

CURRENT EVENTS IN REVIEW

By Edward W. Pickard

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Armistice Day Celebrated Throughout Nation

ARMISTICE day was celebrated in the United States more generally and elaborately than it had been since the first of those occasions seventeen years ago.



President Roosevelt

Chief of all the ceremonies, naturally, was that at Arlington National cemetery in Washington, where many thousands gathered to hear an address by President Roosevelt. Standing before the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Chief Executive paid a brief but eloquent tribute to the gallantry of America's fighting men in the World war, especially those who gave their lives in that conflict. Then, as the bugles sounded taps at 11 o'clock, he bared his head and stood silent for a minute, as did millions of his fellow citizens all over the land. The President next placed a wreath on the Unknown Soldier's tomb. For six hours, afterward, uniformed organizations marched up the hill in Arlington and laid their wreaths at the tomb.

The celebration in the national capital was culminated by a ball arranged by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Congressional Medal of Honor men headed the list of guests, others being cabinet officers, diplomats and high officials of the army, navy and marine corps. Mrs. Woodrow Wilson was one of the guests.

Roosevelt Birthday Balls Will Be Repeated

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT will be fifty-four years old on January 30 next, and once more the day will be marked in many cities and towns by balls, the receipts from which will be devoted to the war on infant paralysis. Mr. Roosevelt announced his approval of the plan, which is fathered by Henry L. Doherty.

Doherty wrote to the President urging him to lend his name to a third series of birthday balls. He pointed out that the proceeds of the first ball enabled the Warm Springs Foundation in Georgia to carry on its program and the second financed and organized a major attack on the disease by research and provided funds for communities in which the balls were held.

Corn Husking Champion Sets World Record

NOT of vast importance, but interesting enough to command the presence of Secretary of Agriculture Wallace and 100,000 other persons, was the twelfth annual national corn husking contest held on a farm at the village of Newtown, Ind.

The winner was Elmer Carlsen, twenty-six years old, of Audubon county, who was competing against 17 opponents, the winners and runners-up of nine midwestern states' contests. Carlsen shucked 41.52 bushels of the golden corn in 80 minutes, which means that he ripped the ears from the stalks, tore the flimsy husks from them and pitched a gross weight of 2,995 pounds into his wagon. He lost 88.43 pounds deducted for gleanings left in the field and husks left on the corn.

Carlsen set a new world's record, the old one being 36.9 bushels, which mark was beaten also by four others of the contestants. The first prize was a check for \$100 given by the Prairie Farmer. Mr. Wallace said the contest was "the best I've ever seen."

Italian King Celebrates His 66th Birthday

VICTOR EMMANUEL, king of Italy, celebrated his sixty-sixth birthday rather quietly because of the war in which his people are engaged in Africa. He reviewed a parade of armed forces, and with him was the real ruler of the country, Benito Mussolini. Il Duce then appeared on the balcony of his Venezia palace to address a great throng of cheering citizens in the plaza. He spoke just these two sentences:

"The forces you have seen this morning with all their weapons, and especially in their spirit, are ready to defend Italy's interests in Europe, Africa or anywhere."

"In one month we have regulated

two old accounts (apparently the Italian defeats at Aduwa and Makale, Ethiopia, in 1896) and the remainder will be settled later."

Mussolini that same evening sent to the nations participating in the sanctions against Italy a formal protest against their action, and warned them that Italy would be forced into reprisals with serious consequences to the economic world.

Meanwhile the Italian armies in Ethiopia were advancing steadily toward the interior from both the north and south. The strategic towns of Makale and Gorrahel were occupied practically without resistance. Harrar and Jijiga in the south and Dessye in the north were apparently the next major objectives.

Haile Selassie lost one of his ablest commanders in the death of General Afewerki, who was struck by an Italian bomb splinter during a bombardment of Gorrahel. He was educated in Europe and was skilled in military science.

Plot to Kill Ambassador Caffery Is Foiled

ONCE more Jefferson Caffery, American ambassador to Cuba, has been saved from assassination, the intelligence operatives of the Cuban army having discovered and thwarted the plot on the eve of its execution. Dispatches from Havana said the army officials believed the plot was nipped by the arrest of Cesar Villar, leader of the Confederation of Labor; that the assassination was to have taken place when Mr. Caffery left the embassy for home on November 1, and that six automobiles were ready to carry the assassins to a place of refuge. They believed the plot was inspired by radicals who seek to provoke American intervention in Cuba and hope this would bring on a revolution. It was said 29 men had been sworn to kill Mr. Caffery and certain others.



Jefferson Caffery

New Crisis in China Created by Japan

JAPAN'S apparent determination to dominate northern China has created another crisis in that oriental country, and Shanghai is involved for the Japanese have taken advantage of the slaying of a Japanese sailor there and landed a naval unit 2,000 strong which occupied the Hongkew section of the city.

As the Japanese force began patrolling with fixed bayonets and full war equipment, international settlement authorities mobilized a White Russian regiment of Cossacks under Col. F. R. W. Graham, British army officer detailed as commander of the local volunteer units. The Cossacks, paid by the international settlement, constitute a small standing army for the foreign quarter.

The Chinese were terrified and thousands of them fled from the native quarter to the international settlement, believing the Japanese intended military action in retribution for the murder of the sailor. This the Japanese government denied, but it declared the situation was "serious."

Army Balloonists Soar to Record Height

CAPTS. ALBERT W. STEVENS and Orvil A. Anderson of the army made their long delayed balloon voyage into the stratosphere, and if their barometric computations are sustained they reached the record altitude of 74,000 feet. Their balloon rose from near Rapid City, S. D., and landed safely near White Lake, S. D., eight hours and thirteen minutes later.

Steel Helmets Dissolved by Hitler's Order

BY ORDER of Reichsfuehrer Hitler, the Steel Helmet association of war veterans has been dissolved. This was highly satisfactory to the Hitlerites, who considered the association a rallying point for the conservatives. In a letter to Franz Seldte, founder and leader of the Steel Helmets, Hitler praised the veterans for "keeping alive traditions of the old army and striving for restoration of a strong reich," but said he deemed this goal achieved and the association no longer needed. Members will be admitted to the Nazi party if found acceptable.



King Victor Emmanuel

WASHINGTON DIGEST

National Topics Interpreted

BY WILLIAM BRUCKART

NATIONAL PRESS BLDG.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Washington.—Several times in these columns I have adverted to criticisms that have been made of the Constitution and have reported the nature of attempts to obtain amendment of that document which is as old as our nation itself. I have reported to you likewise how President Roosevelt, himself, had hinted, if he has not said frankly, that the Constitution ought to be amended so that some of the policies for which he and his New Deal stand could be made operative. I have called attention as well to an apparent assurance that there will be a political campaign battle next year on these questions.

Now, because of developments within the past few weeks, I propose to discuss another phase of these attacks on the Constitution and their concealed purpose. Frankly, I cannot avoid the conclusion that many of the criticisms of our Constitution have as their main objective the clipping of wings of the Supreme court of the United States. I am convinced that many of the demands for amendment of the Constitution to permit broader latitude by congress are nothing more nor less than a disguised move to take away some of the independence which the court has and which, in my opinion, it ought always to possess. Further, I have no doubt that these "borings from within" represent the activities of those individuals of whom there are thousands who are not in sympathy with our form of government. So, if I am to serve my purpose as your observer in Washington, I would fall short of my duty were I not to say that in the election of the next congress lies the answer whether we will retain our Constitution and our traditions as a republic or whether we will lapse into some form of state socialism or of a proletarian government akin to that of Russia.

It was back in 1904 that the late Chief Justice Edward Douglas White—a former United States senator from the Democratic South and a former Confederate soldier—felt it necessary to make a public observation about the work of our highest legal tribunal. At that time there were certain attacks and criticisms being heard, none of a direct nature, to the general effect that the Supreme court followed the majority opinion of the nation's population. There were likewise veiled remarks that the Supreme court attempted to usurp power which was not its own. Strangely, present-day criticism and attacks have had much the same flavor. To those of that day, Chief Justice White said:

"No instance is afforded from the foundation of the government where an act which was within a power conferred, was declared to be repugnant to the Constitution because it appeared to the judicial mind that the particular assertion of constitutional power was either unwise or unjust."

I have heard, and no doubt you have heard, assertions by unthinking people to the effect that since the court has held some New Deal laws unconstitutional, it was simply old-fashioned, out dated, or as Mr. Roosevelt said, its decisions were taking us back to the "horse and buggy days." Of course, anyone who has observed the Supreme court; anyone who has studied its precepts and examples; anyone who has considered the soundness of its logic and philosophy, cannot help reaching a conclusion that the Supreme court is not now and never has been an agency of government that is susceptible to the effects of rabble rousing or is influenced by suddenly developed waves of public opinion. It has consistently adhered to the principle of interpreting laws and administering justice without regard for the effect of its decisions upon the political plans or aspirations of individuals or groups.

I do not believe that a drive to limit the power of the Supreme court or use it in any other way than as the Constitution's drafters intended will be successful. Many people with whom I have come in contact, however, anticipate a drive of serious import. It may be that they wish to see it or it may be that they believe our Constitution is not sufficiently flexible and that we can hardly change the Constitution without changing the power of the Supreme court. However that may be, it does appear that the time has arrived for those who would be Americans and who would have America last as a Republic to be on their guard and to know before they vote for members of

the house and senate whether those members are going to support and defend the Constitution, the Supreme Court and the things for which the Constitution and court stand in our national life. It is a non-partisan question; it is a non-partisan issue, and I think it is of as much importance as any question before the American people today.

All of this is highly important because of pending cases in the Supreme court. I need only recall to you that there are before the court for adjudication cases involving the validity of the Agriculture Adjustment act, the right of the federal government to control labor and employers as it has done in the Guffey Coal bill, the program of government in business as represented by the creation of the Tennessee valley electric layout and the sales of its product in competition with private industry, and four or five others of lesser consequence. I think it is generally agreed that the court will hold some of these legislative policies to be unconstitutional. Certainly, legal opinion is thoroughly divided and some of the lawyers must be right in their guesses as to the court's decrees. In that event, there will be disappointments. Those officials who have sponsored the various programs and projects that are now come into question will suffer because their pride will be hurt. The next step, a result that always obtains, the disappointed ones will attempt to find a goat on whom they can lay the blame. The goat undoubtedly will be the Supreme court but the general reverence held for the court will not permit open attacks upon it. Instead, these disappointed ones will seek to accomplish their purpose in another way, namely, by changes in the Constitution that will curb the power of the court. It will not be the first time that this has been done or that drives against the court have taken place. Proposals to change the power of the court by constitutional amendment or otherwise occurred in 1823, 1826, 1868, in the 1890's and again in 1923. Fortunately, congress rejected those proposals in every instance. It is to be hoped that congress will do it again.

Now, we have a total of four proposals in congress designed to accomplish changes in the power of the court. Probably the most important of these is that by Senator Norris of Nebraska who advocates a constitutional change that would give the Supreme court exclusive power to pass upon constitutional questions of law, and to pass on those questions within six months after enactment of the legislation in question.

On the surface, this would appear to be a meritorious proposition but I have found, in discussing it with men equipped to analyze the proposal, it contains some elements of grave danger. If such a provision were operative at the present time, for instance, it would be easy for some of the brain trust to make it impossible for the court ever to have an opportunity to declare the act constitutional or unconstitutional. The course that was pointed out to me was this: By the expedient of allowing a new law to be inoperative through non-enforcement for a period of six months, its terms could never be brought into question. If the administrative official did not seek to enforce the law and bring violators to the bar of the court within the six-month period the law would go on the statute books until repealed by congress.

Senator Norris likewise has argued that the Supreme court should never be allowed to declare an act unconstitutional unless two-thirds of the nine justices were in agreement in that regard. He has bitterly opposed rulings of the court which were decided on a five to four basis; so it seems the Nebraska senator may have a beautiful theory that could easily go off at a tangent when applied to humans.

Most of the other proposals now in congress will get nowhere in congressional consideration and, therefore, reference to them will be omitted. It remains as a possibility, however, that the next election could bring in enough rabble-rousing demagogues to put through resolutions proposing that the Constitution be amended. Of course, those resolutions from congress have to be adopted by the 48 states but it has always been the case that if proposed amendments to the Constitution are checked in congress the major battle has been won.

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WELL, WHERE?

Away goes a childhood poem. An observer has been checking the busy little bee and finds it works only two months in the year. Where does that leave the bee as an exemplar of industry?

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