

This Week



By Arthur Brisbane

BRINGING CITIES CLOSER. THE OLD RIFF RUNNER. LIGHTNING AND OIL. MR. KINGSMORE'S CASE.

When Mussolini recently told the world he would cut railroad time between Naples and Rome five hours by tunnelling five mountains, it was suggested here that railroads between Chicago and California might do the same to the unnecessarily long running time between the Pacific and the Great Lakes.

Now lo and behold, the railroads have done it! The shorter running time begins in October, and west-bound travelers will save one entire day in California for business or sunshine.

Santa Fe, Union Pacific and Southern Pacific, making the cut in time simultaneously, are managed by able railroad men.

Cutting time means bringing cities closer, helping business, making men's lives longer. A recent cut in time between Seattle and all the Pacific Coast south set a good example.

Soon passenger-carrying flying machines will bring Chicago seven hundred miles nearer to New York and two thousand miles nearer the Pacific.

Bernard Shaw says Great Britain must take the coal fields, nationalize and operate them, thus cutting out the industrial cancer that causes so much trouble. "Britain's government must have the courage and the financial intelligence" to do this, says Shaw.

His suggestion will send a shudder through the rich coal mine owners, for he observes truthfully: "The mine owners themselves will supply money to buy their property, since what they get from the government will be taken from them by collectors of the income tax, the supertax on estates and duties."

How would high finance in America which sympathizes so sincerely with itself on the income tax question, feel if it were living in Britain?

Great is the endurance of man. No animal with four legs can do what man does with two legs. You read of the Riff warrior, sixty-seven years old, Hammouch Ben Hadgje, who ran seventy miles across the hot desert between sunrise and sunset, carrying a peace message to French headquarters.

Even more remarkable was the feat of an Irishman, nearing middle age, who in a six-day race in New York City ran more than 600 miles between Monday and Saturday and was subsequently elected mayor of Long Island City.

That tough Irishman in the six days could have run any race-horse in the world to death.

Lightning at Bakersfield, California, strikes and destroys 500,000 barrels of oil in a Standard Oil tank—made of steel, presumably.

Is there no way of stopping such waste? What about a coating of reinforced concrete on the sides of the metal tank, or a coating of cheap reclaimed automobile tire rubber covering the whole tank? And especially what about lightning rods? Are they a delusion? Was Franklin's idea worth nothing, and did the Frenchman Danton impose on the public when he peddled lightning rods before he took charge of the French Revolution?

Americans eat more sardines per capita than any other race, which is good for sardine men, bad for sardine eaters. If this country depended less on a can opener and more on good cooking it would be healthier. Canned food, including canned sardines, is a blessing, a convenience and an economy. But it should not take the place of competent cooking, and too often it does.

Mr. Kingsmore, of Maryland, convicted of knocking his wife down and repeatedly kicking her, is moderately described by the poor wife as acting "downright onery." The "onery" gentleman was sentenced to five blows with the cat-o-nine-tails on his bare back.

What do you think of that punishment. Is it too much or too little? For the wife beater, five hundred blows would be too few. There are nine-tails to a "cat," so the five blows will amount to forty-five stings.

Mussolini has had an Englishman put in jail for making remarks about him. Wonder what the dictator would do to an old-fashioned American political stump speaker who got on his trail?

The way the Aluminum Trust is gouging the public is indicated by the fact that you can now buy aluminum ware at the ten cent counter.

PREPARATIONS FOR EUCHARISTIC MEET

MUNDELEIN NEARLY READ

Gigantic Task of Building and Landscaping at St. Mary's of Lake Seminary Is About Finished

Preparations for the Eucharistic congress procession to be held at Mundelein June 24 are almost completed. The gigantic task of landscaping the 1200 acres on the grounds of the Seminary of St. Mary of the Lake and providing accommodations for more than 750,000 persons has employed hundreds for the past six months.

W. J. Lynch, vice-president of the Thompson-Starrett Co., was appointed director of construction by Cardinal Mundelein some months ago, and since that time men under his direction have completed the beautiful seminary pier and the five bridges over which the Eucharistic procession will pass.

Build City for Pilgrims Terraces, walls, miles of wooded roads, and statues have all been begun and completed in the last six months. Mr. Lynch and Joe W. McCarthy, the architect who designed the seminary, have planned a veritable city at the seminary for the vast numbers of pilgrims who will attend the congress.

A large altar, similar to the one now being erected in Soldiers Field for the congress, will be built at the entrance to the seminary chapel. Thrones for fifteen cardinals will flank the altar, and there will be a sanctuary large enough to seat 500 bishops and archbishops. From this altar, with the canopies and drapes of cloth of gold, the papal legate will bestow the benediction at the close of the congress.

Complete Grotto and Statue Decoration of a replica of the grotto of Lourdes is now being finished, and the stations of the cross have been installed in the little valley in which the grotto is located. A large bronze statue of the Blessed Virgin rises from a sixty foot shaft on the terrace before the chapel, and will be unveiled for the congress. Cardinal Mundelein's coat of arms in flowers

will be one of the many floral features prepared by the gardeners at the seminary.

STRYCHNINE POISON BAITS DO NOT HARM GAME BIRDS

The assumption that game birds may be killed by grain poisoned with strychnine and distributed to kill rodent pests has been found by the biological survey of the United States Department of Agriculture to be without foundation. Feeding tests have shown conclusively that the gallinaceous birds as a group, including quail, the prairie hen, sharp-tailed grouse, and sage grouse, possess a certain immunity from strychnine poisoning.

A striking test made several years ago in California, definitely proved that barley, poisoned according to the bureau's standard ground-squirrel formula in use in that state, had no effect on the abundance of the valley quail. These birds were plentiful and remained so in areas which were heavily poisoned. Not a single dead quail was found, nor were any observed showing symptoms of strychnine poisoning. Quail subsequently shot showed that they had been eating the barley to a limited extent. Some of the birds were captured and fed a poisoned mixture of barley. One adult quail ate 125 kernels of this poisoned barley in 24 hours with no sign of ill effects. This grain would have killed 12 ground squirrels.

More recent tests conducted substantiate the earlier experiments. Birds have eaten as much as 300 kernels of poisoned wheat without the

slightest evidence of ill effect. They did, however, indicate a strong dislike for the poisoned grain. Grain poisoned to kill rabbits had no effect on sage hens feeding in great numbers in corn and bean fields in Wyoming. It seems evident, therefore, that fears for the safety of game birds from strychnine-poisoned baits are not well founded.

Principal trouble on the roads nowadays is that the people are stepping on the gas when they ought to be stepping on the brakes.

American people urged to get more interested in politics, but they seem less interested in those who are running for office than in those who are running for buses.

Judging by the news from Poland, the capitol's name should be Sawwar rather than Warsaw.

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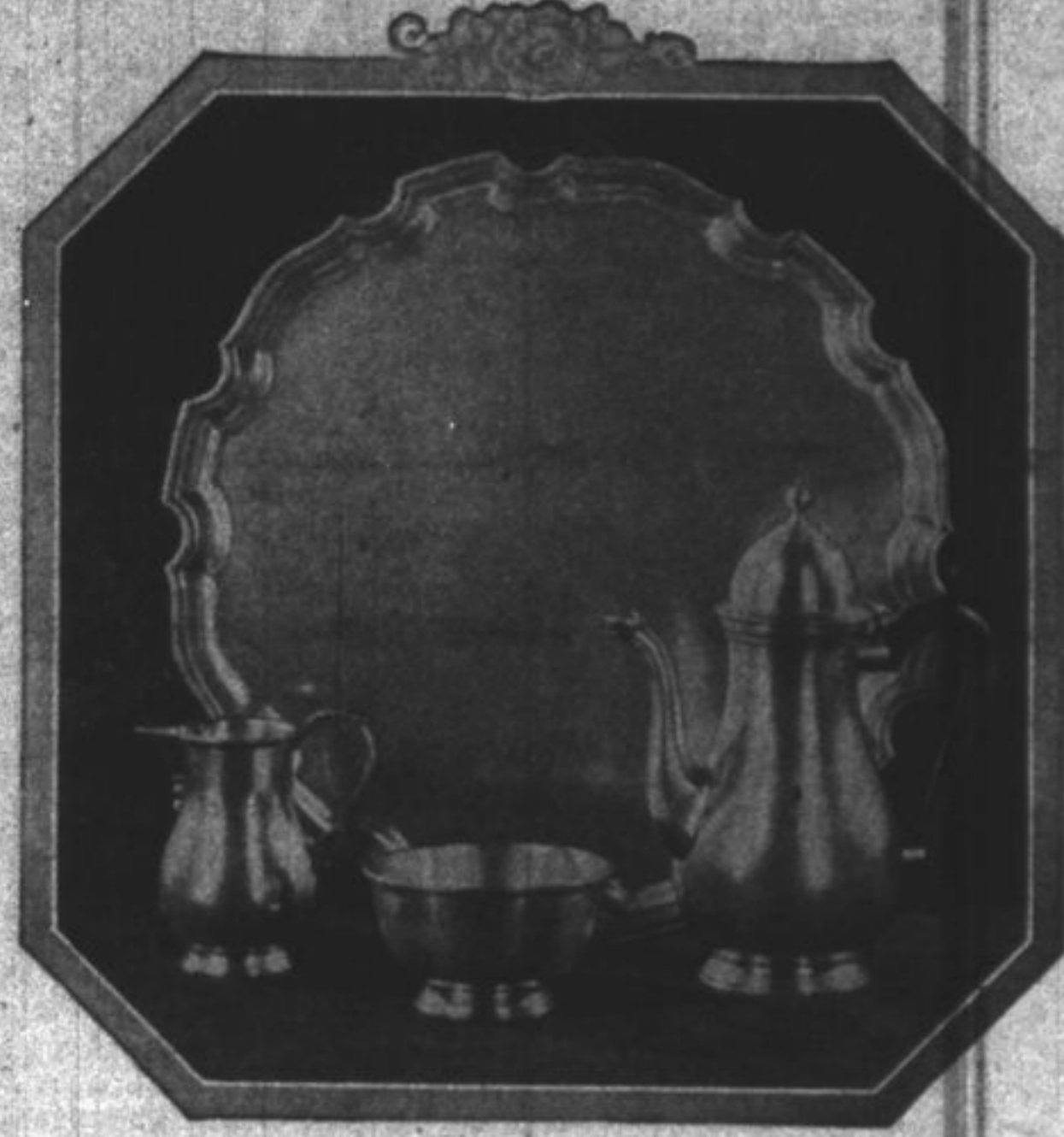
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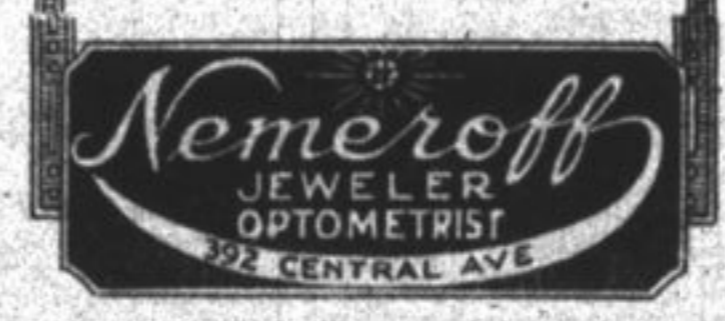
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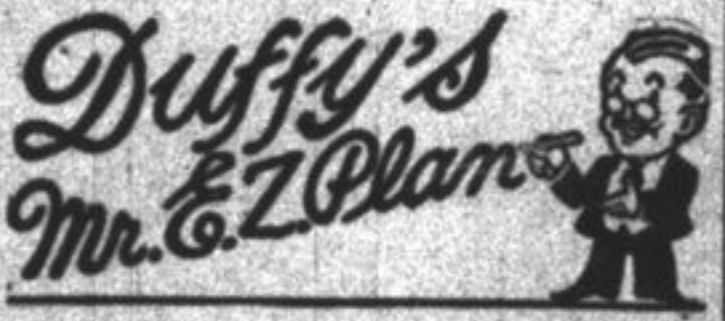


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