

L.T. - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1936,

*Common
7/20/36*

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

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All last night and for hours today hundreds of men labored desperately - at Uxbridge, Massachusetts. They were shoveling sand and gravel, with aching backs and blistering hands. You can guess - they were trying to save a dam - a hundred and fifty foot dike of stone and gravel ^{the Rice Dam,} across the Blackstone River.

That dam was holding back the largest volume of water between Worcester, Massachusetts, and Providence, Rhode Island. The river in wild flood, the dam threatening to give way. Did they save it?

The answer is - they got away just in time. They saw the dike breaking, collapsing, and away they ^{ran} ~~scampered~~ just in time, as a wall of water fifteen feet high burst on its way down the Blackstone valley. Like a tidal wave, it swept ~~down~~ upon Millville and Blackstone, Massachusetts, and kept on its relentless way into the industrial city ^{ies} of Woonsocket, ~~Rhode Island,~~ and Pawtucket, ^{Rhode Island,}

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New England. These provide the dramatic keynote to this, the second big flood day.

(In Hartford, Connecticut, street car service was washed out. The main telephone exchange marooned. Several hundred people stranded on the Connecticut River bridge at Hartford - women and children huddled in blankets.) In nearby Putnam, the Fire Department rescued families from the second stories of their houses as the waters surged through the ground floors.

Northampton, Massachusetts, was hit so hard by the waters that a hundred sailors from the Boston Navy Yard were ordered there for rescue work. (At factory City, Holyoke, the Connecticut River tonight is roaring sixteen and a half feet over the Holyoke Dam. One dike nearby gave way. The railroad tracks five feet under water.)

(Just repeat the same thing over and over, place after place, and you have a picture of New England.)

In New York State the majestic Hudson was a bit too

majestic as it poured over its banks and sent swirling waters through the lower streets of Albany, the state capital. Two hundred people had to flee from the downtown section where in some places the flood stood six feet deep. At Binghamton seventy-six thousand people are facing a shortage of drinking water. Restaurants served their patrons only a half a glass at each meal. One of the leading hotels was entirely without water.

Now for the Ohio River, Pennsylvania and West Virginia: At Wheeling, the river has risen fifty-four feet. In some parts of the city only the tops of the tallest houses are visible. From twenty to thirty thousand people are homeless - churches, schools and public buildings turned into ~~xx~~ dormitories to receive the refugees. Already sixteen are reported dead. And scores are missing - especially on Wheeling Island in the Ohio River. Yes, and the big suspension bridge is in peril. Built during the Civil War, it was once the longest suspension bridge in the world. Now the cables have snapped, under the strain of the flood! It may go down at any time. And it's the same story

throughout the Wheeling area, and that is one of the richest iron, steel and glass cities in the world - a quarter of a million people in and around Wheeling.

Cumberland, West Virginia! Seven hundred and fifty families spending their second night in schools and churches.

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania! The Susquehanna River continues to rise. Late today ~~it~~ it reached its highest level since Eighteen-Forty-Six.

Steubenville, Ohio - a typhus epidemic threatening. Three cases reported. Serum rushed into the stricken town from Columbus.

Williamsport, Pennsylvania! Flood-locked for twenty-four hours, and now - fire. Today operators of the Philadelphia Navy Yard picked up a short wave message which said that an entire block of the town was ablaze. They've had to cut off the gas throughout the town, because of the danger of explosions.

Now - we come to Washington, the capital of these watery United States; tonight a capital city of flood peril. But let's switch over for a report from Washington - get it direct, -

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a report from a chap who has been in the thick of flood events all day. He's the head of a big Washington newsreel staff.

Arthur DeTitta has been sending Movietone cameramen to the critical points of peril, and receiving reports from them all over the flood area down that way. The last I heard from him today - he was accompanying the President on an inspection party, looking over the flood situation. Arthur is at a microphone in Washington - unless the flood has come and washed him away.

Are you there, Arthur, or are you swimming?

FOLLOW ARTHUR DETITTA

Thanks Arthur - and here's one you will appreciate.

Jack Haney on the assignment desk here in your New York office has been telling me how they tried to get cameramen into Johnstown. Like you are doing they are rushing cameramen everywhere -- and in what weather. Jack Kahn, the flying cameramen tried to get through by plane yesterday from New York. But he and his pilot got into fog, lost their way, couldn't go on, and had to turn back. It was impossible to get a cameraman to Johnstown. The place was isolated. They were going wild about it when Jack Haney got a telephone call -- from a free lance cameraman, a chap he hadn't seen in three years. That free lance cameraman was in Johnstown. Happened to be there when the flood broke. And he had been shooting the raging waters, thousands of feet. Did they want the film? -- he asked. Did they want it? Jack nearly blasted out the telephone shouting:- "Sure, they wanted it." So that was one problem solved -- quite accidentally.

CONCLUSION OF FLOOD

(Day before yesterday the flood at Johnstown began^a all this epic of surging waters -- Johnstown so legended in the history of deluge in America, the place that had the classic flood. Tonight, the waters have receded, leaving Johnstown a city of mud,) mud in the streets, mud in the houses and in all the buildings that were inundated. Seventy-five hundred families, twenty-five thousand people suffered from the rage of the waters yesterday in that one city alone. Casualty list there estimated at twenty. Military law is in force, nobody allowed on the streets after none o'clock at night. And it will be that way for weeks to come. (Sightseers are warned to stay away. Several thousand national guardsmen and state police are mobilized in the Johnstown area.)

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But what about Pittsburgh? -- Yesterday's high spot of the flood, the industrial metropolis with water rising in streets and skyscrapers to eighteen feet. Tonight Pittsburgh is trying to resume normal life. National Guardsmen patrolled the golden triangle district today. There are twenty million dollars in the banks and vaults of that flood-stricken area - including the famous Mellon millions.

Columbus: ~~Casualty list between thirty-five and forty.~~

Throughout the whole vast flood-story runs the heartening theme of relief and rescue. (The Red Cross has been on the job everywhere, with Herculean labors -- answering frantic calls from far and wide, calls for ~~gm~~ food, clothing, blankets, tents, boats, medicine, serum.)

Today President Roosevelt summoned the White House Correspondents for a special conference. It was a dramatic scene as the President, with the newspaper men around him, read a proclamation. ~~It was~~ ^{it read} In part, as follows:- "

"To the people of the United States;-flood waters raging through eleven states have ~~been~~ ^{hundred} driven two thousand people from their homes. In this grave emergency the homeless are turning to our great national relief agency, the American Red Cross. It is necessary that a minimum relief fund of three million dollars be raised as quickly as possible. As President of the United States and as President of the American Red Cross I am therefore urging our people to contribute promptly and generously so that sufficient funds may be avail-

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CONCLUSION OF FLOOD - 3

able for relief."

So tonight's flood story closes on a note of --
rescue and relief, floods abating in some places; rising in
others.

EUROPE

Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day

Macbeth might have been talking about the European crisis. Those Shakespearian lines make an apt reflection on the Locarno and League of Nations doings in London. But, before we look at tomorrow, in London, let's see what happened today.

It had been well advertised that the League Council would take its formal vote today, a vote of judgment on Hitler's armed re-occupation of the Rhine. And that's what happened.

It was a stately event, all the impressive manner of a judgement from on high. But no dramatics. None of the flaming speeches and denunciations that were heard on previous days. The League Council called upon the members to condemn Germany before the bar of the nations.

(The first high spot came when the German delegate arose to defend his own country - Herr Von Ribbentrop. He stood there, with the Council of the League sitting around a table, and he spoke a reasoned defense of Hitler's action in re-arming the Rhine.) He declared that the treaty between France

ans Soviet Russia was aimed directly at Germany, and that it was therefore a violation of the treaty of Locarno. With the treaty thus broken, the German Government was justified in refusing to abide by it any longer.

(The vote was taken. And the Council's decision was unanimous. The League today condemned Germany as a treaty breaker a violator of Versailles and Locarno.)

Immediately afterward Herr Von Ribbentrop spoke up and said the verdict would not survive the test of history. He declared it an unjustified conviction of Germany, its government and its people.

What next? That's the question. The League voted its moral censure upon Germany. ^{But} The statesmen are interested in more practical matters than ^{they are in} mere abstract morality and verbal censure. The scolding has been administered -- but what next?

Even before the verdict was handed down, there was one significant indication. It concerned a neat little plan~~x~~ which the Locarno powers had cooked up. France, Belgium, Great Britain and Italy had agreed upon a compromise -- an offer to be made to Germany. They said ~~they~~ would call it ~~xx~~ square, call it quits -- on the following three conditions. First, that the World Court shall pass on the legality of the treaty between France and Russia, the treaty which Germany claims was a violation of the Locarno Pact. Secondly, - that a neutral zone shall be established along the Rhine, a neutral zone in German territory -- this to be policed by the League of Nations. Thirdly, that the Locarno powers shall sign an agreement of mutual help, if any of them is attacked. (That's the stand agreed upon by France, Belgium, Great Britain and Italy -- to be offered as a proposal to Germany.)

Today Germany lost no time in replying. While the League

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Council was getting ready for its vote of condemnation, Herr Von Ribbentrop gave the answer. No! Nein! - offer refused. He said that the ^{idea of} ~~submitting~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ Franco-Soviet agreement to the World Court proved nothing, because the decision in favor of France would be a ~~foregone~~ conclusion. As for a neutral zone in German territory, No -- that would violate German ^esovereignty. The idea of an agreement for mutual assistance, he said, was useless -- because Germany won't attack anybody, Germany wants peace.

So, the League has said "guilty"! But, what about penalties? The Locarno powers have agreed upon an offer to Germany, which Germany refuses. ^{Now} -- ^A what can they do to make Germany accept? ~~it?~~

The last thing the League Council did today was to call another meeting -- a meeting to consider the settlement of the Italo-Ethiopian War. This is scheduled for tomorrow. So there you have that Shakespearian line - "Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow."

58 1/2 That will make the complications intricate and interesting. The mixture of Hitler's putsch and Mussolini's war certainly is a mix-up. Take the Rhine, add it to Ethiopia and shake well --

and you have a spicy diplomatic cocktail, highly intoxicating. Italy is determined to get the sanctions lifted. Mussolini is bent on using the dispute about the Rhine as a means of wrangling an agreeable settlement in Ethiopia -- agreeable to himself.

And, late word today is that Rome will call off the African War, if the sanctions are lifted. The League has been so informed. Of course, that doesn't say what kind of a deal Haile Selassie will get out of it. Mussolini's offer today and the ghostly question about Haile Selassie will be taken up by the League -- tomorrow.

And so the echo resounds -- tomorrow and tomorrow and SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW .