

"End-of-World" Tickets Good for Next Show

Any One Who Spent His Bankroll on Prof. Porta's Prediction May Expect Sympathy From Western Meteorologist; Miners Idle in Some Instances

Anyone who spent his bank roll on the theory that the world was coming to an end at noon yesterday may look for sympathy from Professor Albert Porta, the San Francisco meteorologist, on whose deductions from a planetary phenomena was based the prophecy of the cataclysm.

Professor Porta says he didn't say that. That is, he denies he said the world was coming to an end. He admits having said this: "Heavy electro-magnetic energies produced by the tension of the lined-up planets on the sun, would produce a huge sun spot, which would in turn cause the cataclysm, but which event is prevented by the sun's rotation." A simple explanation, indeed.

But there were a lot of strange reactions. In every assignment book of every city editor of every daily newspaper in the United States there was carelessly scrawled in green ink, "End of World," followed by the name of the reporter selected to cover this interesting event.

Reporter's Hard Task

Now it is exceedingly doubtful if a single one of the city editors stopped to think that if Professor Porta's worst should have happened a really conscientious reporter would have to spend days of eternity swimming around in space trying to find the office and report on the story, to the neglect of his family, who might be holding hands and turning end over end on a new orbit about 3,000,000 miles from Washington Heights, waiting for a loving father to bring home the may envelope—which is due to-day. It's enough to make one expect a bonus.

Other persons took Professor Porta's statement to heart also. For example, Max Herman, who is forty-nine and old enough to know better. He put a padlock on the door of his restaurant in 54 East Sixth Street, when a customer broke the news to him of a bowl of water clam chowder late Tuesday night. Max then emptied the cash register, which contained with the money paid for the chowder, about 20¢, and let himself out the side door and started in to make the last day a holiday.

Faces Magistrate Nolan

An officer of the Essex Market Court took Max into semi-wakefulness yesterday afternoon before the bench. Magistrate Thomas J. Nolan, who was clad in robes that coincided with Max's mental picture of the costume of the angel Gabriel. Max tried to explain, but Magistrate Nolan found him guilty of disorderly conduct and ordered him remanded for sentence to-day. Max was taken back to a cell to finish a bad dream.

Charles Johnson is sixty-five, older than Max by sixteen years. He is a farmer at West Salem, Ohio. He went to Cleveland yesterday with a reserved seat ticket for the end of the world. After going to a house, where the "beginning of the end" according to directions on his ticket was to be staged, and learning that no one there had heard the end was at hand, Johnson complained to the police.

"Two men came to me last Saturday and sold me a reserved seat for \$15," he said. "They told me all the members of my religious faith were to wait for the end in Cleveland."

An unfeeling police lieutenant told farmer Johnson that he ought to be glad the show hadn't opened.

Miners Refuse to Work

Several mines in the Miami, Okla., zinc and lead field were closed because miners refused to go down into the ground while there was any prospect of the earth crumbling to pieces while they were at work.

A long, weird, shrieking whistle awoke Indianapolis and when this was joined by practically all the sirens and any of the large alarm bells of the city a number of timid citizens were convinced that the crash was coming any second. Telephone bells in newspaper offices there kept ringing continually as subscribers called up to see if the din was notice of the big finish. One woman who telephoned said tremulously: "I guess it's notice of the end of the world. The whistles are calling people to church and I'm going."

It developed later that a throttle on a whistle at a railroad roundhouse had become jammed, and engineers controlling other steam whistles joined the noise making without knowing why.

Some Good Is Possible

Some good may have come out of the terrible prospect, at that. It is even possible that in a few widely separated apartment houses conscience-stricken

janitors, seeking to acquire last-minute merit, may have tossed an extra shovel of coal into the firebox. However, if they find the world still turning this morning they can make up for it by neglecting to build any fire at all.

CHICAGO, Dec. 17.—

Some of the superstitious here, who, according to ministers, had quietly prepared for the end of the earth by increased church attendance, still awaited to-day the catastrophe which had been forecast.

Refutation of the world annihilation idea as expounded by the Williams Bay Wis. Observatory, was read with a degree of skepticism by a few. Mr. Frost said that for a month letters have been pouring into his office seeking information. He hoped he had relieved one woman's apprehensions when he mailed her a special delivery statement of the "truth" in reply to her assertion that she had "not eaten since she heard of it." His inquiries came from all over this country and England, he said.

Weather Bureau Looks in Vain

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Experts who keep the weather under official surveillance for the government scanned the heavens and the weather reports in vain to-day for any sign that an alleged solar conspiracy between the planets Neptune, Jupiter et al., was about to produce storms which would bring the world to a sudden end.

The best the weather men could make out of the signs as they read them was that low pressure areas off the North Atlantic coast and in the far Northwest had combined to bring low temperatures generally throughout the country, except along the Southwestern border.

Town Meeting Hall To Be Built by Summer

Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt Jr. Will Lay Cornerstone for Edifice on January 24

Frank A. Vanderlip, Henry W. Taft and Henry Morgenthau gave a dinner at the Metropolitan Club last night to men interested in the building of a Town Meeting Hall for New York. Announcement was made at the dinner that the corner stone of the building would be set in place by Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt jr., January 24.

The building is going up on Forty-third Street, between Sixth Avenue and Broadway. Mrs. Roosevelt was selected to lay the cornerstone because she is the grandniece of Eleanor Butler Sanders, founder of the League for Political Education which originated the idea of a town hall for New York. There will be an auditorium seating 1,700, a library, a bureau of information and the offices of the League for Political Education, the Economic Club and the Civic Forum in the building. Its purpose will be to provide a place for public discussion of matters of civic interest, such as pending legis-

Astronomer Denounces Author of Prediction

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 17.—Dr. John A. Brashear, noted astronomer, to-day denounced the author of the prophecy that the end of the world would come to-day, in a statement issued to allay fear evidenced by many Dr. Brashear said:

"Not being well enough to make observations on the sun this morning I went to my right-hand man, Frank Gray, asking him to take advantage of the clear sky to make an observation on the surface of the sun, to see if there was any unusual disturbance. Here is his report: 'Only one small spot, in the southeastern quadrant, about midway from edge to central meridian. Nothing unusual is going on on the surface.' That is what I expected, but I thought we might get hold of a good-sized spot for the comfort of the good people who have believed and suffered from the predictions of dire disaster."

lation, existing laws and the ability of candidates for public office.

It is expected the building will be completed next summer. A club for men and women, the annual dues of which will not exceed \$15, will be housed in the building. One of those at the dinner, a Philadelphia man, said a similar project was under way in that city.

Among those at the dinner were Alton B. Parker, T. Coleman du Pont, Guy E. Tripp, A. S. Frissell, Talcott Williams, Robert A. Franke, Paul M. Warburg, E. H. Outerbridge, Frank Trumbull, Herbert S. Houston, James Speyer, Robert Grier Cooke, B. J. Greenhut, R. A. C. Smith, Joseph French Johnson, Robert E. Simon, Samuel McC. Lindsay, Julius Henry Cohen, Warner M. Van Norden, William Childs Jr., S. A. Lewisohn and Robert Eskine Ely.

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Anti-Saloon League Warn Governor and Legislature

Smith Told Failure to Sign "Dry" Enforcement Bill Will End His Political Career

The Anti-Saloon League of New York yesterday issued a statement warning the Governor and the Legislature not to bungle the passage of the league's prohibition enforcement bill, which will come up during the coming year, and telling both what will happen to them if the measure does not pass.

Concerning the measure it intends to sponsor, the league says:

"There can be no possible excuse for refusal to pass it save a deliberate intention to trifle, not only with the prohibition element, but with the issue of law enforcement, in order to give aid and comfort to the discredited and now nearly defunct liquor traffic."

"The Governor will be in an utterly

Auto Drowns Two in Canal

Skids on Ice at Newark and Goes Over Embankment

NEWARK, N. J., Dec. 17.—A motor truck of the Kent-Costlyan Trading Company, 485 Fifth Avenue, New York, carrying two men besides the driver, skidded this noon on ice at South Canal and Market streets.

The vehicle crashed through a wooden guard rail and plunged down a fifteen-foot embankment into the Morris Canal.

Patrolman Fitzsimmons stopped an army truck, which hauled the motor truck half way up the bank. This revealed the legs of two men sticking out of the hole in the ice in the canal. They had been caught beneath the vehicle and drowned.

The third man, John Turner, of 140 West 120th Street, New York, was taken to City Hospital. It is believed his skull is fractured. Those killed were Lawrence Williams, of Jersey City, and a man named Norris.

Dinner to 500 Aliens Opens Americanization Campaign

SCHENECTADY, Dec. 17.—Five hundred men who could neither speak nor read English were guests to-night at a dinner given by the General Electric Company as the beginning of a campaign of Americanization of its foreign-born employees. Dinner was served in the works restaurant. The message of the company was read in different languages, intelligible to those present. Benefits to be derived by becoming full-fledged Americans were emphasized.

THE BOOK FOR XMAS

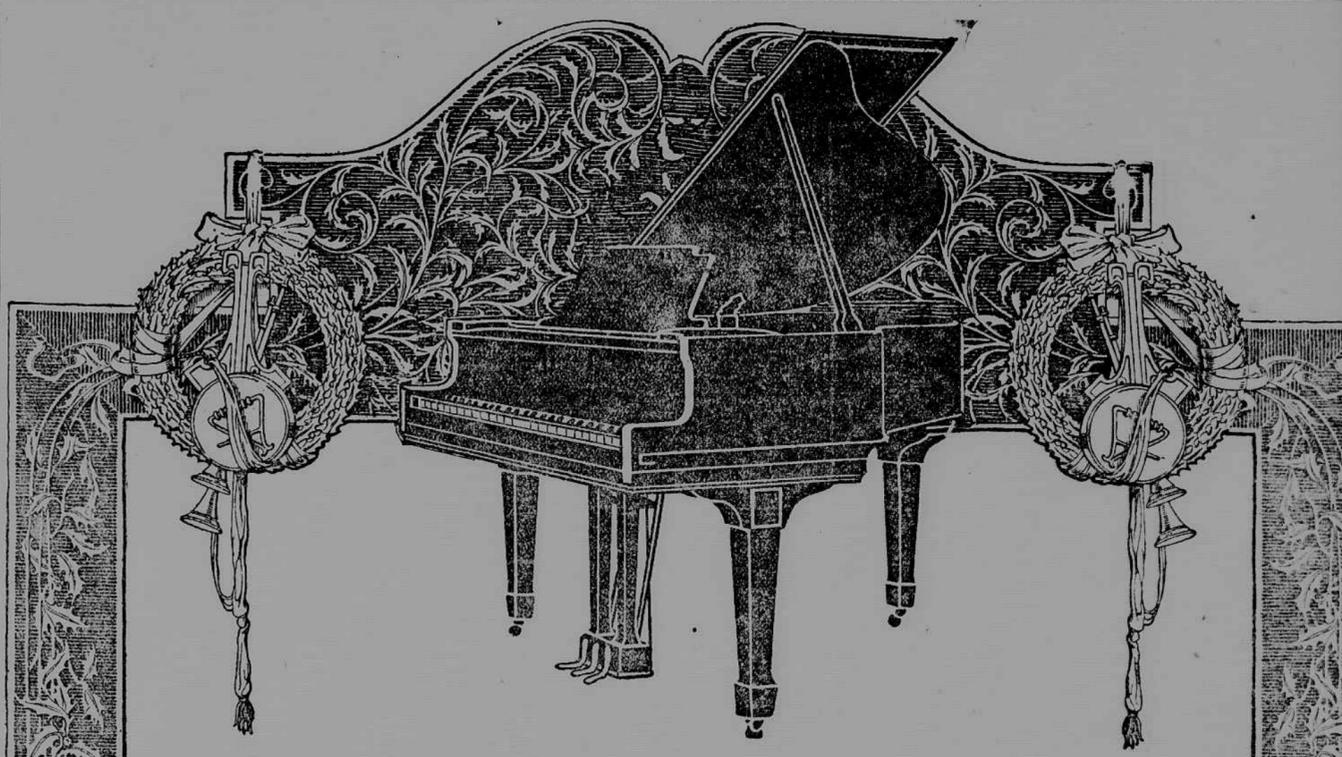
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