

KIDNAP

There was a gunfight at Darien, <sup>Conn.</sup> ~~City~~ today, and three kidnapers are under arrest. It came about when a family, instead of being intimidated by kidnap threats, went straight to the police.

Gustave Westheim is a shipping broker with a country home in Darien, ~~Connecticut~~. The kidnap threat was that his son would be abducted. The police were on the job, ambuscaded near the Westheim house. They kept a vigil for several days and nights. To-day, ~~four~~ crooks called to collect the money. The chief of police of Darien and his men jumped in. And that's where the shooting began, ~~the~~ an exchange of gunfire between the cops and the robbers. The chief of police and one of his men were wounded. At just about that time the state troopers, who were also in the ambushade, got into the mix-up and when it was all over ~~the~~ <sup>of the</sup> three crooks were under arrest, on their way to jail.

This is quite a contrast to the usual sort of kidnap or extortion story, with families frightened, trying to keep away the police, refusing to cooperate. The way to discourage kidnapping is to act boldly and firmly - although that of course is inevitably tied up with those human feelings and attitudes which none can escape.

COUNTERFEITER

47

This is about - "pushers of the queer". Queer means queer money, counterfeit. And the pushers are the ones who pass the false currency. There have been rumors that there is a wave of counterfeit all over the country, with the pushers of the queer pushing streams of the queer far and wide. ~~How about it?~~ How about it? Well, the Rockefeller Center Weekly, Radio City's periodical, took that question to Chief Moran, head of the Secret Service. And the reply was "no" - also "yes". There is no countrywide flood of counterfeit, but there are local floods ~~passed~~ in certain sections - such as midtown New York. The pushers of the queer staged a fast campaign of counterfeit at the expense of the fancy restaurants and night clubs. This went on until just recently, when the Secret Service concentrated its attention on New York's Roaring Forties, and the wary counterfeiters moved the center of their activities elsewhere.

And Chief Moran gave the reporter of the Rockefeller Center Weekly a valuable tip on how to detect counterfeit bills: "Look into the eyes", says the article - not in the eyes of the person passing a bill, but of the portrait on the bill. The

counterfeit eyes are almost invariably foggy. The good ones are clear. The counterfeit eyes don't focus; the eyes of a genuine note look clearly, directly at you.

Watch the bank teller as he counts bills handed in to him. He is trained to watch the eyes in the portraits on the money.

VANDERBILT

The Vanderbilt mystification is now at an end.

First the Judge gave out quite a cryptic statement and then he said it was just to mystify the press. And the press was mystified all right, and so were the opposing lawyers in the case.

But now Justice Carew makes it all clear. Little Gloria Vanderbilt, the ten-year-old heiress to two million dollars, is ordered by the court to remain in the custody of her aunt, Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney -- that is, until the girl is fourteen years old. But she will be allowed to make visits to her mother. When she is fourteen she will select her own guardian, her aunt, her mother, or whom she pleases.

This decision has compromise elements, but it takes the little heiress away from her mother, the mother charged in the court proceedings with not being a fit person to have the custody of her child. An appeal is to be made.

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt spoke today at a monument to one of the least known and most important heroes in American history - George Rogers Clark. He was a great Revolutionary War hero and pioneer of the West. Most of us, remembering our school history books, will think of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. But that Clark was a different one, a younger brother of George Rogers Clark. George Rogers Clark struck out across the mountains and fought the British in the Mississippi Valley. I once wrote his life, "The Hero of Vincennes," telling how he led a band of dare devil frontiersmen, wild knife fighters. The Indians called them "Big Knives". George Rogers Clark led his small, fierce army to the wild lands of Kentucky, "the dark and bloody" ground, and on through forest wilderness. It would have been a great exploration jaunt all by itself. But it was also a campaign of war - fighting against the Redcoats, as well as the most hardy pioneering.

Speaking at the dedication of the George Rogers Clark Memorial at Harrisburg, Kentucky, the chief executive referred to that pioneering spirit: Said he:- "The accustomed order

of our formally established lives does not suffice to meet the perils and problems which we are compelled to face."

And then he added: "Mere survival calls for new pioneering on our part."

From the Clark dedication, the President goes on to his inspection tour of the Tennessee Valley Power Development, and from there to the Warm Springs Foundation which he established to fight infantile paralysis.

BIDDLE

President Roosevelt sprung a surprise today when he appointed the successor to Lloyd K. Garrison as Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board. It had been expected that he would nominate Robert M. Hutchins, the youthful President of the University of Chicago. Professor Hutchins was called to Washington recently and the dope was that he would get the job. But now the President has appointed Francis Biddle, of the famous Philadelphia Biddles. He is a grandson of Edward Randolph, who was first Attorney General of the United States. He is a member of a Philadelphia law firm and at one time was Assistant ~~Att~~ Federal Attorney in that City. Now Francis Biddle becomes Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board.

POSTMASTER GENERAL

We have been hearing for some time about the Post Office Department getting out of the red. That was astonishing because Uncle Sam's mailman has been ~~the~~ so seldom in the black. Now it's happened. Postmaster General James A. Farley, with his renowned fountain pen full of green ink, has just signed a report to the President, telling how not only the postal deficit has been wiped out for this year, but there is an actual surplus - a tidy surplus of over twelve million dollars. This is the first time the Post Office Department has been run without a deficit since nineteen nineteen, and this year's surplus is the largest in the history of the United States mail, with the exception of the war year of nineteen eighteen.

But there is no need of my saying much about it, because the Postmaster General himself is going to tell it. He is at a microphone in Washington, ready for a switch over, and now - the Postmaster General of the United States <sup>telling</sup> ~~will tell~~ us how he got the United States mails out of the red, and into the black, with green ink.



## TAX

And that's word from the Post Master General -- Mr. Farley. And here's something that might interest Mr. Farley. There's a storm brewing in New York, a storm about taxation. Mayor LaGuardia, faced with the task of raising forty-five million dollars for unemployment relief this winter, is planning a shake-up in taxation. The latest dope is that he is going to put on the tax list institutions that from time immemorial have been exempt.

Churches, schools and hospitals, religious and social institutions, have always been free from taxation. Mayor LaGuardia does not intend to tax them now, unless they are run for a profit. But if they are run for a profit, he plans to put them on the tax list, which will bring millions of dollars to the City. This is being put through the Board of Taxes and Assessments, which holds, (for example,) that Baker Field, Columbia's football stadium, must pay because football is run for profit. The same goes for finishing schools and private schools that are out to make money. On the list are hotels operated by the Y.M.C.A. and the Knights of Columbus, Masonic Temples and the private library of J.P.Morgan - which latter

TAX - 2

property seems hardly a profit making affair.

Yes, it's sure to raise a storm, and it may lose many votes next election time. But LaGuardia is determined to raise the unemployment relief money, storm or no storm.

HUEY

The next twenty days are going to be a busy time in Louisiana -- for creditors trying to collect and for debtors trying to duck.

The Louisiana Senate has confirmed the overwhelming vote of the Lower House, and <sup>has</sup> passed the Kingfish moratorium, today. It calls off the paying of debts for two years. No legal proceedings ~~ex~~ for collection can be instituted during that

period. The law goes into effect in twenty days -- twenty days in which debts can still be collected. If the Louisiana

creditors can't <sup>make the boys fork over</sup> collect by that time they'll have to wait for two

long <sup>4</sup> years. It's their poison all right, but it's meat for the

boys that wrote the I.O.U.'s.

And the Kingfish is like the elephant. The elephant never forgets -- neither does the Kingfish. A year ago Huey Long made a speech at the town of Alexandria. His remarks were enthusiastically received with a barrage of eggs, cabbages and tomatoes. They say he didn't mind the shower of stale vegetables so much. But what he resented was the fact that

the police-force did nothing to stop the egging.

Maybe they even egged the egging on.

In addition to that there was another minor matter of a Kingfish henchman getting stabbed at an Alexandria meeting. Huey blamed that on the police force too. And now he's getting even. A State Civil Service Commission is being created in Louisiana, and ~~its~~ first activities will concern the town of Alexandria. Huey will use the commission to whack the Alexandria police chief right out of his job.

57  
The next <sup>task</sup> ~~job~~ for the Civil Service Commission will be to cut salaries, not only in Alexandria but in other places too. They say all Huey's political enemies in office will get their salaries slashed.

## ALICE

In England Mrs. Alice Hargreaves has died at the age of eighty-two. When she was a little girl, those many years ago, her father was a dean of Christ Church at Oxford. There were ten children. Three of the girls were of the age when listening to stories is the best. They were Alice, Lorina and Edith. There was a young Oxford Professor of Mathematics named Charles Dodgson, who used to row a punt up the river and visit the dean's house, where there were so many children. He particularly liked the three little girls, Alice, Lorina and Edith, but he liked Alice the best. The girls always used to say - "Tell us a story, please." And Alice would add: "And please make it a story with some nonsense in it." That's why the Professor of Mathematics liked Alice the best.

So one historic summer afternoon he told Alice a story with very much nonsense in it. He made it up as he talked, about a little girl named Alice, who fell down a rabbit hole. There was a white rabbit, an ugly duchess, a Mad Hatter and a March hare, Tweedledum and Tweedle-dee, the walrus and the carpenter. Later on he wrote it down. He signed it with the pseudonym of Lewis Carroll, and called it: "The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland." That Mrs. Hargreaves, who died in

56

ALICE - 2

England today was the little girl of the story, the original Alice.

Let's believe that today Alice went to Wonderland..

HYPNOTISM

In Vienna Herr Hedwig suffered from insomnia. At night he tossed and turned from one side to the other, got out of bed and took a walk.

"Why don't you try hypnotism?" his wife suggested again and again.

Herr Hedwig didn't believe in hypnotism, but finally decided he'd try anything just to get a couple of winks of sleep.

"All right," he conceded to his wife. "Get a hypnotist." And the wife did. She brought in a man with the ~~sharpen~~ piercing eyes and fixed gaze of a mesmerist. He was a hypnotist all right. His hypnotism sure did work. He made passes in front of Herr Hedwig's face and droned ~~at once~~ hypnotic phrases of suggestion:-

"You are very sleepy. You are very sleepy. You are very sleepy."

And then as Herr Hedwig began to drowse away, the hypnotist tossed in an extra suggestion.

"When you wake up don't ask your wife where she has been. Don't ask her. Don't ask her. *Don't ask her.*"

58

Herr Hedwig declares that the hypnotism was so powerful that he found it impossible to disobey the suggestion -- impossible to stay awake -- impossible to ask his wife where she had been. Even when friends told him they had seen her out with the hypnotist night after night, at dance halls and cabarets. No, he still couldn't ask any questions; but the hypnotist had forgotten one thing. He should have added as he made those mesmerizing passes:-

"Don't sue for a divorce; don't sue for a divorce; don't sue for a divorce."

But, as he didn't do that, Herr Hedwig is suing for a divorce in the Vienna courts and making haymaker passes of messmerism at the hypnotist.

{ Why is hypnotism like a news broadcast? Because it sometimes puts people to sleep. And,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.