

L.T. SUNOCO - March 30, 1933

Good Evening, Everybody:-

A real bit of melodrama comes into the news today from Detroit. Early this morning a part of the residential district of the automobile capital was suddenly shaken by a terrific explosion. It was caused by a bomb which went off in ^{the} ~~a~~ basement of ~~the~~ ^a house, shattering the windows and shaking all the houses nearby. In fact the force of the blast was felt for several blocks. ^{It} Instantly the whole neighborhood was in auproar and when the police arrived on the scene they discovered that the bomb had exploded in the house of Father Charles E. Coughlin, the well-known ~~Catholic~~ priest of Detroit whose public speeches, particularly about bankers, have ^{been something of a} ~~provoked so much discussion and~~ sensation the last few months.

The explosion obviously was an attempt to assassinate Father Coughlin. The bomb, a crude affair, exploded within a

few feet of the spot where he was sleeping. Father John Tully and Father Williams who were also in the house were shaken up but not injured by the blast.

The Detroit police admit they are baffled. No clue!

President Roosevelt's program continues on oiled wheels -- at any rate, that part of it which concerns unemployment relief. The Senate today accepted the amendments which the Representatives put into the Forestry bill -- that is, the measure establishing Mr. Roosevelt's civilian conservation corps. These amendments were adopted by the Senate without a roll call. Consequently the bill was sent to the White House, and it is announced there that the Government will begin ~~enlisting men~~ ^{workers} for forest conservation, ~~work~~ immediately. And that's good news for 250,000 men and their families.

Another bit of Washington news today is that the Senate wants to go even further than the President in protecting investors. The President's measure to control the sale of securities will be expanded ^{so as} ~~further~~ to include regulations of the Stock Exchange ^{plus} ~~and~~ banking reform. Also the Senators want new ~~reg~~ legislation ~~which will~~ make ^{it} sure that a ~~banker who is~~ convicted ^{banker goes to} ~~serves a~~ jail ~~sentence~~.

Senator Fletcher, chairman of the banking

Committee, told newspapers today that more than half the bankers who have been convicted and sentenced in one single year have avoided going to prison:- Federal judges have released them on parole.

The Banking Committee also is asking for more authority to investigate private banks. Since this expansion of the banking investigation was proposed, the house of J. P. Morgan and Company raised an emphatic objection.

Apropos of bankers going to jail, Mr. Thomas H. Beck -- executive head of Collier's Weekly, -- told a group of us an amusing thing. In the district where Mr. Beck lives the principal railroad has a crack train called the Banker's Special. Mr. Beck said that one of his neighbors wrote the railroad a letter advising the line to change the name of the train because, as he put it, "people won't ride on it for fear it goes to Atlanta."

WAGNER BILL

Then the Senate this afternoon passed the Administration Relief Measure offered by Senators Wagner, Costigan and LaFollette -- the bill to distribute \$500,000,000 to the states to help solve unemployment distress.

OIL

Here's another important measure the Roosevelt administration is considering: The appointment of a Federal Dictator for the oil industry. A bill to this effect has been ~~proposed~~ proposed and the President now has it under advisement.

The function of the Dictator would be to help the governments of oil-producing states curb production; it would prohibit all interstate shipment of bootleg petroleum, one of the worst evils from which the petroleum industry and the country generally has suffered.

It would also curtail imports and, it is pointed out, would stabilize a fourteen billion dollar industry which employs more than a million and a quarter men. The measure is approved by Governors of oil-producing states, by all the major oil companies, and independent operators as well.

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I don't know whether I've said it before, but I'm going to make the remark now with double emphasis: The air in Washington is charged with energy, bustle, and high-speed activity just as though there were a war on. Cabinet Ministers, Congressmen, Under-secretaries, everybody is on the go, and the motto of the hour seems to be "Let's do something!" And the President sets the pace. This morning the President was already having discussions with his advisers at breakfast-time. So far he has been working right through until midnight. Yesterday was the first time he had been out of the White House. Physically, it seems to agree with him.

Today in Washington the topic of the hour was the farm problem. How are we going to solve it? How are the farmers to be helped? Although, in a small way I am a farmer myself, my knowledge of the agricultural problems of mankind, and of America in particular, has been confused; so I spent part of this morning talking it over with one man who is going to play a tremendous part in this field, in the

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Roosevelt administration. That man is Henry Morgenthau, Jr., temporary chairman of the Federal Farm Board, and the man slated to take over all of the Federal Farm activities that are being coordinated and put together for the purposes of economy and efficiency.

Just for ^{sake} ~~purpose~~ of clarity I asked Mr. Morgenthau to tell me as briefly as possible what are the major farm problems confronting the country. He said they were two-fold: The problem of all these farm mortgages that are falling due ~~and~~ ^{which} ~~that~~ the farmers can't pay, and ⁻⁻⁻ the price of commodities.

In the main, farm mortgages in America come under five headings: Those mortgages held by Federal Land banks; the mortgages held by the Joint Stock Land banks; third, those farm mortgages held by insurance companies and banks in general; and the farm mortgages held by private individuals. These mortgages total about nine billion dollars.

As you have all read in your newspapers, mortgages from coast to coast have fallen due. The farmers have been unable to pay them off or pay the interest. But public sentiment

has been overwhelmingly against foreclosure with the result that courts have practically stopped functioning. To postpone the time when the farmer must pay the interest on his mortgage enables him to stay on his farm. But some farmers have even been unable to pay their taxes, and this problem is before the government for solution. If the farmers are allowed to postpone payment of taxes, then what is to happen to the schools? There will be no money to pay the teachers. That ~~has been happening~~ ^{condition exists} already.

So it is possible that a special type of bond will be issued by the Government, with the Government guarant^{ee}ing the interest but not the principal. This would protect those who hold mortgages, and would give the farmer a breathing spell until better times come.

But, primarily, the big farm problem on this continent concerns the price of commodities. Unless the price of farm products goes up, temporary measures to postpone the payment of mortgages and ~~to postpone the payment of taxes~~ will be in vain.

The farmer, sooner or later, must have money to pay. How can this be done? Well, all this new currency put out by the Treasury is expected to help. The balancing of the Federal budget will restore public confidence, stimulate industry and buying in general.

Then there is beer.

And on top of this, for the immediate help of the farmer there is the Farm Relief bill, President's Roosevelt's Farm measure to reduce production on the farms of the United States, in the belief that this will quickly force prices higher.

One thing Mr. Morgenthau emphasized was that the farmer's problem is not to be settled by palliatives -- by stop-gap measures. His problem is the problem of all of us. Measures that help bring back general prosperity will bring it also to the farmers.

MOSCOW

things ~~were~~^{are} stirring a bit in the Anglo-Russian situation. As has been previously indicated, John Bull has been exceedingly annoyed because the Soviet Secret Service arrested a group of three British engineers on a charge of sabotage. The British ~~Government~~ demanded their unconditional release, and the Soviet ~~Government~~ continues to say, "Nothing doing, those men are going to trial."

(67) Furthermore, the Foreign Minister of the Soviet, Mr. Litvinoff, has issued a statement that Comrade Stalin's government will stand for no bulldozing from John Bull. England suspended negotiations for the proposed trade treaty between the two countries, and ~~there has been no~~^{the talks now grows} ~~talk of breaking off~~^{talk of breaking off} diplomatic relations.

Well, today Sir Esmond Ovey, His Majesty's Ambassador to Moscow, was summoned to London. He leaves Moscow tonight, and it is generally admitted that his recall is on account of the Soviet's refusal to release those three British engineers.

It's a long way from Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D. C., to the Yukon River, ~~which is~~ the main *street* ~~thoroughfare~~ of Alaska. But today was Alaska Day on Capitol Hill, ~~both in the Senate and the House.~~ I was sitting in the Gallery, looking at the shaggy mane of the Senator from Idaho, watching the grasshopper-like antics of Kingfish Huey Long, ~~who was~~ running around buttonholing one Senator after another, ~~and munching peanuts at the same time,~~ *while he appropriately, munched peanuts. [At the same time I was]* ~~and~~ listening to an outburst of old-time ~~Daniel Webster~~ *back woods* oratory from another Senator whom I didn't know, when, just in front of me I caught a side view of two faces that looked familiar, faces of men I had known years ago in Alaska, ~~they were~~ *Emil Hurja* from Fairbanks, and John Troy, publisher of the Juneau Empire, ~~the~~ principal newspaper in Alaska. They were in the Senate to hear the ~~Senators~~ Senators confirm the nomination of John Troy for Governor of Alaska.

John Troy is an old timer in the ~~North~~ Far North. His first newspaper assignment in Alaska was covering the gold rush in 1897, the rush over icy Chilkoot Pass, through

Anthony J.
Dimond.
Alaska's
delegate to
Congress.
March 30,
1933.

Miles Canyon and Whitehorse Rapids, down the Yukon to the Klondike, the land of gold and adventure, Dan McGrew and the lady known as Lou.

The Senate's confirmation of Mr. Troy for Governor of Alaska, was well timed, ~~today~~, because today is the sixty-sixth anniversary of Uncle Sam's purchase of Alaska from Russia. Sixty-six years ^{Baron} ago, ^{De}Stoeckl was the Ambassador in Washington from the court of Czar Alexander.

Late at night, the Russian ambassador called on Lincoln's Secretary of State, Mr. Seward, and found him playing whist.

~~The~~ ^{Baron} ~~ambassador~~ ~~from~~ ~~Russia~~ said he had just received a cable from St. Petersburg, from the Czar, agreeing to the ^{sale} ~~selling~~

of Russian America to ^{Uncle Sam.} ~~the United States~~. So they called together their secretaries, and at four ^{o'clock} ~~xxxx~~ in the morning, the thirtieth of March, 1867, the papers were signed, and Alaska became ours.

From the Senate I went over to the House of Representatives, and there also Alaska was the subject of the hour. Mr. ^{Anthony J.} Diamond, Alaska's delegate to Congress,

was speaking from the floor -- his maiden speech. Ever since my first trip to the North, eighteen years ago, that territory has been one of my favorite regions on this earth, and because this is Alaska Day in Washington, I've invited the delegate from our Far Northern empire to come to the studio with me.

Well, what's the future of Alaska, Mr. Dimond?

Mr. D.:-

In four words: gold, copper, fisheries, and timber.

A magnificent future, but progress must be slow and steady.

Mines are not created in a day. Fisheries are not a weekend

proposition. What we need is proper cooperation from Uncle

Sam -- a sane policy of development and greater freedom from

bureaucratic meddling.

L.T.:-

Uncle Sam struck a sound Yankee bargain when he bought

Alaska, didn't he?

Mr. D.-

I'll say he did! We paid seven million two

hundred thousand dollars. Since then Alaska has produced

more than four hundred and ten million dollars in gold

alone, a billion dollars worth of fish, a hundred and twenty millions in furs, two hundred and forty millions in copper and other minerals and we've only just started. Why, we can cut a billion feet of lumber a year without missing it.

L.T.:- Thank you Mr. Dimond, that's thrilling news.

Let's all start for Alaska!

CHEMISTS

(2) An original idea is propounded by one of the delegates to the session of the American Chemical Society which is being held here in Washington, ^{at the Hotel Willard.} He is Dr. Langmuir, winner of the Nobel Prize in chemistry. And Dr. Langmuir's idea is, "We've had too much efficiency." What we need, he thinks, is to bring about some inefficiency for a time.

Dr. Langmuir would like Uncle Sam to levy a tax on all people who work too hard, a tax on excess hours of labor. And I know lots of people who will raise a cheer for the Doctor. No wonder they gave him the Nobel Prize.

In the corridor of the Hotel Willard in Washington this afternoon I ran into an old friend, Professor Hugh ^{head of the ~~Dept~~ Chemistry Department at} Taylor, ^{at} Princeton. Professor Taylor has a novel idea too.

This is what he says:

"He ~~xxx~~ who would travel further to the outermost frontiers of knowledge must contemplate submission to the discipline of Hamiltonian and Lagrangian equations, of Hermétian and Legendre ^{ah} polynomials, of matrices and group theory." Π T ut, tut, Doc! \longrightarrow

→ That's terrifying language to listen to. ^{The learned Dr.} Hugh
Taylor didn't used to talk like that ^{in the days} when we lived in
the same dormitory at Princeton.

As an editorial in the New York Times points
out -- "In plain English, ^{Dr. Taylor is telling us} ~~this means~~ that chemistry must
become as mathematical as relativity and as difficult to
understand."

Another honor was conferred on President Roosevelt last night. He was formally made a member of the National Press Club. His Chief Secretary, Louis McHenry Howe, was also initiated into the Club.

Mr. Roosevelt is the sixth President to become a member. The first was his kinsman, T.R.

Frank Lord, master of ceremonies, made the following report on the President's qualifications. Said he: "We find him to be the most promising cub reporter that ever came out of Hyde Park. We have not only decided to admit him to membership, we have assigned him to cover the White House."

Mr. Lord then went on to tell the President a professional secret, saying: "The password of the tribe, Mr. President, ~~is~~ is 'What-do-you-know?'; and the answer is, 'Nothin' . . . What do you know?'" Well, nothin' is just what I know, and So Long Until Tomorrow.

LT sees
FDR in
Washington