

Lowell Thomas - Sunoco - Feb. 23, 1933.

Good Evening, Everybody:

I'm in Detroit tonight. So naturally my broadcast will take on a Detroit flavor. The evening papers are featuring the big news of the day in this section, the straightening out of the bank situation. The Detroit Times has a seven-column heading reading: "270 Millions for Depositors." The stories go on to explain that the Reconstruction Finance Corporation has come to the assistance of the banks and everything is working out okay.

WASHINGTON

Representative Lewis Douglas of Arizona is to play an important part in the new Democratic regime. Mr. Roosevelt gave out the word today, from his home in Dutchess County, New York. He announced that Representative Douglas is to be the Director of the Budget. That sounds like a tough job.

ROOSEVELT CABINET

Mid-western papers are all commenting on the interesting political background of two of the men who are to be in Mr. Roosevelt's cabinet; Harold Ickes, next Secretary of the Interior, and Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture.

In the past these men have been known as Progressive Republicans. Both were followers of the great "T.R.". Both started along the road to political office back in the days of the Bull Moose bolt. In fact, Mr. Harold Ickes of Illinois was one of Theodore Roosevelt's intimates in the days when the Bull Moose ran rampant across our political stage.

Mr. Henry A. Wallace of Iowa, who is slated for ~~the~~ the difficult berth in Mr. Franklin Roosevelt's official family, is the son of Henry C. Wallace, Teddy Roosevelt's associate and Secretary of Agriculture in two recent Republican administrations.

Otherwise, for the most part, Mr. Jay Hayden, Washington Representative of the Detroit News, thinks the Woodrow Wilson Democratic element dominates the new cabinet - except for Mr. Woodin, next Secretary of the Treasury, whom Mr. Hayden regards as of the Conservative-Republican

type, opposed to drastic change in our financial system - as conservative as Mr. Andrew Mellon or Mr. Ogden Mills. But that remains to be seen.

All Newspapers are commenting on the fact that Mr. Roosevelt failed to name any of the men who ran against him at the Convention;- Newton D. Baker, Alfred E. Smith, Albert C. Ritchie, Harry F. Byrd, Alfalfa Bill Murray, or Owen D. Young. Also, he omitted such conservative Democrats as John W. Davis, James M. Cox, and Bernard Baruch.

TEXAS

A curious old controversy is back in the news. It concerns the often suggested idea of splitting up Texas. This has been mooted from time to time; nothing has ever come from it. Recently no less a potentate than Speaker Garner, the Vice-President Elect and the foremost statesman from Texas today renewed this suggestion in all seriousness.

Three years ago Mr. Garner made a speech in Congress declaring that Texas should be split into five states. He has repeated this opinion several times. The Texas legislature could cut anywhere from one to four additional states out of its present huge territory. Recent news from Austin, the state capital, says that there is a growing indication in favor of the use of a legislative carving knife to slice off the Panhandle and the South Plains and make them into a new and separate state. In fact it is quite on the cards that a deal to this effect will be offered during the present session of the Texas legislature.

FAR EAST

That oncoming storm in the Far East that we've been hearing about these last few days, apparently has struck. The Japanese sent wave after wave of green-clad troops against the Chinese in Reyho - that rich province the Japanese seem determined to take from China.

The Japanese ambassador to Washington called on the American Secretary of State today. He is supposed to have done this under direct orders from Tokyo. Exactly what transpired at that conference is unknown, but the word around Washington tonight is that the Ambassador from Nippon stated that the armies of Japan do not intend to go South, beyond the Great Wall, unless, unless!-- Attacks by the Chinese compel them to do so. I wonder what that means!

Apropos of this I heard a talk recently that I'm sure everyone would have enjoyed. It was made by an old friend of mine, an authority on world affairs, who has spent his life going around and round the globe studying political problems in every land. His name is Herbert Adams Gibbons. You probably have read some of his books. Anyhow, in his talk he reminded us that most of the people in China do not even know they are at war with Japan. He reminded us that China is not a nation, but is a

FAR EAST .. 2

civilization. Its people are not unified because they have no system of transportation. They even haven't any roads. He reminded us that since the downfall of the Empire of the Chinese have been unable to get together. And then he added that if they were able to act in unison they could handle the Japanese easily enough.

EARTHQUAKE

The Andes Mountains of South America have long been known as the home of earthquakes. And the earth down that way is at it again, doing a jig or a shimmy, or something. Word comes from Chile of a violent quake. The lightning flashed. Weird noises rumbled under the surface of the earth. Walls gave way. People fled from their homes in a number of towns. It is believed that great damage has been done in the remote interior of Chile.

ADRIFT ON ICE

It may be like spring where you are. It certainly is here in Detroit. But they are having winter in some localities. For instance, I saw a thrilling story in the Detroit News, from Alpena, Michigan. Five fisherman were out on the ice of Thunder Bay. Suddenly the ice broke loose, and there they were like Polar bears on a cake of ice in the Arctic Ocean.

They had erected wooden huts on the ice. Frantically they burned these as a signal of distress. People on shore saw the fires. Then the fisherman and the ice and the burning huts disappeared from view. Their friends fear that the ice they are on may break up and drop them all into the waters of Lake Huron. Boats have gone to the rescue.

ICE RESCUE

On my across the Province of Ontario this morning, when the train stopped at St. Thomas, I picked up a copy of the Buffalo morning paper, the Courier-Express. And, the first story that caught my eye was a tragic one. There was a picture of a crowd of people around the lifeless form of a small boy. He had been skating, had gone through thin ice - and they had been too late. Artificial respiration had failed to bring him around.

A few minutes later I started going through a stack of mail. I'm usually way behind with mail and a train journey gives me a chance to catch up. Well, the first letter was from Mr. Norval Spinnly, principal of a High School in Springfield, Massachusetts, asking me to congratulate some of his boys on a thrilling skating rescue. Mr. Spinnly enclosed a clipping from that famous newspaper, The Springfield Union, an article in which the boys said they had heard me tell how to save people when they go through thin ice and had followed my instructions. They probably heard Captain Scully, the famous Red Cross life-saver, the night I had him on the air. At any rate the Springfield rescue was a thrilling one and it turned out happily, so I'll tell you a little about it:-

ICE RESCUE ..2

Five boys were skating on the Connecticut River, on a stretch of backwater where the ice was thick. Fourteen year old Chester Kusek dared ten year old Willie Callahan to skate clear across the wide river to the Chicopee side. They had heard that some other kids had made it the day before. So little Willie Callahan took the dare. Off he went lickety split with Chester Kusek right behind.

Three other boys watched them, saw them go about a quarter of a mile, and then saw Willie vanish. Chester, the bigger boy, didn't have a chance to swerve, so in he went, too. Both bobbed up and yelled for help.

The other three boys, Russ Dezielle, Joe Godek and Buddy Doolittle, skated out to see if they could help. When they came to the thin ice, they got down on their stomachs, caught hold of each others skates, made a human chain and got hold of the big boy Chester, pulled him to safety and then tried to haul out little Willie Callahan, who was screaming with fright. Willie, nearly frantic, almost pulled his rescuers in; and by now they were all scared. Inch by inch, digging their skates into the ice as they moved back, they pulled Willie out.

And here was the funny ending:- When a Springfield Union photographer went to the home of ten year old Willie Callahan, Willie's parents didn't know what had happened. Willie had come home, slid in quietly, jumped into bed and was sound asleep.

Yes, their High School principal is right. All five deserve to be congratulated; the two who are mighty lucky to be alive and Buddy, Joe and Russ, who kept cool, did the right thing and saved their friends' lives.

I've told this story in detail because this is an open winter, a skating winter, and I hardly ever pick up a paper but what I read about children going through the ice. Sad to relate, usually ~~may~~ they are not saved.

So, be careful boys and girls. And if you do break through, try and keep your wits, get your arms on the ice, raise your feet and sort of half swim and half crawl to safety. If you are going to the rescue, slide out on your stomach, with a board or ladder in front of you, if possible.

TOBACCO

Here's a curious item from Canada. Up in the Dominion they are feeding tobacco to sheep, and making them like it. What is more, Canadian experts on animal husbandry say it is good for them. The information comes from the Department of Agriculture in Ottawa. What they do is mix a hundred pounds of crushed tobacco leaf with a hundred pounds of salt. It has been found an excellent preventive against internal parasites.

Well, if this didn't come from an official source I should say it was a tall story, but obviously it is true. Goah! We thought it was bad enough when our women started to become heavy consumers of tobacco without our sheep going in for it, too.

DENVER

There is nothing particularly new from Denver in that kidnapping case, except this. Claude Bletcher, the wealthy Denverite, today swore by all that was holy that he would get revenge on the men who have kidnapped his boy, if they do him any physical harm. In fact the father said that he would spend five times the sixty-thousand dollars the kidnapers demanded, yea ten times that amount if necessary. He went so far as to say that he would spend his whole life in tracking them down.

EMPRESS

In the Toronto Star I found an amusing tale, the tale of a French Baroness who set herself up as an Empress of a tiny island in the Galapagos Group; these are the islands off the South American Coast where my Friend Dr. Beebe made some of his most interesting scientific discoveries, and where Commander Gene McDonald of Chicago made some humorous non-scientific discoveries when he found a German professor and a friend living a la Adam and Eve. But this story concerns a French Baroness who descended upon the Island of Floreana in the same Galapagos archipelago. There she established her court and a military force consisting of three ex-soldiers of the German Army. She ruled her domain, it appears, with an iron hand, driving off visitors with rifle fire and allowing no one to live on this tiny island without her permission.

The island in question belongs to the Republic of Ecuador. Some Citizens of Ecuador made a visit to the island sometime ago on a hunting and fishing trip. There they found the island in possession of the so-called Empress who informed them that she had bought it from the government of Ecuador. When they tried to continue their hunting and fishing they were shot at by the Empress's Army. The visitors returned to the mainland of South America and told the officials of the Ecuadorean government of their

EMPRESS ..2

... an interesting chap on his way out from New York. ...
... of Pittsburgh. ... He is one of the
experience. The government discovered that no such sale of any
... The Flying Society of America. He had been in New York
island had taken place, so now a detachment of Ecuadorean troops is
... That means with gliders of
on its way to the Island of Floreana to dispossess the Empress, and drive
away her back-to-nature courtiers and her army in their uniforms a la
naturel.

... in Germany, in 1931 and '32, there were
approximately 51,590 pilots registered with the various German flying
clubs - amateur pilots practicing with power flying and gliding. He said
that seven thousand three hundred of these were under twenty-one years of
age.

... we have only 10,257 amateur pilots. And
of these only 309 are glider pilots. Of professional pilots in this country
we have only 1250 pilots in the Army Air Corps, 500 in the Navy, 30 student
pilots in the navy, 100 pilots and 10 glider pilots in the Marine Corps,
7,000 transport pilots, 1000 glider pilots and 1000 glider pilots.

... according to ...
... a much smaller country than the U.S.A. ...
... pilot and glider ...

GLIDERS

I met an interesting chap on my way out from New York. His name is A.C. "Gus" Haller, of Pittsburgh. Gus Haller is one of the directors of the Soaring Society of America. He had been in New York planning the next annual soaring contest:- That means with gliders, of course. And it looks as though the next National Glider Meet will be held at Elmira, New York, where they've been holding them in recent years.

Gus told me that over in Germany, in 1931 and '32, there were approximately 51,590 pilots registered with the various German flying clubs - amateur pilots practicing with power flying and gliding. He said that seven thousand three hundred of these were under twenty-one years of age.

But here in the U.S.A. we only have 10,297 amateur pilots. And of these only 209 are glider pilots. Of professional fliers in this country we have only 1280 pilots in the Army Air Corps, 803 in the Navy, 84 Student pilots in the navy, 133 pilots and 12 student pilots in the Marine Corps; 7,000 Transport pilots, 1224 limited commercial and 29 industrial pilots.

So, according to gliding expert "Gus" Haller, Germany although a much smaller country than the U.S.A. has more than four times as many amateur pilots who fly for sport than we have. In fact Germany has more

GLIDERS .2

Now, here's one. Is it true, or is it a tall story? I know
than two and a half times as many amateur pilots as we have amateurs
in to you. I saw it in the Detroit News. Farmers in Ohio, near the
and professionals combined.
lovely town of Norwalk report seeing big rabbits hopping around, quizzical
rabbits, gigantic rabbits, gargantuan rabbits. And they say Norwalk is a
dry community. Maybe it's an invasion of kangaroos from Australia. What
do you think about it?

I wonder what our friend Orin Butts of Bay City, Michigan will
have to say about these giant rabbits? Perhaps, you'll recall that some
time ago I told how Orin Butts had been crowned champion liar of America.
Butts now says that he wants to retire as the champion liar. He fell
downstairs on his way home from a meeting of the Liar Club. Well,
maybe one of the farmers around Norwalk who started these rabbit story should
be elected to take his place. And, being until tonight.

RABBITS

Ah, here's one. Is it true, or is it a tall story? I leave it to you. I saw it in the Detroit News. Farmers in Ohio, near the lovely town of Norwalk report seeing big rabbits hopping around, colossal rabbits, gigantic rabbits, gargantuan rabbits. And they say Norwalk is a dry community. Maybe its an invasion of kangaroos from Australia. What do you think about it?

I wonder what our friend Orin Butts of Bay City, Michigan will have to say about those giant rabbits? Perhaps, you'll recall that some time ago I told how Orin Butts had been crowned champion liar of America. Butts now says that he wants to retire as the champion liar. He fell downstairs on his way ~~fra~~ home from a meeting of the Liars Club. Well, maybe one of the farmers around Norwalk who started that rabbit story should be elected to take his place. And, so long until tomorrow.