

Lowell Thomas - Sunoco - June 8, 1933.

Good Eve. Everybody, I'm speaking from Washington tonight and there is one thing I can vouch for. Everything you ever heard about summer heat in these parts is true, and then some. The only other world capitol to equal it is Delhi in India, and there the Government wisely moves to the cool Himalayas for the summer.

The most comfortable moments I spent today were at a height of some 3000 feet, flying down from New York in that same big Curtiss Condor from which I broadcast a few weeks ago. The ideal thing to do on a day like this would be to continue traveling at that height - just stay in an Eastern Air transport and keep on going indefinitely.

And, I must say that the ideal way to see the Nation's capitol is from the air. One of the most impressive spectacles I have ever beheld is that birds-eye view of Chesapeake Bay and then of the City of Washington. As we flew over the White House, the pilot saluted the President by dipping his wing. Although of course the President didn't know it.

There is one cool place in Washington and quite a large number of people are booked to spend the night there. And that cool spot is the United States Senate.

(The vital legislation before Congress today is that Industrial Recovery Bill, the one introduced by Senator Wagner of New York, the one backed by the President. This is the bill the Administration is counting on so hopefully. The President wants it to go through. He believes it will help to end the depression.)

But, there are those in the Senate who are trying to hold it up. And that is why the Senators ~~may~~^{will} be in Session all night.

In the midst of the debate this afternoon, Mr. Wagner left his seat in the Senate and came out to the cloakroom where I had a chat with him. And it was then that he verified the rumor that the Senate ~~would~~ would ~~probably~~ be in session all night. Slowly and laboriously they have been going over every line of the bill today. And, if it goes through tonight, well, Congress may be able to adjourn this week after all.

Senator Wagner, in spite of the heat in the cloak room where there is no cooling system, told me eloquently of how the great ambition of his life, at present, is to see this bill go through. He told me that it would put great numbers of unemployed to work on public works. This in turn will put more money into circulation. It will increase the buying power of the Nation. In fact, he believes that it will gear up the whole machinery of the nation to such an extent that the depression will speedily come to an end.

And he repeated to me again the statement he made yesterday on the floor of the Senate, that unless the bill goes through the country will be faced with chaos.

Senator Wagner said that yesterday it looked as though the opposition was pretty strong, that the bill might be in danger. But this afternoon he was all smiles. He sees victory in sight and your newspapers tomorrow may tell you of the passage of this bill which the President is so anxious to see go through.

There was quite a wrangle on the floor of the Senate about the so-called "Fair Code" provisions in the Administration's Recovery Bill. The chief defender of the measure was, naturally Senator Wagner of New York. He contended that these codes will protect small business men against the ruthless practices of big Business. Mr Wagner's principal antagonist was Senator Reed of Pennsylvania, who said, "If this is a bill to protect small business men, why is it that heads of Big Business have been coming to me urging me to support it? The fact is," added Mr. Reed, "this measure is a repeal of the anti-trust laws, and when Big Business men come to me and ask my support with no creditable reasons, I am here to tell them that I am not going to follow their advice."

Senator Clark of Missouri said the codes would ruin industry, to which Senator Wagner replied sarcastically, "I suppose the Senator means that, if the codes provide for a decent living wage to workers, industry will be ruined."

These are torried days on Capitol Hill, and one can't be surprised if sarcasm flies around. While all this was going on I was a spectator in the gallery sitting between Chas. E. Murphy, the famous N.Y. lawyer and my old friend of Palestine War days, Mr. Hampoon Gary, the diplomat.

Just when folks in the Senate Gallery were starting to nod, and some of the Senators were falling asleep, Huey Long jumped to his feet and staged another of those oratorical exhibitions for which he is becoming famous.

As you know, one of the rules of the Senate is that no matter what important business is before the body, a Senator can take the floor, if he gets the eye of the presiding officer, and then he can talk on any subject he chooses.

Right in the midst of a discussion of the Veteran's problem, or the Industrial Recovery Bill, a senator can take the floor and start talking about the Sultan of Sulu or what happened in China five thousand years ago. Or he can do as Huey Long did today, tear his hair, wave his arms, hammer with his fist, rant and shout, denouncing his enemies in Louisiana and out. ~~of Louisiana.~~ The cause of Huey's outburst *today* is an article that is to appear in the next issue of Collier's Weekly - an issue that isn't out yet.

The Kingfish said agents of Collier's weekly had distributed copies of this article lambasting him, to every

member of Congress. So waving the article over his head, and with fire in his eye, he called his enemies that ^{an} odiferous animal. Then he reviewed his political career in Louisiana and talked about everything but Senator Wagner's Industrial Recovery Bill.

The Senators seem^{ed} to take it as a little comic relief. They laughed and smiled and some of them winked at each other. The galleries loved it. And when the Kingfish had finished, the crowd in the galleries started for home, as much as to say, "Well we were not disappointed. He put on a show for us."

L.T.

The investigation by the Senate's Committee on Banking and Currency is going to continue and is going to probe even deeper than it has, ^{— hot weather or no hot weather,} A resolution was adopted today in the Senate increasing the authority of the Committee to the extent of allowing it to delve into the income taxes of the powerful bankers. The Senate also appropriated one hundred thousand dollars more to enable this investigation to continue.

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At the same time, a resolution offered by Senator Costigan of Colorado, was adopted which authorizes the Committee to find out why the Department of Justice in the Hoover Administration apparently delayed the prosecution of alleged violations of the law in the case of the Harriman National Bank of New York.

TAXES

It looks as though we were all going to have a chance to snoop into our neighbors' affairs and find out from the newspapers what they have paid or have not paid ^{in the way of income tax.} A resolution was introduced into the House today by Representative McSwain of South Carolina. If this is adopted, it will throw all income tax returns open to public inspection. It will also require a review of all returns filed in the last three years.

The resolution further authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to pay a reward of \$10,000 ^{to} anybody giving evidence leading to the conviction of people who have avoided payment of their taxes by fraudulent returns. In this resolution, Mr. McSwain declares that thousands of persons and firms have escaped payment of taxes during the last few years by skillful evasions.

M. B. C.

VETERANS

Of course, the question that not only Washington but the country in general is most anxious about is that of veterans' compensation. The Veterans Subcommittee of the Democratic Steering Committee were closeted with the President for more than two hours today. Lewis Douglas, Director of the Budget, and General Hines of the Veterans Bureau were also present. The ^{sub}Committee ^{put forward}~~presented~~ an entirely new proposal concerning the veterans of the Spanish American War. This is now being considered by the President. No official statement was given out, but one of the representatives said he thought the differences would be ironed out.

M. B. C.

MOLLISON

Here's news about another Jimmie,--Captain Jimmie Mollison, and his wife Amy Johnson. The crash of their plane at ~~the~~ Croyden Airport early this morning just as they were leaving has not phased them. Neither of the Mollisons was hurt, and as soon as they climbed out of their wrecked plane, they started preparations for repairs. They are announcing *now* today that within the next few days they plan to start again on their flight from London to New York ^{west} ~~and Bagdad and back to~~ ^{then back across the Atlantic and} ~~London.~~ *on East to Bagdad in far off Asia.*

N. B. C.

MATTERN

We ~~you~~ got to hand it to Jimmie Mattern. He doesn't let either accident or illness stop him. Jimmie was at a place called Prokopievsk, according to the latest advice ^{the} received, When he landed he was overcome by gas fumes from a leaky feed pipe. ^{In fact lucky to get down without cracking up.} In spite of that, ^{gaggy as he was} he stuck to the job of supervising repairs on his plane.

A radiogram received by one of his sponsors in New York brings information that a plane of the Soviet Government was dispatched from Novosibirsk with a mechanic and materials to help make the repairs.

~~By this time, Jimmie is probably once more on his way to the Pacific Coast.~~

Meanwhile a fast 6-passenger plane is on its way from Chicago to Edmonton in the Province of Alberta, Canada. In this plane are Charlie Lyon, an announcer, two engineers and Jimmie Cook of the Press Department of N. B. C. They are flying to meet Jimmie Mattern, if and when he lands at Edmonton. Charlie Lyon and Jimmie Cook are the same N. B. C. men who met Post and Gattya when they first landed on American

soil during their round the world trip. They expect to give N. B. C. listeners Jimmie's own description of his experience. That is, they'll have Jimmie do it.

Wait a minute, here's something more about Mattern:- A wireless report has just come in with the news that he is still held up, by storms, in the heart of Siberia and may not be able to take off for hours yet.

On the other hand, here's another report:- the Canadian radio station at Dawson, in the Klondike informs us that Mattern is expected at Nome, Alaska, about Noon tomorrow - or 4 P.M. Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

BERLIN

Well, the German Government has had a change of heart on the subject of that general moratorium on all foreign debt payments. H. R. Knickerbocker cables the New York Evening Post that a semi-official statement was issued from government sources today which modifies the announcement made yesterday by Dr. Schacht^{el}, the head of Germany's National Bank. Dr. Schacht^{el} declared the moratorium would be sweeping and would include everything

The announcement issued today carries the information that the moratorium will not apply to interest on short term obligations.

NBC

GOLF

The eyes of golfers the world over are focussed on the North Shore Cuntry Club near Chicago. For it is there that 150 of the crack players of America teed-off this morning for the National Open Championship. The defending champion, of course, is Gene Sarazen.

They have a tough job ahead of them. They have to stand the triple ordeal of ^{90 degree} heat, enormous crowds, and the terrific strain of the championship match.

The play is over seventy-two holes, but all ~~excepting~~ the first sixty will be eliminated at the end of the first thirty-six ^{holes;} ~~which is~~ the qualifying round. In the field ^{are} of 32 amateurs, ^{pitted} against the veteran pros.

Among those competing are such formidable masters of the game as Sarazen, Shute, Armour, Von Elm, Hagen, ~~and~~ McDonald, - in fact the top notchers of the game.

FIGHT

Well, tonight's the big night in the box fight world - the night of the long expected fight between the two Maxes, Max Baer of California, and ex-champion Max Schmelling from the Fatherland.

Incidentally its also a big night for another former world's champion, Jack Dempsey, no less. For it looks as though our own William Harrison Dempsey, the promoter of this function, is going to clean up a nice little pot for himself. Estimates of the crowd that is expected at the Yankee Stadium ~~tonight~~ range from sixty to seventy thousand.

With either figure, say the experts, Mr. William Harrison

Dempsey will cut himself a ~~nice little~~ million ~~to the hilt~~ from a gate of around \$350,000.

National sentiment seems to have no part in the betting. The German is the favorite by two to one in spite of the fact that the California lad outweighs him by some twenty pounds. At any rate the size of the expected crowd indicates that times are decidedly on the mend for box fight fans.

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Now for a little human interest story! Just before President Roosevelt took office, he made a promise to Ex-President Hoover. The promise was to take care of Walter H. Newton of Minneapolis, who was one of Mr. Hoover's secretaries. Well, today the White House announced that the President has nominated Walter Newton to be member of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

Several other nominations were submitted by the President today, including that of Robert P. Skinner of Ohio as Ambassador to Turkey.

W. B. C.

SWIMMING

I suppose every person in Washington had the same thought uppermost in his mind today:- "Whew, its hot, in fact is hotter than --. Whew, I wish I was in swimming!"

I didn't get a chance to go swimming, but I did the next thing to it; that is, I read a magazine that tells all about swimming.

During a lull in the oratory in ^{the} ~~this sweltering~~ Senate Chamber, I picked up a magazine that ^{Charley Murphy} my neighbor ~~from~~ ~~Virginia~~ had just put down. A magazine called "Beach and Pool."

The thing that caught my eye was a striking page entitled: "DO YOU KNOW THAT," ^{and} then ~~it~~ goes on to tell a lot of things that I didn't know.

For instance here is one: ~~from "Beach and Pool":~~
The first actual swimming pool was built almost seven thousand years ago, 5000 B.C., in Fuchow, China.

The coldest city in Siberia is the city of Verkhoiansk and according to Earl Collins, Editor of "Beach and Pool," the swimmers at the municipal pool in Verkhoiansk

wear bear skins for their bathing suits -- not b - a - r - e
a la natural. But big woolly ^{b̄}_{AAA} skins, made from the pelts
of Siberian bears. And that municipal pool in Verkhoiansk,
coldest city in Siberia, is open and crowded all year round.

Another of his ~~items~~ "DO YOU KNOW THAT'S,"
is that nearly all babies out in the South Seas can swim
before they learn to walk.

And now it's time for me to
swim away from this microphone —
and s - l - u - t - m .