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# WHAT'S GOING ON

**NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS** 

Four Aviators Make Flight Across Pacific Ocean in Three Big Hops.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD CALIFORNIA to Australia by al plane in three hops! For the first time the Pacific ocean has been traversed by the air route, the great feat being accomplished by two Aus-tralians, Capt. Charles Kingsford-Smith, war ace, and Charles T. P. Uim, and two Americans, Harry W. Lyon and James Warner. Their machine was the monoplane Southern Cross, once used unsuccessfully in the Arctic regions by Captain Wilkins.

In constant communication with the nainland and with vessels by radio, the airmen made the flight to Hawaii without much trouble. The worst part of the trip was the next hop, nearly 3,200 miles to the Fiji islands, and during this they ran into repeated storms that were most skillfully dodged by Kingsford-Smith, the chief pilot. This was the longest overseas flight ever made, and if they had been forced down before reaching Suva the only possible places to light without disaster were two coral atolls in the Phoenix group 1,866 miles from the starting point in Hawail. As is was they landed safely at Albert park, Suva, with only 30 gallons of gas left in the tanks, having made the hop in 34 hours and 38 minutes. Whites and natives of Fiji joined in giving the fiyers a rousing welcome. After a brief rest the plane was flown to Naselai beach for the take-off for Brisbane, Australia, 1,762 miles away, the route taking the airmen through a region of frequent storms, south of the Loyalty islands and New Caledonia. From Brisbane they were to fly to Sydney, 500 miles to the south.

Sydney newspapers printed the re-port that Captain Kingsford-Smith was on the brink of insolvency and started a campaign to raise a fund for him. When the trans-Pacific flight originally was planned Kingsford-Smith sought the aid of the Australian government and it was promised. Advance payments purchased the plane and the fiyer came to the United States. There followed the disastrous Dole flight from Oakland to Honolulu in which seven lives were lost. The Australian government withdrew its support and urged Kingsford-Smith to return home. He refused and con-tinued plans for the California-to-Australia flight on limited resources and finally obtained backing from Allen Hancock, millionaire oll man of Los Angeles. But even with this backing the fiyer faces financial ruin.

During the week there were reports based on alleged radio messages, that Nobile and the dirigible Italia were on Franz Josef land east of Soltzbergen. Search for the missing explorers was continued by the steamship Hobby, by Lientenant Holm, Norwegian aviator, y parties of Alpine chaseeurs The Italian department of aeronautics was in communication with Captain Wilkins, hoping to induce him to join in the hunt by air.

diana or Sepator Charles Curtis of Kansas would make a good vice presidential nominee. Some Hooverites es-pocially favored Watson for second place, figuring his nomination would pull the stinger of the corn belt."

Farmer cruesders of the regions surrouding Kansas City were preparing to move on the convention city in con-siderable numbers, by automobile and train, and many of them wore badges on which was printed this amended version of the Hoover slogan: "Who but Hoover? Anybody."

A CCORDING to the partial report A of the senate campaign fund com-mittee, total expenditures in behalf of the various Presidential candidates to date have been only \$731,087. Of to date have been only statust. Of this sum the Hoover expenditures have been \$380,822. Frank O. Lowden is credited with having spent \$60.-922.90. The committee found \$579.56 has been collected and expended by supporters of Vice Presiden the Dawes. The expenses of Governor Smith of New York, leading Demo-Dawes. cratic aspirant, were \$121,471.04. Col-lections to the Smith fund amounted to \$120,911.40. . The Reed preconver tion campaign fund amounted to \$41.-430.64. His expenditures are listed at \$38,752.79.

GEN. JOHN J. PERSHING made a rush trip from Paris to Cherbourg and jumped aboard the Levlathan for the United States, and both in New York and in France the report was circulated that he was called home hurriedly by friends who were starting boom for him as a dark horse can didate for the Republican nomination for President.

MARSHAL CHANG TSO-LIN, Northern war lord, gave up his dictatorship and abandoned Peking to the Nationalists. With his household he fied to Manchuria and just as his train reached Mukden it was bomb presumably by Nationalist agents Some soldiers were killed and Chang himself was so badly injured that his

recovery was considered doubtful. The Nationalist troops gradually occupied Peking while forces left by Chang and those of the foreign legations strove to prevent disorder. Gen eral Hsi-shan, for years known as the lel governor of Shansi province. was appointed garrison commander of the Peking-Tientsin area and at once began the work of reconstruction and development. The Nationalist government asked the immediate evacuation of American troops from Tientsin where the United States has maintained part of a regiment since the Boxer rebellion. In Washington it was stated that our government could not comply with the request at once.

PASSING upon two cases arising in the state of Washington, the Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that evidence of prohibition vio-lations obtained by wire tapping is admissible in a criminal proceeding and that a conviction resulting from such evidence is not a violation of the constitutional guarantee against "un-reasonable search and seizure." The question was decided by a five to four

ion that Senator James Watson of In- | New York federal courts. Also writs of attachment against any property held by or for Blackmer were filed with 22 companies or individuals, in-cluding all financial institutions in which Blackmer is believed to have accounts. In New York city they were also served upon hanks with which he did business. did business.

Only a part of the tax, interest and penalties assessed against the oil man was understood to be for his alleged profits in the Continental Trading com-

ITHUANIA'S assertion, in her re-L cently adopted new constitution, that Vilna is the capital of the country was denounced before the League of Nations council by Poland when the council opened its fiftleth session in Geneva. Foreign Minister Zaleski submitted a copy of his note of protest to Kovno in which he asserted this could only envenom the Polish-Lithuanian relations. Lithuania's claim, he said, had no juridical foundation as Poland's rights over Vilna were definitely established by the Vilna and Polish diets and by the ambassadors' conference in 1924. It was not believed this session of the council would do much business as both Briand of France and Stresemann of Germany were absent on account of lliness.

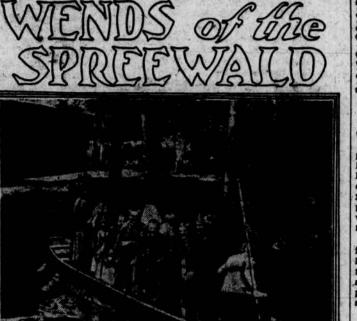
VIENNA received reports, seemingly authentic, that Ahmed Bey Zogu, President of Albania, was getting ready to proclaim a monarchy with himself as the king. He has had a stormy career, fighting with the Dem-ocrats and Liberals and once being wounded by an assassin. In Decem-ber, 1924, he led a successful revolt against Bishop Noll's rule and next month was appointed President by the national assembly. He is only thirty-four years old and besides being President has held the offices of premier and commander in chief of the na-

tional forces. DREMIER MUSSOLINI took a good

deal of wind out of the sails of his detractors by the restraint of his annual address before the Italian senate. His hearers were especially in-terested in what he might say about the threatening situation in the Balkans, but the Duce cut out all violent talk and made a plain offer of friend-ship to Yugo-Slavia. Then dismiss-ing the ides of enmity, he declared Italy could not wait forever for Yugo-Slavia to settle its domestic problems, and warned that treatles would be up good anyway if a friendly, moral atmosphere between the two peoples was not developed. He ridiculed the pre-diction made by a former Yugo-Slav ninister that war soon would break out between the two countries, end-ing with a peace signed at Venice. He had nothing to say concerning the dis-putes with Austria about Upper Adige.

but announced that a treaty would soon be signed with France that would settle all outstanding differences he-tween the French and Italians.

Mussolini spoke at some length bout the astonishing growth of the United States in wealth and world power. He said he had no complaint to make against American immigra-tion restrictions and the Italian quota,



Wend Children on Way to School by Boat.

loaded on sleds.

Eels and Cucumbers,

in the songs and traditions of this

would be like a chicken farm without

And the eels, gastronomically, are mated for life with the cucumbers !

These glant cucumbers, deadly green in shade and wickedly curved

like scimitars, threaten you at every turn. Cucumbers in heaps on the river banks; punts piled high with cu-

cumbers being poled to market at

Burg or Cottbus; men, women and children plucking, peeling, packing or

eating cucumbers, or asleep on plies

Even the huge cherry ples, delicious

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.) many canals, look from a distance as if they were sliding curiously about the country driven by some unseen ONG ago, when the Goths Inid

waste to western Europe, 8 small band of half-wild fugitive In winter the whole waterway net hid for safety in the great swamps near the Oder-that low, flat, of the Spreewald is frozen over and becomes a veritable spider web of icy lanes and avenues. Then the Wend wears special iceshoes, with his skates built fast to them. Aided by a light ten-foot pole with a sharp spike in one and the Summer des fildes wooded region known now as the Spreewald. The Wends, this odd fragment of a lost tribe call themse and to this day they are hiding there in this Spreewald swamp. Clannish one end, the Spreewalder glides easily about his ice-bound colony, not isolated, and happlest when left alone, they are concerned not at all with the for pleasure, but for speed and con-venience. Then, too, all burdens that are carried by boat in summer are

rise and fall of nations around them. Though in Germany, the Wends are not of it. Even the Germans them-selves look on this lost tribe more as curious specimens of an ancient race than as a part of their citizen body. They are Slavs.

Probably 1,500 years have pe since the Wends first colonized in this great swamp, and saliled forth, led by their pagan kings, to kidnap children and to plunder food in what is now singular community. A Spreewald swamp home without its eel traps Poland and Germany. Today only a few thousand of the tribe remain; but through all these centuries they have chicken coops. Whether you like stewed eel or not, you can't sit down clung tenaciously to their own odd speech, their social forms and super-stitions; and, except for a few of their in a tiny Spreewald restaurant with-out buying one; it simply isn't done! queerly clad girls, who sometimes go to Berlin as nursemaids, the Wends dom quit their Spreewald haunts.

Yet, content as he is with his ee traps and cucumber patch, his hay field and cherry trees, the wary Wend will drive a sharp bargain with outsiders who come trading for his carved novelties, his wooden shoes and dishes, his smoked eels, and the cucumbers of his island gardens.

of them, are always in the summer Stranger than his diet of eels and picture. You wonder the whole world cucumbers, however, and stranger even than his hermitlike seclusion, is could consume such uncounted tons and not succumb to international inthe unique plan of the Spreewalder's digestio village and his method of getting about. The Spree river, rising down near the old Bohemian frontier, flows as they are, fairly overwhelm you by their stupendous size. Throughout the region big, broad-mouthed clay ovens. up through Saxony into Brandenburg and splits here into hundreds of brooks and canals whose watery netbuilt apart from the houses, are baking these ples, and as you gilde along the canals on a still day the work lies all over the Spreewald retion and forms thousands of tiny forest air is laden with their appeislands. The ancient village of Let.de, tizing odor. built 1,400 years ago, literally covers whole group of these islands, each individual house standing on a tiny isle all its own.

SILAS APPRECIATED HIS PAL

CILAS ADOLPHUS PETERKIN S followed by his faithful, hungry-eved wife, climbed slowly to the rocky slope leading to the most picturesque stream in their vicinity. His hand grasped the fishing rod firmly as though in preparation of a good day's catch. "I hate to bother the frisky little fellers, Belindy," he said pleasantly. "I wouldn't ketch 'em if we didn't get hungry way up here in these high mountains. Belinda, received his usual outburst

in silence; somehow she didn't feel like talking today; it seemed so good to have Silas home again, although she felt proud when the big prospectors of the country employed him as their guide.

as their guide. When they reached the brow of the slope Silas halted for a silent ap-proval of the valley below. He loved these mountains and he wasn't ashamed of the sentiment he felt. He knew them from ridge to ridge, every anow-capped peak, each precipitous chasm. He was the inspiration of the tourists. Many an excursion he had conducted in safety to some perilous place of wonder in the range, many more had declined because of Belindu; it wasn't fair that she should take all her pleasures second-handed. He spent hours telling her stories of the great world outside. She had never been away from these mountains, they had shut her in until she had almost ceased to think of anyone but Silas. "Some day," Slias constantly told himself, "I'm going to take Belindy some place; I don't know where." As they climbed up and again hurried on

he glanced toward her contentedly. linda," he told her, "I get more out Eels, cucumbers and cherry ples as of livin' than I guess most folks do.' big as prayer-rugs figure in all feasts Belinda held up one foot as though loath to take another forward step. in these Spreewald Swamps. The Spreewald cel, slim and slip-pery, smoked or stewed, is enshrined "Life is like this rocky road,"

contributed. "You ain't seen life," he hastened to console her. "I can't somehow ever get enough money to take you into it—the cities where there's music and folks smile because they know things."

"You better rest a while now, hadn't you, Silas? We can set right here on this rock."

Silas drew himself up in the strength of his spirit, his long, lithe body, the picture of the freedom he feit. "Me take an old-age tonic? Jerushy's king-dom! No-sir-ee," he cried as he caught her up in his arms and hurried on down the hill. /

"There, now, I knew when you pu on that red necktle this mornin' you'd keep on goin'," she managed to exclaim. "Set me down this minute Silas Peterkin. You're too old to cut up like that, besides wearin' red ties like a boy." Instantly her thought recurred to a string of blue beads which lay in tempting display in the window of Andrew's store. Mebbe she'd dress up and feel flighty if they ever had the money to spend. She had to pass the store with her eyes closed now; the beads were the keen est temptation she had ever known.

you never yell when I allo and fall

"No, I don't yell. I don't suppose I'd make a fass if the world should come to an end (which it ain't never goin' to do, in the way they say it will). I'd just sit and wait, Some

will). I'd just sit and wait, Some good is bound to come to everybody it they'll just be sure to wait." She was :. pathetic figure as she sat in the center of the huge bowlder, her hands crossed placidly in her lap. Presently she pushed her straw bom-net back from her face, then took it off and laid it on the bowlder at her side. Even a wreath of pink romes would never make that bounds strike side. Even a wreath of pink romes would never make that bonnet stylish. She had made up her mind to that. Some day she had hoped to dress up and look like other folks. Slias was used to folks who dressed in pretty clothes. He rode with them in their cars. Their names suited him, too,

the supposed. He was a great man, they thoug Mebbe he was. She loved him, but she didn't know what a great man was like. He knew all about scenery, but she was plum tired of so the liked the cities and the big lpgs he brought home to her on po cards. She couldn't expect to kn much in this little mountain town. She ought to be able to talk to Silas as

the folks he took sightseein' talked. Back in town chey heard the big clock on the postoffice strike four. Silas put the last trout in the basket and wound up his reel. He was think-ing of the home which he enjoyed to the fullest extent of his nature; the screened-in porch with pots of red geraniums scattered about; the kitch n floor all covered in blue and white olicioth; a pretty soom where Belinds loved to cook. All the townsfolk said she was the best cook in Trentville. Well, he'd second that motion.

Well, he'd second that motion. Belinds put on her bonnet as she saw him coming. She would lean on Silas' arm going home. Then tomor-row or the next day or mebbe the next some one would come for him and he would be gone again; not long trips, but he'd be gone. She'd put on extra fixings tonight—the silced beets round the adapt. round the edge of the blue platte that had belonged to her mother, the tablecloth with crocheting on the edge

It was two days later that an old magnate came. Did Silas know of a good cook, a woman of good appear-ance and worth. They were to start that very night for California, Bella-da clasped her hands. California I Silas had never been in California I A good cook? That request sent be into the house to her own quiet room "Would I be a woman of good app ance if I had on them beads?" thought. "Would Silas let her got" Seating herself in her rocker, she rocked back and forth. The men had gone for more gasoline. She was safe; no other cook in town could please Mr. Gower. She'd cooked trout for him time and again. "Mebbe be was hintin' to Silas that he wants m to go," she mused as she rose an took down her bonnet from the shelf. "Mebbe he didn't like to ask right out loud. Now, Lindy Peterkin, you go this minute, and buy one of them blue floatin' vells to cover this bonnet and to match your blue beads. They're yours, now, cause you've got the oney you earned yourself to 'pay for 'em, and don't you come back

empty-handed again." ..... .t was the third day out that Be-

SO FAR as the Republican national committee was concerned, Herbert Hoover was given nearly all the contested Southern delegates in the hear ings conducted at Kansas City. The contests, however, it was stated would be carried before the committee on credentials and possibly before the convention. In the committee hearings the secretary of commerce won 65 out of 73 contested delegates, his most impressive victory being in the case of Texas in which he gained the catire delegation. By conservative re delegation. By conservative ter of Hoover votes to 472, the ma stary to nomination being ority necessary to nomination being 45. The experts then figured that Mellon with his 79 Pennsylvania delesates could put Hoaver across the line if he chose to do so. The con-tast for the South Carolina delegation, which was for Lowden, was withdrawn by the Hooverites.

Among the politicians gathered in Kernes City many expressed the opin-

#### John D. Rockefeller Highest on Tax List

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., has be come the heaviest individual taxpayer in the United States, the tax as

in the United States, the tax assess-mens maps of Greenburgh and Mount Pleasant townships show. These maps, opened for public in-spection for the first time, show that Mr. Rockefeller is assessed for \$5,588, 050 worth of property on the basis of an average rate of \$25 per thousand. According to estimate, be will pay

ruling. Chief Justice Taft wrote the majority opinion. Justices Holmes and Brandeis, in dissenting opinions, scath-ingly denounced the placing of judicial ingly denounced the placing of judicial sanction upon the commission of a crime to detect crime. Justice Butler also filed a dissenting opinion and Justice Stone announced he concurred with the views of Justices Holmes, Brandels and Butler.

In holding wire tapping did not amount to a search and seizure with in the meaning of the fourth amend-ment to the Constitution, Chief Jus-tice Taft said that while this amendment might have a proper application to a sealed letter because of the conto a sealed letter because of the con-stitutional provision for the Post Of-fice department and because such a letter is in the possession of the gov-ernment it could not apply to communication by wire.

UNCLE SAM proposes to get a lot of money from Henry M. Black-mer, the wealthy Denver oll operator fied to France to avoid the Teawho fied to France to avoid the Tea-pot Dome inquiry. Income taxes; in-terest and penalties aggregating \$5.-498,935 have been assessed sgainst him and tax liens filed in Denver and

plies police and fire-protection, makes all road improvements and supplies

his own water on the vast estate lo-

cated in these communities. The assessment, however, is \$100,-

100 in excess of the assessment last year, although Mr. Rockefeller recent-ly donated 100 acres of ground to the Wischester county park commission.

though deploring the reasons which prompted that legislation. "As for the naturalized Americans of Italian origin," he continued, "they are Ameri-can citizens and therefore foreigners so far as we are concerned. We limit ourselves to hoping they will continue to be proud of their Italian

origin." A TLANTIC CITY having abandoned its annual beauty contest, the "international pageant of pulchritude" held in Galveston attracted the atten-

tion of those who enjoy such affairs. Selected beauties from many states and a number of foreign countries sathered in the Texas city, and paraded along the sea wall. Mire Ella Van Hueson, the entrant from Chicago, was first chosen as "Miss America," and then, being adjudged the most pulchri-tudinous of the whole lot, was crowned "Miss Universe." She is twenty-two years old. tall and elender, with dark brown hair. The other prize win-ners in their order were the girls from France, Italy, Colorado, West Vir-ginia, Canada, Luxembourg, Ohio, San Antonio and Tuisa

Town officials pointed out that Mr Rockefeller had added during the last these two townships and the villages of Tarrytown and North Tarrytown year more than 400 acres opposite the Rockwood Ball country club to his about \$137.000. For this money Mr. Rockefeller will demand little in return, for he sup-

Pocantico Hills estate. They also pointed out that the Bockefeller holdings were assessed at about one-third their market value i' they were cut into plots for develop

The mansion built and occupied by John D. Rockefeller. Sr., ip assessed for \$975,000 and the smallest parcel of land is assessed for \$250.

Their Streets Are Streams So, instead of having streets and aldewalks like any normal town, a spreewald village is served entirely by these crooked water streets, Every family has at least one boat, and in summer the boat is the street car, so to speak; and there are lines of public bonts, poled by statwart mover regulation that run on schedule time over regulad "Grobla." lar routes and loops called "Grobia All along these water streets there are signboards that greet you and point the way to various settlements But instead of saying "two miles. for example, to such or such a place the sign says "two hours," as all dis asured by the time it takes tance is me to pole to a place.

Some phases of this novel amphibious life seem almost absurd to a visit-ing American. The American boy, whether he is fourteen or forty, gets a thrill from a brass band and a street parade-and so does the youth of the Spreewald. But we have distinctly erican ideas about the correct un form a brass band should wear, and we insist that a street parade shall march in the street. But the Spree wald form of celebration is wholly different. Here the members of the band dress in long black, funeral-look-ing coats and two-quart bowler hats; and, instead of marching, they squat in a flat boat, the bass drummer in

the stern pounding away as the boat is poled along the canal !

The country here is too low and wet for grain, but wild hay is cut in abun-dance. A platform of piles is raised dance. A platform of piles is raised high above the swampy ground, and on this the baystack is built. Boatloads of bay, moving through the

angels in knee skirts and bare legs, push and pull the pies about in the ovens with ten-foot ooles, rausing now and then to recrack some old bucolic joke with a near-by Spreewald swain busy slicing cucumbers or skinning an eel. Tourists by thousands from near-by

cities flock to this quaint nook of Europe in summer; and then the Wend cashes in his cucumbers, his eels and cherry ples, reaps a rich harvest from his oddly carved wooden geese and dolis, and takes toll for poling lovers and sightseers up and down the laby-rinth of water lands dividing the Spreewald into a thousand charming green isles. Here, too, all kinds of so-cieties and bunds come for their outings, many walking clubs of school boys and girls coming from as far away as Berlin and Leipzig.

#### Superstition Still Rife.

Slaves still to some ancient super stitions, the Wends carve crude wood en figures of beasts, birds and fishes and mount them on the gables of their humble huts. These images, they say. keep off evil spirits and disease and bring good luck.

Some of these old Wendish super-stillons, dating back maybe 1,500 years, find their counterparts today in many rural American communities For example, the Wends say that a crowing hen must be killed or she will bring bad luck. Another Wendish belief common among other races is that when a man dies a window should be opened, so that his soul may take its flight.

Glory," he called that one. He had his own name for them all. Presently his arms crept down to Belinda's shoulders. He clusped her close for a moment, her head drooping dumbly on his breast. Grandeur and beauty surrounded them. He felt the strength of it. She was accustomed to scenery. All she wanted was Silas and the string of blue beads.

"You're a regular pal," he said, kindly, as they continued their walk down the bill. "I've 'seen wantin' to ask why under the canopy of heaven did they call you Belindy, a mite of a woman like you?"

Belinds caught her breath. Silas was finding her amiss. He didn't like her name. She was a woman who loved peace and she wouldn't strike back at him. He wouldn't knowingly hurt a fly. The name Silas was a poor substitute for Arthur or "Reginald; how she wished she could call him her Reginald. She smiled up into his face. "Mebbe they thought the name Belindy was pretty." she finally said, "or mebbe they didn't care; T bein" still another girl, when they wanted a boy so bad. You might call me Bee or Lindy; there ain't to sting in Belinda caught her breath. Siles Bee or Lindy; there ain't no sting in Lindy."

"Ain't many wives know what it means to be a good pal," he praised her, as he made his way to the bank of the stream, which sparkled and danced along in a most inviting fash-ion. "Never mind names, Lindy, never mind names."

"I suppose I'll have to sit on that big bowder while you wade up and down," she answered. "Just lookin' at you"keeps me contented."

"Not many wives would be so en-

Silas' arms were flung out to the linda reall, dared to taik when Silas highest peak of the range. "Old came to the back seat again to keep her company. Mr. Gower had been kinder in his praise of her cooking than usual when she had fried the potatoes and trout along the way; he had sent his man back to make her more comfortable with cushions. He had given her the first box of "New York candy" she had ever owned, and when they stopped at the cities and towns she was to eat in

the big botels; but the cause of the silence which had possessed her which filled her heart with unspeak. able joy, brought forth such an out-burst of gratitude that Silas was amazed. "If you wasn't a great man, Silas Peterkin, Mr. Gower wouldn't ever have asked you to manage his big pl.ce in California, and we live right there,"

"And if I didn't have a good pal to help me keep up the appearances, Lindy," he answered, "I'd never have accepted the honor my employer stowed."

#### His Only Hope

Barber-Hair getting pretty thin on top, sir. Can I interest you in a re-

storer? Customer-No; let it fail out and be hanged! I'm too old to be hand-some, and my only hope of looking intellectual is to become baldheaded. -Boston Transcript.

#### She Knew It

A little miss of four years was slt-ting on her sunt's ing, when mudden-iy the aunt leaned down and gave her a big hug, saying: "My, but you're sweet!" The little miss complecently raised her big blue ayes to her sumfore face and replied: "That's what they all think."

reewald If it thunders during a Sp wedding every one is very unhappy. for this is a bed omen.

Make a wish when you see a shoot-