

Good Afternoon, Everybody:-

Let's begin our review of the week's news with something startling, -- at least it's startling at ~~the~~ first glance. At Omaha, Nebraska, three hundred voters signed a petition to nominate for mayor -- guess who? -- Zangara, that same ~~Giuseppe~~ Zangara who tried to assassinate President-elect Roosevelt. The voters who signed this truly astounding electoral petition are mostly professional men, lawyers and so on. What's the matter with Omaha? Well, nothing much, ~~not much more than is wrong with most voters~~ ^{Just this:-}

The New York Herald-Tribune tells a tale of how one lawyer bet another he could get three hundred signatures asking for the nomination of any ^{body, just anybody.} ~~man whose name was~~ written in the ~~petition~~. The second lawyer took the bet

and specified that the name of the candidate should be Zangara, the would-be assassin. The petition was circulated, and the three hundred names were easily obtained. The ones who signed ~~the petition of NSM nomination~~ just didn't bother to look and see who was being nominated.

~~Now going along to the grimmer side - Mayor Cermak of Chicago is reported to be improved somewhat today. He had ~~an~~ oxygen and a blood transfusion, and his condition seems somewhat more promising.~~

That is an echo of the Miami affair - a lighter one. But, now for the darker side. The late word is that the doctors hold almost no hope for Mayor Cermak of Chicago.

CABINET

Washington spent a busy week discussing the new cabinet that will go in with Mr. Roosevelt next Saturday.

Arthur Krock, writing in the New York Times, sums up Washington opinion ~~as~~ that the new cabinet is a good sound average, ~~and that~~ its dominating quality, ~~its dominating quality~~ is not brilliance but diligence -- ~~that~~ ~~is~~, a capacity for plain hard work.

It is pointed out that the Democratic party this year is chock full of men of outstanding ability -- such as Alfred E. Smith, Owen D. Young, Bernard Barouch, Carter Glass, John W. Davis, Governor Ritchie of Maryland. Of the list of expected cabinet members ^{only} ~~are~~ two ^{are} dominant Democratic figures, Senator Cordell Hull, of Tennessee, ~~who is~~ slated for Secretary of State, and Senator Walsh of Montana, ~~who is named as~~ Attorney General. Among the other Democrats best known nationally, some refused to take a cabinet post, and others ^{did} ~~would~~ not fit in just right with Mr. Roosevelt's policies.

In social circles there is much fussing around with inquiries about the social graces of the new ^{cabinet} secretaries and their wives and families.

By the way, Senator Walsh has just gotten married, in his seventy-fourth year. The Senator's bride is a Cuban, a widow, a member of one of the most prominent families of Cuba. ~~The Senator himself, was previously married. The report was that the wedding would be held tomorrow, but but~~ The ceremony was performed yesterday, a couple of days in advance -- to avoid publicity.

And of course there's a prime social importance *as well* in the fact that the President ~~of the United States~~ will have a woman in his cabinet, Miss Frances Perkins, ~~who is~~ slated to ~~be~~^{be} secretary of Labor.

is political

INAUGURATION

All over the country people have been getting ready for the Inaugural next Saturday -- that is, everybody who has a chance to go. This includes quantities of political big wigs, and some that are not so big, and some that are just plain folks like the rest of us ^{who} ~~and~~ want to see ~~something~~ ~~of~~ the big show.

New York City Democrats have hired seven trains to carry troops of politicians and their families to Washington. The New York Herald-Tribune says ~~that~~ 250,000 guests ~~in all~~ are expected at the national capital next Saturday.

PROHIBITION

The week's news from every state in the Union includes a good deal about those conventions to pass upon the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment. There's a good deal of wonderment and puzzling, because never before in the history of the country have the states been called upon to hold conventions for the ratification or repeal of an amendment. And there seem to be no precise rules about how it should be done.

The New York Times today prints a series of articles summarizing the outlook.

The opinion is given that half of the New England states are certain to ratify repeal, ^{but} ~~Maine~~ and New Hampshire may go dry; with Vermont doubtful. The Middle Atlantic states are on the side of repeal. In the South there is plenty of doubt. Florida is the only state that seems certain to ratify promptly. In the other southern states there may be a dry preponderance or a delay in calling the conventions. In the Middle West three states are staging a battle to be

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first to ratify -- Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana.

It looks as if there will be a delay in Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. Nebraska may not act for two years. ^{TP} In the

Northwest opinion is divided. There will be a fight in

Utah. In Colorado the wets are urging a special session

of the Legislature. ^{TP} Wyoming is all set. ^{Put there} Arrangements

for a ratifying convention are already made -- they were

made before Congress had even passed repeal. ^{TP} The Pacific

^{states all} coast seems likely to ratify.)

Such is a gist of the summary given by the Times.

FLAG

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One of the week's resplendant events at Savannah was a stirring patriotic ceremony -- which ended with mingled indignation and laughter. It should have a prominent place in the history of the "Buy ~~the~~ American" campaign.

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The New ~~York~~ York Times tells how twenty-five aliens were admitted to the citizenship of the United States. To impress upon the new citizens their patriotic duty, there was a reception by the Daughters of the American Revolution, The Colonial Dames, and The Sons of the Revolution.

The new citizens were told in eloquent terms how they should be devoted to everything American. Then as a climax each was presented with a small American flag.

The discordant note came when one of the newly made citizens, in his flame of patriotism, looked closely at the American flag and found something stamped on the staff.

That inscription, ^{read: -} ~~was~~ -- Made in Japan.

BOETTCHER

The past week was one of bitter suspense for a wildly anxious family in Denver. It is the family of young Charles Boettcher, who was kidnapped a couple of weeks ago and has not been seen since.

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The New York Times tells how on Thursday last, Claude Boettcher, the father of the young broker, announced for the benefit of the kidnapers that midnight of last night was the deadline for the payment of the ransom. If his son were returned by then he would pay, if not, he would devote the rest of his life to hunting down the criminals. So last night there was a feeling of tense expectancy, but midnight passed and there was no sign of the young man. So today four ~~th~~ thousand men are combing Denver: the police, members of the American Legion, and Precinct workers for the political parties, ~~they~~^{all} are hunting high and low for some sign or clew.

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SPORT

The big news in the world of sports is that
Eddie Collins got a good berth for himself. ~~It had been rumored~~ Yes, Eddie Collins,
the great second ~~base~~ baseman of those historical Philadelphia
Athletics twenty years ago, ~~has landed as the vice president~~
~~and general manager of a major league team.~~

It had been rumored all week that the Boston Red
Sox would be sold. Today comes the confirmation. The Boston
Club of the American League has been bought by Thomas ~~Stark~~ ^{Yawkey},
a young New York multi-millionaire. And with him stands Eddie
Collins, who has acquired a block of stock in the club and will
be vice president and general manager.

JAPAN

Events of the week in the Far East have developed with the inevitability and power of a Greek tragedy. The League of Nations said to Japan -- "Stop, draw back." And Japan ~~has~~ replied by going right ahead, more strongly than ever, with a tremendous sweeping offensive.

The League of Nations made the solemn and final demand: that Japan should withdraw her troops from Manchuria, that a Manchurian state should be established under Chinese sovereignty, and further, that the nations belonging to the League should pledge themselves not to recognize the Japanese-controlled state of Manchukuo.

H Whereupon The Japanese delegates got up and walked out. And over there on the bleak frozen plains of Manchuria, Japanese military operations were immediately steamed up. The last report is that the city of Chao Yang has fallen before the advancing Japanese regiments.

(6) The League of Nation's next move was a request

for support addressed to nations that are not members of the League -- including the United States. The latest word on this is -- Uncle Sam's reply. Your uncle declares that he is in general agreement with the policies of the League concerning Manchuria, also that the American attitude will be governed by the peace treaties that are in force.

The League of Nations is also forming an ^{advisory}~~advisory~~ committee to act upon the Manchurian situation. Both the United States and Russia are invited to have places on the committee. This, comments the New York Times, is a matter which will be left for the incoming Roosevelt administration to decide.

Here's a story that illustrates the spirit ~~with~~ animating ~~which~~ the Japanese just now. It is about Bushido. Bushido is Japanese for knightliness, the old heroic spirit. The tale is told in a new book "Japan Today and Tomorrow." It is about three human bombs in the battle around Shanghai last year.

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In the bitterest of the fighting a Japanese regiment was held up by barbed wire entanglements. They hadn't enough artillery to blast the wire out. They sent men forward with large bamboo tubes filled with high explosive, but when the men stopped to light the fuses of these ponderous bombs, Chinese rifles and machine guns picked them off. The honor of the regiment was at stake. Then three soldiers gave themselves as human bombs. They offered to light the fuses before they left the trench and carry the bamboo tubes of T.N.T. as far as they could -- until the explosion came.

And that's what they did. Their comrades watched as the three young soldiers, devoted to death, crept forward into the mazes of the barbed wire. The Chinese blazed away at them. They kept creeping on. Then came giant detonations as the three heroes were ~~blown~~ blown to bits. The barbed wire was shattered, and the regiment stormed ahead.

A little while later three peasant women from the rice fields, the mothers of those three young soldiers, were taken into the presence of the Emperor of Japan, the Son of

Heaven, who honored each for having borne a son who
had died in the spirit of Bushido.

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The week in Germany witnessed a tightening of control by the Hitler government on all sides. Opponents of the present Dictatorial regime were curbed. Dr. Bruening, former Chancellor and leader of the Catholic Center Party, has been forbidden to make campaign speeches over the radio.

The New York Herald-Tribune reports a strong monarchist movement in Bavaria. Catholic Bavarians are against the Hitler Dictatorship which is restricting self government in Bavaria. So, down around Munich, they are talking about re-establishing the old royal house of Wittelsbach. The former Crown Prince Ruprecht got a tremendous ovation in a Munich theatre the other day. The idea of the monarchy is to make Prince Ruprecht, not king, but president of Bavaria -- that is, to have two presidents in Germany, just as they used to have a number of kings within the framework of the German empire. Two presidents, however, would be quite a novelty, as if one were not enough -- and sometimes too much.

As Exalted Giraffe of the Tall Story Club, I am sorry to relate that among the events of the week was the exploding of an excellent tall story. The National Travel Club held a banquet last night ~~at~~ the Waldorf in New York. All sorts of prominent travelers, explorers and adventurers were there. ~~The presiding officer was~~ ^{The moving spirit was my friend} Robert McBride, of the McBride Publishing House. The toastmaster was Harry Frank. ^{Carveth Wells was there and}

~~The principal speakers of the evening were Carveth Wells and his fair wife, who~~ told of a recent journey into the wilds of the Caucasus Mountains. They visited old Mt. Ararat, where Noah landed after the flood. High in the mountains they came upon a ~~powerful~~ ^{beautiful} lake called Lake Sevan, which local inhabitants say was left when the waters of ^{Noah's} ~~the~~ flood receded. This lake was also visited by Marco Polo, who told about it in his ~~immortal~~ ^{immortal} book. That's where the tall story comes in. The inimitable Marco told how the lake was full of marvelous salmon trout -- not all year round, however. ~~For the greater~~

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The fish appeared in swarming numbers on Ash Wednesday, and remained in the lake all during Lent. Then on Easter Sunday they disappeared.

Carveth Wells found the lake indeed swarming with salmon trout, just as Marco Polo related. However, it was not during Lent. It was in July.

TALL - WORMS

So there goes an ancient Tall Story, and here comes a modern one.

Some one sent me a copy of a newspaper called The Valley Falls Vindicator, of Valley Falls, Kansas. On the first page I find a startling bit of news. It seems that out that way in the Wakarsua Valley they have gumbo soil in which live worms that grow to an enormous size, worms that apparently would make excellent whale bait. At any rate, three of the worms were strolling about in a farmer's yard one night when they noticed the house was afire. They rang the doorbell but they could still hear the farmer snoring. So the three worms dashed into the burning house, tickled the farmer under the chin to arouse him, then linked themselves together to form a rope so the farmer could slide to safety from a second story window.

EAR

And Now lend an attentive ear to this one, *- a true one, a news item.* In a small town in Austria a shoemaker went to an inn and was having a glass of beer. He was somewhat astonished to look down and ~~see~~ *there was* on the floor ^{an} ear, a human ear. He ~~he~~ picked it up and marveled -- donner wetter! Where did this come from? He was considerably more astonished when he found ~~out~~ it was his own ear.

He had stumbled as he entered the inn and struck the side of his head against a chair, nothing much, but his ear had been frozen by the cold outside, and it broke right off without his feeling anything.

Well, Mark Anthony should have been there to say: "Friends, Romans, Countrymen, lend me your ears." That ~~same~~ shoemaker could have obliged *him*.

Well, with that eerie story, I've imposed upon your ears long enough. How long? Well, so long -- until tomorrow.