

L.T.- SUNOCO, MONDAY, JUNE 17, 1935

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

That's a hefty rumpus just come to a head in Washington! Mr. Roper, Secretary of Commerce, started something when he gave the heave-o to his assistant, Ewing Mitchell. And, we all know there's nothing so bitter as a family row. That applies even to a row in the official family of the President.

There have been plenty of them since Mr. Roosevelt ascended the throne. The squabble between Secretary Cordell Hull and Professor Raymond Moley, of course is ancient history. Also - Professor Rex Tugwell and George Peek of the A. A. A. were throwing the family china at each other for a while. What Secretary Ickes thought of the Postmaster General was equalled only by what Jim Farley thought of the Secretary of the Interior. General Hugh Johnson and Donald Richberg didn't exchange Valentines last February. But, the feud between Dan Roper and Ewing Mitchell, tops them all.

Mr. Mitchell had a chance to make a graceful exit. The President offered him a legal job in the Department of Commerce.

The idea was for a man of more executive experience to become Assistant Secretary. To this Mitchell snorted:- "Nothing doing." Thereupon the President retorted in effect:- "Here's your hat, don't slam the door."

But slam is exactly what Mr. Mitchell did. Not only slammed the door, but threw a brick through the window. Wrapped around the brick were serious charges against his chief, the Secretary of Commerce.

This is what the fired but firey Assistant Secretary says: "Favoritism and graft are rampant in the Department!" Then he blames said Department for the Morro Castle disaster. Says he: "That tragedy wouldn't have happened if inspection of steamboats had been properly conducted." Incidentally, after the inquiry into that disaster was over, important charges were made in that respect by order of President Roosevelt himself.

Another target for Mr. Mitchell's accusations is Eugene Vidal, Assistant Secretary in Charge of Aviation. He says that if that branch of the Department had been run properly, run by experienced officials, Senator Bronson Cutting of New Mexico would not have perished. But, so far as Mr. Vidal is concerned, it is

^{only}
fair to observe that he is an experienced aviator, a flyer in Uncle Sam's army during the War.

But that isn't all. Mr. Mitchell charges that there's a department scandal in the method of handling shipping subsidies.

All these accusations are far too grave to be ignored. The White House took immediate action. The President has ordered Attorney General Cummings to investigate at once.

So here we have what the headline writers called a "new probe". Meanwhile, Ewing Mitchell is out and Mr. Johnson, a civil engineer of South Carolina, sits at his desk in the Department of Commerce.

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A man few people had ever heard of woke up this morning to find himself suddenly prominent. That is James L. O'Neill, the new head of the N. R. A. Outside of banking circles he was unknown until today. He is a New Yorker and the Executive Vice President of the Guarantee Trust Bank, a shrewd, capable but not widely advertised banker. ^{now} So ^{new} American businessmen can see one of their own kind as the new handler of the Blue Eagle. He is the acting administrator of the ^{new} N. R. A. There's nothing of either the politician or the Brain Truster or the radical about James L. O'Neill. Incidentally, he is on leave-of-absence from the Guarantee Trust Company for as long as his ^{Washington} job lasts.

Here's Mr. O'Neill's description of himself to the reporters who came to write him up. He said:- "I am not a glamorous fellow. You newspaper men won't find any color or excitement in me." Then he added:- "I'm pretty dull." To which one might reply:- "At any rate, you're not conceited, Mr. O'Neill."

The lieutenants chosen for ^{him} ~~Mr. O'Neill~~ have been equally far removed from the limelight. Leon C. Marshall was the Executive Secretary of the old N. R. A. He becomes head of the

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Division of Review. That means it will be his job to observe the effect of the voluntary codes. He's an economist by profession, formerly of Johns Hopkins University. The liaison officer between business men and the Blue Eagle is Prentiss Coonley. When business men go to see him, there again they will be talking to one of themselves. Mr. Coonley is an executive of one of the big chain stores. And when Labor Union ^amen come in contact with N. R. A. they too will meet one of their own kind. George L. Berry, Assistant to the Acting Administrator has been a big shot in the A. F. of L.

TP There you have the set up of the new "stop-gap"

N. R. A. ^RThe policies of these men will be mainly one of education. They will use persuasion instead of the big stick of the law. They will try to educate the people on the one hand and business on the other, to cooperate to preserve the principles of fair wages and fair working conditions.

TAXES

There are two sure things in this life, and one of them is taxes. On this subject I have a bit of bad news for you. You're going to continue paying Uncle Sam handsomely on all the chewing gum you chew, all the gasoline you use, all the shows you go to see, and many other things. You're also going to ^{keep} ~~go~~ on putting a three ~~cent~~ cent stamp on your first class mail. And that for a further period of two years. In other words, the House of Representatives has just passed ~~xxx~~ the nuisance tax bill which is expected to raise half a billion dollars a year for your Uncle's treasury. The measure now is up to the Senate. ~~Let us pray that the Senators will get some new ideas.~~ This is one of the ten bits of legislation on which President Roosevelt had written the word: "Must".

CREDIT MEN

A particularly interesting convention is going ~~to be held~~ on in Pittsburgh. It's a meeting of the National Association of Credit Men. What they have to say is important because at least 95% of the world's business is conducted on credit. It's a credit man's business to be as cautious as possible. ^{! So,} when he's optimistic it ^{ought to} mean something. And Fred Roth, the president of that association says recovery is on it's way. To be sure, other people have said it before. But Mr. Roth backs it up with the charts of his organization, an organization of two thousand credit men all over the United States. He says the farmers are buying once more. And Chester Davis, administrator of the A.A.A. has figures to prove that the farmers' cash income was higher than it has been ~~in~~ any time in the last four years.

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RECOVERY FOLLOW CREDIT MEN

But it's not only in Uncle Sam's territory that things are picking up. The whole world is raising its head and stiffening its backbone. That we learn from the National Industrial Conference Board. It says that all over the globe industry produced more in the first three months of this year than it did in the same period last ~~year~~ year. ~~There's just one exception to this statement. The countries who stick to the gold standard are still in the doldrums.~~

~~Elsewhere unemployment dropped.~~ In America the number of jobless decreased one and a third per cent. In England five per cent; ~~were have been put to work;~~ in Germany seven per cent; and in France six per cent.

Business is better in Canada and Mexico, also in Australia. And here's a curious bit of information from Geneva. A survey by the League of Nations shows that Japan is exporting not only large quantities of silk, but of steel. The Mikado's empire not only has enough steel to carry on its warlike activities, but to sell it to other countries. That's something to think about.

STRIKE

There are glad tidings from one section of the labor front tonight. A bad strike has been settled, the one at Toledo, Ohio. That means good cheer for a large area, not only in Toledo, but in the surrounding country covering parts of three states and affecting half a million people.

Electrical workers very nearly have any modern industrial community at their mercy. And, that region at the western end of Lake Erie teems with busy factories. Every working man; in fact, the entire community had an extra special interest in settling that strike.

And, it's all off now. There was a meeting this afternoon of the employees of the Toledo Edison Company. The arbitrators after numerous palavers worked out a set of compromise proposals. The meeting this afternoon was the critical hour. The result was peace. The proposals were adopted by the men by a vote of three hundred and eleven to forty-eight. Those figures are particularly reassuring. They mean that there will be very little of the dissatisfaction that sometimes follows such settle-

ments. If the vote had been close it would have meant that the strike might have been renewed at an early date.

But there's no such good news from Omaha. Over the street car hullabaloo in the Nebraska capital there's still a dead-lock. The city is under martial law. Governor Cochrane running the show and ordering both sides to get busy and settle their differences. But while they are arguing Mr. and Mrs. Omaha are the principal sufferers. Mr. Omaha has to walk to work. Mrs. Omaha has to walk to buy her groceries. Not a street car running on the tracks tonight.

MEXICO

There's peace in the news today. All is quiet below the Rio Grande. ~~That's almost as surprising as the traditional story of the man who bites the dog.~~ There were all the makings of a lusty ~~and~~ civil war in that situation down in old Mexico. But the sudden abdication of General Plutarco Elías ^{ff} ~~Cayes~~, after ten years' dictatorship, gives a new twist to history. From the ^{End of Mexico} ~~Atlantic~~ to the Gulf of California, it was greeted with cheers. It means, for one thing, an end to religious persecution. And working people are jubilant because they no longer have to fear the strong hand of Mexico's iron man.

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~~Cayes~~ had made no bones about his attitude in that matter. He thought the strikes which were threatening almost every industry in the country were unjustified. And he thought President Cardenyas was much too lenient with the unions. His surrender leaves Cardenyas master of the situation and a national hero. Every city tonight is resounding with the cry; "^{Viva} ~~Long live~~ Cardenyas!" ^R By this time tomorrow we shall probably hear of a new cabinet in Mexico City, a cabinet leaning strongly to the left. It will be composed largely of men sympathetic to labor and those with radical tendencies.

The voluntary retirement of a dictator is quite astonishing in these times. General Cayes has been virtually the absolute ruler of Mexico ever since the assassination of his chief, General Obregon. All the Presidents who have been elected have been his men -- until now. He has raised other men to power and he has toppled them down again. For four years he himself occupied the building on the site of the old palace of Montezuma. He gave his country the most stable government it had seen since the days of Porfirio Diaz and his Cientificos. But apparently it's all at an end.

So Cayes withdraws himself from the political scene. At any rate, so he says. I wonder if he'll stay withdrawn? He can well afford to. He's an exceedingly rich man, the owner of several large estates.

President Cardenyas, who apparently has broken the power of the dictator, is the youngest President in Mexican history.

JAPAN

A familiar word comes from Asia: "The Japanese are on the move." As the Mikado says in the Gilbert-and-Sullivan opera:- "Their object all sublime, they will achieve in time." They're spreading over the Province of Hopei. And now their movements plainly indicate what everybody has prophecied. They have their slanting eager eyes on the nearby Province of Chahar. Every authority on the Far East has pointed out that Dai Nippon can't afford to be content with Hopei. There's no natural geographical boundary there. If they're going to hold what they've got, and they surely intend to, military reasons will compel them to march all the way to the Yellow River.

The question arises, how does this affect other countries? How does it affect Uncle Sam? How does it concern John Bull? What does it mean to France? The answer comes from London. Because England is acting for the other powers. A statement was made in the House of Commons this afternoon by John's new Foreign Secretary, Sir Samuel Hoare. He answered for all three countries. British, French and American business men are getting out of Manchukuo. The business tactics of the Japanese are pushing them to the wall. No European or American country can cope with the situation.

Sir Samuel was talking specifically about oil. For months the diplomats and business men of ^{Britain and the U.S.A.} ~~John Bull and Uncle Sam~~ have been pleading with Japanese officials. They were asking for a place in the sun.

The reply of the Japanese rulers of Manchukuo was polite, but in effect it meant, "Nothing doing. The ^{Sons of Nippon} ~~Japanese~~ are not here for their health."

"As a result", says the English Foreign Secretary, "the oil interests of ~~Britain~~ and America have completely stopped buying anything in Manchukuo. The Nipponese monopoly is absolute and competition is useless. The inference is that all other industries will eventually have to withdraw from the territory that the Mikado's ^{war} ~~oil~~ lords have grabbed.

Meanwhile, the Japanese are finding a new ~~excuse for~~ excuse for aggression. They have protested that General Sung Cheh Yuanⁿ, the Governor of Chahar, has allowed his troops to cross the border of Manchukuo and fired on the natives. However, the latest word on this is that the Chinese Governor has apologized for the incident. ~~If~~ But experience shows that this does not mean the ~~war~~ incident is ended. ~~So there is another territory where Uncle Sam will no longer be able to do business.~~

PITTS

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Three cheers for a short, white-haired gentleman in Chicago, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, Commissioner of Baseball. He's small in stature, but he's great of heart. This is the message that Commissioner Landis, the ~~star~~ Czar of baseball, sends out to the country this evening: "Alabama Pitts may play ball for the Albany Club of the International League."

The entire sporting world will give the little Judge a great big cheer. And I'm sure the public at large will echo it. On humane grounds, it certainly seems to be not only the kind but the wise decision.

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Judge Landis adds one rider to this permission. In this he says: "Pitts must not play in exhibition games." Baseball's Commissioner gave no reason for this part of his verdict. But it seems fairly obvious and quite sound. It means that Pitts' background as an ex-convict must not be exploited ^{as} such ~~fashion~~ by the Albany Club.

There's one man in Albany who will give a particularly loud cheer for the Judge. That's Johnny Evers, once of the famous "Tinker to Evers to Chance" combination of a couple of decades ago.

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Johnny today is Manager in Albany. It was he who offered Pitts his job when he got out of Sing Sing. He took the ruling of Judge Braham of North Carolina so much to heart that he said: "If Pitts isn't allowed to play ball, I'm going to get out of the game for good myself." Well, that episode ends satisfactorily for almost everybody. At any rate, Pitts will play for Albany; that once great infielder Johnny Evers will stay in baseball; and there's good feeling all around. So hip! hip! and --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.