

Good Evening, Everybody:

A big and astonishing railroad merger is being rumored in Washington. The two lines reported to be combining are the Pennsylvania and the B. & O. The principal support for this rumor is that both roads have the same bankers. Also, to considerable extent these systems parallel each other. However, the report received vigorous denial today. High Government officials insisted there was nothing in it. Also, Daniel Willard, President of the B. & O. said: "I am unalterably opposed to any combination of the B. & O. and Pennsylvania." In spite of these denials the rumor persists.

LONDON

(That World Economic Conference died in London today in a blaze of differences of opinion. Prime Minister MacDonald, the Chairman, made the curtain speech and took a hopeful tone.) Perhaps you heard it over this network. Mr. MacDonald told the Conference its work must go on; adding, that the biggest problem left is the one concerning international debts. "Creditor nations must accept the goods and services of other nations in payment of debts or they cannot be paid", he said. He blamed the downfall of the Conference on the "great up-heaval incident to the struggle for recovery in America." He said:-- (Insert)

(Neville Chamberlain, John Bull's Chancellor of Exchequer, frankly admitted disappointment in the Conference, and put the blame on Uncle Sam's decision regarding currency stabilization.) The delegate of Soviet Russia described the conference as "a disorderly rout." James Cox of Ohio was less pessimistic, but said that general world recovery was impossible, while trade channels are clogged by frozen credits.

The big sensation of the Conference's dying hours was

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provided by President Roosevelt. The President radioed a message to Secretary Hull, which Mr. Hull read to the delegates. It had an electric effect similar to that of the other Rooseveltian communications to the London Conference. In fact it caused a postponement of the adjournment of the final session 'till this afternoon so that representatives of other nations could change the speeches they had planned to deliver.

The gist of President Roosevelt's message was that the Conference was not a failure, and that results cannot always be measured in terms of formal agreements. And he added: "We in the U.S.A. understand the problems of other nations better today than ever before and we hope other nations likewise now look with sympathy on our policies which were adopted to overcome a situation at home." He concluded with the following words: "Such an interchange of views makes progress in the future not less possible, but more possible!"

PAN AMERICA

Even before the ashes of the London Conference are cold, officials of our State Department are preparing for another. It will be a Pan American affair, held in Montevideo next December. All the nations of both continents of North and South America are expected to send delegates. This conclave will study various peace proposals and problems of international law; and more particularly, economic and financial questions.

NIRA

The machinery of Nira is getting into full swing.

Officials in Washington are pushing the President's drive for the operation of a blanket code for industries. In San Francisco representatives of eighty firms met again this morning and pledged their cooperation.

Meanwhile General Motors Truck Corporation announced increases in wages of fifteen and ten percent for two thousand people. The National Automobile Chamber of Commerce states that workers employed in all plants of members of that Chamber are to get more money starting August 1st. This affects more than two hundred thousand men. June exports of iron and steel from the U.S.A. went up. And American farmers received three hundred and ninety eight million dollars cash for what they raised during the month of June. This represents a thirty seven percent increase over June of last year.

LEHMAN

Governor Lehman of New York took an important step today in support of Nira. He asked a special session of the Legislature to pass a three point program so that New York State might cooperate with the President's national program. Incidentally the special session of the New York Legislature was primarily called to help out Father Knickerbocker, whose finances are in bad shape. But the Governor took the opportunity to help out the National program as well. Jerome Smith wires the New York Evening Post that Governor Lehman recommends that the New York Legislature suspend New York's Anti Trust and Anti Monopoly Laws so as to permit trade agreements and codes; also to make violations of trade codes in business within New York State punishable just as they are in interstate commerce as provided in Nira. Gov. Lehman would also give the Federal Government the cooperation of all State and City Police, to enforce Nira.

NEW DEAL

Meanwhile, organization on military lines to help the National Recovery Program is being planned in Washington. Harold Brayman wires the New York Evening Post that "The storm troops of the New Deal" will be in the streets everywhere in a few moments, making a door to door canvass of employers. This will be to persuade employers to sign the acceptance of the blanket code approved by the President.

In every city there will be an organization headed by one General and one woman Lieutenant General. Each organization will include three Colonels, seven or more Majors, and seven or more Captains, each captain to have a company of eight or more men. The idea is to organize and secure the cooperation of every employer no matter how small even down to the corner grocer.

YOUNGSTOWN

I've been in Youngstown, Ohio nearly all day, Youngstown the great steel city. The last time I was there, a year or so ago, I said I would like to see something of the steel mills. To which my friends replied "Steel mills? Come along, we want to show you our Mill Creek Park, the most beautiful park you ever saw." Today, it was different. When I talked to Frank Hughes, Superintendent of the unusual park system that surrounds Youngstown, he said: "You ought to see our steel mills!"

That indicates the change that has taken place in Youngstown in the past few months. There are thirty-one blast furnaces around Youngstown, the largest single units of power in industry that man has constructed. Sixteen of these are running again. And that's back to normal. They had just blown one in this morning. It costs about one hundred thousand dollars just to start up a blast furnace, and Ernest Nemenyi, Industrial Editor of the Youngstown Vindicator, "Nemo" as they call him, told me that each blast furnace handles one hundred tons of iron ore per day, two hundred tons of limestone, burns one thousand tons of coal (in the form of coke) and

turns out about seven hundred and fifty tons of pigiron - - per day!
And that single day's consumption in one blast furnace keeps one
hundred coal miners busy, scores and scores of iron miners, and so on.

The production of iron and steel in the Youngstown area is
now back to normal. Bert Smith and Charles Davis, executives of the
Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company, told me that when the order began
coming in some weeks ago they thought "Oh, this is only temporary."
But they have kept on coming and they are increasing. And the steel
produced at Youngstown is not for battle ships or munitions of war.
It is all for peace purposes; automobiles, refrigerators, radios,
children's toys, and so on.

I hurriedly went through a great tube and sheet mill.
Giant cranes swinging overhead, furnaces roaring. Weird looking men
wearing masks. Terrific heat, noise, noise -- like an unearthly
iron and steel symphony. If you ever get a chance to go through one,
don't miss it. It is one of the most impressive spectacles you'll
ever see.

I was surprised to find great crowds of people on the streets. And on the first page of the Youngstown Telegram I found the explanation. The merchants have set aside three days as "opportunity days." They have told the people that prices are going up, but they have cut the prices of all their present stocks and such enormous crowds jammed the stores in Youngstown today that it was necessary for all accountants, stenographers and others to become clerks. The merchants are giving free street car and bus rides to bring the people in. And what makes it all the better, Youngstown has just had the biggest pay day in three years and what affects a great iron and steel center like that, pretty nearly affects the whole country. So I thought you might like to hear about it. Perhaps merchants in other cities will want to follow suit and proclaim an opportunity day.

KIDNAPPERS

The national drive against kidnapers took another step forward today when the first death sentence for this crime was imposed. This was in the case of Walter McGee who was awarded the extreme penalty for kidnapping Mary McElroy, daughter of the City Manager of Kansas City. The jury was out four hours and turned in its verdict this forenoon. The law in Missouri on this crime is definite. The court has no alternative but to sentence convicted kidnapers to hang. McGee's brother is still on trial on the same charge.

HOLLYWOOD

The movie strike is over in Hollywood and the Goose honks high once more over the big studios. Three thousand workers have returned to their jobs and all is jake in the Land of Makeup and Make Believe. Hollywood rumor attributes the settlement of strike to the secret intervention of President Roosevelt. Believe it if you like.

CLOTHING

Perhaps the people most delighted the depression is over are the people in the clothing industry. H. K. Burnham, Editor of Fashion Magazine and Secretary of the International Association of Clothing Designers, says if hard times had not come to an end most of us American men in three more years would be wearing even less clothes than Gandhi. Now, fancy that!

AMERICA LEADS

The United States is years ahead of Europe in the development of aircraft for general air travel. At any rate, this is the verdict of Dr. Erich Schatzki, one of the foremost aeronautical engineers of Europe. Dr. Schatzki has been making a study of air travel on this continent, and he made this interesting statement after he had completed the inspection of T.W.A.'s immense base and operations headquarters in Kansas City. Dr. Schatzki finds that American motors are more reliable too.

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By the way, tomorrow night, I am going to have something special for all who are interested in Short Wave radio. For those who are in remote parts of the world.

L.T.

AUTOMOBILE ITEM

The National Automobile Chamber of Commerce has just issued an interesting booklet entitled "Facts and Figures of the Automobile Industry." It tells all about output of cars, registrations, motor vehicles on farms, average life of cars. For instance, I noticed that two million nine hundred thousand automobiles were scrapped in 1932. It gives information concerning the hauling of fruits and vegetables and livestock, how the receipts from automobile registration fees are spent. Here's a rather interesting point:

Sixty-two per cent of all cars are bought by folks with a yearly income of less than three thousand dollars. Twenty-six per cent of all trucks are used by farmers. There are six million four hundred thousand old automobiles in the country that are six and one-half years old, or older, and said to be ready for the junk pile.

Three million nine hundred thousand people are employed by the automotive industry.

BABY

Here's another example of support given to the President's Nira program. Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Collins of Philadelphia are the first father and mother in America to do their bit. They've christened their newly born daughter Nira. And soon we'll probably have songs about the grand old name of Nira.

CRYSTAL GAZER

Here's a tale that sounds as though it belongs more strictly to my friends, Amos x 'xn Andy than to me. But it's vouched for by the Jersey Journal as an actual happening in Jersey City.

The police observed a colored gentleman walking around Jersey City carrying a curious looking bundle. His walk appeared somewhat aimless so a patrolman stopped him and took him to headquarters. There the officers asked the colored gentleman what he was doing in Jersey City, and what did he have in that bag. The colored gentleman replied: "I am a cystal grazer." "You are what?" cried the police. "Sir", replied the colored gentleman, "I am a cystal grazer."

And to prove it he brought out of his black bag a crystal. The police then asked him: "Are you the original Prince Ali Ben Dow?" ---meaning the crystal gazer whom Amos 'xn Andy have made so famous. The colored gentleman replied: "I don't know him."

So then the Jersey City police decided to put this crystal gazer to the test. Said they: "We'll see how much you know about cystal grazing. Answer us this: When are the cops going

to get their pay cuts back?" Well, the crystal grazer looked into his crystal. He peered into it from below, from above, from every angle. But he could not answer the cops' question. So they threw him into a cell to study the art of crystal grazing.

Incidentally, when they examined the crystal grazer they found underneath his felt hat a tight fitting black skull cap. In the sweatband of his hat was a man-sized beautifully sharpened razor.

Jersey Journal.

SNAPPY ENDING

In the Hamilton, Bermuda paper, the Royal Gazette and Colonist, I ran across a story about an elderly gentleman and his wife. She was getting into a car. And he was neglecting to assist her.

"John," said the wife, "your not so gallant as when I was a gal."

"No," replied John, "but maybe its because you are not so bouyant as when I was aboy."

And so long until tomorrow.

Royal Gazette and Colonist.