

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:-

For the second night I am broadcasting from Lake Placid, up here in the Adirondacks. But last evening, when I mentioned this, I gave no explanation. The reason I am here, and not at Radio City, is that once a year the people of Lake Placid have a big ice carnival in their huge Olympic Arena, and they crown a King and Queen of Winter. A number of years ago Ellen Mason, beautiful wife of one of the heads of the National Broadcasting Company - Frank Mason - was the Queen. I was lucky enough to be her King for the night. For the evening, I mean. And since then the kind people of Lake Placid, have invited me each year, to return as an ex-King a de-throned King, a King-in-Exile, and crown the new monarchs.

Among those who have been crowned in other years Frankie Frisch the baseball star; Ozzie Nelson and Harriet Hilliard of radio fame; oh yes and one year little Otto Soglow,

the cartoonist who draws The Little King, Otto Soglow was king and Kate Smith, who isn't so small was crowned Queen.

This year the queen is to be the N.B.C. radio star, Lucille Manners. And her King is to be Walter O'Keefe. And, I am supposed to crown them. They will be in gorgeous robes, and there will be a parade across the ice. That's the difficult part. The audience, I suspect, always secretly hopes that the King and Queen will slip on the ice and go down in a heap. Colonel Stoopnagle was the King last year, and the Colonel, always out to get a laugh, slipped and fell, on purpose. The King and Queen are not on skates. But their retinue, over a hundred lords and ladies are. And it's one of the big ice shows of the year on this continent. Staged by Jack Garren of the Gay Blades Ice Arena in New York -- and Lake Placid.

So, if you are up this way, come and see me crown the King and Queen. And maybe you'll see me slip and fall and prostrate myself ungracefully before the wintry throne.

GERMANY

Today a significant statement was made in Germany, a statement concerning the strained diplomatic relations between the Hitler Reich and the United States. Is there to be a definite break between the two countries each of which has called its ambassador home?

Today's declaration has some bearing on that important point. It was given out by the D.N.B. News agency, which is an official agency of the Nazi government.

For the first time the German people are told of the German protest to Washington and of its rejection by the American State Department, the protest against the anti-Nazi speech made by Secretary of the Interior Ickes. Hitherto, the Hitler censorship kept the protest and the rejection hidden from the German public.

Having made that revelation, the official news agency continues with this significant sentence - "The hope expressed by the American Foreign Office that German-American relations may improve has no foundation."

Well, over here we didn't know that the American Foreign Office, otherwise called the State Department, had expressed

any such hope, except perhaps in the ordinary forms of courtesy when the German protest was rejected. But it's interesting to hear officially from Germany that any hope of better relations has no foundation.

GERMAN SUBMARINES

Today, once again the news of the day features-- U boats. The Hitler Government has informed London that Germany intends to build a submarine fleet equal to that of Great Britain. German-British equality under the surface of the sea.

How does this square with the Naval agreement that London and Berlin signed in Nineteen Thirty-Five? That's a point worth a moment of scrutiny. At the time Germany scrapped the disarmament clauses of the Versailles Treaty and started re-arming, the agreement with ^{Great} Britain was formed. Germany allowed to build a fleet thirty-five percent as great as the British Navy.

But, there was a proviso that the Germans might build their submarine squadron to within forty-five percent of the British strength. There was a still further proviso which used the ambiguous phrase - "under certain circumstances." It was agreed that "under certain circumstances" Germany might build U boats right up to British undersea strength.

So the submarine increase reports today merely puts the U-boat equality-proviso into effect. Apparently, "the certain circumstances" have come about.

GOEBBELS

There are insistent reports today that there's ~~no~~ plenty of truth in the story about Hitler's propaganda man Goebbels. British and American newspapers like the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS print what is purported to be the inside story about the beating Goebbels is said to have gotten because of an actress. Her husband challenged the powerful propaganda minister to a duel, but was thrown into a concentration camp instead. Thereupon hubby's friends administered the beating.

Goebbels' wife is reported to be ready to sue for a divorce, and she's an important personage in Germany. She has acted as official hostess for the bachelor Hitler. And Hitler is said to be much displeased by the doings of Goebbels, who is now a prisoner! So the story goes. Which Nazi circles continue to deny.

FRENCH SOLDIERS

There was an uproar in the French Chamber of Deputies today, a legislative sanctum where uproars are rather common. We know, of course, that a lot of Frenchmen have been serving in the Spanish Civil War. Quite a number of these should have been doing their military service in the French Army. And now showing up for army duty is a military offense. So when the International Brigades were disbanded in Spain, and those Frenchmen returned to France - they were in hot water. Should they be punished or should they be granted amnesty? That's what had the Chamber of Deputies excited today.

The partisans of the Left shouted for amnesty. The Deputies of the Right roared that Frenchmen should not be allowed to evade their home military service - even to fight in a foreign war. But, the amnesty was voted, three hundred and twenty-five to two hundred and twenty six.

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Holland also is having something of an uproar about Netherlanders who have returned home after serving in the Spanish Civil War. Some of the home-going Dutchmen are followed by Spanish women who claim to be their wives! The

Dutch authorities are trying to figure out whether there have been any legal marriages. In other words, whether or not the former Left Wing fighters are in Dutch.

TOMM MURSTAD

While out skiing today, I watched the slalom race between ski teams from ten colleges: Bowdoin, Colgate, Cornell, Yale, Princeton, Williams, Penn State, Middlebury, and Dartmouth. The fastest time was made by Amos Little of Dartmouth.

Among the famous skiers of the world who are here in Lake Placid this week, is one Norseman whom many of you saw doing ski acrobatics at Madison Square Garden. And ~~recently~~ recently he was featured in a Fox Movietone Technicolor reel. His name is Tomm Murstad. He floats through the air like a bird. Over in Norway he runs a famous ski school, where he has taught the members of the Norwegian royal family.

Tomm Murstad, what do you think about Americans as skiers?

BANDITS

Three bandits today held up a railway express office at Youngstown, Ohio and got away with thirty-five thousand dollars, money consigned to the Federal Reserve Bank in Cleveland. Were there no guards to protect the cash? Yes there were. Twice as many as usual. That's the point. The bandits picked just the moment when the number of guards was doubled; and the crime was planned to the split second:-

In the Youngstown office, with stacks of money all around, the night-shift of armed guards was on duty. It was early this morning, when the day shift was just coming in. The night guards unstrapped their guns, and put them aside. The men of the day shift were just about to equip themselves with weapons. For a brief instant, nobody in the place was armed, and that's when the bandits walked in. They must have had it all figured out. Pistols in hand the three hold-up men herded the express office employees into a room - twenty of them, and not one pistol among them.

The holdup men missed one big bag of cash, but they got thirty-five thousand dollars just the same, and made their getaway in an automobile. The latest word is they smashed

their speeding car, but seized another auto and kept going.

Tonight the manhunt is on all over Ohio and adjoining states.

GUN

We all know about the gun that is not loaded; and they found out a little more about it in Philadelphia today, in a court room. A pistol was in evidence and an Assistant District attorney picked it up with cautious care.

"That gun's okay!" called out the detective in the case, "NOT loaded!" With this reassurance, the Assistant District Attorney pulled the trigger, and the gun went - "bang." The bullet went through a bill of indictments on a desk, through the coat of another Assistant District Attorney, and right by the ear of a policeman.

SCIENCE

Now take a deep breath - because that's what the earth is doing. Yep, this old globe of ours breathes up and down like a living thing. So we are told by Prof. W. H. Bücher of the University of Cincinnati, in an address he made today before the Geological Society of America meeting in New York.

He said that this terrestrial sphere contracts at times, and sometimes expands. This happens over long eons in a regular succession -- a kind of breathing, like a heaving bosom. Right now the earth is expanding, taking a deep breath.

The professor admits he can't tell us what causes this breathing of the earth. "What kind of forces can cause a pulsation of the earth's crust, I do not know," he says.

Well professor, I will tell you. The earth, with all the rotating on its axis, that it does, and with all its revolving around the sun, gets tired, and out of breath. So naturally, it has to do some panting and puffing. That's my unscientific explanation, Professor. Dr. Godfrey Dewey, sitting here beside me smiles indulgently as tho he doesn't think much of my unscientific theory.

DR. DEWEY:- No, Lowell, I don't think you know any more about it than the Professor.

RAINMAKER

Down in Buenos Aires, an Argentine rainmaker started his weather magic today:- to produce a downpour at B. A. on January third, next Tuesday. This rainmaker is no Indian medicine man or black voodoo worker. Last year he was elected an honorary member of the Argentine Society of Inventors. He's that well thought of an an engineer and scientist.

His rain-making is done with an electrical machine, which he says attracts electro-magnetic waves. Reports are that in the past he has accomplished some bewildering results. And now he is making a supreme demonstration.

All because of the way the weather machine has been ridiculed by the Argentine Director General of Meterology, who expresses his opinion in these scientific terms:- "the disproportion of forces between the natural meterological phenomenon that produces rain and the capacity of man to produce a similar amount of energy is about a million to one," says he.

So, to answer this formidable denial, the rainmaker set a machine going today -- to produce an Argentine downpour next Tuesday.

"If I wished," he declares, "I could cause it to hail

or even stir up a cyclone. I don't want to do that, however," he adds prudently, "because the wind might blow the roof off somebody's house and then they would sue me."

The Argentine rainmaker is too cagey to be a cyclone-maker.

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Willis Wells, supervisor of this region around Lake

Placid is sitting beside me. He has a lot to do with weather.

What did you think of that rainmaker item, Mr. Wells?

WELLS: ~~xxxxxxx~~ Only this Lowell:- When he gets through making rain in South America I wish he'd come to North America and make snow for us. We don't need any this week. We've got plenty. But, there are times when we could use a man who can make snow. There are times!

OTTO SCHNEIBS

Mr. Wells, I understand that Otto Schneibs, has a system for getting snow. When he wants more snow for his ski classes he simply gets them all to pray. I've heard about that prayer. I believe it's addressed to Saint Peter. Why Saint Peter? And will you tell us, Mr. Harry Wade Hicks, or have this crowd of a thousand skiers who are ~~xx~~ sitting here, have them say a line or two of that prayer for snow?

PRAYER

And now Happy New Year, and So Long Until Next Year!