

WEATHER

The humidity! That's all their talking about here where I am. Well - the humidity during the past three weeks has been exceeded only twice in New York weather bureau history -- July 1896 and July 1916. So says Dr. Jas. Kimball, patron saint of aviation. Day after day the humidity in the morning has averaged eighty-one -- meaning eighty-one percent of the total possible moisture the atmosphere can hold.

But the air currents are changing. The weather bureau says they are changing ~~it~~ into a brisk north wind which will blow away both the humidity and the heat. So we are due for relief. And by we I mean the East generally.

The city of Terra Haute is once more in the grip of military rule tonight. The general strike is over. Half of the two thousand National Guards on riot duty went home. Everything looked quiet and serene; but another flare-up came. Some hundreds of workers continued their own private walkout. That kept the strike situation alive, and it blazed up into a riot. Once more the troops tossed tear gas bombs and the mob dispersed. More trouble still threatening, so the military patrols are on the job.

At Camden, New Jersey, a parade of two thousand pickets in a shipyard strike brought heavy squads of police to the scene. The Mayor of Camden has asked Madam, the Secretary of Labor, to step in with some federal intervention and avert trouble. Today Miss Perkins warned the Camden shipyard strikers to keep the peace, while Department of Labor conciliators work out an agreement.

SCAFFA

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There was a surprise move today in a surprising case - the trial of Noel Scaffa, the mystery man, the detective jewel-recoverer. It was time for the defense to present its case, its witnesses. Nothing doing. The defense ~~is~~ suddenly rested, demanding an acquittal on the ground that the State hadn't proved its charge.

So now it's up to Judge and Jury to decide the fate of that singular sleuth around whom so many fantastic crime stories have woven - ^Yone of them any more fantastic than the tale told by witnesses at the present trial.

Scaffa, in his handling of jewel cases for Insurance Companies, has from time to time ^{been} accused of collaborating with crime. But he isn't on trial for anything like that. ^{This is a} ~~trial~~ ^{matter} --- perjury - the Government claiming he told a false story under oath when he testified before a Grand Jury. ^{is,} ~~was~~ ^{is,} his story of how he got back the fortune in ~~jewelry~~ jewelry stolen in Florida from Mrs. Margaret Hawkesworth Bell, former dancer. Scaffa said he found the jewels in Miami, when a

mysterious man handed him a key to a locker. In the locker a package, and there they were, golden and glittering.

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At the present trial the Government put on the stand employees of the Insurance Company that had retained Scaffa to recover those Rubies and Diamonds. They testified that Scaffa had really recovered the bandit plunder in New York. The Company men handed over to him some thousands of dollars of reward to be paid, and he produced the goods. Then he told them that he wanted to make it appear that he had recovered the jewels in Florida, with the help of local Florida police, also - that some reward money would have to be paid to Florida detectives. So down to Florida they went, taking the bracelets and necklaces and earrings with them in a box. The box was deposited in a locker. Thereupon a bit of play acting ensued, in which Scaffa was given a key to the locker, and he got the treasure which had been planted there.

So, the story was given out as a Florida jewel recovery, and the local police were handed plenty of credit, and put in a line to receive a reward. At this juncture the "G" men stepped in and

uncovered the peculiar set of facts.

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If Scaffa were on trial for crooked dealings in connection with the jewelry recovery, the Government witnesses would have been the strongest kind of defense witnesses. They showed that Scaffa throughout had played ball right along with his Insurance Company employer. The only trouble was - the story he told about the brilliant part taken by Florida police and about the mysterious man who gave him the key to the locker. That was a tale which does not exactly jibe with what the present trial witnesses had to say, that the Florida angle was a cooked-up affair.

JANIS

The latest is that sparkling, laughing irrepressible Elsie Janis is not so severely hurt. The doctors suspected a skull fracture, when she and her husband were injured in an automobile crash. But it's not nearly so bad as that, only a broken collar bone plus some bruises and scratches. In her husky voice I can just hear her repeating that word "only". Her husband's injuries were less.

As a little girl Elsie sang "Break the News to Mother" for President McKinley at the White House. She became a famous actress. During the World War entertaining the soldiers in France, she was called the "Sweetheart of the A.E.F." Then she became a writer, for the magazines and the movies. Later the first woman announcer of N. B. C. Any serious accident to Elsie Janis would bring sorrow to millions. But the report is that she's okay, and laughing as usual.

CIANO

The Roman Government has a newly created cabinet post - interesting to Americans, because it involves the spending of some millions of dollars over here. Also - it has its bearing on the news we'll gather in the Italo-Ethiopian rumpus. Hitherto, Rome has had a cabinet of fourteen - with Mussolini holding eight of the portfolios, Minister-of-this-and-that-and-most-everything, a Roman ^{P B} poo bah. The fifteenth portfolio, the new one, goes not to the Duce, but to his son-in-law. Count Ciano has been under-Secretary of State for Press and Propaganda. Now he is raised to the rank of a full fledged Cabinet member, a Minister of Publicity and Propaganda. He supervises the spending of a yearly five million dollars for advertising in foreign countries, mostly England and the United States - advertising in newspapers and magazines, boosting Italian products and tourist attractions.

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P And Count Ciano bosses the handing out of the hand-outs to the Foreign Correspondents, the official news reports given to foreign newspaper men. Moreover, he tells Italian editors what and what not to print, and has control of Movies and Radio.

He is thirty-two, of an old and noble family. His father was President of the Chamber of Deputies. Young Ciano became a journalist. But while he was courting Mussolini's daughter, the Duce persuaded him to quit newspaper work and take up diplomacy. He went to China as Italian Minister. Now he's back in the Journalistic Field, becoming Italy's first Minister of Publicity, Member of the Government, Press Agent and Public Relations Counsel for the nation.

ETHIOPIA

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The inevitable theme of Ethiopia brings the fulfillment of the prediction we've been hearing - Great Britain slapping on an Arms Embargo against both of the disputing nations. It won't mean much to Italy, which has all the deadly weapons she needs and can make plenty more. What Italy must buy from abroad is not guns and gun powder, but ~~her~~ coal, iron and oil. The Arms Embargo bears heavily on badly armed Ethiopia. But then the King of Kings is used to it. He hasn't been able to buy any war supplies, the big powers keeping him from getting any, for a long time.

England makes one reservation, however. Foreign Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare told the House of Commons today that England would not forbid other nations to send consignments of weapons into Abyssinia via the adjoining British Colonies. He added this was permitted in accordance with a treaty made back in nineteen thirty. So anybody who wants to sell guns to Ethiopia, can send them through the wilds of British Somaliland, Kenya Province or the British Sudan. None of these routes would

provide any up-to-date high pressure facilities for freight transportation.

France holds the only railroad line to Abyssinia. And the French haven't yet said precisely what their policy will be - concerning Abyssinian munitions on the railroad. Hitherto, Paris has been keeping a Gun Embargo clamped on the Queen of Sheba Land.

As for Japan - the Foreign Minister at Tokyo told the Italian Ambassador today that Japan was reserving all gun selling rights. She'll sell war supplies to Abyssinia if she wants to. So says the report from Tokyo, and it keeps attention focused on the Japanese interest in Ethiopia.

That's the rifle-and cartridge, cannon-and cannon ball aspect -- and here's the League of Nations phase. Haile Selassie puts the spotlight on the forthcoming meeting of the League Council. Geneva received today a diplomatic communication from Addis Ababa, which demands in formal terms that the League Council be assembled to grant to Ethiopia the protection that the League of Nations owes to its member nations.

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Great Britain, after swaying this way and that in the past two weeks, now appears determined that the League shall play a strong hand in settling the quarrel. They want Italy to make an outright declaration of what she demands of Ethiopia, those demands have ~~been~~ never been officially put on record, though we know what they are - a protectorate. Mussolini might be downright enough to tell the League of Nations that he wants Great Britain to go through with the treaty she made with Italy. A treaty to divide up Abyssinia, Such downrightness would be downright awkward.

France, after quietly and silently supporting Italy all along, is now said to be inclined to go along with England in ~~the~~ the British effort for a peaceful settlement.

That was the diplomatic set-up today, when late in the Roman afternoon the Italian Foreign Office came out with a sudden suggestion of - arbitration. This was stated in a ~~ing~~ telegram sent by Mussolini's Foreign Minister to the League of Nations - and it mentioned the Commission of Conciliation. That's the Commission that was trying to iron out the dispute

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some weeks ago, but the proceedings turned into a wrangle, and the session broke up. Italy now says she's ready to have the conciliators start the conciliating again - but only under certain conditions, if and in case Haile Selassie is required to withdraw some of the claims he has been making. What these claims are is not made public. At the same time, the Italian Communication to the League puts the blame on Addis Ababa for the way the former conciliation attempt broke up with a row.

The Roman suggestion of arbitration is another swift turn in the abundant maze of discussions, declarations and diplomatic moves.

DUEL

More shooting in the Argentine - a follow up to the savage outbreak of gun play in ^{the} Argentine Senate, when a Senator was killed and two deputies wounded. The excitement that followed led to a duel between two prominent political figures. It was fought today, with the seventy year old Senator De La Torre and the forty-one year old Argentine Finance Minister, Pinedo, confronting ^{each other} with pistols at twenty paces. It was all exceedingly formal, with a hundred prominent citizens witnessing the affair of honor.

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With the signal to fire - the seventy year old Senator deliberately pointed his pistol in the air and pulled the trigger, - magnanimous! The forty-one year old Minister of Finance took a good aim at his aged adversary, as good an aim as he could, but not so good. He missed. Was honor satisfied? Not at all. The two antagonists left the field without shaking hands, refusing to be reconciled.

TIBET

International affairs and world destinies are involved as some stately gentleman^s go wandering around, looking into lakes. They come to a lake and gaze intently at its placid mirror-like waters. These statesmen^s *with shaven pates* are dressed some in yellow and some in red -- long flowing robes. They are Lamas, in quest of the Supreme Lama, the living Buddha. That's why they are looking into the lakes.

It all concerns the fact that a year and a half ago the Dalai Lama died in his forbidden city of Lhasa -- theoretic autocrat of the millions of Buddhists of Tibet and Mongolia. The finding of the new Dalai Lama is an important thing, not only for the Buddhists but also for the high politics of all Asia. We have only to recall Great Britain's interest in the High Tibetan Plateau that adjoins India. Also -- the historic interest of Russia in both Mongolia and Tibet. London and Moscow have fought strange duels in those weird uplands of Asia. *there on the roof of the world.*

Months ago we heard about the quest for a new Dalai Lama. There was some rumor that an infant had been selected --

for the Monks of Tibet always find their reincarnation of Buddha in the person of a child, around whom are wreathed circumstances of the magical and the supernatural. Apparently, that previous selection of a Dalai Lama didn't take. There were rumors of intrigues and unorthodox doings, everything not on the Tibetan up and up.

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Anyway, reports from the Far East tell us now that a great search for the divinely appointed babe has just begun.

Three hundred families have reported children born at the same instant the late Dalai Lama died a year and a half ago. That's essential -- because when the living Buddha dies his soul instantly travels into the body of a babe being born at that moment. So the Monks in their robes of yellow and of red have three hundred children to select from.

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There's an old Tibetan Legend which helps to identify the village in which the living Buddha babe will be found. It is always a village that a searcher sees mirrored in the crystal surface of a lake. So that's why the Lamas are looking at lakes.

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And I'm looking at the clock
and saying e-l-u-to-morrow.