

Waldorf

Good Evening, Everybody:

(The Right Honorable J. Ramsay MacDonald, Prime Minister of Great Britain, arrived in New York this morning, and went ~~immediately~~ ^{straight} to Washington, for the conference to which President Roosevelt invited him.) As a matter of fact, he did ~~not~~ ^{it even} touch New York City, ~~he~~ ^{He} was taken off the Berengaria at Quarantine in the city's official boat and carried ~~safely~~ ^{swiftly} over to Jersey City where he and his party boarded a train. Among those who went down to Quarantine to meet him were Sir Ronald Lindsay, the British Ambassador, Warren Delano Robbins and James Dunn of the State Department, and ~~also~~ ^{personal} a representative of Secretary of State Hull. These in addition to city officials. With the British Prime Minister are his daughter and a formidable staff of economists.

(This is Mr. ~~Ramsay~~ Ramsay MacDonald's fourth visit to the U. S. A. He described his mission this time ^{as} a mission to discuss "the conduct of a war against unmerited poverty.") In his

own words Mr. MacDonald said: "I come at the invitation of President Roosevelt to discuss particularly with him the tasks that lie before the World Economic Conference, and I come in the same spirit of neighborly cooperation as brought me here last year."

He went on to say: "The wellbeing of all who buy and sell and labor with body and mind -- those people are our concern. Their problems are our problems."

When they asked him whether Uncle Sam's abandoning of the gold standard had come as a surprise to him the Prime Minister replied:-- "Oh, gracious, no!" Then he went on to say that it would have no effect whatsoever upon his mission so far as he is concerned. On the contrary he says it only brings into higher light the stress of the whole world." Mr. MacDonald believes he and Mr. Roosevelt are in sympathy on all the great problems of the world.

WASHINGTON

In Washington there were symptoms today of a rebellion against the railroading of the President's inflation measure. Not only loud mutterings were heard, but the Republicans openly announced their intention of doing everything they could to impede any such legislation. In fact, there were threats of a filibuster in the Senate, threats attributed to Senator Reed of Pennsylvania. While they could not prevent the passing of the inflation measures altogether, they would under Senate rules be ~~applied to~~ able to delay it considerably.

Senator Robinson of Arkansas, the majority leader after a visit to the White House, ^{returned} ~~reported~~ to the Senate building and made a statement. Said he: "If the President is to be hampered and impeded in his negotiations with representatives of foreign governments, that fact should be known to the country." Then Mr. Robinson continued: "The President feels ~~that~~ it is essential ^{that} ~~there~~ such action as the Congress may be disposed to take should be taken as soon as possible."

The Democratic leader in the Senate then went on to declare that if a filibuster is ^{attempted}~~effected~~, the party steam roller will be cranked up and will get to work to pass a rule limiting debate.

In other words, ~~in~~ if the opponents of inflation try any monkey business, they will have to be gagged. *It is admitted this is by the President's request.*

This statement was made immediately after the Senate's committee on Banking and Currency had reported the inflation amendments to the Farm Bill and recommended that they be put through.

Senator Thomas of Oklahoma gave out the statement that both Secretary of Treasury Woodin and Budget Director Douglas were strongly in favor of this inflation measure. Mr. Woodin is quoted as having said: "With this bill we will be out of the depression. If it is administered in a businesslike way we can combat anything."

That's the opinion of the Secretary of the Treasury.

DOLLAR

Uncle Sam's dollar still shows signs of weakness in some foreign markets, *— but only foreigners are worried about it.* (In London the pound sterling went up to 3.90 again, a rise of five points from yesterday evening. *The dollar* ~~it~~ also showed weakness on the Berlin Stock Exchange, but in Paris, after two days of sliding, it demonstrated symptoms of recovery.)

At home the dollar became fairly stable in comparison to the sinking of the last two days. The consequence was to put *a brake* ~~the break~~ on the advance of prices in commodities and stocks.

Instead of the sharp upclimb of the last few days, markets were irregular. It is believed in some circles that the value of the dollar has been stabilized for the time being.

GROCERIES

Indications are that we shall all of us be feeling the effects of inflation and that soon. The first effects of it will be observed in the grocery store. Your dollar will before long buy considerably less to eat than it has been buying hitherto. *Theoretically this is supposed to be good news for the farmer.*

PARIS

The French government is determined to resist every effort to force ~~that~~ country off the gold standard. It was learned today in Paris that the official circles believe both Uncle Sam and John Bull will return to a gold basis shortly, but on a new and lower level than before. In fact, French bankers believe all countries now off the gold standard will return to it before long. *Meanwhile they want to stay on.*

At the same time there was keen anxiety in the French capital and much conferring between Cabinet ministers and the officials of the Bank of France. The French people are thoroughly in favor of the gold standard.

If French commerce finds itself affected by the depreciation of Uncle Sam's dollar, that means ^{if} ~~if~~ American goods at a new valuation of the dollar acquire too strong a foothold in French markets, this will be fought by a rise in the tariff barrier.

The belief that Britain and the U. S. A. will return to the gold standard is shared in some quarters in London.

PARIS - 2

Later in the day it was announced that France, Belgium, and Holland had agreed to take joint action to defend the gold standard. At the same time the National Bank of Germany, the Reichs Bank, issued a statement that Germany will under no circumstances abandon the gold standard.

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HERRIOT

There's considerable gloom aboard the Ile de France, that is, among the members of the party accompanying former Prime Minister Edouard Herriot. Several members of the French delegation ^{feel} ~~felt~~ that their mission is already a failure. One of them was heard to exclaim: "We might as well turn around and go back home."

The feeling among the Frenchmen is that the sudden departure from the gold standard of the U. S. A. has left France in a position of financial isolation which will make any satisfactory trade arrangements with the United States exceedingly difficult. The Frenchmen consider that ~~the~~ ^{the} suddenness of ~~the~~ act has put France into a bad spot without any warning.

In Washington, however, great emphasis was placed on the fact that this quitting the gold standard was not done to injure Europe, the step was taken to help the United States. A spokesman for President Roosevelt pointed out that there was no intention whatsoever in the President's mind of securing an advantage over foreign countries. What he did was done for the welfare of people at home.

BROWS

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Here's a word of consolation for us low brows. The high brow, contrary to what everybody thinks, is not necessarily an indication of high intelligence. The authority for this is no less than Dr. ^{Ales} Hrdlicka, the famous anthropologist of the Smithsonian ~~Institute~~. Dr. Hrdlicka has spent the last thirty years measuring the sizes and shapes of heads. At the end of that thirty years he comes to the conclusion that the ~~big~~ height of your forehead has nothing whatsoever to do with the quality of what it conceals.

Dr. Hrdlicka made this statement to the American Philosophical Society which held its annual meeting today in Philadelphia. This is the oldest scientific society in the country, having been founded by Benjamin Franklin.

And it's nice to have such consoling information from them.

HARRY FRANCK

I ran into Harry Franck, the famous traveler, today. He is getting ready for another trip around the world. He told me that he had been corresponding with American school children to find out what foreign countries they were most eager to hear about. One little girl replied that the foreign country she wanted to hear about was Lake Placid.

STAMP

Did you ever see a postage stamp worth four thousand dollars? I saw one today.

With John Erskine of Helen of Troy fame, and several others I saw an unusual collection called "One Hundred and Fifty Years of Aviation in Art." The President's daughter, Mrs. Dahl, opened the exhibit at the Waldorf. None of the things had ever been shown publicly before. One man brought a display of historical air mail souvenirs depicting the development of air mail commencing with the use of balloons during the seige of Paris in 1870.

Another private collector brought a collection of early cartoons showing how the Wright brothers were laughed at. And there was one air mail stamp worth four thousand dollars -- worth that because the airplane was printed upside down. If I were Uncle Sam, I'd print more of 'em upside down.

WOOD CHOPPING

How are you at ~~wood~~^{wood?} chopping? A sort of national wood chopping championship is going to take place tomorrow afternoon at Skytop, Pennsylvania. It's ~~is~~ called the Annual Pocano Mountain['] Sawing and Wood-chopping Contest.

So there's the ~~place~~^{place} to go

When you fill 'er ~~up~~ with ~~Blue~~ Sunoco,

~~up~~ To Skytop, in the Pocano.

MACON

There was great excitement in Akron, Ohio, today. The Macon, now the world's largest dirigible airship, the ^{twin-ship}~~successor~~ to the ill-fated Akron, took her maiden flight today. She left her mooring mast at Akron ^{at} six o'clock this morning with Lieutenant Commander Alger Dresel in command. There were more than a hundred people aboard, including the crew and inspectors of Uncle Sam's Navy and engineers of the company that built her. In fact, you never would have supposed that the twin sister of this giant had crashed into the Atlantic barely three weeks ago.

She cruised about for a while over Northern Ohio, and then her Commander took her out over Lake Erie, returning safely about half past four this afternoon. Radio communication between the ship and the Navy Department was constant. ^P The Macon cost about three million dollars to build. She is seven hundred eighty-five feet long, the same as the Akron, At a speed of fifty knots an hour, the Macon has a cruising range of over nine thousand miles.

TALL

I ought to be in Milton, Pennsylvania tonight.

The Ananias Club of Pennsylvania is holding high jinks, gathered around the Liar's Table at the Manufacturers Club, with 80 year old Willis Faber at one end of the table and banker Walter Wilson at the other. Just to show you how famous Milton is as the Liar's capital, here is a letter I received from Michigan the other day. ^{It's from} A.W. Miles of Big Rapids.

He writes:

"I heard you say you went over the old Susquehanna Trail and that the biggest liar ~~ever~~ lived in Milton, Pennsylvania. Correct you are! All my people came from Milton, and they could lie right or lefthanded. Please send me the name of the champion liar, because he must be a relative of mine."

Well, his name is Willis Faber, and he's presiding at that Ananias Convention tonight.

RABBIT KICKS DOG

me, today

On my way down the Connecticut River from Springfield, I had to detour several times on account of the flood that is raging in those parts. The water was over the banks of the river for miles and miles. Barns and houses were ~~partly~~ inundated. People were going about their fields in rowboats.

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~~I've just returned from~~ ⁱⁿ Springfield, ~~Massachusetts,~~

~~and~~ while chatting with ~~the~~ Mayor, ~~the~~ Winters, and Ernie Wheeler, President of the Exchange Club, Mr. Wheeler handed me a story from that distinguished newspaper, the Springfield Union. So it must be authentic. A wood-chopper, a few miles from Springfield, noticed some rabbits feeding under an apple tree. They were trees that had not been picked. The apples, of course, were frozen during the winter and instead of rotting they had been preserved and the juice inside had fermented. We all know ~~this~~ happens to apples under such circumstances.

About that time a beagle hound on the trail of these rabbits, came up to them. But the rabbits didn't run.

Those apples had given them ^{rabbits} courage and they ~~all~~ attacked the dog. In fact one big buck let go a tremendous kick with both of his powerful ~~his~~ hind legs, sent the dog spinning, and cracked several of his ribs.

(3) Well, if it was in the Springfield Union it must be so. *Anyhow there's one for the boys in Milton, Pa. to match.*

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Driving down the Post Road, near the fair city of Greenwich, about three or four hundred feet in front of me I suddenly saw a truck swerve wildly, careen, and then go over with a loud crash. ^I If ~~I~~ had been just about ten seconds farther along I probably would have been in the crash. Many cars gathered in a few moments and we all got out and lifted the truck a bit to help extricate the driver, who was pinioned beneath and howling lustily. I asked a chap next to me why he thought it had happened, and he used an exceedingly picturesque New England phrase. He replied: "Can't you smell his breath? He's as stiff as a haddock."

So it gives rabbits courage but makes truck drivers as stiff as a haddock!

MOTOR CYCLES

Today I learned some new things about a sport whose existence I hardly realized -- motorcycling. I thought motorcycles were used exclusively for the persecution of motorists and the capture of motorized bandits.

2 To my surprise I discovered from the American Motorcycle Association, which holds its meetings at the Hotel Lexington, in New York, that motorcycling is a big, flourishing national sport and there are ninety-thousand active riders engaged in it. Here are some figures which may surprise you:- The American Motorcycle Association has eleven-thousand, one-hundred and sixty-two paid up racing members and last year conducted five-hundred and sixty-one officially sanctioned sporting events, the greatest in the entire thirty years of the sport, including race meets, endurance runs, steeplechases and motorcycle polo games between one-hundred and one organized teams from coast to coast, and about twice every year a thousand or more of them come up to Sommers, near my farm for one of those breath-taking hill climbs. Have you ever seen one?

FACTOR

The kidnappers who snatched the nineteen year old son of Mr. John Factor of Chicago had a change of heart today. The son of Mr. Factor, more popularly known as Mr. Jake the Barber, was released early today ~~without the~~ without the payment of the hundred thousand dollar ransom.

He told his parents that he had been kept blindfolded all the while he was ^{captive.} ~~active.~~ The kidnappers forced him to write three notes to his father asking for the hundred thousand dollar ransom, although the father gave out the information that it was only fifty thousand. *So Jake-the-Barber didn't have to pay, as they say.*

LIFE ON MARS

My friend, Hiram P. Maxim, noted engineer and inventor of the famous Maxim Silencer, is now telling us that Mars is inhabited by a race of people who are much farther advanced than we are. In his ~~new~~ book "Life's Place in the Cosmos" he states that he thinks the people of Mars are trying to get in touch with us, that their planet is cooling down, that they realize their days on Mars are numbered because of it, ^{so the people on Mars} ~~and~~ ^{are} ~~setting~~ out to explore other worlds.

Well, if any of the folks ^{on Mars} ~~are~~ listening in right now, I've an important message for them, and I hope they are able to decipher it. That message is -- So Long Until Tomorrow.

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