Greatest Pacifist Invented Dynamite

Alfred Nobel, Swedish donor of the five annual prizes which bear his name, was a man of strange contrasts. An inventor of high explosives including dynamite, he promoted universal peace; a professed atheist, he practiced the fine art of charity; a recluse, he loved his fellow men; a cosmopolitan — "the world's wealthiest tramp," in his own language—he chose only Scandinavians to administer his estate; an engineer and scientist, he admired Shelley, wrote verse in English, novels in Swedish, and, finally, dramas; an idealist and dreamer, he amassed one of the greatest fortunes of the day; a disbeliever in religion, he gave money to churches; by nature melancholic, he thought science could make men happy; a lifetime sufferer from ill health, he left part of his estate to doctors; a bachelor, he made no discriminations against women; a pessimist, he had faith in the future.

Such in brief, was the man from whose estate in Stockholm gold has flowed during the last quarter of a century to nearly all parts of the globe, and since the principal has in no wise been diminished, this distribution will continue as long as the present order of society endures.

Many of the prizes have been donated, in turn, to altruistic purposes, writes Gahoth Hedin in the Living Age. Ultimately, all mankind will benefit. Thanks to the prize money, scientists have been enabled to continue their researches. The hope of winning has spurred others on. Some of the peace prizes have been devoted to the further promotion of peace, and obscure authors have at once been lifted into the sunlight of world wide fame.

Some of the prizes may have been injudiciously bestowed, but, on the whole, to be a winner of any one of them is reckoned as one of the highest honors attainable. Last year, George Bernard Shaw refused the money, but no future biographer of G. B. S. will forget the fact that it was offered to him.

In racial origin, the Nobel family is purely Swedish. Its earliest known representative was a country judge, Peter Nobelius, in the seventeenth century.

The grandson of Peter Nobelius was a physician in northern Sweden, and he shortened the name to "Nobel" (pronounced with the accent on the last syllable). His son, Emmanuel Nobel, born in 1801, was the father of Alfred Nobel, and the first of the family to become known outside of his native country.

Father Invented Submarine Bomb

His bent was neither clerical nor medical, but mechanical and scientific; but such gifts were not then held in high esteem as now, and, instead of going to school and college to study the humanities and classical languages, he went to sea. Upon his return he began the study of architecture and, at the age of 26, he was appointed teacher of machine construction at a technical school, which was later to develop into the Royal Institute of Technology of to day.

Here his bent for original constructions and devices was allowed free play, and one of his inventions was allowed free play, and one of his inventions was a submarine bomb which, in 1837, attracted the attention of the Russian authorities. Emmanuel Nobel was thereupon invited to cross the Baltic with his family to what was then the Russian capital, St. Petersburg where he was given the opportunity to continue his experiments without need for financial worry.

A special factory was built for him; there, besides submarine mines, he made rapid firing guns and other implements of war, which were used by the Russians with good effect in the Crimean war. The mines in particular were credited with preventing the British fleet from bombarding the capital.

Associated with him were his four sons, of whom Alfred was the third, and when the family returned to Sweden soon after the Crimean war, the second son, Ludwig, was left in charge of the factory. In Stockholm, Emmanuel Nobel continued his experiments with high explosives, into which he was the first to introduce the use of nitroglycerine.

In an explosion at his laboratory at Heleneborg, near Stockholm, his youngest son, Emil, was killed, and he, himself was so badly injured that he never fully recovered. There were other accidents of a serious nature, and finally the use of nitroglycerine was forbidden by law in many countries.

But the elder Nobel and his sons were not to be deterred. Prohibited from working on land, they hired a boat and, anchoring it in the middle of Lake Malaren, outside of Stockholm, they continued their experiments with increasing success.

Alfred Bernhard Nobel had been born in Stockholm in 1833, or before his father moved to Russia. His formal schooling was scant, but thanks to his association with his father and his independent reading as well as his travels, he became the master of several languages, including Russian.

At the age of 17, he was sent by his father to New York to visit Capt. John Ericsson, who was then developing his various mechanical inventions. This was before the Civil war; Ericsson's plans for the Monitor were ready, but had not been used.

Inventor of High Explosives

It was not in mechanical engineering that the younger Nobel was to distinguish himself, but as a success of his father in the field of explosives. By combining nitroglyberine with various absorbent substances such as sawdust or infusorial silicate, he made it safer to handle and thus, in 1863, achieved dynamite.

In the construction of the St. Gathard tunnel alone, the use of dynamite saved more than 5 million dollars, besides several years of work. The total value to humanity of the Nobel inventions may well be called inestimable. He also perfected the dynamite cap and made possible blasting under water. Later he invented a smokeless powder; altogether he obtained eighty-five patents, royalties from which brought him a good part of his fortune.

The other part was derived from his share in the exploitation of the Caucasian oil fields at Baku for which his two older brothers, Robert and Ludwig, had obtained concessions from the Russian government. To the problem of extracting, transporting and refining petroleum they had applied their inventive abilities with such success that they not only enriched themselves, but earned immense royalties for the Russian treasury.

A member of the Nobel family, now living in Sweden, is my authority for the statement that, prior to the World War, one-sixth of all the revenue of the Russian government was derived in some form or other from the activities of the Nobels. In the bolshevist revolution, of course, everything possible was confiscated.

In 1873 Alfred Nobel settled in Paris, where he occupied a stately house on Avenue Malakoff, living there alone with servants. He did not even employ a private secretary, but attended himself to all his correspondence and personal bookkeeping.

While living in Russia he seems to have imbibed some of the radical political doctrines that flourished surreptitiously under the czars; in many of his letters are remarks derogatory to both monarchical and republican forms of government. By some biographers the political views have been interpreted as leaning toward bolshevism, by others as favoring facism, though neither form was then known.

Most of all, he seems to have been influenced in his youth by Shelley, who, in his political writings, was anything but orthodox. As a young boy, Alfred Nobel had read Shelley's poems; it was very easy for him to acquire the poet's world philosophy, his overwhelming idealism, his all-inclusive love for humanity, his pacifism, his political radicalism and his somewhat confused atheism, which, in reality, was closely related to both Christianity and Platonism.

All these strains recur in Nobel's letters, but, thanks to his sharper intellect and scientific training, in a more practical form. The oldest extant poem by Nobel is in English, and it is known that in his youth he wrote other English verses, though he later burned them all.

In Swedish, he tried his hand at novel writing, but without success, and shortly before his death he attempted the drama. His letters, however, show an unmistakable literary gift. His Swedish biographer, Professor Schueck, remarks that, if he had not been a great inventor, he might have become a great author.

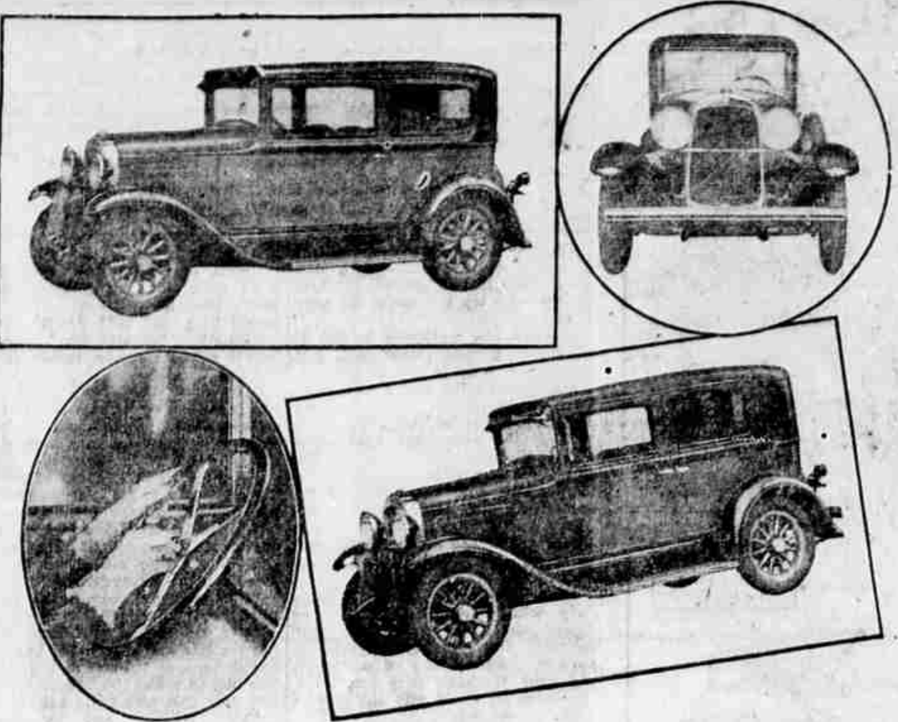
Paris he left in disgust when accused without justification of espionage. One of his inventions happened to resemble the objective of experiments conducted in great secrecy at the laboratory of the French powder monopoly, which was located close to his own laboratory, just outside Paris. It was by pure coincidence that he had happened to work on the same problem as the army engineers, and, when he solved it first, they became jealous. After that, he moved to San Remo on the Italian Riviera, where he died on December 10, 1896.

France in Fear of Suffrage for Her Womenfolk

Why is it that the French parliament hesitates to take what it calls a leap in the dark, when at the beginning of the fourteenth century, in the time of Phillip the Fair, the first states general was elected by the whole people of France, men and women without distinction?

France's failure to give women the vote is due to men's fear of an increase of clerical influence in the political life of France. In France, think the senators, the precariousness of the situation makes it more advisable to let matters remain in statu quo than to risk an experiment which may bring disastrous results. Under unstable conditions the change might mean either a return to monarchy, or another form of the dictatorship found necessary in other parts of Europe to cope with post-war situations, or a lapse into a communistic form of government inspired and engineered by the soviets of Russia. In this dilemma France would be between two extremes, and the senators deem it wiser to let whatever political readjustment that is bound to come take a natural course, mainly to insure the safety of the republic. Only a strong and stable government can afford to deal with a new element such as the women's vote, and though the Poincare ministry (as constituted until recently) has achieved miraculous results in the two years of its incumbency, the conditions of French political life, with eight or nine major parties, cannot prevent the government fro mbeing anything but a shifting, insecure ship tossed by the seas of high parliamentarism and petty political maneuvers. When France, under the irresistible momentum of international life and the obligations it entails, readjusts herself politically to a constitution that is young and vigouors and modern; when the old obsolete constitution, of 1875 makes way for one adapted to cope with the demands and exigencies of the time, then a political renaissance will take place in France and will bring with it, as a consequence, the vote for women.—Current History.

New Whippet Larger, More Beautiful



The new Superior Whippet Fours bring high priced car beauty into the low priced field. Setting a definite new trend of style and quality in this classification. The upper left picture shows the Superior Whippet Four Coach with larger and roomier body. The front view of the Whippet Coupe above shows the smart, new Whippet radiator design. The Whippet Four Sedan below is an outstanding example of the beautiful new lines developed for these new cars. The inset shows the new "finger-tip control." A single button in the center of the steering wheel controls all the functions of starting the motor, controlling the lights and sounding the horn. This feature is designated as the greatest driving convenience since the self starter.

Fisher Body Hour New Years Eve

A native of Leipzig, trained in the conservatories of Europe, and with a notable career in the Berlin Royal Opera and in European concerts, Frieda Hempel, will be heard in the Fisher body hour of the General Motors family party Monday night, Dec. 31st.

FRIEDA HEMPEL on General Motors Program

Miss Hempel's operatic debut was in the "Merry Wives of Windsor," at the Berlin Royal Opera in 1905. As leading soprano in operas of Wagner, Richard Strauss and others, Miss Hempel was the idol of the Metropolitan Opera Co. Since then she has even transcended her operatic record by recitals throughout the United States and Europe. Among her unique programs is the "Jenny Lind" which Miss Hempel gives in costume.

In the Fisher body hour, Miss Hempel will be supported by a symphony orchestra directed by Gennaro Papi, the noted composer. The program will be broadcast by the National Broadcasting company and thirty-five associated stations, including the Orange network to the Pacific coast at 6:30 coast time.

Government Owned Land in Oregon

The apportionment of approximately 1½ million dollars of federal aid money to the road building program of Oregon each year serves to bring out numerous questions relative to the amount of government owned land in the various states.

According to statistics compiled by the Oregon State Motor association, the total area of land and water in the 48 states is 3,026,719 square miles. The total area of land owned by the federal government in the form of unappropriated and unreserved public land, non-taxable Indian land, and national forests, parks and monuments, is 612,108 square miles, or 20.2 percent of the total area comprising the forty-eight states.

The land owned by the federal government is not distributed, evenly among the 48 states. Nine states have no federal land. In 16 states the federal land is less than 1 per cent of the total state area. In 9 states the federal land represents from 1 per cent to 4 per cent of the total state area. In 14 states the federal holdings are from 7.2 per cent to 84.2 per cent of the total state area.

Oregon has 45.6 per cent of its total area taken up by federal owned land; Washington has 30.6 per cent and California has 40 per cent.

Historic Letters Gift

SYRACUSE, N. Y.—(AP) More than 10,000 letters, dating from 1790 to 1875, written by Wendell Phillips, William Lloyd Garrison, John Brown, Charles Sumner and others have been presented to Syracuse university by Gerrit Smith Miller of Peterboro, N. Y.

Saxophobia Idea Hunt's Craterian

"It's not so hard to find six pretty girls, nor is it so hard to find six girls who can play the saxophone, but to find six pretty girls who can play the saxophone is some job," says Rudy Wiedoeft, who has been booked by Fanchon and Marco to take the lead in their "Saxophobia Idea".

Not only can these beauties "play" the saxophone, but each one is an artist at it—they have to be to keep pace with Rudy Wiedoeft who is the world's greatest. And not only will these girls have a chance to obtain further musical work, but they are getting the expert instruction of Wiedoeft.

The "Saxophone Beauties" are appearing at Hunt's Craterian in Fanchon and Marco's today.

The screen attraction will be Norma Shearer in a "A Lady of Chance."

"Baby Cyclone" at Rialto Today

"The Baby Cyclone," comical filmization of George M. Cohan's famous stage play, with Lew Cody and Aileen Pringle as co-stars, is the attraction at the Rialto theatre today.

The story is a clever satire on modern society, with a Pekingese pup as the motivation. He wrecks the happiness of two loving couples and precipitates a train of events that gives Cody a black eye, and occasions a riot in high society.

A knocking motor should have immediate attention, but a knocking man should be left severely alone.

Coming Attractions

At the Rialto

The New York City of the theatrical world, with landmarks such as Hotel Astor and its famus Peacock Alley, figure in "The Butter and Egg Man," coming to the

Jack Mulhall in "The Butter & Egg Man"

Rialto theatre tomorrow. It shows behind the scenes and in the dressing rooms and offices of the shadier variety of theatrical production.

Jack Mulhall is featured in the title role, with Greta Nissen as leading lady. Sam Hardy, Gertrude Astor and William Demarest head a very capable supporting cast.

At Hunt's Craterian

What is wrong with the present generation is shown in "Our Dancing Daughters," coming to Hunt's Craterian.

And the answers supplied in this feature show that if, indeed, youth is to be criticized, the parents themselves are in no position to voice the censure. Children, the plot shows, usually reflect the circumstances of their home life.

Three very modern young women appear in the leading roles, Joan Crawford, Dorothy Sebastian and Anita Page.

Johnny Mack Brown is the young man whose affections and millions occupy the attentions of Miss Crawford and Miss Page. Nils Asther, as Miss Sebastian's husband, gives a striking portrayal as the husband who tries to forget his wife's past indiscretions but cannot erase suspicions from his mind.

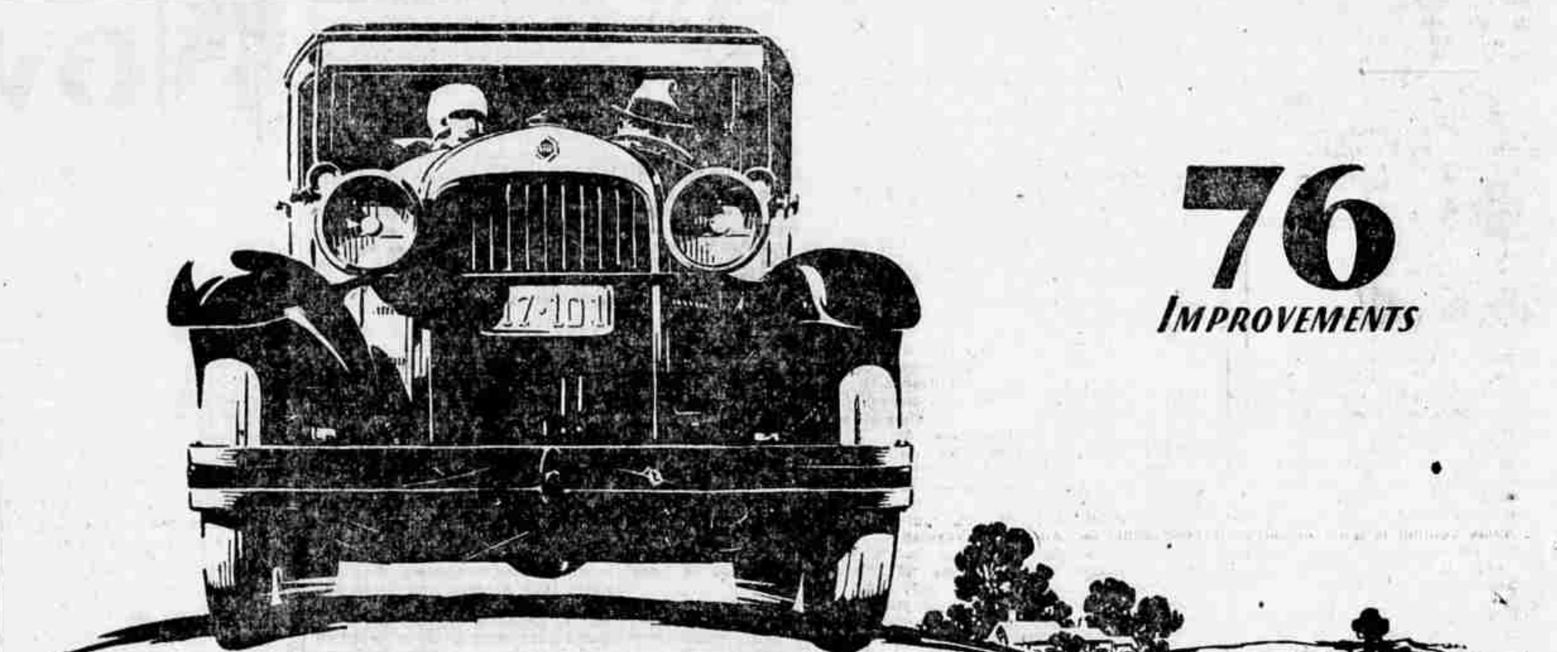
Air Traffic Cop Makes Arrests

WASHINGTON—(AP) Air traffic cops have made 219 arrests without a single complaint that the aerial bluecoats were sleeping on their posts.

Fifty inspectors of the department of commerce air regulations division, charged with arresting and prosecuting air traffic violators, have been on the job thruout the country for more than a year.

Sixty-five of the offenders drew fines of $3000 to $5000 for their offenses, while 116 were reprimanded. One hundred ninety-five cases have come up for hearing since the division was organized.

Charges included landing in unauthorized sections, low flying over congested areas, stunt flying with passengers aboard, and carrying explosives.



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24% Greater power — Over 70 miles an hour — Hydraulic shock absorbers all around — Effective double action four-wheel brakes, the efficiency of which is not affected by water or mud and which permit positive car control by the slightest foot pressure — Larger, roomier bodies — Seats easily adjustable to comfortable driving position—Electric gas and oil gauge—Instant starting regardless of weather—New radiator, with shutters, of course—All bright parts chromium-plated—New easier steering—Greater economy in fuel and oil.

IN FAST GET-AWAY—no car is excepted. IN SPEED — anything the road offers up to 70 miles an hour. IN HILL CLIMBING—against any car you choose. IN APPEARANCE — match it for smartness with costlier cars. IN EASE OF DRIVING — note smoothness of motor — ease of steering—roadability and effectiveness of brakes. IN ENDURANCE — 60 miles an hour all day long is well within its range.

One million owners know the special advantages of the Super-Six. They are best qualified to compare the Essex the Challenger. To them we offer first opportunity to test the most powerful, the largest, roomiest, smoothest, easiest riding — most complete Essex ever built. But all motordom must be astounded that even with seventy-six notable improvements, the price is the lowest in Essex history—a price but little above the lowest-priced car on the market.

$695 and up at factory

Model	Price	Model	Price
Coach	$695	Standard Sedan	$795
2-Pass. Coupe	695	Town Sedan	850
Phaeton	695	Roadster	850
Coupe (with rumble seat)	725	Convertible Coupe	895

Standard Equipment Includes: 4 hydraulic shock absorbers—electric gas and oil gauge—radiator shutters—saddle lamps—windshield wiper—rear view mirror—electrolock—controls on steering wheel—starter on dash—all bright parts chromium-plated.

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