

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1936.

Curran
WBC

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The date line for this story is, the Equator.

The exact time - two minutes before two this afternoon. The hero is - the sun. Whose son? Why, the cosmic sun - spelled with a "u". At one fifty-eight this afternoon, the sun crossed the Equator - vernal equinox, the beginning of spring.

Frequently - astronomy doesn't agree with the weather man. At the planetary beginning of spring, we've ~~known~~ been known to have blizzard ~~5~~ blasting winter. But not today, at least not around these parts. Astronomy said spring, and so did the breezes, the temperature and the sunshine. ~~in this part of the country at any rate.~~

I wish I could explain why the scientific beginning of spring doesn't happen at exactly the same time each year. *all*

I know is:-

~~but~~ it doesn't. I don't remember so well what I learned about those equinoxes, solstices and parallaxes. *In fact I hardly* ~~don't~~ remember

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learning about them at all. So I don't know why it is that sometimes the first day of Spring can fall as early as March Nineteenth, as in the year Eighteen Ninety-Six. We commonly think of Spring as beginning March Twenty-First. So - maybe that's just the average date.

Which curiously enough takes us to the League of Nations. Yes, I know - that's foreign news, when we have plenty to talk about closer at home, the floods for example. But, we're still on the subject of Spring and the date on which it falls. That's why the logical sequence is to the League of Nations, the dispute about the Rhine, the war between Italy and Ethiopia. For, if those big subjects hadn't zoomed up to take all the time and attention, the League of Nations might have handed down a decision concerning the date of Spring.

It all goes back to the idea of calendar reform - a thirteen-month year. Right now over in Europe, the British War Office, the London Underground, and some European railways, are using that thirteen-month year - for bookkeeping, accounting. They find it simplifies the figures. So the question of

changing the calendar was put before a committee of the League of Nations. They were busily studying the matter, getting ready for a decision - when bang -- Hitler Marched his soldiers into the Rhineland. Whereupon the thirteen-month year was shelved in a hurry.

Of course, if you change the calendar, you'll also change the date of Spring. But, the present world crisis has delayed any such idea.

There's one man in England who is downcast by the delay - shaking his head - muttering in his beard. His name is Moses Cotsworth - the calendar man. Many years ago, this English Moses was enormously wealthy. He owned a great house, treasures and antique furniture and works of art. And, he became interested in the reckoning of time. He devoted all his efforts to the cause of calendar reform - and all his money too. The calendar Moses ~~was~~ went broke. In Nineteen Twenty-One he was stranded in New York, almost penniless. But then he met an American Moses, George Eastman, the Kodak man, and sold him the thirteen month year. The culmination of Moses Cotsworth's dream

came, when he was able to get calendar reform placed seriously before the League of Nations.

But now he's afraid. He is seventy-six. The world crises has pushed the calendar into the background, - delay. And the time changing Moses, the Moses of the Months, sees time moseying along. He's afraid he won't ~~XXXX~~ live to see his life's dream come true.

EUROPE

Diplomacy in London took a strong turn today. Last night we considered the question - "What would the Locarno powers do to make Germany accept the terms they are offering?" Tonight, the question was given an answer that sounds mighty firm and determined. First of all, there seems to be some modification of the terms, a different aspect put on the matter. We hear of an "interim period". Let's see what that means.

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Germany is called upon to agree to the following: that the Franco-Russian Treaty, which Germany doesn't like, be submitted to the World Court. A neutral zone in German territory along the Rhine, to be policed by British and Italian soldiers. The Germans not to increase the number of their troops in the Rhineland and not to build any fortifications there.

But none of this ~~is~~ to be permanent. The terms apply ~~to~~ ^{to} only [^] the immediate future. That's the interim period, after which the Locarno powers will get together with Germany in a general talk to consider - Hitler's peace proposals, and a revision of the treaties concerning the Rhineland - something

to legalize the German armed reoccupation of the Rhine. And, there would be a general peace conference for all the world to consider a program for peace and security, the limitation of armament and an adjustment of the economic affairs of the world. This to be held under the auspices of the League of Nations. But the United States and Japan would be invited. Some are calling this an attempt to form a super-League of Nations and manipulate or cajole us into it.

Right now the Germans are showing some signs of being agreeable to the arrangement, with the exception - that they resent the proposal of a neutral zone on German soil to be patrolled by British and Italian troops. That looks too much like a foreign occupation of German earth to suit the Nazis. They haven't forgotten the Allied occupation of the Rhineland.

Suppose the Germans don't accept, what will the Locarno powers do? Here's what:- They will immediately form a powerful military alliance among themselves, directed against Germany. Great Britain, France, Italy and Belgium will line up in a dominant system of mutual help.

All of this comes in no mere chatter by statesmen. The program as I have outlined it is officially stated today in a White Paper issued by the British government. Simultaneously Foreign Minister Anthony Eden made the same declaration before the House of Commons.

In these heavy doings concerning the Rhine-question, the Italian-Ethiopian affair was almost lost sight of. The beginning of an East African settlement was promised for today. But it turned into some routine formality - nothing definite.

TRUCKS AND PLANES FOLLOW FLOOD

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cut.

The core of the flood relief problem is -- transportation. (Floods, like so many disasters, not only do the damage -- but also block the ways of getting in the remedy. The whole nation is trying to help -- especially those agencies that are able to push supplies across the floodlands, over washed-up roads, hazardous bridges, and through the sky.)

Pennsylvania was especially hard hit, and so we find the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association gathering a fleet of a hundred trucks, loading them up with food, clothing, medicine, and jamming them through to Johnstown, Pittsburgh, Kingston and other water ravaged ^{centers,} ~~towns.~~ The Philadelphia chapter ~~alone has contributed a thousand dollars to this motor truck association.~~

Air
In the sky Transcontinental and Western ^A has brought every available plane from all over the country to the Eastern flood area. ^{There are} ~~and~~ many places which only planes can get to. The regular Douglas sky liners, fourteen a day, are pouring supplies into Pittsburgh. And in addition, eight other planes today were flying on the Pittsburgh relief schedule. (One special relief

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at { express plane was shutter^ling back and forth from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, carrying emergency supplies, such as rubber boots, slickers, flash-lights, telephone equipment and hospital necessities.

Bullard.

Mar. 20 7

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INTRO TO GENERAL BULLARD

It so happens that, sitting here in the studio tonight, is an American General whose name will live in history for generations and generations to come, a General who commanded hundreds of thousands of fighting men in the World War. Yes, he is one of the greatest Generals in all American history -- and that covers a lot of territory. His name: Robert Lee Bullard. He was in command in succession of the First Division, Third Army Corps and the second army in France. He led the men who smashed the German lines to pieces. He commanded our fighting soldiers at the front from our entry into the war until there wasn't any front left.

What must his emotions be as he reads the dispatches from Europe these days? The news of all the chaos and bickering, the tearing up of the Versailles Treaty, and return of the German army to the Rhine, and threats of another World War?

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GENERAL BULLARD:- Just a moment, Lowell, I'll tell you one thing that's in my mind these days. It is this:- "If humanly possible to avoid it, our people in the United States must never again

become involved in a European war. Of course we can't shut ourselves off. The world has shrunk so that all countries are our neighbors. But, in the future, let's keep out of every fight that we can.

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L.T.:- if you want to read a book that will almost burn your fingers, a book full of blazing language, just get a copy of the volume General Bullard brought out the other day. It seemed to the General that European diplomats, ever since the war, had intentionally played down the importance of the fighting done by American soldiers. He believes they did this in the hope that ~~the~~ they might get away with it and might get better financial terms in settling up war loans and so on. General Bullard is a fighter from away back. And he knows exactly what the Yanks did on the other side. For instance, here are a few lines near the end of his book. After paying high tribute to the courageous fighting done by the Allied soldiers, he says: "From the moment Americans began to take a real part in the battle and apply their power, the enemy who, until then had been winning, was beaten. From that time onward, German collapses followed all battles in which

Americans took part, And, following the victory in the great American Meuse Argonne offensive, came the end instantly!

Incidentally General Bullard and I are going in just a moment to join a soldier from the British Isles, going to give him a send-off before he sails for home: Captain Knight, explorer, naturalist, lecturer and pal of that extraordinary live eagle "Mr. Ramshaw" who is always getting in the news. Captain Knight has just finished one of the most successful lecture tours of recent times.

FLOOD

We all learned in our school geographies of the chain of mountains that parallels our East coast, and divide the seaboard states from the Middlewest. There are two sections that concern us tonight, one on the east side ~~xx~~ of those mountains, the other on the west. The former to the north, in New England. The latter to the south, the valley of the Ohio River. These are the two flood centers tonight.

In New England short rivers flow the brief distance from the mountains to the sea. And these rivers are doing the damage. The Connecticut River doing its worst at Hartford. In the insurance capital of America water is twenty feet deep in some sections. The river spreads out like a vast yellow lake and a network of canals that were streets. In fact some of the biggest insurance companies in America are flooded, - in need of some of their own insurance. Western Union had to suspend operations at noon in Hartford. Twenty-five thousand people have abandoned their homes in that city of million-fold-policies.

Springfield, Massachusetts, is also on the Connecticut River. That's ordinarily a pleasant stream, but tonight it's

FLOOD 1A

the villain of New England; flooded the power plant and
Springfield is without lights tonight.

More than twenty thousand people are homeless -- but only one death has been reported. And the ugly spectre of vandalism has raised its head. Reports tell of bands of hoodlums looting flooded houses. The city now is being policed by American Legionnaires, National Guardsmen, and Army officers. And there's talk of declaring martial law.

The Merrimac River ~~is~~ raising havoc at Pawtucket.

At Holyoke a leak in the great dam was plugged, by thirty thousand sandbags. Nevertheless, water is pouring over ~~the~~ Holyoke Dam at the rate of a quarter of a million cubic feet per second. In the city six hundred of the homeless are sleeping tonight in the City Hall and other public buildings. ^{TP} The flood situation has eased in the Valley of the Blackstone River. ~~The~~ Rice Dam did ~~not~~ break as reported yesterday.

In the Mississippi Valley the rivers are long. The waters eventually find their way to the Gulf of Mexico. So if there's a flood in the north it travels on and on to the south. ^{Far up} ~~So~~ Today at Marietta, Ohio, the water rose

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forty-seven and a half feet as the Ohio River flood swept down stream. The town is a scene of rushing water. Hundreds of people have fled. The same story comes from Steubenville, Ohio. Point Pleasant is in danger. Town after town is in the grip of the flood. As far south down the river as Cincinnati the inundation is sweeping over the lowlands.

CHINAMAN

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Suppose someone wanted to write a fantastic story with a lot of weird angles - here would be a good way to begin it. Start the wild and wooly yarn like this: "A giant Chinaman, clad in steel armour, stepped out of the doorway. When he saw the captain, he started to run." ~~From~~ From then on, you could think of all sorts of continuations. If you decide to use the idea, you'd better make suitable acknowledgements to a New York captain of detectives and one of his sleuths. The two were investigating a Chinese drug ring, and the chase naturally took them to Chinatown.

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So it was that the captain and his sleuth were watching the doorway of a tenement house. Then their man came out. He was a Chinese of ^{goliath} ~~large~~ proportions, who was six feet tall, more than two hundred and fifty pounds in weight. He recognized the detectives and started to run. They chased him, grabbed him, found he was hard, ~~as~~ hard as iron. Underneath his clothes he was wearing a two-piece suit of steel armour. One section covered his chest and back. The other, like iron clad trunks, reached down to his knees.

The Chinese giant obviously wasn't wearing all that armoured plating merely for comfort. It looked as if he might have been engaged in some dangerous business, in which bullets might fly. The police, in fact, call it an important step in the smashing of a huge Chinatown drug ring - an important arrest - and I'll take a rest and, --

SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.