

L.T. Sunoco - Thursday, Nov. 2, 1933.

Good Evening, Everybody:

A sensational fire is reported today from Rhode Island. Though the scene of the flame^s was a small village called Tiverton, the devastation was so great that the fire departments from all the surrounding communities had to be called in and their police departments as well.

Tiverton is only a couple of miles from Fall River, Massachusetts.

What made the affair so serious was that there were *They aren't there now, because six of them blew.* seven large kerosene tanks in Tiverton. The fire started two days ago and now only one of those tanks is left intact. I learn by telephone that the place looked like a Flanders war scene in 1917. Three men were killed, ten injured, and the entire village is a wreck. Inhabitants had to run for their lives and are being looked after by the Red Cross and by volunteers from Fall River.

It is recalled that some six years ago the entire business district of Fall River was wiped out by a conflagration. The people there at that time were dependent on outsiders for help.

FIRE -2

So today the restaurant keepers of Fall River were the first to send hurried consignments of food to the homeless people of Tiverton.

Tiverton police tell me that the flames are still burning as savagely as ever. Spectators are coming from all over New England in their cars, ^{by the thousands} to see the show, which is a tremendous spectacle.

NBC

JOHNSON

One of the favorite pastimes in Washington nowadays is cooking up rumors that General Hugh Johnson has resigned, is resigning, or is about to resign as Administrator of N R A. No matter how often the General denies them, these rumors are revived from time to time. His reply to the latest was similar to his others. The general today said "I came to Washington to help the President and I'm going to stay on the job so long as the President wants me." He added, that the President had given no intimation that he wanted him to quit.

As for criticism, says the N R A Administrator, he does not care an hoop about it. He has no political ambitions and criticism doesn't feaze him. Then he declared:- "I am conscious that there are plenty of dead cats flying around. I expected them but so far as American Industry is concerned, we are getting along fine."

General Johnson is about to make a speech-making tour of the country, especially in the regions where disgruntled farmers are on the rampage. Two of the serious and imminent problems seem to be settled, that squabble with the Ford Company

JOHNSON - 2

and the trouble over the captive mines in Pennsylvania, -- at any rate for the time being. So General Johnson will leave Washington Saturday to speak in Chicago, Minneapolis, Des Moines, Kansas City, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Louisville, Kentucky.

NBC

SWOPE

Another popular
One of the principal topics in Washington today is the plan advocated by Gerard Swope, President of the General Electric, the ~~plan~~ *which* you may recall, I mentioned yesterday evening. It ~~was~~ *this morning that* announced today General ~~Swope~~ Johnson is heartily in favor of Mr. Swope's suggestion. Some critics have objected that Uncle Sam would lose his control over industry by the Swope scheme, but the General says ~~this is not~~ *taint* so. He ~~says~~ *declares* the Government will retain ~~authority~~ the authority given to it by the penal sections of the Recovery Act and ~~would~~ also retain supervision and veto power over industry. The N R A Administrator ~~said:~~ *added!-* "The Swope plan assumes that industries would be completely organized with proper representation of labor in the administration of the codes." It is pointed out that under the Recovery Act labor has the right to organize as the men see fit.

FOLLOW SWOPE

One of the critics of the Swope plan is the president of the National Manufacturers Association. He says, on the one hand, that his organization will cooperate with any effective combination of business and industry to make the Recovery program a success. On the other hand, he declares experience indicates it would be exceedingly difficult. He believes that history has shown that whenever groups representing commerce, and industry are brought together in one organization, the diversity of interests among them is so great that it is almost impossible to secure prompt or effective action.

NBC

FOLLOW SWOPE

Christian Beck, N.R.A. Administrator for Mount Vernon, N.Y. phones me that the Swope plan for control of industry by industry and consumers, has been working successfully in Mount Vernon for four months.

When the NRA started, added Mr. Beck, merchants, manufacturers, tradesmen, and consumers, got together and elected a board of governors. Since that time everything has been smooth, and there's been very little chiseling.

NBC

GOLD

The price of gold is still on the up trend. Today's quotation in Washington was \$32.36 an ounce, 10¢ higher than yesterday and 28¢ higher than the price in London. (America's gold policy is forcing up the price of the metal in Europe) as well, and I learn from Paris that our Federal Reserve Bank made a small purchase of gold over there today. In fact the margin between the price offered by Uncle Sam and the European quotations is becoming constantly smaller.

President Roosevelt had a conference at the White House to discuss his money program today. Mr. Henry Bruere of New York, who is the Co-ordinator of federal credit and relief agencies, was the President's principal consultant. With him were the chairman of the Remington-Rand Company and the president of Sears-Roebuck. All these gentlemen advocate the theory of price raising by putting up the value of gold.

And I hear that there's going to be a meeting at the Chamber of Commerce Building in New York tomorrow, a meeting of the principle men of affairs of the Empire State. The idea will be to petition the President to put Uncle Sam on the gold standard once more and to stabilize the currency.

NBC

CAPPER

One of the visitors at the White House today was Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas, ^{staunch} ~~one of the~~ ^{of the} leading western Republicans. After ^{leaving} ~~he left~~ the President, the senator said that out his way people were in favor of reasonable inflation. However, they are willing to play ball with the President and support him in his policy of raising prices through buying gold.

Representative Byrnes, the Democratic floor leader, also had a conversation with Mr. Roosevelt today. The Democratic leader said he hoped the recovery program could be worked out and made a success without inflation. However, the inflation topic, he indicated, is likely to come up again.

NBC

GORE

A Porto Rican delegation called on President Roosevelt today and told him they were 100 percent in back of Governor Gore, whose home was bombed recently in San Juan.

The delegation thanked the President for giving the island a portion of the Public Works Fund, which had already stimulated employment on the island.

The President said he expected to visit Port Rico next Spring on his trip to Hawaii, which he intends to make via the Panama Canal.

WEATHER

8

The middle west as well as the Atlantic states has been having a grand spell of Indian summer weather. But I hear that it's now coming to an end. The thermometer started to drop in Chicago and a storm, driven by icy winds from the Canadian northwest, is on its way. In fact, the weather sharks are prophecising freezing weather.

NBC

HUNTING

~~I observe that~~ ~~The~~ hunting season is open in various parts of the United States with the usual symptoms. The President of the Pennsylvania Game Commission informed me today that three hunters were killed and thirty were wounded, including one woman. Only one of the game hunters was actually shot by mistake. Of the others, one died of heart failure while the third stumbled over a log and shot ~~and killed~~ himself.

In Pennsylvania alone there are three-quarters of a million people ^{taking} ~~coming in~~ the field.

NBC

OPIUM

A vehement attack was made at Geneva today upon the government of the state of Manchukuo, which Japan carved out of what used to be Manchuria. The attack was ~~made~~ by one of Uncle Sam's delegates and ~~was~~ made before the Advisory Commission on Drug Traffic. This American declared that the government of Manchukuo is encouraging the production of opium on a huge scale and this action threatens to poison not only China but the entire East.

NBC

PARACHUTE

A new record in the air has been established in Soviet Russia. A soviet pilot jumped from an airplane at a height of 7,200 meters, which is about 23,000 feet - nearly $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles. He had a parachute attached to him but he didn't pull the cord and open it until he was 150 meters from the ground, barely 500 feet. Some nerve!

The previous record was held by an Englishman who fell 17,000 feet before pulling his rip cord.

This Russian carried, in addition to his parachute, an oxygen tank and a barograph.

Schoonmaker

BULL FIGHT

One of the phenomena of the new Spain, ~~R~~Republican Spain, is a lady bullfighter. Her name is Senorita Juanita Cruz, ^{the} and the senorita is sore agin the government.

Spain's ~~mix~~ Minister of the Interior recently prohibited a "corrida", as the Spanish call an afternoon in the bull ring, - prohibited it because this lady was to be the principal matadore. As a matter of fact, she has appeared in several such corridas this year and it was only the other day that the government decided to stop it. The Minister of the Interior points out that the law which regulates entertainments in Spain forbids women to fight bulls. Evidently, the ^{republic of Spaine believe} ~~Spanish think~~ ^{for women} it is enough to fight their husbands.

So Senorita Cruz is going to file an appeal to the Tribunal for Constitutional Guarantees. She says the law forbidding women to fight bulls is unconstitutional, because the constitution guarantees women equal rights with men, ^{Now} what do you think of that?

AVIATION

[Handwritten scribble]

It looks as though Rockefeller Center were about to become the headquarters, among other things, ^{of} the aviation industry. I learn today that the Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences is about to open a comfortable club room and administration offices on the fifty-fourth floor of the seventy story R. ~~oe~~ ^{C. A.} Building. ₁ A large number of the big shots in the aeronautical world belong to this institute. Among them are Orville Wright, Colonel Lindhergh, Louis Bleriot, Admiral Byrd, Major Jimmy Doolittle, [✓] Sikorsky, Ivan ~~Sikorsky~~, ~~my friend~~, the inventor of the gyroscope, Juan de la Cierva, *Frank Hawke*, and , F. Trubee Davison. In fact, pretty nearly all the celebrities in the game. The object of the institute is to promote scientific research and experiment in aeronautical affairs.

AIRPLANE

A strange tragedy is reported from southern California. It was a disaster to the plane flying between Los Angeles and Catalina Island. For no reason that has yet been ascertained, this flying boat suddenly fell into the bay. Of those aboard, two were killed and one injured. Among those killed was E. McFarland Moore, head of the airport and son-in-law of Rear Admiral Moffatt who was killed just a short while ago when the Akron crashed.

NBC

AIRPLANE

A strange tragedy is reported from southern California. It was a disaster to the plane flying between Los Angeles and Catalina Island. For no reason that has yet been ascertained, this flying boat suddenly fell into the bay. Of those aboard, two were killed and one injured. Among those killed was E. McFarland Moore, head of the airport and son-in-law of Rear Admiral Moffatt who was killed just a short while ago when the Akron crashed.

NBC

CROWDED LONDON

Here's an item that will interest Fred French, the man who is trying to eliminate some of New York's miserable slums. It is an item stating that over in London, England, only one family in every three occupies a house. Sixty thousand families of Cockneys live in a single room. One hundred and Thirty-five thousand London families have only two rooms.

L.T.

WALKERSVILLE

4

Here's a man who ~~believe~~ believes in the President, in his program, in his New Deal, and who is prepared to back his judgment. This courageous man is my colleague, H. U. Warner of Walkersville, Maryland. Mr. Warner is starting a new newspaper at Walkersville. That takes ~~plenty of nerve!~~ ^{a stout heart!} Mr. Warner's new paper is called The Glade Valley Times. It is a weekly and its first issue comes out today. Glade Valley is in the heart of Frederick County, not far from Woodsboro, Mount Pleasant and Libertytown. I am sure anybody who has that much confidence deserves good luck. So, long life to the Glade Valley Times.

Warner

BLOODHOUND

Out at San Francisco they have an actor who for life-like realistic performance has not been equalled at the Golden Gate for a long while. He is a hound named Butch, hired for a San Francisco theatre to play the ~~dog~~, Bloodhound, in a revival of "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Butch proved to be such an eager actor that he even pulled his stuff at rehearsal. They were rehearsing the scene in which Eliza was skipping across the ice with Lawyer Marks in pursuit. Butch thought that was ^{the} ~~the~~ cue and out he sprang from the wings. He grabbed Lawyer Marks by the seat of the pants, the cloth ripped and down went Lawyer Marks. He crashed into Simon Legree, knocked him down, Simon crashed into the scenery, and the whole stage was a wreck.

Lawyer Marks was removed to the emergency hospital, his pants were removed to a tailor, and Butch was fired back to his kennel.

COLLISION

There was an echo in the Federal Court of San Francisco today of that collision which took place last week ^{Off the Pacific Coast} between a British freighter and one of Uncle Sam's cruisers. This, you may recall, is the collision which killed three of the crew of the cruiser Chicago.

Uncle Sam's Man-O-War and the British freighter have both filed suits which, according to admiralty law, are called libel actions. The owners of the freighter ^{have} libel ^{ed} the Chicago, claiming that she was going too fast at the time of the collision and was not being navigated by competent men. They want \$15,000 from Uncle Sam. So the United States Attorney in San Francisco has retorted in kind, only he asks \$300,000 from the owners of the freighter and has also ordered her seized pending the posting of ~~the~~ ^a bond.

And that is what is called libel in marine law.

JOKE

A friend of mine was ^{at} the opera at the Hippodrome in N.Y.

last night. He tells me he heard a pleasant performance of that old favorite "Il Trovatore" -- and also a good joke. A bit of festivity was staged in the office of Impresario Salmaggi, who runs the operatic proceedings. Impresario Salmaggi told of a horn blower who one night fozzled a note. He blew just about the sourest note ever heard on a French horn. He noticed that a friend of his in the audience burst out laughing, ~~He~~ nearly rolled off his seat in his mirth. This friend was a well-known writer of comedies.

The horn blower went to him afterward, and said: in a sad reproachful voice: "My dear fellow, why did you laugh when I was playing? I have been to all of your comedies and have never laughed once."

~~Well, if I am not careful, somebody might laugh at one of my jokes, so I better say~~
SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.

Prosper.

GOLF ENDING

Roy Watts sends me an item from Huntington, West Virginia. ~~Watts~~ Roy: "I was playing golf with a friend today. Says he to me says he: 'Roy last year I could drive farther than you. This year you are using a cheaper golf ball, yet you drive twice as far as I do. How come?'"

"Well, Lowell," adds this West Virginia golf wizard, "here's ~~is~~ the secret in case you would like to pass it on to your friends. Before teeing off, just sprinkle a few drops of Blue Sunoco on your golf ball. Then take a swing at it. And as you bring it on the nose, sending it humming down the fairway, you will hear that golf ball sing out:

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW."

L.T. Correspondence.