

BRISBANE

THIS WEEK

The First One Goes
Looks Like War
Don't Stumble
400 Men, 400 Mice

The death of Marshal Pilsudski, ruling power of Poland, takes from that country a great man and an able patriot. Remaining in the background, exercising power without display, Marshal Pilsudski was an absolute dictator, and his death is first among the dictators developed by the great war.

The world may learn from his going what to expect when other dictators depart, one by one. What will be the destiny of Poland, with her strongest man gone? What, at a later time, will happen in Italy, Germany, Russia, Turkey, as each loses the dictator that now takes the place of self-government and independent public thought?

Italy calls out her "fourth class" fighting reserves and has 350,000 men ready to crush the king of Ethiopia, if crushing becomes "necessary." Note Mussolini warns other countries not to meddle and not to help Ethiopia. That looks a little like war.

Warning to politicians and others: Don't stumble.

In California, Herman Zeigler was putting 18 tame lions through their paces. He cracked the whip; they obeyed, jumping up on stools, sitting up on their hind legs. "Mind over matter" was beautifully demonstrated. The lions acknowledged their master.

Then, unfortunately, the lion tamer, careless, stumbled over a stool, fell; instantly the lions were upon him, forgetting their fear of him. He had stumbled and fallen—that was enough.

There are among us today, on and off the radio, some lion tamers, making the American people sit up and jump through hoops. Let them take care not to stumble.

In China, a subterranean river flooded the Szechwan coal mine. Four hundred miners were drowned.

Old-fashioned Chinese used to forbid, and still abhor, any mine digging, "because it disturbs the earth dragon." They will think the old earth dragon flooded the mine, ordered the unseen river to enter.

This drowning news is less exciting to the average American than it would be to have the cook announce: "There were 400 mice drowned in the sink."

The sink is near home, China is far off.

Seventy-five fighting game cocks and 35 men were seized by state troopers in a barn 15 miles out of Hammon, N. J. Brutality in men dies slowly, but sinks to lower levels with time.

Kings of England once sat delighted around the "cockpit" betting on their favorites, reveling in the extraordinary courage of the game birds. Now cock-fighters are driven to hiding in barns, police arrest them, magistrates fine them.

Perhaps some day civilization will feel about man-fights, on the battlefield, as it does now about cock-fights.

Hitler continues his program on the "If you do not like it, lump it" plan.

Washington protested feebly against Germany's discrimination in debt payments against this country. Germany tells us to take what is given and be grateful, or make trade arrangements with Hitler. He hopes to counteract that boycott against German goods established here.

The former kaiser, reported seriously ill, is confined to his bed, ordered to avoid all effort; a hard order for the "all highest."

How such names as Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini must grate on the nerves of the aging Hohenzollern! He can sympathize with England's Henry II, who, after defeat, turned his face to the wall, muttering "Shame on a beaten king," and died.

Mr. Morgenthau, secretary of the treasury, assures you that your American dollar is sound, which is comforting. Mr. Morgenthau knows a good deal about money.

The British do not agree with him, and some British experts consider the dollar worth about 50 cents now and expect it to go lower.

They will probably be disappointed. John D. Rockefeller's I. O. U. is as good as gold, and this country is the John D. Rockefeller among nations.

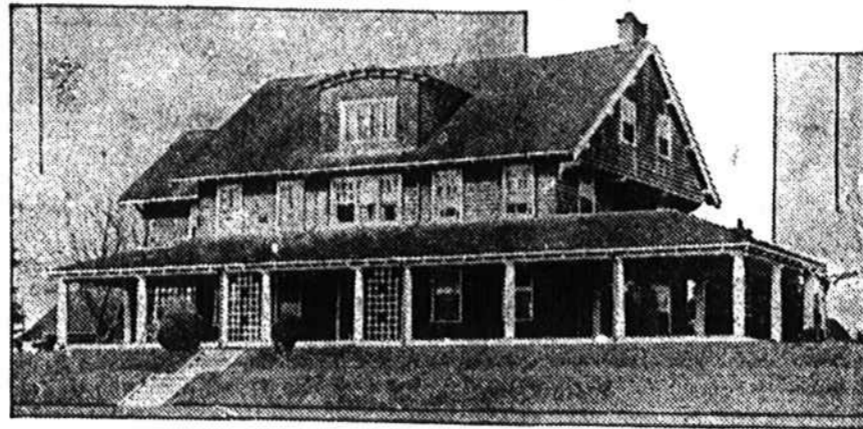
A New England gathering approves birth control and sterilization of the hopelessly insane and habitually criminal, with full dissemination of birth control information. The action was not taken by any "radicals," or other queer fauna but "by the New England Conference of Methodist Churches." That makes it news. The idea is gaining ground that the woman should have something to say about "another baby."

Raid Uncovers Crime Ring Headquarters

Palatial Home in Rhode Island Houses Gang

Devices reminiscent of movie thrillers were found by government agents when they raided a palatial home at Warwick, R. I., in search of a crime ring. The house was found to contain underground passages, secret sliding panels, and mechanical devices that are supposed to exist only in scenario writers' imaginations.

In a sub-basement, the agents discovered \$8,000 believed to be part of the proceeds of a \$128,000 mail robbery staged at Fall River, Mass., last



January. Now the agents are digging up the grounds in search for the rest of the loot which they believe was

SEEN and HEARD

around the National Capital

By CARTER FIELD

Washington.—Now it can be told—who started the depression and why!

It was Australia, many months before our stock market crash, and the why is that a change in fashions played hob with Australia's exports of wool, for the simple reason that women stopped wearing so many woollen garments and men began wearing lighter clothes.

Whereupon, nearly every one in Australia being "poor," and the balance of trade against Australia reaching frightening proportions, Australia clamped on drastic restrictions against imports, especially leveled against automobiles and trucks.

Which, added to the fact that up to then Australia had been the largest single purchaser of American-made automobiles and trucks, knocked over the first card of a distressingly long pile, and each successive falling card knocked over the next one.

All of which, of course, is not really intended to convince anyone that Australia really started the depression, or that the present impasse on world trade would not have resulted if there had been no Australia, but is a highly illuminating telescopic view of the world situation reduced to an easily understandable formula.

It is particularly appropriate at the moment in view of the hubbub up over the alleged statement of President Roosevelt that foreign trade is a thing of the past, to which Senator A. H. Vandenberg paid so much attention in the senate.

It is also appropriate with Italy and Poland just having restricted imports of American automobiles, machinery and many other products to one-fourth of the 1934 figures.

Look at the Record

Without attempting to place Australia in the prisoner's dock, therefore, let's look at the record. The big commonwealth "down under" made these restrictions well in advance of the beginning of the depression here. The date of this beginning in America is hotly disputed, but most economists agree that the stock market crash of October, 1929, was merely the result of a collapse in business, which was already well under way before most business men—even those engaged in the industries hardest hit—appreciated it. Nearly every one thought it was just a temporary dip in the production curve. They had heard cries of "Wolf! Wolf!" a dozen times before during the Coolidge administration, but had seen business march on to higher levels later, with stock market prices continually climbing as a result.

But when Australia stopped buying American motors and trucks the avalanche started, though no one thought for the time that it was more than a pebble rolling downhill. For the drying up of motor manufacturing, with its cutting down of buying from steel plants, the factories, battery makers, upholstery weavers, etc., was well under way by July, 1929, three months before the stock market dive.

What brings all this up for consideration in Washington at the moment is that several very important persons, some from Europe and some from other parts of the world, including Australia, have been in our midst for the last few days, and have been trying to figure out how to end the present international trade stalemate.

Nearly every one agrees that if some nation would just start the upward push, as some think Australia started the downward, drive, the world could work out of the present doldrums. But how to get started? Naturally the visitors with one accord say that the United States is the nation to start it. The British say that we should reduce our tariff on textiles, whereupon they would buy more of our cotton, etc. That gets a loud laugh, though with no merit in New England, not to mention North Carolina. But it illustrates the difficulty of applying a self starter!

Old Problem Up Again

The old long and short haul rail road rate controversy is due for another airing. This time, the subject will be brought up in an effort to help the struggling railroads. Chairman Rayburn, of the house Interstate and foreign commerce committee proposes to try to remove one of the restrictions in the present law which has lamed the railroads considerably.

This is the provision that if a through rate is made, which happens to be less than the rate for part of the same distance, the cheaper through rate must be compensatory. Or in short that the railroad must make a profit at the lower rate.

At first blush it would seem that the railroads would have no objection to such a provision. But they have—plenty. Their chief objection is that the Interstate Commerce commission, having been very slow about approving any cheap through rates. It was said, time and again, to some railroad seeking to put one in, that obviously there could be no profit in such a rate, so there was no use considering it.

Whereas, the railroad company involved might be perfectly sure that there would be more dollars in its treasury at the end of any given period if it were allowed to make that rate, whether it could prove that the particular rate would yield a profit on the particular shipments made under it or not.

The point is that it is next to impos-

sible for a railroad to figure whether it makes the profit on any particular shipment. It knows where it stands, within reason, on its entire business. But it is very difficult to break the thing down the way mathematicians would like. For it is not a question of subtracting the cost of an item from the selling price, deducting handling charges, and figuring the profit, as it would be in a retail store.

How it Works

In fact, railroading is almost at the other extreme from a retail store when it comes to figuring what should be charged the customers. To consider a specific case of how this long and short haul thing works, take the three cities of Pittsburgh, Youngstown and Chicago. The Baltimore and Ohio might consider it good business to make a rate from Chicago through to Pittsburgh cheaper than from Chicago to Youngstown, though its trains from Chicago to Pittsburgh pass through Youngstown.

If by this lower rate to Pittsburgh a large number of cars loaded with freight should be added to each train, there would be no doubt about it. For it costs very little more to haul a train of 100 freight cars than a train of 80 cars. Or to haul a train of 50 cars than a train of 40 cars. Even the fuel cost of the trip is not raised anything like proportionately by the additional cars. Whereas, the labor cost is rarely advanced an amount worth considering.

But the law does not take cognizance of this factor. It says that the lower rate must be compensatory. And the I. C. C. has been holding that this means there must be a profit, which can be demonstrated, at the low rate. And this is a hurdle which the railroads have not been able to take.

Especially as the intermediate towns always raise Cain, send delegations from their chambers of commerce, and bear down on their congressmen to get into the picture and do something. As Youngstown probably would in the case cited.

But there is a strong disposition on the part of the administration to do something for the railroads, complicated by the fact that it is very difficult to figure out what to do. It is that desire which makes bus and truck regulations probable.

New Trade Treaties

Trade treaties with Sweden, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Spain are almost ready. This is the answer to the erroneous statement that the publication of the sensational George N. Peek report proved President Roosevelt was now siding with him in his row with Secretary of State Cordell Hull.

As a matter of fact, on the very date on which the Peek report was made public the President passed on some details with respect to the proposed treaty with Sweden, indicating his general approval of the Hull policy.

Whereas, when asked for comment by newspaper men a few days before the Peek report—in their hands for release later—was printed, the President smiled it off, saying that not even the author could vouch for all the figures!

American match interests have been terribly concerned over this Swedish treaty. Again Japan, the chief target of the protesting textile interests, figures. True, it is the general impression that Japanese matches, like Japanese light bulbs, are not as good as those made in this country, but cut prices spell trouble for better goods, many a time, as every merchant knows to his sorrow.

Now Japan would like nothing better than for the United States and Sweden, in their negotiations for the reciprocal trade treaty, to agree to reduce the American duty on matches. For under the "most favored nation" clause Japanese matches at once would get just as much benefit as Swedish matches.

America is the promised land of match manufacturers all over the world. It is virtually the only country where matches are not either a government monopoly or taxed out of all reason. It is often said that matches are free in America. Due to the advertising possibilities of the packages, this has almost been true, though all the indications are that this era may be drawing to a close, beginning with a small federal tax on matches in the last revenue bill.

Match Market Limited

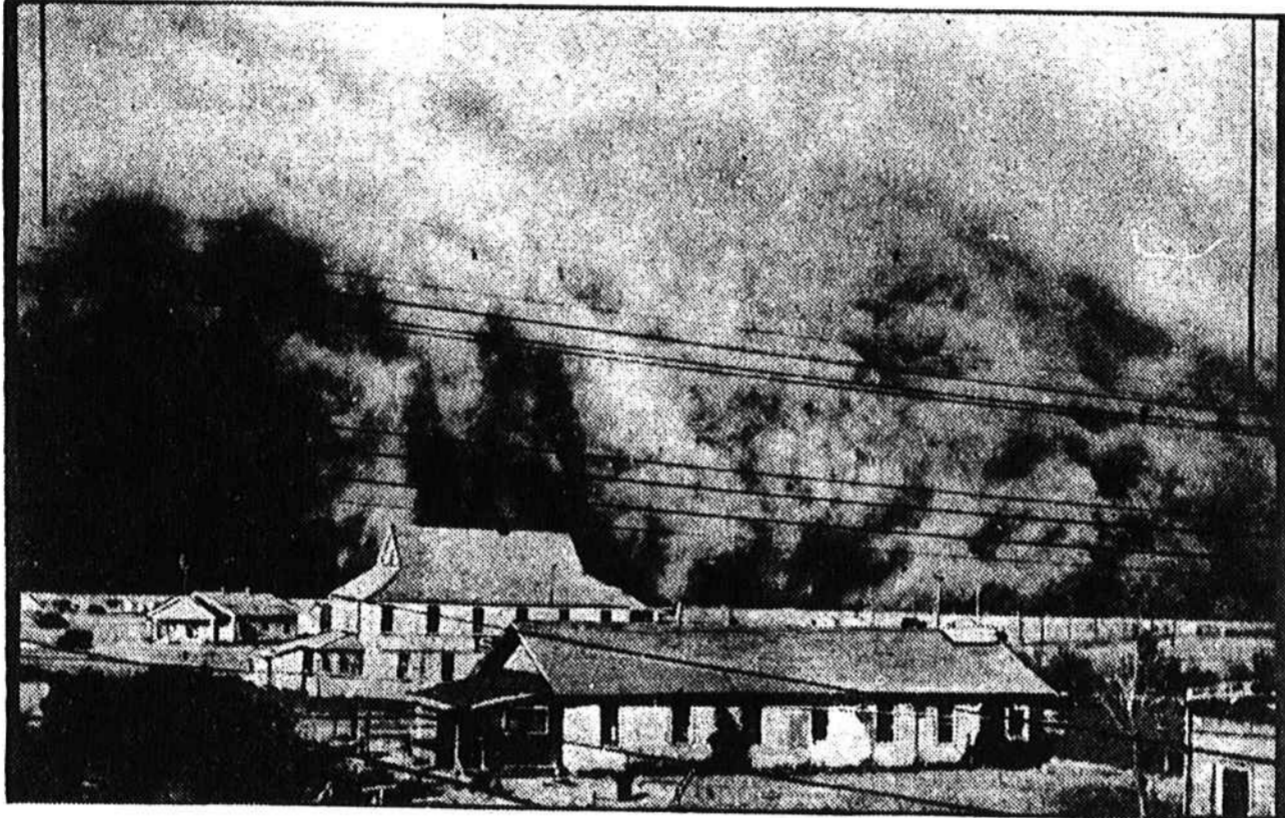
So rich in revenue is the match in most foreign countries that there is a tax on lighters. In fact it is sometimes said that the only public lighter in all France is the one in the lobby of the chamber of deputies!

Obviously the match market of the world is very sharply limited by these artificial restrictions. Just as the cigarette market is restricted by government's anxious for a big revenue.

Experts say that American cigarette manufacturers would drive all others in the world out of business if artificial barriers were removed. But also that the Swedes and the Japs, the first on quality (though they are not as good as American matches) and the second on price, would capture the match market if artificial barriers were eliminated.

Sweden is hanging up a bit of tempting bait to American negotiators, however. She promises that she will reduce duties and restrictions, which would result in the Swedes consuming vastly larger quantities of American fruit and other farm products. Now the agricultural vote that would be interested in this new market is very large. Whereas the vote interested in match production is rather small. All of which indicates that the concealed Swedes want to see the match market.

Dust Storm About to Swallow a Texas Town



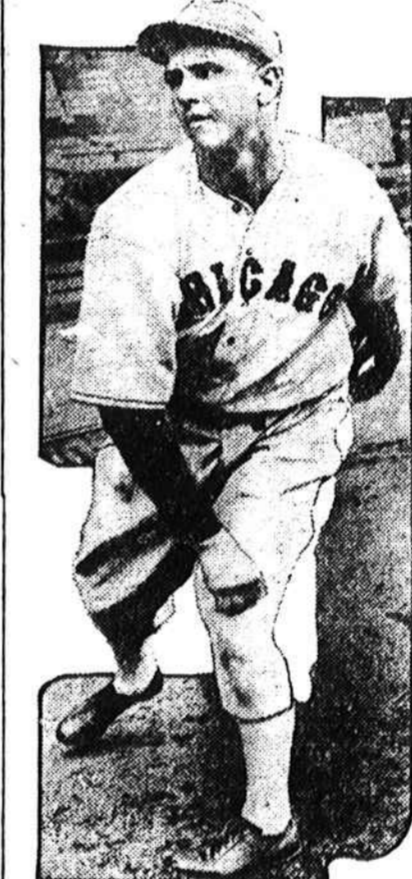
This remarkable photograph was made in the Texas panhandle as a dust storm whirled toward a small town. A few seconds after the picture was taken midnight darkness covered the scene and the air was filled with choking, stinging particles of dust.

She Can Buy All the Dolls She Wants



Beverly Ann Soper, four years old, of Detroit, can now buy thousands of dolls to add to her collection, for George C. Balch, wealthy bachelor who loved children, left her one quarter of his \$250,000 estate. The rest of it was divided among two other children and the mother of one of them.

Newcomer Is Pitching Sensation



Johnny Whitehead, Chicago White Sox pitcher, is one of the most successful of the rookies this year so far. Coming from the Dallas team of the Texas league, this is his first major league campaign.

Harper Sibley Heads National Business Body

Harper Sibley of Rochester, N. Y., succeeding Henry I. Harriman as president of the Chamber of Commerce of

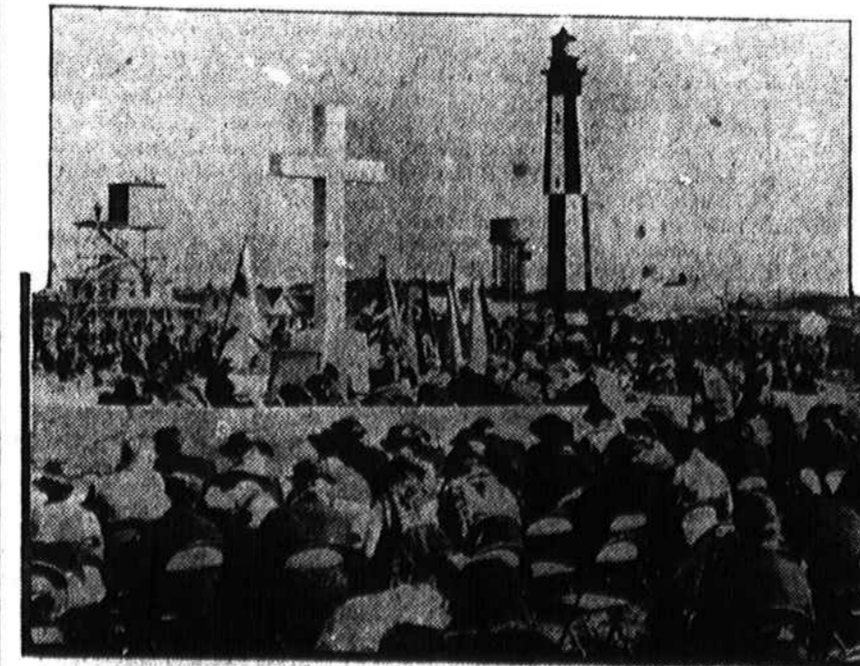


the United States, is a lawyer, banker, industrialist, agriculturist, and a civic, educational and religious leader. He is fifty years old and was a fellow pupil with President Roosevelt at Groton school. Sibley is fifty years old, the father of six children, and finds time to run four big farms in addition to his various commercial enterprises.

University Posts Ban on Knitting in Classes

Boston.—There'll be no more "knitting one, purling one" in Boston university's classrooms. After the professors complained that the knitting students distracted attention from their lectures, a notice was posted reading: "Absolutely no knitting will be permitted in classrooms."

Dedicating Cape Henry Memorial



Virginians and many visitors from other states, gathered at Cape Henry, Va., for the annual ceremonies commemorating the landing of the first settlers. They dedicated a permanent memorial which stands on the spot where the Cavaliers first set foot in the New world.