

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 1931

WHEAT

Good Evening, Everybody:

A report comes through from London today that the Chinese Government has just ordered two and a half million dollars worth of wheat from the United States. The Chinese Government needs all that grain to feed the teeming millions who are facing famine as a result of the floods along the Yangtse River.

Huge sections of the richest farming land in all China have been inundated by the unruly waters. Right at this moment ten million people are said to be faced with starvation. The United Press declares that the present floods in China are worse than any in fifty years. Food is needed, needed badly and in a hurry.

The American Farm Board has on hand immense stores of wheat and so it would seem to be a wise move if the Chinese Government has ordered a large batch of it to feed the victims of the Yangste flood.

1 From all sides today ~~comes~~ come
 2 expressions of satisfaction over the
 3 result of the election in Germany — *the one held*
 4 yesterday.

5 The present government of Germany
 6 won out, and ~~it~~ ^{this} is taken as a sign of
 7 the stability of the moderate regime
 8 ~~that is~~ in power at Berlin.

9 The voters of ^{the state of} Prussia went to the
 10 polls to decide whether the present
 11 Prussian ~~state~~ ^{state} diet should remain in power or
 12 whether a new one should be elected.
 13 The Government ^{in Berlin had come} ~~came~~ out strongly for the
 14 present Parliament of Prussia, and was
 15 against the election of a new ^{Prussian} diet.

16 The demand for a ^{however,} ~~change~~ ^{change} was backed
 17 by the Steel Helmets, the reactionary
 18 organization of Germany's War Veterans.
 19 Nearly all the reactionary elements
 20 that are against the ^{Berlin} Government were for
 21 throwing the present ^{Prussian} ~~present~~ diet out of power
 22 and so were the enemies of the Government
 23 on the other side of the fence, the
 24 Communists. Still the reactionaries ~~ies~~

1 and the Communists in their opposition
2 to the ^{Bruening} Government lined up a lot of votes.
3 The Associated Press figures give them
4 a total of nearly 10,000,000. But the
5 supporters of the ^{present conservative} Government had nearly
6 13,500,000 and that's a substantial
7 majority.

8 On the other hand some uneasiness
9 is expressed because of the fact that
10 the reactionaries and the Communist
11 enemies of the Berlin Administration could
12 muster as many as ten million votes ^{alone} in Prussia.

13 Yesterday's election day ~~is~~
14 ~~Prussia~~ was not altogether peaceful.
15 There ~~is~~ were riots and disturbances
16 in various parts. Two Captains of Police
17 were killed. There was rioting and
18 shooting. More than twenty people were
19 wounded in fighting last night.

20 The United Press reports the
21 discovery of a plot to assassinate
22 Chancellor Bruening, and Doctor Curtius,
23 the German Foreign Minister, who have
24 been in Italy conferring with Mussolini.
25 A threatening letter declared that

1 neither of the two statesmen would return
2 to Germany alive.

3 The police are inclined to connect
4 this threat with a train-wreck last night.
5 An express train went off the tracks
6 near the town of Jueterborg and sixteen
7 persons were hurt. It was found that
8 about six feet of ~~the rail~~^S~~road track~~ had
9 been loosened. They say it was the work
10 of Communists.

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1 Cuba is under martial law tonight,
2 after an exciting weekend. All kinds of
3 rumors are floating around about
4 revolutionary activities, and a ~~short~~
5 lively little battle has been fought at
6 Havana. The police were searching a
7 section of the city for suspected
8 revolutionists when they were met by a
9 burst of rifle fire. Then for an hour
10 there was continued shooting, while the
11 police beseiged a band of insurgents
12 who fortified themselves in a house.

13 The result of the scrap, as the
14 Associated Press gives it, was a victory
15 for the police, and two of the revolu-
16 tionists were killed.

17 The government believes that
18 General Menocal, a former president of
19 Cuba, is at the back of the disturbances,
20 and several of the General's relatives
21 have been arrested.
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1 On the Mediterranean coast of
2 France they've had a storm that
3 certainly seems to have been a terror.
4 The United Press calls it a tornado which
5 swept across the sea and lashed the water
6 to a maddened fury, ^{like the storm that shipwrecked St. Paul.} The waves are said
7 to have been of mountainous size. Fifty
8 vessels, caught in the maniac^{al} rage of
9 that cyclone at sea, were wrecked.
10 Twenty lives are believed to have been
11 lost.

12 The wind swept along the shore
13 and left a line of wrecked houses behind
14 it. Roofs were ^{ripped} ~~taken~~ right off, and trees
15 blown down.

16 That storm seems to have been
17 something like a West Indian hurricane
18 or a China Sea typhoon along that balmy
19 southern shore of France where the
20 water^s of the Mediterranean ^{are} ~~is~~ so blue--
21 that is, ordinarily. ^{They} ~~is~~ probably ^{were} ~~wasn't~~
22 quite so blue while that tornado was
23 howling.

24 The Mediterranean is really one
25 of the stormiest seas of all--when it

1 wants to be, That's because it ~~is~~
2 is rather shallow and a storm stirs it
3 up quickly. I happen to know because I
4 was on a destroyer, once, during a storm
5 in the Mediterranean, and every man jack
6 on board was seasick, including the
7 captain, the chief engineer and the
8 doctor.

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10 Pres. Hoover has been
11 observing his 57th birthday, by
12 sticking as usual at his desk.
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14 Hundred of teleggrams
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16 A cong have been pouring
17 in upon him
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1 A curious story comes along this
2 evening of a young man who is in prison
3 merely because he has the wrong kind of
4 face. He looks wierdly like Two-gun
5 Crowley, the young desperado who is in
6 Sing-Sing condemned to death for the
7 murder of a policeman.

8 Well, Two-gun Crowley committed a
9 number of robberies before justice
10 finally overtook him. And the wrong man
11 was convicted for one of these crimes.
12 His name is Pat O'Brien, and ^{it seems that he is} ~~he is a~~
13 ^{a dead ringer} ~~double~~ for Crowley. The New York Evening
14 Sun declares that their own mothers would
15 find it hard to tell the two apart from
16 a short distance.

17 O'Brien, quite innocent of the
18 fact that he looked so much like the
19 desperado, wandered into the Washington
20 Heights court last spring just to look
21 around. A victim of one of Crowley's
22 robberies promptly identified him as the
23 man who had committed the crime. He was
24 tried, positively identified, and given
25 a sentence of from 20 to 40 years.

1 And only now has the curious
2 coincidence come to light. A movement
3 is on foot to have him released. A man
4 who was with the real Crowley at the time
5 of the robbery has testified that O'Brien
6 had nothing to do with the crime at all.

7 *He was just a dead ringer for another*
8 *man.*

1 Police officials all over the
2 country have been talking today about the
3 latest report of the Wickersham Committee,
4 which deals with the subject of the
5 Third Degree.

6 The Wickersham Committee, as the
7 United Press informs us, declares that
8 the Third Degree is still ~~widely~~ being
9 used ^{in this country, far and wide.} Physical violence is used on
10 prisoners ~~to~~ to make them talk.

11 The report admits that in many
12 cases beating and slugging has been
13 replaced by less violent means. ^{Instead,} Prisoners
14 are questioned for long periods and are
15 threatened, and efforts are made to break
16 down their resistance and frighten them
17 into talking. But the report adds that
18 while this is true in many cases there
19 is still plenty of the old-time brutal
20 Third Degree, in which prisoners are
21 beaten with fists, or clubs, or lengths
22 of rubber hose.
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1 Airplanes and ships have been
2 scouting over the sea near the Shetland
3 Islands in search of ~~Shorty~~^{Parlier} Cramer. He
4 took off from the Shetlands and headed
5 for Denmark. ~~He~~^{Shorty} is long overdue now, and
6 it is feared that he may have been forced
7 down.

8 The International News Service
9 explains that it was thought at first
10 that he might have come down in one of
11 the many fjords that indent the coast
12 of Norway, but as time went by and there
13 was no word from the flyer, the fear
14 increased that something more serious
15 might have happened. And so a search
16 has been started for the missing aviator
17 who left Detroit on a flight across the
18 North Atlantic with stops at the various
19 islands. Shorty Cramer was engaged in
20 charting a route for a projected air-
21 mail line across the ocean. The
22 Shetlands were to be his last island
23 stop.

24 Yesterday afternoon a plane took
25 off from Floyd Bennett field in New

1 York. In it ■■■■ was the Honduran
2 aviator Captain Garay. With him were 3
3 other men, one of whom said he was Bert
4 Acosta, the famous trans-Atlantic flyer.
5 Acosta was Admiral Byrd's pilot on the
6 Byrd flight across the ocean.

7 Well, the four men who took off
8 from Floyd Bennett field said they were
9 going up on a practice flight, a load-
10 test. They ■■ winged their way into the
11 sky, and then were not seen again.

12 Inquiry was made and now it
13 develops that something more than a
14 mere practice flight may have been the
15 plan of the four adventurers. A friend
16 of the Honduran pilot declared^s that he
17 had been told that if the plane got
18 into the air safely on its load-test
19 flight, why the four men would keep on
20 going and try to make a non-stop flight
21 to ■ Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras.

22 Well, that sounds like a dashing
23 stunt, but the International News Service
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1 had to say when he was informed of the
2 flight. He declared that Captain Garay
3 would not get a cordial welcome in
4 Honduras. He related that the aviator,
5 who ~~was~~^{is} a Honduran officer, is wanted
6 down in his native country on charges of
7 military insubordination.

8 However, Captain Garay and ~~the~~ the
9 always-colorful Bert Acosta and their
10 two companions seem to have headed for
11 Central America.

12 Away up in the North at Point
13 Barrow the Lindberghs are still held up
14 by bad weather.

15 The Associated Press reports rain
16 and fog in those parts. Mrs. Lindbergh
17 says she is a trifle homesick. She saw
18 the 18-months-old daughter of a radio
19 operator for the United States Signal
20 Corps, and that made her homesick for her
21 own baby.

4

1 I don't know why it is, but writing
2 men are usually fond of taking a crack
3 at their own profession. A newspaper
4 man whom I know tells the story of how
5 he broke into the game and went to work
6 in the Sunday Magazine office of the
7 old New York World. He was young and
8 full of the glories of being a
9 journalist. He thought it was a noble
10 thing to be a newspaper man.

11 At the desk next to his sat an
12 old-timer in the game. His name is
13 Charley Sutherland, a kind but crusty
14 chap, as disillusioned and hard-boiled
15 as old-time newspaper men are likely to
16 be. He must have seen something of the
17 pride and enthusiasm that glittered in
18 the eyes of the cub.

19 Anyway, he suddenly leaned over to
20 the young fellow.

21 "Did you hear the latest scandal?"
22 he demanded in the tone of a man who
23 wants to tell a piece of important and
24 exceedingly scandalous news.

25 "The latest scandal?" responded the

1 budding journalist. "No, what is it?"

2 "Well," growled Charley Sutherland,
3 "a newspaper man married a white woman."

4 Yes, that's ~~seems~~ ^{grotesque and absurd, but it does seem} to illustrate the
5 spirit of the game ^{in the eyes of some old timers who like to poke fun} and I guess that's ^{at} why
6 why I take something of a ghoulish ^{them-}
7 delight this evening in passing along a
8 few rough things that have been said
9 about authors.

10 This week's Literary Digest quotes
11 an article from ^{that scholarly magazine} The Bookman. And in that
12 article a crusty, hard-boiled publisher
13 gives his opinion of authors. The
14 Digest informs us that this publisher
15 calls authors "publicity hounds and
16 camera lice." He tells how the
17 scribbling ladies and gentlemen are
18 always rushing to the telephone and
19 calling the publisher and denouncing a
20 ~~con~~ conspiracy to keep their books away
21 from a palpitating, eager public.

22 And then the Literary Digest goes
23 on with a neat story. It has been told
24 before, but it's worth repeating. It
25 tells of a successful author whose

1 conceit got a terrible wallop. He went
2 to a bookstore and, never telling who
3 he was, asked the clerk for a copy of
4 one of his books. The clerk handed it
5 over and said the price was \$2. The
6 conceited author thought he would have a
7 gay little joke. When the clerk wasn't
8 looking he autographed ^{the book.} ~~it~~ ^{probably} You know ~~how~~
that many authors take great pride in
9 autographing their books and think
10 they're doing the public a considerable
11 honor. *I may have had that notion, myself.*

12
13 When the clerk returned, the author
14 displayed the fly leaf of the book,
15 autograph and all, and asked:

16 "How much did you say this copy
17 would cost?" the scribbler demanded
18 proudly.

19 "Oh," responded the clerk, gazing
20 at the autograph, "that's different.
21 It's a damaged copy. You can have it for
22 75 cents."

23 Yes sir, as an author who has
24 autographed many a book, I take a ghoulish
25 delight in telling that one. *Yes, maybe my
signature has damaged a few copies.*

1 Time out for a moment. ~~now~~. My
2 conscience is hurting me and I've just
3 got to express my gratitude to a lot of
4 folks who have tipped me off to a bloomer
5 I made. It's a bloomer I'll never make
6 again. No, never again will I say that
7 a screech owl goes HOO-HOO.

8 About ten days ago I told a story
9 concerning some screech owls. I said that
10 those screech owls were hotting all night
11 long, just going HOO-HOO. Well, that
12 slip has brought me a flood of letters,
13 some of them bawling me out to a
14 fare-you-well. For example, take this
15 one:

16 The Reverend Doctor John Grant
17 Newman, pastor of the Chambers-Wylie
18 Memorial Presbyterian Church at
19 Philadelphia, chides me with a whimsical
20 sadness :-

21 "Your story," writes the Reverend
22 Doctor Newman, "about somebody going out
23 to shoot screech owls to silence their
24 slumber-disturbing HOO-HOO was a good
25 one. You are somewhat short on owl-ology.

1 Hoo-Hoo-Hoo ever heard of a screech owl
2 crying Hoo-Hoo-Hoo? Your story
3 initiates you beyond a doubt into the
4 Tall Story Club."

5 Well, I feel sort of crushed. I
6 should have known better. It's of course
7 the screech owl that screeches and the
8 hoot owl that hoots --that's as plain as
9 the nose on your face. I can only say
10 that out in Cripple Creek, Colorado,
11 where I came from we didn't make any clear
12 distinction between screech owls and
13 hoot owls. In fact, we didn't have any
14 owls except the human night owls who hung
15 around the Last Chance Saloon. Anyway,
16 I want to thank all those who put me
17 right on that hoo-hoo business.

18 Yes, I can still hear that unfortunate
19 sound HOO-HOO-HOO --and also Ha-Ha-Ha,
20 as I say ----SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.
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