

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1931

INTRO

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

Well, the week-end situation all over the world is pretty much the same as it has been. Not much trouble - and that's good news.

England is still going through a political crisis. The Labor party and the Liberals are having a scrap, and if they are not able to get together and establish harmony, why, the Labor government will fall, and then England will face the prospect of a general election this summer and the uncertainty that goes with it.

The New York Sun in reviewing the news for the week states that the next three days will tell the tale, and will decide whether the British political situation is going to go on as it is, or whether there will be a big battle at the polls. Tonight it's still in the lap of the Gods.

In Germany the cabinet of Chancellor Bruening is having

trouble. There is opposition in the Reichstag. The Germans are indulging in a lively scrap over foreign policy and taxation.

In Italy, of course, the big quarrel is still on - the quarrel between the Vatican and Mussolini. But it seems to be quieting down.

In Spain they are getting all set for those national elections that come in about two weeks. A new Spanish parliament will be elected. This is the first general election for Spain under the new republican regime, and it's got the Spaniards talking in Cafes all the way from San Sebastian to Gibraltar.

In France all is quiet along the Seine. The new president has been inaugurated and along the Boulevards they're looking for something new to talk about.

The correspondent of the Sun tells us that all Europe is a bit excited about the visit which Secretary Mellon, is going to pay to the various old world capitals sometime next month. Much of the agitation over there is still due to the war debts, those debts which Europe~~an~~ owe to Uncle Sam, and all the states-

men are eager to hear what Secretary of the Treasury, Mellon, will have to say on the subject if he has anything to say at all.

1 *It*
2 This isn't a South American
3 revolution that comes along in this
4 next ~~in~~ dispatch. Everything seems to
5 be entirely parliamentary -- thus far.

6 The Congress of the Republic of
7 Venezuela has made a formal request to
8 the president of Venezuela, asking him
9 to resign. The Congress politely but
10 firmly requests the president to get out.

11 The president of Venezuela is
12 Doctor Juan ~~Bant~~ista Perez, who recently
13 succeeded General Gomez as president.

14 The United Press comments upon the
15 fact that Gomez for 20 years was the
16 strongest dictator of South America. He
17 ruled with the old and famous iron hand.
18 He resigned not long ago, saying that
19 he was getting too old for the job of
20 president.

21 ~~Doctor Perez succeeded him and it~~
22 ~~wasn't long before he began to have a bit~~
23 ~~of trouble. Reports of revolutionary~~
24 ~~movements in Venezuela have been coming~~
25 ~~through on and off, and now the~~
 Venezuelan Congress is up on its hind
 legs and trying to hand the president his
 hat.

But it looks as if General Gomez, the hard-fisted old dictator, is still very much in the picture, even if he isn't the president.

The International News Service states that Gomez has ordered President Perez to step down.

And so it looks as if Doctor Perez is on the Venezuelan toboggan.

1 Over in London the section called
2 East End, ^{is a} ~~the~~ district of poor people,
3 ~~the~~ Cockneys, brick laborers, truckmen, ^{and so}
4 ^{in that locality} ~~and~~ Kingsley Hall is a place of refuge
5 for those who are destitute.

6 Well, the humble East End
7 and the poor surroundings of Kingsley
8 Hall are going to have a new inhabitant
9 this summer. A man from a far off
10 country will visit England, and he will
11 take up his quarters in the shabbiest
12 slums the great British metropolis
13 can provide, ^{Nevertheless,} ~~and~~ he is one of the most
14 famous men in the world.

15 He is Mahatma Gandhi, the holy
16 man and leader of the Indian Nationalist
17 party. He will attend a great conference
18 to decide the future of India, and he
19 will be just about the most important
20 personage there. Every eye will be turned
21 to the frail meak Hindu whose non-violence
22 and long suffering has made more trouble
23 for the British ^{sh} ~~sh~~ lion than a few dozen
24 warlike hard fighting tribes.

25 The other Indian members to the

1 conference will live in good hotels and
2 will keep up the dignity that is
3 customary to statecraft and diplomacy. *But*
4 *not Gandhi.*

5 At a similar famous conference on
6 India last fall London was dazzled by
7 the bejewelled magnificence of the
8 Indian princes who attended as delegates.
9 But it is altogether characteristic of
10 Gandhi that when he journeys to London
11 as the hero of the hour, he will live
12 in the poorest quarter of town, among
13 the humblest of people, among the poor,
14 the disinherited, among waifs and beggars.

15 There is just one thing that seems
16 to be bothering the little holy man. The
17 Associated Press reminds us that he lives
18 largely on a diet of goat's milk. He has
19 his own private flock of goats which are
20 milked daily, and he is afraid that in
21 London goat's milk may be hard to get.
22 You are not likely to see a flock of
23 goats wandering around Piccadilly circus, or
24 *even Petticoat Lane in that same East End.*

25 One rumor is, that just to make
sure, Gandhi will procure a supply of
American condensed milk, which apparently
he thinks the next best thing to goat's
milk.

1 There's no surprise in this next
2 dispatch. It tells us that Columbus
3 was born in Genoa. Of course, any
4 school child can tell you that. But
5 just the same there's been plenty of
6 discussion about where Columbus ^{really} was
7 born, just as there's been about who
8 wrote Shakespeare's plays.

9 The most important expert on the
10 subject of where Columbus was born was
11 Columbus himself. In his letters he
12 wrote repeatedly that he was a native
13 of Genoa, and that ought to settle the
14 case. But some people thought that maybe
15 the letters weren't genuine or that
16 Columbus had reasons for not telling where
17 he really came from.

18 The New York Sun tells us that a
19 commission appointed by the city of
20 Genoa has been traveling through Spain,
21 and looking up all the records that have
22 any bearing on Columbus. They've now
23 made their report and declare that there
24 can be no doubt but that Columbus was a
25 native of Genoa.

1 They made a close study of the
2 letters in which the great discoverer
3 declared that he was a Genoese. And
4 they find that these letters are
5 unquestionably authentic.

6 Examination disclosed that a
7 letter written by Columbus to the
8 Genoese ambassador was on paper which
9 must have come from the same sheet as
10 another letter which he wrote to his
11 son Diego. And in these two letters
12 were phrases that were exactly alike.

13 The commission also reports that
14 the Spanish experts who are in charge
15 of the original manuscript pertaining
16 to Columbus are positive and unanimous
17 in the certainty that the discoverer of
18 America was indeed born in the old
19 sea-port town on the northwestern coast
20 of Italy.

1 All is quiet in Roubaix tonight.
2 And where is Roubaix? Well, I looked
3 it up in my Literary Digest atlas and
4 found it is an important town in the
5 textile district of northeastern France.

6 They've been having exciting times
7 in Roubaix -- something that looked
8 very much like a young revolution.
9 Thousands of workmen are on strike in
10 the French textile section. ~~And~~ the
11 authorities at Roubaix refused to allow
12 the strikers and the communists to
13 hold any parades. And pretty soon
14 exciting things began to happen.

15 A mob of communists and strikers
16 fortified themselves in the street.
17 They threw up barricades in the good
18 old fashion of French street fighting.
19 They tore up the pavement and gathered
20 stones and bricks and barbed wire, and
21 proceeded to ~~build defenses across the~~^{blockade the highway,}
22 ~~street.~~ The gendarmes, on foot and on
23 horseback, came charging. But they
24 were met with showers of stones and
25 bottles, and were driven off. Again

1 and again they advanced, but were
2 beaten back.

3 Apparently there wasn't any
4 ~~particular~~ gun-fire. I suppose the
5 gendarmes were being careful. Anyway,
6 they weren't able to do much, and the
7 communists and strikers held their
8 barricades and could ^{nt} ~~not~~ be driven ^{out,} ~~off.~~

9 Finally, as the Associated Press
10 reports, the police withdrew their
11 forces, and tried to figure out some
12 more strategic method of defeating the
13 rioters.

14 And that was the end of the trouble.
15 The communists and strikers, having won
16 a glorious victory, thought they ought
17 to celebrate it -- and they did. They
18 deserted their barricades and adjourned
19 to the cafes, where they drank toasts
20 and sang songs of triumph.

21 While they were engaged in these
22 festivities, the gendarmes quietly
23 demolished the barricades. They
24 succeeded in catching several of the
25 rioters. One of them was a big powerful

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fellow who put up a ^{prodigious} ~~gorgeous~~ fight. It took 12 gendarmes to drag him down and cart him away to the police station.

1 There seems to be some complicated
2 labor trouble among the coal miners of
3 Western Pennsylvania. The United Press
4 states that ten thousand miners are out
5 on strike.

6 Two Labor Unions are operating, and
7 they don't seem to be on good terms with
8 each other. Today one group tried to
9 break up a meeting held by the other
10 group. The next thing you know a free
11 for all fight was on. Two men were
12 badly beaten up.

13 The presence of strike breakers
14 makes the trouble all the more complicated.
15 There was an attempt to wreck a train
16 carrying sixty strike breakers from
17 Cleveland to New Kensington. A
18 railroad tie was placed across the
19 tracks.

20 The train was then bombarded by
21 striking miners who had a stone throwing
22 bee. The windows in the coaches were
23 smashed and three men were hurt.

24 State police troopers charged
25 the strikers and there was a lively
fracas along the railroad tracks.

1 Step forward ladies and gentlemen,
2 and witness a great sight. Do you want
3 ~~xx~~ to see a comet - yes, one of those
4 giant luminous wanderers in the heavens -
5 do you want to see that comet being
6 shivered and shaken and blown to pieces?
7 Well, if you do, just take a look at
8 page 27 of this week's Literary Digest.
9 There you will see two pictures. One
10 shows a comet in its natural healthy
11 form with the tail shooting out behind
12 it in a straight line. In the second
13 picture ~~you will~~^{we} see that same comet
14 bent and twisted, its tail something
15 like a wreath of smoke blown by a gust
16 of wind.

17 The caption under those pictures
18 in the Digest tells us that the two
19 photographs were taken through the great
20 telescope of the Yerkes observatory. The
21 comet hasn't any fancy name - just a
22 number. It's called 1908C, and the
23 pictures show the heavenly visitor on
24 two successive days.

25 Onx one day it was a trim, neat

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 1 well behaving comet. But the next day
 2 it was a shabby looking sight, battered
 3 and bedraggled. Well, what hit that
 4 comet? ^{ah} That's an interesting question.

5 The Digest answers by telling us
 6 of a new theory which has been figured out
 7 by Dr. H. B. Maris of the U. S. Naval
 8 Research Laboratory. The Digest quotes
 9 from Science Service, and tells us that
 10 Dr. Maris believes that comets are sometimes
 11 broken up by great outbursts of ultra-
 12 violet light shooting from the sun. It's
 13 a case of sun spots. When there are a
 14 lot of sun spots Old Sol sheds simply a
 15 flood of ultra-violet light through
 16 space, and this hits the comet and tears
 17 its ~~xxx~~ spreading tail to pieces.

18 For example, that comet which is
 19 shown in the Digest pictures, was bent out
 20 of shape on the same day ~~xx~~ ^{which that a} ~~witnessed a~~
 21 great magnetic storm ^{occurred} on the Earth; and
 22 magnetic storms ^s are supposed to be connected
 23 with sun spots too.

24 Anyway, it's a fascinating bit that
 25 the Digest gives us about comets, and the
 pictures ^{are really} ~~put things~~ ~~dramatically right~~
~~before our eyes~~

1 Well, they do seem to be piling up
2 a lot of trouble for Scarface Al
3 Capone. They've got him under several
4 indictments, ~~and~~ the last one is for a
5 conspiracy to violate the prohibition
6 law. ^{Well, well!} Sixty-eight henchmen of his are
7 under indictment too.

8 The International News Service
9 gives us some large figures. This
10 last indictment against the Big Shot
11 charges him with five thousand separate
12 offences for a period of ten years.

13 The king of gangdom and his
14 mob are charged with manufacturing and
15 selling \$75,000 worth of ~~the~~ forbidden
16 brew a day. That comes to more than
17 ~~two billion~~ ^{Twenty} seven hundred million
18 dollars worth a year. And they say it's
19 mostly profit.

20 Scarface Al and his sixty-
21 eight henchmen are liable to get two
22 years in jail and a ten thousand dollar
23 fine each. If that happened it would
24 be a total of one hundred thirty-six
25 years in jail and six hundred eighty

1 thousand dollars in fines.

2 Yes, sir, those figures are
3 large all right, and the impression seems
4 to be that the government is going after
5 the lord of the gangs in a big way and
6 may break his power.

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COPS

Somebody has been picking on the cops out in Denver, and it's what I call a cruel practical joke.

As the United Press tells us, a man called up the police headquarters out in my old home town of Denver, Colorado, and the man said in an excited voice:

"They are going to put a man on the spot in a few minutes right here."

The next thing the riot squad car was speeding along to the address the man gave them. There they saw a figure waving wildly to them.

"They have taken him for a ride"! the man shouted. "They just raced by and they're off down the street. That way! Here's their license number."

And the cops in the car grabbed the license number and off they went. Then, for the next half hour the riot squad, with pistols drawn and a machine gun ready, toured the neighborhood. They drove up and down ~~the~~ and right and left.

Finally the police captain in command phoned headquarters

to give a general alarm for the bandits car. Over the telephone he read off the license number he had been handed by the stranger.

"Say, who's been kidding you?" inquired the sergeant on the other end. "That's the number of your own car."

The practical joker had sent the heroic cops of the riot squad chasing after their own car, and all Denver is having a hilarious laugh.

And at Des Moines, Iowa, a couple of cops thought they were being kidded.

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END

The Iowa story, as the United Press passes it along, relates that a young man walked into a police station at Des Moines and asked for a place to sleep.

"What's your name?" asked the cop.

"Goodnight", exclaimed the young man.

"Hey, don't get so fresh! I asked you what's your name, you sap."

"Why, Goodnight", retorted the young man.

By that time the cops were hot under the collar. They were fingering their nighsticks ominously as the young man added innocently:-

"Yes, Goodnight. That's my name, Johnny Goodnight."

The cops looked at each other and figured it was a horse on them.

Well, I guess I'll follow the example of that young fellow in the Des Moines police station. I'll say what he said -- that is, goodnight, and,

SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.