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3 GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

4 Well that important news from the
5 Far East we were expecting last night,
6 certainly came through today. (Shanghai,
7 the New York of the China Coast, is a
8 scene of battle tonight. The armed
9 forces of the Mikado seized Shanghai
10 today. Bitter fighting has been going
11 on, a battle with machine guns in the
12 crooked, crowded quarters. And there
13 were bombs from the sky.)

14 At first it looked as if there
15 wouldn't be any trouble. The Associated
16 Press tells how the Chinese authorities
17 at Shanghai seemed to give in on every
18 point to the demands of the Japanese,
19 but just the same, the Commander of the
20 large Japanese naval flotilla lying in
21 the harbor, was not satisfied.

22 The Japanese ultimatum expired
23 at midnight, and at just about that time
24 the fighting began. The warships
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1 ~~XXXXXX~~ opened a bombardment on ^{the} Woosung
 2 forts which guard the harbor of Shanghai.
 3 The big guns belched flame, and the
 4 heavy shells went screaming and struck
 5 the forts with deafening bursts. And
 6 so the Woosung Forts, famous in the
 7 history of China, were silenced by the
 8 ~~big~~ big guns of ^{Japans} ~~the~~ warships. At the
 9 same time landing parties ~~of millions~~
 10 went ashore ^{from the} ~~the~~ ships, and they fought
 11 their way into the Chinese city.

12 Through the darkness, ^{along} ~~and~~ the
 13 black shadows ^{of} ~~of~~ streets advanced the
 14 little men of Nippon, seizing houses,
 15 capturing Chinese soldiers and disarming
 16 them.

17 The battle was fought largely
 18 with machine guns. When day came the
 19 Japanese rapidly took possession of most
 20 of the ^{great} Chinese city. The soldiers of
 21 China made a determined stand behind the
 22 Roukasan Gardens, a popular resort in
 23 Shanghai, and bitter fighting took
 24 place. They also made a determined stand at
 25 ~~A late dispatch of the United~~
 the North Station, which is strategically
 important. That was when the Japanese

1 airplanes went into action. Now the
2 United Press declares that the North
3 Station has fallen. The Chinese fought
4 well, but when the bombs came raining
5 out of the sky that was too much.

6 During the battle bullets fell
7 in the International Settlement, the
8 famous section of Shanghai.

9 A United Press wire from Washington
10 declares that the United States is
11 determined that the Japanese in their
12 occupation of Shanghai, shall not seize
13 the International Settlement. There is
14 mention too of the Open Door, with
15 warnings that the Japanese must not
16 interfere with the commerce of other
17 nations in China, -- in other words, they
18 must not try to close the Shanghai door
19 to other folks! business.

20 The authorities at Tokio are said
21 to be annoyed by the fact that the
22 government at Washington has published
23 documents relating to negotiations
24 between the United States and Japan on
25 the subject of Manchuria. One suggestion

1 has been that the neutral nations of
2 the world might undertake economic
3 measures against Japan. That would mean
4 a boycott by the United States and other
5 countries. The hint is given in Tokio
6 that if any boycott were declared ~~we~~
7 against Japan, why the Tokio government
8 would break diplomatic relations with
9 any country involved.

10 Well, the whole world is
11 watching --- wondering what is going to
12 happen next on the China Coast.

1 All the news to be told this
2 evening about the lost British
3 submarine, the M2, consists of rumors.
4 ~~The~~ search has been going on ^{and on}, but the
5 missing under-sea craft has not been
6 found.

7 One report was given today by
8 the Captain of the Danish Schooner. He
9 declares that on Tuesday night, when the
10 submarine disappeared he saw strange
11 lights on the sea, followed by two
12 explosions like the detonations of a
13 big gun. The position he gives for the
14 supposed explosions would fit the general
15 stretch of the North Sea Channel where
16 the M2 was operating.

17 Another report, passed along by
18 the Associated Press, tells of the
19 discovery of a great patch of oil on
20 the Channel. The ships that have been
21 searching steamed to the ^{scene} ~~sea~~ and started
22 the hunt over the bottom. But until now
23 no definite word has come through about
24 the vanished under-sea boat and hope for
25 the sixty men aboard ^{has fallen to} ~~is almost at~~ zero.

1 *sensational*
2 Another kidnapping case has come
3 to a close, and they say that no ~~man~~
4 ransom was paid. This ends a wholesale
5 police hunt throughout northern Indiana
6 and Illinois. Howard A. Wolverton of
7 South Bend, ~~Indiana~~, has returned home,
8 after being kidnapped and held for
9 50,000 dollars ransom. He has come back
10 exhausted and unnerved by the ordeal
11 through which he passed.

12 The kidnapers captured him and
13 took him, blindfolded, to a house
14 somewhere. They told him he must pay
15 50,000. ~~dollars~~. He said he couldn't --
16 he didn't have that much money.
17 Apparently, the kidnapers became
18 convinced of the truth of this. But
19 Wolverton didn't know that. They told
20 him they were going to take him for a
21 ride, and he thought his end had come.
22 They blindfolded him, and put him in a
23 car, and drove him around for a long time.
24 The Associated Press describes how, near
25 Michigan City, Indiana, they released him
and told him to go home.

1 It looks as if those new taxes
2 that are coming will not be retroactive.—
3 *and that's something.*
4 An Associated Press wire from Washington
5 ■ declares that the Democratic members
6 of the Ways and Means Committee agreed
7 today that the new and heavier taxes will
8 not apply to incomes received before the
9 date the new tax law goes into effect.
10 In other words, we won't have to pay
11 those increased taxes on our incomes for
12 1931.

13 Speaker ~~of the House~~ Garner issued
14 a statement ^{*this afternoon*} saying that in the Tax Bill
15 which the Democrats are preparing, that
16 retroactive angle will be eliminated.
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1 I had ^{something of a} ~~a real~~ sentimental thrill
2 today. How come? Well, the reason for
3 that thrill ~~will be~~ ^{was} displayed on all the
4 newsstands ~~tomorrow~~ ^{today.} It's a painting in
5 warm, vivid colors. It shows a lovely
6 tropical harbor, with mountains in the
7 background, and palm trees on the left.
8 In the foreground is the wall of an old
9 fort, and on it are six cannons of a
10 bygone day, those antique ~~muzzle~~-loaders
11 that used to shoot cannon-balls.

12 Well, when I got my ~~advance~~ copy
13 of the new Literary Digest, that picture,
14 which is on the cover, made me sit back
15 and do a bit of reminiscing. The
16 picture, painted by the Scottish artist
17 William Rigg, shows the old fort at
18 ^{Anteegah} Antigua, a town in the British West
19 Indies. No, I have never been to that
20 particular island, but those old cannons
21 reminded me of Santo Domingo. I made a
22 voyage to Santo Domingo several years ago
23 aboard the big sailing ship navigated by
24 Count Luckner, the Sea Devil. We put
25 into Santo Domingo, and after running

1 on a mud-bank, we came to anchor under
2 the frowning walls of the massive castle
3 built by the son of Christopher Columbus.
4 Of course, we went rambling around the
5 ancient fortress. We were told a story
6 about how upon one warlike occasion a
7 number of cannons had been thrown off
8 the walls and into the water just below
9 -- to save them from the enemy, or
10 ■ something like that. And as we looked
11 down into the clear water, which
12 sparkled like crystal, we could see
13 dimly on the bottom the forms of those
14 ancient guns, relics of the great age of
15 discovery.

16 ~~We all felt a pleasant antiquarian~~
17 ~~interest -- especially Sherm -- although~~
18 ~~I'm not quite sure that Sherm has any~~
19 ~~antiquarian or archeological passions in~~
20 ~~the depths of his soul.~~

21 ~~Now Sherm is my motion-picture~~
22 ~~operator. He is a youth whose mind is~~
23 ~~commonly devoted, with a magnificent~~
24 ~~singleness of purpose, to such questions~~
25 ~~as, "When do we eat?" or "What are we~~

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1 My gallant assistant, named Sherm,
2 waited until none of the local soldiers
3 or police were around, and then he
4 proceeded to dive. He is a magnificent
5 swimmer. He may even have had the idea
6 that he could bring up one of those huge
7 pieces of artillery. He couldn't do
8 that, of course, but after a number of
9 attempts, including some really first-
10 rate diving, he discovered on the bottom
11 a small cannon, about a foot and a half
12 or two feet long. Then, with truly
13 heroic labor, he dug it out of the mud
14 and brought it up.

15 It was a marvelous bit of antiquity
16 and history, rusted heavily by sea-water,
17 and bearing eloquent marks of great age.

18 A little more than a year ago when
19 I went to Chicago to broadcast for a
20 couple of weeks, I took the cannon along
21 with me, intending to present it to Burt
22 Masseur of the Chicago Geographical Society.
23 But when we took our baggage off at
24 Chicago the cannon was missing, and it's
25 still missing.

1 So that's why when I saw that old
2 fort with those splendid-looking ancient
3 guns on the cover of the new Literary
4 Digest, that came out today, it brought
5 back memories of Santo Domingo, the
6 castle of Columbus, and that cannon
7 fished from the sea.

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1 There is an exceedingly human
2 and slightly whimsical story behind a
3 gala event that is taking place at ~~the~~ ^{York's} New
4 Metropolitan Opera House tonight. The
5 Metropolitan is performing an opera
6 called "^{Simone} ~~Simon~~ ^{Boccanegra} Boccanegra," by the
7 composer Verdi.

8 The tale to be told relates
9 how that particular opera was the
10 composer's favorite, but it never made ^{much}
11 ^{of} a success.

12 Verdi wrote the opera in his
13 vigorous maturity, shortly after he had
14 achieved ovations with "Rigoletto" and
15 "Il Trovatore."

16 ~~He thought "Simon Boccanegra"~~
17 ~~was one of the best things he ever~~
18 ~~wrote, but~~ When it was produced it fell
19 flat. That didn't make him lose faith
20 in it. He loved that unsuccessful opera
21 all the better. At other performances,
22 however, it still fell flat.

23 Twenty years went by, and "Simon
24 Boccanegra" seemed to be as dead as an
25 opera can be. But Verdi never gave up

1 ~~xxx~~ hope. He kept the score in his
2 trunk, and still thought it some of
3 the best music he had ever written.

4 Then in his old age, when he was
5 one of the most famous figures in music,
6 he resurrected the old opera. He
7 changed it ~~a bit~~ ^{some}, polished it up a bit.

8 And "Simon Boccanegra" was
9 produced again, and once more it failed
10 to make ^{the sensational} a success that Verdi hoped for.

11 The great composer died with
12 that beloved opera of his still a comparative
13 failure.

14 And now, many years later, in a land ^{across}
15 ^{the seas,} "Simon Boccanegra" is getting another
16 chance, and it may be that Verdi's
17 dearest hope may be fulfilled, ^{though} ~~long~~ while the
18 ^{great composer looks on from} ~~after he has passed into~~ the world of
19 the Shades.

1 Now comes a question about Moses.
 2 No, it isn't that old puzzler -- Where
 3 was Moses when the light went out?
 4 This time it's -- Who found Moses in the
 5 bulrushes?

6 Well, we all know it was Pharoah's
 7 daughter. But which daughter of which
 8 Pharoah? And what was her name?

9 ^{papers far and wide have been} ~~The United Press~~ ^{ing} quotes Professor
 10 John Garstang, a British archeologist,
 11 as declaring that Moses was found in the
 12 bulrushes by Princess Hatasu. It is
 13 claimed that this fact has been discovered
 14 in the course of excavations made at the
 15 site of the ancient city of Jericho, that
 16 same Jericho whose walls fell down when
 17 the Israelites ^{under Joshua} blew a blast on their
 18 trumpets.

19 The Professor goes on and tells how
 20 Princess Hatasu was the greatest woman in
 21 Egyptian history. She ruled over the land
 22 in partnership with Pharoah Thotmes the
 23 Third. Thotmes afterwards was one of the
 24 greatest Egyptian conquerors. He was a
 25 sort of Napoleon of his time. But as

1 long as he had the Princess Hatasu for
2 a partner he was considerably handicapped
3 by the dominance of that masterful lady.
4 He hated her bitterly, and after she had
5 passed from the scene he had her name
6 obliterated from all the great monuments
7 she had erected.

8 Well, the story that seems to be
9 revealed by the excavations of Jericho
10 is that Princess Hatasu made Moses an
11 important court official. He was one of
12 her principal supporters. After she died
13 Moses naturally wasn't any too popular
14 with Pharoah Thotmes. That's why he had
15 to flee to the desert for forty years.

16 The ^{U.P.} dispatch concludes with the
17 statement that in the tombs of the
18 ancient Kings of Jericho various evidences
19 ^{have been} ~~where~~ discovered confirming a number of
20 dates of Old Testament events.
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1 Here's a story that most of the
2 papers today have been carrying - its
3 that unusual. My admiration goes to
4 everybody concerned, except the cobra.

5 One of the cells of the prison
6 at Puna in India is occupied by ^{Pundit} L. B.
7 Bhopatkar, one of the co-workers of
8 Mahatma Gandhi. A prison guard happened
9 to see that there was a large cobra in
10 the cell with the prisoner. He called a
11 warning - "A cobra. Don't move. Don't
12 move."

13 And the prisoner didn't move. ^{froze.} He
14 He remained stock still while the deadly
15 reptile coiled and swayed before him, with
16 ^{its} ~~his~~ hood spread out ^{fan shape.} If he had moved the
17 snake would have struck, and the bite
18 of a cobra is deadly.

19 And so the still, silent,
20 immensely dramatic pantomime was enacted
21 in the cell, while the guard ran and
22 fetched a club. Then he entered the
23 cell and killed the cobra with a club.
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1 At Irvington, New Jersey, two
2 detectives had a warrant against Meyer
3 Rosenberg, and went to arrest him. They
4 saw Meyer driving along in his car and
5 ordered him to stop. Instead, Meyer
6 stepped on the gas, and went buzzing
7 away. The detectives opened fire with
8 their pistols. Four bullets hit the
9 car. One of them went through Meyer's
10 hat.

11 Meyer just stepped on the gas
12 some more and went speeding to the local
13 police station. He rushed in and gasped
14 out breathlessly that two racketeers
15 had been shooting at him.

16 The story, as related by the New
17 York Sun, comes to a natural conclusion.
18 When Meyer told who he was, the cops
19 said: "Oh yes, yes indeed." The
20 two supposed racketeers, ^{the police,} appeared
21 presently and Meyer was left to think
22 things over in a nice comfortable cell.

23 And that's what happened to
24 a gentleman who stepped on the gas.
25 But, well, I've got to step on the gas
too. And s-l-u-to-m.