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ONE MINUTE NEWS

In Tokyo, Emperor Hirohito reads his country's new Constitution to the assembled Japanese parliament. This public announcement that their Emperor is not divine brings vast crowds to the forecourt of the Imperial Palace to see Hirohito and his Empress. Fifteen months ago, such a scene would have been unthinkable. Now, the crowd roars, "Banxai" to the man who was once called God.

As the royal party leaves, the crowd gets out of hand, pushing through police to gaze at their Emperor. With a little American prodding, Hirohito steps out.

In the Mersey, off New Brighton, the Belfast coaster, "Stormont" heels over. With a cargo of 210 head of cattle, the ship was wrecked after a collision with an outward bound Canadian Brides vessel. Dead animals are hauled ashore. Many were rescued - others drowned or were shot.

While floods in Britain make their inevitable return to the headlines, here's a watery tale from Rome. Territorial rains burnt the banks of the river Tiber, sweeping mud a yard deep in the city's streets.

Their houses uninhabitable, hundreds of families had to retrieve what they could when water and debris subsided. And with shoe shine boys rubbed out by the mud, Roman barbers take over the pavements.