

THE OLDEST AND SMALLEST REPUBLIC IN THE WORLD NOW HAS ITS FIRST RAILWAY

San Marino, the oldest and smallest republic in the world, has just completed its first railway. Perched on its mountain crags, 2500 feet above the Adriatic, it has laid an electric line up from the Italian port and bathing resort of Rimini.

Heretofore it has taken an hour and a half to ascend from Rimini to San Marino by motor bus. Hereafter it will take a half hour by the new railway. The distance by road is fifteen miles by the railway a little more than ten miles.

The new line has been built by the Italian State Railways, partly persuaded, perhaps, by the fact that Mussolini was born near the tiny republic and has a personal affection for its quaint independence and customs. Inside its own frontier, however, the costs of construction are being borne by San Marino's governing body, its Council of Sixty. The mountainous little State has an area of only thirty-eight square miles and a population of a little more than 13,000.

In the middle ages a number of Italian republics existed; of these San Marino is the only one that remains. It has enjoyed its independence since the fourth century (one has to go back to the days of ancient Greece to find a republic as small), and by wise statecraft has weathered more than on crisis.

Napoleon had his eyes on San Marino and actually suppressed its constitution. But when a Sammarinese patriot approached him and pointed out that he and his fellows were every bit as good republicans as the French the Little Coporal consented to rescind the decree of suppression and gave San Marino his blessing and protection. He even went further and offered San Marino more territory. This was wisely refused, and when Bonaparte had fallen there was no despoiled nation seeking vengeance on the republic. It was annexed by the papacy, but the good offices of France secured the restoration of its independence.

A Happy State

Happy San Marino has no unemployed and no public debt. It uses principally Italian coinage and imports its judges and its gendarmerie from Italy, but it issues its own postage stamps (exceptionally pretty ones, which philatelists prize) and has its own army of some hundred men. This force includes the magnificently dressed corps of the Noble Guard, which is to be seen at all State functions. The army possesses a few pieces of artillery, but they are not fired very often, as there is danger of the shells falling in Italian territory.

San Marino city, with its 3000 inhabitants, looks proudly over the Adriatic. Some of the State buildings have a sheer view into the valleys hundreds of feet below and the streets are all either staircases or precipices. There is no traffic problem, because ordinary traffic is impossible, and the San Marino terminus of the railway that has crept up the mountain-side is being built outside the main gate of the city. There is a second city, Borgo, which lies at the foot of Mount Titano and is famous for its annual fair.

This smallest of republics is ahead of the biggest of modern republics in possessing two presidents instead of one. Known as Captains Regents, they are elected for terms of six months, one of them from the nobility, the other from the people. The method of choosing them is an ancient one, and in modern State procedure is probably unique.

To begin with, the Council of Sixty selects six townmen and six countrymen from its own members and these are then reduced by election to six—three townmen and three from the countryside. The surviving six are then combined in three couples, each representative of a class, and the names of these three couples, are placed in balls and deposited in a ballot-box on the altar of the cathedral. A child then puts his hand into the box and the candidates whose names are contained in the first balls he draws out are thus elected Capitani Reggenti for the ensuing six months.

Installing Two Presidents

April 1 and October 1 are the days for the installation of the Presidents, which is conducted with great ceremony in the cathedral. The new rulers progress through the capital, escorted by the sixteen members of the militia and the Republican band, and wearing their Presidential uniform of black velvet lined with blue silk and adorned with gold lace. These are the property of the republic and the Presidents have to make the best of it if they do not fit. They receive no fixed salary, but during their term of office halve the proceeds from the sale of salt, which in San Marino is a State monopoly.

The story of the founding of this tiniest of republics is romantic. A Dalmatian stone mason named Marinus, after working thirty years at Rimini, embraced Christianity and retired to Mount Titano to escape the persecutions under the Emperor Diocletian. His fame as an austere anchorite reached the ears of the Princess to whom the mountain belonged and she presented it to him, together with a tract of land, thinking Marinus would, as was usual in those days, found a monastery. But instead he established a republic.

PROPHECY

Spring

Oh! How my heart with rapture thrills
When Spring has come along the hills;
Why, then I feel in all my bones
I could beat Sarazen or Jones.

Summer

My inhibitions have appeared
And everything is as I feared,
And day by day new faults are cropping
Up, and I have started topping.

Autumn

Good grief! My slices seem to be
Quite as pronounced as formerly;
I know by heart each trap and bunker;
My game is punk, and getting punker.

Winter

This is the damndest game I know;
Bring on the frost and let it snow!
Oh! Boy How glad I am to fling
My clubs aside until the Spring!
—WILLFRED J. FUNK, in New York Sun.

RADIO IS NOW OPENING UP A NEW FIELD FOR THE ACTORS; 500 ARE NOW BEING EMPLOYED

The big parade is on. The parade route is from the stage door to the audition rooms of the big broadcasting companies and the paraders are actors and actresses who believe they see the handwriting on the wall. Said handwriting refers to the present day when a good "mike" voice often is more valuable than a Barrymore profile and vocal personality holds the advantage over sex appeal.

Lists of actors available for work on National Broadcasting Company programs now include more than five hundred names. These are not names of graduates of correspondence schools in dramatic technique nor the names of stars of amateur productions. Many of the names have been spelled out in electric lights on Broadway and all have been appeared not once but many times on Broadway theatre programs.

Though more than five hundred thespians are available, there is not enough work for all of them. The demand for trained actors is gradually increasing, according to NBC program executives, and while competition is becoming more keen, radio soon will be offering steady employment to more than a handful of theatrical stars.

The cause for this movement of actors from the footlights to the microphone is directly attributed to the increasing popularity of the program with the dramatic continuity—the program that requires trained speaking voices as well as trained vocalists and instrumentalists. Behind this increasing popularity of dramatized entertainment is the improvement in radio interpretation of drama—an improvement that has come after years of constant experimentation and hard work.

A New Field.

The result to the actors is that a

new field is rapidly being opened up. Actors, alarmed by the much talked-of tottering theatre, have turned to talking motion pictures and broadcasting. The talkies demand the biggest names plus personal beauty. Thus some of the finest actors, unable to stand the movie's critical close-up, have discovered that radio offers them a real outlet for their talents, a good wage for the work done and a vast and appreciative audience.

The result to radio is good. Trained voices of every type are available and it is a short-sighted director who cannot find voices to suit the parts he has to fill. While there is a great difference between the technique of the stage and the technique of the microphone the intelligent actor, provided he has the necessary vocal qualifications, is able to make the transition in a short time.

Not so very long ago, the average actor had a very condescending attitude toward radio. If he made a microphone appearance he did it with apologies to his fellows of the footlights and with a snicker up his sleeve. Today the situation is changed. Radio does not have to ask actors to broadcast. The actors themselves are eager to break into radio. While some of them believe that radio may prove to be a stepping stone to talking motion picture work others are convinced that radio itself has a real future for them. Many of them agree with George Engles, vice president in charge of programs for the NBC who predicts that radio will bring about a great revival of interest in the theatre and the concert stage.

"Radio takes the voices and artistry of the great stars of the stage and the concert platform to millions of persons who otherwise would never come in contact with these personages," Mr. Engles said. "Our own experience has been that the desire to see an entertainer in person usually follows an artistic triumph on the air. Thus we feel sure that the public demand for personal appearances of radio artists will create work for thousands of persons who are devoting all their talents to broadcasting."

POLAR BEARS AS CIRCUS STARS

Wonderful Training
Achievement in the
Sparks Circus is Work
of Franza Woska Austria's Wonder Man.

If there were no other reason—and there are one thousand—you should visit the Sparks Circus and look at ten thousand pounds of bear meat. No human has ever seen so much bear meat as is assembled this year with the Sparks Circus. The group of performing Polar bears alone are worth more money than the average menagerie carried with the ordinary circus, when you stop to think that a Polar bear rug costs from two thousand dollars up. Can you imagine what one Polar bear costs—or what an entire group of shaggy white giants from the frozen North that have been educated to a remarkable degree of intelligence would bring? There is no doubt that the hide of Bolivar—the largest bear ever known—would bring from four to five thousand dollars. Bolivar is alive and healthy with the circus. You will not have to ask Franz Woska, the trainer, to point him out—he is so big he will scare you into knowing his name. The Sparks Circus evidently has cornered the market in bears of all species and will be seen in the world's longest parade at 11 A. M. on Fredericton, Friday July 26 and they include bears that box, bears that wrestle with human beings, bears that perform with such docile animals as Shetland ponies and dogs—each an inimitable actor in the numerous wild animal acts presented under the Sparks Circus "Big-top".

Tickets both general admission and reserved can be secured Circus day at Ryan's Drug Store same price as at show grounds.

STRAINED BACK

Philadelphia, July 15—Pie Traynor, star third baseman of the Pittsburgh Pirates will be out of the game for probably the next six days and will remain in this city during that time. Leaping for a hit over his head in Wednesday's game. Traynor strained himself so severely he will have to rest up.



Millions of them

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A Clever Maiden's Prayer

Last night I saw my idol;
O! my Lord I must confess
She said absolutely nothing
And suggested even less,
Yet on every side were gallants
Who would make her glad and gay
So I pray you, Lord, remold me
For I too would get that way.

Waft me for into Moronia

I would be a clinging vine,
Depending on a trellis
For to hold this form of mine;
I crave the makeup girlish,
O Lord from whence things come,
The prerequisite is easy
I simply must be dumb.
—HARCOURT STRANGE in New York Sun.

Wife suing for divorce complains
her husband seldom comes home and
when he does it's at the wrong time,

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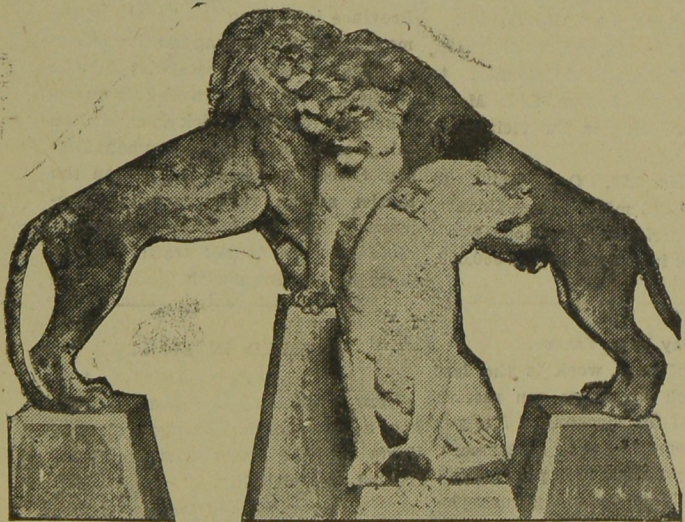
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