

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1930

RAILROADS

That big railroad merger we have been hearing rumors about, has just been definitely announced. President Hoover told about it this afternoon. He said that executives of the big eastern railroads had just come to an agreement according to which the railroads in the eastern part of the United States will be merged into four big independent lines. These are the Pennsylvania, the New York Central, the Baltimore and Ohio, and the Nickel Plate. According to the President's statement which was sent out tonight by all the Press Associations the weaker lines will be combined with the stronger ones. The result will be lower operating costs, and in the long run lower rates for old John Q. Public. The next step will be for the merger to go to the Interstate Commerce Commission for its approval.

This is big news and the New York Stock Exchange responded immediately. Railroad shares took a quick jump. New York Central and B. & O. went up six points. And Railroad shares were not the only ones that went up. The whole market took an upward trend. So maybe we'll be able to wish each other

a happy and prosperous New Year after all, I mean with some chance of it coming true.

1 Here's some news I've been waiting
2 for, well, since Thanksgiving Day. It's
3 about football. Of course the thirtieth
4 of December seems a trifle late for any
5 hot flashes about football. Many all-
6 American teams are selected each season.
7 Nearly every ^{big} newspaper picks its own--
8 with the aid of experts, of course.

9 Well, from all these All-American
10 teams it's almost necessary for someone
11 to sum them all up and select the final
12 All-American of the All-Americans. And
13 this falls right into the field of the
14 Literary Digest. Just as the Digest
15 sifts the news and gives us both sides
16 of the important news of the day, so also
17 does the Digest give us a final All-
18 American team simply by balancing the
19 opinions of all the experts. The Digest
20 takes ~~all~~ the different selections and
21 ^{Pours} ~~puts~~ them together and adds them up, and
22 out of the ^{hopper} ~~process~~ comes the team of
23 teams.

24 In other words, the Digest selects
25 the players who got the most votes from

1 the experts. And that gives us the
 2 final super All-American, ~~or at least~~
 3 ~~it comes as near giving us the final~~
 4 ~~All-American as we can hope to get.~~

5 I've been waiting for the Digest
 6 editors to announce the results, and
 7 they showed them to me this afternoon.
 8 It all appears in ~~this week's~~ ^{the new} Literary
 9 Digest which comes out a day earlier
 10 this week on account of New Years, just
 11 as it came out a day ahead last week
 12 because of Christmas.

13 The Digest editors have taken, as
 14 the basis for their final selection, the
 15 12 All-American teams which they
 16 considered ~~ed~~ the most important. One of
 17 the interesting points they discovered
 18 right off the reel was that the experts
 19 who picked those 12 All-American teams
 20 were unanimous in picking only two
 21 players. Who were the two? Well, you
 22 will all guess the first one easy enough.
 23 Yes, they all picked Carideó, the great
 24 Notre Dame quarter back. (Parke Brown, ^{the}
 25 ^{famous sports writer,} tells me Carideó pronounces it that way

himself

1 [^] and not Carid'eeo) Who was the other man
 2 ~~who was~~ picked ^{on} ~~for~~ all twelve teams?
 3 Well, he was a Southerner. They all
 4 ~~picked~~ ^{chose} Sington, of Alabama, for a position
 5 at tackle.

6 After that the selections were
 7 wide and various. ~~Here they are:~~ Ben
 8 Ticknor, of Harvard, ^{appeared} ~~was~~ [^] ~~picked to play~~
 9 at center on 8 out of the 12 teams.
 10 Regarding all the other positions there
 11 was wide disagreement. But ^{now} [^] to read the
 12 names of all the men on the Literary
 13 Digest team, ~~The~~ process of elimination
 14 sifts it down to the following: ~~men:~~
 15 ENDS: Fesler of Ohio State and Dalrymple
 16 of Tulane.

17 TACKLES: Sington of Alabama and Price
 18 of Army.

19 GUARDS: Woodworth of Northwestern and
 20 Wisniewski of Fordham.

21 CENTER: Ticknor of Harvard.

22 QUARTER-BACK: Carideo of Notre Dame.

23 HALF-BACKS: Schwartz of Notre Dame and
 24 Pinckert of Southern Calif.

25 FULL-BACK: Macaluso of Colgate.

1 Only three of these men were on
2 the Digest's All-American team last
3 year. These three were Fesler of Ohio
4 State, Ticknor of Harvard, and of course
5 the irrepressible, ^{Lushman} Carideo, ~~of Notre Dame.~~

6 The new Digest prints a handsome
7 series of pictures of the members of
8 this mighty team of teams, and ~~an~~ ^{of course an}
9 interesting article telling how the team
10 was selected. You'll find it in the new
11 issue that comes out tomorrow.
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JOFFRE

I've a brief dispatch here which has a bit of cheering news for you. It will bring gladness to the hearts of millions of people in this country.

Marshal Joffre, as you know, has been desperately ill, and the hero of the Marne seemed to be listening to the last bugle call. The doctors were obliged to amputate one of his legs, and little hope seemed to be left. But an International News Service dispatch has come through stating that the doctors now declare that all hope must not be abandoned for the old Marshal. And this is the first time that the physicians have said an optimistic word. They tell us that the Marshal rallied well from his operation, and contrary to all their expectations he seems to be improving. If the improvement continues he may still get well. The hope they express is slight. But it is hope.

AUSIRIA

Now for an item from
the beautiful blue Danube.

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1 There seems to be a row ^{on} between
2 those two old partners, Austria and
3 Hungary. In Austria there are a lot
4 of ancient treasures which ^{once} belonged to
5 the ^{old} empire, and Hungary now claims part
6 of these. The New York Evening Post
7 says that Hungary demands, among other
8 things, the sword of Charlemagne. This
9 sword was used in the coronations of
10 the old kings of the Holy Roman Empire.
11 It was an antique 900 years ago. It is
12 said that in the year 1,000 the
13 Emperor Otto found the sword in the tomb
14 of Charlemagne. All who are interested
15 in antiques will no doubt agree that
16 the sword of Charlemagne is indeed
17 an antique worth squabbling over.

From the Road to Mandalay

1 ~~From Burma~~^{Burma} comes further news
2 regarding the big battle that has been
3 raging in the ^{Burma} jungle for nearly a week.
4 As usual it seems to have ended in a
5 victory for the British X troops. Hill
6 tribesmen in Upper Burma, along the
7 Irrawaddy River, have been up in arms
8 against the British. Tommies had to
9 be rushed to the scene after 500 fierce
10 hillmen stole through the jungle and
11 tried to surprise the government troops.
12 But the soldiers caught them napping.
13 A hundred were killed and the rest were
14 driven away in a desperate encounter.
15 Gunfire was heard for 30 miles, and,
16 according to the International News
17 Service, even part of the jungle was
18 reported to be in flames. British
19 authorities believe the back-bone of the
20 rebellion has been broken.

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1 As I take a look at this next
 2 dispatch I feel like singing out Kipling's
 3 line - YOU ARE A BETTER MAN THAN I AM,
 4 GUNGADIN, - only ~~xxxxxxx~~ I'd change
 5 Gungadin to Akrishna Shamba. Well,
 6 Akrishna Shamba is a peasant out in India,
 7 and he was plowing away in his field with
 8 that funny implement - a crooked stick
 9 which they ^{still use for} ~~said~~ a plow, ~~out there~~. The
 10 first thing Akrishna Shamba knew a tiger
 11 was stalking him. That tiger must have
 12 been a man eater. Akrishna Shamba had
 13 no chance for a getaway. He stood his
 14 ground bravely. He picked up a sharp
 15 stick and as the tiger sprang at him he
 16 thrust it between the open jaws of the
 17 brute. The tiger roared and snarled
 18 with pain and rage, its mouth held open
 19 by that stick. It attacked the man with
 20 its claws. Akrishna Shamba fought as well
 21 as he could, but ^{Master Stripes} ~~the tiger~~ was on top
 22 of him. Just then neighbors ran up with
 23 axes and ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ killed the tiger.
 24 Well, any man who faces a
 25 charging Bengal tiger and ^{shoves} ~~sticks~~ a stick

1 of wood between his jaws is my idea of
2 a hero, and all I've got to say is--
3 you're a better man than I am, Akrishna
4 Shamba.

5 Well, when I arrived here in front
6 of the mike a few minutes ago I hadn't
7 quite made up my mind which of my pile of
8 dispatches was the most interesting bit
9 of news I had seen today. But I think
10 I'll have to pick that story of Akrishna
11 Shamba and the tiger. Of course it makes
12 a double appeal to me because I've spent
13 a lot of time out in India where Master
14 Stripes is a daily topic of conversation.
15 In fact, he's so much in the public
16 mind out there that ~~there are~~ ^{has come into existence} a whole
17 string of funny stories about tigers.
18 Here's one of them and it's at the expense
19 of the babus.

20 The babus are those half-
21 Europeanized Hindu clerks who are found
22 in offices all over India. They speak
23 a curious, stilted English, and one of
24 their peculiarities is their love for
25 red tape and their reluctance to assume

1 any responsibility at any time. There
2 is a famous story told out there. You've
3 heard it of course. But it's worth
4 repeating. You see, the average babu
5 will do nothing on his own initiative.
6 He always goes higher up for orders.
7 ~~And so the old story goes about a~~
8 telegram ^{was} received by the Divisional
9 Superintendent of the railroad at Lahore.
10 It came from some babu at a station down
11 the line and it read:-

12 TIGER DEVOURING STATION MASTER.
13 WIRE INSTRUCTIONS.

14 Well, it's too bad ~~you weren't~~
15 Akrishna Shamba ^{wasn't there} to shove that sharp
16 stick ~~in~~ of his in the tiger's mouth.

QUESTIONS

In my look through the new Literary Digest that comes out tomorrow, in the weekly Questionnaire, the third question from the top fired my curiosity. The question asked was:-

WHERE ARE REAL DRAGONS TO BE FOUND?

My first reaction was:- there ain't no such animal. Dragons only exist in fairytales and in old Chinese legends.

But, I was wrong again. The new Digest tells us that strange reports kept coming in concerning live dragons on the remote island of Komodo which lies a bit to the east of Java and Sumatra.

So an expedition under the auspices of the American Museum of Natural History went over to Komodo to have a look for those dragons. Did they find them? They did, and they collected fourteen, three alive.

They are not giant monsters like the enormous prehistoric dinosaur.

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1 ~~and so on.~~ These dragons are only about
2 ten feet long. They really are huge
3 lizards, perhaps the last survivors of
4 the age of giant reptiles.

5 Well, these dragons of ^{Komodo} ~~today~~
6 live in cave-like hiding places below
7 the thickets of the tropical jungle.
8 They are ferocious creatures, and the
9 scientists ~~who investigated them~~ saw
10 one of them swallowing half of a wild
11 boar at ^a ~~one~~ gulp. So, maybe the old
12 Chinese were right in their legends
13 about dragons. Chinese ~~xxx~~ navigators
14 have been sailing past this island
15 for centuries and ~~xxxx~~ the famous dragons
16 of China may be the dragons of Komodo,
17 enlarged and twisted a bit as the
18 stories about them passed into Chinese
19 folklore and literature.

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1 Last night was a big night for
 2 the ancient sport of wrestling. They
 3 put on a series of ^{bouts} ~~matches~~ at Madison
 4 Square Garden between ^{a whole flock of} the ponderous *pachyderms*
 5 ~~xxxxkxkxkxkxkxkx~~ *pachyderms*, as the sporting
 6 writers call the two and three hundred
 7 pound wrestlers. And there was a
 8 tremendous thumping and bumping as
 9 beef landed on beef. The sporting
 10 pages as usual devoted a few lines to
 11 the ~~xxx~~ combined tonnage of the wrestlers.
 12 I forget just how many tons those mighty
 13 men weighed in one grand total.

14 Jim Londos, the gripping ~~x~~ Greek
 15 who ^{is} ~~was~~ the world's champion, met a
 16 hefty Hungarian named Holuban. Holuban
 17 had all the best of the wrestling, —
 18 except that he didn't win. / ^{He} ~~xxx~~ bounced
 19 the Greek all over the place until the
 20 Greek looked ready for the ash can. Then
 21 Londos seized Holubon and whirled him
 22 around like a dancing dervish until
 23 Holuban was practically unconscious.
 24 Then Londos pinned ^{Holuban's} ~~his~~ shoulders to the
 25 mat. ¶ But the match that caught my eye

was one between a Japanese named Taro Myaki and an Italian who had the good old Italian name of Garibaldi. The New York World tells of some peculiar happenings that took place in the struggle between those two giants.

Taro Myaki was always sneaking jiu jitsu holds on Garibaldi, and jiu jitsu holds are against the rules. The referee cautioned Taro Myaki, but the Jap just couldn't get away from his jiu jitsu. Then Garibaldi thought he would add his argument to the referee's and try to convince Taro Myaki that jiu jitsu holds were all wrong. He just decided to enforce the referee's argument. Garibaldi swung his fist and landed a haymaker right on Taro Myaki's nose that almost knocked the Jap cockeyed. The referee apparently thought Taro had it coming to him, and he made the two mastadons keep on wrestling. Their match finally ended in a draw - but with the Gargantuan Garibaldi still glowering at the big boy from Nippon.

END

And this rings the final bell, and winds up my evening's wrestling match with the news. Unless Londos, Holuban, Taro Myaki, Garibaldi, or some other pachyderm falls on top of me in the meantime, I'll be back again tomorrow, hoping to clamp a headlock on a political dispatch from Europe, a half Nelson on some important news from Washington, and a bit of jiu jitsu on a fantastic tale or two from Asia. Anyway,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.