

Good Evening, Everybody:

For days the whole country has been speculating about the drought damage -- and that has meant waiting for the crop report of the Department of Agriculture. Just how badly has the drought hit us in hard cold terms of bushels? Secretary Wallace's announcement was made public late this afternoon. It tells an ominous story. The 1936 corn crop will be only about half the normal size. That's what the figures show -- gathered by the Department. That drought has reduced our usual corn supply by eight hundred million bushels in one month. And that's a formidable loss which is bound to have its repercussions in your pantry and mine.

Yes and an expert in the agriculture school of the University of California tells us we shall continue to be out of luck unless the cowboy and the sheep herder come back. That's the only solution, says Mr. Walter Weir, for the great

dust bowls of the Dakotas and the Southwest. He is an engineer who specializes in problems of soil erosion. And he says that unless those lands are returned to their original condition as great grazing areas, there can be no hope of restoring permanent prosperity out there. Those lands, he adds, should never have been cultivated in the first place.

This dust bowl business as we've been hearing is another consequence of the Great War. When grain prices went skyward, ranchers broke up their grazing ground to plant crops. And that caused the droughts of 1934 and 1936. How America goes on paying for that World War!

LABOR

Epithets flew fast and furious in Washington today.

It was a meeting of a labor organization called "the Non-Partisan League." But the avowed purpose of the meeting is to bring about the re-election of President Roosevelt. And the tenor of the addresses was a series of attacks on Governor Landon.

(The principal assailant of the Republican candidate was John L. Lewis, the aggressive head of the C.I.O. He described Mr. Landon as a ~~pitiful~~ pitiful puppet, a spokesman for the big and ~~ex~~ powerful industries, the rich and powerful financial interests.) Labor, he said, could expect nothing from the hands of Mr. Landon. The other speeches were in the same vein. ~~##~~ A letter was read from President Roosevelt himself. The gist of it was that he promised to ~~ex~~ continue and enforce the policies of the New Deal. He also referred to the decisions of the Supreme Court which have put a quietus ~~upon~~ so ~~many~~ much of the New Deal program. "It is a notable fact," wrote the President, "that it was not the wage earners who cheered when those laws were declared invalid."

Meanwhile Governor Landor from Topeka issued an appeal for the revival of the courage and spirit of ^{the} pioneers. "If America could tame the wilderness," he said, "shall we cry quits because in these modern days there are problems to face?" This he telegraphed in a message of greeting to the Centennial celebration at Council

Bluffs. Council Bluffs — one of the typical pioneer settlements of the Prairies.

SPAIN

A message of the most preemptory kind comes from Uncle Sam's Embassy in Madrid today:— ~~It was~~ short, sharp, terse. The gist of it: ~~is~~ "Get out of Madrid, get out as soon as you can, get out by nightfall." If you don't, said the diplomats, Uncle Sam can no longer guarantee your safety, can no longer undertake to carry you to a place where your lives will be secure.

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There is no mistaking the honest implication in that warning. Though Spain's government gains victories all over the peninsula, affairs in Madrid are becoming more and more chaotic. *American citizens in the Spanish capital,* All ~~of Uncle Sam's nephews in Madrid,~~ some two hundred of them, are at present sheltered in the Embassy. But machine gun fire is approaching closer and closer. What that indicates is obvious. It implies that government forces are having heavy fighting right on their front doorstep.

The warning was issued by Eric Wendelin, Third Secretary of the Embassy. He announces that Americans who leave today can be transported to Valencia and there, shipped ~~on~~ home aboard the United States cruiser ~~and~~ Quincy. *Twenty have left already.* ~~However, it seems doubtful~~

One curiosity that caught the ear in today's news recalls the invasions of Spain by Hannibal, by Hamilcar, by Scipio and by Caesar. For we learn that the government troops for the first time in many centuries used an old weapon such as was formerly employed by the Carthaginian armies and Roman Legions, a catapult.

It occurred during the attack by the Loyalist forces on the rebels beleaguered at Ovej~~u~~do. They made their huge catapult. Then under cover of night they got two hundred picked men from the mining district of Asturias. These two hundred were all experts in the use of dynamite. Pushing their huge improvised catapult to within one hundred ~~xxx~~ yards of the rebel barracks they loaded it with sacks of the explosive. In that crude ancient fashion they hurled death and destruction at the crumbling walls of Ovej~~u~~do.

A german airplane filled with arms and ammunition ~~xx~~ was captured by the Government sixty miles north of Seville. The officer who made the arrest says that the crew of the Junkers ship included three Germans and a Spaniard. This was promptly denied by the German Ambassador. At least he said that if they were Germans they came with no official commission or permission to help the Fascist cause.

Also, a good deal is being made of the suspension of the daily service of the German Lufthansa Line between Madrid and ~~Berlin~~ Berlin. However, if there is so much deadly fighting

so close to the Capital, that is not so difficult to understand.

Meanwhile two more German warships are being rushed to Spain.

As for Italy, (Madrid charges that the ~~REVE~~ rebels today received a second consignment of Caproni planes, twenty-one of them, which were flown from the Caproni factory to rebel headquarters in Spanish Morocco.)

On the other side of the Pyrenees thirteen fast French pursuit planes hopped off from Toulouse for Madrid. They were consigned to the Spanish Loyal Left Wing Army. They took off from Toulouse just a few minutes before the French government announced an embargo on all war materials to Spain.

There's a quaint, almost a humorous touch to the complications threatened from the direction of the Argentine Republic. ~~In Argentina, where they know all about revolutions, there's a custom, hallowed by precedent, which is peculiar to South America. In Argentina, or~~ any other South American country, a foreign ambassador has the right to give sanctuary, ~~to either side.~~

Thus Revolutionaries can take refuge with some foreign diplomat and be sure of immunity. Such a custom does not prevail in Europe. So it is to protect this idea that Argentina is sending to Spain her newest and fastest cruiser, the name of which cruiser is the Twenty-fifth of May. It seems the Argentinian ambassador in San Sebastian gave sanctuary to five Spanish rebels. The Commander of a British warship offered to evacuate the Argentinians, but could not guarantee to do the same for Spanish rebels. The Argentinian Ambassador wants to leave but won't unless he's allowed to take those Revolutionaries. So the Twenty-fifth of May is steaming under forced draft across the South Atlantic.

A fresh international note was injected into the controversy late today. It was a communication from the Holy See, a protest against the killing of priests, the burning of churches, and, in the words of the Vatican, "the profanation of bodies."

Once again the most interesting news from the Olympic Stadium concerns Jesse Owens. No, he hasn't broken any more records. But for days the air has been full of rumors that he would turn "pro," capitalize on his superb achievements at Berlin. The brown speed merchant from Ohio State quickly contradicted this gossip today. "I'm an amateur," he said, "and I'm going to stay an amateur." Such a decision must have required no little fortitude. There's reason to believe that he received offers of money which would pretty nearly have set him up for life if he would run for money.

For the rest this appears to have been Japan's day at Berlin. The little men from Nippon, as was expected,

swam
~~was~~ away with most of the swimming honours. However, America

wasn't entirely out *of the wet.* ~~in the water.~~ Our boys and girls *won* ~~got some of~~ *important diving events.* ~~first, second and fourth in the diving trials.~~

Peru walked out on the show. Called her athletes home. A rumpus over a soccer game. More international good will! ?

Austrians protested with Austria. The Com. ordered it to replay

BASEBALL

Pulses are running high in the baseball world. These are tense days in the race for the National League penant. Hitherto, this season it's been a slide-Kelly-slide affair between the St. Louis Cards and the Chicago Cubs.

But there's a new contender in the race. With the Cubs and Cardinals neck and neck, a dark horse comes thundering down the stretch. The New York Giants who weren't supposed to have a chance have just won seven straight. That puts them within the challenging distance of the leaders.

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Thurs.
~~Wednesday~~ afternoon. ~~It will be~~ The Sixtieth Anniversary of
the National League. So, just for fun, the Giants are going
to turn the clock back sixty years. They are going to show
their 1936 customers what baseball looked like in 1876. ~~All~~
~~this~~ ~~I should add will take place before the regularly scheduled~~
~~game between the Giants and the Phillies.~~

In the boxes and on the sidelines will be oldtime
heroes of the Major League, old Giants, Phillies, Cubs, Orioles.
There will also be an oldtime parade in the fashions of 1876
with the players riding in ~~cars~~ barouches, landeaux, and cabriolets.
After which there will be a ball game after the manner and
fashions of 1876. The faces of the players will be concealed
behind hedges of 1876 whiskers. No gloves, no masks, no chest
protectors, no shinguards. In their place will be thickly
padded pants, neck ties, and stiffly-bosomed blouses. The
catcher will play with his back almost touching the grandstand.
~~However, the customs of the time allow him to charge up fre-~~
~~quently to guard the home plate. To the right of the home~~
~~plate will stand the majestic official known as His Majesty~~
~~the Umpire.~~

~~In those days he never took his chance with the catcher behind the plate. Also he never went into the diamond.~~ The manners of '76 permitted the umpire to ask the opinions of the fans on close decisions, also to forfeit the game at the slightest provocation. He was not an official employed by the League as he is today. On the morning of each game the rival managers would meet and agree on some gentleman of high repute to officiate. It was considered a weighty honour, a sacred trust and grave responsibility to be invited to ^{be the} umpire ^{at} a big league game. And it was etiquette for ~~him~~ his majesty to officiate in a frock coat and top hat, no matter what the weather.

The teams who will ~~be~~ play ^{There} ~~Wednesday afternoon~~ will represent the New York Mutuals and the Philadelphia Phillies of 1876. They have been picked by the Giant manager, Bill Terry from among some ten thousand sand-lot players in and around New York. ~~There will be ten men on each side. The tenth man is called the right short stop usually played in the infield. But he was allowed to rove almost anywhere, center field, or even in foul territory. So if you are going to the Polo~~

So at the Polo Grounds on Thursday

~~Grounds on Wednesday~~, you'll hear such curious cries as "nine balls, take your base." That's what they allowed the pitcher

in those days. But on the other hand he had to throw ~~them~~

across the ~~xxx~~ plate between the shoulders and the waist of

the batter. What a long time it must have taken to wait out

a pitcher~~x~~ sixty years ago. Another cry you might hear ^{will be:-} ~~Wednesday~~

~~afternoon~~ "Mr. Umpire, you did ~~not~~ see that play. Please

ask the spectators whether I was out or not." To which the

umpire will reply:- "Very well sir, I will."

~~and it occurs to me that I'm out and~~

~~SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.~~

HUGHES

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That brilliant and eccentric young millionaire, Howard Hughes, is at it again. At what? Nobody knows except Mr. Hughes himself, and he is up in the air. But he left behind him a distinct impression that he's on some new sensational airplane exploit.

With him is Dick Stoddard, ^{who's} also a pilot - and an N.B.C. radio engineer.

When he filled his plane with twelve hundred and fifty gallons and ^{to} ~~took~~ off from Los Angeles, he told nobody what he was up to. It's been known for some time that he's been planning a flight around the world. Only recently he obtained a permit from the Federal Communications Commission for a special radio wave length such as could be used on a round-the-world flight. Mr. Hughes denied that this was his object at present. But the fact remains that he filled the Flying Laboratory, as the plane is called, to ~~capacity~~ capacity. So probably in the next few hours we shall hear of some new record, some new extraordinary exploit. So far, he holds the coast-to-coast record. ^{Probably} ~~also the~~ *he's out to break that one again,* ~~record for the longest overland flight.~~

TRAILERS

We now hear a prediction that twenty years from now the American automobile nomads will be numbered, not by the hundreds, nor even by the thousands, but by the millions. In fact, says the prophet, by 1956, one-half the population of the United States will be living like the Mongol nomads of Genghis Khan. But of course, instead of being sheltered by felt huts carried atop shaggy poles like the Yurts of the Yakuts and Kirgiz of today the 1956 wanderers of America will do their wandering in spacious moving houses with hot and cold running water, shower baths, electric lights, electric stoves, radio and what-have-you.

Who makes this prediction? Surely you'd think it comes from some of the firms who make trailers. Nothing of the sort. The author of that prediction is no less a celebrity than Roger Babson, the same Roger who foretold almost the exact date on which the big crash of 1929 would occur. He makes his estimate on the basis of the rate at which

the number of people who have abandoned their homes and live entirely in trailers is increasing. And he says that for one thing, fewer new homes are being built as a consequence.

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A It isn't merely the wanderlust that leads people to ~~leave~~ ^{live} the year-round in these traveling villas. It's taxes. The man who lives in a trailer has no fixed abode, pays only a tax on gasoline and oil. ~~By the same token he also has no vote.~~ In other words if Mr. Babson is right again, you will see sixty

million Americans and more, rolling from place to place ^{— just} ~~on the~~ ^{rolling along.} ~~highways, sixty million, none voters.~~ ^{And that rolls me out of}
59 1/4 here + s-l-u-t-m.