

L.T. SUNOCO, JULY 14, 1932

Good Evening, Everybody:-

(It seems definitely settled that Uncle Sam and his northern neighbor, Canada, will join in building the longest seaway in the world. The news was made known today that American and Canadian diplomats have finished the first draft of the treaty for the construction of the St. Lawrence Waterway, one thousand miles of it.) It will cost three times as much as the Panama Canal, no less than eight hundred million dollars. This expense will be divided equally between Uncle Sam and Canada. The White House announced today that the final treaty will be ready for signature at an early date.

This Waterway will open up the Great Lakes to ocean-going vessels. It will make Cleveland, and Toronto, and all the other great ports on the lakes -- sea ports. And that's big news.

CONEY ISLAND - Fire

Last night I flashed the word that Coney Island was on fire. And when I finished the broadcast I started for there by boat. And sure enough it was a tremendous blaze. In fact, today, from my office in the Empire State, a thousand feet in the air above New York, I could still see the smoke from the smoldering ruins twenty miles away.

If you had been in New York last night you would have seen an extraordinary spectacle. Thousands of people were riding home in the subway and elevated and street cars in their bathing suits. What's still more remarkable is that they were carried for nothing.

Yes, the reason was that fire out there at the largest and most famous pleasure resort in the world. Today for blocks, the heart of Coney Island is laid waste. A thousand people are homeless. Estimates of the injured vary between three hundred and a thousand. Sixty firemen are in the hospital, including a battalion chief.

All the newspapers are featuring the great fire today.

One hundred motor cars parked in the neighborhood were destroyed. The roar of the fire was punctuated by the loud pop of

automobile gasoline tanks exploding from the heat.

Estimates of the damage range from two million to five million. This is the third great Coney Island fire in twenty-five years.

I watched it, from the deck of a Jersey Central boat, just off shore. The whole night sky was aflame, and shooting into that curtain of red were countless columns of water.

Late this afternoon firemen were still pouring streams of water on the flames which have not yet completely died down.

It is supposed to have started from a pile of rubbish underneath the boardwalk. Some careless bathers tossed a cigaret butt. Of course there are the usual rumors of fire bugs. Anyhow, result -- millions gone up in flames -- hundreds injured.

The plight of the bathers would have been serious indeed if the Rapid Transit companies hadn't carried them home in their bathing suits, for nothing. As six strings of bathhouses were destroyed and many people had their clothes there, including all the cash they had taken down to Coney, well, you can imagine those bathers were in a tough spot.

Several items of human interest came to light today as the result of this great blaze. For instance, scores of bathers reported that they had received gifts of clothing and money from perfect strangers.

On the other hand,^a/small-time larcenous gentleman took advantage of the excitement to rob a penny peanut machine.

For hours hundreds of husbands and wives, children and parents were wandering around Coney looking for each other. It was early this morning before the police managed to reunite all the missing.

In addition to the six bathing pavillions, apartment buildings and bungalows were destroyed.

A gentleman named Israel Rosen, who had nothing left but his bathing suit, went up to a policeman on the beach. With tears in his eyes he said: "Please lock me up, Mr. Policeman. Give me a nice patrol wagon ride. I ain't got no place to go.

Five portly dames from a Turkish bath, fled in their birthday clothes and took refuge under the boardwalk until rescued by an ambulance with blankets.

And here's a paragraph I saw in the New York World

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Telegram this evening. A woman went up to one of the patrol men on guard and said: "When is this going to be over, Mr.?"

A policeman, a motorcycle cop of the overbearing sort, was making himself obnoxious ordering people around, just to show his authority, and adding to the confusion. A fireman turned a three inch hose full in ^{his} ~~the~~ face and that stopped him.

Today cordons of police are around the ruined area protecting the remains from looters.

The Coney Island Chamber of Commerce got busy today and announced that the ruined area will be built up again bigger and better than ever.

CARNIVAL

Here's a tale of a carnival that turned sour. Also of a community of suckers who turned into lions.

The tale comes in a United Press dispatch to the Trenton Times. This carnival has been at the town of Mechanicsville, Maryland. For several days, says the report, the raffle board, the wheel of chance, and other ~~gimmicks~~ gimmicks, as they are known in the show business, not only delighted ~~th~~ but relieved the townspeople who went to the carnival. They were relieved in more ways than one. Because at the end of the week they found themselves with empty pockets. For a time it was interesting. Then it became tiresome. Finally the farmers and townspeople became downright mad.

Just as the carnival was about to move on, three ~~motor~~ car loads of grin⁷faced farmers appeared, ~~They were~~ armed with shotguns, and they used them.

When the fracas was all over, twenty-five people had been injured and four so seriously that they needed hospital treatment. One of the grifters, - a grifter is a man who runs ~~the~~

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a gimmick, and a gimmick is a crooked device for taking your ^{shekels} ~~money~~ away from you at carnivals and so-called pleasure resorts.

Well, at any rate, one of these grifters is in a ~~very~~ serious condition. Likewise three innocent bystanders, one ~~of them~~ a woman.

^{They say it} ~~It~~ will be quite a long ~~while~~ ^{grifter comes} before another drifting [^]
~~carnival~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~goes near~~ ^{into} Mechanicsville.

BANKS

The country's banks ^{passed} ~~got~~ through a trying month last June. But they ^{reached the} ~~passed~~ June 30th bank-call with a sharp improvement in conditions. ^{So says today's issue of} ~~So says the~~ Rand McNally's Weekly Banking Market. ~~today's~~

The report continues ^{that} ~~with~~ the first two weeks in July show that new and reopened banks are maintaining the steady increase begun in March. For this week the increase is 55% over the same period in 1931. Every month since March the number of new and reopened banks has been greater than in the same months a year ago.

That's the kind of news one likes to be able to broadcast.

LABOR

The American Federation of Labor is holding a Convention at Atlantic City. Those Labor fellows certainly

know a nice comfortable place to hold a convention. ~~and~~ I spent part of today on the Jersey coast myself - in the surf.

Well, An interesting feature of today's meeting was a statement by William Green, President of the A. F. & L. He promised a war to the finish on racketeering within the ranks

of Labor. ^{My friend Mr.} ~~William~~ ^{said} ~~Green, the President of the Federation,~~ ~~said~~

^{has made a} ~~the organization has~~ pledged ~~itself~~ to go the limit in purging itself ~~to the~~ of the leeches who have fastened ~~themselves~~ upon the American Labor movement and are exploiting the hard working and honest members of some unions.

^{And,} That's good news for people interested in the building trade especially.

ITALY

~~That~~ ^{from Europe} It was announced ~~officially~~ today that Italy has enthusiastically joined the recently formed alliance between John Bull and his neighbor France. The important thing about this is that Italy and France have been at Loggerheads for years. In fact, the situation has kept diplomats worried.

A United Press dispatch to the New York Sun informs us that the Foreign Office in London made it known today that the Italian Embassy has advised England that Italy is ~~very~~ glad to give its approval to the mode of treating European problems ~~that is~~ proposed in the agreement between Great Britain and France. The ~~Belgian~~ Belgian Embassy has advised the British Foreign Office that the Belgian ^{government} ~~office~~ is presenting the agreement to ^{their} parliament with a view to joining.

SOUTH AMERICA

Rumblings and rumors of war and trouble continue to come from various parts of South America. A United Press dispatch from Rio to the Pittsburgh Press carries the news that the ~~the~~ Federal Government of Brazil has appropriated one million four hundred and fifty thousand dollars to break the revolt in Sao Paulo. One Minister of the Cabinet in Rio predicted that there would be a sudden and bloodless end to the revolution within a short time. But apparently the position of the military forces of the government and the rebels remains unchanged. ~~But the government is~~ *However the Federals are* clamping down a ~~big~~ ^{strict} censorship on all dispatches.

Then in Peru they are holding a court martial. *It involves* ~~on~~ the people who instigated the ~~PERU~~ recent uprising in Trujillo. This is described as one of the bloodiest affairs of the kind that's been seen in South America in recent years. One hundred and fifty prisoners mostly members of the city administration and loyal troops of the government, were massacred in the ^{Trujillo} city jail.

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that revolt in the southern part of ^{that country.} ~~the Republic.~~ By the way, when the rebels proclaimed Colonel Luis Alba dictator of the Republic, this dictator was at the time in jail in Quito.

On the other side of the Andes ^{another} ~~a still more~~ serious situation is reported. Argentina and Uruguay have broken diplomatic relations. This follows a series of misunderstandings.

The break was made by Uruguay. In response the Argentine government declares that its neighbor has broken off relations for reasons absolutely devoid of foundation. The government Uruguay gave the Argentine ambassador his passport late yesterday.

The Chamber of Deputies is holding a secret session in Montevideo to discuss this rupture. The reason given is that a General who had been exiled from Argentina ^{was allowed to} ~~visited~~ a cruiser of the Uruguayan Navy. This was just before the cruiser left Montevideo to cross the ^{La River} ~~River~~ Plata and help the Argentines ^{ians} ~~ians~~ celebrate a national holiday. This ^{episode} ~~instance~~ was the climax to a number of quarrels between the two republics because fugitives from the Argentine

were allowed to enter Uruguay.

The people of Argentina were amazed at the action of Uruguay. It is rumored that Uruguay will ask Uncle Sam to look after her affairs in Argentina. Newspaper^s in Montevideo are lamenting the incident and hoping that relations will be quickly re-established.

BONUS

The unbending will of a crippled man kept four hundred world war veterans marching diligently under a blazing sun in their strange siege of Capitol Hill, ^{Washington,} today. That's the way a United Press dispatch to the Brooklyn Times described the latest activities of the Bonus Army in Washington, D. C.

(Back and forth across the hot concrete outside the Senate and House of Representatives swayed a line of men. Many of them ~~have~~^d been without sleep for thirty-six hours. They ~~are~~^{were} pitting the last ounce of their strength against a congress that seems to be about to adjourn without passing the Bonus bill.)

Up and down the ranks of the army stormed a strange figure, his head encased in steel to support an injured neck. It was Roy Robertson, the commander of the California contingent. The California boys swung into the Capitol grounds ~~two~~ two days ago, announcing they would stay there until Congress ~~either~~ adjourns or acts on the Bonus bill.

Occasionally veterans would sink on the lawn of the library of Congress, imploring Robertson to let them sleep for just ten minutes.

"Get up", shouted Robertson, prodding them with his boots. "What do you think you are, sightseers?" ~~he asked.~~

Late this afternoon Robertson's voice suddenly grew faint. "Sorry, boys, I don't seem to feel so good", he gasped. And at that his knees buckled, and his steel headpiece crashed, as he fell against the stones of the building. Six men leaped forward and carried him to the shade of ~~the~~^a tree~~n~~ where he was revived.

Meanwhile the House of Representatives today made another effort to induce the Bonus marchers to return to their native states. The House passed a bill extending the time limit during which that hundred thousand dollars appropriated by Uncle Sam for their transportation will be available.

ACTOR

Here's the story of an actor who improvised an exit on a cue that he didn't expect. Not such a bad exit either.

He's an English actor now out in Los Angeles. He was standing on a balcony outside his apartment overlooking a swimming pool. As he stood there immaculately dressed with the usual monocle in his eye, somebody challenged him to jump down into the pool:

"I wouldn't dive into that for a hundred dollars," he said.

Just at that moment the three year old son of a neighbor tumbled into the pool, into nine feet of water. The actor Bond Street clothes, wrist watch, monocle and all, went back on what he had said a second before, and dived ^{right in,} ~~into the pool.~~

The end of the story is that he hauled the baby out slightly scared and full of water, but uninjured. And that's what you might call taking up a cue.

OMELET

What would you say to an omelet made of eight thousand eggs. Well, it's on view today at Bloomington, Illinois. A United Press dispatch to the Newark News brings the vital information that it is made of no less than eight thousand eggs. That ought to be some omelet.

It wasn't quite intentional. As a matter of fact, a gentleman from Kansas City was driving in to Bloomington with a truck full of crates with these eggs. His truck upset and all the crates were scattered on the surface of the street. The blazing sun in a few minutes turned those eggs into an omelet, probably the largest omelet anybody ever saw. If you want your share of it, you'd better hurry out to Bloomington. Well, I'm on my way, and --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.