

Good Evening, Everybody:

The movement for the repeal of the 18th amendment took a step ahead today. It had been expected that the Dry Senators would delay action as long as possible to the extent of a filibuster against even considering the measure. But a test vote was ^{had in the Senate} ~~made~~ today and the Wets won fifty-eight to twenty-three. This was on a motion to immediately ^{take up the repeal} ~~consider~~ the resolution of Senator Blaine of Wisconsin.

After the Wets won this motion Senator Robinson of Arkansas, the minority leader, offered amendments to ^{switch} ~~the~~ the ratifying of the repeal from the ^{state} legislatures ~~and give it~~ to state conventions. ~~In other words,~~ ^{would} This means that the people would have a more direct chance to say by their vote whether they want prohibition abolished or not. Another ^{point offered by} ~~advance~~ Senator Robinson and supported by Senator Wagner of New York, was for what is called naked repeal. In other words, these Senators, voicing the sentiments of the out and out Wets, want the amendment to

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simply and briefly:—
read: "The eighteenth amendment is hereby repealed," without
any of the elaborate preamble and qualifying clauses
suggested by the ^{Senate} Judiciary Committee *a few weeks ago.*

But, as pointed out by Mrs. Sabin, leader of the
Women's Organization for Prohibition Reform, the Wets have still
a long path to travel before they win.

BANKS

The situation in Detroit and throughout the state of Michigan -- ^{I am referring} ~~to~~ of course, ^{to} that bank moratorium -- looks ~~exceedingly~~ hopeful today. Governor Comstock opened the way for the immediate reopening of such banks as want to reopen. This does not mean that he has authorized an end of the bank holiday, but in his own words: "The state will not interfere if, banks which open despite my proclamation do not ^{give} preference ^{to one} creditor against another."

Later on ~~certain~~ Detroit banks arranged to release twenty-five million dollars immediately to facilitate business. ^{And} ^{of course} the Federal Reserve Bank of Detroit did not close. Millions are being sent to this bank from branches of the Federal Reserve system in Chicago and New York.

What all this amounts to is that (depositors in Detroit will be allowed to ^{resume} withdraw ^{also, up to a certain percentage} ~~to five per cent of their~~ ^{of their} balances.)

Another important announcement from Detroit was that Governor Comstock has unreservedly withdrawn the charges he made

yesterday. He explains that he had misunderstood the facts and admitted that his interpretation of the cause of this bank moratorium was without foundation. The Ford Company states that it had nothing to do with the situation.

In some Michigan towns, banks kept open and continued to do business just as usual. And the whole atmosphere seems to be clearing up.

Dave Lawrence, in his daily comment from Washington says the feeling in the capitol is that this Michigan episode will do real good in that it will bring about a more liberal attitude on the part of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

MOTORS

Now for something to contrast with news about bank moratoriums. The Automotive Daily News has received reports from eight states on the motor car industry. As a result, it shows that ~~in general~~ the sales of cars took the first definite upturn since late in 1929. The R. L. Polk report of last week estimates that in general no less than ninety-one thousand cars were sold in eight states alone. This is an emphatic and ~~very~~ promising increase.

Another story in today's Automotive News ~~xxxx~~ tends to give the reason for these healthy symptoms in the motor car industry. A careful analysis reveals the fact that today you not only get more automobile value for your dollar when you buy a car, than ever before ^{but} _^ the Automotive News claims further that values in automobiles are greater than in any other lines of manufacture.

A Committee of the U.S. Senate ^{has} ~~today~~ started an inquiry into ^{the doings} ~~the doings~~ of the family of Samuel Insull, the one-time billionaire utilities king of Chicago. The principal witness today was Samuel Insull, Jr. Young Mr. Insull told the Senators that he, himself, was broke, as were the rest of his family. He also told them ^{that} in one deal the family was permitted to acquire rights to over thirty-six million dollars worth of shares in an Insull investment trust for something over eleven million dollars. In other words the family was allowed to purchase stock at prices ranging from seven-and-a-half to fifteen dollars a ~~share~~ ^{on the same day it was put} ~~on the~~ share on the open market of the Chicago Stock Exchange ~~at~~ for thirty dollars. Numerous other people were given the same privilege including ~~many~~ public officials.

Young Mr. Insull on the other hand told the Committee that though the Insull family had made an enormous paper profit on this transaction it was only a paper profit and never realized. He said that some of this stock, now almost worthless, was still held by the family.

FIGHT

The sporting world today was still heatedly and anxiously discussing the death of poor Ernie Schaaf, ^{The} ~~X~~ movement to do away with prize fighting in New York State has not abated. One State Senator has announced that he will soon introduce a bill repealing the Walker law which permits boxing contests in New York. It is called the Walker Law because it was introduced by former Mayor Jimmie, when he was in the Senate. Another measure proposed by an Assemblyman calls for a complete investigation into professional boxing matches which will ascertain, among other things, whether there is any faking in prizefights and wrestling matches. If that investigation comes off what lively reading it will make in the newspapers. (chuckle).

Primo Carnera, the mountainous Italian, has been exonerated by the New York District Attorney's Office. Outside of official circles everybody agrees that he was in no way to blame. He himself is reported to be in such a state of mind that he feels like quitting the ring. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

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CUSTOMS

This morning it looked as though we were going to enjoy a loud guffaw at the expense of Uncle Sam's Custom House in New York. A bundle of pictures came through the Customs addressed to a New York art dealer. Now, the law against bringing improper illustrations ~~in~~ into the United States is exceedingly stringent. A minor Customs official saw these pictures, gave a literal interpretation to the law, and confiscated the things.

The information got into this morning's papers and what do you suppose those pictures were? They were reproductions of these ^{world} famous frescos ^{by} ~~of~~ Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican, pictures that have been cherished and admired by the whole world for centuries. Well, not only the art world but the general public started to draw in its breath for a gigantic laugh. Then came the information that an intelligent higher official at the Customs House in New York had got wind of his subordinate's action, examined the photographs and hastily rescinded ~~that~~ action, ~~notifying the art dealer to whom they were~~ ~~consigned accordingly~~

~~Well, there's~~ (Another good joke gone blooey.

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Now, for the latest on the Sino-Japanese situation.

(The Mikado's representative ~~of~~^{at} the League of Nations received a cable today from his government instructing him to leave Geneva and return to Tokyo at the end of this month. This means the first step in Japan's withdrawal from the League.)
It is understood the Japanese Delegation will return home by way of the U.S.A.

Then, the stock exchange^s throughout Japan suspended trade this afternoon. The Tokyo Exchange was closed at one o'clock.

From Peiping comes a cable reporting that the Acting Premier of China has conferred with the Commander^s of the Chinese ~~Gu~~² ~~ar~~¹illas in ~~Reyho~~ and Manchuria. The object is to coordinate their operations with those of the Chinese Regulars. Reports continue to come into China's capital of heavy concentration of Japanese Troops along the Northern border of Reyho.

Japan's withdrawl from the League threatens to produce a dispute in which Uncle Sam will have to take part. The

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Mikado's Government holds a mandate for the League over some sixteen hundred islands in the Pacific which constitute a sort of ^{bridge across the ocean} ~~problem~~ between Japan and the U.S.A. These are islands which used to belong to Germany.

If Japan withdraws from the League, obviously her mandate no longer holds good. On the other hand nobody believes that Japan will let go of those islands.

So, there is another ticklish situation for the diplomats and statesmen.

LETICIA

~~The course of events moved further in the hostilities~~ ^{have} are moving rapidly along the Upper

Amazon and between the two Southern American Republics, Colombia and Peru.

The Colombian government ordered its minister home from Lima, thus breaking off diplomatic relations. Colombia claims that the Peruvians started the fight.

Then too, the Colombian War Department continued to disembark troops in the region of the Upper Amazon ^{near} Leticia.

Incidentally, the ^{Colombian} airplanes, ~~of that country~~, which are said to have ~~xxxxxx~~ driven off the attacking Peruvian forces, are led by a German flier, Major Boy.

The Colombian War Department reports another victory. This was at the town of Tarapaca, a port on the River Putumayo, some eighty miles from Leticia. It had been occupied by Peruvian forces, but according to news from Bogota, the Colombian troops drove them out.

Your evening and morning papers will have more exciting news from the Upper Amazon.

RETAKE

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MAINE

By the way, *do* you know what anniversary this *is*?
Thirty-five years ago the battleship Maine was blown up in
Havana Harbor with consequences that violently changed the course
of history and ^{*changed*} the map of the world.

As the New York Sun points out, the question who blew
up the Maine is still unanswered today. A board made up of
distinguished American naval officers reported the vessel was
destroyed by a submarine bomb. The Spanish government held an
investigation and concluded the explosion was internal. In the
U. S. A., of course, we accepted the verdict of our own experts, ^{*the*}
bomb verdict.

But, as the New York Sun *adds*, the explosion of a
~~xxx~~ submarine bomb ^{*have been*} *must* the result of a conspiracy, and ^{*in*} *all*
conspiracies a number of men are involved. ^{*Therefore,*} Isn't it amazing that
the secret has never come to light. ^{*?*}

Historians in other countries have listed the blowing
up of the Maine as one of the great international historical
mysteries.

CUBA

And Washington correspondents are observing that this thirty-fifth anniversary of the Maine tragedy finds Uncle Sam once again watching Cuba with ~~intense~~ anxious eyes. It is generally known that revolutionists are planning another attack on Cuba's dictator, President Machado. It is ~~generally~~ believed that this has been planned for March 4th, the day of the Presidential inauguration in the U. S. A. And General Menocal, says the grapevine telegraph, will again head the attempted rebellion against his inveterate enemy, General Machado.

It's an open secret that what is called a network of Cuban intrigue against General Machado's government is being ~~promoted~~ ^{all the way} on the mainland in many places, from Mexico City to New York. But the headquarters of the conspiracy, ^{is said} ~~are generally~~ ^{to be} ~~known to exist~~ in Tampa, Florida, where there is a large Cuban and Spanish Colony.

BERLIN

Here is some news that looks bad for Germans who don't approve of their government. Chancellor Hitler is clamping down on them the same rules as are enforced in Italy and Soviet Russia. In ^{the} future it will not be possible for liberals like the biographer, Emil Ludwig, or Remarque, the author of All Quiet on the Western Front, to leave their country as a protest against Nazi rule. It was announced today that ~~henceforth~~ passports for foreign travel will not be issued to anybody whose political ideas are not approved by the government.

KLONDIKE

I wonder if you remember my mentioning a dog on the air about a week ago? His name ^{was} ~~is~~ Klondike and he had dropped in to pay me a call. I tried to get him to bark but he just wouldn't do it that night. Stage fright or something. At any rate, Klondike dropped in again this evening to apologize, and that howl you just heard was Klondike attempting to give you the latest news from the Polar regions. In the North he is known as the singing dog. He ~~is~~ one of the most beautiful huskies I have ever seen.

Klondike accompanied Father Hubbard, the Glacier Priest, on some of his recent explorations. He is here with a school teacher from Nome, Miss Dempster, who is taking him on a tour of the United States. I wish you could see him -- as well as hear him. Wherever he goes he stops traffic he is so handsome.

Rumors have been current for sometime in diplomatic circles that a secret treaty had been arranged between Hungary, Germany and Italy. These rumors were given the emphatic lie today by no less ^a person than Premier Mussolini. Il Duce announced from Rome that he would not have denied those reports of a secret alliance if they had not been brought up before the Foreign Committee of the French Chamber.

At any rate that seems to be that.

LABRADOR

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Here's word of a project to sell Labrador to Canada. Geographically it is a part of Canada already, but there's that peculiar political split by which Newfoundland is a separate Crown colony and owns Labrador.

But now negotiations are on for Newfoundland to sell Labrador to Canada; and by the way the Canadian negotiator in the matter bears the interesting and historical name of Champlain.

HOLD-UP

A somewhat unusual bank hold-up was staged in Philadelphia early this morning. ^{An odd} ~~One unusual~~ feature ~~of it~~ was that it was unsuccessful. One of the bandits gained entrance, masquerading as a mail carrier. With a confederate he succeeded in tying up the watchman. But the watchman wriggled loose and pressed a button which not only sounded a burglar alarm, but flooded the bank with tear gas. All this happened an hour before the bank was ^{due} ~~about~~ to open.

The would-be bandits ^{groped ~~out of~~ out of the building,} ~~made~~ their way ~~from~~ the bank, the tears streaming from their eyes. They managed to escape, but the hold-up was a flop.

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AIR TRAINS

In yesterday's New York Times appeared an aviation item which, because it was only ten lines long, escaped the observation of many people, including myself. It recorded the successful towing of Willy^g Farner, a famous glider, with a hundred and ten pounds of mail, through the air all the way ~~XXXXXX~~ over the Alps from Zurich in Switzerland, to Milan in Italy.

An editorial in this morning's Times comments on this brief item. The Times points out that this may mark another stage in the evolution of aerial transportation. When the plane towing Farner arrived over the air field at Milan, he was cast off and coasted safely to ground in ten minutes. The Times conjured up visions of whole trains hauled through the air in this fashion. Say, for instance, the train is going south from New York. The tail-
~~end~~ car is cut loose over Philadelphia to glide with passengers and mail to the airport below. The rest of the train keeps whizzing through the air. Other cars are cut loose at Wilmington and Baltimore, and so forth. *All out for Richmond!*

~~The idea is fascinating~~
Look out below!