

L. T. SUNOCO, Monday, January 1, 1934

Good Evening Everybody:

I know it's an old, and maybe stale topic. I mean the weather. This evening, the first day of the New Year I don't know whether I'd say a word about the weather except that I happen to be up here at Lake Placid, broadcasting from the Lake Placid Club, Winter capitol of America. This is one place where the weather counts far more than politics. It's the first topic of conversation in the morning, the last one at night. The thermometers which are especially arranged and lighted attract more attention than the menu in the restaurant.

After all, what would winter sports be without winter? What would the Winter capitol of America be without winter? They don't pray for rain up here, they pray for snow. They don't say, "Isn't it wonderful, it's just like a summer day?" They say:--"It's like a summer's day. Isn't it ghastly, horrible, awful? It's just like summer."

And what weather we've been having!

Saturday night the thermometers here at Lake Placid

registered 45 below. And this morning the disconsolate ski-jumpers around the thermometer announced that it had climbed to 47 above. In 24 hours a change of nearly 100 degrees. Raining too, a nice, warm, summery, wet rain. The bob-sleds would have had to bob through mud. The ski jumpers would have had to slosh through slush. Speed skaters would have had to swim over the soupy ice. But Ah! now all is bright and fair. I mean it's cloudy, dim, and snowing. Every flake among innumerable flakes is an individual particle of joy for the ski-jumpers' heart. The temperature is falling and things are perfect again for the winter sports.

In fact late this afternoon they had the big inter-collegiate ski-jump. Teams from twelve colleges took part. Dartmouth won. The individual winner was a lad from Ottawa -- Lucien La fleur - a good name for a ski-jumper, or a poet.

That's what they are doing up here in the Adirondacks. But in other parts of the world they are doing other things. Not all skating and skiing this first day of the New Year. Let's see how the Infant 1934 is starting his young life.



## SINGAPORE

It is announced that the Naval Conference of the British Empire is to meet at Singapore. A confabulation of the big shots of His Britannic Majesty's Navies. The ships of England and all the Dominions. The commanders of the Asiatic, the East Indian, the Australian, and the China sea squadrons will be present. This means that the British Lords of the Admiralty now consider Asiatic and Pacific waters the most important scenes of naval operations. The news of this Singapore conference fits in significantly with a Far Eastern dispatch I gave on the air sometime ago. It told how Japanese newspapers were all wrought up over John Bull's activities in the Far East; and over a visit of Field Marshall Lord Allenby who had started on a journey to the East with the admitted intention of visiting Singapore. The Japanese saw a sinister meaning behind this visit of Allenbys to Singapore. - And now comes news of a great Singapore naval conference.

MORGENTHAU

Henry Morgenthau Junior is no longer acting Secretary of the Treasury. He is more than that. Shortly after noon of this New Year's day he became Mr. Secretary himself. Although this event had been foreshadowed the news of the actual appointment came quite suddenly. Mr. Morgenthau today paid a visit to the White House; and there in the Oval Room he was sworn in by the President in the presence of the Roosevelt and Morgenthau families -- all of whom are old Dutchess County friends. At the same time it was revealed that on December thirteenth William H. Woodin had written to the President asking to be allowed to resign from even the nominal headship of the Treasury. Mr. Morgenthau has to be confirmed by Congress, but the grapevine telegraph has it that none of the President's nominations will meet with any serious opposition.



## WHITE HOUSE

New Years wasn't quite New Years at the White House today. It was the first day of 1934 alright but a few thousand hands remained unshaken. An ancient White House custom was broken today, a custom which had become exceedingly onerous, even dangerous to Presidents. It used to be almost a law that on New Years day the President should shake thousands of hands in an enthusiastic but aimless procession. This practice had become an ordeal for everybody at the White House. This year the fact was realized that there is far too much serious work for a President to do nowadays for him to waste his energy on this handshaking business. And we all know it would be virtually impossible for the present chief executive to go through that old exhausting, wrackling ordeal. I suppose that old glad-hand business at the White House will be a forgotten thing from now on. And we can thank Mr. Roosevelt's physical condition for that.

The New Year sees Washington crowded with Senators and Representatives. All ready for the festival of talk which begins Wednesday. Incidentally Wednesday will be quite an epochal day in the history of Congress, the first day on which Congress will ever have convened in January. Hitherto of course the statesmen would get together in December, Lame Ducks and all. But the famous Lame Duck Amendment, the one for which we can thank Senator Norris of Nebraska, did away with that. Instead of having defeated candidates meeting for a log-rolling session we will have the newly elected Congress.



MEETING AT WHITE HOUSE

There's to be an important gathering at the White House tonight. Not only cabinet ministers but congressional leaders of both the Democratic and Republican parties will be on hand, not only for the usual New Year greeting but to discuss what new laws may be needed or not needed to help us out in 1934.

ALASKA

The new deal in Alaska -- the land where they used to ~~be~~ that bad old deal in Faro. I'll bet there is many an old sour-dough when he hears about the new deal coming to Alaska will think it has to do with Faro and will hope it isn't a cold-deck.

The public works administration has allotted a handsome sum to the Alaska Road Commission for the building of a bridge across the Gastineau Channel between Juneau and Douglas. The object is to enable these two towns to consolidate and save money. When I was in Alaska on the trail of youthful adventure, a giant bridge at Juneau would have been considered a fabulous dream. But it's a New Deal alright.



## ROMANCE

Who says business men can't be romantic? Does anybody say that a railroad has not a sentimental heart?

The daughter of a fisherman in Dungeness, in the southeastern part of England, became engaged to marry a man living inland at the Town of Lydd in Kent. In other words, there was a young lady of Dungeness who loved a young man of Kent. You finish the limerick. The wedding was arranged for New Years Day. But at the last moment it almost fell through. The young man of Kent was unable to go to the home of the young lady of Dungeness and the only way the young lady of Dungeness could go to the home of the young man of Kent was by way of an old railroad which runs only in the summertime. The good old Summertime. The line called the Dymchurch Light Railway. In other words, there was a light railway of Dymchurch.

It looked as though that wedding would have to be postponed but the managing director of the railway heard about it. Said he: "Nobody shall say that the Dymchurch Light Railway ever stood in the path of true love." So he ordered a special train to get up steam to take the young lady of Dungeness to the home of the young man of Kent.

DUBLIN

More complications in the complicated political dilemma of General O'Duffy. Today the much prosecuted General O'Duffy was about to be tried again -- this time by a military tribunal, for his activity as head of the Blue Shirts, the Irish Fascisti. But at the eleventh hour the high court of the Irish Free State issued an order enjoining the military tribunal from hearing any charges against General O'Duffy. In other words they tried to try him and failed, which must be an awful trial for President deValera.



NOVELIST

Jacob Wasserman, Famous German novelist, died  
in Austria today. Wasserman had fled from Germany to escape  
persecution from the Hitlerites because of his Jewish origin.

SHIP

There was a flurry of anxiety in shipping circles today when a wireless message brought the news that the British steamer Sacramento was on fire off the California coast. She is on her way from Houston, Texas, to Yokohama. Anxiety was eased when later information told that the fire is now under control.



## RESUME

On New Years day, as tidings come flashing in from all over the world it is only natural for a fellow to sit back for a moment and wonder - what will New Year bring, what sort of news day by day, big stories, momentous events, changing the course of history right under our eyes?

Over in Eastern Asia the New Year sees an explosive situation. It exploded last year, and it would take a bold prophet to venture predictions for the year to come. The latest from that scene of friction, Manchuria, is that the Japanese and the Russians are watching each other like hawks.

That I should say is the place of crisis, for the incoming year may witness its most spectacular event - although there are some who believe that conditions in Europe are even more critical.

~~As for National events,~~ I suppose a few people in the country who don't expect to find the most striking event of the coming year to revolve around those Roosevelt policies - the N.R.A., the monetary problems, the presidential fight, to revive economic conditions. Some folks say that the President and his

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administration are merely seeking to lift the country out of the depression. Others believe that they are trying to effect a revolutionary alteration of American institutions. Which of these two opinions is right? And how successful will the President be in lifting the country out of doldrums, if that is the limit of his intentions? Or how far will he be successful in changing American institutions fundamentally, if that is his aim. 1934 will tell us.

means more Britons at work than there were at this time a year ago. King George gave his annual New Year's message saying:--"I am happy to think that we can face the coming year with growing confidence and more cheerful hearts." That seems to parse it pretty accurately for the world at large.

As for the celebrating, though it was wonderful and the bowl flowed freely all over the U.S.A., at the same time it seems to have been the best behaved in many years. In New York all the hotels were sold out.



## NEW YEARS

Judging by reports from my spies in various places this has really been the gayest new years celebration in ten years. It was not only gay it had some real reason for jubilation in that a great many people have jobs who last year were on the breadline. All over the world there appears to have been a general feeling that there's reason to be encouraged. For instance, John Bull was feeling quite happy because today there are six hundred thousand more britons at work than there were at this time a year ago. King George gave out his annual New Years message saying:--"I am happy to think that we can face the coming year with growing confidence and more cheerful hearts." That seems to phrase it pretty accurately for the world at large.

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PRISON

There's a good way to begin the New Year, by making yourself a. One feature of today's celebrations was the annual vaudeville show at San Quentin Prison. Radio and vaudeville stars gave the Six Thousand convicts a performance lasting three hours. All the inmates saw it except the bad boys, the men condemned to death and two hundred women prisoners. Hulet,

President of the Burlingame Liers Club.

What was the gentlest light of truth that won the championship. Well, Brother Corcoran told that his grandfather had a pig and exceedingly ancient clock. It is so old that the shadow thrown by the moving pendulum lay very visible in the back of the clock.

For this he is to receive a silver medal. It is for his for stretching the truth.

## TALL CHAMPION

Here's a good way to begin the New Year, by making yourself the biggest liar in 48 states. A new tall-story champion was crowned at Burlington, Wisconsin.

B. Ceresa of Langeloth, Pennsylvania, becomes the nineteen thirty-three National Champion liar of the U.S.A. This announcement has just been made last night by O. C. Hulett, President of the Burlington Liars Club.

What was the gentle slight lapse of truth that won the championship. Well, Brother Ceresa told that his grandfather had a big and exceedingly ancient clock. It is so old that the shadow thrown by the moving pendulum has worn a hole in the back of the clock.

For this he is to receive a rubber medal. I suppose for stretching the truth.