

FLOODS

The Governor of New York used one descriptive word today, and I along with many others, can testify to its accuracy. The word was "Terrible". Governor Lehman was describing conditions in the flood areas in upper New York state.

All last night the men who work on the news reels when they reach the home office had a long session, all night long going through tens of thousands of feet of terrifying, hair-raising flood pictures. At Fox Movietone I sat with Truman Talley and Lawrence Stallings, while they cut a news reel subject out of the endless sequences of devastation and the terror of the water. There was something terrific in the panorama places, the succession of flood date-lines -- Binghamton, Ithaca; Watkins Glenn; Elmire; - all in New York. Kingston, Wilkes-Barre and York in Pennsylvania and so on -- town after town, and each town a disaster.

Port Dixon, New York with views of a bridge washed out in one place, a bridge smashed in another place, a fantasy of shattered bridges.

Wilkes Barre, the baseball grounds under water.

FLOODS - 2

The lugubrious grandstand overlooking an inland sea, where they could row a boat race. The flying field engulfed,

the hanger standing like an island in the middle of a lake.

A flying field turned into a seaplane base.

17
And in the colossal wreckage, towns and homes turned into a Nightmare of debris - was the incessant intimation of human tragedy, men, women and children caught by the flood, miraculous escapes, melancholy fatalities where there was no escape, tragedy suggested and tragedy outspoken - as when ~~Edwin~~ Edwin Landis of Trumansburg, New York, tells his story to the ~~Movietone~~ news reel camera, so haunted with grief that he can hardly find the words to tell. How he was camping by the lake, with his wife, three children and father-in-law. The rising waters came upon them at night. They tried to get away in their car, but the road was engulfed. They deserted the car and sought to struggle to higher ground. They were seized by the swirl of the water. They caught hold of a floating tree and hung on, and drifted, tossing in the raging eddies, and one by one they weakened, and dropped off and sank - first the little girl - the wife - the father-in-law, and two boys. Only

FLOODS - 3

the bereaved man was left to be rescued.

So no wonder the Governor of New York, in his inspection of the flood region, is horrified by the destruction and by the pitiable plight of the refugees. He tells us that further danger seem^s definitely over. The high waters have passed their peak, and are receding. The story from now on will be - rebuilding, with armies of Federal Relief Works on the job.

18
The word Martial Law is heard. And it's applied not merely to the possibility of looting but to such a seemingly innocent matter as sightseeing. Governor Lehman says the influx of curious tourists is a nuisance and a danger, with roads torn up, bridges down, and the food supply running low. And he may evoke martial law to keep sightseers away.

KINGS

The report from Vienna today is that the Austrians are just waiting for the right time, the strategic moment, to put a king upon the throne. Last evening's news that the Vienna government has passed a decree overruling the sentence of exile on the Hapsburgs, allowing all the Arch Dukes and Arch Duchesses to return, was the tip-off to the drift of the royal wind. And today's dispatches merely confirm the supposition that the young Arch Duke Otto is scheduled to receive the crown of his forefathers.

But that's only one current of the monarchist breeze. There's a royal zephyr blowing in Greece also - of which the latest blustery gust is a vote by the National Assembly of the Hellenic nation. It's been known for some time that the Government at ~~Ath~~ Athens has been planning to hold a nationwide vote on the subject of the exiled Greek King, and that the question of a plebiscite would be placed before the National Assembly. Similarly, it's been supposed that the assembly would vote in favor of giving the people a chance to say whether

they wanted a king again or not. So the only novelty today is the decisiveness of the Assembly's action. It was four to one in favor of a plebiscite. The problem will be put before the people without any delay. However, the assembly has decreed, that no matter what happens, Greece will remain a Republic until November fifteenth. Even if George is elected King, ~~he~~ he'll have to wait that long before he gets the crown again.

Last week the exiled monarch was divorced from his Queen - Elizabeth, sister of King Carol of Roumania. George, *by the way,* has been travelling around Europe on a Roumanian passport.

His probable return to the throne has a probable American angle - this being revealed in a report that Princess ~~Aspasia~~ Aspasia of Greece may marry an American, John H. Harris, a New York builder. Princess ~~Aspasia~~ Aspasia is the widow of King Alexander of Greece, brother of George. If both the restoration and the marriage happen, it would make an American an in-law of the Hellenic crown.

ABYSSINIA

The move to avert an East African war takes this form tonight. A special meeting of the Council of the League of Nations is to be held on July 25th. It was called some days ago. Its purpose would be to take the Italian-Abyssinian question in hand. But if it does so, Italy will withdraw from the League, so the Italians say. Today's word tells of still another get-together scheduled to be held before the July 25th date of the League of Nations Council session. A special meeting of England, France and Italy has been called. These are the three big powers that really count, and any agreement they can achieve will stand supreme.

Italy is said to have accepted the invitation to the Three-Power discussion, but only in principle. There is little chance that Mussolini will go into it with any notion of backing down. He is likely to send a representative who will have no power to do any ~~in~~ yielding; *merely power to repeat the* ~~but only to assert the~~ Italian claims.

The international diplomatic picture is amplified a bit today by the presence of Uncle Sam who takes a

rather more expressive ~~than~~ stand than previously. Secretary of State Hull in a conference with the Italian Ambassador today, stated the attitude of the United States in these words -- that the Washington Government will view with extreme misgivings any warlike action of Italy in East Africa. Those personal words spoken by the Secretary to the Ambassador ~~in Italy~~ have the status of a declaration by the United States to Italy. Of course, the new American pronouncement doesn't really say anything more than was said in the State Department's reply to the Abyssinian request for American help. But the emphasis is somewhat different, a reiteration with a new stress.

2
1
The British are calling for a quieter and more reasonable attitude of "keep your hat on, also your shirt."

The British Foreign Secretary today denounced the war scare and the war talk. Sir Samuel Hoare spoke his words to the House of Commons. He referred to "alarm mongers who delight in creating international crises." And he expressed himself thusly: "I deplore the present disquieting war talk. I appeal to the world to introduce more good nature, tolerance and

common sense into its consideration of international affairs."

The Foreign Secretary's tranquilizing remarks seemed to be the setting of a new key for the tune of British policy. His declaration in the House of Commons echoed some significant notes of toleration. He declared that Great Britain admits that Italy needs colonial expansion and acknowledges that Mussolini has grounds for complaint against Ethiopia. He declared that England has not asked and will not ask France to take part in any blockade of Italy. His suave syllables were of a sort to please the ears of Mussolini.

3
So observers immediately marked ~~was~~ down the opinion that Britain is veering to the support of Italy. All of this throws a glare of vivid interest on Sir Samuel Hoare's summarizing statement that England is conducting important secret negotiations for peace in East Africa. That confirms the report that British statesmen behind closed doors have been working out a comprehensive plan for an East African settlement. The general tenor of the Foreign Secretary's remarks give a strong hint that these secret British proposals

two logical courses before the^m. They could have used plain force, a rigorous armed front against the nations without colonies. The other way was to make concessions, and let the have-nots have something, give them something. But they did neither. They hadn't the strength, the will to keep things under control. Nor did they have the wisdom to yield something in good grace, and that could only provoke trouble.

So, of the three nations that are short of colonies, Japan has already kicked the bucket over and grabbed. Italy is about to do the same. And Germany[?]-- an uneasy problem for the future.

GAS

Ghosts of the flaming coffins of World War terror hovered as Clyde Pangborne told me about the new solid non-explosive airplane fuel with which he has been experimenting. Pang had a leading part in ^{the} tests, in which he repeatedly fired tracer bullets into the new experimental airplane gas that looks like thick jelly. If there's no use ~~of~~ shooting those streaking flaming tracer bullets into a war plane's gas tank in a sky battle, the ways of aerial combat will be transformed. Anyway, the new stuff invented by Dr. Adolph Prussin, ^{has} had ~~a~~ some spectacular test^s at the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aeronautics. It ran an airplane motor full power and roar and it couldn't be made to explode with Tracer Bullets or even ^{with} a Bunsen Burner.

I've just read a thrilling book about air combats in the world war. A book that came out recently. Heaven High & Hell Deep, by Capt. Norman Archbald. It'll keep you wide awake and pop-eyed on the sultriest, hottest day.

DOUGHNUT

Here's something to make one of those little newspaper classics, deserving a featured position in a box on page one. And that's where it's appearing in papers ~~xxx~~ everywhere. Still, it's so good I'll take a chance on your having missed it. It's that story of Chuji Kosumi, a Japanese who doesn't like to be fooled. Chuji Kosumi arrived recently in New York from Japan. Maybe out in the Far East he heard about the ways of ^{the} big city. Perhaps he had heard the old song about the things they say and the things they do, on the Bowery. So he was on the lookout. No smart New Yorker was going to take him into camp as a green-horn Far Eastern Reuben come to town.

Having a bit of an appetite, and being curious about American food, he walked into a Third Avenue Doughnut Shop and ordered some crullers. Chuji Kosumi looked at the sinkers with a skeptical eye. They had holes in them.

"Honorable Sir"! That's what he called the proprietor, "because I am Japanese you think you cheat me. You sell me some sinkers, but you sell me some hole in the middle. But you no cheat Chuji Kosumi."

The Cruller Magnate thought he was being kidded. So

he replied that if Chuji Kosumi didn't like the holes in the sinkers, he could order up some fried scallops and ~~it~~ plug up the holes.

The man from Nippon was insulted.. He reached for a Custard Pie, (He must have seen pie-throwing American movies back in Tokyo or Osaka.) The pie hit the proprietor. Chuji Kosumi reached for a Lemon Meringue Pie, then a Chocolate Pie. The proprietor was covered with humiliation and pie, while Chuji Kosumi followed through with the Mustard Pot and the Ketchup Bottle.

Tonight Chuji Kosumi is ^{still} in jail. In solitude there he has had a chance to look up the subject of sinkers. He understands all about them now, realizes that it's natural for them to have holes in the middle. He says he's sorry. He'll be sentenced next Monday.

58
The divine sentiment of love and the equally
divine institution of marriage receive^s some elucidation from
a questionnaire sent out by the Alimony Reform League. Alimony
and love, as is well known, have a certain logical relation.
The questionnaire made inquiry of two thousand women who are
keeping their husbands locked up in the non-payment ^{calaboose,} ~~house of~~
Why did you send your husband to jail? Are you satisfied
that he is in jail? How long would you like to have him remain
in jail? These are the questions asked.

58 1/2
They were answered in such fashion as to cause
the Alimony Reform League to say that the alimony wives with
husbands in jail are not merely illogical but psychopathic --
suffering from a sort of persecution phobia. Positively sadistic!
most of them said they sent their husbands to jail because their
husbands deserved it, ^{altho} ~~and more,~~ Hanging would have been better.
As to whether they were satisfied to have hubby in the coop^y? ---
dēlighted! How long did they want him to stay there? About a
thousand years -- or, as many of them elegantly explained it --
"Until he rots!"

One woman described her former lesser half
thusly: "He had the grace of a hippopotamus. The brain of
a gnat; ~~and~~ looked like a giraffe, stung like a wasp, and ~~he~~
had the personality of a dead salmon." Which goes to show her
excellent judgment in picking him in the first place. But then,
love is blind, and marriage has eyesight much too good-- and,
maybe I'd better say s-l-u-t-m.