

L.T. - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, FEBURARY 16, 1939.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

If you hear some rather unusual sounds coming through the air tonight, along with this broadcast, please don't think anything of it. It will merely be the chattering of my teeth. A drop in temperature of seventy-four degrees, in less than twenty-four hours! That's the reason. Yesterday, at Radio City in New York, it was sixty-two above. When I arrived on the outskirts of Montreal this morning, it was twelve below.

I came in on the tail end of a blizzard that has piled snow on top of snow all over Quebec - perfect for the skiing I hope to do over the week-end in the Laurentians, at Lac Mercier and Mont Tremblant, where I am going to try out Joe Ryan's spectacular ski-lift up the highest mountain in eastern Canada.

MONTREAL AD CLUB

In handling the news of the world tonight, I am puzzled - puzzled because I am conscious of the fact that I am in Canada and that Canadians are not always interested in the same news items that are interesting to those of us who live south of the border. Matters are further complicated by the fact that I have an audience right here in front of me - nearly a thousand Canadians. And if I devote ninety per cent of my broadcast to news from the United States, then all of these people sitting around me, may fall asleep.

However there is one Canadian story that is being featured tonight on the first page of newspapers all over the world; the story of a terrifying fire.



## CANADIAN FIRE

Canada today had an instance of just about as fearsome a thing as can happen on this earth -- fire in an insane asylum. Considering the magnitude of the blaze, it seems almost miraculous that there was only one fatality -- an indirect fatality. One patient died of heart failure.

Flames broke out this morning in the Beauport Insane Asylum near Quebec, and swiftly the flames were raging through one wing of the institution. The story exalts the courage of the grey nuns, who had the frightening task of getting insane people out of the fire to safety. Many of the inmates, violent cases, had not been out of their rooms for years, and they shrieked and raved. Outside it was bitter cold, with deep snow -- and some flung themselves in the snow and lay screaming. Autos, taxis and buses were mobilized, and took the patients away to other institutions. The fire was put out, or seemed to be, but then it broke out in another wing of the insane asylum. And the same scenes were enacted all over again -- the fantastic terror of getting the insane out of a flaming asylum.

## EUROPEAN

Up here in Canada, I find that the focus of news interest is foreign affairs. Canadian headlines reflect the concern the Dominion feels in the troubled state of affairs in Europe -- the war peril.

Naturally, especially in French-Canada, the election of a new Pope is a universal theme of conversation. And that too is connected with the danger of a European outbreak. For example, one of the Montreal papers today carries a headline story that if a general war should break out abroad -- the Papacy would move from Rome. Move where? To Canada. That's the report the Canadian paper prints. If flights of war planes should strike at Rome, the Papal government would depart and set up a new capital of the Catholic Church at Canada's great shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre.

Another astonishing report that has currency in Montreal concerns the nationality of the next Pope. Up here the opinion is positively expressed that the college of cardinals will elect an American. That seems odd when all the evidence points to a continuance of the Italian tradition. But the Canadian report is so specific as to name which American Cardinal will be elected



Pope. Not Cardinal O'Connell of Boston because he's so old and ailing. Not Cardinal Mundelein of Chicago, because he has been so much in the public eye with his attacks on the Nazis. So we have left the third American Cardinal, Dougherty of Philadelphia. He's to be the next Pope. I tell this as something I've heard insistently here in Montreal.

From Rome, the news tells of a Nazi warning to the Cardinals who are about to elect a Pope. Today, the diplomatic corps at the Vatican made a ceremonial call on the cardinals, expressing their condolences on the death of Pope Pius the Eleventh. The Dean of the Vatican Diplomatic Corps is the German Ambassador to the Holy See, and he it was who made sententious remarks to the Cardinals. He warned them that they will elect a Pope who will face a dangerous era. He spoke of a new world and a new Europe.

The Nazi Ambassador's words to the Cardinals were:-  
"We are witnessing an elaboration of a new world which wants to emerge from the ruins of the past." Continuing, he spoke of the past as in many respects having no longer any reason to exist.

"The Papacy undoubtedly," he declared, "will have an essential role. Upon the sacred college falls the tremendously delicate responsibility of the election of a worthy successor to Pope Pius." This is interpreted as a Nazi warning and probably is a vague sententious way.

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The relations of Hitlerism and religion had another illustration today, when the Y.M.C.A. in Germany was banned in ten cities. No reason is given. The Nazi statement merely declares that the Y.M.C.A. is abolished and that its property will be liquidated.

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From Barcelona there's word that the Franco regime has abolished Catalan as the official language of the province of Catalonia. Catalan is a dialect spoken in that province which has always tried to maintain a certain separateness from Spain, long agitating for autonomy. The Republican regime granted Catalonia autonomy, made the local dialect the official language. But now Franco, having conquered the land, decrees that the official



language shall once more be Castilion -- classical Spanish. Franco is carrying on the traditional attempt to unify Spain completely and break down local tendencies of sectionalism and separation. In Japan, the Mikado's Premier today gave a definition - a definition of Japan. He said the Mikado's regime was neither Fascist nor totalitarian nor a democracy. Neither fish nor fowl nor even vegetable. What is Japan then? The Premier defined the Tokyo government this way: "The Japanese ~~Constitutionxxxxxx~~ Constitution," said he, "necessitates the people's help to the emperor, mutually guiding state affairs." So there you are, it's all clear, if you can figure out what it means.

## MEXICO

And now from Canada let's jump down to Mexico for a moment:- Mexico has a scandal connected with the oil fields seized from foreign owners -- British and American owners for example. It has been discovered that huge quantities of valuable machinery expropriated from foreign companies have been sold for scrap iron. Motors, pipes, drills and other kinds of oil well equipment have been carried away and sold for cheap prices as junk. Moreover there are charges that oil field workers, since the wells were seized, have been stealing large quantities of gasoline and peddling it locally. There's an uproar in the Mexican Congress about all this, with an investigation in the offing.



## WARPLANES

Two cabinet members of the United States today testified before the Senate military affairs committee. The hearing is described as semi-public -- information given out on everything except points of military secrecy. Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau testified, and so did Secretary of War Woodring. They were asked about that French military mission which has been buying warplanes in the United States, aided by various departments of the government in Washington. All sorts of secrecy, controversy and contradiction have made this French-plane-buying business decidedly mystifying.

Today Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau testified that government help to the French Military Mission was given by order of President Roosevelt. Said Mr. Morgenthau:- "The President asked me to do it."

Secretary Woodring's evidence concerned the attitude of the War Department. After he had told his story, a Committee member made public the fact that government help for the French Military Mission had been opposed by General Malin Craig, Chief

of Staff of the Army, General Craig objected for these reasons:-  
one, it might interfere with the United States Army program of  
buying planes for the U.S. Air Force. Secondly, it might deprive  
the United States Army of the new bomber just developed on the  
west coast. It was a crash of one of these bombers that brought  
the whole affair to light. A French officer, member of the French  
mission, was aboard the plane on a trial flight, and was injured.



## CONGRESS

Here's one that may amuse, Montreal -- mildly. Today the Congress of the United States had a bill placed before it, a bill that came along in the usual way - from sub-committee to committee to the floor of the House. It's a twenty-two million dollar appropriation, and a pleasing bit of legislation for the lawmakers. It proposes to raise their pay, hoist their wages to ten thousand dollars a year.

The Committee, turned down the proposal to spend five hundred and eighty-five thousand dollars to repair the roof of the capitol - those sections of roof which cover the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Committee says it turned down the idea - "reluctantly." The reluctance can be the better appreciated when we note the comment that if there were thirty inches of snow in Washington, the roof would collapse right down on the heads of the legislators. That would be a startling thing, but so would thirty inches of snow in Washington. Washington is not Montreal! Fortunately, in view of the condition of the roof of the Capitol.

## RESOURCES

Here is one that will not be of much interest to a Montreal audience:- President Roosevelt sent two messages to Congress today. In one he called upon the lawmakers to study ways of stopping water pollution. Impure water supplies are a danger to health and Congress should do something about it.

The second presidential message asked Congress to formulate a policy concerning the energy resources of the nation. He told the lawmakers that these energy resources are not inexhaustible, and they should not be wasted.



## WOMEN

A battle of the ladies has begun in Washington - because Miss Doris Stevens has been eased out of the chairmanship of the Inter-American Commission of Women. In her place President Roosevelt has appointed Miss Mary Winslow. Miss Stevens is a vigorous battler for the cause of feminine equality, - a fighter. Miss Winslow represents a faction of feminism to which Miss Stevens is utterly opposed. So you can see the possibilities for pan-American solidarity and western hemisphere defense. If the ladies get into a violent scrap.

It all concerns an argument which divided militant womanhood into two hostile camps. Miss Stevens represents the faction that reasons with unrelenting logic:- if women are the equals of men, they should be treated exactly the same as men. In other words, to punch a lady in the nose is no greater offense than to punch a gentleman in the nose.

However, the Pan-American feministic wrangle isn't so much about nose-punching as about working conditions in industry. Miss Stevens' party attacks the idea of giving special protection to women in industry, extra consideration - saying that this

infringes on feminine equality. Miss Winslow, on the other hand, belongs to the group that advocates special laws to make things easier for women who work.

Word from Washington today tells that Miss Stevens' friends are rallying to her cause. Miss Winslow has the support of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, the First Lady of the Land, and Miss Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor.

The two factions are pulling against each other, and there will probably be some hair pulling.



## NICKELS

Police are great at picking up a trail. And today a boy at Wheeling, West Virginia, left a trail the manhunters couldn't miss. At the soda shop of the Wheeling High School, he swiped four dollars in nickels, eighty coins. He crammed all of those nickels into his pocket and started home. But he had a hole in his pocket, and as he went along the nickels leaked out. The cops picked up the trail of the nickels, which led to the young burglar. Tonight the boy is thinking - either he'd better go straight or he'd better not have holes in his pockets!

## SPEECH

Any of us who have tried to make a speech at dinner will sympathize with Circuit Court Judge Homer Ferguson of Detroit. Those of us who have arisen at a banquet to make some cogent remarks will know what a disconcerted thing it is to have a noisy audience - your most cogent remark being drowned out by a lot of talk and the rattle of dishes. Well, tonight you can mark it down on the record that Circuit Court Judge Homer Ferguson had the noisiest banquet audience ever. Hardly any of his cogent remarks were audible, because the dining was so loud.

It was an affair sponsored by the American Hunting Dog Owners Association, and the guests were; dogs - a hundred of them. They were at a banquet table laden with the finest of dog biscuits. They barked and snapped and yelped, and grabbed the dog biscuits with crunching mastication. And, occasionally there was a dog fight. All the while Circuit Court Judge Homer Ferguson was making a speech, but nobody could hear him. The dogs didn't care. And maybe the human guests didn't care either. The story isn't clear on that.



## PORT HOPE

It would hardly do for me to broadcast from Canada without mentioning Port Hope. When I got on the train last night a brakeman came up to me and said:- "Well, is Port Hope still up north of the Arctic Circle?" And all day here at the Mount Royal Hotel, friendly Canadians have been phoning me, volunteering to show me just where Port Hope is on the map.

In Toronto, one Newspaper, the EVENING TELEGRAM, said:- "Mussolini took Ethiopia; Hitler took the Sudeten; Japan took a slice of China; Franco took Barcelona; and, Lowell Thomas took Port Hope -- took it from its present site and planted it about 3000 miles away, on the shores of Great Bear Lake."

All this happened in a Movietone newsreel, recently. And I've been hearing about it ever since. So, in concluding tonight, here in the presence of a thousand people of Montreal, members and guests of the Advertising Club of Montreal, I want to move Port Hope back from the shores of Great Bear Lake to the shores of Lake Ontario where it belongs. As one Canadian paper put it: "Port ~~Ontario~~ Hope, the home port of a great hope, that this sort of thing won't happen again. Here's hoping. And So Long Until Tomorrow.