

Lowell Thomas - Dec. 26 '32

JOBS

Here's ^{an amusing} ~~a~~ bit from Washington, D.C., ~~which I thought~~

~~was amusing.~~ A story in the Philadelphia Public Ledger says that (Washington is like the scene of a gold rush. The largest and most ravenous horde of political job seekers ever seen in the history of the country has begun to invade the capital.)

To ~~see~~ ^{re-} ~~elect~~ elected Democratic senators and representatives life ^{just now} is one long nightmare. Even the stampede of the sinecure hunters in 1912 was tame in comparison.

One senator ^{declares} ~~says~~ he's positively afraid to go to his office. ^{He says he was aware that 600,000 people} ~~No less than three thousand of the people~~ ^{voted for him, but he did not know that 300,000 of} ~~them say they voted for him are besieging him for a job~~ ^{them would be on his neck for jobs. He feels that he} ~~was elected to office by the unemployed.~~ Another legislator gets five hundred letters every day

from patriots willing to serve their country for about five times more than they could possibly earn in private employ.

^{on to Washington} In fact the ^{stampede} is so terrific that many ~~of~~ Democrats ^{say they are almost} ~~are almost beginning to~~ ^{say they are almost} sorry their party won the election.

ADD JOBS

Clinton Gilbert points out that there never was a time when so many cushy jobs were in the gift of a political party. For instance there's the Reconstruction Finance

— and what that is Corporation, a new gold mine for office seekers! Just imagine

a body with thirty-eight jobs paying salaries of ten thousand

or more a year. So, no wonder the cry is "Pitae's Peak or bust" — I mean Washington or bust.

ARREST

A couple of ladies in Camden, New Jersey, showed ^{some real} ~~quite an original idea about~~ ^{originality.} Christmas. At any rate about their Husbands' Christmas presents. Their husbands are brothers, and twins. Each fond spouse had the same ^{inspiration for} ~~idea about~~ providing her ~~mate~~ mate with a good time for the holiday. They had 'em pinched and thrown in the ^{calaboose.} ~~coop~~. But in each case the law let the prisoners ^{own} ~~out~~ on their recognizances so ~~that~~ they could have their celebration just the same.

As a result of which, says a story in the Courier-Post of Camden, there are two ladies whose idea of the law is too scornful for publication.

BEER

Here's something which I am afraid beer drinkers will not consider a welcome Christmas gift. One of the close friends of President Hoover approached him ~~the other~~ ~~day~~ and put a question to him bluntly. The question was: "Will you sign a beer bill when it is passed?" To which Mr. Hoover replied emphatically: "no." And he added that the Senate and the House might as well know it.

~~In truth~~ This report has been current several months. But this confirmation seems definite and authoritative. ~~President Hoover is believed to have said to have made this statement just before he left for his Christmas vacation in Southern waters.~~

Even the most optimistic of the wet leaders have no hopes of mustering enough votes to over-ride the presidential veto.

MINE

News from that mine disaster in Illinois does not,
I am sorry to say, become any ^{better} ~~more cheerful~~. There seems to be
no hope that any of the fifty-four men trapped by that underground
explosion can possibly be alive.

A ~~dispatch~~ ^{story} to the Philadelphia Enquirer reported that
twelve bodies were recovered. But, ^{adds} ~~the~~ the dispatch, "as the
first of those bodies were brought to the surface, a groan escaped
the waiting wives and relatives of the miners. They knew only
too well that the explosion in all probability was fatal to
every man caught underground.

^Q
~~The~~ feeling of ^{deep gloom hangs over} ~~gloom pervades~~ the entire town
of Moweaqua. Though Saturday was pay day at the mine, not
a cent was paid. All miners who had not themselves been trapped
underground were frantically busy at rescue work, and all
thoughts of wages were forgotten.

Many ^{two individual} ~~minor~~ tragedies were interpolated into the
bigger one of the disaster itself. In the throngs around the
mine entrance ^{stood} ~~and~~ two brides. One ~~of them~~ was married ten days
ago, the other had only just come back from her ~~honey~~ honeymoon--
^{back} the day before the disaster. And ^{there} they have been for over
forty-eight hours waiting in vain for news of their bridegrooms.

TROMBONE

The other evening I happened to mention the somewhat ~~unusual~~ skill of New York's mayor, Joe McKee, at ~~writing~~ improvising verse. Well — In the current issue of the Literary Digest there's a story of a Lieutenant Governor who can play the trombone! ~~That is~~ He's the newly elected Lieutenant Governor of the State of Washington, ^{Mr.} Victor Myers. And why shouldn't he play the trombone? He's a professional musician, ^{— in fact} the leader of a jazz band in Seattle.

According to the story in the Digest, the election of Lieutenant Governor Myers came about as the result of a ~~h~~ joke. The Seattle Times was poking fun at the calibre of the people running for municipal offices. In order to reduce the whole thing to absurdity they nominated Vic Myers ^{jazz band leader as their} ~~as candidate~~ ^{comedy} candidate for mayor. He lost that election, in fact he only got a handful of votes. But ^{the political virus got him. He was bitten by the} ~~it infected him with~~ political bug. ~~And~~ Then they ^{comedy} ~~after that you~~ couldn't keep Seattle's ^{trumpet} ~~trumpet~~ jazz band ^{leader} ~~leader~~ out of politics.

This year he filed his name for Lieutenant Governor, and won a comfortable plurality in the Democratic Primaries.

In the national election most Democrats in Washington voted a straight Democratic ticket. So for the coming year Washington will have a crack musician, ^{as the number-two =} ~~second in importance only to the~~

~~State~~ Executive of that State. Moral:— learn to play the trombone!

10

MUSSOLINI

I read an article today which answers a question that a lot of us have been asking. The article is one of *that striking* series by *my friend Joe Connolly* ~~and~~ *and other papers from coast to coast.* Emil Ludwig, which has been running in the New York American. The subject is Mussolini. The ~~topic~~ *topic* discussed is that familiar old question: ~~who~~ ⁷⁷ will succeed Mussolini? And the answer is "nobody".

Ludwig, ~~the~~ biographer of Napoleon and Bismarck tells how he asked Il Duce who would be his successor as the Black Shirt Dictator of Italy and Mussolini replied: "I don't believe *there ever will be one.* ~~Il Duce the second will ever come.~~ If he should *come* Italy would not *put up with* ~~stand~~ him."

Then he went on to explain that the same situation does not occur twice in succession. The crisis that raised him to ~~the~~ absolute control of Italy will not happen again. Mussolini's idea is that he was the product of a peculiar time of wild excitement, but that things quiet down and become more prosy and matter of fact ~~and~~ *and* when that happens, he ~~believes~~ *thinks* any intelligent man of character is able to represent and govern a Nation.

He goes on to say that the Fascist movement has already developed a group of able men to carry on and among these men he mentioned Dino Grandi, who made such a good impression in Washington a year or so. ^{Also} ~~again and the~~ Aviation Minister Balbo, who will lead that mass airplane flight to the Chicago World's Fair next summer.

ITALY

And talking about Mussolini, I have a dispatch here which tells that in Rome public opinion is getting more and more excited about the recent squabble between Italy and Jugo Slavia. New York's Italian newspaper, ^{the} Il Progresso, has a cable from Rome, which says that in Italian political circles fingers of accusation are being pointed ~~at~~ directly towards France.

The dispute began when mobs in Jugo Slavia assaulted local Italians and broke up Italian associations. They also smashed a few monuments and that caused ^{still} more ~~particularly~~ hard feelings. It all takes us back to a distinct ^{ly} romantic page in history. For example, in the city of Trau in Dalmatia a mob demolished a great sculptured group of the Lions of St. Mark of Venice. Well those Lions of St. Mark ^{recall} ~~take us~~ ~~back to~~ the day when Venice controlled the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea and when the Ven ~~etian~~ ^{galley} galley ~~fleet~~ swept the ~~waters of the~~ Mediterranean and carried the banner of St. Mark to many a victory on the sea.

There is a close political alliance between Jugo Slavia and France and that is why the Italians claim the French are behind such matters as the attack upon the Lions of St. Mark.

Another curious phase is the close commercial relations between Fascist Italy and Soviet Russia. You would think that the Black Shirt Dictator at Rome and the Red Dictator at Moscow would be poles apart, but they seem to be able to do business together. Il Progresso today reports a considerable increase in commerce between ~~Russia~~ Russia and Italy in 1932. Russia kicks in with wheat and lumber principally, while Italy pays the bill with machinery, airplanes, cotton goods and automobiles.

LIGHTNING

7

From Syracuse, New York, comes the story of a dog that has bewildering gifts, a talent that I for one have never before heard of as being found in a dog. The dog's name is Lightning. His is the breed that is called German Police dog in this country, but is actually ~~a~~ German shepherd. They ~~nailed~~ ^{caught} Lightning some days ago and put him in the pound of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Syracuse. Lightning was roaming the streets without any tag. So they pinched him and put him in a ~~box~~ ^{lockup} with a dozen others of his kind, ^{— in fact} in cell #1.

If my friend, J. Henry Cassidy, Managing Director of the S. P. C. A. in Syracuse, had known of Lightning's peculiar talents, he would not have put him in cell #1.

Lightning's talent was this. In the middle of the night he decided he'd had enough of that cell, so he placed his front paws on the doorknob, twisted it around, pushed open the door and stepped out. Naturally his twelve cell mates whooped with delight and followed him. Lightning was not content with this. He went to every other cell block, and one by one he

6

opened all six doors. The upshot of it was that Lightning set no less than forty dogs free. It was the first and only wholesale jail delivery in the history of the Syracuse S.P.C.A., — maybe in all dog history.

But that wasn't all. Lightning got into the larder. Some ~~animal~~ ^{of animals} friend had just sent over a present of sixty pounds of fresh venison. And did those dogs enjoy that venison!

Lightning showed himself a ~~good~~ bit of an alias Jimmy Valentine when he opened that larder door. In order to to this he had not only to lift the bolt but to turn the knob at the same time.

You can imagine ~~my~~ friend, ~~Mr.~~ Cassidy's feelings when he got down to the animal pen next morning and found forty dogs running ~~in~~ riot. ~~in the establishments~~ Two of the prisoners, ~~as a matter of fact,~~ got away and were not rounded up until some time later.

When Lightning's owner came along to claim his dog and pay his fine, he remarked mildly: "Lightning ^{is} pretty good at picking locks and opening doors." To which Mr. ~~Cassidy~~ Cassidy

replied: "Pretty good!" ⁹ Say! you can take it from me — he's ~~the world's champion!~~ ~~he's pretty good~~ ~~I'll give you leave to quote me as saying~~ And who's a going to replace that 60 lbs of venison? "

DECATUR

Prominent among the remarkable towns in the U.S.A. is Decatur, Georgia. At a time when the fabulously rich Father Knickerbocker defaulted on a Supreme Court judgment, and when other large and luxurious cities such as Philadelphia, are scratching the bottom of the till to find enough to pay their employees, Decatur, Georgia, has ~~another sort of~~ ^{a different} story to tell. ~~to tell~~

A dispatch to the New York Times relates that, for instance, ~~that~~ all of Decatur's bills are paid in full. Not a single employee of the city has either had a cut in salary or a suspension of salary. All the city's bonds are paid up to date.

But there's still more to come. The city fathers of Decatur have made a uniform reduction of fifteen per cent in the tax rate and have also carried out a program of relief work that has brought food and fuel to every jobless person in town.

45

~~Old~~ Bill McGeehan in the New York Herald Tribune today has some fun in connection with that meeting at the Waldorf-Astoria, ^{I mean the meeting at which articles were signed} ~~where the articles~~ for that fight between Max Schmeling and Max Baer ^{to take place} next June, ~~Max signed~~ ^{were} The curious thing about ^{it} ~~that meeting~~, says ~~old Bill~~ McGeehan, was that not even a spoon was missing afterwards. Evidently the detective service at the Waldorf is exceedingly efficient.

~~Bill~~ McGeehan points out that when Jack Kearns gave a party at another hotel, at which Mickey Walker signed fight articles, practically the entire hotel had to be refurnished. One of the guests must have been a magician, because the carpet of the dining room disappeared. And even the Welcome mat in the lobby vanished. And the peculiar thing, ^{the famous sports} ~~adds McGeehan,~~ ^{is that many of the guests at that party were also present at the more recent meeting at the Waldorf.}

winter

Young men seem to have a much easier time of it
today than they had twenty years ago, ^{that is,} when it comes to taking
the gals out for an evening. ^{For example} Seattle, Washington, is ^a ~~another~~
favorable place for young men who like the ladies; Young
University undergraduates, at any rate. A story in the
New York World Telegram indicates that ^a ~~the~~ survey was taken
of the fair co-eds at the University of Washington. The
purpose of the survey was to discover their attitude towards
the young men.

Thirty of the girls were questioned on the subject
of the expenses incidental to dates. Out of those thirty,
twenty-one were willing to pay a full half of the expenses
incurred on an evening's fun. One of them went so far as to
be willing to furnish a car, the gas and cigaret money.
Another Washington damsel was even more generous than this.
She bought her own engagement ring.

EASTER

It is amusing to observe how real estate scattered all over the face of the globe is being wished on Uncle Sam. For example, there is a group in Chile who want to sell Easter Island to the U. S. A.

2
Easter Island, standing alone in the South Pacific, is the scene of one of the world's most fascinating mysteries. So ~~we~~ ^{we} ~~say~~ ^{Easter Island's} ~~it's~~ curious ^{learn from} a bulletin of the National Geographic Society. One of ~~the~~ curious features are those gigantic statues. They are anywhere from four to thirty-seven feet in height, all in one piece. And nobody knows how those giant ~~monoliths~~ monoliths got there or what sort of a race it was who created the extraordinary carving on them. They can be seen from way out at sea on the mountain slopes of Easter Island. Observed from the deck of an approaching ship they look like giant sentinels.

Though this has puzzled scholars for centuries, they seem no nearer today to solving the mystery.

TIME

Did you know that ~~the~~ United States time is the most accurate in the world? In case there are any Canadians or other Britishers listening in, I should perhaps add that this statement comes from an American. ^{Not from me - but} ~~in fact~~ from Captain Hellweg, Superintendent of the United States Naval Observatory at Arlington. ~~And it cannot be denied that in this statement Captain Hellweg is to a certain extent sounding his own base.~~

(1) Dr. E. E. Free in the current issue of "The Week's Science" relates that a comparison was carried out recently by radio signals of time services all over the world. According to this international comparison the ~~xxxx~~ signals sent out from Uncle Sam's radio station at Arlington were found to be accurate to seventy-eight ten-thousandths of a second.

Dr. Free quotes Captain Hellweg ~~xx~~ to the effect that the precision clocks of the Naval Observatory are kept in a small underground room. This room is inside another room. Both rooms are sealed, waterproofed and insulated against heat or cold. Nobody is allowed to enter them, because the amount of heat radiated by a human body might alter the ~~pre~~recision with which

the clocks beat out the seconds.

The clock in front of me may not be accurate to ~~78~~ seventy eight ten thousandths of a second. But it comes pretty close that — and it says now's the time for me to say s-l-u-t-w.