

R.J. Luncey. Friday, Jan. 21, 1938.

Today's business conference at the White House brings us some specific information. The President talked things over with top-ranking chiefs of the automobile industry, <sup>And we</sup> ~~we~~ are told the results of the parley, ~~within~~. The automobile men upon emerging from the White House said they had <sup>informed</sup> ~~told~~ the President that they expected better business in Spring, automobiles on the up-grade. And they added that they and the President had come to an agreement on the subject of -- installment buying. "We found ourselves in hearty agreement with the President's principles on the subject of installment buying," declared Alvin Macauley head of ~~the~~ Packard <sup>also head</sup> ~~Motor Car Company and~~ of the Automobile Manufacturers' Association.

What are the President's principles, with which the automobile men found themselves in hearty agreement? Well, Mr. Roosevelt believes that there's too much liberal credit in auto selling. He thinks buyers of cars should make larger down payments -- that would prevent over-selling the market.

~~Mr~~ To this the motor spokesman made the following statement:- "High pressuring customers, permitting their desires to take them into debt beyond their means is bad business all around."

He added that he and his colleagues had agreed to discuss the subject of installment buying among themselves, to report back to the President.

Just before the auto conference the President told the newspaper men that the whole series of business conferences was bringing about a better understanding between business and the government -- and that seems to be borne out by the meeting which followed. The President moreover, did some explaining about his holding company declaration. He said he had been misunderstood -- his ideas were not so drastic. He doesn't believe that all holding companies are bad, as he seem<sup>ed to have</sup><sub>1</sub> stated. There are a lot of good ones among them. (That seems to follow the general curve of the President's recent denunciation<sup>s</sup> of business -- ~~is~~ coming around to the thesis that he doesn't mean that they're all bad, but just a few.)

UNEMPLOYMENT

The familiar phrase about climbing to a big let-down has its opposite - sinking to a quick come-up. That's part of the analysis of the business recession given out by John D. Biggers today, Director of the Unemployment Census. Testifying before the Senate Unemployment Committee, Mr. Biggers declared that the decline in business has been so fast, that there's sure to be a rapid rebound - sharp resumption of business, said he.

Well, that seems to put the best light on a ~~SERIES~~ series of other items in the news today - such as the Washington ~~REP~~ report that employment in factories decreased five hundred and twenty-five thousand last month. That's the biggest drop in any December since Nineteen Twenty. The December payrolls were nineteen and a half million dollars smaller than they were a year ago.

48

From Boston - comes the report that wages in Massachusetts last month <sup>were</sup> ~~were~~ twenty-two per cent <sup>lower,</sup> ~~under~~ as compared with a year ago. There were eighteen per cent fewer people employed.

These are disturbing bits of news, but let's hope the meaning is what John D. Biggers says it is - the faster the decline, the faster the come-back.

LABOR

The cry of "Red" resounded once again today. This time it's the Sub-Committee of the New York State Bar Association that gives warning, saying that Communistic influences are dangerously at work in the ranks of labor. The Committee report mentions -- pseudo-Democratic groups. Meaning -- followers of Red Dictator Stalin who talked up democracy. It declares that the purpose of the Communists in the ranks of labor is to foster-- dissatisfaction, discontent and disillusionment.

This is in line with a great deal of criticism of ~~labor~~ late -- the warning that the Reds are <sup>disrupting</sup> ~~active in the ranks of~~ labor.

LABOR DISTURBANCE

9

A bomb was exploded in a Cleveland apartment house today, that shook people out of their beds. The infernal machine was touched off to blast the apartment of Ernest Howard, business agent for the Cooks and Waiters Union of the A.F. of L. No casualties - just a lot of damage and commotion.

That news is followed by another flare of violence - three men beating up an official of a truck drivers union. They attacked and flogged him with - axe handles.

~~This violence~~

Why this violence in Cleveland today? It seems to be connected with charges of labor racketeering. It follows right on the heels of the action of the County Commissioners, who awarded twenty thousand dollars to investigate Union rackets in Cleveland.

C.C.C.

There have been frequent charges of fraud in the administration of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The Senate Committee has heard testimony of one minor clerk who was able to filch fifty-eight thousand dollars by means of fraudulent vouchers. <sup>That clerk was sentenced to prison late today</sup> Charges have been stirring that there are loose methods in the Interior Department of Secretary Ickes, methods loose enough to let crooks get away with a whole lot.

Today Senator Nye of North Dakota chimed in with a million dollar accusation. He told the Senate Public Lands Committee that he had reports of C.C.C. frauds totalling a million and a quarter - a million in the southwest and a quarter of a million in the one state of Kansas.

675 12 yrs.

50

T.V.A.

Here's <sup>the</sup> a decision on the T.V.A. A federal court at Chattanooga, Tennessee, handed down its verdict in the suit to declare the giant federal project unconstitutional. Victory goes to the T.V.A. The court upholds the public work that local utilities companies claimed was government competition designed to destroy them. The District Court declares the T.V.A. constitutional. Now no doubt the case will go to the Supreme Court.

NAVY

Five hundred and fifty-three million dollars for the Navy - that was decreed in Congress today. The lower House passed the Navy Appropriations Bill, and sent it to the Senate. This follows a good deal of congressional debate. There wasn't much difference of opinion about the necessity of strengthening the fleet. The question was, which should it be - dreadnoughts or aircraft? The question will now be taken up by the Senate.



BOMB

That's perilous business - that plot to blow up a Japanese liner at Seattle. It's all the more perilous because of youthfulness and folly.. A former Canadian honor student and school teacher named <sup>Partridge</sup>~~Forsythe~~ involved in it, and he ~~Partridge~~ told Seattle police today <sup>how</sup>~~that~~ he was approached by a man named Forsythe who came to him and said:- "Wouldn't you like to be a hero, do big things, and make a lot of money?"

That's temptation to youth - heroism and money. Partridge thought it was a great idea - to blow up a Japanese liner which was loaded with scrap iron for <sup>Nipponese</sup>~~Japanese~~ munitions plants. His sympathies were with China, and the ones in back of the plot were a Chinese group.

From there the story goes on to a grim, fantastic conclusion - a floating bomb, an infernal machine. Forsythe ~~swam~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~out with it and placed~~ was to have swum out with it and place it against the side of the Japanese ship, where it would blow up and sink the vessel. But apparently he never got there. He perished in the water, drowned. The Japanese sailors found his body. And today in the harbor was picked up the floating mine. The destructive bomb aimlessly adrift.

52

FRANCE

The word from Paris tonight is - victory for salvation.  
Meaning - the new Chautemps government got a vote of confidence.  
They call it - the cabinet of salvation.

Apparently, the political factions in France were soundly convinced that something had to be done in the crisis - France left without a ministry since the Chautemps government fell last week. The Popular Front shattered, the Communists pulling out. Chautemps making a trial all over again, with a ministry made up of Radical Socialists - his own moderate group. The Communists refused to have anything to do with it, but today they voted in support. So did the entire Left Wing, also Moderates, and ~~parties~~ <sup>factions</sup> of the Right. And a vote of confidence was given by a large majority - everybody realizing that France had better install a ministry of some sort to deal with the financial crisis.

CRIME

Grim ghoulish ~~ix~~ melodrama was enacted at Spooner, Wisconsin. There they discovered the bodies of the two murdered victims named in the kidnap confession of Peter Anders. The G-~~man~~<sup>2</sup> headed by their chief J. Edgar Hoover made the gruesome find after much ~~searching~~ <sup>and the</sup> ~~confessed~~ murderer Peter Anders was with them. When the killer saw the bodies of his victims he raged in a wild outbreak—a last minute desperate attempt to escape, says a story ~~given to~~<sup>in</sup> the "Minneapolis Star" and the "St. Paul Daily News." The burly lumberjack was manacled to one of the G-men, yet he was able to put up a desperate fight.

"He swung ~~with~~ his shackles in a murderous assault that knocked his cap <sup>to</sup> the ground," says the newspaper account. "He lashed out with his fists, feet and teeth." The story goes on:—"He demonstrated a maniacal strength and fury. And for a few minutes the pine-bordered sepulchre was the scene of a furious rough and tumble battle in which Hoover and the agents participated." It's a vivid story those two newspapers give us, pictures of a giant lumberjack chained and manacled, yet battling with J. Edgar Hoover and his ~~general~~ G-men.

BASEBALL

Now let's go on to a deep secret, and then <sup>reveal the</sup> ~~a real~~ secret.

4  
It's an affair of baseball and concerns Joe Dimaggio. Joe is the silent kind of mighty hitter - so the matter of secrecy fits him well, and today he wrapped it around him with a silent gesture. ~~As home run king for Nineteen Thirty-Seven, Joe is playing a hard game right now in that winter aspect of baseball - contract, signing up, negotiating next year's wage, getting all he can.~~

Last year Dimaggio was paid fifteen thousand dollars for the season. ~~And, after the way he played the outfield and clouted the ball, it's only natural that he should~~ <sup>As home run king he'd</sup> expect more for Nineteen Thirty-Eight. Even the wordless Joe admits that. Some say he is asking fifty thousand and will compromise for thirty, ~~thousand.~~ Anyway, ~~it's known that the figure in the contract sent to him is not that high. So he has turned it down, and~~ Today he talked with Colonel Ruppert, owner of the New York Yankees, ~~negotiating.~~ And the Colonel named a figure <sup>that</sup> ~~which still~~ wasn't high enough, ~~for~~ Dimaggio, ~~so they failed to come to terms. They'll negotiate some more tomorrow.~~

How much did the Colonel offer Joe today? How high was the figure? When asked, Dimaggio said not a word - deep silence. ~~The newspaper men pressed the question, kept at him, and finally they pryed out of Joe these ten words.~~ "Colonel Ruppert and I agreed to keep the figure secret." That's all he would say.

The reporters then went after the genial Colonel, and ~~he wouldn't say anything. They jumped all over him with questions, to which he replied it was all a secret. Then they~~ pounded him so hard that the Colonel weakened:- "There will be a lot of speculation on this matter," he said disconsolately. "So ~~figure~~ we might as well make the figure known," he added ~~apologetically~~. And then he named the offer he had made to Dimaggio, let the figure out of the bag. How much? Twenty-five thousand ~~dollars~~!

55  
"The present offer," murmured the Colonel, "is twenty-five ~~thousand dollars~~. And," he muttered, "I hope we don't have to go higher."

Will he or won't he? That's a secret.

SEAL

At a merry meeting in Boston tonight they're telling tall stories. The Massachusetts Fisheries Association is holding a convention, and fish stories are being related all over the place. Not that the Association hasn't plenty of serious business to transact, representing as it does one of the great industries of the nation. But they're combining the serious with the frivolous and holding a fish story contest. Well, I could tell them a tall one, but here's a news item that may seem strange enough to the fishermen who frequent northern waters.

A sea monster was presented to the Philadelphia Zoo today - a monster not so monstrous, a mere five feet in length. But it's a prodigy just the same, found in the Delaware River - a Halichoerus Grypus. That merely means, a seal, but it's a gray seal - one of the northernmost of all animals. The gray seal belongs in the far, far north, the fringe of the polar ice. Hitherto, not one has ever been reported any further south than the coast of Nova Scotia. So it's a mystery how that Halichoerus Grypus got into the Delaware River. Not exactly a sea monster, but a sea monstrosity.

56

## EXPEDITION

The romance of exploration is a standard theme.

I myself like to play it up, with remarks about the age-long fascination of strange scenes in distant places. ~~And the peril of exploration that merely adds glamor to the magic, the spice and the sauce.~~ Not so much is said about the discomforts of exploration, although these are many and great. ~~Sometimes that's all there is on a journey into remote wilderness - just, discomforts amounting to misery, sometimes amounting to peril.~~ If you don't believe it, just tangle your imagination with this news story as it flashes from British Guiana.

Down there, in the depth of the tropical forest, an adventurous party is marooned tonight, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Waldeck of Boston, W.A. Chandler of New York, and J. T. Fox of Boston. They constitute an expedition that went in search of Paul Redfern, the missing American aviator - one of those many Redfern expeditions. They're far up the Cuyuni River, at a place with an appropriate name. It's called "Devil's Hole Island." Their Indian porters have abandoned them, and they are stranded - waiting for a rescue party to help them out.

( As for Devil's Hole Island, I think we can leave the "Island" out and just call it "Devil's Hole." It seems to be all of that.) Tremendous rains have been falling, everything drenched, water sodden jungles, <sup>and the</sup> rain soaked camp of the Waldeck party.

That's discomfort enough. But the deluge from the sky threatens to deluge the land - floods are rising and the four Americans may have to take to the tree-tops, and camp out there for a while, high up the tropical trees. <sup>P</sup> But that only begins the theme of discomfort. The country down there teems with ants, big ferocious critters - ants half an inch long. They're bad enough ordinarily, but now the rising of the flood has driven countless myriads of jungle ants to the higher ground, where the Waldeck camp is. They are just about overwhelmed by the monster insects, almost eaten alive. And, if the rising water should drive them up the trees, the ants will go up with them. Meaning - living in the jungle tree-tops mid swarms of the teeming insects. That's ants-in-the-pants exploration style <sup>at Devil's Hole.</sup>

58  
Rescuers are setting out from the coast <sup>part of</sup> ~~town of~~ Georgetown to bring back the party who by now have certainly learned that jungle discomfort can ~~not only~~ turn not only into misery but also ~~into~~ fantastic peril.



## FIRE

Down in the west Texas oil fields, the sky is red with flame tonight, a monster blaze with stupendous clouds of smoke. An ocean of oil is burning, a giant blaze of eighty thousand barrels.

8 1/2

The story is one of tremendous fireworks on a farm where ten huge tanks stood, each containing a small <sup>ocean</sup> ~~issue~~ of oil. An electrical storm hit the countryside, one of those wild outbreaks of blinding lightning and deafening thunder for which the southwest is famous. Flashes of celestial electricity flamed incessantly in the sky, and a terrific bolt of lightning hit one of those ten oil tanks. And instantly the oil flared into a blaze, eighty thousand barrels of it. This afternoon the blazing tank collapsed, and the flaming oil poured in a deluge - so deep that it flowed over a retaining wall four feet high. A lake of fire!

59

This evening a hundred fire-fighters are battling desperately, trying to keep the bursting flames of the one tank from setting fire to the other nine. There is danger that all ten ~~—near a million barrels of oil—~~ may light the countryside like ten stupendous torches in the night.

59 1/4