

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Russian history repeated itself in picturesque fashion today. In December, back in Eighteen Five, a Muscovite contingent was part of the Allied Army that met Napoleon Bonaparte at Austerlitz. With an army vastly inferior in numbers, Napoleon hurled the Russians back and they were retreating across the frozen lake, his artillery pounded holes in the ice and drowned them by battalions.

Something of that sort happened in Finland today. Stalin's Bolsheviks tried to smash through on the Finnish left, to outflank the Mannerheim defense line. The Reds swarmed en masse over the frozen lakes in that area. The Finns with a clear field of vision across the ice, first mowed the invaders down with machine guns and after that their field artillery shot holes in the ice, just as Napoleon's cannon had done at Austerlitz and with pretty much the same result, though on a smaller scale.

And this will interest you people of Lake Placid who are sitting around me:- The Finns are taking full advantage of their expertness in winter sports. Their soldiers on night patrol wear skates and their uniforms are concealed under white cloaks. Dressed like that, they are practically invisible as they dart across the frozen lakes, swooping on the Russian lines to make night-life unbearable for the Reds.

The Moscow radio today announced that Stalin's armies have lost only eighteen hundred and twenty-three men killed and seven thousand wounded. On the other hand, the Bolsheviks say they have killed two thousand Finns and wounded ten thousand. But Finnish headquarters point out the military axiom that an attacking army always loses more than the defenders. The Finns claim that in the last ten days alone no fewer than five thousand Russians were killed and that takes no account of the wounded.

In the Far North, the Finns received a set-back when they made an attack on the Bolshevik troops in the Kaskama Mountains. The Finnish advance guard was caught between a cross-fire from heavy Russian tanks but they retreated with small losses.



The Finns report that when the Russians retreated in mid-Finland, they left behind them stores of munitions of German origin. A Finnish Division also made a stab at cutting the Russian railway line from Leningrad to Murmansk but they admit that this attack was turned back.

Judging by reports from both sides, Stalin is sending more and more troops not only to the Red front on the Karelian Isthmus but also to the ~~Nrk~~ North Central front. According to one report, Mannerheim is now facing a concentration of three hundred thousand Russians in Karelia alone.

To offset the bringing up of more Red soldiers, the Finns are getting help from outside. A dispatch from Copenhagen carries an estimate that there are already from five to ten thousand volunteers from Sweden, fighting on the Finnish front, and that by spring there'll be more than fifty thousand fighters from Sweden, Norway and Denmark in the armies of Field Marshal Mannerheim.

## FINNISH RELIEF

The Treasury of the United States has just issued a ruling on the subject of Finnish relief, anybody who contributes to that fund, organized and directed by former President Hoover, may deduct the amount on his income tax report. It may be considered as a charitable contribution. But the Treasury ties a string to that ruling. Such contributions to the Finnish Relief Fund may be deducted only if they are for not more than fifteen per cent of the taxpayer's net income when added to whatever other money he gives to charity. Corporations will be allowed to deduct whatever they send to the Finns through President Hoover, but the sum must not exceed five per cent of their corporate net income.



FINNISH MINISTER

Uncle Sam's war department received a visit today of a military mission from Finland. At the head of it is a Lieutenant-General of Finnish artillery. The object of the mission is to buy military supplies. What they want here particularly is the latest type of American trench mortars, anti-aircraft artillery, and anti-tank guns.

The Finns are up against one obstacle. The particular weapons that they want are also badly needed by Uncle Sam's army. But there is hope that they can be spared.

POPE

One of the latest consequences of the war in Europe is this closer relationship between the Italian Government and the Vatican. Last week King ~~E~~ Victor Emanuel and the Queen paid a visit of state to Pope Pious the Twelfth. Tomorrow the Pontiff will return that visit and the picturesque ceremonies at the Quirinal Palace will be broadcast.

And today there's a most cordial editorial by Virginio Gayda, the editor generally supposed to be Mussolin's mouthpiece. These visits between the Quirinal and the Vatican are a confirmation of the strong reconciliation between church and state, said Gayda, and he added that the Church of Rome and the Fascist State, in the face of the present crisis and in spite of different principles, hold identical views on certain problems that afflict the world.



IRA

A cable from Dublin brings word that there was considerable military hullabaloo in and around the capital of Eire today. All busses coming into Dublin were searched, people returning from their Christmas holidays in the country were made to open their baggage and any parcels they were carrying. Even private cars, farm carts, jaunting cars, and motorcycles had to undergo examination. On all the roads were patrols of Irish soldiers with rifles. Apparently the purpose of this martial activity was to hunt out hidden stores of ammunition of the Irish Republican army. The soldiers, says the news bulletin, did find a quarter of a ton of explosives at one spot -- in County Kildare.

HARVARD

Here's one for the members of the Harvard Hockey Team, some of whom are sitting with me during my broadcast tonight. They are up here for their annual big hockey match at the Lake Placid Olympic Arena. Here's the story:-

There's laughter on the banks of the Charles River tonight, the Massachusetts Charles. A City Councillor named Sullivan decided that the City of Cambridge was being contaminated and that it was high time to stamp out the further spread of Communism. So he offered a resolution making it unlawful to possess any book, magazine or newspaper in which the words "Lenin" or "Leningrad", or both, are printed. His colleagues adopted his resolution and it will become a law as soon as Mayor Lyons of Cambridge signs it.

An observer pointed out that Councilman Sullivan is perfectly willing that the name of "Stalin" or of "Karl Marx", the original founder of Communism, should be printed as freely and frequently as possible. Just "Lenin" and "Leningrad" are to be on the proscribed index in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Presumably that prohibition applies even to maps and atlases.



A professor of the Harvard law school prophesied that the City Fathers of Cambridge will run into trouble if they try to enforce any such law. The City of Cambridge, he said, can of course make any order it chooses regarding the books used in the public schools. But if they try to prevent Harvard University, Radcliffe College, or the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from buying any books, atlases or publications of any sort with "Lenin" or "Leningrad" in them, they'll have quite a job.

## QUAKE

More than one portion of the surface of the earth was shaken by today's violent earthquake. There seems to be a mystery about it. The seismograph at Weston College, Mass., recorded the heaviest shock ever known since that station was established. Father Devlin, director of the station, said he thought it had happened either in South America or northern Japan, but most probably South America.

Then came the news that a seismograph in a station near London, England, recorded a shock so severe that the instrument was put out of action. The scientist in charge there said he thought the ~~quake~~ quake was probably somewhere in the Near East, Asia Minor - and he was right. For presently came news from Istanbul, that a number of villages and towns in Turkey had been partially destroyed, Only last September five hundred people were killed and more than a thousand buildings were wrecked by a heavy series of quakes near the ancient City of Smyrna.

But today's quake was felt all the way round the world. In Los Angeles and vicinity the countryside was shaken shortly before noon today.



The earth shook in Los Angeles County today for only ten seconds, but it caused plenty of excitement. Hundreds of people ran out of their homes and their offices into the streets. The earthquake was felt most strongly on the same ground that was so badly upheaved in NineteenThirty-three when hundreds were killed and when property damage ran into the millions. Apparently there was no serious damage done by today's California quake.

## LIBEL

A libel suit was filed in Chicago today, all because of the publicity of the case of Willie Bioff, now union leader on the west coast, once convicted of a crime in Illinois. The plaintiff in the suit is none other than Governor Horner of Illinois, who wants a quarter of a million dollars in damages from the Chicago Daily News and Publisher Frank Knox.

Sixteen years ago, the theatrical union leader - Bioff - was convicted of a particularly loathsome offense in Chicago and was sentenced to six months of which he served only six days. After those six days he was released in order that he might make an appeal to the Supreme Court of Illinois. But the appeal was never filed.

Syndicate Columnist Westbrook Pegler recently dug up the facts and made them public just at the time when Bioff was threatening a strike of all theatrical and movie employees on the west coast; the State's attorney of Cook County made a formal petition to Governor Horner asking him to issue extradition papers for Bioff. The Illinois Governor postponed his decision for three weeks. Thereupon the Chicago Daily News published a



blistering editorial, entitled:- "Why delay?" So Horner, who is a Democrat, brings the charge that Colonel Knox, who is a Republican and former candidate for Vice-President, misrepresented the facts in an attempt to injure and destroy the Governor of Illinois.

Meanwhile, Bioff, who served only six days out of that sentence of six months, is still at liberty in California.

## ROOSEVELT BABY

The Association of White House correspondents, the crowd with whom The Nine Old Men play an important ball game each year, has just admitted a new member. He's a scion of the Roosevelt family. John Roosevelt Boettiger, aged nine months. Today this Roosevelt babe in arms was given a card as a full fledged member of that distinguished association. It came about in this way:

The President held his usual semi-weekly press conference at the White House. Young John was present sitting on the knee of his father, John Boettiger, son-in-law of the President and publisher of the "Seattle Post-Intelligencer." The President informed the correspondents assembled there in the Oval Room that he had been busy explaining to his little grandson the difference between "background" and "off-the-record White House information." And, he thought this qualified the baby as a White House correspondent.

Whereupon solemn-faced Earl Godwin, President of the Association, said: that would be all right. And, he would issue a membership card when, as and if the usual fee of one dollar was paid.

The youngster's father then made a statement that he had been authorized by his nine month old son to say that he hadn't a dollar



with him but that if his grandfather had one he'd loan, then he,  
the baby, would like to join. Tonight's news is that the dollar has  
been paid. So nine month old John Roosevelt Boettiger today has a  
membership in the famous Association of White House correspondents.

## WEATHER

Santa Claus brought one most welcome gift to many parts of the United States. The drought condition that prevailed for months this year was threatening not only the farmers but the water supplies of some of the big cities. It affected farms so seriously that the Department of Agriculture estimated the winter wheat crop at only fifty-five per cent of normal. Many many be surprised to learn that this year's was the most serious drought known in the history of the department. So the snow and rain that Santa Claus brought, was a trifle late -- although just perfect for Christmas skiing up in these mountains.

Yes, here in the East, Jack Frost has descended upon us in style. At Albany, New York, for instance, the thermometer hit zero this morning. And up here at Lake Placid, at dawn it was 26 below. A few miles away on top of White Face where the government maintains a weather bureau, Meteorologist Bill Cody tells me Uncle Sam's official thermometer this afternoon at 1: o'clock registered fifteen below. And it was around forty below up there at daybreak. Br-r-r-r!



## LIARS

The widespread effect of the wars in Europe and Asia is reaching even into the heart of one of our most cherished arts; the art of lying. I have this on the word of Otis C. Hulett, ~~xxxxxxx~~ President of the Liars Club, Incorporated, of Burlington, Wisconsin. Otis Hulett, by the way, has taken up the banner for the liars of the world at the point where our Tall Story Club of the air surrendered it some years ago.

We've heard much about the cutting down of food supplies in many countries. But, now it seems that the wars abroad have also cut ~~xxx~~ down the supply of words in good, well told lies. As an example, Otis Hulett quotes a contribution from Frank Porter of Colton, California. He says that he owns a cat that eats cheese and then breathes down a rabbit hole with baited breath. How's that for a brief and pungent tall story?

The Burlington Liars Club is getting ready for its annual New Year's eve contest to select the Nineteen Thirty-Nine world's champion. Hulett put out a warning today that diplomats and the rulers of foreign governments are disqualified. Their entries will not be accepted, probably on the ground that they have no amateur standing. But, there are many first class

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Adirondack liars sitting around me here at the Lake Placid Club tonight, and they are all eligible for that national competition out in Wisconsin.

On second thought I think I'll hold a rival contest of my own right here in the East. So if you know a good whopper, or better still if you can make one up, send it to me tonight or tomorrow. Just Lake Placid Club, New York, will reach me. I'll get Mayor Owens and Fred Fortune, two truthful men here, to help me round up a board of reliable judges tomorrow and we'll announce the winner in my Friday Blue Sunoco broadcast. Are there any liars in this room with me, this evening?

SHOUT: Sure, we're all liars!

And that's that! And now let's switch back to Truthful Hugh to tell us what's new about Nu-Blue-Sunoco.