

L.T. SUNOCO - AUGUST 31, 1932

Good Evening, Everybody:-

Well, the sun put on its big show today with partial success. Old Sol had not picked the best possible day for his party. In some parts the weather was clear, at least clear enough to see this historic spectacle. But in other places clouds obscured the sun and its overshadowing moon. Some of the scientists were disappointed, to say nothing of thousands of spectators who had motored from distant points to New Hampshire and other parts of New England. Apparently folks in Maine and Canada got the best break. New York was one of the cities in the States where the eclipse, though only 95%, was at any rate clearly visible.

For New Yorkers the prize box seat was in the Observation Tower of the Empire State Building. It was so jammed that not another soul could have wedged in. Hundreds were there, including Alice Roosevelt Longworth and many other notables. Weather conditions had cleared, although there was quite a haze overhanging

^{region.}
the ~~city.~~ Nevertheless ~~the sun was clearly visible.~~

As we hung out of windows in the Tower ~~of the~~
~~largest building in the world,~~ at twenty three minutes past
three, we saw the moon make its first ^{miles} ~~step~~ in what ~~looked like~~
the molten copper disc of the sun. About an hour later, all we
could see of his Celestial Majesty was a thin crescent at the
left edge of the disc. At nine minutes later, or 4:34 to be
precise, the eclipse reached its maximum. At that time in New York
and other points south of the region of totality, the crescent that
you could see was at the lower edge of the sun.

As we looked down towards the earth, hardly a pedestrian
seemed to be moving in the streets. I never saw the streets of
New York so empty at such an hour. There were only a bare
handful of folks on the sidewalks of Broadway and Fifth Avenue,
and most of those were standing still, ~~and~~ gazing skyways^{side.} On all
the roof tops you could see growds of sun gazers.

In Boston the show was a bit of a disappointment. It started all right but presently clouds came up.

Scientifically, the most valuable sights and photographs were obtained by observers in airplanes. Some of these went as high as five miles above the clouds, equipped with telescopes and cameras. It was a field day for the big guns in astronomy and astrophysics. The astrophysicists -- there's a good word -- were interested particularly in the Corona. The flashing halo of many-colored flames that blares out from behind the moon on such an occasion.

THE ECLIPSE 3

It was a big day for New England. The highways were black with motor traffic. Special trains were running on the railroads. Little villages of a scant few hundred population, suddenly took on the size of towns. A great multitude of people migrated into a strip of territory a hundred miles wide stretching from the Canadian border to the Maine coast.

At Fryeburg, Maine, a detachment of the National Guard was called out to protect the astronomers from mobs of the curious. Also to prevent motorists from running into stone walls or into each other when the sunlight was cut off by the moon.

At Magog in the Province of Quebec, Canada, there were scientific expeditions of Canadian, English, Dutch, and United States astronomers who had come there to investigate the eclipse. They set up their telescopes and cameras on the golf course near Magog. Several visitors came in planes from Chicago and other points West.

A salesman of an automobile house says that they are selling higher priced cars with fewer trade-ins than usual, The same thing is true of radios and refrigerators.

All this is explained on the ground that this half billion dollar gain in the value of cotton and tobacco crops has spread confidence even into the back country. Consequently money that has been hoarded is coming out of its hiding place.

Then the head of the American Institute of Steel Construction made a significant and most encouraging statement today. He told President Hoover that the steel industry had turned the corner. The industry will increase its production schedules as much as a hundred per cent by the end of the year. And that means a great deal to all of us, even if we are not in the steel industry.

FARM STRIKE

Out in Iowa the terrorism that's been expected in the farm strike occurred early this morning. A dispatch to the Louisville Times reports that farmers who were picketing the roads leading to Cherokee, Iowa, were fired upon, and apparently not by officers of the law. Fifteen of the pickets were wounded.

They were fired on with shotguns by men passing through the picket lines in a motor car. The identity of the men who fired the shots has not been established.

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The dispatch says that the situation is so complex and delicate in those regions that the officers of the law are refusing to discuss it. The Sheriff of the county in which the shooting occurred refused to admit that there had been gun play. An abandoned automobile, its tires and body riddled with holes, was left in the neighborhood. Pickets were so numerous and enthusiastic last night that they stopped almost every car approaching the town, whether it was a truck or a passenger vehicle.

A blockade has been set up on the roads in South Dakota leading into Sioux Falls. There was also a report that fourteen persons were injured on the roads leading to Sioux Falls. There's a movement on foot among the farmers of Indiana, to join the strikers.

In Des Moines nine pickets are held in jail because they cannot raise a thousand dollars each for bail.

BERLIN

In Berlin the political situation is touchy. President von Hindenburg has indicated that he will not receive the leaders of Germany's newparliament until next week. A dispatch to the Cincinnati Post says that the Reichstag may be dissolved before that time.

~~The deputies elected to the new parliament are carrying on as though parliamentary government still exists. At the same time there was more indication than ever than Chancellor von Papen is wielding powers which make him virtually dictator.~~

Then there's another angle to the news from ^{Berlin}~~Germany~~
today. The German cabinet ^{officially} informed the French government that ~~the~~ ^{Germany} claims military equality with France, and other European nations. The German republic wants to do away with the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles which limited the German army to one hundred thousand men. The Germans also want to fortify once more the French and Polish frontiers.)

(This information was officially communicated to the French Ambassador in Berlin. ~~today~~)

ADD BERLIN

It became known today that ~~the~~ one object of the German cabinet will be to secure the return of the Saar district from France. This came out in an article written by Chancellor von Papen in one of the German newspapers. Von Papen writes that the return of the Saar region to Germany is one of the most important tasks he has set himself.

It so happens that he is a native of that region. But, he adds, ~~in~~ quite aside from that, he considers it of the utmost importance to Germany-as-a-whole to regain this territory. By the provisions of the Versailles Treaty there will be a plebiscite of the population of the Saar on this subject in 1935.

SUNOCO TALL

Ah, Here's a gasoline tall story that comes not from
 a distributor, [^] *but from a consumer,* [^] ~~but habitual user of the high powered gas.~~ He's
 Mr. Horace Jonas, of Goshen, New York, where they hold the big
 trotting races. And here's his story.

Mr. Jonas bought some Sunoco Gas from a roadside
 station way off in the back woods. Imagine his astonishment
 when the two hands that decorate the Sunoco Gas tank at this
 station started to move, and the next thing he knew they were
 giving him a round of applause for his common sense.

Well, I think that elects Mr. Jonas of Goshen
 to ~~the Club.~~ *exalted ranks in any Tall Story club.*

FISH

Here's a new kind of fish story. Housewives in Massachusetts and all the rest of New England may now order their fish by telephone direct from the fishing grounds. As the fishing grounds are seldom less than 300 miles from the Massachusetts Coast this is quite a stunt. The latest wrinkle is to have the fishing schooners equipped with wireless telephonic communication with the shore. So, if you want some fresh fish you just ring up and say "Ahoy there," to your favorite fisherman. Whereupon he says, "Aye, Aye, Mrs. Jones," and catches you just what you want.

HURRICANE

Down in Florida folks are digging in to prepare for a hurricane. Storm warnings were issued by Uncle Sam's Weather Bureau. In fact, the hurricane warnings were hoisted all the way from Biloxy, Mississippi, to Panama City, Florida. The barometer has fallen two points in the last twenty four hours.

A dispatch to the Trenton Times reports that the Weather experts have observed a tropical disturbance over the Gulf of Mexico. They estimate that it probably will strike the mainland at or near Pensacola. Everybody is getting busy taking precautions against damage to property.

ANIMALS

Oh yes, and here's something I forgot to mention about the eclipse.

A particularly curious phenomenon was made in the great Bronx Zoo. The curators observed that birds, animals and reptiles became strangely uneasy long before the moon moved between the earth and the sun. The monkey house, which is usually a jovial pandemonium in the morning hours, was still as night. Monkeys and apes refused food and crouched forlorn and terrified in huddled groups. I am informed that Janet, the baby gorilla, who is usually one of the most active young members of the zoo, covered herself over with straw and curled up in a dark corner. The brown bears went into their caves. The white bears didn't even venture out. The reptiles refused food. The bird house, usually one of the noisiest spots in all New York, was silent. Only the elephants and the Rocky Mountain goats paid no attention to the big spectacle.

All over New England where the eclipse was total, fowls went to roost and other barnyard animals thought it was bedtime. And they all said to each other what I'm saying now --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.