

BONUS

L.T. Surveys. Thus. Jan. 2-1936

Chamber

The steering committee took hold of the helm today, and proceeded to steer a gingerly course around one of the biggest and most dangerous of rocks in a turbulent rapid stream. The vessel they were piloting was the good ship bonus. The perilous jagged rock was the question of how to raise the money to pay to the soldiers.

The Patman Bonus Bill which won the congressional victories last season, proposed to get the bonus cash by inflating the currency. The President vetoed that one. Today the steering committee steered right around the dilemma, and neatly avoided the problem of the means of payment. The committee has been drafting a Bonus Bill to present to Congress, and today they fixed one up, leaving the question of raising the cash to be decided later. The full membership of Congress can thrash that out. Representative Patman declared that he and his fellow inflationists had agreed that if the majority of Congress didn't want inflation, why they'll accept the verdict.

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Opinion is in Washington that when the lawmakers finally do decide how to get the money, it won't be inflation. They'll raise it by a bond issue. That's the forecast.

#5
The congressional weather in Washington has a decidedly bonusy look tonight. Various veterans organizations are in agreement on the bill -- the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Disabled Veterans ^{of} the World War. They put their okay on a bill which they claim will cost only a billion dollars. It's a compromise. Full cash payment would cost -- two billion.

#47
Senator Robinson, Democratic leader in the upper house declared today that Congress will pass the present Bonus Bill quickly, and that it will be a Bill which will be accepted, not vetoed, by the President.

CONGRESS

If the President appeared before the lawmakers at three o'clock in the afternoon and spoke his piece, you wouldn't hear a peep. But let him name nine o'clock in the evening as the hour, and thunder breaks loose. And all because of a round black disc. It's little, but of my oh Mike, oh Mike. Yes, this microphone.

Of course the Presidential appearance before Congress in the evening is unusual, so unusual that the gentlemen of Congress don't even know what kind of clothes to wear for the occasion. Top hat? Tails? White ties? Or plain business suits?

It happened only once before, and that was a stupendous occasion. It was the fateful evening of 1917, the night when Woodrow Wilson appeared before Congress and solemnly announced the United States at war with the German Empire. But the nocturnal Wilson's appearance in 1917 was different from the night time Roosevelt appearance of 1936. What difference? Woodrow Wilson had no radio.

So of course it's the showmanship that's causing the hullabaloo. Tomorrow night - the President standing before

Congress, making his recommendations, giving an account of his stewardship. That's meant for Congress. But it's also going into the microphone. What a chance for a resounding nineteen thirty-six political broadside - a broadcast broadside! Somebody's showmanship picked the hour.

The last time the President delivered a special message to Congress and it was on the air, was in the afternoon. But the radio audience isn't so copious in the daytime as at night. The best spot by far is in the evening -- from 6:30 to 10:00. Nine o'clock ideal. So tomorrow night is the night - at nine. And, the Republicans are saying that congressional procedure is being used to make a Roman political New Deal holiday, a spectacular act in the election drama of nineteen thirty-six.

There's some talk that the Republicans in Congress may try to disrupt the ~~pa~~ procedure, break up what they think is a show; obstruct it. But that doesn't seem likely to happen. The Democrats claim that with their huge majorities, they can steam-roller any parliamentary obstacle out of the way. And that the special message performance - by night - will go on.

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What did the broadcasting companies reply to this?

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That's tonight's story. This afternoon M. H. Aylesworth of N. B. C., sent a telegram to Chairman Fletcher. The telegram reads in part as follows: "In accordance with the established policy of the National Broadcasting Company of making its facilities available to responsible speakers for discussion of both sides of public questions - we are glad to afford the Representative or Representatives of the Republican party the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company, from time to time. If you will designate your speaker or speakers and advise us immediately, we will make early reservations of time." *Which seems fair enough.*

So, maybe the Republicans will pick up the show after the President starts it, and put on the second act themselves. *It all looks like a lot of excitement for those of us who sit at home in front of our loud-speakers.*

RETAKE

What can the Republicans do about it? Well, they might put their own show on the air, following the Presidential offer - reply! controvert! But they haven't the same big stage setting - as Congress and a presidential message. They have nothing like the scenery and spectacular effects of Congress called in joint session to hear a special message spoken by the President in person. The Republicans, figuratively speaking, will have to go out and hire a hall. They are asking for radio time of their own, and the right kind of radio time. Henry P. Fletcher of the

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But just a moment. It isn't settled yet. Representative Rich, a Pennsylvania Republican is trying to upset things. Rich insists ~~it~~ It's all politics and he'll refuse to approve the recessing of the House from noon until nine P. M. This may force the Democrats to pass a special rule to convene Congress tomorrow night.

NEUTRALITY

(A ~~new~~ permanent neutrality bill to keep us out of foreign wars was drafted late today at the State Department. Secretary Hull completed the rough draft of the text in a two-hour conference with Senator Pittman, and Representative McReynolds, Chairman of the Foreign Committees in Senate and House. They declined to give details but they said the bill would be introduced in both houses probably on Monday. They indicated it would give the President wide discretion in clamping down embargoes on war materials.)

ETHIOPIA

It doesn't seem now that the storm of indignation in Sweden will lead to any international complications. The Swedes certainly were angry about ~~the~~^t bombing of the Swedish Red Cross Unit, with the reported killing of a dozen Swedes - the whole Swedish personnel, doctors and nurses, wiped out. Public grief was so emphatic in Stockholm, that New Year's celebrations were called off.

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Today it appears that, instead of all the Swedes being killed - none were killed. ~~The latest reports from Addis Ababa list a number of Ethiopian casualties - and two Swedish medical men wounded.~~ The Ethiopian statement that all had died in the sky attack is now attributed to a confusion of reports, ~~the uncertainty of wireless communication in a wild country.~~ (Word from the southern Ethiopian front was - that the Red Cross Unit had been "wiped out". I don't know how you say "wiped out" in Ethiopian, but it did not mean that all the white Red Cross workers in the camp had been killed. Because ^{the word now is} ~~today's story shows~~ that none were killed.)

The Italian ^{late} explanations are ^{still} ~~likewise~~ ~~made~~ confusing. On one hand (Rome says that the Fascist aviators did not mean to hit the Swedish Red Cross headquarters. But they also add that the Ethiopian troops are using Red Cross insignia far and wide to protect themselves from bombs overhead. And, just to increase the superfluity of explanation, Rome ^{again insists} ~~declares~~ that the air raids were justified as a reprisal for the beheading of two aviators.)

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Full reports from Addis Ababa paint a clarifying picture of how planes flew over and first dropped pamphlets. ^{In these} ~~these~~ ~~plus~~ pamphlets ^{was printed a story of how} ~~declared that~~ the Ethiopians had beheaded two flying men and paraded their heads on spears through the southern Ethiopian war center at Harrar. Then immediately after ^{the dropping of} the pamphlets from the sky, came more planes and bombs. The bombs demolished the Red Cross camp. And then the war planes swooped down and machine gunned people ~~in~~ on the ground.

Well, The Ethiopian government denies the beheading of

the flyers. Yet the report of this some days ago came from
Harrar. It's all confused.

Two things happen tonight - one is a
Hotel, the other is a fabulous oriental palace in
distant Hindustan. In New York they are celebrating the
Diamond Jubilee of that remarkable potentate of India, the
Gaskwar of Baroda. Why so much interest on this side of the
ocean? Because the Gaskwar of Baroda is the president of
the World Fellowship of Faiths, an international movement
for a world religion. He was in America three years ago,
and he opened the international congress of the World
Fellowship of Faiths at the Chicago Century of Progress
Exposition. Then Chicago greeted him with a royal salute
of twenty-one guns. And tonight there's a public meeting
at the Waldorf-Astoria to honor the Gaskwar's Diamond Jubilee.
But just
imagine the festivities they're having
in the royal palace at Baroda. Glittering pageantry
pageantry the whole week, and today especially the golden,
bejewelled high spot - the coronation
Sixty years on the throne for the Gaskwar - and

BARODA

Two things happen tonight -- one in a New York hotel, the other in a fabulous oriental palace in distant Hindustan. In New York they are celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of that remarkable potentate of India, the Gaekwar of Baroda. Why so much interest on this side of the ocean? Because the Gaekwar of Baroda is the president of the World Fellowship of Faiths, an international movement for a world religion. He was in America three years ago, when he opened the international congress of the World Fellowship of Faiths at the Chicago Century of Progress Exposition. Then Chicago greeted him with a royal salute of twenty-one guns. And tonight there's a public meeting ^{in New York} ~~at the Hotel New Yorker~~ to honor the Gaekwar's Diamond Jubilee.

^{But just} ~~well, you can~~ imagine the festivities they're having in the royal ^{in far off} ~~palace~~ ^{at} Baroda. Glittering ~~pageantry~~ pageantry the whole week, and today witnessed the golden, bejewelled high spot -- the durbar.

Sixty years on the throne for the Gaekwar -- and

what a strange beginning he had. He began life as a shepherd boy, tending his flocks on remote hillsides. He was of the royal blood of Baroda, but his branch of the family had fallen on evil days. Suddenly the shepherd boy was raised to the golden throne, one of the most glittering in the world. Then the sudden transition. There's a glittering story in that.

The former Maharajah had been a little too expansive in entertaining the British Resident at his Court, the Englishman who represented the power of the British Raj. The Gaekwar had served to the Resident a dish of food that was a bit too rich. Instead of common salt they had used diamond dust in that extravagant delicacy. In the Orient diamond dust is the traditional princely way to murder, to poison an ~~en~~ enemy. Great Britain didn't like its plenipotentiary to be dined in such costly fashion. So they dethroned the Gaekwar and called another branch of the royal family to the throne -- that poor but proud branch to which the shepherd boy belonged.

Suddenly the lad found himself whisked from his hills

and his sheep to the golden throne of Baroda. From a few pennies a year his personal income jumped to five million dollars a year, plus fabulous wealth in jewels -- including such baubles as a carpet four yards square woven solidly of diamonds, pearls and rubies.

But the shepherd boy was as shepherds often are, serious, thoughtful, and he wisely refrained from becoming a golden prince of feasting, rioting and squandering. Instead he went to work to make his kingdom a model state -- with compulsory education, no child marriages, the untouchables treated better than anywhere in India. He traveled all over the world, observing, studying. And recently the British raised him above the royal rank of a Gaekwar of Baroda, a Prince of India. They made him a King.

Today his personal life is severely simple. He arises early and eats little. He sits for hours in his library every day, reading English and Oriental literature and meditating. His garb an ordinary western business suit, with a Hindu cap.

But not tonight -- he's not dressed like that at his

Durbar. The Gaekwar tonight for once is appearing in all the flaming splendor of Hindustan. Around his neck dangles the famed two million dollar necklace of Baroda, that has for a pendant a huge historic diamond called -- the Star of the South.

All week long during the jubilee, food and clothes are distributed in Baroda. Nobody in the kingdom allowed to be hungry or shabby. Convicts released, arrears in taxes wiped out. New and more progressive laws announced.

Benevolent things that shine even brighter than the two million dollar necklace with its fabulous diamond the Star of the South. And probably it's because he once was a shepherd.

SHIP

Now about Marpessa. That's a ship, a rusty old freighter, a tramp steamer. By nationality - Greek. But Marpessa was also a nymph, a lovely mythical girl of the ancient Greeks. So, in that melodious name of Marpessa we have both a nymph and a tramp. Should make an interesting combination.

Marpessa, the old freight~~er~~ steamer, brings to us that classic theme, in the legends of the sea - the deserted vessel, the mystery ship with not a soul aboard. Some of the most fascinating tales of the ocean concern ships found drifting without Captain or crew, every soul aboard, strangely weirdly vanished. Tonight the Marpessa is a maritime puzzle of just that sort. She lies swinging aimlessly at anchor in New York harbor, ^{apparently} without skipper and without sailors -- all unaccountably gone.

I'm ~~am~~ afraid I can't embellish our maritime mystery with any strange circumstances of storm or doldrums, tropical latitudes and eery surroundings. The Greek freighter put in at New York in the ordinary way, and was subjected to the most

commonplace routine. According to harbor regulations, a vessel coming in like that makes a stop at quarantine, and there is inspected and fumigated. During the fumigation, it is customary for the crew to go ashore and come back when it's all over. So it was with the Marpessa. She was fumigated. The captain and the sailors went ashore. The strange thing is - they didn't come back. Days have passed, four days. The ship put in the harbor on Sunday, and she's been ~~xx~~ deserted and abandoned ever since. Today, with the captain and crew still missing, she took the rank of ~~something~~ of a maritime mystery.

What's happened to those Greek mariners? That's the perplexing question. (I asked Dr. Carroll Fox, the medical examiner at quarantine, what he thought. And all he could say was - "I guess they just didn't come back.") The only clue to the oceanic puzzle is that this has been the New Year season, with New York staging loud festivities. Maybe those sea-faring men from Greece have just been celebrating the New Year, leaving the Marpessa to rock at anchor, a deserted ship.

Just said to their ship what I'm saying now -
s - l - u - t - m.

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