

Lowell Thomas - Dec. 27 '32

INSULL

Samuel Insull, the once <sup>upon a time</sup> billionaire king of Chicago's public utilities, made a reappearance on the front pages today. Uncle Sam engaged a battery of lawyers to appear before the Appeals Court of ~~the Kingdom of~~ Greece and ask the extradition of Mr. Insull.

A dispatch to the Jersey Journal reports that Mr. Insull appeared in court supported by as formidable a battery as that opposed to him. The report continues that he was <sup>in a</sup> debonair and talkative mood. It is interesting to observe that when he was asked his profession, he replied: "No profession."

Uncle Sam's lawyers tried to convince the court of appeals in Athens that the evidence showed Mr. Insull to be clearly guilty of embezzlement and grand larceny. Counsel for the utilities king, on the other hand, claimed the evidence was defective and that prosecution of Mr. Insull <sup>came under the head of</sup> ~~was~~ political ~~was~~ persecution.

~~At the conclusion of the afternoon's proceedings, the High Court of Greece reserved its decision.~~

Later in the afternoon the high court of Greece announced its decision. <sup>Samuel</sup>~~Samuel~~ Insull goes free. Greece will not extradite him nor prevent his leaving the country for some other land which has no extradition treaty with Uncle Sam.

The court ruled that the acts for which Insull was indicted in America are not criminal under the laws of Greece. It ruled further that ~~the~~ it is a matter of ~~proceedings~~ civil and not criminal law. Tonight's papers are full of the whole story - the latest chapter of one of the wildest financial scandals of our time.

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A general sales tax is inevitable. It is the only way to raise the revenue that Uncle Sam absolutely needs to balance his budget. So says ~~Senator~~ Reed Smoot, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

A dispatch to the New York World Telegram reports that Mr. Smoot would exempt only farm products from this tax, that means such products as come direct from the farmers. He declares further that all exemptions should be made definite and simple. Any general sales tax should avoid <sup>the</sup> possibility of such absurd and complicated rulings as prevailed under ~~our~~ existing taxation.

The sales tax proposal has support from an unexpected source. Hitherto most of the Democrats have been rigidly against it. <sup>Mr. Garner, Speaker and</sup> ~~The Speaker and~~ Vice-president-elect ~~Garner~~ made a statement today to the following effect: <sup>Said he: -</sup> "If it is necessary to pass a manufacturer's sales tax to balance the budget, I ~~will~~ <sup>'ll</sup> be for it."



FRANCE

The French Chamber of Deputies today passed a vote of confidence in the new Cabinet of Premier Paul-Boncour. The vote came up over the question of a bond issue. One interpretation of ~~the~~<sup>the</sup> vote is that with this credit the new French Cabinet will be in a position to pay the December instalment on the debt owed to Uncle Sam.

On this question an announcement was made in Washington today. The New York Evening Post quotes Secretary of State Stimson to the effect that the United States government *will* insist that France pay up before any conversations ~~could~~ be possible about revising the debts.

GOLD

No more gold is to be exported from South Africa, at any rate, not for the present. This decision was made today by the Cabinet of the Union of South Africa. The Cabinet had met to decide whether or not to abandon the gold standard.

The decision was to adhere rigidly to the gold standard

but to prevent any gold from going out of the country. South

Africa is ~~one of~~ the world's most important producers of ~~gold~~ <sup>the yellow precious metal</sup>

But this won't affect us in America because very little South

African gold finds its way <sup>in</sup> to the market on this side of the

Atlantic.

BANKRUPTCY

The most extraordinary plan yet proposed in aid of economic recovery will be offered to Congress shortly. A report by David Lawrence to the New York Sun declares that it affects billions of dollars of ~~ind~~ investments. This step aims particularly at helping debtors. The gist of it is a plan whereby a business man who finds himself in trouble may ~~h~~ get relief without the stigma of bankruptcy.

(10) This, says Davex Lawrence, is no fly-by-night idea offered by demagogue legislators. It is the result of two years' work by Thomas Thatcher, Solicitor General of the United States. The Solicitor General has made an exhaustive study of the bankruptcy situation. The measure now proposed is the outcome of that study. Incidentally, it plans to protect creditors as well as debtors. Some of the extreme members of Congress ~~xxxx~~ have suggested the wiping out of mortgages and all other forms of debt. This, however, is frowned on by conservatives as obviously unfair to creditors.



FLU

*All of today's*  
~~papers~~ papers carry quite a thrilling story of the exploit of a ship's surgeon in mid-ocean. A dispatch to the Brooklyn Times Union reports that the liner Cameronia was on her way from America to Glasgow. Soon after sailing influenza broke out. It was of such a virulent kind that in almost no time four hundred of the passengers were confined to their cabins. The only physician on board was the ship's surgeon, Dr. Daniel Murphy. He hurriedly drafted two stewards as assistants and began his fight against the epidemic. What made it even more tough for them was a storm with heavy seas that made the ship roll terrifically.

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One of the Cameronia's officers told newspaper men that Dr. Murphy had practically no sleep for four days and four nights. He just rushed from one cabin to another without ceasing. And for those four days Dr. Murphy and his assistants averaged over four hundred visits a day to their patients.

Well, the story has the sort of ending we like,

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because after two days many of the passengers were well again, and by the time the ship reached Glasgow, there were only a few cases which needed hospital attention.



VIGILANTES

And now <sup>for one</sup> ~~to have a story~~ that recalls an interesting period in American history, the period when citizens grew tired of seeing the forces of law unable to check crime, the period of the Vigilantes. Mr. Albert Ottinger, former Attorney General of New York State, suggests that the time has come to revive the Vigilante idea. Only Mr. Ottinger would make the vigilance committee official, instead of unofficial, as it was in the exciting days of San Francisco, Montana, and Colorado.

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Mr. Ottinger proposes that when the charter of New York City is revised, the mayor ~~should~~ be empowered, whenever occasion arises, to appoint a vigilance committee of ten thousand citizens to fight the gangsters.

And that ought to provide an interesting spectacle if it happens. — 10,000 citizens, battling 20,000 gangsters with the rest of N.Y.'s inhabitants all trying to watch the battle from the Tower of the Empire State Bldg.

HOOVER

President Hoover's fishless fishing party is on its way still further south in the hope of finding a bit of luck.

So far all the fish that have grabbed the presidential hook

have been so small that <sup>President</sup> ~~he~~ Hoover <sup>vetoed them.</sup> ~~threw them back.~~ The

presidential fleet weighed anchor at dawn this morning on its way to southern Florida waters.

PHONE

One of the good things about Christmas is that, even if it does fatten the bills, it produces a fair amount of comedy. A prosperous looking gentleman engaged a room yesterday at the Hotel Lexington, 48th Street and Lexington Avenue, New York. His luggage consisted of a large black leather bag, but a more important part of his equipment was a robust, confident exterior which radiated the air of a successful business man.

Well, that guest of the Hotel Lexington did himself well, as our British cousins say. He ordered himself food aplenty. He ordered everything the hotel provides. Then he thought of his friends and decided it was time to wish them Merry Christmas. His friends, it appeared, live in such nearby places as Dallas, Texas; Waterville, Maine; <sup>Alaska and points west.</sup> San Francisco, Before this prosperous gentleman got through wishing his friends Merry Christmas, he had hung up a <sup>tele</sup> phone bill of sixty-one dollars, sixty-one of the best.

When he started to walk out of the hotel today



that large leather bag was found to be weighted down with one pocket handkerchief. When the gentleman was brought before a magistrate, ~~and~~ the management of the Hotel Lexington explained that while ~~it~~<sup>it</sup> expected ~~the~~<sup>its</sup> guests to have a good time, it did not expect to play Santa Claus to the tune of sixty-one dollars in telephone bills.

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A story ~~of~~ the New York World-Telegram wonders how

the friends who received those long distance Christmas greetings will feel about them when they are asked to pay the charges. ~~To~~

~~which the echo answers!~~

BURGLAR

*Jamaica - I mean*

Here's an after Christmas tale from Jamaica, Long

Island. Early this morning a gentleman climbed through the window of another gentleman's home. It seems that the interior decoration of the place he had invaded didn't appeal to him.

~~Next~~ To begin with he didn't like the ornaments on the Christmas tree, so he knocked the tree over. Then he thought the furniture was arranged in most inartistic fashion, so he moved tables, chairs, a divan<sup>s</sup>, bookcases, and even the piano. He rehung the pictures. He found the lighting was too garish, so he broke a few of the lights. Having accomplished all this ~~xxxxxx~~ he curled up on a couch and went to

sleep. <sup>P</sup> The story in the New York World Telegram describing this little adventure goes on to say that at half past five in the morning an alarm clock ~~xxxxxx~~ awoke <sup>up</sup> the ~~invading gentleman~~ <sup>uninvited guest --</sup>

<sup>it awoke</sup> also, the owner of the house he had invaded. The owner <sup>turned out to be</sup> ~~of the house~~ <sup>which explains why he slept so soundly thru all that morning,</sup> a policeman, The policeman went downstairs and met the invader.

Said the policeman: "Who <sup>in</sup> the so and so are you?" To which the invader replied: "What <sup>the so and so</sup> are you doing in my house?"

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BURGLAR

The policeman protested that it was his house.

Whereupon the invader started to shout: "Police! I want a policeman." "But", said the owner of the house, "I am a policeman."

"All right", said the invader, "arrest him."

"Arrest who?" inquired the policeman.

To which the invader replied: "You. Don't bother me. Go along and arrest yourself."

That was the last word the invader said before they took him to the psychopathic ward.



FISHING FLEET

The reconstruction Finance Corporation today received a call for help from an unexpected source, I mean the famous fishing fleet of Gloucester, Mass. As a dispatch to the Boston Traveler puts it, the hardy fishermen of Gloucester are facing a storm of a new kind -- an economic storm. So now they're flying signals of distress aimed not at the Coastguard, but at the financial resources of Uncle Sam.

Their plea is backed up by Massachusetts business men. It is pointed out that the commercial existence of the Port of Gloucester is threatened by economic conditions. For all the hardships they have to go through the Gloucester fishermen are receiving a pathetic reward. After spending anywhere from six ~~xxx~~ to ten days on the fishing banks, <sup>and coming home with</sup> their ships heavily laden with the best of fish, the men have sometimes cashed in no more than seventy-five cents a piece - seventy-five cents a piece for ten days of storm, hard work, and hardships. Owners and skippers have made the flat statement that if this sort of thing goes on, they simply cannot operate any longer, they can't keep their ships in commission.

MOON

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Since science became popularized, the learned gentlemen are getting to be full of fun. The latest notion is that Old Mother Earth has a bump on her jaw. This bump was caused by the moon. A dispatch to the Newark Evening News reports that this announcement was made at Atlantic City today. The American Association for the Advancement of Science has been holding a meeting in Atlantic City, and this report is ~~one of the results~~ *the sort of thing you hear when scientists meet at Atlantic City.*

This bump on the earth's surface is not stationary. It travels from place to place. ~~sometimes~~. It stretches the Atlantic Ocean ~~out~~ *that Ocean is* so that sometimes ~~it is~~ *it's* sixty-three feet wider than usual. ~~This bump~~ *It* travels all the way around the globe every twenty-four hours. It's just as though you ran your finger around the inside of a rubber balloon. In fact, it's just as though the earth were suffering from an attack of *migratory* mumps. The scientific importance of this phenomenon is that it may upset measurements of the stars and other astronomical calculations.

Well, at any rate, the scientists teach us one thing. If anything out of the ordinary happens, blame it on the moon.

MOTHER-IN-LAW

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According to a story in the Cleveland Press there's one community where there's no such thing as the mother-in-law problem. That community is the Ogallalla Sioux. ~~The~~ Chief ~~Wix~~ Wi-hi-no-pa of that tribe is passing through Cleveland on his way to a boyscout binge in Austria. And Chief Wi-hi-no-pa was telling Cleveland reporters how the Ogallalla Sioux settle some of their domestic problems. He explains for one thing that a brave never speaks to his mother-in-law direct. He makes all communication <sup>to her</sup> through his wife. Furthermore, if you're an Ogallalla Sioux mother-in-law, you're not allowed even to look at your son-in-law - in fact, you haven't even the <sup>proverbial</sup> right, ~~and~~ ~~the only right~~ of a cat to look at a king. Chief Wi-hi-no-pa suggests that this may be one reason why there's no divorce ~~among~~ among the Ogallalla Sioux.

Incidentally, the chief is a grand nephew of the famous Sitting Bull.



WRESTLING

I don't usually relay stories of wrestling matches, partly because the odor which surrounds the sport of professional wrestling is not exactly the odor of sanctity. But there was a match in Portland, Oregon, last night which was too interesting to pass over.

(1) A story in the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin reports that the contestants were a gentleman named Thor Jensen and Walter Achiu. That's not intended for a sneeze. It's the legitimate name of a wrestler. He's a Chinese wrestler from Dayton,<sup>9.</sup> The story goes that the two appeared evenly matched and each won a fall. When it came to the third fall, however, Mr. Jensen, whether deliberately or not, the story doesn't say, planted his right foot in the referee's jaw. The referee said nothing ~~on~~ <sup>for the</sup> ~~account of~~ <sup>very good reason that</sup> he fell unconscious. The Chinese gentleman with the sneezy name thereupon shoved Mr. Jensen through the ropes. But he soon jumped after him. ~~For~~ what do you suppose happened to Mr. Jensen? The front row of spectators was filled with ladies and they started to stamp on Mr. Jensen's face with their high

heels. By the time Mr. Achiu jumped down to rescue him, it was too late. Mr. Jensen was stamped unconscious by the heels of the lady sportsmen and the referee, as soon as he came to, lost no time in awarding the victory to the Chinese.

Well Mr. Achiu, here's looking at you, and <sup>at chew-I mean</sup> so long

until tomorrow.