

L.T. - Sunoco - Tues. Jan. 17, 1939

SUBWAY

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There seems to be some discrepancy about the amount stolen in nickels from the New York subway. Two prominent authorities disagree, and they disagree aplenty. Eight subway employees are under arrest, charged with rigging turnstiles in such fashion that they were able to get a lot of the nickels that passengers dropped in.

How many nickels? That's the question on which the authorities are miles apart. District Attorney Thomas ^{E.} Dewey estimates ~~the figure at~~ a million, five hundred thousand dollars - that huge total stolen by the ring of nickeling gyps. The Chairman of the New York Board of Transportation says that the total comes to less than a thousand dollars. There's a lot of difference between a million and a half and less than a thousand!

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Today, District Attorney Dewey declared that the eight prisoners had stolen some as much as three hundred thousand dollars each in the course of three years of nickeling. And he asked that the court ^{to} hold them on heavy bail.

Board of Transportation Chairman John H. Delaney, spoke

of the figures as being supported only by the livliest imagination.

"There is", he declared, "only the smallest indirect evidence of the loss of even one thousand dollars."

In trying to size up the argument we may note that a million and five hundred thousand dollars comes to thirty million nickels. That much in three years, making it - ten million nickels a year. That would mean thirty thousand nickels a day. Divide it among eight thieves, and each would have to take an average of four thousand nickels a day.

That's the background of the figures as authorities differ so greatly.

MOONEY

It makes one feel better tonight to find a certain rumor denied - ^{spiked.} ~~spiced~~ Tom Mooney, so recently released from twenty-two years' imprisonment, issues a denial. And so does his wife, Mrs. Rena Mooney.

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The rumor was that they were about to be divorced and that would have been a bitter irony - after the way the devoted wife stuck to Mooney, ^{She} ~~defended~~ him, ~~worked~~ in his behalf, during all those years since he was convicted of the Preparedness Day bombing outrage at San Francisco during World War days.

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Time and again during Mooney's long imprisonment there were reports that Mrs. Mooney would break the marital bonds that tied her to the labor leader who seemed doomed to be a prisoner forever. But that never happened.

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Then at last Mooney was pardoned, a free man once again. And soon the gossip was revived with new insistence - that the Mooneys would be divorced. Rumor said that they had been so long apart their ways of life had become incompatible. Mrs. Rena Mooney is a music teacher, has been making her living teaching music to children. It was noted that her ^{released} ~~husband~~ did not go to

her home and studio to live, but to a hotel instead.

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Today Tom Mooney explained: "Of course I made my headquarters at a hotel. I was receiving hundreds of visitors, and I couldn't have them go to Rena's studio and disrupt her work. Mrs. Mooney," he continues, "has been with me constantly since my release from San Quentin. She ~~made~~ met me at the prison. She was with me when Governor Olson pardoned me. She marched with me in the parade in San Francisco. She was down in Los Angeles with me last Sunday."

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And with this both ~~the~~ Mooneys ~~denied~~ the rumor of divorce.

FLAG

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The New York State Court of Appeals today passed on the case of the school girl who refused to salute the flag. The girl in question is a member of a sect called "Jehovah's Witnesses", and she refused ^{to join} in the classroom flag salutation, because, said she, it's forbidden in the Bible. The Good Book, pointed out the pupil, says that no one shall worship a graven image. And the youngster continued with this bit of theology: "When the Battle of Armagedden comes, I would be slain. Because the flag is an image, and it says in the Bible not to bow down to images." In this biblical philosophy the girl was supported by her parents, and they were brought up on charges.

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The New York Court of Appeals decided today that the flag is not a graven image in the biblical sense. The chief judge delivered himself of the following doctrine:

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"Saluting the flag," he proclaimed, "is in no sense an act of worship ~~or~~ or a species of idoltry, nor does it constitute any approach to a religious observance." So I suppose we can all go on saluting the flag, without incurring the punishment that

Fell down
befell the children of Israel when they ~~worshipped~~ and worshipped

the Golden Gulf.

Having said that, the court goes on to decree that pupils must obey flag-saluting regulations. However, the court dismissed the charges against the non-idolatrous child's parents.

PLUG

I wish I were in Philadelphia tonight. Of course, the City of Brotherly Love, ~~is the~~ home town of ~~my sponsors, the Sun Oil Company and Blue Sunoco, but there's another reason too.~~

Philadelphia right now is a proper place for any radio worker *For* and the great Franklin Institute *are* to be. *The* Poor Richard Club *is* celebrating the birthday of the original Poor Richard, who went out and flew a kite and was one of the pioneers in the science of electricity.

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What's the contemporary model achieved by means of electricity. Radio, of course. That's why it would be appropriate for any radio worker to be at the celebration of Benjamin Franklin's birthday tonight. And one radio worker at least is there. The guest of honor is David Sarnoff, to whom the Poor Richards are presenting their medal of achievement for the year. David Sarnoff, chief of R.C.A., N.B.C., and all the great radio doings here at Rockefeller Center.

FRANCE

France and Italy were going at each other in a ~~xx~~ nasty way today - with ugly words and provocative journalism. The French ^{again} sneering at Italian military prowess, taking verbal cracks at Mussolini's soldiers in Spain. To this the Italian newspapers respond as one might expect - blasting France, threatening war, and saying that if the French think the Italians can't fight, there's just one way to show them. It seems ugly and futile business, a lot of wind baggery that might lead to war.

In Paris the French government recommended to the Chamber of Deputies an extension of the two-year military service law. The present law will soon expire and the Daladier Cabinet want it renewed, so France can maintain its present powerful army.

There were riotous scenes in the Chamber of Deputies, with politicians of the Right and Left clashing about Spain. The Left Wingers want France to go to the help of hard pressed Barcelona. Conservatives are shouting against this and demanding instead that France ~~should~~ protect itself in Spain by recognizing the Franco regime.

SPAIN

There's not much news from Spain. The insurgents are still advancing, but there's nothing sensational about it. - *The* a rapid retreat of the Barcelona forces ~~to~~ new defense lines has left the Franco commanders with the problem of pushing on through mountainous country and consolidat~~ing~~ the large areas of territory they've just conquered. Barcelona is prepared for desperate resistance along new lines, and it now remains to be seen how soon and how hard the Rebels can strike again - after their huge effort and swift advance.

ENGLAND

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At last reports England had only one bomb explosion, today. A blast damaged an electric ~~power~~ tower near Birmingham. Unexploded bombs were found in a couple of places elsewhere. Scotland Yard received an anonymous warning today that there would be more explosions tonight. The British ~~xx~~ police are on vigilant guard, blaming the epidemic of bombings on the Irish Republican Army which is agitating for a union of Ulster and Nationalist Ireland.

CRASH

There's some first hand reporting of today's airplane crash in London, the big liner of the Imperial Airways which cracked up as it landed at Croydon. Nobody injured, just a lot of shaking up.

~~The first hand reporting comes because~~ ⁷⁷ ~~One~~ of the passengers was ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Webb Miller, Foreign Editor of the

United Press. Webb was returning to London after reporting the Chamberlain-Mussolini conference in Rome. ~~He~~ ^{He} ~~Webb's story~~ ^{cables:-}

"One of ~~the~~ Imperial ~~Airways~~ ^S new two hundred thousand ^{dollar} four-engined airplanes cracked up, ~~at Croydon Airport today.~~

But the skill of the pilot and the coolness of the steward

prevented possible injury to ^{twenty} ~~seventy~~ two passengers." ~~the~~ Landing

carriage collapsed ^{as the giant ship} ~~and it~~ came down in a high wind, "Webb's story

~~goes on, "and it skidded along the field. The propellers were~~

~~born from all four engines. There was a moment of alarm for the~~

~~passengers after the plane cracked up due to the fact that the~~

~~steward was unable to get the regular doors open. The crash~~

~~twisted~~ ~~the~~ fuselage and temporarily jammed the doors.

But," this first-hand account concludes, "the steward urged the passengers to remain in their seats and soon had the doors open."

MEXICO

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The United States Charge d'Affaires at Mexico City today handed a protest to the Mexican government. Uncle Sam is complaining against an invitation. Now, an invitation usually means - come right in and make yourself at home. But not this time. To newspaperman, Frank L. Kluckhohn of the NEW YORK TIMES, the Mexican government handed an invitation to leave Mexico, an invitation to get out - here's your hat and there's the door.

It isn't known what Kluckhohn did to receive the reverse invitation, but he probably cabled back to his paper something that the Cardenas government didn't like. That's usually what gets American newspapermen invited out. The Fascist dictatorships of Europe have issued quite a few of those get-out requests, ~~to American journalism,~~ and now the radical government of Mexico practices the same sort of courtesy.

ARMAMENT

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The House Military Affairs Committee is considering the half a billion dollar defense program the President put before Congress. Today, ~~the~~ War Department officials appeared before the Committee and gave their views of defense necessities. This largely concerned aviation, with the statement that the army needed three thousand new planes to bring its total air strength up to five thousand, three hundred and twenty flying ^{and} fighting machines. That would entail an increase of the personnel of the air corps from twenty-one thousand to fifty-two thousand enlisted men.

The army chiefs also talked about the Panama Canal, and advocated the construction of what they called - a by-pass canal. Meaning, supplementary stretches of canal as strategic points of the present great waterway.

RELIEF

Spokesmen for big relief had their innings today - as a sub-committee of the Senate Appropriations Committee considered the Emergency Relief Bill. Colonel Harrington, W.P.A. Administrator, appeared before the Committee and opposed the cut made by the lower House. The W.P.A. chief renewed his plea for the President's original figure of eight hundred and seventy-five million for immediate W.P.A. spending.

David Lasser, President of the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Alliance of W.P.A. Workers, made the same demand. And he said ominously that if the Senate adopted the reduced figure of seven hundred and twenty-five million⁵, there might be a march of tens of thousands of unemployed on Washington.

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Mayor LaGuardia of New York, representing the United States Conference of Mayors, made his appearance and argued not merely for the President's original figure, but asked for still more.

And the President himself spoke up, telling the press conference that if his figure is cut by the proposed hundred and fifty million dollars, a million W.P.A. workers will

have to be discharged by June First. This Presidential figure was disputed by the sub-committee chairman who estimated the number at six hundred thousand. He said the sub-committee was under terrific pressure.

APPOINTMENTS

The Senate confirmed two appointments today.

Those of Felix Frankfurter to the Supreme Court and Frank Murphy as Attorney General. The confirmation of Justice Frankfurter was unanimous and without incident.

There was some debate about Attorney General Murphy,

but
~~and~~ in the end only seven Senators voted against him.

GOVERNORS

These are times of gubernatorial ^{inaugurations,} ~~nominations~~ and

that's a nice big mouthful of sounds - gubernatorial ^{inaugurations.} ~~nominations.~~

I was in Philadelphia today, calling on my sponsors, the Sun Oil Company, and I said to various Pennsylvanians down there - "You

may think you're having quite a gubernatorial ^{inauguration} ~~nomination~~ at

Harrisburg, but I'd like to be at Austin, Texas. Patriotic

Pennsylvanians pointed out to me the stately ceremonies that today

marked the induction of Governor Arthur H. James, with marching

thousands, the music of bands, a general celebration. Naturally,

there would be quite a festivity, with Pennsylvania returning

to the Republican fold - after its one and only Democratic

administration in many and many a year. But in response I ^{shaved} ~~shaved~~

~~showed~~ those Pennsylvanians the news dispatches of Texas. (Governor

James, I said, was admirable. His career from ^{breaker boy in a} ~~breaker boy to the~~

^{mine to} Governor's mansion was inspiring. His economy program as

announced today was sound and businesslike. ^P But as for the

celebration,) how about the new Texas Governor, W. Lee O'Daniel,

whose nickname is -- "Pass-the-Biscuits-Pappy?"

He's the singing flour salesman who crooned his way to victory on election day, won the voters with soulful melody and that equally soulful nickname -- Pass-the-Biscuits-Pappy." So naturally ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ his inauguration today was something special.

58 It wasn't held ~~at~~ ^{at} any state capitol, where other governors like James of Pennsylvania take their oath of office. At Austin, Governor Pass-the-Biscuits-Pappy was the center of attraction, at the football stadium of the University of Texas, which holds eighty thousand people. It held all of eighty thousand today.

His Excellency, the ex-flour salesman,
~~Pass-the-Biscuits-Pappy~~ not only took the oath, but led the

cho^{rus} ~~of~~ of singing. His voice rang out as the crowd sang - "The Old Rugged Cross." Also - the tuneful strains of the song the

58 1/2 new Governor himself wrote. The title of that melodic lyric is "Beautiful Texas," *Pass the Biscuits, Pappy.*
~~THE~~

The inaugural address was fervent and oratorical, although it touched but lightly on the main theme. As for businesslike economy, the new Governor's campaign promises and platform included the pledge that the state would pay fifteen

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dollars a month in pensions to every Texan over sixty-five years of age. That old-age pension idea is the real meaning of -- Pass-the-Biscuits-Pappy. And now all Governor O'Daniel has to do is to dig up the money. Pappy has got to find ~~dough~~ dough to make the biscuits. And fifteen dollars a month for so many people can come to a lot of dough.

Anyway, it was quite a gubernatorial ^{inauguration.} ~~inauguration~~

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~~SEXPRAXXINEXX~~ So, pass the biscuits, and SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.