for any ~~xxx~~ vast length of time, -- or the speech of the various isolated groups would have changed into separate languages. He thinks that the present Eskimo must have come from Asia only a few centuries past, and are probably descendants of a Mongol tribe, driven to the American Arctic by the wars and migrations in the time of Genghis Khan, ^{only} six hundred years ago.

CHINA

More protest about the Japanese closing of the Open Door. European and American business interests in the Far East put in their complaint today. They pointed out that the Mikado's generals closed avenues of commerce to foreign trade as a military measure. And they're still keeping them closed, although the military situation is so changed there is no longer any excuse for it. Japanese regulations hampering commerce on the Yangste, for example. With the capture of Hankow, there's no military point to these regulations. The Japanese are merely using the excuse to shut out foreign commerce.

That's the gist of today's protest by commercial interests in the Far East.

FRANCE

4) (The Franco-British negotiations were concluded in Paris this evening. Prime Minister Chamberlain and Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax had a five hour conference today with Premier Daladier and Foreign Minister Bonnet.) And immediately thereafter the announcement was made - full accord. The British and the French are in complete harmony concerning their mutual policies. The Paris dispatch reports that the agreement includes the following points.

(Great Britain gives a warm okay to the anti-war agreement concluded yesterday between France and Germany - ~~with~~ that Franco-German declaration against war, which is parallel to the Anglo-German peace declaration which Chamberlain and Hitler signed at the Munich conference.) London will help in enabling France and Italy to come to terms - something in the nature of the British-Italian peace agreement. His Majesty's government will try to work out some compromise on which Paris and Rome can settle.

The British and the French ^{talked} ~~talk~~ over the pledge they've given to Czechoslovakia, guaranteeing the new frontiers of that nation. And they agreed to work together in finding places where

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the German-Jewish refugees can go.

Prominant in the negotiations was the military angle.

(France and Britain agree to keep on building their armament, so as to match the military strength of the Rome-Berlin axis. And they discussed a project proposed by the French, whereby Britain will stand ready to come to the aid of France in a big way in case of war.) A quarter of a million British troops to go to France as an emergency expeditionary force in case of a conflict with Germany. That's something for Prime Minister Chamberlain to talk over with his Cabinet colleagues in London.

With the big international conference concluded, the French ministers immediately got busy with something else - the labor situation is ^{growing} ~~getting~~ worse by the minute in France. New strikes broke out today in protest against the government's economy measures. Twenty-five thousand metal workers out in the Valenciennes area. Four thousand striking miners are holding the pits in the Anzin basin. Workers in various factories staging

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stay-in strikes, which is what we call sit-down strikes. ~~The Daladier economy, with its increase of working hours for and two thousand sit-down strikes near Paris industrial employees, is being resisted all over France.~~ Late news tells of a violent clash between the police

REFUGEES

Once more the British government declares that the answer to the refugee problem is not Palestine. Colonial Secretary Malcolm MacDonald today repeated this contention. He put it this way:—

"When we promised to facilitate a national home for the Jews in Palestine," said he, "we never anticipated this fierce persecution in Europe. Palestine's rather meager soil ^{he asserted} cannot support more than a fraction of the Jews who wish to escape from Europe."

He summarized by saying that the refugee problem has got to be settled over a far wider field than Palestine.

ITALIAN ROBBERY

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Over in Italy in the classic city of Florence, the police are confronted with a puzzle in the glittering form of a large lump of gold. This all goes back to a story I myself heard several months ago from a neighbor, on ~~Quaker~~ Quaker Hill, in Dutchess County. Mrs. Branch, widow of a Virginia banker who was National Treasurer of the Democratic Party. Mrs. John Kerr Branch is quite the matriarch of a prominent family. She has a villa near Florence, where for years she has lived during the summer. And she told me of a robbery there, with thieves breaking in. They bound and gagged her, and looted the villa of all the jewelry it contained -- several hundred thousand dollars' worth.

Now, the Italian police have solved the crime, have recovered most ^{of} ~~the~~ the emeralds and diamonds. They find that the burglars of the Branch villa also robbed the home of an eccentric ninety year old Florentine millionaire. Of the loot stolen from both places they melted down rings and bracelets into a large ingot of solid gold. To whom does this belong? Nobody can say exactly how much of the jewelry from the Branch villa and how much taken from the ~~the~~ eccentric

ITALIAN ROBBERY - 2

millionaire is in the big hunk of gold. The ~~million~~ police think the best thing they ~~can~~ can do is follow the example of Solomon, with a half and half division. Give half of the ingot to Mrs. Beulah Branch and half of it to the ninety year old millionaire.

EXPLOSION

5-8
There was an explosive Thanksgiving Day celebration at Reading, California. It was quite a family reunion, because the husband and wife had been separated and now were being reunited on Thanksgiving Day - with their children about them to celebrate the happy event. It was the sort of benevolent thing highly appropriate for Thanksgiving.

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The party was being held in a trailer, and in the midst of the festivities a stove caught fire - a small blaze of no importance. So to put it out the wife picked up a bucket of water and tossed it on the flame - but it was a bucket of gasoline!

That sure made fireworks, ^{and} ~~but~~ the lucky part of it is that nobody was killed - just a few injuries.

CHINESE

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At the University of Michigan, President Alexander Ruthven entertained a party of students at tea. One ~~man~~ was a bright ~~little~~ Chinese, recently arrived. He had been memorizing appropriate English expressions from a book of English and Chinese phrases. In preparation for the University President's tea party, he looked up the right thing to say and committed it to memory word for word. So when the college prexy handed him a cup of tea, he responded with the utmost politeness.

"Thank you, sir or madam, as the case may be," ^{said he.} That's just the way he had seen it in the phrase book.

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And now to you, sir or madam as the case may be, I'll say -- SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.