

Good evening everybody. I am in Pittsburgh tonight, Pittsburgh the industrial center of North America. It is a common saying that as conditions are in Pittsburgh so they are in the rest of the country. Of course, that doesn't mean in the way of agriculture, but it certainly does in the realm of industry. For this is the home of heavy industries. Pittsburgh is the center of the realm of steel, plate glass, and the heart of the coal country. When things look dark in Pittsburgh, then they are black, but not with coal dust belching from lofty chimneys.

In the last few weeks things have taken a change for the better in Pittsburgh. Flames are belching from furnaces. Smoke is pouring from chimneys. And the air is charged with electricity. You can tell that the people are busy. In fact, I learned just a moment ago that the steel mills are running to 73% of their capacity. And that's something! The plate glass plants are busy and coal miners are going back to work.

Have you ever seen a coal mining camp when things are dead? Well, it is the blackest, the most sombre place on earth! Dismal? You never saw anything so dismal as a coal mining camp with the mine shut down. And, in many of the soft coal camps in this part of the world, miners and their families have been starving, living in the depths of squalor. But this has changed. The men have put on their dungarees, and their funny metal derbies with the little metal lamps in front of them, and back they have gone into the black mines, the spooky realms of the after-damp. So there is joy in Pittsburgh.

LONDON

(This is the second day of the Great World Economic Conference in London and already the boys seem to be in a jam. Wireless advices just received direct from Kensington Museum indicate that one European Nation after another is climbing on the band wagon to demand that Uncle Sam cancel those annoying war debts.) Nobody seems able to convince^N the Europeans that this is impossible for Uncle Sam because of the overwhelming public opinion among his nephews here in America who are solid against cancellation.

As a result of this situation, the great London Conference today was thrown into turmoil and confusion while all sorts of speculations were rife. The confusion was precipitated by Cordell Hull, American Secretary of State and Head of the American Delegation, who was to have been the principal speaker of the day. Mr. Hull provided the drama not by speaking, but by not speaking. He simply failed to show up. This naturally

created a sensation. A feeble attempt was made to smooth things over by substituting Guido Jung, Mussolini's Finance Minister and Head of the Italian Delegation. But Signor Jung's speech instead of pouring oil on the troubled waters made the storm even worse, that is, so far as the American Delegation was concerned. For Mussolini's spokesman came out with a plea for economic reconstruction of all nations which he said could be brought about only by cancellation of European Government debts to Uncle Sam. A lot of help that was! The next speaker added to American discomfiture. This time it was General Jan Smuts the gallant and picturesque head of the South African delegation, the veteran of many wars, both military and political. General Smuts practically echoed the demand made by Jung. Meanwhile resentment is high in England because of the spectacular way in which Uncle Sam's dollar skidded in price yesterday.

The foreign service of the N.Y. Evening Post reports that the British attribute this to deliberate selling on the part of the U.S.A. The financial news

remarks that the British and American Governments and their central banks are at cross and even double cross purposes.

At this juncture, the prospects for the successful outcome of the Conference appear exceedingly remote.

It is not yet definitely known exactly how much John Bull will pay Uncle Sam on Thursday on that installment due on the war debts. The British Government announced today that a note from London would be delivered to the White House today by the British Ambassador, Sir Ronald Lindsay. Wireless reports from London indicate that the Chancellor of the Exchequer hopes to pay part of the Eighty Millions now due.

Raymond Gram Swing cables the N.Y. Evening Post that the Chancellor of the Exchequer made a statement to the House of Commons announcing that a small payment is being made in acknowledgment of the debt. So this will amount actually to a default. But the British are expected to state the matter in such a way as to avoid the appearance of default. Meanwhile advices from Washington informs us that Sir Ronald Lindsay conferred with State Department Officials this morning. Under-Secretary of State Phillips says that no formal note has yet been received regarding the debts, but he has had conversations with the British Ambassador which are continuing.

HOME OWNERS

A bit of cheer for home owners. President Roosevelt today signed the Home Loan Bank Bill. At the same time, Mr. Roosevelt issued, through the Press, an appeal to Mortgage creditors and all others who have claims against home owners. He asked them to abstain from bringing foreclosure proceedings and especially to abstain from trying to dispossess owners who are in debt to them. That is, until full opportunity has been given owners to make effective use of the Refinancing opportunities to be afforded by the Home Loan Bank Bill.

BANK REFORM BILL

At the same time, the Bank Reform Bill of Senator Glass of Virginia and Congressman Steagall of Alabama was passed by the House. This is the bill providing for insurance of bank deposits. The Bill has to still pass once more through the Senate.

WASHINGTON

Washington is still in a state of confusion, in fact in a real deadlock over the matter of Veterans' compensation. Harold Brayman wires the N.Y. Evening Post that members of the Conference Committee of both Houses have been unable to reach any agreement over the Veterans. Senator Byrnes of South Carolina, in charge of the Bill, says that he does not know what he will do.

It is known that President Roosevelt will stand pat, and refuse to accept the Senatorial idea on this question which calls for additional expenditure out of taxpayers' pockets of one hundred million dollars. However, Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi, who is becoming famous as a conciliator, suggests a probable outcome of the situation. It is this:-

In case conferees cannot agree, both Houses can submit the Senate Plan to the President. Thereupon the President would promptly veto it. After an attempt to pass the measure over the President's ~~veto~~ veto, which would fail, then the Senate could either accept half a loaf as Representatives suggest or pass a continuing resolution which will make the appropriation of last year available for all independent officers.

As you will recall, this idea of the Senators to increase payments to veterans was inserted into the independent officers appropriations bill. A political move, at any rate, for taxpayers who are opposed to this. The news is that the President is standing firm.

CHICAGO

Chicago and other Lake cities had a big thrill early this morning. The giant U.S. Macon, sister ship of the ill fated Akron, rose majestically out of the sunrise on her first visit over the lake. On her maiden voyage she encountered a storm. She took off from Akron, Ohio, last night, and after fighting tough weather over Lake Erie, she sailed up and down the West coast of ~~the~~ Lake Michigan on a test flight scheduled to last forty-eight hours. The Macon visited Chicago again this afternoon and gave the Worlds Fair crowds an additional show.

(When it comes to World's Fairs you can't beat good old Chicago. The Century of Progress Exposition seems to be an even greater success than the Columbian Exposition forty years ago. It was announced today that in the first seventeen days more than a million people have passed through turnstiles. The millionth visitor received an engraved medal as a memento. She was Miss Eleanor Frost of Syracuse, New York.)

REPEAL

Another stage in the fight for Prohibition repeal has been reached. Massachusetts, the eleventh state to vote on this question, went to the polls today. Wet leaders predict the Bay State will follow in the footsteps of the other ten states which have voted. They claim ^{the} vote in Massachusetts will be eight to one in favor of ratifying the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment. However, the first Massachusetts town whose vote was returned went dry. At the same time, six other important towns showed a strong wet swing.

WEST POINT.

One of Uncle Sam's great schools held its commencement exercises today. The famous old military academy at West Point graduated three hundred and forty six potential generals. **XX** Secretary of War Dern made the principal address and presented diplomas. Another speaker was General Douglas MacArthur, Chief of Staff of Uncle Sam's Army, also the youngest man in that army ever to reach that rank. MacArthur graduated from West Point as the number one man in his class.

LONDON - ADD

Here's something new from England:-

Later advices from London bring still more dramatic information. Secretary Hull stayed away from that session this morning following a series of trans-Atlantic telephone conversations with the White House in Washington. In other words, the head of the American Delegation failed to make his scheduled speech on direct specific orders from the President.

MATTERN

Somewhere over treacherous Bering Sea,
Jimmy Mattern is believed headed for Nome, Alaska, on his
round the world flight. No word has been heard of Jimmy
for almost twenty-four hours, but Government Officials in
Alaska are confident he will penetrate the fog. They are
preparing to receiving him at their local airport. If he
reaches Alaska, it will be the first time he has touched
North American soil since he took off from Floyd Bennett
Field, New York.

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I have an interesting telegram from the President of Bucknell University, one of the leading educational institutions in the East. He informs me that about one-half a million people live in the region around Wilkes-Barre. There is no college in that section, he states. So Bucknell University is establishing a co-educational college at Wilkes-Barre which will open next September.

ALTOONA

I spent part of today in Altoona, the great city in the heart of Pennsylvania, up near the top of the mountains, the city where the great Pennsylvania repair shops are.

One thing I discovered in Altoona was that many people, who for years have lived in the city, are buying themselves places in the country. They are moving back to the soil.

Dr. Nugent, famous oral surgeon, like my friend, Gove Hambidge, has found "Time to Live," by moving to the country.

The trip from Altoona to Pittsburgh, through the mountains, through the forests, and up and down the great valleys of western Pennsylvania, is one of the finest motor rides that you can take anywhere in North America. I made it in company with a former half-back on the University of Pitt, J. O. Craig.

Mr. William H. Richardson of the Board of Education of Jersey City, New Jersey, makes it a point to put me right now and then when I go wrong. For instance, he panned me for calling the noble state of New Jersey, just Jersey. And now he takes a poke at me for using the term "Pennsylvania Dutch."

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This distinguished critic and grammarian says, to quote his exact words: "There ain't no such people, and never were." Then he explains that they are really "Pennsylvanische Deutsche." And, of course, Mr. Richardson is right. They are not Dutch, they are Deutsche.

HAILSTONES

How would you like to go for an afternoon stroll and suddenly find yourself pelted from the skies with hundreds of baseballs? A friend of mine informs me that something of that sort has just happened at Martins Ferry, Ohio.

3 He says they had a storm out that way which surely must have broken the world's record for the size of hailstones. He tells me that all this happened after ten o'clock at night and that the hail varied in size from a walnut to a baseball, many of them weighing 9 or 10 ounces. He adds that some struck with such terrific force that they came straight through the roof, that one big hailstone, after passing through a ceiling, pelted a man who was lying asleep in bed and broke his wrist.

It may be so! It may be so! But that sure does sound like a tall story, doesn't it?

SCIENCE FLASH

Some day, when you are hungry, instead of going into a restaurant, tucking a napkin under your chin, roaring at the waiter, and then ordering a shrimp cocktail, plank steak and pie a la mode, you may walk into the corner chemist's shop and say: "Druggist, pass the pills, I am hungry."

At any rate, that is what Maurice Holland, Director of the National Research Council, tells me in his latest science news flash. He says that a research laboratory in Boston has just evolved a green tablet which will take the place of spinach. The technical name of it is chlorosolsterol. It is made from highly concentrated extract recovered from fresh green leaf plant tissue. As the scientists say: "It contains all the substances of therapeutic value found in the original plant, and provides in readily assimilable (there's a good word) assimilable -" "It provides in readily assimilable form the elements of organic and mineral salt complexes which supply the vitamin factors of A, B, C, D and E.

What does all that mean? Why to you, it means: Spinach, and to blazes with it!

WELSHMAN

Mr. Cavan Jones-Jones of Tut-ankh-amen and Little Neck, Long Island, sends me a news item from Wales. Mr. Cavan Jones-Jones, by the way, is a famous Welsh singer, known as "The Wandering Welshman," "Y Cymro Crwydedig".

The item he sends me is from the north of Wales.

Here it is:

(1) "A farmer residing near Conway received the following blessings on Monday week:- His wife gave birth to a son, a mare of his foaled, one of his cows calved, a sow dropped a litter of pigs, and a hen hatched a brood of chickens - all in one day."

Mr. Cavan Jones-Jones tells me that this is a absolute fact. And, that ought to do something to help do away with the depression in the north of Wales.

ENDING - SPINSTERS

I have an unknown friend -- an anonymous friend in Newport, Ky., who plays the role of a contributing editor. Here's one he has just sent to me:

"Two spinsters were discussing men.

"Which would you desire most in a husband -- brains, wealth, or appearance?" asked one.

"Appearance," snapped the other, "and the sooner the better."

And if I could speak to each of you individually and ask you what you desire of me, I am sure your reply would be: "Disappearance."

So here I go, and,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.