

LOWELL THOMAS SUNOCO FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1933.

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

(We seem to have a Santa Claus in the White House. His
other name is Franklin D. Roosevelt. He certainly made a
handsome Christmas present to a lot of people who are
interested in silver -- I mean of course that proclamation
of last night affirming the program for buying silver.) At
the strike of the gong on the New York Stock Exchange this
morning, mining stocks, in fact the shares of all concerns
having anything to do with metals took a jump. Some went
up anywhere from one to ten points. And the rest of the
stock list responded in sympathy. Most of the heavy trading
was done in the morning. In the afternoon, folks apparently
decided to take their profits and buy that set of furs for the
little woman, and so forth. And the market quieted down.

Far more important is the general sentiment that this
silver program seems to have aroused. The reaction in all
parts of the country seems to be one optimistic almost to the
point of excitement.

The Treasury has been working night and day to formulate rules and regulations to govern this acquisition of silver. We learn that the President has been advised that Uncle Sam's mints may be ready to accept the first consignment of silver bought under this new program no later than next Tuesday, the day after Christmas.

NBC

They are swamped in that stately building on Pennsylvania Avenue, known as the White House. The scene there is eloquent testimony to the popularity of the President. Three men have been working night and day, doing nothing but opening Christmas packages for Mr. and Mrs. F.D.R. In fact, two additional rooms have had to be set aside in the State, War and Navy Building to accommodate the overflow mail. It is said that the Christmas gifts alone are ten times the usual amount received by other ~~xxx~~ popular presidents.

And Mr. Roosevelt has planned one thing which has never been done before. Sunday afternoon the entire force of the White House, including the White House police, their wives and children the workers at the White House garage, the chauffeurs, their wives and children, will be guests of the President and Mrs. Roosevelt at a reception in their honor at the White House. Every child under the age of sixteen will receive a present.

For the rest, an old custom of the Roosevelt family will be observed at the White House once more, for the first time since the reign of T.R. All members of the family will hang their

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stockings on Christmas Eve in the President's room. Early Monday morning everybody will troop into that room to see what's in the stocking.

And I'd almost forgotten to tell you that on Christmas Eve the family will assemble to hear the President read the Charles Dickens classic, "A Christmas Carol."

NBC

DISARMAMENT

In this season when the angels sang "peace on earth, good will toward men," here's an echo of the trumpet of War. The Chamber of Deputies of Belgium today appropriated some twenty-million dollars for military purposes. To be precise for the strengthening of the Belgium frontier, all the way from Antwerp down to France. The money will be spent on formidable fortresses and all the latest wrinkles and death-dealing gadgets. That's what they think of disarmament in Belgium, Belgium whose neutrality was supposed to be guaranteed by treaties, protocols and other scraps of paper.

Oh yes, and Brother J. L. Garvin, the celebrated editor of the London Observer, complains that John Bull is not spending enough to insure peace on earth. Brother Garvin points out that in the period since the Armistice, John Bull has spent two billion pounds sterling on defence. This great British Editor acknowledges that Britain's present bills for military purposes amount to something like two hundred pounds a minute. But he says this is not enough. In order to make the tight little island safe from complete devastation from the air, the country should spend at least two hundred and fifty pounds per minute, thirteen hundred dollars per minute. NBC

James Van
Zandt.

Commander-in-
Chief, Veterans
of Foreign Wars.

Dec. 22, 1933.

INTRO TO COMMANDER VAN ZANDT

All of this reminds of bugle calls and drums and the pomp and terror and misery of war. Yes, it seems to evoke a flash of interest in a crowd of men here ---- a hundred men or more.

Fellows, do you know anything about war?

(Roar of YES from the crowd)

Yes, I'll say they do -- and no wonder!

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They are members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, who are guests in my studio tonight. We have often had items about the American Legion -- Legion conventions and so on. But for some reason we haven't had so much news about the Veterans of Foreign Wars, although I happen to be a member. So I invited Mr. James Van Zandt, Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, to bring along a party of his buddies tonight. I asked them if they wanted to extend a Christmas greeting to Veterans everywhere. And so they're here. And I'll bet they all want to make a speech. Am I right, fellows?

(Roar of NO)

All right then, we'll leave it to Commander
Van Zandt to extend those Christmas greetings. I understand,
Commander, that thousands of veterans all over the country
are listening in tonight ^{--- so, go ahead,} ~~so~~ you tell them.
^ ^

FOR COMMANDER VAN ZANDT

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All right, Lowell, I want to talk, especially to the disabled veterans, of all countries -- in Government hospitals, in soldiers' homes, and in any haven of refuge where they happen to be. You are in our hearts and minds at Christmas time more than ever. Your problems and needs are the sacred responsibility of the rest of us.. We pledge to you anew on the eve of another Christmas Day our comradeship and our loyalty. We have not forgotten that it was for us, and for the country, that you gave your health and strength, and risked your lives.

And by the way, boys, all you Veterans, let's dedicate ourselves once more to a program that is unselfishly devoted to the cause of human welfare. We appreciate full well the fact that the rehabilitation of our disabled veterans and the care of widows and orphans, requires more than mere dollars.

And now, boys, I move you that we, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, send our greetings to all ex-soldiers and their families, wherever they may be.

All in favor say "AYE."

-- (roar of AYE) --

FOLLOW VAN ZANDT

Well, Commander, if I may play the Chairman for a minute, I guess it's up to me to announce that your motion was carried by acclamation.

--0--

CHRISTMAS

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Some of ~~your~~ you veterans may be going a long way to get home for Christmas, but you won't make a trip like this one.

There is a girl in Canada who will probably get the record this year. She is Miss Elizabeth Ford, whose address is the Arctic Circle. She's the daughter of a factor of the Hudson Bay Company. In order to celebrate with her folks she's going all the way from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Ungava Bay on the Hudson Straits, on the northern tip of the Labrador Peninsula. She will go via that new Canadian Railway line to Churchill on Hudson's Bay. And from there she'll travel eighteen hundred miles by dog sled. How would you like to make a trip like that boys?

--(ROAR)--

C.W.A.

There's more grief around that storm center, ~~the offices~~
of the N.R.A. (General Johnson's ^{offices} ~~officers~~ have discovered that
the people who have been given jobs by the C.W.A., the Civil
Works Administration, are getting more money out of Uncle
Sam than people employed in private industries are receiving
under the N.R.A. codes.)

When this was brought to the attention of C.W.A. officials, they replied with a grin: "So much the worse for the N.R.A."

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General Johnson, ~~Administrator of the N.R.A.~~, said he had observed the same fact but he declined to make any protest or comment. However, the people around him are considerably upset.

Meanwhile, a particularly sour scandal in connection with the C.W.A. has ~~broken~~ broken on the Pacific coast. A scandal revealing some degree of the ultimate meanness of which some people are capable.

(The Labor Commissioner of California has discovered ^{that}
~~out there~~ ^{out there} folks are having to pay exorbitant fees to private

C.W.A. - 2

employment agencies in order to get jobs in the C.W.A.) One man is already in jail and several other people, both men and women, are being ~~severely~~ severely questioned.

By the government rules, C.W.A. workers are supposed to be drawn from the lists of the free employment bureaus of the State and of Uncle Sam. Instead of this, it seems that out on the coast, or at any rate so the State Labor Commissioner charges, preference has been given to certain private employment agencies. One of the persons who is being questioned is a woman who used to be secretary to a former chief of the C.W.A. in San Francisco.

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It is said that more than a hundred girls employed in this way paid enormous fees to private agencies.

The investigation is not yet complete but bids fair to develop into ^{an unsavory} scandal, ~~of an exceptionally unsavory~~ kind.

BLIND

One day last August a registered nurse employed in a home for blind children in New Jersey suddenly threw up her job, went home and made an affidavit. That document was just packed with dynamite, though of an exceedingly slow fuse.. The explosion took place today and there's excitement over a large section of the Atlantic seaboard.

This nurse, putting it bluntly, declared that those blind children were being improperly, even cruelly treated. She declared that the superintendent was in the habit of taping the children's mouths to keep them quiet; ^{and} that in her discipline she included forceable cold showers.

The home in question is a private ^{one,} ~~home,~~ but the State of New York had placed four of its wards there. The accusations made by this registered nurse were corroborated to some extent by another woman ~~who is~~ ^{there} employed ~~in that home.~~ As a result of these charges, the New York Commissioner of Social Welfare removed those four ^{New York} blind children. ~~from that New Jersey home.~~ ~~The State of New Jersey so far has done nothing.~~ When the action of the New York authorities became known, the New Jersey authorities decided to start an investigation.

STRIKE

The folks in Philadelphia certainly are in a tough spot ~~today~~ today. Can you imagine having a truck drivers and general transportation strike at this, of all seasons of the year!

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As[^] mentioned last night, the crisis was not unexpected.

The heads of the Union accused the heads of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company of ignoring the decision of the National Labor Board and refusing to arbitrate with the cab drivers. The walkout of the delivery and transportation men is a sympathy strike.

At any rate, it raised havoc with Philadelphia housewives and with our friend, Santa Claus. In thousands of homes there was no bread, no milk on the doorstep. And of course no Christmas packages. A few private cabs roamed the streets and did a land office business. A great many firms borrowed the cars of private individuals. If this strike keeps on through tomorrow, many a Christmas tree will be bare and many a Philadelphia stocking, small and large, will be hung up in vain.

The proceedings today were perfectly peaceful. The Superintendent of Police had every available man on the job, but no violence whatsoever was reported.

MOTORS

There seems to be balm in ~~filead~~ not only for automobile manufacturers but for all the rest of ~~ix~~ us, ~~since we are all more or less affected by it.~~ One of the alarming symptoms in the period from the beginning of 1930 to the end of 1932, or until the spring of this year, was the decline in the use of motor vehicles. In the years 1932 this ~~drop~~ drop amounted to more than six and a half per cent.

But the editor of the magazine MOTOR has been making a survey of the situation, ~~and~~ He finds that this decline was emphatically checked in 1933. The total of cars in use now ~~is~~ *is more than* twenty-three million, ~~seven hundred and twenty-three thousand, three hundred and ninety-nine,~~ and ~~it is~~ increasing all the time.

Incidentally, there will be special trains next week, converging on Detroit from all parts of the country, carrying dealers of the DeSoto Corporation to a convention at the automobile capital. This will be the most important meeting in the history of the Company and, ^{possibly} one of the most important ~~in~~ ^{in the history of the industry.} ~~industry in general.~~ ^{For} ~~For, on this occasion,~~ ^{are to} dealers ~~will~~ see the result of ^{introducing} ~~using~~ aerodynamic ideas in the building of cars.

The new airflow DeSoto is built on the ~~principle~~ principle originated by the designers of airplanes. In this new car, the frame and body are one unit. The idea back of it all is to apply aerodynamic design in order to overcome air resistance, *-- if you know what I mean.* The engineers claim that this brings about greater exhilaration, faster top speed and better performance all around. The general public ^{of course} will have a chance to see this *aerodynamic De Soto* at the Thirty-fourth National Automobile Show, which begins January 6th at ~~the~~ Grand Central Palace ^{in N.Y.} At the same time, General Motors will, ~~as~~ as usual, hold their overflow ~~at the~~ show at the Waldorf-Astoria.

NBC

DEPRESSION

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Early this morning the telephone rang ^{on} ~~at~~ the desk of the Hyde Park police station in Chicago. A woman's voice said to the desk sergeant: "Officer, will you have one of your men see if ~~they~~ he can find Depression for me?"

The sergeant growled and replied: "Lady, that's one thing we aint got nothing else but. ~~If you can't find~~
Lady,
~~Depression~~ How much Depression would you like?"

The woman answered: "You don't understand. We lost Depression and we love him."

"You what?" exclaimed the sergeant.

~~Then~~ the lady explained: ^{"Yes,} "We love him. He is ^{our} little fox terrior, with yellow spots and a long tail."

BANDITS

The Chicago cops made a successful mistake last night. A squad of detectives made a raid on a residential section, thinking they were going to get Dillinger, the killer, who escaped from the Michigan City, Indiana, penitentiary. They also expected to get others of his gang.

They trapped a gang, sure enough, but it wasn't the one they were after. As the result of the encounter, three of the mobsters are dead and four of their accomplices, all with long records, are now in a Chicago prison.

NBC

ENDURANCE

While many of the rest of us have been buying Christmas presents, two ladies down in Florida have been up in the air. They've been there for a purpose. Mrs. ~~Harold~~ ^{Harrell} Frances ~~Harold~~ ^{Harrell} and Helen ~~Richey~~ ^{Richey} have ~~already~~ been *flying for* ~~us~~ fifty-two hours. A western union telegram from Miami, Florida, informs me that they are in fine shape and conditions look propitious for a new record.

NBC

LOBSTER

We haven't had a Scotch story in quite a long while. Here's one from the LITERARY DIGEST. A Scotsman was strolling through the fish market with his dog. The dog stopped beside a basketful of live lobsters. One of the live lobsters clamped both claws on the dog's tail, and the poor collie went yelping down the street with the lobster hanging onto his tail.

The owner of the lobster stared, gasped, then turned to the owner of the dog and shouted: "Mon, mon, whustle to your dog"!

To which the owner of the dog replied in best Harry Lauder dialect: "Hoot, mon, whustle to your lobster!"

(WHISTLE)

They're whistling for me. So, SO LONG UNTIL CHRISTMAS.

LITERARY DIGEST.