

## ETHIOPIA

The war news today gives us a dramatic picture.

On to Addis Ababada--A flying column, motorised column<sup>4</sup> dashing on with squadrons of planes roaring overhead, scouting the way. Rome claims that the Italians will occupy the Ethiopian captial in three days.

That's <sup>a</sup> dramatic picture number one. But there's also *Number* ~~two~~, Just as spectuclar. It relates how Dessye was captured, by a column of eighteen thousand Italian troops and nine thousand pack animals. They marched twenty-four miles a day for five days, along a mere caravan track through wild, mountainous country. The advancing column was provisioned mainly from the <sup>air</sup> ~~air~~ <sup>planes</sup> flying over and dropping supplies of food.

The trouble with these two highly dramatic pictures is that they don't jibe so well. If the march to Desseye was in the old pack animal fashion, with planes doing the provisioning how can it be immediately contiuned with a motorized column, one of those "Hell on wheels," <sup>?</sup> affairs.

~~that might~~

*That might*  
 lead to the suspicion that Rome is whooping up its victory

to the last "Bravo", maybe as support for the Italian talk at Geneva.

The Roman message to the League is drastic indeed.

Mussolini has submitted his peace terms. He talks with a bold, uncompromising tone of victory. He demands that the Ethiopian government should sue for peace to the Italian commander in Africa, Badoglio. Then Italy will be willing to negotiate with Haile Selassie's representatives -- But not at Geneva. The Italians don't like the hostile League of Nations atmosphere at Geneva. They'll talk peace with <sup>the</sup> Ethiopian<sup>s</sup> in <sup>some</sup> ~~another~~ town in Switzerland. And, Mussolini won't agree to let the League have any part in the peace talk. He says he'll keep the Committee of thirteen informed of negotiations between himself and Haile Selassie -- Merely informed, nothing more.

This brought a quick response from Haile Selassie's delegate--refusal. Ethiopia rejects the demand from Rome-- on one specific and inclusive ground:--Ethiopia will not

negotiate with Italy outside the frame of the League of Nations.

Ethopia counters with the demand that the League of Nations shall immediately apply full and complete sanctions against ~~with~~ Italy- oil embargo, embargo on everything, blockade.

Today's events leave the deadlock just as dead as ever. Mussolini makes a victory demand of everything-- to the victory belong the spoils. That's unacceptable to Ethiopia and can only be unacceptable to the League of Nations.

No doubt <sup>things</sup> ~~things~~ will stand that way- leaving it a matter of sanctions. England will demand heavier sanctions against Italy; France will oppose and talk about the Rhine and Hitler. <sup>P</sup> The impasse may be solved by the disappearance of Haile Selassie's government-- Ethiopia conquered.

## ROBBERY

*I've just been talking*  
~~Today I talked on the phone~~ with J. Edgar Hoover,

*And-*  
 chief of the "G" Men. He told me there were some things  
 he could not reveal and some that he could---About the  
 sudden dramatic break in that huge robbery case.

*P* Let's begin with what he could reveal. It still remains  
 uncertain just how those cleverest of thieves contrived to  
 swipe the five hundred and ninety thousand dollars. It was  
 back in 1934, December the fourteenth. The scene, the  
 United States Trust Company on Wall Street. A messenger  
 came in, went to one of the cages and handed the clerk a  
 package of bank notes, big ones, United States Treasury  
 certificates to the amount of more than half a million  
 dollars. They had to give him a check in return and there  
 was a brief discussion as to what kind of a check. The  
 clerk laid the money on the counter within the cage. The  
 next thing you know, the five hundred and ninety thousand  
 dollars were missing. It seemed impossible that anybody  
 could have stolen it. So impossible that the Police at  
 first thought that it was merely an accident, money misplaced.

The point of uncertainty is---Just how the crooks got the cash. One surmise is while the bank employees were not locking the thieves fished out the package of money with a hook on the end of a stick. Mr. Hoover doubts that explanation. <sup>He</sup> <sup>the</sup> ~~Say~~ <sup>A</sup> <sup>A</sup> thief probably just reached under the grating and grabbed the money. How they could have done that in a busy crowded bank is a mystery. Clever--- That's the word. The Chief of the gang that did it is described as one of the ultra-clever ~~of~~ sneak thieves *of our day.*

J Edgar Hoover ~~gave~~ <sup>i</sup> the explanation of how the mob was captured, an explanation that clicks. The five hundred and ninety thousand they stole consisted of only fourteen bank notes. <sup>That meant</sup> ~~but~~ <sup>A</sup> <sup>A</sup> each was a whooper. Five of the bills were of the modest humble denomination of one hundred thousand dollars each. Nine of them were ten thousand dollar bills. Then--having swiped the money, ~~what~~ what could they do with it.

It is unusual enough to get change for one hundred dollars.

Imagine what it is to walk in and try to change <sup>a</sup> hundred thousand dollar note---with a crook doing it. The thieves were as smart as Satan, in being able to steal the money, but they weren't smart enough to get rid of it. Their attempts to change the ten thousand and one hundred thousand dollar bills put the "G"men on their trail.

And J Edgar Hoover told me something about the man hunt.

"Those fellows" said he, "Hopped around faster than a bunch of grasshoppers." They were on the go all the time between New York and KansasCity, from one state to another. The "G" men were constantly on the move keeping after them. "

Our Agents were practically communters, <sup>he said</sup> ~~The best of the~~

~~"G"men told me.~~

Now, with a flashing series of arrests they have nine prisoners including that Ultra-Clever leader.

It was not only a manhunt, but also a money hunt, recovering those giant bank notes. They've found three hundred and ten thousand dollars of the missing five hundred and ninety.

On<sup>t</sup> incident of the money hunt had a bit of surprise. Two of the prisoners were arrested down in Florida. In the hide-out the "G"men staged a relentless quest for cash. They found one of the hundred thousand dollar bills. Where ? It was tucked away in a little glass tube and hidden in a jar of dried beans.

Two hundred and eighty thousand dollars is still unaccounted for. I asked J. Edgar Hoover whether he thought his agents would recover it, he answered with one word:-  
"Probably."

Gold

Every so often for years we've had stories about gold strikes in the metropolitan vicinity of New York city. In every case the magic word of "Gold" has dwindled away into nothingness. Tonight we have a story of pay dirt at Astoria, Long Island, just across the East River from New York.

A butcher out of work was starting to build an enclosed porch on the front of his two-story frame house, was digging <sup>at</sup> a foundation, <sup>at Astoria, Long Island.</sup> Three feet down something sparkled in the sunshine. He had it analysed the <sup>a</sup> assayer said the dirt would yield gold to the amount of four dollars and twenty cents a ton. That wouldn't pay you to cart it away and have the yellow metal extracted. But the front yard prospector kept on going. Five feet down he finds a brighter gleam--gold in paying amounts, he believes.

As a matter of fact \$4.20 a ton would mean a bonanza. In the West they handle dirt that runs under half that amount a ton and make a big profit. So the next big gold rush may be on the edge of Brooklyn.

cut  
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## GOLD

A strike of pay dust on Long Island certainly would be hot. What do the geogolists say about it? Dr. Philip Krieger, head of the Department of Geogology at Columbia University, specialist on mineral ores, tells me with profound skepticism, said he:- "If the assayers declare it's gold, it must be gold. But I doubt very, very much if it is a natural ore deposit." Huh, huh, wonder if there has been some salting going on on Long Island. Maybe the metal was put there, a long time ago, perhaps. The Doctor gave the geogolical reasoning, which goes like this: "Long Island consists of sandy flats and soft crumbling stone. That's glacial material, the same as is found in West Chester County, New York, in Connecticut, and along the Atlantic Coast. Glacial deposits are never gold bearing -- so says the science of geology.

With that - the Long Island gold strike is left exceedingly dubious.

## STUDENTS

There seems to be some difference of opinion among the collegians--about being "Veterans of future wars." The difference today appears between the East and West.

The movement began in the East -- At Princeton <sup>where the boys were among the first to volunteer for the World War, it began</sup> with a student organization demanding immediate payment of a thousand dollars to each member, as a bonus for the sufferings they will endure in the war that is to come. Now Yale has picked up the idea with a bang. They've set up "Recruiting offices" in New Haven, where you enroll as a future veteran. Several hundred students have already enlisted in the army that will be. Last night they staged a bonus march. The students that expect to be heroes shouted for their thousand dollars. They put on a mock battle, showing how they're going to do and die for their country. Electric bulbs were smashed as bombs. In one hall somebody stole the fuses, which plunged the place into darkness. The wild frolic of the future veterans didn't end until the students' national guard was called out and restored order.

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## STUDENTS

Today I talked with the editors of the Yale Daily News, one of the most important of collegiate publications. They tell me that the editorial staff approves wholeheartedly of the "Veterans of Future Wars" movement.

But out west, on the Coast, another kind of organization has just been formed -- At Loyola College. It's called "Future Defenders of America." The Loyola students state their purpose as follows: "To correct the false impression that American youth is in harmony with the moronic movement which attempts to ridicule the patriotic traditions of our country."

Maybe the Pacific coast students haven't such a lively sense of humor as their Eastern brethren, or maybe they figure that all that effete Eastern Pacifism - if it is pacifism - or is it just playful - may help the country invite a licking some day. I'll leave it to you to figure out.

## SAFETY

Over in England a lot of disgruntled people are scanning a set of figures and saying grudgingly --- "We don't like it, but apparently it's working. " And I suppose they add:

λ "And still we don't like it." ~~It~~ The subject is-Safety.

England like our own country, has the dark problem of --death on the highway. The safety campaign over there takes drastic forms.

The personality in the case is Leslie Hore-Belisha. A few years ago he emerged from Oxford, one of those brilliant Oxtonians who are obviously destined for a high place in the London government. He made a swift upward climb, and was slated for all sorts of lofty honors. Knowing ones shook their heads when Hore-Belisha entered the cabinet as Minister of Transport<sup>tion.</sup> That seemed an unexciting post and it looked like a neat way to place an ambition young politician on a quiet shelf\*. But Hore-Belisha had other ideas. He launched his safety campaign, and pushed his ministry of transport.

right out into the limelight. He became a national figure; and a most popular one.

~~He appealed to every woman in England to say to her husband or son every morning: "Be careful, and come home alive."~~ He persuaded auto accessory manufacturers to market picture frames such as would hold a portrait of wife of sweetheart-- and on the frames the inscription, "Please be careful for my sake."

Then he inaugurated a system of --safety islands and special traffic lights. At many dangerous crossings he installed special orange lights, which gave pedestrians the right of way all the time. That's what enraged the motorists. They fumed at what they contemptuously called, "Belisha's beacons." A year and a half ago, the indignant motorists launched a counter-attack---With air guns, shooting out the hated orange glint of Belisha's beacons.

Today the figures are issued, figures showing the effect of the safety campaign. Fewer accidents, a decided drop in the number of motorists and pedestrians killed or injured.

ENDING

The motorists may not like the Belisha beacon system of safety, but it's working.

So the brilliant but unpopular young Minister is going right ahead. Today we hear he's getting up a doomsday book -- Doom is right, a statistical study of road accidents. More than a hundred thousand questionnaires are being distributed to the Police in England. It's an elaborate affair. The causes of accidents are listed under sixty-four headings. The survey is designed to give a complete picture of road mishaps, age and speed of cars, condition of drivers, state of the road, with many an ectetra.

The personal angle is that Hore-Belisha expects to accomplish enough safety to overcome the unpopularity he incurs by doing it -- and thus further his political career.

As Cabinet Minister Leslie Hore-Belisha has trained every woman in England to say to her husband or son: "be careful and come home alive" and,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.