

L.A. - Sunco. West, Jan. 25, 1939.

EARTHQUAKE

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Disaster in Chile, an earthquake that has brought death and destruction in the southern part of the Republic. Six of the southern provinces were shaken up - a region four hundred miles long and a hundred miles wide ~~along the Pacific coast south of the capital, Santiago de Chile.~~

The most lethal part of the shock was reported to have struck the city of Concepcion, the third largest in Chile. First reports had it that two thousand ~~people~~ had been killed there, forty per cent of the buildings shaken to the ground. That report came from a ham radio operator. Apparently none of the large broadcasting stations were operating. A later message from another ham declared ~~that that~~ report about Concepcion was exaggerated.

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Even this afternoon it was impossible to make ~~even~~ a rough estimate of the ~~actual carnage and~~ damage done by the quake. Apparently the communication system ~~at the disposal~~ of the Chilean government has broken down. ~~At least,~~ Official reports are so fragmentary ~~that~~ they tell almost nothing. But it is known that the Talcahuano zone, which lies two hundred and fifty miles south

of the capital has been placed under martial law, and that tells its own story. The city of Concepcion is the center of Talcahuano. There ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> a naval base there ~~which was~~ badly damaged.

<sup>TP</sup> When a bulletin of the quake reached the government offices in ~~the capital~~ <sup>Santiago</sup>, the first thing done was to send out squadrons of military planes, big ones, bombers, ~~but they carried~~ <sup>with</sup> relief ~~and help~~ <sup>not</sup> instead of bombs. President Cerdo of Chile then ordered a special train which he boarded for the stricken zone, accompanied by forty doctors, <sup>and</sup> seventy nurses, ~~and carrying medical supplies.~~ All day airplanes were taking off constantly from Santiago and other northern air bases for the territory shaken by the temblor.

As reports continue to come in, it is feared that this quake may be ~~even~~ as severe as the one that hit the same region ~~just over~~ ten years ago, ~~killing six hundred people.~~



ADD EARTHQUAKE

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With President Cerdo in the south, his Foreign Minister, Dr. Ortega, took the helm of state at Santiago. His first act was to broadcast a statement ~~fr~~ over the radio. He told the Chileanos that all reports about the earthquake had been exaggerated, casualties not nearly as heavy as rumored. On the other hand, an official observer in an airplane <sup>flew</sup> over a place called Parral, in the center of the earthquake zone, and Parral seemed to be nearly destroyed.

Another plane carried a correspondent of the United Press. He flew over a town called Talca and observed the streets of that city entirely deserted, roofs wrecked, and south of the city two trains off the rails.

And here's a later and ~~far~~ more <sup>startling</sup> ~~shocking~~ report!—

An airplane which landed at the city of Chillan is supposed to have come back to Santiago with the news that ten thousand people had been killed there, every house in the city destroyed except five. Chillan, a place three hundred and twenty-three miles south of Santiago, has, or rather had, a population of forty-five thousand.

WAR

Seven of General Franco's fighting aviators got ambitious today. They appeared over the harbor where Uncle Sam's cruiser OMAHA was waiting to evacuate refugees. A motor launch of the OMAHA was on its way from the breakwater to the ship, carrying off Colonel Cheadle and Commander Cogswell, military and naval attaches of Uncle Sam 's Embassy. The Franco planes started bombing the OMAHA'S motor launch. They dropped fourteen bombs altogether, but the closest they got was one which landed fifty yards from the boat. ~~But that wasn't all they got.~~

They received a terrific <sup>blast</sup> ~~avalanche~~ from the aircraft guns of every warship in the foreign fleet anchored there! ~~There was a~~ French cruiser with three destroyers, a British cruiser, our own OMAHA, and the destroyer BADGER. Every one of them started <sup>firing</sup> ~~popping~~ at Franco's planes, which soon made their getaway.

On the French ~~side of the~~ frontier, a French anti-aircraft battery brought down a large German bomber, which crashed into flames. After they located the plane, they found a map of both the French and the Spanish side of the Pyrenees, French villages being marked with German names.



As for the war itself, ~~the news is somewhat of an~~  
~~anti-climax after what we learned yesterday.~~ Franco with his  
armies ~~was~~ busy encircling Barcelona, ~~with the obvious purpose~~  
<sup>to</sup> cutting off the escape of refugees trying to get to France.

<sup>TP</sup> In the ~~suburbs~~ <sup>streets</sup> of the Catalonian capital, Republican troops were  
still making a desperate last stand. But it seems to be in the  
nature of a rear guard action to protect the retreat. *The*  
*occupation went on all day.*

DIPLOMATIC

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Some months ago, ~~General~~ Franco was quoted as saying that he had a list, a card index of two million enemies. These enemies, he is supposed to have said, would receive due attention and punishment after the <sup>final victory.</sup> ~~government armies have finally surrendered to the Nationalists.~~ There is a report from London today that the British and French governments will unite in a protest. They will call upon the Nationalist chief to ~~keep the implied~~ ~~promise~~ ~~made~~ ~~in~~ ~~his~~ ~~broadcast~~ spare his enemies.



WILLIAMS

One bit of news about that Spanish business comes by way of Greenwich, Connecticut. John Bull has got a card up his sleeve, a trick to prevent Fuehrer Hitler and Duce Mussolini from doing any land-grabbing in stricken Spain. The author of this story is Wythe Williams, <sup>chief N.Y. Times</sup> once ~~United States~~ correspondent in Europe, and now editor of ~~the~~ GREENWICH TIMES.

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<sup>Wythe</sup> Williams says that the English are getting ready to lend Franco a huge sum to lay a stymie to Hitler and Mussolini. At its lowest estimate, says Williams, this British loan will be a hundred million dollars. With this money, Franco will be able to pay the Duce and the Fuehrer in cash, and will not have to repay them with land or with leases on certain portions of Spanish territory, which amounts to the same thing as a land grab.

<sup>Wythe</sup> Williams says this was decided at a special meeting of the British Cabinet last week, at the instance of Prime Minister Chamberlain.

ITALY FOLLOW GERMANY

And this is what happened in Italy today. In the morning Duce Mussolini was in conference for two hours with King Boris of Bulgaria. Second, the Italian government confirmed last Monday's reports that sixty thousand reservists had been called to the colors.

Then there were also reports, but these were not confirmed, that Mussolini had concentrated large numbers of his troops at Genoa and Spezia. From those places they can be whisked over to Spain or to the French frontier, at a moment's notice.

Then there was a warning, not exactly official but made public ~~at~~ by ~~our friend~~ Virginio Gayda, the Duce's principal

editor. ~~He was discussing rumors~~ There had been a rumor that if Mussolini does not withdraw his troops from Spain the minute the Civil War ends, France might retaliate in violent fashion, might seize Minorca in the Balearic Islands or <sup>Spanish</sup> Morocco. Editor Gayda took advantage of this report to issue a warning to France. "Such action," he said, "could not be accepted in silence." And he added: "It would signify aggressive and unprovoked French action to which Italy could not remain indifferent, it would be a new violation of the



~~Mediterranean status quo which Italy could not accept silently."~~

*And here's a warning in*  
~~Still another warning of even more threatening language —~~

was issued to France in Rome. It appeared in a semi-official paper, called "Diplomatic Information." What makes it important is that it showed signs of having been written by Mussolini himself. The gist of the warning was that if either France or Russia interferes in Spain, Italy will intervene openly.

GERMANY

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A curious bit of news comes from Berlin. Nineteen of the crack trains on the German state railways have been cancelled until further notice. The government has cut out that many of the fastest trains connecting the principal cities of the Reich.

That sounds indeed strange as the Germans have always been as proud of their railways as we have in America, especially their crack express trains. One explanation has it that this is a consequence of the tremendous movements of troops and materials that were necessary last year while Hitler was *anschlussing* Austria and busting up Czechoslovakia. That made a terrific demand upon the rolling stock of the Prussian state railways. Also the fortification of the Siegfried Line along the River Rhine. As a result, railway cars are ~~stalled~~ sadly in need of repair. That, at any rate, is the story.



RIOT

Another riot in India. ~~It was~~ One of those religious rumpuses, a fight between Hindus and Moslems. It happened at Bareilly, a city in the united provinces that you ~~may have~~ read about in ~~one of~~ Kipling's ~~poems~~. Before the riot was stopped, six people were killed, ninety injured. British troops finally restored peace after ~~many people had been stabbed and~~ *had been* fires started all over the city.

## FRENCH PLANES

We've been hearing a great deal about foreign purchases of American airplanes. Hitherto it hasn't been official. Today the announcement was made by the French Embassy in Washington. ~~It was made by the Air Attache to the Embassy. He made public the fact that~~ a mission of French air experts is now negotiating the largest order of fighting planes ever placed by any foreign government in America. The French attache admitted that before the negotiations are completed, it might mean the purchase of six hundred fighting ships in America.

In addition to that, the French have already placed one order for a hundred pursuit planes with ~~the~~ Curtis-Wright, ~~Corporation at Buffalo.~~



EMBARGO

A Pennsylvania Congressman wants to compel President Roosevelt to explain his actions to Congress. It's all about the Spanish embargo. It seems a trifle late in the day to get excited about that, with Franco ~~practically~~ in Barcelona, and that

~~Civil War obviously on a matter of weeks now~~ But Republican

*Jimmy*  
Representative Van Zandt of Pennsylvania doesn't think it's too

late. He wants a special joint committee of Congress to be named and to summon Mr. Roosevelt to appear in person and explain his foreign policy.

In the Senate meanwhile, Democratic Senator Reynolds of North Carolina was shooting firecrackers at the President. He was exercised because of that twenty-five million dollar loan to China. "Mr. Roosevelt has started an undeclared war against Japan," says Senator Reynolds. And he added; "The United States is again pulling Britain's chestnuts out of the fire in the Far East."

WAGNER ACT

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The scene is all set now in Washington for the fireworks over the Wagner Act, the Labor Relations statute. Senator Walsh of Massachusetts opened the ball by offering amendments to Senator Wagner's measure. It is no secret that those amendments were not only dictated but actually drawn up by the legal department of the American Federation of Labor. The idea is supposed to be to meet some of the bitter criticisms that have been hurled at the way the act is working out. Business men kicked because the Labor Relations Board wouldn't allow them even to express their opinions. So one of the amendments permits employers "to express opinions on matters of interest to their employees or to the public but, provided that such opinions are not accompanied by acts of discrimination or threats."

Another amendment would allow employers to ask the Board to conduct elections among their employees. At present elections can only be instituted ~~by the NLRB~~ at the request of the employees.

~~There are eight amendments altogether, all designed~~



BRULATOUR

Today in the affair of Jules Brulatour New York  
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police and investigators of the District Attorney's office made  
further efforts to find the pistol with which the multi-millionaire  
was wounded last Saturday. So far the search has been quite  
futile.

The next step of District Attorney Tom Dewey was ~~ix~~  
an order for Brulatour's arrest. The charge against him, the  
unlawful possession of a gun.

Hope Hampton, Brulator's wife, appeared at the  
District Attorney's office for questioning. She was accompanied  
by three maids. As soon as she reached the office, she was  
promptly taken before the grand jury.

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HOUDRY (pronounced Oudri)

Here is one of those stories about industry as romantic ~~and dramatic~~ as many a fiction tale of adventure. It begins with a young man of brains, a prophet without honor in his own country:- Eugene Houdry, high honor graduate of French ~~engineering and~~ scientific schools; ~~was~~ born into the steel business in France. ¶ He became interested in gasoline, ~~he~~ started experiments and hit upon a process which meant enormous advance in the extraction of gasoline from petroleum. Due to the somewhat nebulous status of the development from a commercial standpoint, oil interests in his own country and other European nations decided against the attempt to carry the idea to completion. ~~despite its obvious benefits if successful. They~~ all turned him down. ¶ Harold Sheets of the old Vacuum Oil Company, now Vice-President of Socony heard of the work and after investigation brought Houdry to America to develop the process. Following Vacuum's merger with Socony it was decided that Houdry should seek additional backing. ¶ All this I learned ~~I learned these facts by the way~~ from an article in the February issue of Fortune Magazine. ~~Says~~ Fortune: "~~Houdry made his round of United States oil.~~" To cut



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the story short the young Frenchman finally went to Philadelphia, met Arthur Pew, Sun Oil Company Vice-President in charge of research. ~~The~~ Fortune ~~story~~ continues: "Houdry says he talked to Mr. Pew for twenty minutes before they struck a bargain, Pew remembers forty minutes." Perhaps we can split the difference and settle for thirty. At any rate, Houdry moved into the laboratory of the Sun Oil Company at Marcus Hook. Today thirty-five million dollars is being spent in new plants by Sun Oil and Socony to extract gasoline by the Houdry process.

What does that mean to us? The story in Fortune goes on to another dramatic episode. At the Nineteenth Convention of the American Petroleum Institute in Chicago, Arthur Pew was scheduled to read a paper. "He is no spell-binder," says Fortune. A sturdy man, six feet tall, big, quiet and abrupt, shoots his words out as though they came from a gun. Arthur Pew met an unexpectedly large audience at that meeting last November. The main show was over, leaving the decks clear for the technical men who usually read their papers to each other. But when Arthur Pew got up to speak every chair was taken, <sup>and</sup> the aisles were jammed.

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His paper had a formidable scientific title. But, everybody listened spell-bound, no coughing, no scraping of chairs. And, Fortune adds, "when Pew finished the room was dead silent." There were only a few questions. The truth is that the oil men were not talking but thinking. Arthur Pew had dropped a bomb shell. "If he has called his shots right," says Fortune, "there will be a change in the entire oil industry." What it means to the motor car driver is that the quality of gasoline will be improved in spectacular fashion. Its octane rating, that's what keeps the knock out of your motors, will be sensationally higher. Motor builders will be able to turn out cars to travel faster and farther on a gallon of fuel. What's more, the aviation industry will profit too. Airplane engines need a hundred octane gasoline.

58 1/2

And that

will be much cheaper to manufacture by the new process. *all*  
this says Fortune.

It is doubtful whether pure Houdry gasoline will

appear in the dealer's pumps before 1940 when the present-plant-building programs are scheduled for completion. But, prior to ~~it~~ this, as the production is increased the benefits to the motorist will be noted in increasing anti-knock characteristics.

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59 1/4

Something new in gas, affecting the whole world.