

GERMANY

Lowell Thomas - Sunoco.

June 15th 1937 - Thurs.

Good evening everybody.

Here's a laugh from Germany. (The latest idea of the Nazis is to organize a Hitlerite Party in the U.S.A.)
Albion Ross cables the N.Y. Evening Post that the Nazi newspapers have discovered that American citizens of teutonic origin are filled with burning enthusiasm for the Hitler regime and want to have a third party in the U.S.A., one which will represent ^{Hitler} ~~these~~ ideas in Uncle Sam's land.

LONDON

Uncle Sam~~y~~ won his first victory at the Economic Conference in London today. There was keen intriguing and struggling between France and the U.S.A., jockeying for the Chairmanship of the important committee ~~which~~^{that} will deal with the Worlds monetary problems. The American Delegation came out on top, and it was finally decided that James M. Cox, Former Governor of Ohio and one-time candidate for the Presidency, should be the Chairman. For the rest, the proceedings at the conference in South Kensington Museum consisted mostly of formal addresses from the chief spokesmen of Canada,^{and} ~~and~~^{— also} Mexico, Latvia, Santa Domingo, ~~and~~^{and} other smaller countries. Canada's sp~~a~~kesman was Prime Minister Bennett.

A wireless report ~~inform~~ from London informs me that the gist of his address was a plea for international action on the world's huge surplus store of wheat. At the same time, rumor was current among American Delegates that Governor Harrison of the New York Federal Reserve Bank and Mr Montague Norman of the Bank of England are arriving at an agreement for the stabilization of currency. The report has

it that the British Pound is to be spiked at somewhere
~~around~~ between four dollars and four dollars and ten cents
in our money.

WAR DEBTS

This is the day for both individuals and nations to pay up. (Midnight tonight is the deadline for most of us to pay the second quarter of our income taxes. It is also the deadline for a number of foreign nations to pay debt installments to Uncle Sam. As I mentioned last night, England is paying ten percent of her June 15th installment. Word comes today from Washington that Ambassador Rosso of Italy has notified the State Department that his Government will pay approximately one million of the thirteen million due. At the same time, word arrived from France that she will default on her June war debt installment - default entirely, just as she did in December) The Polish Ambassador already has made know that his country also would default.

(The one country that will pay in full is Finland. Finland coming across with an installment of one hundred and forty-eight thousand five hundred and ninety-two dollars. So three cheers for Finland.)

PARIS

From Paris we learn that Norman Davis, Uncle Sam's Ambassador at large, is to stay on the job after all. This at the specific request of the President. The Foreign Service of the New York Evening Post cables that Mr. Davis did offer to withdraw so as not embarrass President Roosevelt because of revelations that he had been on the Morgan preferred list. But the President cabled him asking him to reconsider his resignation and continue his disarmament work for Uncle Sam.

Mr. Norman ^{Davis} is widely regarded as our ablest diplomat, having served under President Hoover also.

Mr. Davis is returning to America next week - but will return to Geneva early in July.

CONGRESS

Another step in the direction of the long-desired adjournment of Congress was taken today. The senate adopted the conference report on the fourth deficiency appropriations Bill. This was done without a record vote and the measure now goes to the President for signature.

RAILS

Anxiety seems to be growing among Railroad men concerning that additional twelve and a half percent cut which the railway executives propose to inflict. Leaders of the Four big railway unions are now gathering in Chicago for their conference which will begin tomorrow. The Railroad Managers Committee states that the wage scale, which means a total reduction of twenty-two and a half percent from the former standard, will bring the workers' wages more closely in line with the present cost of living and with wages paid in other industries.

But here's news from the other side of the ledger. President Williamson of the New York Central announced today that if business continues at the present rate, that road will have a net income of about one million this month compared to a loss of three million in June, 1932. Mr. Williamson said, and now I am quoting him:- "The road could legitimately have shown black figures for **May**, but we wanted to be conservative."

PROSPERITY

Its always a pleasure to report increases in wages and employment so I'll pass on a few more cheerful items. The Labor Department in Washington tells me that during the month of May, employment increased four and eight tenths percent over April and ~~payroll~~ payroll totals increased eleven and one half percent in the manufacturing industries. These are the largest increases, the Department states, since January, 1923.

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And here's something more to stimulate us. Those three billion three hundred million dollars appropriated for Uncle Sam to spend under Senator Wagner's Industrial Recovery Bill will go into circulation almost immediately. Such is the President's plan. The first project to be undertaken will be the building of roads. This is the most practical because in many part of the country construction plans are in such shape that contracts can be signed immediately and thereupon thousands can be instantly put to work. The recovery ~~WX~~ act provides that no less than four hundred million dollars can be allotted to road building throughout the U.S.A. And I know one road where I'd like to see a few of those dollars spent.

MONONGAHELA

I felt a little bit, just a little bit, like George Washington this morning. How come? Well, I stood in the bow of a boat as it plowed majestically up the Ohio River to the intersection of the Monongahela and the Allegheny. You probably will remember that George did the same thing in the days when he was fighting the ^{French and} Indians in these parts.

On board a boat belong to one of the River Companies, McCrady ^{and} ~~and~~ Rogers, some of my Pittsburgh friends took me up and down the Monongahela River, right through the heart of the Pittsburgh industrial area. They wanted to prove to me that the stories we have been hearing from Pittsburgh are true. That is, that the mills are opening up.

For two years now you could go up and down the Monongahela and Allegheny and every day seemed like Sunday, and the river banks seemed as almost deserted as they were almost two centuries ago when George Washington came this way.

We passed the great J & L Independent Steel Company Plant, then the Carnegie, up the river we went ^{on} up toward Monessen. Every single plant along the river had smoke

And it's because coming from its chimneys. Orders have been coming in from all over the country. We passed coal barges, going up and down. It takes two tons of coal to make one ton of steel. So when they get an order for a million tons of steel fabric for ~~that~~ new bridges across the Mississippi at New Orleans and that giant one across ^{Golden Gate} ~~the~~ Harbor at San Francisco, it means that two million tons of coal must be mined. ~~And~~ that's ~~is~~ what is now happening.

(8) For instance, up ~~at~~ Monessen, on the Monongahela, ^{home of} ~~my~~ my friend, Mayor Carl Woodward, ~~lives~~ the giant American Sheet and Tin Plate Mills ^{is} ~~is~~ now running ~~again~~ again, 100%! Incidentally, when they opened that mill, during the recent heat wave a few days ago, the men had been out of work so long that they were not accustomed to the heat. Many of them broke down, overcome by the heat, and had to be taken home in taxis by the company.

At any rate, ^{in Western Pennsylvania, are getting busy again,} the mills, ~~are going back to work,~~ and people in these parts are feeling mighty cheerful. They say large orders are coming in, indicating that firms ^{throughout the country} ~~are~~

MONONGAHELA

are getting ready for long-time operations, not just something temporary. So no wonder they are as happy as children.

L.T.

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One of the most interesting spots in American this week is the lobby of the Great William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh. Why? Well, because an army is camped there, an army that gets smaller and smaller every year. It is the 67th annual encampment of the G.A.R. of Pennsylvania, and there are about as many of the boys who wore the blue in the Keystone State as there are anywhere in the country.

They are all dressed in their blue uniforms, *and* their little dinky caps that seem so strange to us of a younger generation. Some of them have snowy white beards.

The youngest man present is William Ruhe of Pittsburgh, who is 83 years old, and the rest ~~of them~~ vary from that on up ^{to} ~~until~~ almost to a hundred.

Yesterday they were all jolly and laughing, swapping yarns of the old days, of how they fought at Vicksburg, Bull Run, Chattanooga, telling how Grant took Richmond, and of Pickett's charge at Gettysburg, and of those tough days in Libby Prison.

~~That is, they were yesterday.~~

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But, today they are silent, for their National Commander, who was with them yesterday, ~~has~~ slept right on through the night and is still asleep. Yesterday, Captain William Wright, National Commander of the G.A.R., told his comrades that only about two ^{wearers} of the Blue _^ in America, would be left by the year of 1950. And he promised them that he would be one of the two. But, today, when Captain Wright awoke, it was in that distant land where most of his friends had already gone.

In the lobby of the William Penn I also bumped into two husky gentlemen who were not at Gettysburg or Bull Run, but who have taken part in battles sometimes ^{jokingly} called "Battles of the Century," ^{I mean} Jack Dempsey and Max Baer. Baer, the conqueror of the Black Uhlan, Max Schmelling, is now on a swing around the hinterland, raking in the extra sheckles. That is, Max Baer is doing the performing in the ring, putting on exhibition matches, while Jack Dempsey does the referreeing and the raking in of the mazuma.

PITT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

At the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce today I had the pleasure of meeting about a thousand men. Among them I was surprised to see an old friend, Captain Al Williams, the famous aeronautical engineer and breaker of speed records. Captain Al Williams is now taking over important aviation work with offices in Pittsburgh. He is joining that group of brilliant aces of the air, men like Captain Frank Hawks, and Major Jimmy Doolittle, who are assisting great oil companies of the country from the aviation angle.

A moment later, ex-~~XXXXX~~ ^{Governor} John Fisher of Pennsylvania introduced me to a man who told me something that may interest people far and wide. This man is John Phillips, *for many years* Fish and Game Commissiner for the State of Pennsylvania.

TP During Governor ^{Fisher's} ~~Phillips~~ regime at Harrisburg, when Mr. Phillips was appointed Commissioner, nearly all of the wild life in Pennsylvania had been killed off. Mr. Phillips set about correcting this. The beaver had all disappeared. So he brought in one family of beaver and from that small start the beaver population of the Keystone State has increased until there are now large numbers of them.

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He also started conserving the deer, that had vanished. ^{now} With the result that there are ~~now~~ between five hundred thousand and a million of them in the forests of Pennsylvania. The same regarding bear. In fact they increased the number of bears to such an extent that it was necessary to kill them off and in one season they allowed hunters to bag more than 900, some huge fellows as big as western grizzlies.

Mr. John Phillips told me an interesting thing about the Boy Scouts of this state. He says they are now planting nuts:—~~XXXX~~ Walnuts, Hickory nuts, Chestnuts, Hazel nuts, and so on, from one end of the state to the other. The hard woods had all disappeared. For instance, most of the walnuts in Pennsylvania had been ~~XXXX~~ sold to the Germans years ago and made into gun stocks. Trees of the soft wood variety had been planted and had been allowed to increase, and now they are trying to build up hardwood forests.

L.T.

AVIATION - T.W.A.

Les Arnold, former round-the-world flyer, and now an executive of T.W.A., wires me from Kansas City that something important in aviation commences today. It is another new direct service from New York to Chicago ^{via Philadelphia and Pittsburg,} The plane making the ^{westbound} trip ~~was~~ today christened the "Air Century."

And the one making the same jump from ~~the~~ West to ~~the~~ East was christened "Pennland."

The jump between Chicago and Pittsburgh on this run will be non-stop and will take only about three and a half hours.

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L.T.

R.R. James T.

BASEBALL

The baseball world is keenly interested in the latest trade between the New York Giants and the Brooklyn Dodgers. By this the *g*iants have swapped Sam Leslie, reserve first baseman, to Brooklyn; in exchange for Lefty O'Doul, the hard-hitting outfielder, and Watson Clark, the *l*eft-handed pitcher. Experts say the acquisition of Leslie is especially valuable to the Brooklyn Dodgers because it plugs a weak spot in the Brooklyn infield, a weak spot that has existed for two years. Sam Leslie is such a good first basemen that he would be on the regular line-up *of* any other club excepting the Giants where he has been held in reserve because first base is usually filled by Manager Bill Terry. Leslie has been hitting around .324.

NEW YORK THRILLER

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A regular old time movie thriller was acted out in New York Harbor just before dawn today. It occurred near the Pier in the Hudson River where the giant ~~XXXXX~~ Italian Liner Conte Di Davoia was tied up. One of Uncle Sam's customs patrol boats was nosing around on routine duty. As she approached, a speed boat shot out from under the stern of the Italian Liner.

The customs inspectors opened ~~XXX~~ fire at the disappearing boat and did their darndest to catch her. But the speed boat was too fast for Uncle Sam's men and disappeared into the darkness. Thereupon the customs inspectors boarded the liner and found on deck heavy burlap bags filled with a large quantity of opium valued at around a half a million dollars. The stuff came from Istanbul, Turkey. None of the officials of the line nor anybody on the boat was able to explain its presence. An ingenious plot writer ought to find material there for a scenario.

R.A. James T.

HAILSTORM

The other night I told about a hailstorm at Martins Ferry, Ohio, It sounded so tall that I couldn't believe it ~~myself~~ myself, even though it was sent in as the absolute truth. But, today, I had it confirmed by reliable men.

Messrs. Work and Bernard, Sunoco dealers in Wheeling, West Virginia, just across from Martins Ferry, gave me more details about that storm. For example, they told me about a certain Dr. Wilson who has a heavy tile roof on his home. 500 of those tiles were broken. About 20,000 windows were smashed by the hailstones. Everyone of those big round glass Blue Sunoco signs that are over filling pumps in the Martins Ferry district were smashed. So large were the hailstones that they even battered in the tops of automobiles and since the storm 40 automobiles tops have had to be ^{replaced.} ~~replaced.~~ Some hail, that!

L.T.

FEAR

Now for another Scotch story.

The Dominie was arguing with MacPherson concerning his excessive conviviality. Said the minister: "Now MacPherson, why don't you fight against your longing for drink. When you are tempted think of your wife at home."

To which MacPherson replied thoughtfully: "Minister, when the thirst is upon me I am absolutely devoid of fear."

Well the one fear that most besets me is of talking too long, so as I start for New York I am going to say:

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.

Tit-bits.