

Amur

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The earlier reports about that earthquake in Turkey turn out to have been far too mild, the ground of Anatolia was shaken by still more shocks today.

The list of people killed grows by the hour. It still is impossible to come anywhere near an accurate estimate of the death roll. But dispatches from the earthquake zone to newspapers in the capital of Turkey have created the fear that twenty thousand people may have died in one town alone. Eight thousand in another. And that refers to only two spots.

So far as we can learn tonight, at least eight towns and cities were destroyed, towns of more than twenty thousand population, each, eight towns and fifty-two villages. Official reports from Istanbul have provoked the suspicion that there may be as many as a hundred thousand dead in Turkey and God knows how many injured in addition to them.

To add to the horrors, a raging snowstorm swooped down upon the stricken region. Snowdrifts stopped the movements of relief trains, with doctors, nurses and medical supplies. In some places hospitals and schools have been completely demolished.

For instance, in the ruins of a military academy a search party found the dead bodies of ninety Cadets and ten officers. An almost invariable accompaniment of earthquakes is the breaking of gas mains, with fires raging among the ruins.

President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Hull have cabled their condolences to the President and People of Turkey.

BATTLESHIP

Today's headlines again illustrate the difficulty we often have these days in assaying the news. One communique says one thing, the Government on the other side says "No", it didn't happen.

The German High Command triumphantly announced that a German submarine had torpedoed a capital ship of the British Navy off the coast of Scotland. The inference was for the moment that the British man-o-war had been sunk. It would have been a fairly serious loss, since the Nazis claimed that the torpedoed battler was one of the Queen Elizabeth class, built in Nineteen Fourteen, a thirty thousand tonner with a speed of twenty-five knots, and heavy armaments. Twenty-five years ago, they were top-notchers, the latest word in super-dreadnoughts.

Later on, the British Admiralty issued a statement, yes it was true that one of the Queen Elizabeth class had been struck by a torpedo. But only three seamen had been killed and some damage was caused.

FINLAND

From Finland the news dispatches remain optimistic. Each day we get reports of so many hundred Russians killed. Tonight we are told that six hundred Reds were slain in the battle of Kelja which raged for some sixteen hours this week.

It appears evident today that reports of the Finns having cut the Soviet railroad line from Leningrad to Murmansk were, well, here's the latest:- ski patrols in one or two places have reached that vital railroad and tried to cut it. Finnish airplanes also have been bombing it. ~~xxxxxxx~~

Again one other fact seems clear. Stalin's generals are massing a huge concentration of airplanes in and around Leningrad; preparing for another fiercer and heavier attack.

One of the interesting reports from that war today is that some of the Soviet pilots have been strafing, bombing and machine-gunning their own troops in the north central front.

~~However, xthat is xaxreport~~

SKIING

Last night I mentioned a wire that had just come in from the NEW YORK POST, asking if I could throw any light on the way those Finnish soldiers are carrying out their raids on skis.

Today's cross-country race up here gives us some idea:- forty-two men from Yale, Harvard, Princeton, and ten other colleges raced through the woods, uphill and down mountain, around fallen trees and big boulders, over a narrow trail for a distance of fourteen kilometers. One man collapsed before he got through. The winner, so Alexander Osborne has just told me, was Ira Townsend of Middlebury College, Vermont. He made the fourteen kilometers in just under sixty-six minutes.

Does this give us an idea of what the Finnish soldiers can do? Well, Otto Schniebs, head of the American Ski School, is here with us. Also Rolf Monson, Olympic star. Otto Schnieb was once a ski-soldier in the Carpathian ski-patrol. Otto says speed is not the point. Ability to go any place, to hide, to dash, that's the essence of ski-fighting. But, with all the weight of their guns and knapsacks the Finnish fighters, says Schniebs, can make about ten miles an hour on skies.

BRIDGES

At Boston tonight, Senator Bridges of New Hampshire will open his campaign to get the Republican nomination for the presidency next year. Before delivering his speech he told reporters of a five-point program that he is going to offer. First of all, he's in favor of taking the Government out of competition with private business and so restore confidence. Then he wants the tax laws drastically overhauled so that new business ventures won't be penalized. Third, Senator Bridges thinks we need an amendment to the Wagner Labor Relations Act that the Board may be, as originally intended, an impartial tribunal. And that we balance the budget in two years, or start in that direction. Finally, he wants relief handled locally.

N.L.R.B.

The National Labor Relations Board was under fire again today. Democratic Representative Ramspeck of Georgia paid a visit to the White House and told the President some of his opinions. He said most of the trouble was not with the Wagner Labor Relations Act itself, but bad administration by members of the Board. The most important thing, he said, was to change the set-up. And he added that if changes are not made, Congress ought to wipe out the present board entirely and create a new one at the next session.

As he left the White House, Ramspeck told reporters that what he urged most was the resignation of the Chairman of the Board, J. Warren Madden, and one other member, Edward Smith.

TRAFFIC

Here's an urgent New Year's Eve appeal from the National Safety Council, in which my sponsors, the Sun Oil Company, are keenly interested. If you're going to drive on New Year's Eve, says the Council, don't drink. Also, ask your children not to ride in cars driven by people who are drinking. Furthermore, be prepared for what the other fellow may do.

Incidentally, the Council hands a word of praise to the State of New Hampshire, where there was the largest reduction in motor fatalities in the first eleven months of the year.

Kyser + Simms

Dec. 29, 1930.

WHITE FACE

An interesting weather bulletin has just come down to us from Uncle Sam's weather observatory on top of White Face Mountain, a few miles north of the Lake Placid Club from which I am broadcasting. Meteorologist Bill Cody tells me that he has been recording some high winds up there this week, up to a hundred and twenty-five miles an hour. At from twenty to forty below, how would you like to have that hundred and twenty-five breeze whistling through your North Carolina Hilly Billy Whiskers, Kay Kyser?

KAY KYSER:- That there White Face Mountain, Lowell, sounds so darned cold, I don't believe I could even warm it up with my hot music. That's one place where I don't intend to take my band to play!

L.T.:- Yes, that was the one and only Kay Kyser whose voice you just heard, through the courtesy of the American Tobacco Company. Kay and Ginny Simms, the girl soloist with his college of musical knowledge, arrived today to take part in the annual

Winter Coronation Ceremony. Kay Kyster is to be crowned King of Winter, and Miss Simms is to be crowned Queen. Here they both are, sitting beside me.

(Applause from crowd)

I certainly look anything but like the Archbishop of Canterbury. But for a number of years now mine has been the pleasant duty of crowning the King and Queen of Winter. I must admit the King-to-be, Kay ~~Kyster~~ Kyser, doesn't look much like a king. But, this fortunately is offset by the fact that Miss Simms does look like a Queen. But that's the way it so often is even among the Kings and Queens who rule this earth, isn't it? So Maybe King Kyser won't be a Komplete Kalamity and won't look too Komnick when I crown him at the Olympic Arena tomorrow night.

KAY KYSER:- Lowell, if I look every other inch a King, I'll be satisfied - more than satisfied. Having gone down that Mount Van Hoevenberg bobsled run this afternoon, I'm satisfied even to be alive! How about you, Your Majesty, I mean, how ~~n~~ about you Queen Ginny?

MISS SIMMS:- Kink, you sure said a mouthful!

DIONNE

The New Year will bring a big change to the five famous little girls, the Dionne Quintuplets. They are going to live with Papa and Mama, also their seven sisters and brothers. That settles the long legal dispute between the Dionne parents and genial Doctor Dafor. The man who brought the famous five into the world resigns from the board of guardians, though he continues as their official physician and Papa Dionne withdraws two lawsuits that he brought against Doctor Dafoe, one for accounting of the money that was paid to the Quints, another the libel suit which arose out of the much discussed appearance of Doctor Dafoe at a luncheon of the Circus Saints and Sinners Club in New York at which the Canadian country doctor was put through a somewhat ribald ~~imitation~~ initiation.

Such is the gist of the agreement which disposes of the quarrel. But it still has to be okayed by the Government of the Province of Ontario. And Premier Hepburn said that the idea would have to be carefully considered. The plan is to have a large house built next spring, a home large enough to make room for the whole family. Also a school house where the five little girls and their sisters and brothers can all study together. The agreement also

provides that Father and Mother Dionne shall in the future have the right to supervise both the religious and the school education of the famous Quints as well as of their seven other children. This, said Premier Hepburn, is what the Government will have to consider most carefully. The Dionne family made the announcement today that the whimsical and delightful Doctor Dafoe himself said that the education of the five would be incomplete unless they had a real family life and home atmosphere.

LUPE

Lupe Velez of the movies is angry. One has heard whispers that it won't be the first time. But now she has sound reasons for her wrath, two thousand five hundred of them. For Lupe was taken for twenty-five hundred dollars by a Gypsy and by one of the oldest tricks in the age-old history of chiseling.

The fiery little Mexican was on the hunt for some good luck. Her maid told her about the gypsy, a gypsy mystic who works wonders. So the gypsy came to the Velez home and told the impetuous Lupe that there was a curse on her house. But, added the gypsy, if Lupe would cross her palm she, the gypsy, would remove the curse. Ordinarily a gypsy asks you to cross her palm with a little silver. This one asked Lupe to cross it with ten thousand of Uncle Sam's best. Lupe made a compromise for two thousand-dollar-bills and five hundred dollars in small notes. But the gypsy was not intending to take them away. Oh no. The idea was this. The gypsy tore a bit of silk off Lupe's dress, wrapped the twenty-five hundred dollars ~~xxxxxxx~~ in it and said to Lupe, "Now you hold right and concentrate."

Lupe Velez did as she was told, which some people say

almost constitutes a record. She held tight and she concentrated hard and the gypsy took her leave. Apparently she also took the twenty-five hundred dollars as well, for when Lupe got suspicious, unwrapped the silk, she found nothing there but waste paper.

At any rate the gypsy certainly removed one curse from the house of Lupe Velez, the curse of having too much money.

THE LIARS OLYMPIAD

And now we come at last to our International Liars Contest, or the First Liars Olympiad, as we modestly call it.

This has been a hectic day in Lake Placid, for the telegraph people, for the Post Office, and particularly for the judges. Those of you who were listening in on Wednesday will recall that I had an authentic news dispatch which came in over the press wires from Burlington, Wisconsin. It stated that the annual Burlington Liars contest was under way, to be decided on New Years Day. So I decided to revive my old Tall Story Club of the Air, which more or less folded up six years ago, when I found we were getting the same old whoppers, the same old lies, sent in to us each year.

Yes, only night before last I announced that, just for the fun of it, and perhaps to pull the leg of the folks running the Wisconsin contest to decide the Champion Liar of the United States, I said we would hold a contest here in the Adirondacks, allowing only a few hours for you to send in your whoppers, the judges to sit today, and the International Champion, the Champeen Liar of the World to be proclaimed tonight.

Well, you should see the stack of lies that have rolled in. There were so many that this morning we had to hurriedly round up a second set of judges, to go through the staks and stacks of lies that have come in, and turn the best of the lot over to the final board of judges for them to pick the international champ. For the second board we picked:- John G. Shattuck, of New York City, General Manager of the famous chain of Schrafft Restaurants, Mrs. William H. Carpenter, a well known horsewoman; Mrs. Hanna Locke of Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania; Charles Yates of Washington, D.C., former member of the U.S.Shipping Board; and Ex-Senator Harvey Ferris, all of whom are sitting here with me now. And the lies are stacked beside me on a nearby table. They boiled them all down to the twenty best. Then our Number One Board of Judges went into session:- Mayor Owens of Lake Placid; Alexander Osborn of Buffalo, George Townsend of Westmount, Quebec, Harry Cross of the "New York Herald Tribune" and Bob Kelley of the "New York Times." And here is the winning Tall Story. It comes from Bob Richey of Bellfontaine, Ohio, and I'm going to ask ~~W~~ay Kyser, King of Winter, to read it. Do it in Olympian style O king.

BY KAY KYSER:- "Dear Lowell:- We were fortunate to hear your broadcast from Lake Placid. It must be very cold there. Our radio was tuned for your program and suddenly went dead. Upon investigation I found that our adio was frozen! The radio waves from Lake Placid had our receiver froze up so we put it on top of the stove in time to hear your closing remarks. Bob Richey."

L.T.:- And so we proclaim Bob Richey of Bellfontaine, Ohio, winner of our first Liars Olympiad. Happy New Year to all. And here's Hugh James with New Year's greetings from Sun Oil.