

L.T. - SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1937.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Today's flood news is heart-rending enough, but there's an encouraging note. The waters of the Ohio are receding, some cities such as Cincinnati are ^{tonight} breathing ~~tonight~~ a sigh of relief as they learn that the worst of their peril has passed. # Meanwhile, the crest of the flood is rampaging along at the rate of from seventy-five to ninety miles a day. The Army engineers tell us it will be a week before it reaches Memphis.

The big news that startled the country earlier in the day is one of the most sensational and amazing stories I've ever heard. A hundred thousand square miles of American territory to be evacuated, five hundred thousand people to be moved from their homes by the ^{U.S.} ~~United States~~ Army, a strip fifty miles wide on either side of the Father of Waters, to be cleared of its entire population all the way from Cairo, Illinois, to

New Orleans, one thousand five hundred miles.

Tonight's bulletins, however, take some of the edge off that breath-taking report. That titanic step is just a possibility. There's a big "if" in the story. The army engineers have told the President that they believe the levees will hold even in the face of the terrific flood crest now advancing. But if they do break, or if they even show signs of weakening, the Army will be on hand, ready to clear those one hundred thousand square miles of danger zone.

To this end the government is planning to rush thousands of railroad cars and automobile trucks to the Mississippi Valley.

The plans of the Army were announced after a consultation at the White House. One emphatic sentence in the bulletin issued by the War Department reads: "People must not become panic-stricken." Then it adds:- "What the Department needs to do now is to plan carefully for orderly evacuation when necessary."

The authorities do not merely hope that it won't be necessary, they have a sound basis for confidence. The levee system of the Mississippi River was constructed at a cost of a billion dollars. It's the strongest thing of its kind in the world.

Officials of the Mississippi River Commission, all the way up and down the river, are watching the waters. Furthermore, every foot of the levees is continuously patrolled. They don't believe the prodigious exodus of people will be necessary.

more than eleven feet above flood stage at Natches or more than four feet at New Orleans.

However, the Army will not be caught unawares.

Headquarters have been established at Jackson, Mississippi, fifty miles away from the river. The commanders of the Fourth, Seventh, and Eighth Army Corps areas, are holding themselves in readiness to cooperate. They've been ordered to draw up plans for the evacuation - in case.

Let's take a birdseye view of that huge inland sea that has so suddenly come into being in our country. More than a score of towns in four states have been emptied of their population. Under those muddy, swirling waters lies a young empire, two million acres of some of the most fertile land in the world. In Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas and Missouri, the first estimate of the damage is twenty-five million dollars.

TR As for the death list, ~~it's heart-breaking to contemplate.~~

Late this afternoon we learned that a hundred and fifty people were known to have perished. But that didn't include Louisville, Kentucky. And from one end of Louisville alone, a hundred and

fifty bodies ^{have been} ~~were~~ taken. It is safe to say that the death roll tonight is close to three hundred, and every bulletin brings in sadder news.

Louisville is a place of terror and desolation.

The most cheerful note in the story of that city was the entry of Uncle Sam's soldiers to relieve the men of the Louisville police force who were almost collapsing on their feet.

Louisville tonight is virtually under the rule of a dictatorship, with Mayor Miller in supreme command of his own police, of National Guards, and of troops of the regular army. Food is growing scarce, and the terrors of fire and disease are ever present. No fewer than twenty airplanes were used to land medical supplies in the stricken city. ~~Pneumonia stalks through the streets with deadly effect.~~

From elsewhere more cheerful news comes. The Mayor of Portsmouth, Ohio, said to his people: "The flood is licked." ^{The} And, we have optimistic reports from Wheeling, West Virginia, from Parkersburg, Point Pleasant and Huntington.

~~Also, as I mentioned earlier, from Cincinnati.~~

FOLLOW FLOOD

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The main tragic irony of these floods is that the more advanced and more complex a civilization, the more vulnerable it is. It has been pointed out that thirty or forty years ago, these inundations couldn't either have inflicted so much damage or brought in their trail so dire a threat of peril to come.

On the other hand, one big advantage stands out today, and that is the speed and facility of communication. For instance, one of the evils facing Louisville was a lack of sufficient policemen. Mayor Miller expressed that need on the radio this morning, and within a few hours cops from Philadelphia and Boston were on the scene helping the Louisville force to keep order. American Airlines took three of their biggest passenger flagships off their regular runs, filled them with officers, two planesful from Philadelphia and one from Boston.

— as I learned in Philly today —
~~So~~ in less than no time Mayor Miller of Louisville had sixty-three extra cops at his disposal.

Airline passenger ships have also been called upon to evacuate refugees, ~~and~~ ^{The} stewardesses of the sky transports,

all of whom are accomplished and experienced nurses, are helping the staffs of the hospitals, ~~especially the emergency hospitals where the worst cases of the more than a thousand wounded and sick are being taken care of.~~

Perhaps the most curious assignment of ~~an~~ a transport pilot was taking two thousand pairs of rubber boots from Chicago to Louisville and Cairo.

STRIKE

(On the strike front today ~~there was a certain amount~~
~~of action instead of nothing but words~~ Ten General Motors
plants, Chevrolet factories in Michigan and Indiana, reopened
with forty thousand men going back to work. It was accomplished
without disorder though large numbers of union pickets surrounded
the plants. ^{It} Governor Murphy of Michigan took every precaution
to ~~not~~ prevent any outbreak of violence ^{in his state,} There were the makings
of a fine scrap outside the Cadillac plant in Detroit. No fewer
than a thousand pickets of the automobile workers were marshalled
around it and they succeeded in preventing the executives and
office workers from going inside. The officials had a strong
force of cops on foot and ^{on} horseback, ~~on the watch~~ In order to
prevent ~~some~~ casualties the police towed away some ^{of the} motor cars
carrying company officials and office employees.

The men who returned to work at the Chevrolet plants
appeared to do so with the greatest relief, even gaiety. General
Motors executives said that by this time tomorrow they would have
one hundred and twenty five thousand of their people punching
the time clock again.

Some hope for a solution of this troublesome problem came from the United States Department of Labor today. Secretary Perkins had a long ~~xxx~~ conference with John L. Lewis and other members of the Committee for Industrial Organization. After it was over she said she had a new plan which she believed would end the strike. She wouldn't say what it was at present. Perhaps she will tell us the details later. The guess in Washington is that Madame Perkins is going to ask Congress for special legislation giving her emergency powers to intervene and deal with this crisis.

As for General Motors, its executives issued another and a still stronger statement, an appeal to the employees: "We demand our rights to be protected against a small minority", said ~~Mr.~~ Alfred P. Sloan, "a minority who have ~~it~~ seized our plants and are holding them for ransom. ~~This minority,~~" he continued, "~~have taken from us the privilege of working. But,~~ he added, "~~do not be afraid and do not be misled, General Motors will never let you down. You will not have to pay~~ tribute to the ~~privilege of working in a General Motors plant.~~"

AIR TRACK

A new device to help the pilots of the big transport ships; perfected at the Washington Institute of Technology. They call it the "Air Track", and it is believed that this will materially reduce the possibility of crack-ups when planes are landing, a help for blind flying, particularly blind landing.

The apparatus send out a curved radio beam. This, they say, will give the pilot what they call a sloping track down which he can fly his plane along the gravity road to each airport. Meanwhile, another radio beam guides him from the side so that he lands directly in the middle of the field.

Test pilots have been trying out this device for several months in Washington. According to the records, they achieved successful blind landings time after time without fail. On each occasion their wheels touched ground within a few feet of the same spot.

Still, mechanism or no mechanism everybody connected with aviation will tell you that the most important thing is the skill and experience of the pilots.

After all, there's nothing like experience. And that

seems to have inspired Neel Enslin with a thought. Am I right

Neel?

"You're right, Lowell, there is nothing like experience. For instance take the experience of more than twelve hundred motorists who made the mystery gasoline test. These motorists used a total of fifty-four other gasolines, yet, when they tested Blue Sunoco, more than nine out of every ten found from experience that Blue Sunoco improved the performance of their cars. Mr. Motorist, why don't you test a tankful? That's all - and here's Lowell Thomas:-

KAISER

On a baronial estate at Doorn, in Holland, snow lies deep upon the ground and a heavy freeze keeps all but the most energetic indoors. That puts a crimp into the celebration that otherwise would have taken place at Doorn. For today is the Seventy-Eighth Birthday of Wilhelm Hohenzollern, former Kaiser of Germany. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

His Ex-All Highest

Some weeks ago ~~he~~[^] contracted influenza, which was followed by a cough. As a result of that, the ~~once~~ imperial wood-chopper of Doorn was ordered by the doctors to lay off his favorite exercise and take it easy around the fireplace.

His birthday last year was almost as glittering as it used to be

when it was celebrated at Potsdam or ^{at} the imperial castle ~~on the~~
Spree - the River Spree - in
[^] Berlin. A throne was erected in the largest reception room at

Doorn and there friends and former potentates, in court dress, made their obeisances before the erstwhile warlord.

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Today there was no pomp or ceremony, no court dresses, no show. The aged wood-chopper received a few friends informally,

Friends
[^] who brought gifts consisting mostly of rose bushes to be planted in the garden at Doorn. *Almost forgotten - the world doesn't give a damn - and a-l-u-t-*

TIBBETT

You may have observed that the law sometimes worked in a mysterious way its wondrous to perform. There was ~~ix~~ an accident on the stage of the ~~Metropolitan~~ Metropolitan Opera House at a rehearsal, ~~yesterday afternoon.~~ It was a rehearsal for the fight scene in the new opera ^{Caponsacchi} Caponsacchi. Lawrence Tibbett who plays the part of the villain was wielding a dagger which he is supposed to plunge into the heart of the ~~hero~~ hero. The hero was being played by a veteran chorus singer of the Metropolitan, Joseph Sterzini. The ~~scene~~ scene had been rehearsed forty times. But yesterday the dagger in the hands of Lawrence Tibbett made a slight wound in the right hand of Mr. Sterzini who ~~incidentally~~ incidentally was an old and valued friend of Mr. Tibbett's. ^{The Chorus Singer} Sterzini said: "Oh, it's nothing, let's go on with the rehearsal." ~~Tibbett~~ ^{replied:} Tibbett said: "Nothing of the sort. Your hand ~~is~~ has got to be treated immediately." ^{So-} He was taken to a hospital, and three hours later he died.

Here's where the law ^{came in.} ~~got in its funny work.~~ This dismal accident had occurred in the full view of many people, members of the company. ^{But} it took ~~ix~~ an Assistant District

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Attorney and eleven New York detectives to investigate the case. The District Attorney's office even made plans for an elaborate re-enactment of the scene. Late this afternoon a post mortem made plain the fact that Mr. Sterzini had died of heart disease. The slight wound inflicted upon his hand in no way responsible for his death. So the District Attorney's office cancelled its plans for the re-enactment of the rehearsal.

WALKER

I heard a couple of Jimmy Walker stories today. Recently returned from abroad, Jimmy was the Fall Guy at a luncheon of the Circus Saints and Sinners ^{at The Commodore.} I was seated with Freddy Benham, founder of that hilarious outfit, while Tex O'Rourke ~~a New York sports celebrity~~ ~~xi~~ told how the late Mayor while in London, had learned to wear a monöcle.

Jimmy, who is a fight fan, and the author of the Walker Boxing Act in New York State, went to some bouts at the National Sporting Club in London, ~~and~~ ~~In~~ the party was the Prince of Wales, just before he became King, and not so ~~ix~~ ~~very~~ long before he abdicated. In such royal company, Jimmy ~~of course~~ was wearing an eye-glass, a most British monöcle screwed in one eye. One of the fights was ~~◆~~ slam-bang, rip-roar, ^{—and} when the knock-out came, Jimmy nearly collapsed with excitement. The Prince of Wales turned to him with kindly solicitude.

"I say old chap," he inquired, "hadn't you ever seen anything like that before?"

"Oh yes," Jimmy replied, "but I never swallowed a monöcle before."