

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

1 Here's a wild and wooly item
2 straight from Oklahoma.

3 Governor Alfalfa Bill Murray is
4 right up on his hind legs. Today he sent
5 ~~de~~ detachments of the Oklahoma National
6 Guard into those sections where the
7 oil ~~wells~~ derricks are like the trees of *the*
8 *a* forest.

9 The price of oil, as the Associated
10 Press reminds us, is low. In fact it ~~to~~ *has*
11 reached the vanishing point--in the fields,
12 I mean. There is over-production, it
13 seems, and Alfalfa Bill decided that the
14 oil wells ought to shut down for a while
15 until the price of oil climb^s ~~ed~~ back ^{to} ^{at}
16 least ~~to~~ ^a \$1.00 a barrel. ~~Some of the~~
17 ~~oil operators didn't see eye to eye with~~
18 ~~the Governor, on this, whereupon Alfalfa~~
19 ~~Bill threatened to declare martial law.~~
20 ~~But the threat wasn't enough so Old~~
21 ~~Alfalfa Bill was as good as his word.~~
22 And now he has marched soldiers into the
23 oil fields and ordered them to close up
24 every well that has a daily average
25 production of 25 barrels or more.

There are 3106 oil wells that come

under this classification. ^{ff} Today's military
operations were centered at the oil
field near Oklahoma City. Several
hundred wells were closed up as tight
as the shell of a frightened clam.
The International News Service
in ^{tonight's} ~~its~~ war bulletin says that Alfalfa
Bill's soldiers will proceed tomorrow
to the Greater Seminole oil district,
and that's big stuff because ~~those~~
~~Greater Seminole oil~~ wells are operated
by the ~~bigger and more influential~~
companies. The operators are against
the Governor's policy and they declare
they won't shut down, except at the
point of ^{the} bayonet. However, the point
of the bayonet seems to be Alfalfa Bill's
meat and drink.

The United Press quotes the
Governor ^{as} coming out with a fiery
declaration: - ^{ff} "THE PRICE OF OIL", roared
Alfalfa Bill, "MUST GO TO A DOLLAR A
BARREL, AND DON'T ASK ME ANY MORE DARN
QUESTIONS."

Meanwhile there is a movement on

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foot in Eastern Texas to shut down the
oil wells there so as to increase the
price. A meeting of oil operators
has been called for tomorrow.

1 *in this next dispatch*
2 No, [^]there isn't any sound of
3 cheering, although ~~this next bit of news~~
4 ~~it does announce a~~ ~~announces the~~ [^]winner. Yes, the winner
5 is Old Man Grass Hopper. That pesky
6 insect has licked the forces of the
7 Middle West and also the United States
8 Government.

9 Dr. W. H. Larimer, Government
10 Entomologist, announced today that
11 reports received by the Department of
12 Agriculture indicate that the plague
13 of grasshoppers in the mid-western and
14 northwestern states can not be wiped
15 out--at least not this year.

16 The grasshoppers have been
17 spreading far and wide, ~~and~~ doing ~~a~~ huge
18 ~~amount of~~ damage, and they are still
19 spreading. They are ~~flying, buzzing~~ *advancing at the rate of*
20 ~~through the air and making a progress~~
21 ~~which is said to amount to~~ [^]fifty miles
22 a day.

23 All sorts of tricks have been
24 tried to exterminate the grasshoppers,
25 all the way from poisoning them by
scientific means to just stamping on
them. But nothing seems to have done

much good. In previous plagues the grasshoppers have even stopped trains.

The latest announcement is that the poisoning operations will be continued but the idea is merely to get rid of the grasshoppers for next year. For the present the pesky critters seem to be having their own way.

And so the referee can only announce:

THE WINNER --BATTLING GRASSHOPPER, and as he says that, the referee gets hold of one of Battling Grasshopper's horny flippers and raises it in the air, in token of victory. But there's no salvo of cheers from the gallery --- just a raucous, sour chorus of groans and cat calls from the folks in the Middle West and North West.

1 ~~Of course we all know that a~~
2 ~~chicken hasn't got any teeth. And now~~
3 ~~comes a regulation about chickens which,~~
4 ~~they say, hasn't any teeth either.~~

5 In Connecticut the Motor
6 Vehicle Department has issued a call for
7 automobile drivers to respect the rights
8 of chickens crossing the road. It is,
9 of course, well known that one of the
10 great problems of motoring is that old
11 hen or rooster that insists on making
12 a dash out into the road just as the
13 car comes along. ~~The chicken squawks~~
14 ~~and flaps its wings, and the motorist~~
15 ~~mutters hard words to himself.~~

16 Well, the Connecticut automobile
17 authorities have come to the defense of
18 the chicken. Quite a few plymouth
19 rocks and leghorns have been run down,
20 and the Motor Vehicle Department says
21 it's about time to call a halt. ~~Of~~
22 ~~course you can't call a halt on the~~
23 ~~chickens. Hens and roosters aren't~~
24 ~~built that way. And of course they~~
25 ~~don't intend to call a halt on~~

1 ~~automobiling in general in Connecticut.~~
2 ~~It's merely a case of a solemn bit of~~
3 ~~reproof.~~

4 The new issue of the Literary
5 Digest, the one that comes out tomorrow,
6 tells us that automobile drivers have
7 been called upon to respect that noble
8 bird the chicken, and to realize that
9 hens and roosters are entitled to life,
10 liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
11 ~~The automobile authorities go so far as~~
12 ~~to say that the up-right motorist with~~
13 ~~a conscience should regard chickens~~
14 ~~on the highway with just about the same~~
15 ~~kind of care that he displays toward~~
16 ~~children.~~

17 But the ^{new} Literary Digest goes on
18 to quote the Providence, Rhode Island,
19 Journal as saying that the statement
20 given out by the Connecticut authorities
21 doesn't mean anything much. It's just
22 good advice and isn't binding on
23 anybody. It has no teeth in it any
24 more than the chicken itself has. ~~We~~
25 ~~are told that conscientious motorists~~

1 ~~have always respected the rights of a~~
2 ~~chicken, while the motorists with~~
3 ~~tougher consciences will go right on~~
4 ~~paying little attention to the health~~
5 ~~and happiness of the chickens crossing~~
6 ~~the road.~~

7 ~~But wait a moment, I seem to have~~
8 ~~made a mistake there.~~ The Literary
9 Digest quotes the Providence Journal
10 as propounding that ancient riddle,
11 "Why does a hen cross the road?" The
12 answer is that no hen ever crosses the
13 road -- that is, at least when an
14 automobile is coming along. Old Mrs.
15 Hen just ^{gets} ~~crosses~~ as far as the middle
16 ~~of the road~~ and then she runs around in
17 circles in front of your car and flaps
18 her wings and squawks.

1 In the mountain country of upper
2 New York state -- the Catskills -- a
3 man was sentenced to 15 years in prison
4 today. His name is Scassio, and he's
5 a pal of Legs Diamond, New York's
6 notorious gangster.

7 ~~Scassio~~ As the International
8 News Service reminds us, ^{he} _^ was tried on
9 the same charge as Legs Diamond himself
10 up ^{there} _^ in the Catskills. Both were
11 accused of beating up and torturing a
12 farmer. Diamond was acquitted, and
13 that was something of a scandal at the
14 time. He proved an ~~alibi~~ alibi, and
15 it is claimed that the alibi was based
16 on perjury. And now ^{his partner,} ~~Scassio~~ _^ on the
17 same charge and accused by the same
18 evidence ~~that was advanced against~~
19 ~~Diamond~~ has been found guilty and given
20 15 years.

21 Meanwhile, Diamond himself is
22 being tried in New York ^{City} _^ on a government
23 charge of prohibition violation.
24 According to the story of the United
25 Press, the prosecution is presenting

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a bit of strong evidence against the gangster. One of his former associates admitted prohibition violations but refused to name Diamond. ~~And~~^{But} another man who had worked for this associate directly accused the skinny New York racketeer.

*Capone in Chicago — and now
Diamond in New York*

1 Those two American aviators
2 ~~collected~~ in Nicaragua whose plane was shot
3 down by rebels, have arrived safe and
4 sound at the headquarters of the
5 Marines. They had not been made
6 prisoners after all. It seemed certain
7 that they had fallen into the hands of
8 Sandino's bandits, but they managed to
9 slip through.

10 They were accompanied by another
11 plane. ~~and~~ When machine-gun fire from
12 the ground put their ~~plane~~^{bus} out of
13 commission the second ~~machine~~^{plane} signalled
14 them to land if they could, set ~~off~~ their
15 bus afire and make their way on foot to
16 the Marine base.

17 When they didn't appear it was
18 feared they had been captured, and a
19 relief party ~~started~~^{set} out. ~~in search of~~
20 ~~them~~. But soon afterwards they came
21 walking in. They had ^{certainly} had one ~~hard~~^{tough} time
22 of it. The country was infested with
23 rebels, and they had to make an ugly
24 journey of it to keep out of the
25 clutches of Sandino's men. They

1 battled their way through jungles and
2 over ~~mountain ranges~~ rocky ridges. The
3 malarial swamps were infested with
4 alligators, mosquitos and venemous
5 insects. Those two boys had to ~~cut~~ hack
6 paths for themselves through the
7 tangled thickets. When they came in they
8 were black and blue from bruises and
9 cold -- because it was chilly up there
10 in the hills. And ^{also} they were ^{about} half dead
11 from fatigue.

7
12 But they're all ^{okay} ~~right~~ now, ^{and} as
13 the International News Service informs
14 us -- they're ~~just~~ resting up ^{and thanking}
15 their lucky stars that they're still alive!

Sherman
Voorhees
geider.

Aug. 5, 1931

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AVIATION

A great big flying boat headed up the coast of Brazil today. Yes, the DO-X, Germany's giant seaplane. She's on her way northward, and hopes before long to reach New York. A few weeks ago, as the International News Service reminds us, the DO-X flew across the South Atlantic to South America. Now she's bound for New York.

The Lindberghs are at the village of Aklavik, way up in the northwestern part of Canada, north of the Arctic Circle. They landed today after flying from Baker Lake, a hop of over eleven hundred miles across wild, desolate territory. The United Press states that the Colonel and the Mrs. averaged better than 100 miles an hour on this last leg, which is probably the most dangerous of their whole trip.

The next stop that Slim and Anne will make will be on to Alaska, and there they will have to cross some more forbidding land that is empty and dreary. The young couple will fly across the heart of Alaska and the Yukon Valley, ~~th~~ and thence across stormy Bering Sea to Asia.

Later news has just come from the the mouth of the Mackenzie River.

Now while we are on the subject of aviation, let's take up an unusual angle. In the studio here with me is a gentleman who is identified with a certain kind of flying. Another kind. He is Mr. Sherman Voorhees, and he hails from Elmira, New York. I have asked him to tell us something about his particular way of winging through the air. We've been hearing plenty about regular aviation, and I thought it would be a change to have something about the usual angle. And now I'll just let Sherman Voorhees zoom onto the air for me for a moment.

Well, let's see if I can glide into this without taking a spill. Glide is the right word all right, because this is about gliders.

The National Gliders Association is holding its second annual gliding and soaring contest up at Elmira, New York. You know there's a difference between gliding and soaring. In gliding you can ride behind an automobile or an airplane or almost anything that's traveling along.

But in soaring you swing about in the air under your own power, that is, under no power at all except the prevailing wind.

We've got twenty-one gliders soaring around at Elmira this week, and next.

By the way Lindbergh is a glider pilot and Admiral Byrd a member of an Elmira Glider Club.

Gliding is a tricky and skilful business. I remember at last year's meet Frank Hawks came up. He had recently finished the first glider flight across the continent. He was towed by an airplane and rode his glider all the way from the

Pacific to the Atlantic. That's all the gliding Frank had done. He really had never tried any soaring where you're not towed by anything.

Well, he thought he was going to show the boys a trick or two in the way of soaring. He got into the glider. Kids of twenty and twenty-two were swinging gracefully through the air out there in the valley rising and circling and so on. Frank thought he was going to show them something. They launched him off the side of a hill and Frank just went down. No, he didn't do any graceful soaring. He went right down, skimming the side of the hill. He didn't know anything about the wind currents. He didn't even know what those kids up there knew; I mean that you've got to play the breezes. And so Frank landed down there safe and sound, but thoroughly humiliated. He had to laugh at himself and of course everybody else laughed too.

But Frank is one swell flying man. It took him just a couple of days, and he was riding the wind with the best of them.

And talking about riding the wind, Hastings, one of our crack gliders up at Elmira, made a beautiful flight yesterday riding a thunderstorm. He saw the storm clouds, and he got right in front of them and was carried along eight miles rising to 2700 feet.

And a German boy who holds the world's record for gliding 165 miles, made his marvelous glide in front of a thunderstorm too.

I could go on a couple of hours about the joys and thrills of ~~me~~ soaring on the breezes in a plane without power. But I guess I'd better cut it short and glide right out of here.

3 Fine, let's keep right
on gliding. Let's glide along,

1 ~~Let's take time off for a~~
2 ~~moment and listen~~ to a few polite and
3 well-modulated razzberries.

4 The New York Evening Post today
5 devotes a column and a half to taking
6 a few funny pokes at George Bernard
7 Shaw. Well, for all these years Shaw
8 has been taking funny pokes at about
9 almost everybody and everything -- so
10 I suppose it's only fair.

11 The subject of the hilarious
12 laughter is Shaw's prediction on his
13 return from Russia that "capitalism
14 is doomed." He predicted that
15 Communism would sweep the face of the
16 world. Well, maybe so, but at the same
17 time we are reminded ^{by the N.Y. Eve. Post of some of Shaw's} ~~of some~~ previous
18 predictions. ~~that Shaw has made~~ The
19 scintillating Irish dramatist has a
20 way of draping the mantle of prophesy
21 around him. ^{then, as Sir Oracle,} and he raises his voice
22 and foretells the future.

23 The most famous incident, of
24 course, was in the case of the Dempsey-
25 Carpentier fight. Shaw predicted the

result of that Battle-of-the-Century -- he predicted loudly and at length. The only trouble was that his dome was all wet. He declared that Carpentier would certainly win. He said ~~h~~ the right odds should be 50 to 1 on the Frenchman.

That was what is known as a laugh, because Dempsey proceeded to knock Carpentier galley west. And the old Manasse Mauler had such an easy time of it that Shaw was made to look more ridiculous than he had ever looked before.

Then the New York Evening Post goes on to give us a few more incidents in which Shaw looked into the Crystal ball.

In 1916 when the World War was at its height Shaw came out with a prophesy of how the struggle of the nations would end. He declared that Russia would get Constantinople, Persia, and part of German Poland. And, adds the New York Evening Post he certainly was away off on that one.

Then immediately after the war the fanciful Irishman burst into some more prophesy. He predicted that there would soon be an alliance ~~xxx~~ between the United States, Great Britain, France, Holland, Denmark, Sweden and Norway. Wrong again. Yes, by considerable.

But by 1921 G.B.S. had changed his mind about that alliance, and he now predicted that within twenty years Great Britain would have ~~x~~ two big wars, one with the United States, and the other with Japan. He prophesied that first England with the help of Japan would wipe out the American navy, and then with that job done John Bull would turn on Japan and wipe out the Japanese navy. That bit of fortune-telling was got off in 1921 and still has ten years to go. But from the looks of things it's going to be just another case of Shaw doing a nose dive at this business of being a prophet.

And so on the basis of past performance, the New York Evening Post assures us that we don't have to take Shaw's prophesy that capitalism is doomed as any indication that the Red Flag is soon to be flying over the Capitol at Washington, or that President Hoover will soon be addressing Secretary-of-the Treasury Mellon as "Comrade Mellonski."

Well, after those mis-adventures in prophesy on the part of a great man like George Bernard Shaw, I don't think I'll ever try to fortell the future. In fact, those predictions ~~is~~

in which Shaw was all wrong have stricken me so dumb that for the moment I don't feel able to go on telling the past or the present, so I'll just glide out of here now with my usual,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.