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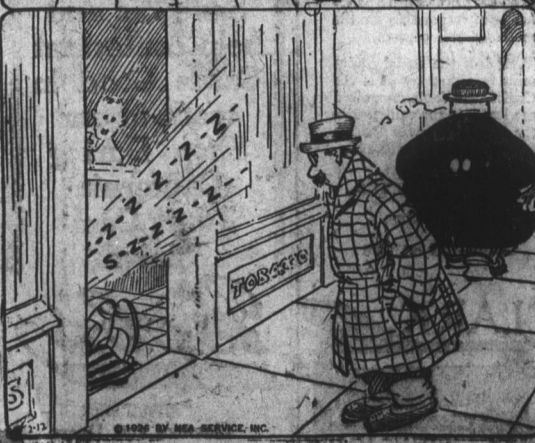
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Stewart's WASHINGTON LETTER

Colonel Mitchell Got What He Expected—And Wanted.
By CHARLES P. STEWART
NEA Service Writer

Washington, Feb. 11.—Although Congressman Frank R. Reid, Colonel "Billy" Mitchell's lawyer, issued a bitter denunciation of President Coolidge for his prompt approval of the court martial sentence against the colonel, it ought not to be assumed that Mitchell and Reid feel under anything but obligations to the president for not keeping them waiting.

Mitchell wants to begin eliminating again as soon as possible. So long as his case hung fire he couldn't do it.

Now his campaign's going to start in earnest.

The truth is the colonel and his legal advisor would have been dreadfully disappointed if there'd been any slip-up in the former's martyrdom.

This isn't to say that Mitchell is insincere, but he has a keen appreciation of the value of lots of publicity for himself, if he's to accomplish what he set out to accomplish.

He expected and wanted to be court-martialed all the time. He expected and wanted to be convicted. He wanted a severe sentence, too. That was one part of the program that worried him a little. What he feared was that his brother officers would say, "Well, you're guilty of insubordination, but you don't amount to enough so it matters much."

That's what they'd have gone if they'd used good judgment.

But the trouble is, a good many army officers take themselves very seriously. Instead of assuming a "shoo fly" attitude when Mitchell roasted them, they grew exceedingly sore about it, and returned to do something really savage to him.

The result was that they played right into his hand and now he's got 'em on toast, just as he hoped to do.

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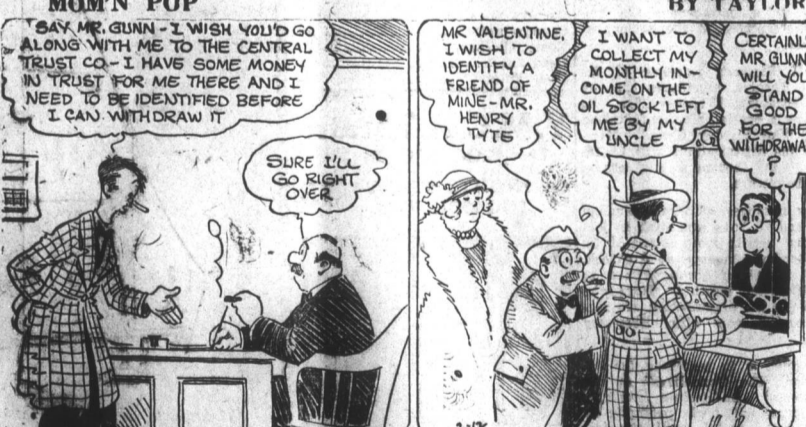
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