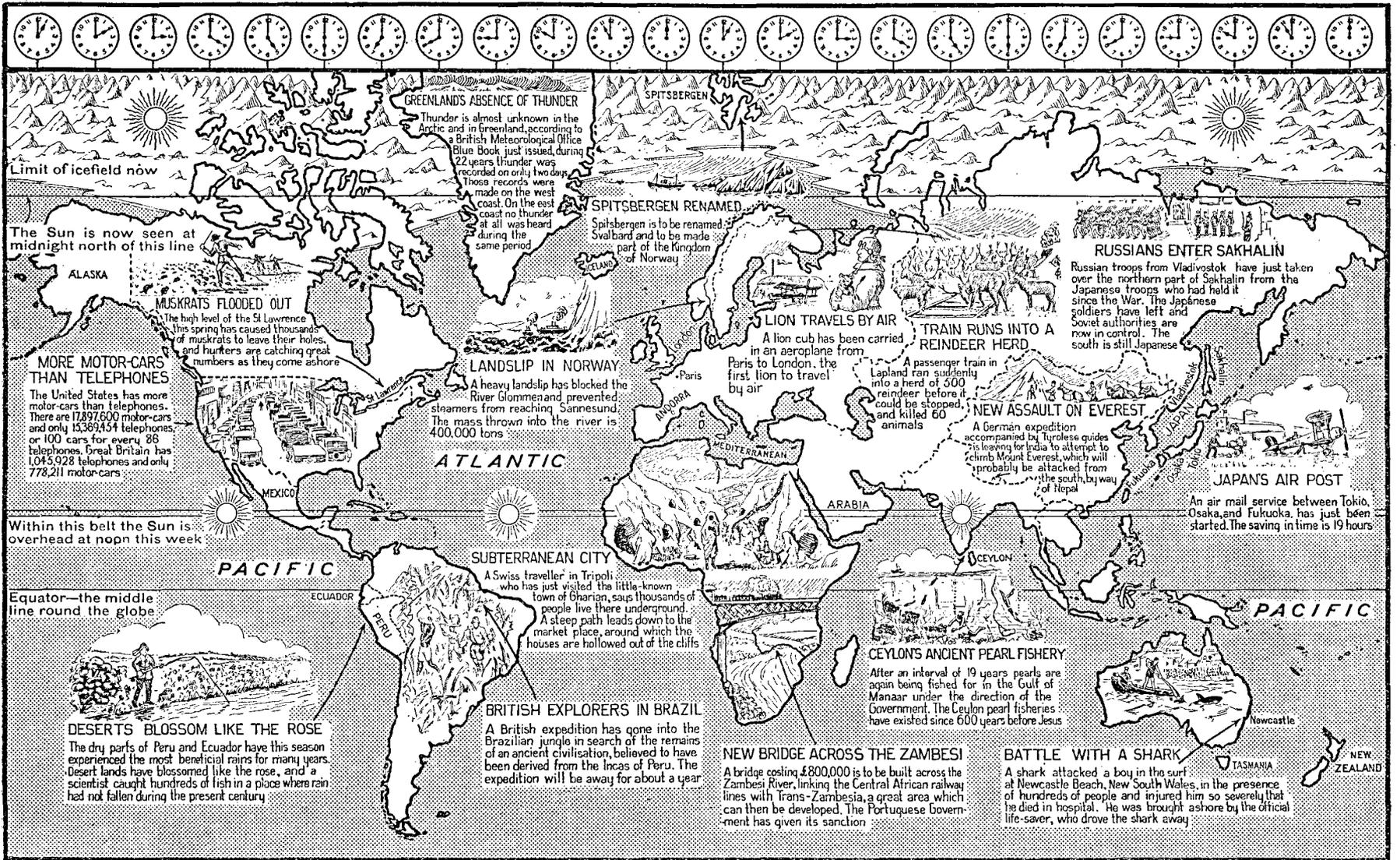


PICTURE-NEWS AND TIME MAP SHOWING EVENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD



SPRING CLEANING IN THE KING'S HOME

How the Photographer Helps the Servants

They are good house-managers in the royal palace in London. While the King and Queen were away Buckingham Palace was spring-cleaned.

Everybody knows the difficulty, after that upset, of putting things back in precisely the same position they were in before. That is specially difficult where, as in the royal household, there are great numbers of ornaments and treasures with a history.

Replacing them properly is, however, managed in the palace with certainty and quickness, for spring cleaning is preceded by the photographing of each part of each room, and all the articles are put back exactly where they were, with the photographs as a guide.

It is a plan that would be superfluous in the ordinary cosy home; but Buckingham Palace has 500 rooms.

GOLD GOES BEGGING

Miners Who Prefer Notes to Sovereigns

A curious difficulty has presented itself to the Rand mining companies, which have recently begun to pay their workers in gold once more, anticipating the official return to the gold standard which comes into force on July 1.

The Kaffirs are delighted with the change. They are accustomed to bury their earnings, and when Treasury notes were first issued in place of sovereigns, they were highly displeased; they could not believe that these paper scraps were real money. Their displeasure was increased when they found that if they buried the notes the white ants ate them.

The white miners, however, say that gold coins are heavy and inconvenient, and soon get lost; and they are protesting that they do not want them.

RELEARNING OUR GEOGRAPHY

Spitsbergen to Lose its Name

Pity the teacher of geography! There seems to be a mania for renaming places. St. Petersburg became Petrograd, and now is Leningrad. Russian and German names have been changed by the hundred in Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Esthonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and unknown names current in the racial language have been substituted, so that often they cannot be recognised by Western Europeans.

It is natural that signs of vanished servitude should be removed from the languages of freed races. But why need Norway follow suit with name changes? She has less excuse than others.

Oslo for Christiania can be understood, for Oslo was the original name of the place. But it is not so clear why Norway should commemorate her friendly annexation of Spitsbergen by changing that well-known and decidedly distinctive name to such an elusive word as Svalbard. She is doing it, though it involves the passing of a Bill in her Parliament. See World Map

In the Auction Rooms

The following prices have lately been paid in the auction rooms for objects of interest.

Picture by H. Fantin-Latour	£1123
A Queen Anne suite	£714
A pastel drawing by Whistler	£609
A Flemish tapestry panel	£525
1st. ed. of T. Hardy's first book	£420
Kipling's School Boy Lyrics	£260
Napoleon's Rivoli Proclamation	£152
An etching by James McBey	£90
A Baxter print	£63
A letter of Nelson's	£40

A copy of Kipling's The Smith Administration, of which there are said to be only three copies in existence, was sold in New York for £820.

1,500,000 PIGEONS BY RAIL
Railwaymen as Race Starters

The London, Midland, and Scottish Railway is preparing to transport one and a half million homing pigeons for the training that has just begun in readiness for the forthcoming pigeon racing season.

The number of birds that will have to be conveyed to take part finally in the races will exceed half a million. Altogether the L.M.S. expects to run 900 special vehicles for this traffic.

Among the more important races this season are those to Scotland from Bournemouth, from France, and from Shrewsbury; and to Lancashire from St. Malo and from Jersey.

The active part that the railwayman plays in pigeon racing is one of the little-known sides of his life. He is, in fact, an official starter. When the birds arrive at the point whence they have to fly home, it is the railwayman who opens the baskets and releases them. He notes the times of release, and records them on the labels of the baskets, which are then returned to the owners.

THE NEW PILLAR BOXES
Kiosks for Telephone Users

The Post Office is about to make a new appearance in the streets through a number of telephone kiosks designed by Sir Gilbert Scott.

Let us hope that it will bring along a much-needed element of cheerfulness. It certainly did very well with its vermilion pillar and letter boxes of 70 years ago, for that was the date when they appeared.

Nobody knows how many of these arresting boxes there are scattered all over the land. The P.O. itself has lost count, and does not trouble to catch up with the numbering, for it is always shifting to a higher figure; but probably by this time it has reached the hundred thousand.

AMERICA AND THE DEBTS

Cancel Them, Says Mr. Bryan
THE MONEY BEING SPENT ON WAR

There is one American statesman, at any rate, who realises that America's insistence on being paid her debts is sowing fresh seeds of trouble in Europe, and who would cancel the lot. It is Mr. Bryan.

He says Europe cannot pay them, and does not mean to do so. America, he says, instead of going on asking for payment, should offer to cancel the debts if Europe will join in world disarmament. It is certain that one of the reasons why Europe cannot pay is because she is spending so much on arms. One of the hopes of Americans in pressing for payment is to prevent the money going in armaments, which do not prevent war but only make it more likely. Mr. Bryan thinks it would be interesting to see the other method given a trial.

At present, because America says Britain and France must pay, Britain is obliged to say France and Germany must pay, and France, too, has to insist on German payment. Britain suggested long ago that all debts should be cancelled together. Because her advice was disregarded hates are growing in Europe, as Mr. Bryan says, that make for war and not for peace. For debtors and creditors never love each other. Mr. Bryan would buy peace by cancelling debt all round. As yet, however, America will not listen to him.

A BIRD THAT CANNOT FLY

A specimen of the exceedingly rare New Zealand bird the notornis, which cannot fly, has been observed in South Island. There is talk of an expedition to capture it. But why should it be captured? Why not give it a chance to multiply in freedom?