

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:-

Washington news this evening leads us straight from American affairs over to the tangled situation ⁱⁿ ~~of~~ Europe and Africa.

As for American affairs, we find the President taking a personal hand in the snarl over the Utilities Bill. Mr. Roosevelt wrote to Congressman Rayburn, sponsor of the Bill regulating public utilities. He said he hoped the Lower House would accept the compromise it had before it. He, himself, would like to see the holding-companies'-part-of-it a bit stiffer, but he would accept it as it was. So could'nt Congress please do the same.

The bill represents a compromise on that bitterly debated

death sentence clause for holding companies. The Senate bill, backed by the President, put the axe to the holding companies in a summary way. The House struck that out and wanted to leave it up to the Securities Exchange to deal with the holding companies. The compromise provides that the Securities Exchange shall have the matter in hand, but directs the exchange to abolish all the highly complicated holding systems.

Almost as acrimoniously debated as the Utilities Bill is the Guffey Coal Bill. The Senate passed it today, forty-five to thirty-seven. The House has already passed it. Now the two chambers of the government will hold one of those conferences to smooth out a few differences between their respective bills.

The Guffey Coal Legislation is sort of a coal mine N. R. A., a little blue eagle in that particular industry.

It will establish minimum wages and maximum hours by law. *Its opponents firmly expect the Supreme Court to declare it unconstitutional!*
The neutrality business, which the Senate put

through with such a hurry yesterday, ran into trouble in the House.

The Congressmen are ~~re~~ preparing a substitute neutrality bill of their own. The President did not like that Senatorial set of

regulations yesterday - laws to forbid munition sales to countries at war and to forbid American passengers to travel on ships of countries at war. The White House feels that it would tie the hands of the President in foreign dealings, not allowing enough scope of action in negotiating affairs with other nations. The Congressmen are going to have a bill which comes a little closer to the White House view. ^{When} ~~They~~ they ~~w~~ have it all down on paper, that's when they may run into a scrap with the Senate. And that takes us across the sea to European-African affairs.

77

48

The British Cabinet held its momentous meeting today, and came to a decision. Ramsay MacDonald, who, in the ^{*African*} crisis, has been talking with an authority second only to the Prime Minister, ~~XXXXX~~ summarized the Cabinet meeting this way: "We are of a very clear mind as to what should be done. We are calm and cool."

But what have they decided should be done? Nothing alarming, it would seem. In fact the British Cabinet takes a mild course, holds out some olive branches. The proceedings were kept secret. But there are clear indications of what transpired behind the closed doors. They come under two headings -
- arms embargo and economic sanctions.

England refuses to sell weapons either to Italy or Ethiopia. It had been expected the Cabinet might raise the Embargo on Ethiopia. But no. England still refuses to let the King of Kings have any weapons. It has been pointed out that lifting the Embargo would be merely a hostile gesture against Italy. It is too late for Ethiopia to get any ~~an~~ quantity of guns and cannon. That hostile gesture ~~that~~ England will not make. Instead the Cabinet decided to try some more overtures

to Italy in an attempt to keep the East African peace.

Now for Economic Sanctions. Those were discussed. No formal declaration made, but the overwhelming opinion in London is that the Cabinet has decided that England alone shall not take any economic measures against Italy. She will propose something like that to the League of Nations. And then, if the League agrees, England will do her bit wholeheartedly. But it isn't likely that the League will agree. France won't. France is keeping quiet. Watching and waiting, apparently supporting Italy. And if France should refuse to act against Rome -- why London ^w shouldn't try any independent action. That automatically puts the whole business off until the next meeting of the League.

In fact that's the general tenor of today's great Cabinet meeting -- put things off; and try some more persuasion to keep Mussolini's legions from marching.

COLONIES FOLLOW ETHIOPIA

That's England, but what about the British Empire?

The Empire counts much in the calculations of London. His Majesty's Ministers have been confabulating with the Representatives of the Dominions. And one thing we have been hearing is that the British Colonies are by no means eager for a war.

However, today brings a first outright declaration:-
From New Zealand. If England gets into a war, New Zealand will be in it also. That is the word from the southern hemisphere. With a brief decisive phrase, New Zealand backs up London in her dispute with Italy.

From Australia no declaration is recorded - merely a popular demonstration, against war. Crowds of Australians marched and denounced the God of Battles, Mars; also Mussolini. Vivid protests against the Italian attack on Ethiopia. Pacifist placards reading: "We don't want poison gas, we want bread." Anti-Italian sentiment, to be sure - but ^{no} ~~not~~ call for England to get into a war with Italy.

From Canada, we hear something that's merely indirect. It's about wheat. A couple of months ago, Canada announced that she had two hundred and twenty-five million ~~bushels~~ bushels of

51

grain and told the world, "We are going to sell." It was a warning that Canada might have to dispose of her wheat crop, no matter how, whether or not she had to dump it on the markets at whatever price it would bring. That was the word two months ago. But it is the opposite today. We hear that the Canadian Government is reversing itself on the wheat question, on the dumping of wheat. Canada is going to hold her grain in hopes of a good price. What's the reason? The coming war between Italy and Ethiopia. When there's a scrap, both sides are commonly in the market for wheat in a big way. Especially now. For Italy is traditionally a grain buying country, and it looks as if Rome, on account of war, will have to purchase far more wheat than usual.

2

Ethiopia has mobilized -- that's the military word from the East African sector. Haile Selassie has called upon his army and tribes to muster at the frontiers in preparation for the Italian attack. Italy, of course, has been mobilizing all along. Hitherto the Ethiopian king has refrained from the act of mobilization which so often precedes war. He has felt, it would hurt the chances of peace. But maybe now he doesn't think there is any chance of peace any more. Or, ~~it's more~~ ~~likely~~ that the war spirit among the Ethiopian tribes has been whipped up to such heat they cannot be held back any longer.

There seems to be nothing of any importance in the shooting of the Italian Consul in the Ethiopian town of Debra Markos. But it still seems a bit puzzling, although it's officially announced from Addis Ababa that it was a mere hunting accident.

The consul had only recently been shown a marked favor by Haile Selassie. It was said he was in danger of popular anger in the town where he was stationed. His wife, who is the daughter of the British Consul, was sent out of the zone of peril. And the Emperor, himself, put one of his airplanes at the Italian's

disposal, in case he would need it.

3
The consul was with a hunting party and was out ahead alone, when his followers heard two shots. They found him wounded, not fatally. He is recovering. The odd thing is that he was shot twice with his own pistol. It seems curious for a hunting accident, but it might be that.

CRAWFISH

Some Frenchmen are eating crawfish tonight. Nothing astonishing about that, for the French consider the crawfish a notable delicacy, which in fact it is. The point is that the Frenchmen are eating crawfish which they scooped out of the Basin of the Apollo. That's one of the most celebrated of the ~~Fountains~~ fountains at Versailles. Repairs had to be made to the Statuary in the fountain and to do this the great basin had to be drained. The workmen found it plentifully stocked with crawfish, which they proceeded to collect and take home to Madame. Madame does the cooking.

But it's the story behind it all that makes it beguiling. A story with an American angle. When an American is mixed up with something foreign, that spices it up as news. Especially when the American is so notable as the great James Gordon Bennett.

54
That renowned publisher who made history with the old New York Herald, lived in Paris and liked crawfish. At Versailles he had a hunting lodge, dating back to the old regime of the Bourbon Kings. A stream ran through the place, and this he stocked with quantities of crawfish. The brook, as it happened,

CRAWFISH - 2

took a dive underground after leaving the Bennett place and ran into the main aqueduct that feeds the fountains of Versailles. The crawfish traveled along and worked their way into the fountains. So now - the tables of French workmen are garnished with crawfish from the basin of the Apollo.

AIRPLANE

While everybody is talking war crisis, here's a bit of news from ^{Sa'ra-ye'vo} Sarajevo - where the shot that touched off the World War was fired. We hear of fighting in ^{Sa'ra-ye'vo,} Sarajevo, nothing of ~~an~~ international importance this time - just a weird sort of episode. Rioting and battling all over that town of grim historic memory. Two dead, a number injured. And all because there was an airplane crash.

5
It was a Mohammedan pilot that was flying. And he crashed in a Christian cemetery. Mohammedan and Christian - two words so long a symbol of battle in ^{the Near East, and the Balkans.} the East, Other Mohammedans hurried to the help of the fallen pilot. They tried to get into the cemetery. But the Orthodox Christian Serbians interferred. A cemetery is holy ground. It is a desecration for a Mohammedan to walk on holy ground. That's why Moslems trying to get into the cemetery were stopped by Christians. Just the sort of thing to provoke a savage fight, which promptly occurred. A full sized riot which raged a long time before the police were able to put it down.

That was one aftermath of a plane crash - in Serbia. And scenes that followed another plane crash were witnessed at Los Angeles and Oklahoma City today. In California, the body of Will Rogers lay in state all day. In the Hollywood Bowl thirty-five thousand people gathered in a grandiose funeral service. So many flowers were sent that the supply for many a mile around Los Angeles was exhausted. In all Fox motion picture theatres and offices throughout the world there were two minutes of darkness today, -- the offices were closed -- a final tribute from the screen to its best beloved star.

At Oklahoma City a plane circled high above the First Baptist Church, where the funeral of Wiley Post was held at two o'clock this afternoon. Governor Marland led a service of mourning at the State House.

Congress has offered burial at Arlington National Cemetery to both Will Rogers and Wiley Post. Wiley's body is being held in a vault, waiting for the family to decide whether to accept the Arlington burial or not.

POCAHONTAS

I've already said Good Evening, Everybody, but now I want to say a special "Hello" -- to a bunch of fellows in Bluefield, West Virginia. It's a session staged by the Pocahontas Mechanical and Electrical Institute -- coal men from the great fields where the black pits seam the underground. I'd like to be with them, but can't. So all I can do ^{is} say "Hello, you fellows, hoist one for me." *a scuttle of coal, I mean.*

ELKTON

At Elkton, Maryland the marriage battle is on. You can't push a marrying parson around and get away with it. So the Reverend Edward Minor has gone to court and applied for an injunction. He says "they've got no right to pull down our marrying signs."

57
Elkton is renowned in the realm of sighs and heartthrobs as America's Gretna Green. It's a mecca of marriage. The wedding business has been built up to a high peak of prosperity -- some four thousand splicings a year. The marrying parsons, the Reverend Minor and the Reverend Moon know the value of advertising, and they've decorated signs celebrating their talents in hitching the bonds of matrimony around enraptured couples. Recently, however, the Civic Fathers of Elkton became uneasy about those nuptial signs. Perhaps they were a trifle blatant and business-like for such a delicate and sentimental thing as love, courtship, and marriage. So an ordinance was passed ordering the connubial signs to be pulled down. And they were - much to the annoyance of the marrying parsons.

So now the Reverend Minor has applied for an injunction. He's a genial veteran. He used to be a revivalist. For fifty years he preached ^{the} old-time religion down in the valleys of Virginia. He's amiably outspoken about the importance of a parson's fee in the ceremony of marriage. He saves his fees, and invests them in Baltimore apartment houses. He says the most rapidfire wedding he ever performed was when he united two marathon dancers while they were footing it around the floor, asleep most of the time. He married them between naps.

Then there's the episode of the feud between the marrying parsons. The Reverend Minor's deadly rival is the Reverend Moon. And once the Reverend Moon succeeded in having the Reverend Minor evicted from the house that had the best marrying ^{location} ~~position~~ in Elkton.

FIGHT

8 1/2

This is about a fight, and New York wins. Yep --
New York wins the fight. Not that the big town has been in
any fight. It's the other way around. The fight is going to
be in the big town. That is, the Maxie Baer-Joe Louis brawl,
scheduled for September twenty-fourth. Detroit and Chicago were
in the bidding hot and heavy, hotly demanding the beak-busting
brawl, and offering heavy dough. New York's dough was the
heaviest, so today the pugilistic ~~prize~~ prize went to the bulging
burg on the Hudson. Maxie Baer, the ~~the~~ renowned married man,
will ~~ex~~ exchange assault and battery with Joe Louis, brown
bombing Bible reader, for the privilege of meeting Champion Jim
Braddock, the ^{Cinderella} storybook family man. Highly domesticated and
respectable, these prize fight matters. They inspire one with
edifying approbation. And so, in an edifying tone of voice,
I'll say.

59 1/2

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.