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Pittsburgh.

LOWELL THOMAS SUN, THURSDAY, April 26, 1934.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:-

Although in Pittsburgh again tonight I am going to switch over to Washington in just a moment. There is big news today and one of the men who made that news is sitting in Washington. So, ~~you~~^{we} are going to hear a little about it straight from him. ~~After that we will go on with our evening's journey around the world.~~^{then}

And now an agreement has been reached. It has taken six weeks to thrash it out. The terms are that during the next year, the railroads will progressively restore the ten per cent wage cut which the workers took under that temporary agreement. So the wages of the railroad workers are to be increased gradually to the former pre-depression rate of pay.

This eliminates the biggest threat of labor trouble the country has had in face. So tonight we were glad to

RAILROADS.

For more than a year now we've been hearing about that dispute between the railroads and the railroad workers. It has been perhaps the biggest labor problem of them all. The railroad industry concerns more than two million men. That huge army of railroad men have been working under a temporary agreement. The agreement is now running out. The railroads have been demanding a change. They thought wages should be cut. The workers have also been demanding a change--of a different sort. They thought wages should be raised.

And now an agreement has been reached. It has taken six weeks to thrash it out. The terms are that during the next year, the railroads will progressively restore the ten per cent wage cut which the workers took under that temporary agreement.

So the wages of the railroad workers are to be increased gradually to the former pre-depression rate of pay.

This eliminates ^{Just about} the biggest threat of labor trouble the country has had to face. ~~So tonight we can give three~~

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Both sides, the railroad executives and the men, have come out with a statement declaring that it was Coordinator Eastman's untiring efforts that brought about the agreement. Well, let's hear some more about these cheery tidings -- from a man who took part in the negotiations. Chairman of the Railway Labor Executive Association Mr. A. F. Whitney is at a microphone in Washington. Mr. Whitney, what did both the railroad and the railroad laborers do to avert that strike? (minute and a half for speaker).

Whitney's last words "And that, Mr. Thomas is the story."

Follow speaker: "And a mighty cheerful story it is, Mr. Whitney."

BUREAU OF MINES

Railroading in one way or another involves all of us.

But, next to farming there are more persons engaged in mining, in this country, than in any other activity. Gold mining in the West; Copper in Michigan, Arizona and Utah; Iron in the Iron-range of Minnesota; zinc in the Ozarks; Silver and lead in the Black Hills, Butte, and the Coeur d' Laine; Platinum and other rare minerals; coal in many parts of the country, and so on.

And that makes this next item important news to an immense number of people. The United States' Bureau of Mines is today under a new cabinet department. The switch has just been made. By a Presidential Executive order the Bureau of Mines has been transferred from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Interior.

I first learned of this through two of the high officials of the Bureau of Mines, William Yant, and J.J. Forbes serving under Scott Turner who is the director in Washington, and Mr. A. A. Fieldner.

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Here is part of the story behind the Bureau of Mines. It is of comparatively recent origin, created by an Act of Congress in 1910. The head offices are in Washington, and there are eleven experiment stations located in our most important mining districts. The one in Pittsburgh is the largest, in fact, ~~the~~ largest in the world. ^{TP} The work of the Bureau of Mines affects all of us. In addition to the big problems it solves, it even handles such things as advising farmers on the dangers of entering an old well, helps explosive manufacturers with their dynamite problems, solves ventilation problems when cities and states are building water or vehicular tunnels, works out problems for the firemen of the country, and analyzes minerals and the products of the earth. ~~and~~ ^{representatives} governments from all over the world consult our Bureau of Mines ^{of which we should be proud and} ^{of which we should know more.}

INTRO

There's a big story about Spain tonight, and a little one. And I just can't get that little unimportant bit of human drama off my mind. It's the old story of the grizzled veteran of the War who hears the sound of battle.

Antonio Sanchez of Madrid is a veteran retired bull fighter. He heard a terrific commotion in a vegetable market, a yelling and a crashing. A bull was loose and on the rampage, driving vendors and customers in wild panic, charging the vegetable stands, wrecking them right and left, and tossing showers of cabbages, onions, garlic and frijoles.

You can imagine what that meant to Antonio Sanchez, the retired bull fighter. He dashed to his nearby home. He seized his old sword and red bull fighting cape. Then he darted back to the vegetable market, where the bull was right in the act of tossing a pushcart of ripe red tomatoes. Just imagine the glint in Antonio's eye. See him step nimbly up to the bull, flashing his red cape. The bull charges him. He side-steps. With lowered slashing horns the enraged Toro charges again. This time the old toredor strikes as nimbly

and deftly as he ever did when he was young in the bull rings of Madrid, Toledo and Old Sevilla. The steel flashes. There is no excited throng to cheer, as the bull goes to its knees, only a lot of onions and garlic and squashed tomatoes scattered on the ground.

But to Antonio Sanchez it was the return of the glory that he had never hoped to experience again. And that's how the old retired bullfighter killed his bull, in the vegetable market of Madrid.

But of course neither Antonio nor the bull nor the vegetable market are half so important as the crisis of government in Spain. The little human drama has to give place to a big political drama.

SPAIN FOLLOW LEAD.

For a second time in a little over a month, the Spanish government has declared what is known as a state of alarm. This is a provision of a peculiar law in that Republic. The state of alarm is a modified form of martial law.

The reason for the crisis is the new bill proclaiming amnesty for all political prisoners. This will not only let hundreds of them out of jail, but also means that some nine thousand refugees, Royalists, Communists and what-not, will pour back into Spain from France, Portugal and Africa, where they have been in exile.

The resignation of the Lerroux cabinet, was precipitated when President Zamora, after signing the amnesty bill, issued a long, long statement setting forth thirty four reasons why he should not have signed it. And now the talk is that the

SPAIN FOLLOW LEAD #2.

A Spain
President [^] himself may resign. What will happen in this case nobody dares to prophecy. But it promises to bring about a chaotic condition in the country of Don Quixote.

There is an economic background to this situation as well. The Republic set going a wide program of social reform. But this program has cost a terrific lot of money. And, as in France, there are more political parties than you can count--the Royalists, the Agrarians, the Communists, the Socialists, ⁺ the Catholics, ^{party and so on.} _^ To make the job still more difficult, there is a growing Nazi organization in Spain which has recently joined hands with a group of Fascists. The leader of these Fascists incidentally is the young Marquis Primo DeRivera, son of the General who was dictator of the Country under King Alfonso. So over in Spain there is more excitement out of the bull ring than in it.

GANDHI.

It must be easy to pay the grocery bills for Mahatma Gandhi. He is thinking about going on another fast. Why? Because some boys threw stones at him.

The Mahatma and some friends were driving through the City of Buxar when suddenly a shower of sticks and stones descended on the car. A gang of boys had hurled the missiles. Gandhi himself was not injured, but his companions in the car were. So now he is planning to go on a penitential fast to expiate the sin of not having been able to convince the opposition.

~~In short~~ Gandhi fasts again because at present, he is unpopular with a large element of his people. They ^{seem to} resent his campaign in favor of the Untouchables, ~~those~~ ^{those} infamous outcasts ^{people} of India whose very shadow is pollution to the haughty Brahmin. Anybody who has spent any time in India will understand that in the case of Untouchables and the whole institution of caste, Gandhi is tackling a problem which is about as unsolvable as a problem may be.

JAPAN.

In the Japanese situation the United States is still asking "What's it all about?" The American Ambassador at Tokyo has asked the Mikado's Foreign Minister for the exact text of the Japan^{'s} statement concerning China. In the Capitals of all the nations concerned in that Far Eastern situation, conferences and discussions are being held. The Chinese minister at Geneva declared loudly that, so far as the peace of the Far East is concerned, Japan is the only disturbance of that Far Eastern tranquility. An international situation of the greatest importance is brewing. It is developing with a logical deliberation. The encouraging thing is that nobody seems to be going off the handle. The Western Powers are talking in a calm, reasoned way. And Tokyo's movements have an air of grave deliberation--if that's any encouragement.

MESTA

Some things ~~do~~ happen in the Orient that seem to us a bit strange. For instance the Giant American Machine Works where huge tools are made, tools containing single parts that weigh as much as three hundred thousand pounds, got a big order from Japan. The name of this American firm is Mesta, at Homestead, Pennsylvania. They make the tools that operate some of the rolling mills, some of the arsenals, ~~some of~~ the locomotive factories of the world, and so on.

After getting the big order from Japan, suddenly they received a cable cancelling it and the reason given by the Japanese was:- "Because a baby had just been born, an heir to the Mikado." I wonder what that had to do with the birth of giant machinery?

ESCAPES

One can't help asking: What's wrong at the Indiana State Prison? Five prisoners getting loose within the past few days, just after four convicts, three of them lifers, escaped last weekend. They just walked out of the prison and got away. This last one, making five, was a negro trusty. He also just sauntered away. He hasn't been seen since -- and neither have the others.

The next thing you know judges may be imposing a life sentence in these terms: "You are hereby sentenced to the State Penitentiary until such time as you succeed in getting away."

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Years ago I went to school with a young man who studied chemistry. Then I lost track of him. Today we met for the first time in twenty-two years. His name is George Jones, one of Uncle Sam's chief chemists in the Bureau of Mines. He invited me to broadcast from his laboratory. [¶] So I am sitting here surrounded by test tubes and apparatus more wierd and complicated than Rube Goldberg, the cartoonist, ever dreamed of. [¶] In this laboratory they have just been ^{this afternoon} working with what they call di-Ethyl ether in oxygen. To do this they constantly have explosions, and watch their effect. Every hour or so there is an explosion, like the sound of a gun. But because these made the stenographers and scientists in other laboratories ^{around the building} jumpy -- they never knew when to expect one -- Chemist Jones and his associates now ring a bell to warn the entire building before setting off an explosion.

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They have promised to do one tonight as the signal when my time is up, an explosion in di-Ethyl ether to tell me when to get off the ether.

(Sound of bell.) There goes the warning bell.
Look out for the explosion!

(BOOM)

That's the polite way these chemists have of saying, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.