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RETROSPECT 1934.

(January).

Picture.:- The scythe of Father Time again--

--slices a year off our lives.

January, 1934, was a dry--

--subject. Reservoirs were empty. Streams were drying up. Drought--

--was bringing distress to country areas. Many a -

--bush fire blackened the--

--countryside. Small boys' necks--

--lost their tide marks. Taps lost--

--their flow, and spirits sank quickly.

His Majesty's Ship 'NELSON' hit the water shortage by--

--running aground at Portsmouth. 7½-million pounds--

--worth of rate-payers steel stuck fast.

Destroyers rescued the battleship from her peril--

--of wreckage, and the Navy, and the nation breathed again.

Los Angeles got the water --

--we missed. A torrential rain storm--

--(big even for America)--

--flooded the town, sweeping away many business--

--and pleasure buildings.

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(January)
(Cont).

A greater disaster, the earthquake terror--
 --rocked North East India. The province of Nepal, over-
 shadowed by the--
 --Himalyas, suffered indescribably. Whole towns were
 razed--
 --to the ground, and nine-thousand unfortunate people were--
 --buried alive beneath--
 --the ruins. A--
 --catastrophe almost without parallel.

(February).

The month of--

--February brought a disturbing political chaos to La Belle France.

The suicide of STAVISKY, the fraudulent financier--
 --created a first-class government crisis. Street riots--
 --led to bloodshed and death. The Government fell,--
 --and order was restored with difficulty. The royal--

--tragedy of the much loved--

--King Albert of Belgium threw a deeper shadow over this month of dull skies. While sealing a rock--

--the King fell to his death.

(THREE EFFECTS SHOTS).

But inexorable life goes on !

"The King is dead,--

--long live the King'.

Leopold succeeded Albert, and Belgium's King rode through his capital cheered by the people.

(March).

March saw an unusual event. A rebellion of a Prince of Sweden. Prince Sigvard renounced his--

--right of a throne to--

--wed Mretty Erica Patsek.

The romantic pair becoming just Mr. and Mrs.--

--Bernadotte. Another sporting event was the--

--Oxford and Cambridge boat race, when Oxford lost for the eleventh consecutive year.

Thirty horses all tried to get first place in--
--the Grand National. Many fell by the wayside, and Golden Miller, the horse--

--you thought of backing, but didn't, won ! It was just too, too, annoying, wasn't it ?

(April).

In April the Festival of Easter ended the--

--Holy Year. In Rome, His--

--Holiness Pope Pius the Eleventh appeared among the assembled worshippers--

--and bestowed upon them--

--his solemn benediction. (EFFECTS).

And the Cup Final, of course. Everybody gets a--
--kick out of the Cup Final. Portsmouth met Manchester City at Wembley.

Portsmouth nearly won. Their--

--supporters had the loudest rattles and the toughest threats but--

--Manchester City took the COOP

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(May).

May brought disaster upon Chicago.

The stockyards' fire. A square half-mile of--
--blazing inferno. Three dead, one-hundred-and-fifty
injured.

Two thousand homeless. Forty--
--million pounds worth of damage. The suffocating--
--smoke blotted out the sun itself. Further South
--a famous sporting--

--event, the Kentucky Derby,--
--was won by the English colt, Cavalcade which passed the
post with three lengths to spare. This win was a slight
counterblast to the licking the American team gave our--
--golfers about the same time in England. We lost the
battle of the bunkers, but won the--
--Blue Riband of the race-course.

(June).

Flaming June forgot to flame on Derby Day. But bad
weather--

--doesn't stop a good course. The race ended in a close
finish, with 'Windsor--

--Lad', 'Easton', and 'Colombo', first, second and third; A--

--favourites' race, but not my favourite. It wrecked my
hopes--

--as the liner 'DRESDEN' wrecked--

--hers. Cruising on the West Coast of--

--Norway she struck a submerged rock--

--and was beached with fatal--

--results to four of her imperilled passengers.

(July).

Picture.

July's hot sun shone--
--on wonderful F.J. Perry winning his match--
--at Wimbledon for the men's singles--
--championship, and Dorothea Bacher becoming woman
champion.

While the Prince of Wales gave up aeroplanes
for a spell to ride his Royal grandfather's tricycle,
a unique incident--

--shown exclusively by UNIVERSAL TALKING NEWS.

America's No.1. enemy DILLINGER, gangster,
murderer extraordinary--

--fell to nineteen bullets--

--of his trackers. A well-deserved death. But
in Vienna--

--a rebellion against the Government caused--

--tremendous damage to the town,--

--and wrecked the broadcasting station, ending--

--with the assassination by shooting at point
blank range--

--of Chancellor Dr. Dollfuss.

(EFFECTS).

(August).

In August ~~President Von Hindenburg~~, great
soldier, leader, lover of children, died, mourned
by a grateful Fatherland.

August's chief sporting event was the--
--final test match at the Oval, when Australia swept
up the Ashes, with 562--

--runs, and Larwood told--

--us just why it happened.

September).

Picture.:- In September telegraph wires flashed the thrilling news--

--to us that Prince George had become--
--engaged to Princess Marina of Greece.

The burning of the 'Morro Castle' sent a--
--sob of horror through the--
--world. Two-hundred lives--
--lost through what ? Accident or negligence ?

Sporting interest centred--
--round Mr.Sopwith's yacht 'ENDEAVOUR', fighting
for--
--the America's Cup. Britain lost, and--
--had the worst of the argument.

Tragedy came again with the Gresford --
--colliery disaster. Hundreds of families--
--lost their bread-winners. Grief and--
--want still stalk through Gresford streets.

Industry received a filip by--
--the launching of the--
--534, named the 'Queen--
--Mary' by the Queen--
--herself. The world's greatest ship--
--built by the world's best ship builders.

(EFFECTS).

(October).

October's greatest news story was the tale of horror. King Alexander of Jugo-Slavia--

--visiting France on a mission of peace was foully murdered. Monsieur Barthou, French Minister, died with him, killed--

--by a bullet from the same assassin's--

--revolver. The dead King's royal--

--mantel descended on the unrealising shoulders of his schoolboy son. Eleven years old.

October's stimulating event was Britain's--

--winning of the England-Australia Air Race by Scott and Black in a British designed--

--and made Comet machine.

(November).

The gathering at the Cenotaph.

The King standing among his people.

The Cenotaph starkly severe pointing towards the sky like a--

--warning finger of God.

The foggy month was brightened by the arrival of Princess Marina. The cinematograph camera itself found a new experience. Recording the royal lovers' kiss of greeting. It thrilled not two people, but the millions who witnessed it.

And that was a--

--followed by the greater thrill of seeing and hearing the Royal Marriage--

--at Westminster Abbey. One of the most solemn, yet joyous--

--moments in an otherwise somewhat--

--tragic recital of the years events. This wedding lifted everyone up on a wave of--

--affection for the two young royal lovers and took us from cold realities to the region of fairy stories with happy endings.

(December).

December seemed dominated by political affairs.
Hungarians expelled from--

--Jugo-Slavia suffered terrible hardships. Families
were uprooted, and homes--

--destroyed by a political ruling.

Appeal to the--

--League of Nations--

--resulted--

--in the cessation of expulsions, and the situation
was eased.

More politics called our troops to the Saar, and
Dover saw them embarking as in the--

--bad old days of war-time. The same--

--marching songs were heard. But this is a--

--quieter affair. The guns are dumb. The politicians
are d - - - saying less, and if--

--they all keep quiet, this trip will be a nice--

--holiday for Thomas, and here's wishing them, and
you all the best--

--New Year ever. Very many of you have sent me
good wishes. I have tried to acknowledge them all,
but if any-one has been missed, here is my spoken
thanks. GOOD-LUCK !