

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1931

HURRICANE

Good Evening, Everybody:

Word is slow in coming through about the hurricane situation in the West Indies. Communications are one of the first things to go when a big wind hits. But the United Press makes it clear that there were two separate and distinct hurricanes. And one was a good deal worse than the other.

The big wind that wasn't so bad was the one that swept over the Island of Porto Rico. It hit the town of San Juan and raised general havoc. The howling storm knocked down buildings and ripped off roofs. Telegraph and telephone poles were snapped off. Tonight the streets of San Juan are a mass of wreckage. The Associated Press reports two people killed.

Yes, that hurricane was bad enough but it wasn't half as bad as the one that hit British Honduras. Tremendous winds swooped down on the town of Belize, a city of about 13,000 people. It wrecked the town. 70% of the buildings in the capitol of British Honduras were completely demolished.

1 Word has been coming through from
2 the Radio station of the Pan American
3 Airways ^{at Belize.} The station was knocked galley
4 west by the wind but the boys down there
5 have been operating with a patched-up
6 set. First reports were that several
7 hundred people ~~have~~ ^{had} been killed. The
8 International News Service says the figure
9 has been raised to 500.

10 Among the dead are several American
11 priests. The American Consul was slightly
12 injured.

13 Well, those two hurricanes which
14 hit ~~it~~ about the same time did their
15 ~~own~~ damage and went their way. The one
16 that passed over Porto Rico is reported
17 to be heading for the northwest, across
18 the stretch of sea that separates Porto
19 Rico from Haiti. That Belise hurricane
20 is also headed northwest. According to
21 ~~the~~ last reports the center of the wind
22 was in the southernmost corner of the
23 Gulf of Mexico.

24 Yes, hurricanes are an old, sad
25 story in the West Indies, but when two of
them go on a rampage together, why that's
a trifle more unusual.

REFRIGERATION

1 Word comes from Italy of what
2 may be an important discovery. The
3 United Press reports that Italian
4 engineers have discovered a way to do
5 without ice in the shipment of fresh
6 fruit and flowers. They say they won't
7 have to use refrigerat^{or}~~ion~~ cars any more,
8 but will use a gas instead. It's a *kind*
9 ~~can~~ of special carbon gas. The
10 perishable goods~~x~~ are placed in
11 hermetically sealed cans, which are
12 filled with this newly discovered gas.
13 They are maintained at ordinary
14 temperatures and the gas has the effect
15 of keeping them from spoiling.

16 They say it works even better
17 than ice. Fruits and flowers shipped
18 in refrigerating cars have to be picked
19 green and allowed to ripen on the way.
20 But they say that with this new system
21 fruits and flowers can be allowed to
22 ripen on the trees or bushes and then
23 packed and shipped. The gas stops any
24 change from taking place.

1 but they weren't the right documents.
2 They were the documents that had been
3 made out for another couple who were
4 to be married a short time later. The
5 Clerk just laid the ^{papers pertaining} ~~documents belonging~~
6 to that other couple down on the table
7 and the newly married pair signed
8 them without ~~xxx~~ looking at them too
9 closely.

10 I suppose when one gets married
11 one is a little to flustered to read
12 carefully through a long ~~xxx~~ legal
13 paper. Well, the young couple who think
14 they are married and are not, are on a
15 honeymoon traveling through the South
16 of France. Nobody knows where ^{to reach them.} ~~they~~
17 ~~are~~ When they return they will
18 discover to their amazement that they
19 will have to be married all over again.
20 oo-la-la!

1 I'm afraid I'm not much of a
2 star gazer or at any rate not much of a
3 moon gazer. I don't know whether the
4 moon is full tonight or whether it's
5 New Moon or what. But at any rate,
6 this may be the fourth day of the
7 New Moon, and if it is that may mean
8 something.

9 Over in France at the Observatory
10 of Bourges, the director is an old
11 star gazer, Abbe Moreau. Well, the
12 venerable Abbe is known far and wide in
13 scientific circles for his studies of
14 the weather in relation to the moon.

15 It's an old idea that the moon
16 has an effect on the weather, but this,
17 says the Abbe Moreau, is not true. The
18 lady moon is beautiful to look at and
19 makes lovely moonlight, but she has
20 no effect on winds and rain, dampness or
21 dryness, heat or cold. The United
22 Press quotes the Abbe Moreau that the
23 moon affects the tides and that's all.

24 But the Abbe isn't so sure
25 but that the moon may give us a hint

1 ~~about the weather.~~ A halo around the *MOON*
2 ~~is~~ is supposed to be a sign of rain.
3 And there are other indications. The
4 people of ancient times believed that
5 the fourth day of the new moon told
6 a story of the weather for the coming
7 month. Abbe Moreau reminds us ^{of} what
8 the famous Pliny, the Elder, wrote
9 nearly two thousand years ago. "In
10 Egypt" wrote Pliny, "it is observed
11 that the fourth day of the new moon
12 must be taken as an indication. If the
13 lunar body shows itself clear on the
14 fourth day, ~~that~~ fine weather will
15 continue through the month." Well,
16 that's what the ~~xxx~~ ancient Roman
17 had to say. And the Abbe Moreau after
18 long years of study, is not so sure that
19 the moon may not give some sort of
20 indication of the state of the weather.
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1 Well, we appear to have reached
2 the year five thousand six hundred and
3 ninety-two--that is according to the
4 Jewish calendar. Today is Rosh Ha-Shanah,
5 the Jewish New Year.

6 Yes, it's an ancient festival
7 celebrated by the children of Abraham
8 through the long procession of the
9 centuries. Well, I thought I might as
10 well find something out about this feast
11 of Rosh Ha-Shanah. I didn't have far to
12 look. The Literary Digest publishes a
13 work which is one of the big scholarly
14 accomplishments of our time. It is the
15 Jewish Encyclopedia.

16 So I went to the Jewish Encyclopedia
17 and looked up Rosh Ha-Shanah and found
18 that the term also means one of the books
19 of ~~the~~ Jewish sacred literature. It's a
20 ~~the section~~ ^{treatise} about the calendar and the
21 years and the months. It also outlines
22 the ceremonies with which the New Year is
23 to be celebrated, including the blowing
24 of the Shofar, the Ram's Horn.

25 ~~One of my colleagues at the Literary~~

~~Digest~~ tells me that in these parts
~~the word is pronounced "Shoyfer", but~~
~~the Jewish Encyclopedia gives the old~~
~~form of "Shofar".~~ Yes, that's the
 Ram's Horn, which will sound its deep
 trumpeted notes tomorrow.

For today, the beginning of ^{another} ~~the New~~
 Year, Jews all over the world gather at
 sundown in the synagogues to usher in the
 New Year. And when they say "Good bye"
 to each other tonight they have a special
 formula which they repeat. Here it is
 as well as I can pronounce it: ^{my Hebrew is not so hot:-}

LEY SHONO TOIVO TEEKOSAYVO
 A KSEEVO VEY AKSEEMAH

It means "For the New Year good shall be
 written for all-----And the good should
 be written and recorded".

Well, ~~xx~~ this is one of the great
 feasts ~~x~~ of the year ^{for Jews} all over the world
 and tonight from New York to ~~Trapezon~~ ^{Trebizond}
 and from ~~Trapezon~~ ^{Trebizond} to the Malabar coast
 of India, the ancient people are ushering
 in the year five thousand six hundred and
 ninety two.

Miss Helen
Yates of
San
Francisco
who
traveled to
Bali.

Sept. 11, 1931

- p. 10

1 Going back to that book of
2 marvels I mentioned last night, that the
3 Literary Digest is bringing out, it
4 occurred to me that a series of marvels
5 would make grand material for the radio.
6 After all, the ~~day's~~ news dispatches
7 coming from all parts of the world,
8 tell us about a marvel or two almost
9 every day: ~~hurricanes, earthquakes,~~
10 ~~and so on.~~

11 There's a young lady here in
12 the studio with me who has seen ^{her share of} ~~a few~~
13 marvels. Recently she returned from the
14 South Seas. She has written a book
15 about a place that we are told is just
16 about the last bit of paradise left on
17 earth, ^{Bali,} ~~the enchanted island of Bali,~~
18 in the Dutch East Indies, down near
19 Java, a few hundred miles from Singapore.
20 Her name is Helen ^{Eva} Yates. She
21 comes from San Francisco. For years she
22 had been dreaming about visiting the
23 enchanted island of Bali and recently her
24 dream came true. ~~Miss~~ Yates, did you
25 encounter any marvels on your enchanted
island?

1 Oh, everything I saw out there
2 in the South Seas seemed like a marvel.
3 But ~~xxx~~ let me see - you mean something
4 very very extraordinary.

5 Well, on our way to Bali we first
6 sailed across the Pacific and then down on
7 the coast of Sumatra and Java. ~~Between~~
8 ~~those two great islands, Java and~~
9 ~~Sumatra, there is a stretch of water~~
10 ~~called Sunda Straits. When we came to~~
11 ~~that locality ~~xxxxx~~ an officer on the~~
12 ~~ship sent a boy down to my cabin telling~~
13 ~~me to hurry on deck.~~

14 We were cruising through the
15 jade green water^s of the Java Sea. ~~xxx~~
16 ~~But~~ Just a few miles off, in the distance,
17 was the weirdest sight I ever saw. It
18 looked like a water spout. There was a
19 huge column of water and steam coming out
20 of the sea and shooting up to a tremendous
21 height. ^{A ship's} ~~The~~ officer explained that what
22 we were seeing was the eruption of a
23 submarine volcano.

24 And that volcano is known as
25 Krakatoa. It has erupted many times.

1 In fact, once a part of the cone could
2 be seen above the surface of Java Sea.
3 Then it blew up and the eruption was so
4 tremendous that the whole top of ~~xxxx~~
5 old Krakatoa was blown off and the
6 mountain disappeared. Thirty-six
7 thousand human beings perished. ~~Heavy~~
8 ~~clouds of ashes fell over~~ ^{for} ~~hundreds of~~
9 ~~miles around.~~ Although it happened in
10 ~~broad daylight total darkness extended~~
11 ~~for a hundred and fifty miles or so.~~
12 Scientists declared that the column of
13 stones and lava from the eruption shot
14 into the air to a height of about seventeen
15 miles. ~~But~~ The finer particles of dust
16 were carried to unbelievable distances.
17 ~~Scientists say that~~ The dust from that
18 explosion ~~and~~ actually covered this entire
19 earth and spread all the way across the
20 Pacific Ocean to North America, South
21 Africa, and even to Scandinavia.
22 ~~xxxx~~ Giant sea waves were caused
23 by the eruption of old Krakatoa, waves
24 so great that they traveled more than
25 ten thousand miles.

But, oh, I can just tell you about lots of marvels. The enchanted island of Bali is a marvel and so are the women who live there. They are very beautiful and they wear hardly anything more than a coat of ten, and they're so lovely to look at that you're glad they don't.

Oh, and the flowers! On Bali is a flower that is said to be the largest in the world, and that surely is a marvel. It is called the Devil Flower, or, if you like scientific names, the Latin for it is *Rafflesia Arnoldi*. Sometimes a single flower weighs as much as fifteen pounds, and a single petal on the Devil Flower has been known to be thirty inches in length. I have a picture of one with a man standing beside it and it's as tall as he is.

It is a terrifying flower, somewhat like a monstrous tiger lily with spotted scarlet throat and thick petals, almost flesh like in texture and coloring.

It's cup is full of a poisonous nectar which attracts every flying insect and then when the insects are caught by the Devil Flower they die and collect there in the calyx giving off

a strange, unpleasant, sickly odor.

This weird flower has no seeds and no roots. It springs from a fungus and comes out to its giant size all in one night. So it is no wonder that this ghost of blossoms is looked upon by the people of the Dutch East Indies as the favorite flower of their favorite Devils.

How's that for a marvel?

AIRSHIP Well, that was fascinating.
Here's a marvel that seems to ~~have~~ ^{Page} 15
~~gone on~~ be on the financial rocks:—

1 The end of a big experiment was
2 announced today. Prime Minister Ramsay
3 MacDonald of Great Britain, told the
4 House of Commons that the big British
5 airship, the R-100, would be disposed
6 of. They are going to try to sell that
7 giant liner of the air. The reason is
8 economy. It costs plenty to operate
9 one of those huge leviathans of the
10 sky and right now * England is cutting
11 down expenses. The United Press
12 explains that the R-100 along with her
13 sister ship the R-101, which was
14 destroyed in a great disaster, were
15 intended as the beginning of a ~~great~~ ^{great} ~~vast~~
16 scheme to link up the British Empire
17 by means of great dirigible airships.
18 But the idea is off now with the
19 announcement running this way:—"For
20 Sale, one giant airship."
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1 Tonight over in Europe an
2 airplane is trying to see how far to
3 the east it can fly. Yes, there's only
4 one. Two started out this morning.
5 The idea was to hold a race, a distance
6 race. The two planes ^{took off} ~~are out~~ to see
7 which ~~one~~ could keep going the longest
8 and flying ~~ing~~ the farthest.

9 The Associated Press reminds
10 us that the United States now holds the
11 long distance championship. The record
12 was made by Boardman and Polando in that
13 hum-dinger of a flight of theirs all
14 the way from the United States to Istanbul-
15 Constantinople. It's the French who are
16 out to beat that record. One of the
17 two planes that started the race was the
18 Hyphen ^{the Second.} ~~is~~ Among the aviators aboard
19 ~~are~~ ^{is} Joseph LeBrix, ^{who was one of the first} ~~a flier who has made~~
20 ~~the famous flight~~ ^{to fly from Africa} across the South
21 Atlantic, ^{to South America.} A second plane was the
22 Question Mark with another trans-
23 atlantic flier aboard, Dieudonne Coste.
24 The two planes made good take-offs and
25 started out on that trip to the east.

1 The Question Mark didn't get very far,
2 however. An International News Service
3 dispatch gives the word that it was
4 forced ~~XXXXXXXX~~ down near the city of
5 Düsseldorf in Germany. So Coste is down.

6 The Hyphen, ^{the second,} ~~the~~ however, kept on
7 going, and according to last reports
8 is still going strong. Let's hope she is.

AIRPLANE

Over in Italy today an airplane did a bit of speeding -- yes, speeding is the word. Over Lake Garda, one of the Italian planes that was to have entered the Schneider Cup Race tried to see how fast it could go. It went $394\frac{1}{2}$ miles an hour and that breaks the record made by the British of 375 an hour.

Well, that speed record that was made today may be broken tomorrow. The Schneider Cup Races will be held over in England. The British won't have any competition. The French and Italians have withdrawn from the race. They asked for a postponement and couldn't get it. And so the British planes are going to fly all by themselves. It won't be so much of a race as it will be a speed ~~XXXX~~ test. The British planes are merely going to see how fast they can go.

And now - well, I think I'll see how fast I can go.
So, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.