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News Review of Current Events the World Over

Explosion Kills More Than 600 Children in Texas Rural School—Justice McReynolds' Rebuke to Critics of Supreme Court.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

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THE east Texas oil field was the scene of the worst school disaster in history. The London Consolidated rural school, a few miles north of Henderson, was demolished by a tremendous gas explosion and more than 600 children and their teachers were killed.

The horror that followed wrought such confusion that Gov. James V. Allred declared martial law in the vicinity of the school, and ordered National Guard troops to the scene. He previously had ordered all state highway patrolmen in the area to proceed there.

President Roosevelt, hearing at Warm Springs about the horrible disaster, was most distressed and urged the Red Cross "and all of the government agencies" to stand-by and render every assistance possible. Albert Evans, flood disaster head in Little Rock, Ark., and his staff rushed to the stricken Texas town, and all communities within reach gave aid to the extent of their capacity.

The blast smashed to bits the main structure of the educational plant that was termed the largest rural school in America and the richest in the world.

About 740 children and 38 teachers were in the building at the time and nearly all who were not killed outright were injured. Of the latter it was believed many would not recover.

Fifty or more mothers of the young victims were attending a parent-teacher association meeting in the school gymnasium, a separate building, when the explosion came, sending the mangled bodies of their sons and daughters flying through the air. The women raced to the wrecked structure with screams of agony and tore at the ruins with their bare hands.

For a few minutes after the roof caved in, leaving jagged remnants of wall standing like the ruins of a medieval castle, flames shot out above the wreckage. But the building was of fireproof construction and the blaze, having almost nothing to feed upon, soon died out.

W. C. Shaw, superintendent of the school, whose son was one of those killed, had just left the building.

"I was standing about fifty feet away from the building when the explosion came," he said. "There wasn't much noise. The roof just lifted up, then the walls fell out and the roof fell in. It was all over in a minute, no, less than that, half a minute. It's unbelievable."

Highway police, National Guardsmen and workers from all the nearby oil wells managed to restore some semblance of order at the scene, roping off the campus and systematically carrying on the task of getting out the bodies of the dead.

From the oil well machine shops were brought acetylene torches to burn away the steel girders while trucks hauled on heavy iron chains, pulling the debris away from the building.

The great force of the blast was taken as proof that the disaster was caused by the ignition of natural gas which was used to heat the school plant. Unable, because of all the confusion, to ascertain the cause of the explosion, it was theorized that someone attempted to light a heater which accidentally had been left turned on.

The "wet gas" used, which comes from oil wells on the school campus, is odorless and so would have given no warning.

EVIDENCE of good sportsmanship is to accept the outcome when one has had a chance to present a fair case to a fair tribunal, said Associate Justice James C. McReynolds of the Supreme court in an extemporaneous talk at a fraternity banquet in Washington.



Justice McReynolds

It was the first time a member of the court had expressed his views on the relationship of the court to the government since the President made his proposal for packing the tribunal, and opponents of that plan were encouraged to hope other of the justices might be induced to appear before the senate judiciary committee and tell what they think of it. Justice McReynolds, who is seventy-five years old, has voted against the

MARRINER S. ECCLES, chairman of the Federal Reserve board, started something when he issued a warning against the dangers in inflationary price rises, which are due, he says, chiefly to foreign armament demands, strikes and monopolistic practices by certain groups in both industry and organized labor. He argued for continuance of low interest rates but said the budget should be balanced and taxes on incomes and profits should be raised, if necessary, "to sustain the volume of relief and at the same time bring the budget into balance and permit the paying down of public debt as private debt expands."



M. S. Eccles

The federal reserve system, said Mr. Eccles, "is powerless to maintain a stable economy unless other essential nonmonetary factors necessary to stability are brought into line either by private interests or by the government."

This statement, presumably made with the approval of Secretary Morgenthau and the knowledge of President Roosevelt, aroused a lot of talk in Washington and the administration leaders were discussing taxes and receipts. Generally they agreed that there will be no extensive tax change—merely a resolution in June extending for one year \$400,000,000 in "nuisance" levies. It may be the Eccles warning will serve to curb the demands of various department heads and congressmen for more huge appropriations.

POPE PIUS in a long encyclical condemned communism as "the ruin of family and society" and called on Christian employers everywhere to combat it by recognizing "the inalienable rights of the working man." He accused the communists of having played upon the susceptibility of the working classes with promises of alleviation of "many undeniable abuses."

THAT controversy between Mayor La Guardia of New York and the German Nazis degenerated into a riot of abusiveness on both sides. German Ambassador Luther again asked and received an apology from Secretary Hull after La Guardia had called Reichsfuehrer Hitler "satisfaktionsfähig"—a man without honor. And Mr. Hull politely expressed his weariness with the whole squabble. In Berlin Ambassador Dodd was telling Foreign Minister Neurath that the anti-American campaign in the German press should be stopped.

MADLINE LA FERRIERE, a beautiful Parisienne, stirred up a pretty scandal when she shot and slightly wounded Count Charles de Chambrun, former French ambassador to Italy. The young woman asserted the count had caused her to lose the love of a "great Italian" man of state whose affections she had won in recent interviews. She has made many trips to Rome, where she was received in diplomatic society, and is known to have been granted several interviews by Premier Benito Mussolini. Paris papers did not mention Mussolini, but the London Daily Mirror did not hesitate to say that he was the "great Italian" involved.

REMINGTON RAND, INC., large manufacturer of office equipment, was accused by the federal labor relations board of violating the Wagner-Connelly act and of using "ruthless" methods in trying to break the strike of 6,000 workers in six of its plants. The corporation was ordered to cease alleged interference with union activities of its employees; to bargain collectively with a majority of its workers; to reinstate strikers without discrimination and to withdraw support of so-called "company unions" in its Iliou, N. Y., and Middleton, Conn., plants.

WARSHIPS of Great Britain, France, Italy and Germany started the naval patrol along the coasts of Spain designed to isolate the civil war as provided for by the neutrality agreement entered into by 27 nations. The two latter nations are guarding the government coast and the two former the Fascist shore line. Ships going to Spain are required to halt at designated ports for inspection and agents of the international committee will either certify that no arms or volunteers are aboard, or will accompany the vessels to Spain.

THE Creusot works of the famous old Schneider armaments firm in France has been expropriated by the French government and formal possession will be taken by decree. Everything in the workshops and stores of the firm which has to do with the manufacture of arms—tools, machinery, and stocks—will be taken over.

They Won't Try This on a Winding Trail



A ski enthusiast at Plymouth, N. H., constructed this 40-foot pair of skis in hope of starting a new fad—ski-tobogganing. It works out swell if the party sticks to the straight trails.



SAMMY JAY SPREADS A FALSE REPORT

SOME people like to spread bad news. They would rather spread bad news than good news. It's queer, but it's so. Sammy Jay is that kind. He never seems so happy as when he is flying about through the Green Forest telling some dreadful news to everybody he meets. And this isn't the worst of it. He doesn't always tell the truth! He sometimes makes things out a great deal worse than they really are so as to make his story more



"Great News! Great News!" Screamed Sammy.

exciting. And so it often happens that Sammy spreads false reports. You know false reports are stories that are not true or only partly true.

Now, Sammy Jay had happened along just in time to see Farmer Brown's boy pick up poor Mrs. Grouse after he had broken the hard, icy crust that had made her a prisoner underneath. She had been so weak and worn out that she could only flutter feebly when he had set her free, and so he had picked her up and started for home

In Scotch Woolen



This Scotch woolen ensemble in blue and gray will be very fetching this spring. The sleeves of the jacket are ornamented with an embroidered dragon.

LOTS WORSE OFF

By DOUGLAS MALLOCH

SOME say, "Well, there are lots of others, too. Of others who are lots worse off than you." I cannot comprehend their cheerful whine: The grief of others is no balm for mine. Another's grief adds something to my own: I wish no other heart this hurt had known. No other mind had suffered this distress: Their loss makes mine the greater, not the less. The beggar's rags make no man's coat of gold, Or age's feebleness a man less old. The deeper sorrow of the open ground Is not a thing to hail with joyful sound. Whatever I may lose, if less or more, Another's loss adds nothing to my store. So tell me not, whatever you may do, "There are a lot a lot worse off than you." The grief that gloats will find but small relief By hiding it behind some greater grief. However poor another beggar is, If I have more, then half of it is his. However dark another mortal's mind, Then I should share whatever hope I find. Yes, say to me, "That is the thing to do, For there are others lots worse off than you." © Douglas Malloch—WNU Service.

THE LANGUAGE OF YOUR HAND

By Leicester K. Davis



The Overcautious Finger of Jupiter

FROM the preceding lessons we have learned that the first, or Finger of Jupiter, indicates the degree and kind of power and purposefulness of its possessor. We must look not only to the conformation of the finger but also to its position on the hand in order to arrive at accurate conclusions.

A forefinger which leans or crooks toward the finger next to it partakes of the qualities of that finger. The Finger of Jupiter which inclines toward it neighbor indicates that purpose is strongly controlled by reflective foresight. And the manner in which it inclines denotes the kind of foresight, whether studious, gloomy, optimistic or doubtful.

The Overcautious Finger of Jupiter.

Three outstanding characteristics mark this type of forefinger: (1) Shortness as compared with the length of the second finger; (2) prominence of the middle joint; (3) pronounced angularity of the inclination toward the second finger. The nail joint may be either squared or tapered, with a flat though sometimes sharply ridged nail deeply set. In fingers falling within this classification, the entire length may have a stiff resistant feeling under backward pressure.

When you encounter a forefinger of this type, you will make no mistake in placing its owner as a man or woman whose initiative is often stifled by an aversion to "taking chances." Conservatism which becomes unnecessary weighing of pro's and con's is very likely to keep such folk from the enjoyment of life which should otherwise be theirs.

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In the Log-Book A ship's log-book is the ship's diary, notes a writer in London Answers Magazine. In it are entered the rate of progress according to the log, hence its name, and all other particulars of the ship's course. In it also are entered all details of misdemeanors committed on board, and the punishment meted out. From this we get the expression, "to log a man," used in the sense of to fine him.

First Aid to the Ailing House

By Roger B. Whitman

RENOVATING A BATHROOM

BATHROOMS have been so greatly improved within the last few years that one of old style makes a whole house seem old-fashioned. The points that make a bathroom out-of-date are a bathtub on legs, a high-tank toilet, a wash-basin with a marble top or of old-fashioned design, plaster walls and a wood floor. The door of a bathroom of that kind is usually kept closed at all times, whereas a room of modern design is something to be proud of.

There is no great effort or expense in renovating an old bathroom and in giving it all of the beauty of modern design. A new toilet is built-in in a corner, which completely obviates the collecting of dust beneath and behind it. A built-in tub also permits the fitting of a wall shower, with the use of a curtain to confine the spray. A separate shower stall is preferred to a wall shower, and can often be built at the end of a tub, which thus has only one side open.

Of the new fixtures, the tub is the most expensive. When costs must be kept down, an old style tub can be built-in by removing the legs, wedging it in a corner, and surrounding it by a framework finished with tiles or other waterproof covering. When this is done, the wall surface must come well over the rounded rim of the tub, so that water, running down the walls, will drain into the tub rather than behind the rim.

The most usual finish for bathroom walls is a five-foot or six-foot wainscot of tiles, which are usually set on a concrete base laid on metal lath. Many substitutes for tiles are

MOPSY



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