

FLOODS

The villain of the piece tonight is broad, and gray, and slow moving, commonly benign and useful, but sometimes a raging fiend -- the Ohio River: - The big waterway of the eastern Mississippi valley, flowing all the way from the mountains of western Pennsylvania to join the Mississippi in southern Illinois, a stream so great and placid that it is navigable by big boats all the way from Pittsburgh.

The larger part of today's flood story may be rationalized in this fashion. The unseasonable rains have swollen the waters of the Ohio, and the rising flood of the big stream has backed up the waters of its tributaries, and caused them to flood. These tributaries are the network of streams that drain the whole Ohio valley. So you can see the complicated havoc the big river is causing.

In western Pennsylvania the waters are rising. In the business district of Pittsburgh they have put up barriers against the flood. At Portsmouth, Ohio, city officials have

47
—
ordered forty thousand people to be ready to leave their homes, if the flood continues to rise. Already the swollen waters are near the top of sixty foot concrete levees that protect the town.

At Cincinnati a ^{Miami} little ~~river~~ river broke through its levee and has isolated the airport. In towns near Cincinnati fifteen hundred families have been washed out of their homes. In Indiana, five thousand are refugees because the Wabash and White Rivers are flooding. Hazelton, ~~and~~ Indiana, is an inundated town without people tonight - all five hundred inhabitants forced to flee when the White River burst its levee. Kentucky reports a thousand homes deserted.

Yes, the Ohio River is the villain of the piece tonight, but there are some minor river rogues too. On the other side of the Mississippi, in Missouri, the story is - flood. Tonight people have been driven to the upper floors of their houses and are perched on roof tops and in barn lofts - all along the river-front from Kenneth to Cardwell. Everywhere the Red Cross is on the job, rushing in supplies to refugees.

STRIKE

~~Tonight a group of men are gathered around a table~~

HS
Tonight a group of men are gathered around a table in Washington, and a woman is directing the discussion. Since our Secretary of Labor is of the feminine gender -- you can guess that the conference has to do with the auto strike.

This afternoon Secretary Miss Perkins talked the situation over with John L. Lewis and Homer Martin, the strike leaders. That was over at about five, whereupon Miss Perkins dashed into another meeting -- with the executives of General Motors, headed by Alfred P. Sloan, ~~etc.~~

(The principal task of the Secretary of Labor is to remedy the sit-down strike situation. That's the biggest stumbling block in negotiations for labor peace in the auto world. General Motors refuses to go into a peace parley until the strikers have ceased their sit-down occupation of factories, while the workers insist on remaining seated.)

That dilemma ~~was~~ the major topic ~~that~~ ^{as} Secretary Perkins takes part in that conference, right now.

the chiefs of
This afternoon ~~the~~ General Motors declared that 79 percent of the men on strike are eager to return to work.

John Lewis replies to that by declaring that he's
going to make an appeal to the President, asking him to
intervene in behalf of justice for labor.

49

S. B.

Kennedy.

Jan. 21,

1937.

JOHN KENNEDY

L.T.: Yesterday in Washington I tried to get in touch with John B. Kennedy. But there was too much rush and too much rain. He was Co-ordinator for the N.B.C. running report on the inauguration. John is here with me now - we've been talking over our Washington experiences. So let's have a bit of comment - comment from a commentator. Not only is John one, but he's also an Editor of the new magazine the COMMENTATOR. So tell us, John, something about the way the inauguration was covered by the radio.

KENNEDY: The trouble was, Lowell, that it was covered mostly with water. The rain was so wet that I went to sleep in a bowl instead of a bed.

L.T.: But before you crawled into the bowl, John, what had you and your associates been doing?

KENNEDY: The N.B.C. had engineers working in Washington since Saturday, stringing more than twelve hundred miles of wire,

all in Washington! They established twenty-six points for thirty-two announcers and commentators to report everything of interest. And although everybody got wet, everybody did well.

L.T.: This may sound like a chide or a challenge, John, but who was the best of the commentators at the inauguration where so many of them were working?

KENNEDY: That's easily answered, Lowell. The best commentator was Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

L.T.: So there's some comment by a commentator, an Editor of the COMMENTATOR.

KENNEDY: You fit the bill just as well Lowell - because you're Chief Editor of the COMMENTATOR.

PRISONER

Let's comment on something else:- Often in the literature of romance, you'll find the story of a prisoner, like the "Man in the Iron Mask", or the dungeon days of the "Count of Monte Cristo." But you'd hardly expect anything like that in the news of the day. Things aren't so romantic any more - No? Let's look at today's story of - "The Officer in the Tower." That's what England has been calling its most celebrated prisoner, the Tower being, grim and historic - The Tower of London.

The tale of the Officer in the Tower has been in the news in its various stages. We've had it on the air, as the events happened - the catastrophe of young Norman Baillie-Stewart, of an old and honored family, and a lieutenant in a high-toned Scottish regiment, the Seaforth Highlanders. He was arrested as a spy and traitor to his country, condemned by court-martial for espionage and treason, and sentenced to prison - the Tower of London.

In the downfall of Lieutenant Norman Baillie-Stewart of the Seaforth Highlanders, there flashed that wicked, glamorous figure so familiar in thrill stories - the blonde spy. She was shown to be a flaxen haired German beauty, named Marie-Louise. The swagger young Lieutenant of the Scottish regiment visited her often in Belgium. She

was proved to be an agent of the German Military Intelligence.

That was the damning case presented before the court-martial. What was the defense of the well born British officer? It was still more damning - in a way. He claimed his visits to the blonde Marie-Louise were in the nature of sentimental romance - he in love with her. The money she had given him? He swore he had borrowed it from her - his sweetheart. That hardly squared with the code of a British gentleman - taking cash from the woman he loved.

The verdict of the stern court-martial was, more of a spy and less of a gigolo, and sentenced him for giving information "which might be useful to an enemy."

That's how Lieutenant Norman Beillie-Stewart of the Seaforth Highlanders became the Officer in the Tower. And he became notable for endless exercise and studies in books. Why the gymnastics? He confided to a fellow prisoner - that an officer must keep himself fit, fit for the next war. Why all the books? They were technical volumes on military strategy - he said he must qualify himself for greater service in the next war. He was convinced that another world war was coming soon, and he wanted to be ready to do his duty in the fullest way to his King and country, singular and dramatic for a

condemned spy and traitor.

It made the Officer in the Tower a model prisoner, and caused his sentence to be shortened. He was to be released next month - but tonight he is free. Word came that his father had died, and because of this bereavement they ^{have} ~~had~~ liberated him ahead of time. So now the Officer ⁱⁿ ~~of~~ the Tower has gone his way, continuing no doubt with his exercise to keep fit and his books on military strategy.

4

SPAIN

The Spanish Civil War was discussed in the League of Nations today, particularly the dispute between Latin-American countries and the Madrid government - on the subject of refugees.

In Madrid four thousand people have taken refuge in the legations of American republics - ~~the~~ Chile, for example.

The legations claim the right to protect them. The Left Wing government refuses to permit them to be taken from Madrid under this ^{diplomatic} protection. Today Chile demanded that the League do

something about this, and there was an argument. The Madrid government ^{said it} doesn't want to let the refugees go, because it's

afraid they will join the Rebels. Also, Madrid believes that if the ^{is} problem of the refugees is solved, why then the Latin-American republics will withdraw their representatives from

Madrid, and will recognize the Franco regime.

^{voice of the} Today the ^{was heard again} President of Spain ~~returned to Madrid~~

President Azana. We had the news that he was ill, that he ^{had}

retired to a monastery, that he was broken hearted, because of

the civil war, ^{he} ~~has~~ always a Republican liberal, against both

the Reds and the Fascists. He left Madrid before the siege got

55

hot, and took refuge at Barcelona. Now he ~~has returned for~~ ^{speaks up again}
~~visit to the beleaguered capital~~ ^{with radio} ~~with~~ declarations that
Spain is really the victim of a foreign invasion, attacked by
Moors ^{of} north Africa and other foreigners fighting with
Franco. He calls the Left Wing fight a battle for independence
and is afraid the Spanish Civil War may turn into a European war.

While ^{Asana} ~~the~~ President was declaring himself, ^{Rebel} the response
was the bursting of shells. Franco's artillery hurled a terrific
bombardment upon Madrid, that much bombarded city.

JAPAN

56

The news from Japan tonight is something of a surprise - astonishing, because we are so accustomed to think that the army there is all-powerful and ^{too} dangerous to attack. Yet today in Tokio the opposition to the generals flared so high that the sittings of the Diet have been suspended. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Just how fervent the attack was may be judged from the declaration by the leader of the opposition, Kunimatsu Hamada. Declaring that the military element was putting all kinds of pressure on the government and trying to establish ^{Far Eastern} Fascism, Hamada spoke up with the word suicide, which brings reminiscences of hari-kari. He said that if the generals could disprove his charges, he would kill himself. That sounds typically Japanese, and it illustrates the spirit that animated parliamentary proceedings in Tokio today.

Premier Hirota and his Cabinet presented a statement of their policies to the lawmakers, policies for increased national defense and a firm stand against Communism. The Finance Minister had just completed ^{his} ~~his~~ statement, when there were deafening shouts of "No, No!" Opposition leader

27
Hamada, in the forefront of the attack, declared that the Hirota Cabinet was the most unpopular in years. He repeated his charge that the army was running things and aiming at Fascism. The verbal assault continued with complaints about the German-Japanese alliance against Communism. ~~The~~ The Minister of War replied that the army was acting in the interest of the people, The accusations flew back and forth, the deputies quarreling with each other. The uproar grew so great, that when the session was finally adjourned, Hirota hurried to the palace and asked the Emperor to suspend the sittings of Parliament. The Emperor assented and called off the sessions for two days.

At the back of the political crisis in Japan is an old familiar bugaboo, an economic crisis. ~~Among~~ Money matters have not been going any too ^(where fall) well ~~to~~ the beams of the Rising Sun. Far Eastern business troubles are graphically illustrated by the downfall of one of the great figures in Japan, the Marquis Tokugawa. He's a nobleman of that ancient and historic Tokugawa clan, which ruled Japan in the Middle Ages.

Then
The chief of the clan of Tokugawa was the shogun, lord of the land. This present Marquis Tokugawa was a millionaire, a member of the House of Peers, famous as a patron of music, art and hospitality. Eminent foreigners were feted by the Marquis, with all his culture and generosity. ~~Hexxrently~~ But recently this renowned nobleman ran into debt, so heavily that he has become bankrupt. Now the word from Tokio is that he has squared with his creditors, with the proud honor of the Samarai - but at what cost! He has given everything to his crediots, all his property - even his treasured collection of art works and historic music scores. The Marquis Tokugawa has nothing left, not even a cottage to live in. He has taken refuge in a little house loaned to him for his present use by a kinsman of the great Tokugawa clan.

There's news tonight about Gandhi. No, not Mahatma Gandhi -- that's just the news. For Gandhi says he's not to be called the Mahatma anymore. He renounces the title, says he doesn't deserve it.

Mahatma in Indian means: "high of soul, great of spirit." It's a religious appellation. Now Gandhi declares that he has no religion to give the people, no spiritual message. He says the title of "Mahatma" offends him, because his part in life is far lower than that. "My humble role," he says, "is that of a scavenger, both literally and spiritually." And so the famous saint of Hindustan renounces the name of Mahatma, the high title of his renown, *and wants the title of scavenger. Which in India would make him more of a Mahatma than ever.*

I have here some more news about names given to people, but ~~I fear it is~~ *I fear.* not on such a high plane, [^] You don't find Mahatmas in baseball. I have a list of new players, rookies coming up to the big leagues next season -- and a lot of them have nicknames. But nothing Oriental and mystical like swami or guru *— or even scavenger.*

The baseball monikers are different. I see "Smoky" Alton, and "Cannonball" Heintzleman. They're speed pitchers, with plenty

79 1/2

of smoke on the cannon ball ^{when they fire it,} ~~pitch~~ There's a "Double Joe" Dwyer, who hits two baggers, and "Hunch" Pilney, who plays hunches. There's "Nipper" Knapp, catcher for the "Phillies" who nips runners off base. "Curly" Kahny, the Cincinnati short-stop, ~~is~~ so-called because his hair is straight. And "Swede" Ferrick got his moniker because he happens to be Irish.

Mahatma, swami and guru in Hindustan, "Smoky", "Cannonball" and "Curly" in ^{America---} ~~baseball~~ ~~they're~~ all monikers. And my moniker will be ^{Dennis unless I say} ~~and unless I say~~

20

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.