

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1930

EARTHQUAKE

They had an earthquake out in St. Louis today.

People felt their houses rock and the shaking lasted for more than a minute. Nobody hurt, luckily and the International News Service tells us that apparently no damage was done.

AVIATORS

And here comes an odd item. What difference do you think there is between an aviator and a locomotive engineer? If any. Well, the National Air Pilots Association had a meeting down at Washington and a proposal was made to form a union. It was also proposed to ~~MM~~ make that union a branch of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. According to the Scripps-Howard Newspapers the fliers voted the scheme down, on the grounds that there is a lot of difference ~~MX~~ between airplanes and locomotives. They consider their profession an art. Probably locomotive engineers consider their profession an art too.

PROHIBITION

As we all know by now, there has been a lot of talk about that recent prohibition decision in New Jersey, the one in which Judge William Clark declared the 18th Amendment unconstitutional. The matter has been discussed in every village from Boston to San Diego and back again, and opinions as usual seem to be decidedly and emphatically contradictory. Many of the anti-prohibitionists are letting out loud cheers, while others are not so enthusiastic.

The Trenton State Gazette, right in the state where the decision was made, declares that the supporters of the 18th Amendment are now for the first time placed on the defensive in the courts.

On the other hand, the New York World thinks that Judge Clark's decision has about one chance in twenty million of being upheld by the United States Supreme Court to which the case has already been appealed.

The supporters of prohibition all say it's just so much loose talk. Senator Brookhart, of Iowa, brands it as tomfollery.

Well, that's about the way the two opposing parties have responded to that sensational court decision, which has the whole country talking. Today I had a good chance to size up how people feel about it. I saw an advance copy of the new Literary Digest which carries a leading article on this conflict of opinions over the newest prohibition problem. The Digest presents both sides and places the statements of the prohibitionists and the statements of the anti-prohibitionists side by side so we can balance one against the other and form our own opinion.

By the way, the new Digest comes out a day ahead of time this week because of Christmas. It will be on your news stands tomorrow instead of Thursday.

1 There certainly must be one dis-
2 appointed burglar around New York today.
3 An automobile stood at a curb and two
4 suitcases were in it and the burglar
5 pinched the suitcases. He didn't know
6 it, but those suitcases were full of
7 flies - water flies. They belonged to
8 Dr. Arthur M. Banter, a zoologist, who
9 has been studying the life and habits
10 of a water-fly. The Doctor, according
11 to the New York Telegram, says ~~that~~ *that while*
12 those suitcases full of waterflies
13 are important to science, ~~but~~ they are
14 about the most useless loot that any
15 burglar ever burglared.

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FIRE

A report comes from Chicago of a bad aircraft fire at the Palwaukee Airport on the outskirts of the city. According to the International News Service fifteen planes went up in flames.

1 Last night I told about some
2 satirical remarks made by Arthur
3 Bodanzky, the famous conductor, regarding
4 noises at the opera. Today Louis Sherwin,
5 the roving reporter of the New York
6 Evening Post, adds a few comments.

7 Sherwin is an old time opera goer,
8 and concerning people who talk while
9 the opera is going on he declares there
10 isn't much hope. He says the talkers
11 are usually women and if you try to
12 shush them down you immediately get in a
13 rumpus with their male escorts. In
14 fact ^{Louis} ~~he~~ says he got into just such an
15 argument one night with somebody who was
16 talking during the opera, and an usher
17 charged Louis with making more noise
18 than the party he was complaining about.

19 Louis takes a fling at the
20 idea that talking out loud at the opera
21 is an American institution. He says
22 opera goers in Paris are far worse, and
23 then he adds that in Germany there is
24 silence at the opera merely because the
25 Germans take their music solemnly and

1 behave as though attending church, and
2 he doesn't approve of that either.

3 All of which leaves me in more
4 of a fog than ever.

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GERMANY

Word comes of a peculiar political situation in Germany. The Fascist party over there has sworn to overthrow the present government, and the Republic as well.

Now, in the province of Thuringia they have a local police force which is Fascist. Therefore the question arises:- Should the German Republic government contribute any money to support that Fascist police force in Thuringia when that police force ~~ix~~ believes in overthrowing the government and the Republic too? The New York Evening Post informs us that the government is going to contribute the money. The reason is that the Fascist party in the Reichstag demands it, and the government doesn't want any trouble with the Fascists just now. All of which they say doesn't help the prestige of the German ~~x~~ republic and only postpones the clash that threatens between the authorities and the Fascists.

1 Remember that death fog that
2 killed sixty-four persons in Belgium a
3 few weeks ago? Well, it drifted down
4 over the Meuse Valley again today,
5 misty, heavy, and deadly white. This
6 time it was not so deadly. ^{The Int. News Service reports that} only one
7 person ^{succumbed this time.} ~~was reported to have died in the~~
8 ~~fog and several became seriously ill.~~

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TURKEY

More fighting is reported between the Turks and the Kurds near the frontier of Persia. According to the International News Service the Kurds have again been raiding into Turkey from Persia and the Turkish Minister at Teheran has again protested to the Persian government. Those Kurds would rather raid and loot than eat. It is their business and also their favorite sport.

1 Here's another one of those
2 incidents that indicate everything is
3 not so non-violent in India. Sir
4 Geoffrey de Montmorency, governor of
5 the Punjab, was attending a University
6 convocation at Lajore. As he left the
7 meeting a young Hindu drew a revolver
8 and fired several shots at him. The
9 Governor was hit in the hip and the
10 arm. Two policemen ^{and a woman doctor were also} ~~were also~~ wounded,
11 ~~also a woman doctor attached to the~~
12 ~~Hardinge Medical School.~~ According to
13 the Associated Press, two students were
14 arrested in connection with the crime.

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AIRPLANES

Tonight twelve great planes are at rest on a strange African shore. Facing them is the sea, & the wide South Atlantic across which those great bombers are soon to start. An International News Service cable informs us that the big Italian expedition of twelve great seaplanes took off from Morocco today and landed at the mouth of the Rio de Oro on the West coast of Africa. Their next hop will be across the ocean to South America.

1 By the way, I almost forgot that
2 question I mentioned last night: "What
3 is at the center of the Earth?" It
4 used to be thought that because gold is
5 the heaviest common metal, surely the
6 heart of the Earth must be gold. But
7 **that's** all wrong. The Literary Digest
8 quotes Science Service as saying that
9 the interior of the earth, deep down,
10 is made up of iron with a trace of
11 nickel in it. So that's settled and
12 I'm relieved to get it off my chest.
13 Well, in my advance copy of the new
14 Literary Digest the one that comes out
15 tomorrow, I looked at the new questionnaire
16 and there was one question that led me
17 to a story that I believe I'll use as the
18 News Item of the Day.

19 WHO WAS THE LAST CORSICAN BANDIT?
20 That was the question.

21 Corsican bandits are always
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romantic, and when I turned to the Digest article that answers the question I saw this headline: A BANDIT QUEEN IN EXILE. And the article I read is certainly the most interesting story I've seen today. ~~Let's answer that~~ ^{But to get back to the} question: ~~first:~~ "Who was the last Corsican bandit?" Well, he was **M** Nunzio Romanetti. At least he was the last great Corsican bandit. For years he ruled, an outlaw in the savage mountains of his native island. Then in 1926 the gendarmes ~~laid an ambush, for him and~~ ^{ed} Romanetti ~~dropped~~ ^{and riddled him} with ~~18~~ bullets, in his ~~body.~~

~~Well, if he was the king of the~~ ^{What became of his} ~~bandits, he had a~~ ^{Well her name is} queen. ~~She is~~ Madelein Mancini, and she's in prison in France now, They're trying to get her out, and the ^{Literary} Digest quotes a dispatch from a foreign correspondent of the New York Sun which gives her story.

She was 16 years old when Romanetti saw her and looked into her melancholy

blue eyes. "I'll have her!" he shouted. She seized a pistol and would have killed him if bystanders hadn't prevented her. But finally she gave in.

Her family was angry, and swore they would have revenge. Now it is said that an uncle of Madeleine Mancini lured Romanetti to his death. Then the uncle was killed by followers of Romanetti. The surprise ending came when the police arrested the bandit queen. They said that she had become so devoted to her bandit king, that she had carried on the feud in his stead. For this she is now in prison.

The whole story appears in the new Digest.

1 That story of the ink drinking rat
2 which I told you ^{some days ago} ~~the other day~~ certainly
3 brought a comeback. ~~That is,~~ a radio
4 listener writes me ^{a yarn that} ~~and~~ goes ~~the~~ rat
5 story one better.

6 ~~I have~~ ^{The} letter ~~here~~ ^{is} from Dr. M.
7 Green, of Homer, Louisiana, and he tells
8 me about a regular Sherlock Holmes mystery
9 they had down his way. The story was
10 printed in the Homer Guardian Journal.

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11 Mr. Etzel, the Cashier of the Homer
12 Trust and Savings Bank, reached into the
13 cash drawer one morning for some money,
14 and found it was empty. Well, he thought
15 the clerks had just forgotten to put the
16 money there. So he put some money into
17 the drawer and a couple of hours later
18 he wanted to cash a check, and again the
19 drawer was empty. He thought his memory
20 must be playing him strange tricks. And
21 he put some money into the drawer again.
22 A little while later he found that this
23 money too had disappeared. Meanwhile, a
24 girl in the bank put three ten dollar
25 bills in a drawer, and it vanished.

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25 bills in a drawer, and it vanished.

1 Well, that certainly was a case for
2 Sherlock Holmes. Who was the mysterious
3 thief? They thought it must be ghosts.
4 But they happened to look in another
5 drawer ^{and just guess what they found! They} ~~and~~ found \$160,000 stowed away
6 there. ^{Of course} The money didn't belong in that
7 drawer, ^{and} as they opened the drawer, a
8 big rat jumped out, and on the missing
9 bills were found the marks of that rat's
10 teeth. Old Mister Rat was the thief.
11 He had been sneaking around, ^{carting off} ~~and carrying~~
12 all the money in sight to his own private
13 drawer.

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ESKIMO FOOTBALL

Here's some Xmas news from up near the North Pole. The Associated Press informs us that the Eskimos are holding a Christmas celebration at Point Barrow. It will last a week, and Christmas week up there falls within the period of long Arctic night. There are no trees up there and so the Christmas tree is made of planks and colored paper. Christmas dinner will consist of reindeer and whale meat, canned goods, and frozen fish. And there will be football games. Now, Eskimo football is a man's game, all right. The goals are three or four miles apart!

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So many Americans have moved to Europe that a special country club is being opened for them on the outskirts of Paris. The New York Sun states that this is to be the first real American country club in Europe. A famous old thirteenth century Chateau will be the clubhouse.

Another special dispatch from the Paris office of the New York Sun informs us that the number of movie theatres in Europe is increasing at a great rate. In the past three years nearly 12,000 more have been opened, bringing the total number of motion picture theatres on the continent ~~of Europe~~ to just under 34,000. Now that the silent film has passed out of vogue, the motion picture producers are longing for the day when there will be ^{one} ~~A~~ common language instead of ~~the~~ 3,000 ~~that are supposed to be in~~ ~~existence now.~~

1 Do you remember that famous old
2 song:--"After the Ball is Over"? Well,
3 the man who wrote it was Charles K.
4 Harris, and Mr. Harris has just passed
5 on. He was the composer of many of the
6 most famous songs of twenty years ago--
7 those old-time sob ballads that used to
8 haunt us in our childhood.

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9 The New York Sun reminds us that
10 Charles K. Harris was the man who wrote
11 "Just Break the News to Mother". Remember
12 the line:--"Just tell her not to wait
13 for me for I'm not coming home?"

14 Another of his hits was a sad
15 ditty that would melt the flintiest
16 heart. It was entitled, "She Has Fallen
17 by the Wayside."

18 But of course his great master-
19 piece was, "After the Ball". Some of us
20 grew up to its dreamy, waltzing strain.

21 Well, what memories those songs
22 bring back! Memories of those old days
23 out in Colorado when I used to come
24 home after the ball was over and take
25 off my shoes and slip up stairs in my

END - 2

feet for fear the thump of my boots would break the news to
Father that his wayward offspring was arriving after the break
of morn.

Well, I'm going off home now humming that old song,
"After the Ball is Over."

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.