

L.T.-SUNOCO. TUESDAY, MAY 29th, 1934.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Here's a bit of news that is news. France is thinking about paying the War debts. Not in full. Oh No. But there is a rumor in the air that on or about June fifteenth a shipment of money will be made from Paris to Washington.

For some reason or other there seems to be an idea in France that some apology should be made for this. The apology offered is that the Frenchmen were so sentimentally affected by President Roosevelt's flattering references to the French nation at the recent Lafayette celebration. Of course no mention is made of Senator Hiram Johnson of California, nor of the bill that he wrote forbidding any foreign nation in default to sell any bonds or securities in the U.S.A.

However, let's not quibble about reasons. After all, the main thing is that Uncle Sam is going to get some money that he didn't expect.

Otherwise the debt situation is about the same, with President Roosevelt reminding the debtor nations that the day

of payment will soon be at hand - or putting it more poetically:

Said Franklin D. to the debtor nations.

"Why don't you settle your obligations?"

"How'd you like to climb a tree?"

Said the debtors in Franklin D.

LEAGUE

The United States stands today as the world's hope for disarmament. Norman Davis, America's Ambassador-at-Large, is at Geneva representing Uncle Sam for the League of Nations. And his instructions from President Roosevelt are to make definite proposals for real disarmament. Our attitude is this: we will join in an international agreement for disarmament, and will cut down our own navy to meet proportionate arms reduction on the part of the other Powers. Uncle Sam feels about it this way: "I am here to scrap a lot of guns and ships, if you boys will do the same." And that puts the matter squarely up to the other great nations of the world.

From another angle - the United States is willing to come to an agreement which will forestall a naval race, a competition in building warships, which is sure to take place unless the nations can get together.

Mr. Davis is also trying to smooth things out for Germany to come back into the League of Nations. The American delegate, together with the English and the Russians, believes it is a bad thing to keep Nazi Germany ostracized. So they all

are for making friendly gestures to the government of Berlin.

France, however, doesn't see things that way. Paris is convinced that Hitler's Germany is secretly re-arming, and prefers stern severity toward the Nazis instead of soothing words and olive branches.

ITALY.

The strength of Premier Mussolini was never more effectively demonstrated than in the latest declaration he made to his Chamber of Deputies. You may recall that the Duce decided to build Italy's navy up to full treaty strength at a cost of eighty-five million dollars. There is ~~x~~ nothing particularly daring in that.

The daring part of it is that the Duce presents his bill in advance. Says he: "It's going to cost you eighty-five million dollars and you have got to be prepared to pay for it. To do all this you will have to adapt yourselves to a lower standard of living for years to come."

Any ruler who dares to say that to his people certainly has both his nerve and the confidence of his country. It is diverting to reflect that this statement was issued while Mussolini's own representative was in Geneva chattering about disarmament.

Said Benito Mussolini,

Grazia I'm no meany;

But please do not forgetty

More ships mean less spaghetti.

AVIATION FOLLOW ITALY

But the Duce has thought^{up} still another stunt to put his country in the limelight. Italy is going to try to explore the stratosphere with a machine heavier than air. In fact, a separate unit of Italy's brilliant flying corps is going to be set aside for this purpose. Italy already has records aplenty, quite aside from the remarkable achievements of General Balbo's squadron.

Lieutenant Tito Falconi holds the world's speed record; and Marquis Negrone recently copped an important altitude record in a seaplane.

If the Italians have any luck with this heavier than air experiment in the stratosphere, they will be conferring a benefit upon all of us. Professor Picard, who knows more than any living man about the stratosphere, declares that up there we shall find the airplane pathways of the future, because air resistance is from two to three hundred per cent less than at lower altitudes.

In fact in England they are now contemplating a plane to fly from London to India in three hours.

All this seems like a dream, but the dreams of engineers and scientists have a way of coming true.

AVIATION - 2

By the way, the most interesting bit of information about the trans-Atlantic flight of Codos and Rossi comes from the wife of Captain Codos. She reveals the fact that these hardy Frenchmen knew before they left that their plane was defective. Said Madame Codos: "My husband discovered before they started that the wires holding the wings were weak. But they decided to take a chance because the weather was favorable."

I once flew across the Black sea, in a French Spad, a land plane, with a French pilot who evidently had the same philosophy of life as Rossi and Codos. We only had one motor - and no pontoons. When I asked the Frenchman why fly out of sight of land across the Black Sea in a land plane - wheels - he shrugged his shoulders and said "Oui, oui. It's all right so long as the motor runs." Oui Oui.

COLLIER

Oh, yes, and the Collier trophy has been awarded to an aviation engineer named Frank Walker Caldwell. The Collier trophy, you may remember, is the highest prize in the aviation field in America. It will be handed to Mr. Caldwell by President Roosevelt. The feat that earned Mr. Caldwell the prize was the designing of a controllable pitch propeller. It enables the pilot to set the degree or pitch of his blades enabling him to go faster or slower at take-offs and landings.

TRADE.

There are two bits of news about international affairs that certainly ~~are~~ belong in the realm of poetry. One concerns France and goes like this:

"Down with Hollywood!

"Vive La France!"

"American films get a kick in the pants."

Meaning that the French have a plan to shut down on American films and not buy any more of them. But that's only half of it. The French have another plan for selling their films in the United States.

Well, I suppose fifty million Frenchmen can't be wrong. And it certainly is a clever idea to save money by not buying our films and to make money by selling us their films, but I wonder what your Uncle Samuel is going to say about it.

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From Germany the theme song is "No buy from us, no pay to you."

"In the land of beer and the Brown Shirt Nazi

"Matters are not so hotsoy totsy.

"If you won't buy our goods, they say;

"How the heck can Germany pay?"

Meaning, that the Nazi Minister of Economics makes the declaration that unless foreign nations buy more German goods Germany will neither buy foreign goods, nor will she be able to pay her foreign debts.

POETRY

It seems I am in a poetic mood tonight which easily might be inspired by these green hills and dales down here from Staunton to Roanoke in the fabled Shenandoah Valley and here at Natural Bridge. But I'm not the poet. The lyrical effusions come from our old friend Gregory Hartswick, former Tall Story Champion of Fanwood, New Jersey. Greg has just become the proud author of a comic novel about a limerick contest, in which the gunmen and gangsters of the underworld take a hand with all sorts of hilarious and farcial results. In that book, which is called "The Winning Line", soulful, poetic Greg delves deeply into the subject by means of limericks and other jovial branches of the poetic art.

And so he proceeds to help me celebrate poetically today by turning some of my news items into rhyme. Hence these metrical effusions.

DISARMAMENT

Let's go on to those fighting South American republics, Bolivia and Paraguay. Greg Hartswick rhymes the matter this way:

"The President said to Bolivia

No more rifles and bombs will be give -yh,

So cut out this endless sahko

Down there in your Gran Chaco."

The most recent bit of expert opinion is that the arms embargo is too late. While the discussion was under way the two battling South American republics did exactly what you would expect them to. They hastily stocked up with a tremendous supply of arms and munitions with which to carry on their pet war. This opinion comes from an expert in the neighboring republic of Chile, who adds that while all the talk was going on the armament salesmen got hot on the job and did a landoffice business in South America.

All sorts of diplomatic moves are being made to get Bolivia and Paraguay to declare a truce to try to arrange a peaceful settlement. But the two countries don't trust each other. The Paraguayans believe that if a truce were declared, Bolivia would merely use it as an interval for intensive drilling and other warlike preparations.

N.R.A.

The price-fixing phase of the N.R.A. appears to be on its way out. It has been one of the chief bones of contention in the whole dispute. So far as I have been able to observe, all the soundest people in business or industry have objected to it violently. Indeed, an important section of General Johnson's administration, the Consumer's Advisory Council, has been against it from the start. And now at least the N.R.A. administration is beginning to yield. And, curiously enough, General Johnson is seeing the light just at the time that Mr. Wallace, the Secretary of Agriculture, is about to apply this principal to the farmers. If it doesn't work any better for the farmers than it has in business, it is going to be just too bad.

But another order issued by General Johnson has got nearly all of New England and a large section of the South on their ears. I mean the order for a twenty-five per cent cut in production in the textile industry. It affects three hundred thousand workers and more. And if the General thought his order would prevent labor trouble he has another think coming. For the first reaction to it was a roar of protest from the employees. The Vice-President of the United Textile Workers issued a warning to Washington that if

the order is really enforced, there will be a general strike in the industry. Every textile mill in the country will be closed. So far the General stands pat. Says he: "The order stands. You'll have anywhere from one to three months to adjust yourselves, but the order stands."

There is an ironic circumstance in all this. For five years the textile industry has been almost asleep. Only in the last eight months has there been any improvement. And this improvement was the chief cause for the decrease of unemployment throughout New England.

STOKE FOLLOW N.R.A.

"Grapevine information", as newspapermen say, "has it" that the Wagner Bill has an excellent chance of being rushed through. Senator Wagner's bill would establish a body that would do for labor and capital disputes what the Federal Trade Commission does for business. For instance, the Federal Trade Commission can cite, which really means can report, unfair practices in trade, though it cannot prosecute them. The Wagner ~~Bill~~ Bill similarly would be able to cite cases of unfair treatment of labor. In short, it would create a semi-judicial body, like a policeman without weapons. Any violation of the law would have to be turned over to the Department of Justice for prosecution. Maybe that will help, maybe.

Meanwhile, the White House and the National Labor Board are moving heaven and earth to avert that threatened strike in the steel industry. It is a lucky thing for governments that the rules of baseball do not apply to them. Can you imagine what would happen if three strikes made an out for a government? It often does in Europe.

ATTACK ON N.R.A.

Oh yes, and the N.R.A. is getting another lambasting. This time from Senator Schall of Minnesota. He declares that the "Blue Eagle" has held prosperity back for six months. And the Senator grows facetious, and refers back to that famous Rooseveltian fishing trip. Says he:

"There's one thing I'm wishing:-

The next time Franklin D. goes fishing

If minnows and worms for bait should fail

Use General Johnson, and catch a whale."

Senator Schall emphasizes his point by pointing out that Canada without an N.R.A. is making a faster recovery than the United States, Blue Eagle and all.

FRAZIER

All Washington is giggling about the experience of a couple of congressmen. Senator Frazier, and Representative Lemke of North & Dakota have just introduced a bill in Congress for the purpose of giving farmers mortgage relief. A most worthy purpose and the bill naturally has made a strong appeal to tillers of the soil all over the country.

So a crowd of farmers in Manchester, Maryland, invited Senator Frazier and Representative Lemke to come down and tell them about the bill. And of course inviting a congressman to speak is like inviting a cat to a large, sumptuous bowl of cream. So Mr. Frazier and Mr. Lemke set out for Manchester. They drove and they drove and they drove and finally they got to Manchester. But, strange to say, there was no crowd to hear them. So they said to a policeman: "Isn't this Manchester?"

"Sure" replied the cop, "this is Manchester."

The congressmen looked round again and inquired, "What Manchester?" The cop replied: "Manchester, Pennsylvania."

They explained their predicament to the policeman, who thereupon said: "Over there on the corner you will find a Sun Oil station and maybe they'll give you a map."

FRAZIER - 2

After ~~that~~ they got their map, Senator Frazier and Representative Lemke finally found their way to Manchester, Maryland. There also the crowd had vanished. Lucky they weren't invited to Manchester, Vermont!

ENDING

After ~~xxx~~ all those poetic flights here's one thing
I'm going to say in plain prose. I won't fool around with any
rhymes like gong, wrong, strong, throng, song, borrow or sorrow.
I'll just say plainly and prosaically

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.