

Good Evening, Everybody:

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A hundred airplanes all in one fleet is a lot of airplanes. But from coast to coast the people of America are going to see a far greater spectacle than that. The announcement was made today that 572 battle planes of the First Division Army Air Corps will make a tour of the entire country in May. In fact they will put on the greatest set of peace time maneuvers in the air, that the world has ever seen.

The huge air flotilla will start out from Dayton, Ohio, on May 12th, and after touring the country and conducting maneuvers, will end the great aerial display in Washington on Memorial Day.

One big feature will be a spectacular night attack on the City of Boston, on May 24th. The giant sky fleet will swoop down upon Boston and wipe it out in a tremendous bombardment from the air. Theoretically, of course.

Anyway, according to the Int'l News Service, these American skys of ours are going to be the scene of a lot of spectacular aviation this coming May.

HOOVER

President Hoover today gave out a long reply to the savage attacks that are being made on him in the Senate.

He defended his stand on drought relief and repeated that the sufferers should be helped by private aid and not by the government. In the Senate they're saying that the needy are not being helped sufficiently in Arkansas and that people are starving. Mr. Hoover replied that he had definite word that the Red Cross was doing its work efficiently and that there was no reason for anybody to lack for food.

According to the United Press he added that he had all the sympathy in the world for the sufferers. The President's opponents are saying that while he is now opposed to government help for Americans in distress, he advocated United States' government aid for the Russians at the end of the World War.

Mr. Hoover replies that the cases are different. He wanted Uncle Sam to aid the distressed Russians because Russia at that time was in a condition of anarchy and civil war, and self-help was out of the question. He maintains that in our own country self-help is possible and advisable.

## LIBERIA

Uncle Sam has a foreign job on his hands too. The United States' Government is going to accept an invitation from the League of Nations to help straighten out that slavery tangle in the African Republic of Liberia.

The League of Nations is fighting against slavery all over the world. It still exists in many places - including Liberia. But the Liberian government informed the League of Nations that it would need financial aid in the task of stamping out human bondage in the black republic. So the League of Nations has proceeded to line up a commission representing various countries to help Liberia solve her slavery problem.

The Associated Press states that Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, and Venezuela will have members on that commission -- also the United States.

## FOOTBALL

Well, they're still kicking the old football around. Of course that's what footballs are for. But this is a bit different. The University of Pennsylvania has decreed that football is not to be over-emphasized any more. The faculty heads have announced that the entire athletic system will be reformed.

One painful thing is that coaches are to be de-emphasized. There has been a good deal of talk about how much football coaches are paid. And now the coaches at the University of Pennsylvania are to be placed on exactly the same plane with members of the faculty. They are to be paid professorial salaries. A Department of Physical Education is being established. And the coaches of all sports will be members of the faculty.

According to the United Press, there will be no pre-season practice in football at Pennsylvania, and no games will be played before the university is officially in session. The season also will be limited to a reasonable number of games. And no longer will pampered football players be sent to resorts to rest up.

The Pennsylvania football coach for last season was J. Ludlow Wray, and he has retired. His successor has not been selected. This successor will be dignified with the title of Professor, and he will also be dignified with the pay of a professor.

Well, football coaches are not stately, stilted fellows as a rule - and it is rumored that some of them would prefer less dignity and more jack.

GOULD

A famous American heiress has died -- Lady Decies, who was formerly Vivien Gould. She was the granddaughter of Jay Gould, and 20 years ago was one of the brilliant young leaders of New York Society. Her wedding in 1911 was one of the great social events of the day. She married Lord Decies, well known in British army circles as the very form and figure of a soldier.

The Associated Press reminds us that Vivien Gould made one of those international marriages that were so much talked about, the sort that usually turned out badly. But hers didn't. She lived in England and was one of the scintillating lights of London society.

## DIGEST--LIGHTNING

This next item only goes to show that there's no old villian so bad but that somebody's got a good word for him. Of course you wouldn't think that anything good could possibly be said about lightning, those terrifying flashes that streak the sky accompanied by a booming of thunder. Lightning seems to exist only for the purpose of hitting something and scaring people.

But here comes an expert who tells us that lightning is really one of the greatest benefactors of mankind. This week's Literary Digest quotes him as saying that the world couldn't get along without lightning.

What good does it do? Well, says the expert, it fixes nitrogen. It's also liable to fix a tree or a church steeple or anything else that it hits. But the point he brings out is that it fixes nitrogen. It causes the nitrogen gas in the atmosphere to combine with other chemicals and produce

1 nitrates. That sounds reasonable enough  
2 when ~~you~~<sup>we</sup> remember that the fixation of  
3 nitrogen is accomplished in industry by  
4 the use of electricity.

5 I suppose the next time we're in  
6 a thunder storm we ought to say to those  
7 blinding, crackling streaks of lightning:  
8 "Hello there, old ~~pal~~<sup>timer</sup>. We're always glad  
9 to see good friends like you ~~strolling~~<sup>popping</sup>  
10 around."

11 That Digest article goes on to  
12 admit that lightning of course can be a  
13 trifle unfriendly at times, and tells us  
14 what to do to avoid danger during  
15 electrical storms. There are a whole  
16 list of small and useful precautions to  
17 be taken. For example, the old idea  
18 that it isn't wise to stand in an open  
19 doorway or near an open window while  
20 the lightning is flashing is quite right.  
21 Lightning can actually be blown in by  
22 the wind. That certainly does seem  
23 strange. But Mr. McEachron<sup>the expert</sup> states that  
24 experiment has shown that gusts of wind  
25 can blow lightning from its path. This



1 has even been photographed, and the  
2 Literary Digest reprints an extraordinary  
3 picture of a bolt of lightning being  
4 ~~blown~~<sup>bent</sup> out of ~~its path~~<sup>shape</sup> by the wind.

5 We're also warned to keep away  
6 from chimneys or open fireplaces during  
7 electrical storms, and also not to take  
8 a bath. It's a bad thing to be in the  
9 water when lightning is about.

10 These are only a few of the things  
11 we can do to avoid the danger of being  
12 struck by lightning. The Literary Digest  
13 gives a whole list of <sup>interesting</sup> safety first  
14 precautions. ~~which everyone should know.~~

## ELECTRICITY

Now for something new concerning that old idea of obtaining power from the ocean; a simplified device for utilizing the force of the waves of the sea.

The International News Service informs us that the inventor is Charles Rossini of the Nautical Institute at Trieste, Italy. He claims that his ocean driven motor will produce electrical power from the action of waves even if they are only twenty inches high. In fact, the waves often have too much power for his device: In stormy weather it automatically sinks down to a depth where the water is quieter and there it just keeps on running.

1 And then here's another ~~one~~ of the  
2 old dreams of mankind, ~~which seems to~~  
3 ~~have come true to some extent at least.~~  
4 ~~It's~~ the idea of getting power from ~~the~~  
5 ~~rays of~~ the sun.

6 The New York Evening Post <sup>tonight</sup> states  
7 ~~now~~ that a young Berlin scientist has  
8 made a series of experiments at the  
9 Kaiser Wilhelm Institute, and ~~■~~ as a  
10 result has produced an electric motor  
11 which runs by the power of the sun's rays.

12 It has long been known that certain  
13 metals--zinc, for example--give off  
14 electricity when sunlight strikes them.  
15 But the amount of the electricity was  
16 so small that it could scarcely be  
17 measured. ~~by the most delicate instruments.~~  
18 Now this young German experimenter  
19 claims that he uses in his motor a new,  
20 secret kind of metal which gives off a  
21 large quantity of electricity <sup>when the sun</sup> ~~under the~~  
22 ~~influence of the rays of the sun~~ shines on it.  
23 *Between the waves of the sea and the*  
24 *rays of the sun maybe we'll be able*  
25 *to get along without work before long.*

## EARTHQUAKE

A late dispatch has just come in telling of still more earthquakes out in New Zealand. Around there on the other side of the world the ground began to tremble last night. That is, it was last evening for us, but it was eleven o'clock in the morning in New Zealand.

Violent shocks occurred on the northern one of the two main islands. It must have seemed as though the end of the world had come. According to the Associated Press, there were tidal waves and landslides. In the city of Napier houses and business buildings toppled. A fire broke out and swept over what was left of the town. In the city of Hastings the Grand Hotel fell, burying the whole staff in the ruins.

The International News Service reports that 126 people are listed as killed - but the total is believed to be far greater. Terror reigned on all sides.

And only a few hours ago another violent quake shook that north island of New Zealand. All buildings in the town of Wairoa were demolished, and the roads in that neighborhood are blotted

out by landslides.

Communications are badly disrupted throughout the area shaken by the tremblers, and it will take some time before all the damage is checked up.

I was out in New Zealand a few years ago and was particularly impressed by the volcanic wonders. New Zealand is one of the three sections of the Earth particularly famous for Geysers, and mud volcanoes. The other two are Yellowstone and Iceland. Maybe those Geysers and mud volcanoes are a part of the same phenomena that has brought on this series of terrible earthquakes.

1 A new island has been discovered.  
2 The Associated Press reports that a new  
3 bit of land has <sup>made its appearance</sup> ~~been discovered~~ in the  
4 Pacific Ocean off the west coast of  
5 Mexico. It wasn't there before, and the  
6 supposition is that it was thrown up  
7 by volcanic action during that earthquake  
8 which shook the western ~~XXXXX~~ part of  
9 Mexico in the neighborhood of the city  
10 of <sup>(Wahaka)</sup> Oxaca more than two weeks ago.

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1 We'll have to call upon Allah the  
2 wise and merciful and say that his  
3 ways are indeed inscrutable. The  
4 ~~Rxxx~~ Prophet Mohammed decreed that  
5 among the faithful a man could have  
6 four wives, but ~~RxxxxxXxxxxxXxxxxxX~~  
7 ~~RxxxxxXxxxxxXxxxxxX~~ Gazi Mustapha Kemal  
8 Pasha says nix.

9 According to the International  
10 News Service/Kemal, the head of the  
11 very progressive government Turkey,  
12 is threatening drastic penalties against  
13 the Mohammedans who are secretly  
14 violating the new law against polygamy.  
15 Many Turks are finding ways of taking  
16 four wives, in spite of the law. For  
17 example, they just go ahead and marry  
18 four times and merely forget the  
19 formality of getting divorced in  
20 between. Kemal says this has got to  
21 stop. The Turks, he declares, must be  
22 monogamy<sup>DUS</sup>. They can take as many wives  
23 as they want, but they've got to get  
24 divorced the proper number of times.

25 Well, Allah is great and

1 merciful, Mohammed is his prophet, and  
2 the Turk has always been allowed to  
3 have four wives, but not any more.  
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# SUBMARINE

1           They had an explosion aboard a  
2 submarine over in England, <sup>today,</sup> The X-1, —  
3 one of the biggest undersea boats in the  
4 British navy, put to sea from Sheerness.  
5 ~~today.~~ And she had gone <sup>a short way</sup> ~~25 miles~~ down  
6 the Thames when one of her engines blew  
7 up. 6 men were injured. But, according  
8 to the Associated Press, the submarine  
9 was able to go back to port with one  
10 engine running.

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## NEWS ITEM

My news item of the day is one of those stories with a fine dramatic twist. It was picked for me by a fellow traveller. John Marshall of Cleveland is known as the Vagabond de Luxe. Just out of college, he set out to see the world. In 21 months he journeyed some 70,000 miles and our trails crossed in many lands. Today they crossed again and I let the Vagabond de Luxe pick my News Item of the Day.

Over in Bohemia there is a house papered with money. The walls throughout are covered with those German bank notes which were issued when the mark was worth about a billion to a dollar. This house that has money for wall paper is called the Inflation Museum, that is, a museum dedicated to that time of financial inflation when German money was going down and down until it was finally worth nothing.

That particular house belongs to a German merchant who was wealthy, and who had his wealth in the shape of German money, and when the mark went down to nothing, he lost all he had. He was bitter and disillusioned and then he read something that the

German financier, Dr. Schacht, had said. Namely that "one could paper one's walls with trillion mark bank notes". That unhappy merchant pondered over these words and took them to heart. He took his whole enormous fortune of worthless money, and to symbolize the bitterness of his spirit, he went ahead and papered his house with bales and bales of bank notes.

Well, times have changed. Germany issued a new kind of money and is on her financial feet again. Those old days of inflation are a fantastic memory. Now the house papered with money is a strange curiosity. Streams of people go to see the Museum of Inflation. The International News Service informs us that thousands visit it. And the merchant by charging a price of admission, has become wealthy again. How's that for a quirk of Fate?

LETTER - Dog

A letter came in today with a clipping attached. It was from Guy Johnson of Pittsburgh, Pa., and the clipping was cut of a Pittsburgh paper.

It tells about a small rabbit hunting dog that was owned by Mrs. Amie B. Seeley of Mt. Jewett, Pa.

On Christmas, one of the children got a picture book. The book was lying on the floor and the dog walked up to it and began to turn the pages with his nose. He looked at the pictures, one after another. Then he came to a big picture of a rabbit.

Yes, you guessed it. That dog let out a growl, and grabbing the page between his teeth, he tore it out and chawed it up.

Well, the Pittsburgh editor prints that one and then adds: "What have you got to say about that, Mr. Lowell Thomas?"

Well, all I can say is: file that one away in the archives of the Tall Story Club, and --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.