

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1931

METEOR

Good Evening, Everybody:

Here's something in a vivid spirit of Christmas.

Last night southern New England had a Christmas greeting from the sky. Hundreds of people saw a large, brilliant, slow-moving meteor pass across the night. The heavenly visitor made a glorious, luminous show as it traveled majestically through the dark.

People at Newington, Connecticut, are quoted by the International News Service as declaring that the meteor had a gleaming fiery tail, and the glowing visitor seemed to break into three pieces before it fell. All this is also confirmed from Providence, Rhode Island. From there the report comes that two parts seemed to split off that fire-ball, as it sank toward the horizon.

And another,

1 ~~A wild~~ Christmas eve celebration was  
2 staged by Mother Nature out in the  
3 Hawaiian Islands today. There was a  
4 violent earthquake, and then a  
5 spectacular eruption of Mount Kilauea,  
6 the great volcano of Hawaii. Four  
7 fountains of flame spouted high into the  
8 air from the crater of the mountain, and  
9 tonight dense clouds of smoke are hanging  
10 over the ~~crater~~ bowl of fire.

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1           There's a town up in arms today in  
2 the goodly state of Indiana. The name of  
3 the town is Santa Claus. Yes, that's  
4 right -- Santa Claus, Indiana. Most of  
5 you have heard of it. Why should the  
6 inhabitants of Santa Claus be in a  
7 fighting mood at Christmas time? The answer  
8 is simple enough -- Somebody is  
9 threatening to have the name of the  
10 town changed. They want to change it  
11 from Santa Claus to Pumpkin Corners, or  
12 Stratford-on-the-Wabash, or something  
13 like that.)

14           ^And that dire threat seems to  
15 emanate from the United States Postoffice.

16           The International News Service  
17 explains that the town of Santa Claus  
18 has won a good deal of fame throughout  
19 this country on account of its Yuletide  
20 name. A great many people send their  
21 letters to Santa Claus, Indiana, and  
22 have them remailed from that town -- the  
23 idea being to have a postmark on the  
24 letters that has a real Christmas flavor.  
25 This year the mail has not been so heavy.



~~But~~ <sup>But</sup>  
1 Whatever the reason may be, they want to  
2 change the name of the town, And that's  
3 what has aroused the ire and disturbed  
4 the spleen of the Santa Claus-ites.

5 They say: "We live, not in  
6 Easterville, not in Fourth-of-July  
7 Crossing, or Thanksgiving-day-Manor --  
8 we live in Santa Claus. And let no man  
9 harm one hair of our whiskers!"

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1 A sensational bit of news was given  
2 out over in Moscow today. It tells of a  
3 plan to kill the Japanese ambassador to  
4 Russia. The foreign office of the  
5 Soviet government issued a statement  
6 telling that an employee of the  
7 Commissariat of Transport was approached  
8 by a foreign diplomat, who suggested to  
9 him a scheme to assassinate Ambassador  
10 Hirota, the Japanese representative of  
11 the Tokio government at Moscow. The idea  
12 behind it all was to provoke a war  
13 between the Soviet government and Japan.  
14 If Ambassador Hirota were ~~killed,~~  
15 assassinated, why that <sup>would be</sup> ~~was~~ sure to  
16 provoke war. That, <sup>adds</sup> ~~says~~ the Soviet  
17 statement, is what the foreign diplomat  
18 had to say to the employee of the  
19 Russian Commissariat Department.

20 The employee immediately reported the  
21 affair to <sup>the O. S. P. U.</sup> the Secret Police. They  
22 investigated and verified the truth of  
23 the statement.

24 Thereupon, the government at Moscow  
25 communicated with the government of the

1 country to which the conspiring diplomat  
2 belonged. The Bolshevik authorities  
3 requested that the diplomat be called  
4 home and removed from his post.

5 The International News Service  
6 quotes the Soviet statement as adding  
7 that the name of the country and the  
8 identity of the diplomat is being kept a  
9 secret, and will not be given out.

10 They say the statement has created an  
11 immense sensation at Moscow. Ambassador  
12 Hirota has been a prominent figure of  
13 late. He ~~is mentioned~~ has been carrying on  
14 delicate diplomatic negotiations with  
15 the Red authorities at Moscow --  
16 negotiations concerned <sup>ing that</sup> ~~with the~~ ticklish  
17 situation in Manchuria.

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1 A dispatch from Tokio states that  
 2 the new Japanese activity in Manchuria  
 3 has provoked ~~some~~ more international  
 4 protest. The Associated Press cables that  
 5 it is understood that the United States,  
 6 ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Great Britain and France have  
 7 sent a message which Tokio considers  
 8 a warning -- a warning not to go too far in  
 9 Manchuria.

10 The Japanese are advancing steadily,  
 11 and interpret their military movements  
 12 as a drive against bandits. The authorities  
 13 at Tokio explain that one problem of  
 14 the Japanese is the difficulty of  
 15 distinguishing Chinese ~~se~~ soldiers from *Chinese*  
 16 bandits. In fact the Japanese are  
 17 inclined to take the position that there  
 18 isn't much difference ~~at all~~ <sup>anyhow</sup> that Chinese  
 19 soldiers and bandits are so much alike as  
 20 ~~two candles on a Christmas tree.~~  
 21 ~~that they are pretty much the same thing.~~

22 The United Press cables that the  
 23 Japanese Prime Minister is preparing an  
 24 answer to the complaints made by ~~United~~ <sup>Uncle Sam</sup>  
 25 ~~John Bull and the République Française,~~  
 26 ~~States, France and England,~~ and they say  
 27 the gist of that answer will be "HANDS OFF".  
 28 The ~~Xxxxx~~ Tokio government seems  
 29 determined to have its own way in Manchuria.  
 30 That looks pretty plain.

1           There's a fairly general chorus  
2 among financiers today. They are saying  
3 that the Young Plan is doomed. They ~~xxx~~  
4 believe that the scheme rigged up for the  
5 payment of German reparations is just  
6 about at an end.

7           This follows the report given out  
8 by the Young Plan Advisory Committee.  
9 We had a summary of that report a couple  
10 of days ago.

11          Under the Young Plan German reparations  
12 were divided into two classes--unconditional  
13 and conditional. The gist of the new  
14 report is that Germany will not be able  
15 to pay the conditional reparations.

16          Under the Hoover Moratorium she will  
17 not be called upon to pay them until  
18 next July. The Young Plan Committee  
19 believes that when next July rolls around  
20 Germany will not have the money and will  
21 not be able to shell out the required  
22 quantity of marks.

23          The Associated Press quotes ~~xxxxxxx~~  
24 experts as declaring that France has won  
25 an empty victory. The French delegates



1 on the Young Plan Committee succeeded  
2 in having the greater part of the  
3 problem put over until the meeting of a  
4 conference on international finances  
5 which is tentatively scheduled to begin  
6 next month.

7 The French also persuaded the  
8 Committee, in discussing German  
9 reparations, to stick to the terms of the  
10 Young Plan, as the essential basis of the  
11 whole discussion.

12 But they say that these points which  
13 the French scored don't amount to much.

14 One thing does seem to be certain.  
15 There's going to be an <sup>vast</sup> ~~awful~~ lot of loud  
16 noise and general scurrying around when  
17 the moratorium ends next summer.

18 We bade Old Boy Moratorium  
19 farewell last night, but his ghost  
20 still seems to be hovering around.  
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GERMANY

Over in Germany they're not shouting any hoops over that report of the Young Plan Committee.

The Germans are dissatisfied. They say the report didn't go far enough. The United Press quotes German spokesmen as declaring that France made a few slight concessions, and that's all. They think that the Young Plan Committee should have recommended either the complete cancellation of the reparations, or at least a drastic reduction of the amounts that Germany is called upon to pay.

1           There was a wild bit of telephoning  
2 at Albany, New York, last night. They  
3 have dial telephones in Albany, and  
4 somebody was certainly doing a bit of  
5 crazy dialing. And the funny part of  
6 it is that he was doing it with his tongue.  
7 He was using his tongue to swing the  
8 dial. ~~around.~~

9           The answer is that John Hand, a  
10 bank cashier, was working late. He was  
11 just leaving at midnight when a couple  
12 of robbers came in and held him up. They  
13 bound him hand and foot with wire and  
14 left him lying on the floor while they  
15 took what money they could find.

16           Then they left, and John was still  
17 there on the floor. He struggled around  
18 and finally was able to knock the telephone  
19 over. Then he began dialing it with his  
20 tongue. He just dialed numbers at random.

21           Finally he heard a noise in the  
22 receiver. His haphazard dialing had rung  
23 the 'phone of an insurance man who now  
24 was answering. The bank cashier shouted  
25 his message of robbery, and the police



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were called. The robbers had locked the bank after going out and the Associated Press reports that the cops had to batter down the door before they could free the cashier.

# BURGLARS

And, by the way, this isn't a very merry ~~well, it's a sad~~ Christmas for a couple of burglars who blew open a safe at Lafayette, Indiana.

They got into the office of a lumber company and went to work with a chisel and nitroglycerine. After a tremendous amount of work they got the safe open. Inside they found fourteen cents, <sup>a</sup> ~~two~~ dime and four pennies.

But that, comments the United Press, isn't the worst of it. The lumber company now announces that the safe was unlocked all the time. If the burglars had known they could have turned the handle, pulled open the door and got the fourteen cents without any trouble.

1 On the Pacific coast ~~it is~~  
 2 ~~believed that~~ a famous little ship  
 3 reappeared today. It showed up again  
 4 after people feared it had sunk beneath  
 5 the waters of the stormy ocean. It is  
 6 ~~the tug~~ the Roosevelt, <sup>the craft</sup> in which Admiral  
 7 Perry sailed to the Arctic ice, years ago  
 8 on the trip that finally led to the  
 9 discovery of the North Pole.

10 Yesterday The Roosevelt was navigating off  
 11 the coast of Vancouver Island. She had  
 12 gone out to pick up a schooner that was  
 13 sailing in a race. <sup>she's a tug now.</sup> She was plowing along  
 14 in a storm, with mountainous seas breaking  
 15 over her.

16 Wireless messages of help came.  
 17 They were repeated again and again. A ship  
 18 went to the aid of the <sup>Roosevelt</sup> ~~tug~~ but couldn't  
 19 find her. Then the wireless messages  
 20 ceased. It was believed that the Roosevelt  
 21 with ~~the~~ 12 men aboard ~~her~~ had gone down  
 22 in the storm. But now the International  
 23 News Service wires that the Roosevelt is  
 24 safe. She is anchored in Neah Bay near  
 25 Seattle. She has been safe in the bay  
 since ~~this morning~~ <sup>for some hours</sup>, but they have just  
 succeeded in getting the word through.



1 Twelve people were hurt near Palmer,  
2 Massachusetts, <sup>today</sup> when a big motor bus had  
3 a collision with a truck. The truck was  
4 knocked over an embankment, <sup>and</sup> and went  
5 tumbling down, <sup>and</sup> and the bus crumpled up like  
6 an accordion.

7 However, ~~says~~ <sup>states</sup> the Associated Press,  
8 nobody was really seriously hurt. Most  
9 of the injured suffered ~~from nothing~~  
10 ~~more than a few~~ <sup>only</sup> minor cuts and bruises.

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## CHARITY

From the windows of the offices of the Literary Digest today we could see a great crowd of people, block after block, lined up along the sidewalk. They stood waiting, and moved slowly forward until they reached a big armory, and then they came away carrying sacks across their shoulders. In the sacks was food, provisions for Christmas dinners. There were fifteen thousand in that line. 800,000 lbs. of food was passed out in bags of 50 lbs. each, with toys for the youngsters too. It took 460. The New York American was distributing free christmas cheer to all who came and asked, and thousands were there to get it.

Some were young, and some were old, some seemed as though they might have been in need for a long time, while others looked as if distress had recently come upon them.

Well, that just happened to be right under my own eyes.

Other New York papers did their fine, charitable work to make Christmas happy. And all over the country, newspapers have been doing the same thing.

And that's only the beginning of it. News dispatches tonight tell story after story of how the spirit of giving has pervaded this Christmas, how institutions and private individuals have plunged whole heartedly into the luxury of helping others -- all the way from big business houses to folks like ourselves who just do what we can for our neighbors who may need a hand.

And that, for those who give makes this Christmas the best of all.

Anyway, there are a lot of folks in this broad land who will remember this Christmas for the pleasure they have found in just helping others.



DIGEST

Tonight, of course, is the night of Christmas trees, the night when we help old Santa perform his cheery task for the kiddies.

And while the tree is being decorated on Christmas Eve here are a few lines by a South Dakota poet, Mary Frances Martin. The Literary Digest quotes it from a publication called Pasque Petals, printed at Aberdeen, South Dakota. The poem tells in fanciful, sprightly way how the Christmas tree began. Here is a part of it:-

There was a manger at Bethlehem  
O long ago, O long ago.  
Cradled there in fragrant hay,  
A child Divinely Holy lay,  
In the manger long ago.

The little tree in the cavern stood,  
O long ago, O long ago.  
Its balsem fragrance filled the air,

1 Incense sweet for the Christ-Child fair,  
2 In the manger long ago.

3 Then the poem goes on to tell us how  
4 the shepherds came to worship the Christ-  
5 Child, and they brought gifts. ~~with them,~~  
6 And they hung the gifts on the little  
7 tree that stood in the cavern.

8 They worshipped the Child on His  
9 Mother's knee,  
10 They hung their gifts on the little tree,  
11 In the cavern long ago.

12 The Christ-Child sleeps in His manger  
13 bed,  
14 As long ago, as long ago.  
15 The years have come, and the years  
16 have gone,  
17 And the little Christmas tree lives on,  
18 Since Bethlehem long ago.

19 Well, I know I'll have that bit of  
20 verse ringing in my ears as I give the  
21 good Saint a hand tonight, ~~and~~ and help him  
22 trim the Christmas tree.

23 And I only hope I don't fall off  
24 the step ladder as I help Kris Kringle  
25 fasten that silvery star to the top of the  
tree. I hope I don't land head first in  
the drum — and the same to you — and  
Merry Xmas, and e-l-u-to-m.