

L.T. Sun. Wed. May 9 '34

Good Evening Everybody:

Today's news is ~~rather~~ ^{that is,} curious - - it's so full of curiosity.

~~It is~~ Crammed with singular bits from here and there - oddities from the ends of the earth.

For example, two Newfoundland fisherman pulled at the oars for days and rowed their boat a hundred and seventy miles. Their fishing schooner caught fire off the Grand Banks and ~~burst~~ ^{burst} to the water's edge. They took to their dory, and that's when they started rowing. Fog shut down on them with a blinding blankness of sheer white. Pull, sailor, pull! - And ^{pull} they ^{did!} ~~kept~~ ^{They kept} pulling at the oars day and night. ~~They were~~ Exhausted, starved, half mad with thirst, when through the mist loomed the little island of St Pierre -- the first thing they had seen since they had started rowing from their burning schooner one hundred and seventy miles away.

Figure our how many strokes of the oars those two fishermen had to make.

Baby Follow Lead

And then from northern Quebec comes ^{that old} theme of that old sad song, "Babes in the Wood". Also the cheery sentimental theme of the faithful rescuing dog.

A six year old girl wandered into the woods near Three Rivers, Quebec, and was lost. Two hundred men, led by the frantic father hunted for her. They hunted in vain until they heard the barking of a dog. Good old Rover ~~had~~ had found the baby and was barking his head off for help. The little girl was lying sound asleep in a pile of brushwood, and her cheeks were all smudged with the stains of hours of crying.

That babe in the woods evokes a long sigh, and --

The praying ~~fisherman~~ had a fishing line in the water. He said he wasn't fishing. The line merely helped him to concentrate on his Islamic meditation. However, according to the technicalities of the law, he wasn't fasting and praying, he was fishing, without a license. So they arrested him and he is protesting himself toward Heaven in the town jail.

MOHAMMEDAN FOLLOW BABY.

And let's heave a sigh for the Mohammedan carpenter in upstate New York, who, according to his religion, has undertaken a ^{curious} vigil of forty days of praying and fasting.

He went to the bank of a river and there he sat engaged in his pious exercises. I suppose that ~~three~~ ^{five} times a day he prostrated himself in the direction of Mecca. *That's the usual Moslem program.*

But, It happens to be the fishing season, and the next thing you know the pious Mohammedan was gathering huge crowds. The traffic was blocked. ~~But~~ The authorities couldn't do anything about it because according to the Constitution a man has the right to practice his religion. ~~Then~~ they thought of the fishing laws.

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MOHAMMEDAN FOLLOW BABY.(2)

and I suppose he's swearing by the beard of the prophet
that there is no religion and little justice in the land
of the infidel.

POLITICAL ODDITIES FOLLOW FOREIGN STORIES

Even in the grand political events of the world today we find a quota of freakish oddities. President Roosevelt received today the biggest check in the world. It's big financially speaking -- a million dollars, the money raised from those six thousand presidential birthday balls last January. But the size of the check is most impressive from the standpoint of paper. It is written on a sheet of parchment three feet long and eighteen inches wide. How would that mammoth check for a million bucks go in your family album? The money is going to a worthwhile place -- to the president's pet charity, the Warm Springs Foundation.

CONGRESS.

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They say Congress aint what it used to be. The House of Representatives is not what it was in the days when Tom Reed of Maine was Speaker, (Czar Reed, they used to call him), or the days when Uncle Joe Cannon of Illinois ruled that House with a mailed fist ~~though~~ concealed in a velvet glove.

The letter sent by Speaker Rainey to all the members indicates that there is no such iron rule today. Mr. Rainey was obliged to implore the boys and girls to behave in more orderly fashion. The Speaker said: "Please refrain from holding conferences on the floor and also please don't smoke on the floor of the house. Please let's not have so much confusion and disorder." *That surely sounds curious.* One can hardly imagine Uncle Joe Cannon imporing like that. Is there a different breed of members in the House nowadays? Or has the present Speaker less of a grip on the turbulent Representatives? Can it be possible that the presence of ladies in the House, which was unthought of in the days of Uncle Joe, has not contributed to sterner discipline?

MUNITIONS.

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And the arms question bids fair to get a thorough airing at the hands of the United States Senate. Senator Nye, Chairman of the Committee that will do the investigating, has exceedingly positive views on the subject. The South Dakota Senator says he hopes this inquiry will result in legislation which will make it impossible for manufacturers of munitions to make any profits in time of war. He explains: "If we can do this, it will be the means of preventing a great deal of war talk. If public opinion can be aroused against these war profiteers, it will be the first real step toward universal peace."

Mr. Nye has official figures which prove that during the World War it cost twenty five thousand dollars to kill each soldier who fell. There are several things he wants his Committee to find out. For instance; - "Do munitions men contribute funds to patriotic organizations that demand bigger defence forces? Do munitions makers deliberately go to work to stir up bad feeling between countries? Who owns the stocks of munitions factories in the United States?"

MUNITIONS.(2)

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Do they sell munitions to foreign countries which may

eventually be used against this country?" *Senator Nye is curious to know.*

And It sounds as though there might be a good deal of

high-explosive
dynamite in these [^] questions.

proclaim an embargo. Let's agree among all the powers that no military airplanes and no quantities of air should be sold to Hitler."

To which John Bull replied in effect, "Nothing doing, thanks".

Though he put it in the usual suave language of diplomacy, the reply got the French goat. The Parisian newspapers,

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John Bull; "Bah, no wonder you won't agree, you just sold Mr. Hitler eighty airplanes".

To that his Majesty's Government reply^d with a dignified silence.

The entire question of arms has created a delicate situation between these two countries that face each other

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than ever if it is true that there is a split in the British

Cabinet over this question. The more practical members

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Arms

France is working up a bit of hard feeling against John Bull. The French have been saying "It seems to be hopeless to come to any agreement about Germany's rearming. So let's proclaim an embargo. Let's agree among all the powers that no military airplanes and no munitions of air shall be sold to Hitler."

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Arms

(2)

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of the members of the ~~Government~~ consider that any further armament conferences would be a waste of time. The more idealistic members, on the other hand, say: "We must not give up hope". Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald is in the idealistic group.

The Japanese are good customers for our wool and our wheat. One of the prominent Australian newspapers observed: "One of our best markets is the Far East, so why should we alienate that market?" The geographical position of Australia makes that position quite logical but not so hopeful for England.

The attitude of Canada on this Japanese issue so far is non-committal. Canada's Prime Minister made a bare announcement of fact in the House of Commons in Ottawa. And it was noticeable that the announcement evoked no enthusiasm for trade warfare in the Canadian Legislature.

As for the Malay states, they are positively alarmed, and that not curious because Singapore especially business men in Singapore, which is a free port, they would see restrictions of trade here.

JAPAN-FOLLOW ARMS.

In more ways than one the news ~~of the~~^{to} day was not so hot for John Bull. I mean in respect of his trade war with Japan. London naturally expected that the dominions beyond the seas would be glad to play ball with the mother country. But obviously London thought wrong. Australia says with an emphatic voice: "Count us out. We have no fight with Japan. The Japanese are good customers for our wool and our wheat." One of the prominent Australian newspapers observes: "One of our best markets is the Far East, so why should we alienate that market?" The geographical position of Australia makes that position quite logical but not so hopeful for England.

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POLITICAL ODDITIES

There certainly is a turn of oddity in the announcement of a new Jewish nation - - not in Palestine. Siberia just to the north of Manchuria, where there is a Jewish settlement. And now the authorities at Moscow have proclaimed it an autonomous Jewish Unit the Soviet Union. The Red authorities don't get along so well with the Zionists in their devotion to old Jerusalem. And this new Jewish nation within Russia may be intended to hinder the Zionists movement.

At any rate there it is, Bira-bidjan, a Siberian province half the size of Great Britain, now a self-governing Jewish community.

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Diplomatic relations have just been renewed between China and Persia. That will come as a quaint curiosity to students of history. China and Persia have not spoken to each other diplomatically for thirteen hundred years. Back in the Seventh Century A.D. China, under the mighty Tang dynasty was expanding to the west. The Chinese Empire stretched all the way across Asia to the borders of Persia. Yes, China and Persia were neighbors in those days, and you know how it is

POLITICAL ODDITIES - 2

between neighbors. The two countries severed diplomatic relations, which never were renewed for all those thirteen hundred years. But now they've made up that quarrel away back in the Tang dynasty and are returning to normal, diplomatic ways.

BULGARIA

Over in Bulgaria, at Sofia, the Bulgarians were throwing a big reception for the visiting Yugoslav Foreign Minister -- when suddenly, ^{most} ^{and curiously} the lights went out.

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The whole city, the Capital of Bulgaria, was plunged into abrupt and startling darkness. And instantly the cry went up, "Macedonia revolutionaries". Police and soldiers went dashing through the dark streets to suppress the anticipated outbreak.

Then the trouble was explained. It was not Macedonian revolutionaries who had disrupted the city lighting system. It was a black cat. The prowling cat had fallen into the machinery of the central lighting plant and thereby caused the sudden alarming and apparently revolutionary darkness just as the reception for the Yugoslav Foreign Minister was going on.

MELLON.

A person with a flair for dramatics would say that the verdict of that Federal Grand Jury in Pittsburgh, exonerating Andrew Mellon, writes the best chapter in a political feud of long standing.

It began in the days when Andrew Mellon, was Secretary of the Treasury. Senator Couzens of Detroit was vehemently attacking Mr. Mellon's tax policy. In the midst of the squabble, the Internal Revenue Bureau of the Treasury brought suit against Senator Couzens charging him with tax evasion and trying to compel him to give up ten million dollars to Uncle Sam.

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Mr Mellon's adversaries declared that it was sheer spite work of a low political kind. If I am not mistaken, it turned out later that this suit was the work not of Mr. Mellon, but of some minor Treasury officials. At any rate, Senator Couzens won hands down. He did not have to cough up ten million dollars on the contrary got a million dollar refund from the Treasury on income tax that he had overpaid. This million dollars he promptly gave to charity.

Mellon (2)

So now when the present attorney General charged Mr. Mellon with having evaded income taxes, a similiar political storm was aroused. Said the Republicans, "This is retaliation of a mean order". But the Treasury of the Department of Justice maintained stoutly that in nineteen-thirty-one Mr. Mellon had dodged some seven hundred thousand dollars that he should have paid Uncle Sam.

Thus, when the Federal Grand Jurors refused to indict Mr. Mellon they certainly were placing no ^{coron of laurel on} ~~chaplet on~~ the head of attorney General Cummings. Incidentally, it is remarkable ^{and curious to note} that it was not a jury of rich men that exonerated the former Secretary. The foreman was a ^{teller} ~~bank clerk~~ and the other members included five laborers, two mechanics, two farmers, two engineers, a carpenter, a plumber, two clerks and ^a ~~writer~~ writer.

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Here's a curiosity that sounds a little less curious now than it did a year ago:- The great Hershey plant, at Hershey, Pennsylvania, running beyond normal, taxed to the limit to keep up with business. And with the surplus, Mr. Hershey, seventy-five year old widower without any children to inherit his vast wealth, continues to erect magnificent buildings as though he were a monarch of old -- a Moorish hotel like the Alhambra at Granada, buildings reminiscent of Versailles for the town's people to enjoy, and vast vocational school buildings for the hundreds of orphans whom he gathers from all over America and then educates.

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The ~~vast~~ Hocking Glass plant, one of the largest in the world, -- out in Lancaster, Ohio, [^]gives a similar report; "overwhelmed with orders." And along with that item goes a real curiosity. We seldom think of anyone using old-fashioned kerosene lamps these days. But from Lancaster, Ohio, over three hundred thousand coal-oil lamps are shipped south of the Mason-Dixon Line every year.

MOTHER FELLOW MOHAMMEDAN.

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And, ~~of course~~ there are a few legal oddities today. The law ^{is} an unfailing source of whims and curiosities. In Ohio, a woman was called for grand jury service. Her son was up before the grand jury on a charge of burglary. The prosecutor objected to have a mother sitting in judgement of her son. The judge said she had a right to if she wanted. And she did. And when her son's case came up she voted to indict him for burglary. And indicted he was.

It sounds like Ancient Rome and those stories of stern Roman virtue - - with a father inflicting unbending justice on his son.

COLLEGE

Among the day's oddities is a collegiate curiosity. Dr. James Bryant Conant has been granted the 1934 medal by the American Institute of Chemists. There is nothing whimsical about that. Dr. Conant, who is only forty four, is president of Harvard. He is one of the great chemists of the world. He is the man who devised mustard gas for the uses of warfare. That was when he was a young major in the army.

The oddity concerns the famous old Roxbury Latin School. Not so long ago they were looking for a new headmaster. They called upon James Bryant Conant, who was then only a professor. They looked him over and had him make a speech. He was rather boyish looking, and alas he didn't have a Harvard accent. So they turned him down. Two weeks later Harvard made Professor Conant its President, to succeed the eminent Doctor Abbot Lawrence Lowell. He didn't need a Harvard accent for Harvard. And was the Roxbury Latin School mortified? And so will the N.B.C. be if I don't hurry and say, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.