

Today

By Arthur Brisbane

Superstition and Fear. Prayers From Wall Street A Four Billion Unit. Don't Weep for Ford?

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Following the violent earthquake shocks in Southeastern Bulgaria, many of the peasants went insane. Such insanity is caused by a combination of ignorance and superstition. An earthquake in this country or a big fire, like that in Chicago, brings on a frenzy of rebuilding, and a boom in real estate.

We do not know much and are not free from superstition. But we know enough not to go crazy when the earth slips and shakes a little.

With a few exceptions, like the Lisbon earthquake, superstitious fear has always been the worst part of a quake. Superstition has believed that the Lord was shaking the earth in anger. We know that Old Earth is only settling into her final shape, meaning harm to nobody.

Prayers reaching heaven in unusual numbers today will start from Wall Street. This Saturday is "catching up day." The Exchange will close, permitting tired clerks to catch up, and get a little rest. The brokers are almost tired of making profits.

It was a hopeful day for the bears, the first in a long time. The respite count was raised, making it a little more expensive to borrow money for speculating.

First stocks went down, then up, then down again, closing lower. But, a word to the wise bear, if you muttered "time at length makes all things even" and sold short, look out for Monday morning.

The bull is an unburnt child, and still has pyrotechnics in store.

Which is biggest of our financial giants in these days of billion dollar units? General Motors, with 17,400,000 shares, shows a total value above three billions.

American Telephone and Telegraph company, however, seems to hold the championship. At the end of 1927 the total assets of the company and associated companies, at book cost, with all intangible assets excluded were three billion, four hundred and sixty-seven thousand dollars.

At the market value, instead of book value, the Telephone and Telegraph company would be worth four billions.

You will observe that, in persistent enterprise and courageous spending, the giant corporations make their own government seem small.

The United States shudders at the thought of spending three quarters of a billion, spread over several years, to make the Mississippi safe. American Telephone and Telegraph will spend two billions in the next five years for new construction.

The Telephone Company can afford more than twice the amount that the government can afford. Congratulations to W. S. Gifford, head of the Telephone Company. He might tell our government how he does it.

Changing his type of car is an expensive job for Henry Ford, with tens of millions to spend on new machinery and a gigantic revenue suddenly cut off. But the Ford Company's report shows that if you have tears to shed for Henry Ford you may save them for another day.

(Continued on Page Four)

WILKINS' POLE HOP EPOCHAL

Dream of Ages Realized By Flight Over Top of World, and Practicability Proven Details Meager But Disaster Near.

NEW YORK, April 21.—(AP)—The words "no foxes seen" in a radiogram from Captain George H. Wilkins to Dr. Ishak Bowman, director of the American Geographical society of New York, brought today the information that Wilkins had discovered no land in his flight over the north pole. Before flying over the pole from Point Barrow to Spitzbergen, Wilkins sent to Dr. Bowman the code which he would report whether he discovered land and, if he did, its extent and location.

A black in the distance was to refer to mountainous land, while a blue fox in the distance would denote flat land. The estimated number of square miles would be denoted in the message above (so many) foxes, blue fox for blue according to the terrain.

The radiogram Mr. Bowman received said: "Traversed course outlined. One stop account bad weather. Arrived twenty and half hours flying time. Five days from Barrow. No foxes seen."

NEW YORK, April 21.—(AP)—A dream of the ages—a northwest passage across the world—has been brought nearer practical achievement through the pioneering of Captain George H. Wilkins who today completed a 2100-mile flight across the Arctic region, Vilhjamur Stefansson, veteran Arctic explorer, said tonight.

The flight of Captain Wilkins—the first airplane journey from America to Europe over the polar area—was over a course that will shorten by hundreds of miles the distances between continents, Stefansson pointed out.

He pictured the North Pole as the new cross roads of the world when air caravans of the future will meet in their journeys from continent to continent.

While Stefansson voted great praise for the latest achievement of Wilkins and his pilot, Ben Eielson, he declared Wilkins' work preliminary to the flight was of far more importance to the development of air transportation in the Arctic region.

Whether Wilkins was able to make any land observations during his five hour en route from Point Barrow, Alaska, to Spitzbergen, Stefansson indicated that had strengthened his theory that there were numerous landing places in the polar region, a theory disputed by Raold Amundsen and Commander Richard E. Byrd, who have flown over the Arctic area.

In support of Wilkins' belief that landing places existed about every five miles in the Arctic Stefansson told of three forced landings that Wilkins and Eielson made far north of Point Barrow a year ago. Each time the landing was made without injury to the occupants of the plane and when a wing was damaged on the last forced landing Wilkins and Eielson dismantled their plane and made of it an emergency equipment with which they struck back to civilization, meanwhile living on wild game.

Flying conditions in the Arctic generally are far more favorable than those over the north Atlantic, Stefansson said, and air travelers have an obviously greater chance of surviving.

Stefansson summarized Wilkins' work: "He has at last achieved the northwest passage that the Elizabethans dreamed of—the short route to India."

Captain Wilkins was second in command of Stefansson's Arctic expedition in 1913-15. Referring to his five year adventure in the Arctic with Wilkins, Stefansson scouted the legend of a "lost continent" in the Arctic. He indicated in the section of the Arctic unexplored there is not room for land the size of Cuba or Labrador. He added nothing but deep sea had been found by his expedition in the area where the "lost continent" was supposed to be.

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, April 21.—(AP)—Another conquest of the North Polar regions was recorded today when Captain George H. Wilkins announced to the Copenhagen Politiken the safe arrival at Spitzbergen of himself and Carl B. Eielson. They flew over the roof of the world from Point Barrow, Alaska.

(Continued on Page Four)

AUTO MAGNATE VISITS ENGLAND



First photo of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford on their arrival in England, where the auto magnate is supervising improvements in his plants there and on the continent. They are shown at Southampton after leaving ship.

GRAND JURY TO MARCH TOLL OF PROBE THREATS AUTO, 13 DEAD ASTORIA TRIAL AND 393 HURT

Murder Case Witnesses Intimidated Says Prosecution—State Witness Who Forgot Boasts — Bitter Fight to Save Girl Slay-er.

ASTORIA, Ore., April 21.—(AP)—A grand jury investigation of charges that state witnesses in the murder case of George H. Hanna, 22, accused of slaying his youthful wife here February 23, were being intimidated by threats of personal violence, was demanded today by F. P. Lowmeyer, district attorney, in a motion he filed asking postponement of the trial.

The motion also charged that Arthur Wilson, state witness, who Monday failed to remember important bits of evidence, had publicly remarked after testifying: "They can't get anything out of me."

A bitter legal fight is anticipated Monday morning when the motion will be argued before Judge George R. Bagley of Hillsboro, who Friday declared a mistrial and dismissed the jury when a charge of prejudice was hung at one juror by counsel for the defense.

TALL CENTERS ON BASKETBALL TEAM CURBED BY RULE

NEW YORK, April 21.—(AP)—Deciding that the regulations of the game needed no drastic revisions the joint basketball rules committee ended a two-day session here tonight after adopting only a few minor changes in the code.

To prevent a tall player from tapping the ball and catching it several times in succession, this keeping the ball out of play, it was voted that on a jump ball the same player may not tap the ball and catch it twice in succession.

(Continued on Page Four)

Reckless Driving and Carelessness Chief Causes of 2361 Accidents in Month — Most of Injured Reside in Portland.

SALEM, Ore., April 21.—(AP)—Twenty-one persons were killed and 2361 injured in 2361 automobile accidents in Oregon during the month of March, says a report by T. A. Rafferty, chief state traffic inspector. Nine of the deaths and 258 injuries occurred in Portland.

Most usual form of accident was the collision of one motor vehicle with another, there being 1888 accidents of this kind, resulting in 313 injuries and 13 deaths.

Most of the mishaps were due to carelessness, 758 being attributed to this cause. Ninety-four were caused by excessive speed, 127 by cars not having right of way, 121 by cars passing on wrong side of road, 47 by drunkenness, 321 by skidding, 211 by cutting corners and 99 by reckless driving. Fines resulting from the activity of traffic officers totaled \$2913.05, and fees collected amounted to \$10,118.61.

PLANE FALLS BUT NOBODY INJURED

OLYMPIA, Wn., April 21.—(AP)—Suddenly dropping 75 feet to the ground a plane piloted by Orville Kelsey of Portland, It on its back and was demolished here late today but without serious injury to the pilot or his two passengers. Kelsey was accompanied by Clarence Springer and his eight-year-old son Jack, all of whom were but slightly injured.

A RUM VIOLATOR CATCHES HIMSELF

MARSHFIELD, Ore., April 21.—(AP)—Because he aroused suspicions of a prohibition squad which was raiding the home of A. Kolens, the officers searched the home of John Sherman, where they reported finding liquor. Both Kolens and Sherman were fined \$500 to pay possession charges. When Sherman appeared at the Kolens house he asked an officer if he knew where he could find Kolens as he wanted to bottle some liquor which he had just purchased.

PRIMARIES IN OFFING REAL TEST

Presidential Timber Grooms For Vote In California, Ohio and Indiana—Smith Concentrates on Golden State.

WASHINGTON, April 21.—(AP)—With conflicting claims of the strength they will be able to show at the national conventions in June, the various presidential candidates and their managers, both republican and democratic, are pressing their campaigns for delegates with eyes turned to three important state primaries just ahead—in Ohio, Indiana and California.

While admittedly none of the three will prove a conclusive test, the vote-getting ability of Herbert Hoover will be shown in Ohio Tuesday and in Indiana two weeks later. Sandwiched in between, on May 1, the democratic primaries in California will give a line on the strength of Governor Smith who is in a three-cornered contest there with Senators Reed and Walsh.

The republican convention gets under way at Kansas City seven weeks from Tuesday. Two weeks later—June 28—the Democratic assembly at Houston. To date 583 republican delegates have been selected, 28 more than the majority of 545 needed for a nomination. Democratic delegates chosen in this far total 42 with nearly 300 more than that number necessary for a two-thirds nominating majority.

On the face of delegates actually designated, Hoover holds a lead among the republican aspirants, with 233 instructed for him or generally conceded to him. Lowden, the incumbent, has 175 on the same basis. Managers for each are claiming more than these totals from among the 112 delegates whose preference has not been publicly disclosed.

As for Smith he is far in the lead among the Democrats with 301 or sixty more than he polled on the first ballot at Madison Square Garden in 1924. Three opponents, Reed, George and Hitchcock—have eighty sure votes among them with the destination of 61 delegates a matter of argument.

Adherents of both Hoover and Smith insist their candidates will show the strength in convention to be nominated but in the few days there have been evidences of a stiffening of the opposition to them on the part of their local foes who say there will be a fight to a finish.

In Indiana, Hoover lined up against Senator Watson who has been a political power in the state for years and who is friendly with both Lowden and Daves. It's a "winner-take-all" proposition in that primary, as whoever carries the state will get the entire delegation of 33 on the early convention ballots.

Having just cleared the way for the support at Houston of the solid Illinois and Iowa delegations, Smith's supporters are contending that he will be "as good as in," if he triumphs in California over Senators Reed of Missouri and Walsh of Montana.

A setback, they concede would slow up their candidate but they refuse to admit that it would prove a stumbling block in his nomination.

Foes of Smith, however, believe if he is given a trouncing in California they will be able at Houston to rally the opposition needed to prevent his nomination. To that end they are making every effort to turn him back in the first primary contest in the west. Varying predictions come out of California.

BOY 4, ARDENT CIGAR SMOKER, VERY HEALTHY

Seattle Baby Teethed On An Old Pipe, and Refuses To Eat When Denied Tobacco—Eats a Cigar Every Night.

SEATTLE, April 21.—(AP)—An ardent cigar smoker before he has reached his fourth birthday, Freddie Riggs, Seattle youngster, has started a warm controversy among local doctors.

The boy's mother, Mrs. Ralph Riggs, explained that when Freddie was a baby he was weak and under-developed and refused to eat, until he chewed on a pipe when he was ten months old. Then he began to eat. He cut his teeth on the same pipe. When he was a year old he began to chew cigars and shortly after that puff on them, not inhaling the smoke. Efforts to make him leave tobacco alone have resulted in his stopping eating. Aside from smoking he has one cigar every night—he is a normal and healthy child. He will be four next month.

When the school health department learned of his tobacco craving today, Dr. Ira C. Brown made arrangements to examine the youngster Monday in an effort to solve the enigma.

"I have known many youngsters who smoked," Dr. Brown said, "but I never knew one to start as young as Freddie. There is a cell change going on in the youngster which gives him a craving for tobacco. There are cases on record where sick folks have benefited from smoking but they are exceedingly rare. One benefits where a thousand are harmed. I have had boys four and older smoking and usually it is their only short-coming."

FAMINE TERRORS ADDED TO CIVIL STRIFE IN CHINA

SHANGHAI, China, April 21.—(AP)—To the horrors of famine in the once smiling province of Shantung has now been added the scourge of bitter warfare between nationalists and northern armies with its center steadily advancing on Tsinan, populous capital of the province.

Although authoritative reports concerning the progress of the nationalist drive toward Peking are lacking, numerous dispatches from both Chinese and foreign sources in Shanghai indicate that the nationalists are continuing their advance along the Tientsin-Pukow railway.

The nationalists assert that their forces have surrounded and isolated Tainfo, 35 miles south of Tsinan and the fall of the former city appears imminent, the northwest withdrawing toward Tsinan.

The dispatch of Japanese troops to Shantung is greeted with the bitterest resentment by Chinese here, the Chinese declaring that Japan is infringing on Chinese sovereignty. Protest meetings have been held in Hankow, Chihli and other southern cities while the Hankow native press is advocating a boycott of Japanese goods.

The Nanking government has halted the local Japanese consul general a strong protest against the sending of Japanese troops to Shantung and it is understood that the Japanese have sent a special courier to Nanking to explain their action.

COAST HIGHWAY SECTION CLOSED

SALEM, Ore., April 21.—(AP)—The highway between Tillamook and Rockaway has been closed by the state highway commission because of construction operations between Garibaldi and Harvick, it was announced at the offices of the state highway commission here today.

WITHDRAW SINNOTT'S CANDIDACY

Accepts Claims Justice Berth—272 Republicans and 81 Democrats In State—Official Pamphlet Ready Early In May.

SALEM, Ore., April 21.—(AP)—Representative N. J. Sinnott's withdrawal as a candidate for renomination in the Republican party for congress from the second Oregon district was received today by Secretary of State Kaer. The withdrawal, sworn to before a notary in Washington, D. C., was received by telegraph.

The notice came in time for the secretary to eliminate Sinnott's name from the certification of candidates which was tonight mailed by Secretary Kaer to the county clerks of the state.

Sinnott's action is due to his having been appointed by the president to the office of justice of the court of claims, a life position. The certification made today by the secretary of state contains the names of 272 Republican and 81 Democrat who are aspiring for the various offices for which nominations are to be made at the primary election May 18.

The names and information in the certification will be arranged by the county clerks. The county clerks are required to have their ballots printed in sufficient time before the primary election that the required number of ballots may be distributed in the election boards in ample time before election day.

Over 210,000 voters pamphlets containing campaign statements of Republican candidates and over 80,000 Democratic pamphlets will be printed and mailed by the secretary of state.

Whether statements appear in the pamphlets is optional with the candidate. Statements received from 91 Republicans and nine Democratic candidates, fees covering them total \$4115. Fees received for the filing of candidates aggregated \$6335. Postal charges for the mailing of the pamphlets will total over \$4,000.

Under the law it is necessary for the state to edit, print and distribute the pamphlets not less than eight days before the election, and it is believed the work will be completed not later than May 6 or 7.

STATE C. E. NAMES ASHLAND PASTOR ITS COUNCELLOR

THE DALLES, Ore., April 21.—(AP)—Donald Nelson of Portland was tonight elected president of the Oregon State Christian Endeavor union in annual convention here. The sessions will end tomorrow.

Other officers are: James Henderson, Portland, first vice president; Ronald Humphries, Eugene, second vice president; Mrs. Effie Ritchie, Free-water, third vice president; Miss Viola Ogden, Portland, secretary; Florence Funk, Portland, assistant secretary; Lydia Frey, Portland, treasurer; Julia Jacob Kandler, Portland, executive advisor; Rev. Walter L. Myers, Eugene, and Rev. Charles E. Gaffney, Ashland, pastor-counsellor.

Among the officers superintendents the following were elected: Sada Marie Chambers, Eugene, intermediate department; Floyd Gilman, Portland, Jacob Kandler, Portland, citizenship; Miss Lucille Hapington, Roseburg, education; Mrs. T. G. Rickardson, Portland, efficiency; Claude V. Pevey, Helix, evangelism; Miss Lolita Young, Portland, introduction; James Henderson, Portland, lookout extension; Miss Vesta Orick, Eugene, missionary; Celesta Kleckler, Bend, prayer meeting; Josephine Rothman, Corvallis, publicity; Reulah Martin, McMinnville, social and recreation; Eunice Maurer, Tigard, penmanship.

Dallas C. Rice of Portland, state field secretary, resigned to enter educational work in New York. No successor has been named.

SINCLAIR'S ACQUITTAL EXPLAINED

Jury Believed Oil Baron Victim of Circumstances and Sum Involved Too Small — Juror Expects to Be Blamed, But Did His Duty—Mrs. Fall Cheered.

WASHINGTON, April 21.—(AP)—Seated in his home in northwest Washington, Kenneth Carter, 28-year-old railroad agent, told today the story of how he and eleven other jurors two hours earlier had acquitted Harry F. Sinclair of the charge of conspiracy to defraud the government in the Teapot Dome oil lease.

"We believe that Sinclair was a victim of circumstances," he said. "Although the government counsel made a good impression they did not prove that Sinclair conspired with Fall to lease the property. If Fall had wanted to sell the lease it seems to me that he would have gone after at least two million dollars and would not have accepted \$232,000 as he could have gotten more."

This was described by Carter as the key to the not guilty verdict by the jury which was kept under confinement at the court house for eleven days and ten nights. He plainly showed the strain of his experience which he regarded as the greatest responsibility of his life.

"Of course we will get blamed for the verdict," he said with a sigh. "People don't realize that all we could consider was this particular charge and only the evidence produced at the trial. Because Sinclair has been pictured in all sorts of lights during the last six years didn't mean that we could take that into consideration. We had to stick to the evidence."

"I will say this," Carter declared, striking his fist on the arm of his chair. "This jury certainly realized its responsibility and tried to do its duty. We went into the case with an open mind as any twelve men could have. Of course we had read of the case casually in the newspapers and nobody but an imbecile hadn't. But I don't believe any of the jury had, and I know I hadn't, given the case any particular attention until we were summoned on the jury."

"I don't believe Sinclair was guilty of the charge. I don't believe he agreed to pay Fall anything before he got the lease. It may be that after Sinclair did get the lease Fall got some money from him by the argument that he had favored Sinclair with the lease."

"I mean that, suppose I did something for somebody and then later came around and asked for a loan or a gift on the plea that I had done a service for him. If he should give me the money, you couldn't say that he was guilty of conspiracy."

"I have got to get re-acquainted with my family," he declared as he picked up his three-year-old daughter who had been hanging onto his knees. "I don't want another experience like this. Just tell the people that we did our best as American citizens."

EL PASO, TEXAS, APRIL 21.—

Mrs. Albert Fall, wife of the former secretary of the interior, believes the case against her husband will be dismissed since his former co-defendant, Harry F. Sinclair has been acquitted of charges to defraud the government.

"That certainly is fine," commented Mrs. Fall when told of the verdict of the jury in District of Columbia supreme court. Intending to leave here last Friday to visit Mr. Fall in California, Mrs. Fall boarded a train but then changed her mind and got off before train time, saying she did not feel equal to the trip. "I thought I would wait for the Sinclair verdict," she said at the time.

FAKED CONFESSION TO DODGE PRISON

EL RENO, Okla., April 21.—(AP)—Elwin F. Allen, prisoner in the county jail here, admitted today that a "confession" which he made recently to the slayings of Reverend Edward Wheeler Hall and Mrs. Eleanor Mills in New Jersey, was untrue, and that he had made the statement in an effort to escape serving a sentence in the Oklahoma state penitentiary.

"I would rather stand trial for the Halls-Mills murders than go back to the penitentiary at McAlester," he said in a signed statement made public today by public officials later today.