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9 across the ocean tonight. According
10 to the New York Evening Post, there
11 are 40 ships. Great dreadnaughts,
12 swift cruisers, mosquito-like torpedo
13 boats, and slinky submarines.

14 They are on their way to the
15 West Indies for a visit and maneuvers.

16 The flagship, the giant
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BRITISH NAVY

LOWELL THOMAS' BROADCAST Page _____
FOR THE LITERARY DIGEST
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8TH, 1931.

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AIRPLANE

In the day's news dispatches one constantly runs across items that reverse the usual order of things -- when the midget knocks out the pugilist, and so on.

That's just what happened on that big flight of the 12 Italian giant seaplanes across the Atlantic.

The Associated Press tells us that Mussolini trans-Atlantic squadron saw only one ship during the flight, and it was a vessel that had lost its bearings in a storm. That ship saw the formation of Italian planes in the sky and wirelessly to them. Yes, sir. Believe it or not, that ship asked the planes for its position, and the planes wirelessly back and told the ship where it was.

The mystery about the accidents during the Italian flight has not been cleared up. The Italian government kept the details from being made public so as not to spoil

1 the ~~gimmick~~ jubilation. The 12 big
2 Savoia-Marchetti bombers took off and
3 two of them never really got started.
4 One of the overloaded planes was forced
5 down and damaged a pontoon, and had to
6 give up the attempt. A mechanic was
7 killed. According to the United Press,
8 a second ^{plane} ~~one~~ wobbled in the air with its
9 tremendous load and then plunged. It
10 burst into flames, and the four men in
11 it were killed.

12 Well, there were two supply planes.
13 ~~and~~ It had not been intended that they
14 ~~should~~ attempt the ocean flight. But *when*
15 ~~with two of~~ ^{two} the giant bombers *came* to
16 grief, the ~~two~~ supply planes were ordered
17 to strike out across the Atlantic. They
18 did, and they almost made it. Both were
19 forced down near the South American coast.

20 A ~~dash~~ late flash from the
21 International News Service states that
22 one of these ~~se~~ supply planes that was
23 forced down took off this afternoon to
24 complete the flight.

25 While we're on the subject of

aviation -- the American plane, the TRADE WIND is now at Bermuda making minor repairs. According to the International News Service, Captain McLaren and Mrs. Hart the flying widow, intend to continue their air voyage to Europe, tomorrow.

ENCYCLICAL

From Rome comes a grave and solemn pronouncement. It comes from the Vatican. For some time now Pope Pius XI has been expected to issue an encyclical on the subject of marriage. This encyclical has just been given out, and it is grave indeed. It is just about what we would expect. The Vatican isn't going in for new fads and fashions, and the Pope strongly reaffirms the old traditions of marriage.

Divorce is denounced with a solemn pontifical anathema. On the subject of the modern woman, the Associated Press sums up the Pope's declaration by saying that the wife owes obedience to her husband but not at the sacrifice of any dignity on her part. The International News Service tells us that the Pope calls for a new marriage law -- but a stricter one.

Well, there a lot of prominent

1 people who are coming out for all sorts
2 of innovations and new fads in the line
3 of marriage, but not the Vatican. The
4 head of the Catholic church stands
5 four-square for the traditional
6 moralities of old.

MOSQUE

Next comes an item that means much to millions of people of Africa and Asia. It states that the Indian Moslem leader, Maulana Mohammed Ali, will be laid to rest in the Mosque of Omar at Jerusalem.

Mohammed Ali was one of the most powerful figures among the Mohammedans of India, and he died on Sunday while attending the Round Table Conference at London.

According to the New York Evening Post, he is the first Indian ever to be granted the honor of burial in the beautiful Mosque of Omar. Indeed that is one of the greatest honors that a Musselman can have, because the Mosque of Omar is the third holiest place in the Mohammedan world.

The Prophet Mohammed declared that one prayer offered in the Mosque of Omar was worth a thousand prayers elsewhere.

Tradition has it that the shade of the great prophet ascended to heaven from here on a miraculous steed.

Yes, and the Mosque of Omar is reputed to be built on the site of the Temple of King Solomon.

MOSQUE - 2

Lord Allenby told me a curious story out there during the Palestine campaign. Newspapers all over the world, told of the capture of Jerusalem. Well, Allenby told me that he received hundreds of letters from women in England and the United States and Canada imploring him to rebuild Solomon's Temple. They evidently failed to realize that the site of the Temple of Solomon is occupied by the third holiest building in the Mohammedan world, this beautiful Mosque of Omar that is mentioned in the news tonight.

I ^{wonder} ~~don't know~~ just what you're ^{will} ~~going to~~ say in reply to this question. ^{At} ~~any rate~~ ^{But} here's it is: - ARE WE REALLY HAVING HARD TIMES?

Some people at least don't think so -- the Germans, for instance. When the subject of hard times in the United States comes up over in Germany, ~~German~~ ^{over there} newspaper editors break into ironic ^{and raucous} laughter. They say that times in America during a depression are a whole lot better than boom times in Europe.

German writers insist that all they can find over here are evidences of prosperity: high priced restaurants doing a brisk business; the beauty industry booming; women's clothes ~~are~~ more elaborate than ever; more and better automobiles like the ones on exhibit at the New York Auto Show this week, and so on.

The Germans say that hard times over here are more psychological than anything else. They tell us we're not having a real business crises. Merely

1 ~~having~~ a confidence crises. And they
2 think this confidence crisis is about
3 over and that America is due for a huge
4 boom. They have a lot more to say
5 about it too and you will find their *interesting*
6 ^{*summarized*} views in the new Literary Digest that's
7 just out.

CARPENTIER

The New York police announce that this next item is not a publicity stunt. That's real news. But the whole thing is also somewhat mysterious.

Lita Grey Chaplin, former wife of Charlie Chaplin, is playing in a New York theatre. She left the theatre and with her was the so-called "orchid man" of France, "gorgeous - Georges" I mean Carpentier, the chap who was knocked galley west by Dempsey a few years ago.

They got into Mrs. Chaplin's car, and four gunmen got in with them. The gunmen drove them around for awhile, and then just let them go. Nobody seems to know just what it all means. The principals in the little melodrama are not talking. But the motive seems to have been one of robbery, and the police say it was not publicity.

1 Out in Chicago the police claim to
2 have solved the famous ^{Jake} Lingle murder.
3 According to the Associated Press, they've
4 arrested a St. Louis gangster named Leo
5 Brothers, and he is said to be identified
6 by several witnesses as the man who shot
7 "Jake" Lingle, the Chicago Tribune reporter.
8 The State's attorney declares that the
9 St. Louis gangster will be tried for the
10 ~~murder~~ shooting.

11 The International News Service tells
12 us that the State's attorney implied that
13 the full story of the ^{Jake} Lingle ^{mystery} ~~murder~~ was
14 known, but ~~that it~~ would not be revealed
15 until the trial.

1 This afternoon Ben Adams walked
2 in ~~xxx~~ on me with a clipping in his
3 hand. You may remember that I had an
4 evening off Saturday before last and
5 Ben was here in my place.

6 "HOW'S THIS FOR A DOG STORY",
7 he said, ~~"AND IF I WERE PINCH HITTING~~
8 FOR YOU AGAIN TONIGHT I THINK I'D USE
9 IT AS THE NEWS ITEM OF THE DAY."

10 Here it is:

11 The New York Times says *that*
12 Nemo is a fox terrior who last summer
13 wandered into the Metropolitan Airport
14 over in Newark, New Jersey. (By the
15 way, the other night I mentioned a cat
16 that walked all the way from Missouri
17 to ~~xx~~ Newark. That was up at Newark,
18 New York.) But Nemo the stray fox
19 terrior arrived at the New Jersey Newark
20 airport, scraggly and skinny and hungry.

21 Aviators are fond of dogs,
22 and particularly stray dogs. So they
23 made Nemo the mascot of the airport.
24 And how Nemo loved it. He grew devoted
25 to flying. In fact, if ever a dog

1 became air-minded it was Nemo. When a
2 plane came in Nemo was there to greet
3 it, barking and wagging that stubby
4 tail of his at the rate of 400
5 revolutions a minute.

6 It was a happy summer for Nemo,
7 but things changed when winter came.
8 ~~on.~~ It got cold and they had no place
9 to keep ~~xx~~ a dog warm at the airport,
10 so the aviators decided they had
11 better provide Nemo with a warm home
12 ~~xxx~~ for the winter.

13 A farmer offered to put the
14 dog up during the cold months and an
15 automobile carried Nemo to his farm
16 twenty-five miles away.

17 The next morning one of the
18 aviators sort of rubbed his eyes. There
19 was Nemo curled up asleep on some
20 airmail bags.

21 Well, they still decided Nemo
22 had to have a better home, and one of
23 the mechanics around the hangar offered
24 to take him to his house. He drove
25 Nemo by a complicated route so the
dog couldn't possibly find his way

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1 back and gave the little terrior
2 comfortable quarters. ^{But} An hour later ^{there was}
3 Nemo ~~was back~~ at the hangar.

4 Yesterday a chauffeur drove up
5 to the field in a big limousine, and
6 said that Nemo belonged to his employer,
7 Colonel Long.

8 The story of how Nemo had returned
9 twice to the flying field had been
10 printed in the papers, and the Colonel
11 recognized the dog from the description
12 as a pup that had belonged to him and
13 strayed away.

14 So Nemo was ^{taken along} ~~driven away~~ to
15 Col. Long's office. When he saw his
16 old master Nemo barked and jumped with
17 joy. ^{But a} couple of hours later Nemo was
18 back at the airport and curled himself
19 up on the mail bags.

20 Well, the Colonel came looking
21 for his dog and then he talked the
22 situation over with the aviators.

23 It all ended happily because
24 the Colonel agreed that Nemo was just
25 a born aviator and he guessed he'd better

1 live right there at the airport. So
2 the fliers said they guessed they'd
3 have to build a fine little hangar
4 for Nemo to live in. And that's what
5 they're doing.
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1 The other night we had a story
2 about mosquitoes in the news and in
3 connection with it I happened to remark
4 that the biggest and most ferocious
5 of all mosquitoes were to be found up
6 in Alaska. And that has brought a
7 regular snow storm of letters from folks
8 who assure me that the real mosquito
9 honors belong to their native state.

10 One lady from (well, maybe
11 I'd better not tell you what state she
12 lives in because that would get me
13 into more hot water). Anyhow, the
14 lady declares that fifty years ago when
15 she was a child her mother instead of
16 threatening to call the "Boogey-man"
17 when the children were bad, would just
18 take the dinner bell down from the shelf
19 and threaten to call the mosquitoes.
20 And that always made the children behave.

21 Winfield Hill of Princeton
22 Junction states that he was traveling
23 through a certain locality - not New
24 Jersey, of course - when his car
25 bumped smack into a mosquitoes' nest.

1 "YES", says Mr. Hill, "AND THAT
2 WAS ALL THE MOTORING I DID FOR A WHILE
3 BECAUSE THOSE ANGRY MOSQUITOES ATTACKED
4 MY CAR AND PUNCTURED ALL MY TIRES."

5 *XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX*

6 A Mr. Bamgol of Huntington,
7 West Virginia, tells about an adventure
8 he had.

9 "IT WAS DOWN SOUTH IN THE
10 CRACKER COUNTRY", he writes. "THERE WERE
11 SOME MOSQUITOES IN MY ROOM, ENORMOUS
12 FIERCE FELLOWS. I TRIED TO GET THE BEST
13 OF THEM BY GOING AFTER THEM WITH A
14 CANDLE - SINGE THEIR WINGS YOU KNOW.
15 I GOT 'EM ALL - THAT IS, ALL BUT ONE.
16 AND HE WAS THE BIGGEST VILLAIN OF THE
17 LOT AND SEEMED TO BE THE LEADER. FINALLY
18 I CORNERED HIM AND WAS ABOUT TO BURN
19 HIM TOO WHEN WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT
20 MOSQUITO DID? WELL, SIR, HE JUST TURNED
21 AROUND AND BLEW THE CANDLE OUT."

22 Be all that as it may, I
23 was gratified to get a bit of confirmation
24 for what I said about mosquitoes in the
25 Far North.

II

1 J. S. Hanson of Rockville Center,
2 New York, writes me that on one
3 occasion he was up in Labrador ~~xxx~~
4 visiting the Grenfell Mission, and the
5 famous Sir Wilfred Grenfell was telling
6 him about Labrador mosquitoes.

7 "YES SIR", said Dr. Grenfell,
8 "THE LABRADOR MOSQUITO EXCEEDS ALL
9 OTHERS IN SIZE AND FEROCITY. BUT THERE
10 IS ONE ESPECIALLY BIG AND FEROCIOUS
11 MOSQUITO YOU WANT TO LOOK OUT FOR.
12 I HAD AN ENCOUNTER WITH HIM. IF YOU
13 HAPPEN TO RUN ACROSS HIM ~~YOU'D BETTER~~
14 ~~LOOK OUT,~~ ^{alright,} YOU'LL RECOGNIZE HIM", added
15 Dr. Grenfell, "BECAUSE YOU'LL SEE
16 THE IMPRINT OF A MAN'S FIST BETWEEN
17 THAT MOSQUITO'S EYES."
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EXPLOSION

Last night I asked the question out of the Literary Digest questionnaire: WHAT IS THE GREATEST EXPLOSION ON RECORD?

Well, the Digest tells us that big bang was the eruption of Krakatoa in 1883. And then the Digest goes on to give some startling facts about that record-breaking bit of fireworks.

But the article is more than a piece of fascinating history. It tells us about that tremendous eruption of Krakatoa in 1883 for the reason that the scientists are wondering just whether this celebrated volcano is going to blow up again in the near future.

Krakatoa is on an island between Sumatra and Java, and in it's former eruption it created a sort of daughter volcano -- a small island with a crater. And that crater has been showing dangerous signs of activity. If you turn to your new Digest you will see three remarkable pictures of what that daughter of the giant Krakatoa is doing. And you will see why the scientists are all steamed up about it.

1 Before we end tonight, let's take
2 a glimpse into the future. The first
3 television tea in history has just been
4 held. It was at the Bell Telephone
5 laboratories in New York. The guests
6 were members of the Engineering Women's
7 Club, ^{As a matter of fact} ~~and~~ they weren't really there at
8 all. They stayed right in their homes,
9 and ^{Joined in} ~~took part in~~ the tea party just the
10 same.

11 They all exchanged greeting by
12 television, ^{and} ~~passed~~ around a few
13 choice bits of gossip, I suppose.

14 Even the hostess, Mrs. Frank
15 Jewett, was a couple of miles away.

16 Well, they say it won't be long now
17 until we'll be living a large part of
18 our lives by television. The children
19 will be going to school by television,
20 maybe. We'll attend banquets by television—
21 ^{well} ~~and~~ thank science for that. Perhaps even
22 Congress will meet by television.

23 And when that day comes I'll be
24 able to say "So long" ~~to~~ to you face to
25 face by television. But for the present--

1 for tonight, at any rate, I'm still
2 just a voice, saying--

3 So long until tomorrow.
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