



SUN'S FARTHEST SOUTH

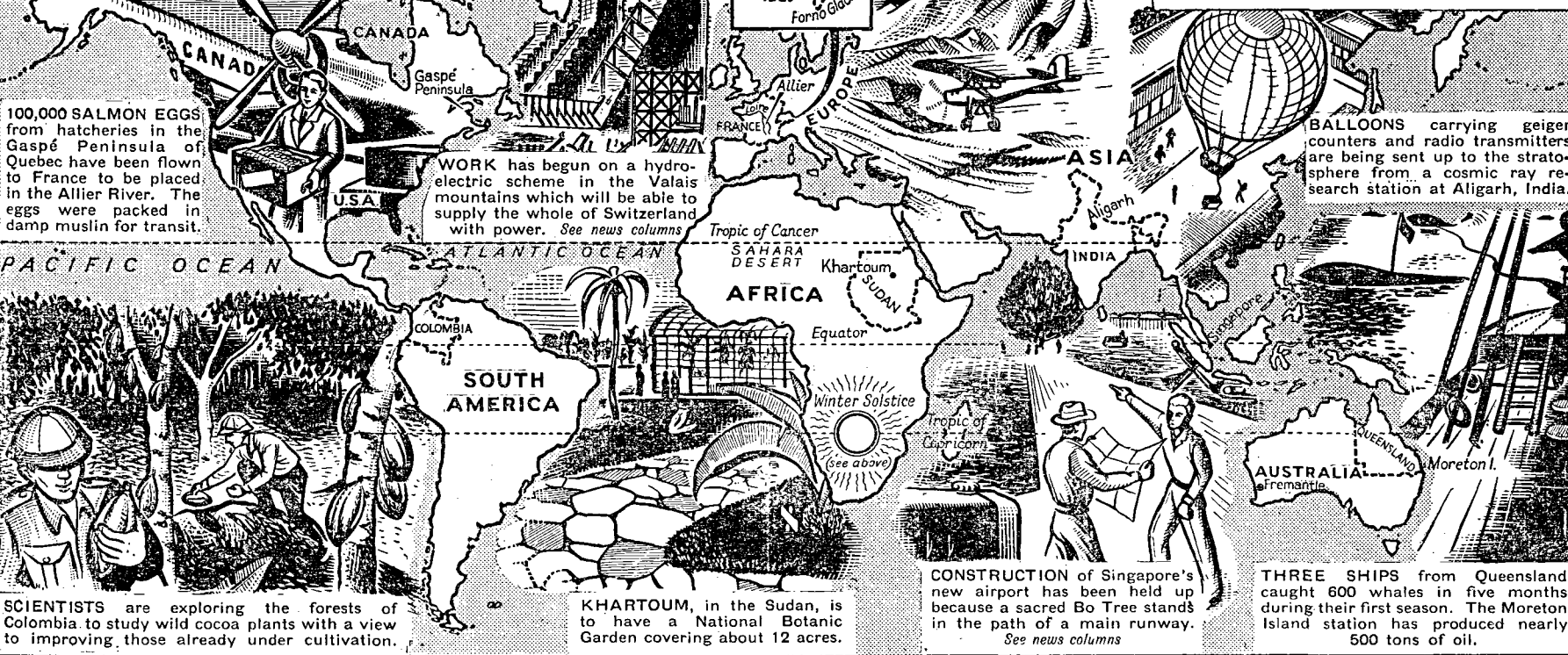
On December 21 the Sun reaches its extreme southern limit over the Tropic of Capricorn, and, as a few days pass before the Sun seems to move north again, it is called the Winter Solstice, or "sun stands still." December 21 is the longest day south of the Equator and the shortest day north of the Equator. The clocks above show time all over the world when it is 12 o'clock at Greenwich.

CN Picture-News and Time Map

FOR THE FIRST TIME a Swiss pilot has landed a plane with two passengers on the Forno Glacier at 8000 feet. He also made a successful take-off.

WELCOME WINDS

A cool health-giving wind which is known as the Fremantle Doctor, is now blowing on the hot coasts of south-west Australia. The Smokes, a cool wind that overlclouds the sky with fine dust from the Sahara, is now very welcome on the west coast of Africa. Warm westerly winds blowing on the western shores of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans keep these coasts free from ice in winter.



SACRED TREE ON THE RUNWAY

Construction of Singapore's big new airport has been held up because a 30-year-old Bo Tree, the fig tree sacred to Buddhists, stands on the line of a proposed 8000-foot runway. Eighty-feet high and three feet in girth, the tree is reputed to be a sapling of the Bo Tree in Bihar, India, under which Buddha sat for seven weeks in contemplation 2500 years ago. Engineers are planning how they can move it to a spot 200 yards away without killing it. See World Map

ADOPTED SHIPS

The crews of 1000 British merchant vessels can be sure of receiving at least one Christmas card this year. For already children in 900 schools through Britain are busy despatching Christmas cards, calendars, and gifts for their "adopted" ships. The scheme, run by the British Ship Adoption Society, is becoming more and more popular; another 80 schools are waiting to adopt ships as they become available. Children pay frequent visits to the docks to greet their ship on their return from overseas.

PUPPET PANTO

About 50 marionettes, three feet high, are being prepared in a North London studio for a puppet pantomime which is to open at the New Torch Theatre, Knightsbridge, on December 30. The pantomime is Cinderella, but the characters will include a Puss in a pair of balsa-wood Boots, five inches high, a White Poodle, dressed in fur and taffeta, who finds the Glass Slipper, a family of Teddy Bears, a Skeleton which comes to pieces and frightens Buttons in an attic, and a Black Cat. Ron and Joan Field have made the puppets and scenery in their studio in Highgate, helped by Jean Fox and Marion Corbett. A caste of young actors and actresses are being recruited for some of the speaking parts.

LEICESTER'S OLD TOWN WAITS

Every year during the six weeks before Christmas, four official town waits play carols and old ballads to the people of Leicester while most of them are in bed. By ancient law, they must not begin before the clock has struck the last note of midnight, and they must finish before dawn. The Leicester waits can be traced back to the 15th century, when there were only three players. Each wore a scarlet cloak, and around his neck hung a silver badge bearing the town's arms. They were paid by levies on the aldermen and councillors, and, in those days, their work continued throughout the whole year. During the night, their duties included calling-out the time and weather. In 1836 their badges and instruments were sold by the council, together with the official mace and other regalia. But the waits continued with their own instruments and without uniform, although each year they have to seek formal permission from the Lord Mayor on November 16.

POWER FROM SWISS GLACIERS

Work has started on a great new hydro-electric scheme in the Swiss mountains bordering the Rhône valley in the Canton of Valais. When completed, it will be able to supply the whole country with electricity. Water from 20 Alpine glaciers will flow along 80 miles of tunnels to a reservoir formed by a dam more than 900 feet high. The scheme will take 15 years to complete. See World Map

THIS KIND WORLD

Fifty crippled children at a hospital at Gringley-on-the-Hill, in Nottinghamshire, now spend many happy hours beside a television set, thanks to six girls who live in the village of Blyth, a few miles away. The girls started a fund to buy a T V set for the hospital, and soon had the full support of their grown-up friends. Whist drives, competitions, and sales were organised, and in seven weeks £119 was raised to buy and instal the set.

PANTOMIME ON ICE

Comic "animals" with necks 40 feet high will appear in Sleeping Beauty on Ice, which opens on December 18 at the Empire Pool, Wembley. Stars of the show will be Gloria Nord, the American ice ballerina, and Daphne Walker, who started skating when she was five and went on to win the British Amateur Skating title before turning professional.

STICKLEBACKS AT OXFORD

Forty live sticklebacks have travelled by air from the United States to Oxford. They are a gift from the New York Zoological Gardens to the Oxford University Department of Zoology, where the behaviour of these little fish is being studied. It is hoped that more of the fish will soon be sent over the Atlantic. Some 600 has been asked for.

EYE MAGNET

A British firm has just designed a small ophthalmic magnet for removing iron and steel particles from the eye. The magnet is said to be the best of its type; it weighs little, is easily held in the hand, and can be plugged into an ordinary household power point.

FOR YOUNG MALAYA

A college to train Malayan teachers has been officially opened at Kirkby, near Liverpool. It has 300 students of four races—Chinese, Malay, Indian, and Eurasian—and their task is urgent, for the number of children in Malaya's primary schools has trebled since the war.

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