

# NOBLE FALLEN HERO OF ITALY NOW ONE WOLF

In a lovely villa near the Tiber, outside Porto del Popolo, writes Alice Robe in the New York World, I had luncheon with the man nobody dares to name. In the dark hours through which his soul is traversing a werry way, discredited by the country he served, he is in sore need of friendship. His name is Umberto Nobile.

To be a friend of Umberto Nobile I was informed, takes courage, unless one does not mind mail being opened, house shadowed by detectives, quiet disturbed by importunites from the police.

"But why?" I queried, when warned by newspaper friends to "lay off the Nobile story." "Even if the findings of the inquiry commission were true, I can't see why the man should be treated as a dangerous criminal."

Then I was told of a European correspondent who, desirous of obtaining a technical article on the Italian Polar expedition, visited Nobile. She never returned for the finished article, having been called to police headquarters and also to the foreign office's press department. There she was cautioned that if she wished to remain in Italy she must write nothing concerning the commander of the ill-fated Italia. Rome, perhaps more than any other capital in the world, is a nest of gossips. Yet the stories whispered about the former air hero's pitiable state were not exaggerated. For the fall from the clouds onto the ice five broke only his bones. The fall from the heights of emotional Italian idolatry into the chill depths of official contempt has broken his heart.

Studying this silent man, across the table, a man who drinks no wine and who eats sparingly, his position in his homeland seems incredible.

Narrowed down to its proper proportion, the Nobile disaster, which assumed international importance, was a personal Italian duel older than Machiavelli in its method. What it really meant was a fight between lighter than air and heavier than lead men. Yet the Nobile disaster not only certain firmness, later witnesses against him at the inquiry, and had he not aroused the jealousy of the man destined to become air minister, it is safe to say he would not today be a hunted and haunted man, struggling against complete annihilation. It is pointed out by Nobile's friends, as Nobile himself writes, that Nobile's opinions, that a huge dirigible which he was constructing was ordered into the discard when the Italia expedition was being planned. It is also whispered that underneath Minister Balbo's refusal to permit Nobile to have two accompanying hydroplanes was the hope of getting definitely rid of the hero of the North Pole. The persistent failure of the Italia expedition to pick up Nobile's S O S is mentioned with significant glances. Indeed, Nobile himself states in his book that his radio was not out of order.

**Nobile the Loser**

Today, for criticizing the wireless service and the lethargy of the aviation, Nobile is paying a high price. The duel is considered over; but it is insisted that no single man had a chance against such a variety of weapons. What seems to accentuate the hopelessness of the former idol is the campaign of the press. He himself points out in his book that criticism supposed to come from abroad originated in his own country, inspired by his enemy and disseminated through the Stefani official agency. At home, on the contrary, the papers were ordered to be silent. Articles which Nobile wrote were refused publication.

Nobile cannot forget the subtle torture of the inquiry when he was ordered not to stir from Rome, not to make any statement either in speech or in writing, not to go to the theater. The deepest scar is left by the fact that he was completely discredited by accusations of complete vindictiveness. Bypassed by the information that all was going well, he made no attempt to marshal a defense, although the commission was composed of hostile persons. The day before the verdict he received an assuring message from a high government official. Then on March 4 he packed up his morning paper. On the front page headlines were the news of his condemnation.

The fight was over. Umberto Nobile would no longer be in the way in the air force.

Lighter-than-air craft had lost, and heavier-than-air craft had won!

His protest to the head of the government that he had been refused the elementary right of self defense accorded the lowest criminal was unanswered.

**Live as in Exile**

Since that day, in a modest apartment in the Prati, across the Tiber, Umberto Nobile has been as a living dead man. Cut off from following the profession he had excelled before the Italia catastrophe, he is the apothecary of frustration. He has only his writing, and even this has his handicaps. At the time of the expedition an American magazine offered a considerable sum for a series of articles, through the Italian embassy at Washington. Nobile says he never received the proposal. His book on the scientific findings of the expedition was refused publication at home. When it was brought out in Germany review or mention of it was forbidden in Italy.

Once it looked as though a ray of hope might break. That was at the Stockholm last February when the Anthropological and Geographical society of Sweden conferred the Andree medal upon Nobile. It happened at the hour his book on

## Buddy Rogers in Craterian Hit



Betty Boyd, Charles Rogers, Francis Dee who supply the youth and beauty in the Paramount Picture, "Along Came Youth"

Stuart Erwin, D. D. (Distinguished for Dumbness) has jumped from the frying pan into the fire, figuratively speaking.

In "Playboy of Paris," Maurice Chevalier's most recent picture, Erwin was seen as a sort of assistant chef by day and a companion in gaiety by night. Now, in "Along Came Youth," which opens today at the Fox Craterian theatre, Erwin is seen again as a "kitchen mechanic" with a bent toward socializing in his off hours in the company of Charles Rogers, leading man of the picture.

"Along Came Youth" is the story of a young American sportsman (played by Rogers) and owner of a string of race horses, who is stranded in London after a series of reverses. He is forced to take

a job as chef in a large mansion, only to find that his aristocratic English sweetheart is a friend of the family by whom he is employed.

A series of amusing events follow based on the hero's attempts to "keep up a front" socially and perform his menial duties at the same time.

The finale centers around a thrilling steed race in which he rides his favorite mount to victory and a large fortune.

There is an abundance of apparatus comedy in the show, with Erwin providing the bulk of it in his own intently "buffed" manner. His biggest moments are the scenes when he falls in love with a pretty English girl but is too bashful to convey his emotions to her.

## New Radio Tube Tester at Palmers



Yesterday afternoon the Palmer Music House received their new screamer which is to be used in their radio service department. It is not a portable tester as has been used in the past by radio service men, but rather a large cabinet affair, designed and arranged to give the customer an idea just what is going on when his radio tubes are being tested.

It is equipped with a galvanometer and two milliammeters and an A. C. voltmeter. On the desk in front are several tube sockets all mounted and wired, making it possible to test all tubes under load just the same as they are when operating in your set. However, before inserting in these sockets they have to pass a clearance test which tests for shorts. This is very interesting, for a shorted tube will ruin other tubes when in a radio set. It would therefore burn out fuses placed ahead of the meters in the tester. Instead of being inserted in the clearance sockets—if it is all right a little lamp glows behind a sign marked "Allright clear," then regular test is made. However, should a short be in the tube, other lamps glow and tell exactly what and where the trouble is, in this way removing all necessity of technical knowledge.

In other words it's like the present day scales in every store where scales are used. They have a large dial, large figures, easily read by every purchaser. With the screamer one may know just how good the old tubes are and new tubes must be just right to pass the maximum test necessary for good reception. To those privileged to see this screamer operate yesterday, the common remark was that "it is almost human." Clayton Isaacs remarked that he thought he had discovered the principal reason for poor radio reception. Accordingly they have made a substantial investment in equipment to help folks obtain better reception.

Some radios do not sound as well as the day they were purchased; or they do not get the same clear full volume; or distant stations fail to respond to their call; or certain favorite stations fade out easily, or voices over the radio sound harsh and coarse. These are the reasons many radios are tuned off part of the time.

Yet it is true that 98 per cent of radio difficulty is with poor or worn out tubes when a whole set is tested in this screamer, it picks out the bad one without any doubling, no guessing, only the really necessary new ones are purchased. This will result in saving service calls, also saving in buying, say but the necessary new tubes. The screamer will be used in the store room of the Palmer Music House and anyone interested may have all their tubes tested without cost.

## Will Here Wednesday



Will Rogers, Star of the Fox Movietone, "Lightnin'"

Lake Tahoe, frequently referred to as Nature's chosen beauty spot, lies serene and placid more than 6000 feet above the level of the sea like a jewel in a setting of rare beauty. No other spot in America has been endowed with such amazingly picturesque backgrounds.

This California locality was chosen by Fox Movietone executives for "Lightnin'." Will Rogers' third all-talking picture, which comes to the Fox Craterian theatre next Wednesday.

"Lightnin'" was adapted from John Golden's highly successful stage play and Rogers portrays the role of "Bill Jones," the kindly, lovable old chap who dislikes work and loves his liquor and who, when his tongue is loosened, tells the most outrageous lies imaginable. His favorite topic being the Spanish-American war in which he fought and advised Teddy Roosevelt.

The role is said to afford the internationally famous wit and his most greater opportunity for whimsicalities than did either "They Had to See Paris" or "So This is London," both tremendous Fox Movietone successes.

Louise Dresser, well remembered for her mother roles, enacts the role of Rogers' wife.

The new 12 story St. Elizabeth's hospital in Chicago has a radio in every room.

Argentina's first hydro-electric power station was constructed in 1928.

Canada is the greatest producer of raw and waste asbestos and the United States the largest consumer.

Storm-swept islands of the Caribbean sea now are guarded by automatic lightships that are visited only once in six months.

The Canadian government estimates the 1928 Dominion wheat crop will total 23,541,699 bushels. Czechoslovakia had 242 incomes in 1923 whose annual incomes exceeded \$24,000.

The Italia's flight appeared in Italy. Then, after a year of silence, the report of the commission was broadcast and a fresh wave of distrust broke against the former hero.

Along with an invalid wife, whose health was wrecked by worry over her husband's fate, his small daughter, the faithful dog Tinto, and a host of stray animals which he always befriended, he lives—a man who can never unlearn luck. He knows that every visitor is reported to police headquarters, every letter is opened, every telephone call is listened in on.

Except for a few devoted friends he is as isolated as when he and his companions were cast upon the ice in the polar sea. Nature, then, to him, must have seemed less vegetal than man.

## BEND CONTRACTS FOR NEW SCHOOL

BEND, Dec. 20.—(P)—Contracts for the new grade school building and the addition to Kenwood school for which a bond issue of \$100,000 was recently approved, were awarded to O. K. Olson, Bend, and E. W. Hunsbrough of Bend and Kinshaf Falls.

Signing of the contracts for the buildings has been delayed due to the fact that low bids made it possible for the school officials to add some features that had been cut out of the plans submitted for the original bids.

**Women Run Street Cars in Russia**

MOSCOW, Dec. 20.—(P)—Russian street cars have women "motormen" and conductors, and tramway officials say they do the job as well if not better than men.

"Why shouldn't a woman run a street car?" queried one "motor-woman" when it was suggested her job might be a hard one.

"I find it not nearly so hard as sewing and housekeeping. If you will look up the records you will find that women tram operators have fewer accidents than the men."

**New England Likes Bobbed Hides**

BURLINGTON, Vt., Dec. 20.—(P)—In Vermont and other northern New England states Christmas is entirely in keeping with the child's conception of Santa Claus with a sleigh and reindeer.

On snow-covered streets the tinkling of sleigh bells mingle with the clanking of automobile chains.

During the holiday season many an automobile is idle while its owner, with other young people, swag from smart colleges, bundles into an old fashioned bobbed.

**Big Match Output**

LISPON, Dec. 20.—(P)—During the first half of 1928 Portuguese match factories turned out 1,782,408,000 matches or 13,000,000 boxes. Efforts of a match trust to secure a long term monopoly have failed because the government is bound with two native companies which hold rights bordering on monopolies.

## GIVE Evergreens For Christmas

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Dinner Menu — 75c
- SOUP  
Chicken Broth-Rice  
Fruit Salad, Marshmallow  
CHOICE OF  
Roast Young Oregon Turkey, Cranberry Sauce  
Fried Belgian Hare, Country Gravy  
Baked Young Capon, Raisin Dressing  
Fillet of Sole - a la Tartare  
Roast Prime Ribs of Beef, au Jus  
Snowflake Potatoes Buttered New Turnips  
Tea Biscuits  
DESSERT  
Homemade Peach Cobbler, Whipped Cream  
Mocha Cake a la Mode  
Black Walnut Ice Cream—Cranberry Sherbet  
DRINKS  
Coffee - Tea - Milk

## Come to San Francisco

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San Francisco's Popular Priced Hotel  
GENERAL SERVICE  
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## Acremeter

Takes all the guesswork out of tube testing

Free Tube Testing Bring In Your Old Tubes NOW!

You wouldn't drive your car with a flat tire! Why use your radio with a flat tube?

No Guessing Watch It Work! Absolutely Accurate

FREE CARTONS provided for carrying your old tubes—Get it at PALMER'S and save the service call charge.

Good tubes mean less noise—Clearer tone and more distance—The only Acremeter in Medford is at this store!

# Palmer Music House

"We Sell Happiness"

## CARP, GOOD LUCK FOOD OF GERMANY

Year's dinner is carp. Cooked in white wine or brown beer, carp will appear on almost every dinner table.

It is widely believed that scales taken from a carp killed on New Year's eve, if put in one's pocket, will insure an abundance of cash throughout the year.

**Berlin, Dec. 20.—(P)—**Flanckuchen, "punsch" and carp are the three essentials for any German New Year's celebration.

"Flanckuchen" are something like doughnuts, but without a hole and filled with jam. "Punsch" is a hot drink generally made from the red wine well spiced and sugared.

But the leading item for New

Year's dinner is carp. Cooked in white wine or brown beer, carp will appear on almost every dinner table.

It is widely believed that scales taken from a carp killed on New Year's eve, if put in one's pocket, will insure an abundance of cash throughout the year.

**Japanese Like City Life**

TOKYO, Dec. 20.—(P)—Japanese prefer crowded city life to living in the few open spaces left in the islands, 1929 census returns indicate.

Reports show that while the population of Hokkaido, the relatively undeveloped northern island of Japan, has increased only 13.4 per cent since 1929, the combined populations of the six largest cities of the empire have grown by 22.4 per cent.

Carbon forms more compounds than any one of the other ninety-two elements.

Exports to Latin America through the customs district of New Orleans reached \$108,428,921 in 1929, a new record.

Dallas, Texas, has spent \$16,000,000 harnessing the Trinity river to prevent floods and to solve a major traffic problem.

Because African red ants do not have a taste for American rubbish that wood is in demand for building in Africa.

## WILLIAM H. JOHNS

President  
Batten, Barton, Durstine & Osborn, Inc.

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Trained auditors from the Bureau, once in each twelve-month period, audit the circulation records at the publication office—verify or correct every item covered by the publishers' statements.

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