

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1931

LOS ANGELES

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

I hope you won't be alarmed by this first item folks, because it's only theoretical. Theoretically tonight the great dirigible LOS ANGELES lies at the bottom of the sea, a mass of tangled blackened wreckage. And just as theoretically airplanes have been shot down and great warships have been sunk by aerial bombs and by giant cannon fire.

The United States fleet has been holding maneuvers off Panama. One section of the fleet has been defending the Canal and another section has been playing the part of a hostile naval force on its way to destroy the Canal.

The Los Angeles played a prominent part in the sham battle. The International News Service has a correspondent aboard the big dirigible, and he reports that she successfully accomplished her mission in the fight. She was sent out to scout for the hostile fleet and she spotted it as it dashed to the attack. The big airship wirelessly back the information and thanks to her

scouting the defending fleet was able to meet and defeat the attacking forces. But the Los Angeles was like the hero who gave his life to save his country. Enemy airplanes swept down upon her like a swarm of hornets and shot flaming bullets into her, and down she went, a flaming mass - that is, I mean theoretically.

Well, it was a great naval battle - theoretically. The American fleet defending the Canal ~~was~~ won a theoretical victory, and I suppose we ought to throw up our hats and shout hurrah, - theoretically.

## GANGS

But here are a few hostilities that are not theoretical:

A gang war has flared up in New York. Three men were killed last night and three wounded. A prominent racketeer was bumped off after a wild battle in a hotel. Yesterday, his brother was put on the spot, but escaped.

In Brooklyn, a gangster fell, riddled with bullets and the killers got away in an auto.

And then in the Bronx, another member of a racketeer mob was found lying in the street. He had been taken for a ride.

Police say it is all because of a quarrel between rival gangs. There have been a number of other killings in the past few days and the Mayor of New York told police officials that something would have to be done about it. But the Underworld answered that by just going on with its murderous work.

## GAS

Many people are hearing a tremendous roar out in Pennsylvania today. A huge well of natural gas is shooting a white stream high into the air. It's blowing at the rate of forty thousand cubic feet per day.

They drilled a big shaft and struck gas on Wednesday and now the gas has blown out of control. Fourteen workmen were sent scurrying as fast as they could go to save their lives. All day efforts have been made to cap the well.

According to the International News Service, the experts say this is the biggest natural gas gusher ever brought in east of the Mississippi, and it certainly came with a bang and a roar.

MINE

Also there was a terrific explosion in a mine near the town of Timmons, Ontario. A large quantity of blasting powder blew up. This dispatch doesn't say, but the mine must have been of the open cut or surface variety because the flames and smoke shot into the air and were seen from a distance of thirteen miles.

This is a late flash and it fails to say what casualties there were.

1 This afternoon I was sitting at  
2 my desk, ~~and~~ thinking about some bills I  
3 have to meet. My meditations went on  
4 to the larger subject of how some people  
5 can always think up clever ways of making  
6 money, while others can't. I am one of  
7 the people who can't. It seems that I  
8 never get a bright, snappy idea of how  
9 to lay hold of a bit of jack.

10 I was right in the middle of these  
11 pensive thoughts when somebody called  
12 out "Say here's a story." It was an  
13 article in the New York Telegram and I  
14 read it with mingled feelings.

15 Out in Dover, New Jersey, they  
16 have an organization called The  
17 Commonwealth Humane Society and it has  
18 been conducting a campaign against the  
19 demon nicotine -- against tobacco.

20 The head of the organization is  
21 Stephen Hobart and he has been  
22 prosecuting a lot of cigar stores on  
23 charges of selling cigarettes to minors.  
24 He has been getting evidence by sending  
25 his fourteen year old daughter to

1 ~~cigarette stores~~ to buy cigarettes, which  
2 dealers had been selling to her. One  
3 after another, he has brought the culprits  
4 before the bar of justice and they have  
5 had to pay fines.

6 According to New Jersey law, such  
7 fines go to the organization that brings  
8 in the evidence for the prosecution.

9 The President of the Commonwealth  
10 Humane Society has been convicting so  
11 many cigar store owners that the  
12 authorities decided to look into it. They  
13 find that Mr. Hobart's daughter who has  
14 been getting the evidence, is indeed only  
15 fourteen years old. But she is five feet  
16 eight inches tall, weighs 150 pounds and  
17 doesn't give any convincing <sup>impression</sup> ~~evidence~~ of  
18 the tender age of 14.

19 The President of the Humane Society  
20 has been netting about a hundred dollars  
21 a week out of his crusade against tobacco.  
22 When the New Jersey authorities found this  
23 out, they decided that this entire tobacco  
24 crusade looked more like a racket than a  
25 reform and so the president of the Humane

1 Society was arrested and is being held  
2 on a thousand dollars bail.

3 Well, after I read that I just sat  
4 back and resumed my meditations upon how  
5 some people can think of clever ways of  
6 making money and how some can't.

7 estate - too rich, men have devoted much  
8 time and inexhaustible patience to  
9 the building of a miniature railway  
10 system, complete in all respects, just  
11 a small edition of a great trans-  
12 continental system. The story is told  
13 today by Louis Dreyfus, the roving  
14 reporter of the New York Evening Post.  
15 I know Louis Dreyfus well, he is a  
16 fellow, but he seems to be both  
17 astonished and bewildered by the  
18 complexity and perfection of the  
19 miniature railroad. It is complete  
20 even to the point of having rods for  
21 miniature hoboes to ride.

22 The idea began with Milton  
23 Grant, who has always been interested  
24 in railroads. He's collected books  
25 about railroads, and records as an



1 All aboard, ladies and gentlemen.  
2 We are off on a railway trip from the  
3 back porch to the garage, via the  
4 Liliputian railroad.

5 At Greenwich, Connecticut, on  
6 an ~~8~~ Eight Hundred Thousand dollar~~x~~  
7 estate, two rich men have devoted much  
8 time and inexhaustible patience to  
9 the building of a miniature railway  
10 system, complete in all respects, just  
11 a small edition of a great trans-  
12 continental system. The story is told  
13 today by Louis Sherwin, the roving  
14 reporter of the New York Evening Post.

15 I know Louis to be a sophisticated  
16 fellow, but he seems to be both  
17 astonished and bewildered by the  
18 complexity and perfection of the  
19 Liliputian railroad. It is complete  
20 even to the point of having rods for  
21 miniature hoboes to ride.

22 The idea began with Minton  
23 Cronkite who has always been interested  
24 in railroading. He's collected books  
25 about railroading, and recently ~~he~~ on

1 his big estate he began to build models  
2 of locomotives, pullmans and freight  
3 cars. A neighbor of his <sup>is</sup> ~~xxxxx~~ Harmon

4 Vanderhoef, son of a retired manufacturer.  
5 The young fellow noticed the model  
6 building and became interested, and he too  
7 became infected with an enthusiasm  
8 for railroading. So the two men began  
9 to build that remarkable miniature  
10 railway system. Before they had completed  
11 it the Liliputian line began to attract  
12 attention, and now <sup>crowds</sup> ~~scores of people~~  
13 come to see it.

14 ~~Well, if that fad of building~~  
15 ~~miniature models goes on I suppose the~~  
16 ~~next thing will be for somebody to~~  
17 ~~build a model of a miniature model.~~

1 Here are a whole handful of  
2 dispatches telling about trouble in Latin  
3 America.

4 One is from Mexico. It's about a  
5 rumpus in Lower California. Three thousand  
6 peons have gathered outside ~~of~~ the  
7 picturesque border city of Mexicale in  
8 Lower California. They are loudly  
9 demanding food and work.

10 They have been having bad times down  
11 there and in the town itself mobs of women  
12 and children gathered in front of the  
13 grocery stores today intent on looting  
14 ~~them~~. The city authorities grew alarmed,  
15 immediately ~~and~~ got together quantities of  
16 tortillas and frijoles <sup>to</sup> ~~and~~ distributed  
17 ~~them among the hungry~~.

18 Then a small army of <sup>peons</sup> ~~peasants~~ gathered  
19 outside the city. According to the  
20 Associated Press, they signed a petition  
21 demanding food and work and beligerently  
22 sent it in to the town. They threaten to  
23 capture and loot the city of Mexicale  
24 unless their demands are granted.

25 quick Last night I referred briefly to that  
Lima, Peru. That is, it was quickly  
squelched. Or seemed to be. But evidently  
the big show

1 ~~it~~ was only ~~the~~ beginning. The rebels  
2 retired to the <sup>coast</sup> ~~town of Ualiba~~ and there  
3 were attacked by government troops.  
4 According to the United Press, a  
5 savage battle was fought in which  
6 sixty men were killed. One was an  
7 American. The Peruvian government  
8 claims that the revolt has been put  
9 down.

10 In Paraguay a band of rebels  
11 who are called Communists, are on  
12 the rampage. The International News  
13 Service reports that the government  
14 has sent troops to quell the disorder.

15 In the Argentine several army  
16 officers have been arrested. The  
17 Associated Press informs us that there  
18 was a plot to overthrow the government.

19 Well, let's see. That seems  
20 to be about all the trouble ~~that~~ <sup>we</sup> have  
21 to report <sup>from</sup> ~~in~~ Latin America - and it's  
22 enough. So let's pass on to something  
23 with less strife and turmoil in it.

24

25

## NICARAGUA

1 ~~And now~~ By way of novelty <sup>it's</sup> ~~lets~~  
2 ~~pass on to~~ a peaceful word from  
3 Nicaragua.

4 The marines and Sandino's rebels  
5 are still skirmishing; <sup>but</sup> ~~and~~ an Associated  
6 Press dispatch tells us that Doctor  
7 Zepeda, an emissary of Sandino's at  
8 Mexico City, has come forward with a  
9 Peace offer. Dr. Zepeda is willing to  
10 act as go-between in an endeavor to get  
11 Sandino to stop fighting.

12 This envoy of Sandino points  
13 out that Uncle Sam has already ~~o~~dered  
14 most of the Marines withdrawn from  
15 Nicaragua. So he thinks peace can be  
16 made---provided all of the Marines are  
17 withdrawn.

18 Which sounds as if Sandino and  
19 his rebels may at last be willing to  
20 negotiate for peace with the Nicaraguan  
21 government -- <sup>i. e.</sup> the government in power which  
22 Uncle Sam's Marines have been supporting.

1 Well, one way to begin this *next*  
2 story is with the old saying - uneasy  
3 lies the head that wears a crown.

4 There is one king over in Europe  
5 who won't sleep well tonight, if he  
6 sleeps at all. ~~He is~~ King Zog of  
7 Albania. ~~He is~~ said to be shivering  
8 and shaking <sup>in his boots,</sup> his nerves are all shot.

9 Last night in Vienna there was  
10 a desperate attempt to kill him. Two  
11 assassins opened fire ~~on him~~ as he was  
12 leaving a theatre in his automobile.  
13 They literally poured shots into the  
14 car. King Zog was <sup>nt</sup> ~~not~~ touched, but  
15 an Albanian officer with him was killed,  
16 and another ~~who fired back,~~ was  
17 dangerously wounded. The two assassins  
18 were arrested and they calmly told how  
19 they had formed their plot in a Vienna  
20 cafe. They are both blood enemies of  
21 King Zog.

22 According to the New York Evening  
23 Post there are 800 fanatical Albanian  
24 mountaineers who have taken an oath to  
25 kill <sup>the monarch,</sup> ~~King Zog~~ they have sworn that

1 they will gladly give their lives if  
 2 they can take his. Albania is a  
 3 country where the blood feud is an  
 4 age <sup>old and honored</sup> ~~long~~ instituti on, and an Albanian  
 5 feudist will follow his enemy to the  
 6 bitter end.

7 King Zog went to vienna to get  
 8 away from ~~his~~ blood enemies in his  
 9 native country - also to be cured of  
 10 excessive cigarette smoking. He was so  
 11 nervous while in his own kingdom that  
 12 he had taken <sup>wildly to the solace</sup> ~~to XXXXX an excessive~~  
 13 ~~consumption~~ of cigarettes. ~~After~~ Since  
 14 last night's attempt on his life in  
 15 Vienna the doctors say that Zog is  
 16 smoking twice as many <sup>coffin nails</sup> ~~cigarettes~~ as ever.  
 17 ~~usuals~~

18 It's a fantastic tale, but it  
 19 has happened in all grim reality, and  
 20 tonight one head that wears a crown is  
 21 lying most uneasily on a pillow in  
 22 Vienna.

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1            Passing along to another King  
2 who has been having trouble, it is  
3 announced today that King Alfonso has  
4 definitely staked his crown on the issue  
5 of the coming elections in Spain.

6            The Madrid correspondent of the  
7 New York Sun has had an interview with  
8 Count Roman<sup>n</sup>es, the foreign minister in  
9 the present government of Spain. The  
10 government is strongly monarchist and is  
11 going to try to carry the elections in  
12 favor of King Alfonso. But Count  
13 Roman<sup>n</sup>es stated definitely that King  
14 Alfonso will abide by the will of the  
15 people.

16            If the Monarchists win, he will  
17 stay on his throne, if the Republicans  
18 win, he will abdicate and turn Spain  
19 into a republic. He believes that  
20 the people want him to remain King.

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1 Now for a transatlantic - no,  
2 not flight - it's a transatlantic  
3 bicycle trip.

4 William Oldham, an electric  
5 motor oiler ~~is~~ over in England, has  
6 built a bicycle to cross the Atlantic  
7 Ocean. It's a ~~weird~~ weird kind of boat,  
8 and it has a windmill. When the  
9 wind is right the windmill will furnish  
10 power for the propeller. When the  
11 wind isn't right, well, that's where  
12 the bicycle comes in. There is a pair  
13 of pedals which are operated just  
14 the way you ride ~~xxxx~~ the old familiar  
15 bike. You get into the seat and pump  
16 away, and that also turns the propeller.

17 According to the International  
18 News Service, the inventor and one  
19 companion intend to start out across the  
20 Atlantic. They will take <sup>along</sup> provisions  
21 for forty days. ~~along with them~~. They  
22 may need ~~it~~ them.

23 Can you imagine yourself now,  
24 out in mid-ocean, seated on your trusty  
25 old bike, with no wind, pedaling for  
all you're worth? Sweet Mama, what a  
fine assignment that would be.

1 I try to be as accurate as I can  
2 in these news dispatches every evening,  
3 but <sup>in connection with</sup> this next dispatch I want to ask  
4 your pardon for deviating from the  
5 truth ~~a little bit~~. *just a shade.*

6 The story is not about a piccolo.  
7 It's ~~xxx~~ about a flute, <sup>really,</sup> but I have a  
8 weakness for the word piccolo. I think  
9 a piccolo is funny, also a piccolo  
10 player, and it may be a soft poetic  
11 flute, perhaps one of those magnificent  
12 silver Boehms, <sup>Bain's instruments,</sup> but it's only a piccolo  
13 to me.

14 Over in Berlin there is a  
15 piccolo, meaning of course a flute,  
16 which not even the wealth of Henry Ford  
17 can buy. In fact, Henry Ford has been  
18 trying to buy it.

19 The Associated Press sends  
20 us a report that he offered over  
21 \$62,000. for it. The Metropolitan Opera  
22 Company <sup>of New York</sup> is said to have offered \$20,000.  
23 for it. Several other rich Americans  
24 have offered large sums. ~~for it.~~

25 All of which puts that piccolo

1 in the Stradivarius class.

2 How can a piccolo be worth so  
3 much money, ask you? Well, the reason  
4 is that the mighty conqueror, Frederick  
5 the Great, played on it. Frederick  
6 was a musician. His instrument was  
7 the flute, or as I prefer to say, the  
8 piccolo. There is a sound of royal  
9 majesty in saying that Frederick the  
10 Great was a piccolo player. Anyway,  
11 that piccolo is <sup>that</sup> ~~so~~ valuable <sup>simply</sup> because  
12 it's a royal piccolo.

13 Well, that seems to be about  
14 all the news for this evening, and now  
15 we'll have a piccolo solo by Charles  
16 Traymont, the announcer, and while  
17 <sup>Charlie's</sup> ~~he's~~ tuning up <sup>why</sup> I'll <sup>just</sup> say: "so long  
18 unti I Monday."