

INCIDENTS

L2 - Sunoco Tuesday

Dec. 20, 1937

Around the world - a few odd mishaps today.

Along the Pacific coast a wild gale has been blowing.

Ships in danger at sea, a steamer and a tanker had narrow escapes.

A tug sank in the Willamette River in Oregon - everybody rescued.

On land the usual story of storm damage, buildings blown down, trees uprooted, communications disrupted - and landslides.

Emphasis on landslides. One happened near Monroe, Washington,

today, and a deluge of earth ~~was~~ poured across the railroad track.

A Great Northern mail train hit the landslide. The cars went off the tracks, the locomotive and one coach went hurtling into the Sykomish River - the fireman was killed.

Across the Pacific on the distant island of Cebu,

a big ship ~~is~~ aground tonight, one of the largest tankers in

oil transport. ~~The~~ wireless from the vessel tells ~~a~~ the story in

brief nautical terms. "Hard aground," it says. But no danger to

the crew is reported, out there on the wild coast of Cebu, in

the Philippine Archipelago.

Right back here at home, Buffalo, New York, had a

startling mishap today - the lights went out, power cut off.

Buffalo had a taste of what it's like in a modern city when there's no electricity.

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An explosion in a power plant, fire too, and a huge transformer went haywire. And off went the electricity. It was dim and cloudy in Buffalo, electric light was needed. So candles and old time kerosene lamps glimmered throughout the city. The shut-down of power caused stores and office buildings to close, except such as had emergency power plants. Hospitals had an anxious time. In one an appendicitis operation was being performed, when the electricity snapped off. Luckily, they had emergency power, so the offending appendix was duly removed. Four out of five of the Buffalo radio stations had to shut down. One of the two newspapers couldn't get out its edition. Yes, Buffalo had a dramatic lesson in what electricity means to a modern city.

ITALY

There's American news from Italy.

The Italian police have grabbed a gang of counterfeiters who were ~~manufacturing United States money~~ *circulating false American money* - an international mob, ~~that was smuggling false American money into the U.S.A.~~ *cash* One scheme they had was to sell phoney bills to American sailors at half price - not that the sailors would take the spurious currency back home - they'd circulate it in foreign ports.

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And then there's an American money story concerning no less a personage than Mussolini. What did the Duce do with that check? He had a check for three hundred and fifty dollars on a Newark bank. The news dispatch doesn't say who gave him the check or why. Anyway, he lost it. The Newark bank is now being liquidated. So today Premier Benito Mussolini, the Black Shirt Dictator of Italy, put in a request in the Chancery Court of New Jersey - asking permission to file a claim for the three hundred and fifty bucks.

The Duce may be a veritable lord of peace and war, but he knows the value of ~~a dollar~~ *three hundred and fifty bucks.* And when he loses a check he wants to get

the cash - just the same - even as you and I.

FRENCH COINS

The French Government is making money, and also losing money, at one and the same time. In turning out coins of small value, it costs more to make them than their face value. That was revealed in Paris today. Take the five centime piece, it's worth about a sixth of an American penny. It cost ten centimes to mint one.

And what about the good old sou? Not worth a sou. That coin is valued at less than a fifth of one cent. They propose to stop making the sou altogether, and that will remove the basis for a figure of speech -- from the English language.

CAMPBELL

A young woman faced the court today at Youngstown, Ohio - as tragic a girl as ever stood before a jury. Louise Campbell who figured in that bitter Yuletide misfortune, Christmas day; - the girl had a couple of drinks, she starts shooting out the Christmas tree lights with a pistol, her mother tries to take the gun away from her, a ~~xx~~ scuffle, the pistol fires, the mother killed.

P Today the coroner's jury passed its verdict on Louise Campbell -

accident. ^{*The*} Shooting ^{*a*} ~~was~~ a dreadful mishap, ~~and dismissed all the~~

all charges against ~~her~~ Louise Campbell dismissed.

ALCOHOL

New York began a sensational crime case today - when the Bull went to trial. They call him the Bull because of his imposing contours. He's not tall, a mere five foot six - but he weighs three hundred and twenty-seven pounds. *This afternoon he pleaded 'not guilty.'*

Well, the Bull, born and baptized Frank Giordano, has been enjoying an income about as big as he is, if not bigger - a million and a half a year. *They say he* got it from an idea. Not such an original idea - it dates back to Vice-President Marshall of Woodrow Wilson days. It's a classic anecdote - how, when the senators were pompously debating the nation's needs, the jovial Vice-President drawled, "What this country needs is a good five cent cigar!" The Bull's theory was - "What this country needs is a five cent drink, although maybe not so good."

Having the right kind of background, an ex-convict and a small-timer in the prohibition liquor racket, *so they charge,* he started a repeal bootleg business, based on raw alcohol, a bit of sugar and some coloring matter to make the stuff look like whiskey. In that fashion the Bull provided the less exclusive parts of New York with

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a five cent drink, not so good. He ran his income up to a million and a half a year - and now *today goes* on trial. And maybe the jury won't say - bully.

BUSINESS

It's business news of a serious sort when General Motors lays off thirty thousand men - and that was announced today.

The Company, in a formal statement, tells the reason why. It has got to lay off men because of the slump in ~~automobile~~ sales.

Business in new cars is down, because of the drastic falling off in the used car trade. You can't sell new cars when used cars can't be sold. The bad state of affairs in the used car trade is caused by the increased unemployment brought about by the recession. You can't sell used cars if the kind of people who usually buy them are out of jobs. So it's a vicious circle - increased unemployment causing still more unemployment.

The curve of the recession is graphically shown in the unemployment chart of General Motors, the world's largest ~~manufacturer~~ manufacturer of automobiles. Last spring the Company hit a peak of employment, two hundred and seventy thousand workers on the payroll. During the summer there was a decrease of five thousand. In October the payroll totalled two hundred and sixty-five thousand. In a ~~month or two~~ ^{couple of months} there was a drop of thirty thousand, bringing the present payroll down to two hundred and thirty-five thousand.

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And now comes today's cut of thirty thousand more, which reduces the worker list of General Motors to two hundred and five thousand.

(The Stock Market reacted instantly to the bad news - it declined all along the line. A wave of selling engulfed Wall Street. The tickers fell behind. Stocks slumped, General Motors went to a new low for the year.)

There's brighter news along another industrial line - foreign trade. The Department of Commerce reported today that the first eleven months of Nineteen Thirty-Seven give us a favorable trade balance of a hundred and fifty-one million, six hundred and seventy thousand dollars. Both exports and imports were up, exports taking the larger jump. We're selling more than we're buying at a rate that gives us a favorable trade balance - more favorable than last year.

NAVY

Two themes were sounded in Washington today that have an intimate connection - the budget and the Navy. The budget means money; ~~the~~ battleships cost money.

Washington, from the President down, has been sounding the theme of budget balance - cut ~~up~~^{down} expenses and get out of the red. To support that, we find the Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps emerging from the White House ^{today} with a statement that the money awarded to the C.C.C. is to be slashed by a hundred and twenty-four million dollars.

But, the Navy gives us another kind of news. The House Appropriations Committee is working up a bill that will call for the building of two more giant dreadnoughts. ~~at a cost of five hundred and seventy-six million dollars.~~ And they don't think they can do it with the money that has already ~~been~~ put up. ~~for building building warships.~~ They'll need more - they'll have to dig into the budget.

And the latest is - President Roosevelt agrees. At the White House he ~~stated~~ today that he's likely to say to Congress - "Let's build those two additional dreadnoughts." The President

already has communicated this proposal to the House Appropriations Committee. He reminds the Committee that plans already made call for the building of two battleships, two light cruisers, eight destroyers, and six submarines. Money has been put up for those.

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Now two more capital ships may be added. And that may take more money. ^RThe President referred to the international situation.

The United States can't let the Navy slide. We must have budget balance, we also must have sea power. ^{But} ~~and~~ can we have them both?
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CHINA

Today in Alameda, California there were scenes that suggested -- guarded treasure or some important secret under armed protection. Federal agents were on hand when the giant Clipper landed after its voyage across the Pacific -- guards everywhere. Then out of the trans-Pacific plane were taken several unimpressive flat, drum-like cans -- film, news reel film. They were transferred to armoured cars -- the film of the bombing of the PANAY.

But why all the protection? They were a reflection of the interest the United States government takes in those tell-tale strips of gelatin. After all, the PANAY films were shot aboard a Navy vessel, and therefore came under the control of the fleet. According to common news reel procedure, the Navy has a right to censure all news-reel film made with its permission.

~~Yet~~ there's to be no censorship of the PANAY pictures. That was announced in Washington today. The government declared that they shall be exhibited as shot by the cameramen and edited

in the news reel offices.

Washington officials will not even have a special showing of them.

Then why all the guards? The films were under similar protection at every stop all the way across the Pacific. The answer can only be -- that there's some fear of madcap interference, some crazy attempt to monkey with the PANAY pictures.

They're on their way to New York right now -- by plane -- two films, one for Fox Movietone and the other for Universal. Movietone expects to have its films in West Coast theatres tonight and here in the East tomorrow. I'll be working on them shorty: fifteen hundred feet of it.

With the Universal film came Norman Alley, the cameraman -- the first survivor of the sinking of the PANAY to return to the United States. He tells an eye-witness story that emphasizes the machine gunning of the American gunboat. He tells how even after the survivors had got away from the sinking vessel to a small island in the Yangtze, they saw a Japanese launch circle the PANAY and fire several machine gun blasts. Such is a cameraman's story, and being a cameraman -- he brings pictures.

In China -- meanwhile the Nationalist Government is continuing its transformation, the Chinese Communists on their way

~~way~~ to full control -- such is the story told us by Bud Ekins
the United Press correspondent. He tells how the Red leaders
of China are swiftly moving into the place of the Nationalist
regime, while ~~that~~ ^{that regime} is being destroyed by the Japanese.

On the war front the Mikado's battalions are swarming
into the rich province of Shantung. Advancing by forced
marches to take over that cradle of ancient China, ~~the~~ ^{the} native
province of Confucius -- including that city of Tsingtao, which
until the World War was held by Germany -- the Kaiser's Far
Eastern pride.

STUDENTS

The news this evening brings us a hot flash about that lofty declaration known as - the Oxford Pledge. So called - because the principle of the thing was first proclaimed at England's premier university, venerable old Oxford. Last year the Oxford Pledge was adopted by ~~the~~ ^{our own} American Student Union. The collegians fervently took the pious vow. ^{The American edition of} The Oxford Pledge reads like this:- "I pledge myself not to support the government of the United States in any war it may conduct."

That was last year, when things were rosey and bright for American pacifists. This year, however, is something else - with the flare of the Japanese-American crisis. Once more the American Student Union is in session - at Vassar, ^{beautiful Vassar,} beautiful Vassar girls. (What did the collegians do this time? In the glare of the China War and the sinking of the PANAY, do they still vow with ardor - "I pledge myself not to support the government of the United States in any war it may conduct?")

Let's look at the news dispatch from fair Vassar ^{again} *fair Toughkeeper. It* tells us that today the Executive Secretary of the National

Student Union handed in a report ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~the~~ ^{the} peace-loving organization - declaring that the Oxford Pledge is "an unrealistic gesture."

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That's the phrase - "unrealistic gesture." (The report goes on to tell why the collegians should change their mind about that oath of wartime non-support. The reasons concern democracy and the struggle for peace and opposition to aggressors.) To that futile fellow, the innocent bystander, it would all seem to be quite simple - the pacifists ardently refuse to go to war, until the war heaves in sight.

Moreover, at Vassar today numbers of lisle stockings were to be seen. Vassar is quite a place for a ~~an~~ ^{keen-eyed} observer of stockings.

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The secretary's report, after scuttling the Oxford Pledge, went on to cheer the boycott against silk - as a blow against Japan.

He urged the Students Union to adopt the slogan - "Wear lisle for
— and the boys thus beguile.
awhile." The collegians are planning a demonstration bonfire,

in which they'll throw their silk stockings and silk neckties.

It sounds a bit like the Nazis ^{of} burning _{the} books.

Anyway, they're all for the boycott, and that might not harmonize so well with the Oxford Pledge. Because - suppose the

boycott against Japanese silk were to lead us into a war with Japan, it wouldn't be so smart to be pledged not to give the U.S.A. any support.

Well, one year is not the same as another year. What's one year's meat is another year's poison. *This year the girls beguile with lies — and to blaze with the Oxford pledge!*

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