

# Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted  
by William Bruckart  
National Press Building Washington, D. C.

Washington.—It has always been said that politics makes strange bedfellows. History has shown this statement to be true because in every political battle one can note unusual combinations, odd types working together, personal enemies fighting side by side—in truth, bedfellows for the time being.

Never has the truth of this old adage been better demonstrated, however, than in the current political fight that was precipitated by President Roosevelt's demand that congress pass a law which will allow the Chief Executive to add six new members to the Supreme court of the United States. The real congressional fight on the President's bold move has not yet gained full headway. But time enough has elapsed since Mr. Roosevelt offered his history-making demand for power to add enough judges to the Supreme court, judges of his own selection, to give him a majority, that those close to the congressional scene are now in a position to predict probably the most heated controversy since the days immediately preceding the Civil war.

Already, it can be stated, one can see senators and representatives who are known for their liberal views standing side by side with hard-boiled conservatives in opposition to the President's plan, which they describe as a move "to pack the Supreme court." Likewise one can see conservative Democrats from the old South following President Roosevelt and joining hands secretly with the wildest radicals in the senate. One will see Democrats and conservative Republicans in earnest conversation planning ways and means to halt the President's drive for control of the court and at the same time one can see radical Republicans planning with Democrats in support of the program—strange bedfellows, every one.

While this condition is interesting, it is by far less striking as I watch the proceedings than the extreme bitterness that is now developing. While, as I said, the controversy is hardly under way, there is even now personal animosity evident in the senate to a degree that I never have seen before. I had the privilege of observing the famous League of Nations fight at close range. There was personal bitterness in that senate battle. Old friendships were crushed and close relationships torn asunder. Yet, I think that the current controversy is likely to cause the League of Nations bitterness to pale into insignificance. In other words, there lies ahead for the congress a raging fire that is bound to destroy political lives and political ambitions. Which lives and which ambitions depend, I think, upon the answer which the country's citizens give to the now direct question:

Are we to have a system of courts and judges, independent and free of politics, or are we to have puppets that will do the bidding of political masters?

I said above that the result of the Supreme court battle in congress will be determined by the attitude of the country. It is vital that the citizens realize this fact. Since President Roosevelt made no mention during the campaign for reelection in 1936 of plans to reform the Supreme court, there has been no public expression on the subject. There will not be another opportunity for the voters to express their views until November, 1938. The only way, then, open to those who want to express an opinion for or against the court change is by sending their views to their congressmen and senators. Conversations that I have had with members of the house and the senate convinces me that the representatives and senators will appreciate word as to how their constituents feel.

Further evidence of the desire of congressmen and senators to know the feelings of the voters is given in the tremendous propaganda that is going on. Friends and foes of the Supreme court reform program are on the air nightly; scarcely a day goes by that some senator and usually several of them and numerous congressmen participate in debate or issue statements concerning the great controversy, and from the tremendous source of propaganda supply at the command of the President come countless statements and interviews and radio speeches praising the President's plan. Even the President himself has made one of his famous "fireside chats" telling why he should be given the new power.

In the meantime—and some more strange bedfellows—we find the most peculiar cross currents operating. Among some of the religious groups, there are many who fear that the court packing plan will void constitutional guarantees of religious freedom. They fear eventual control of the churches by the state, having in mind, no doubt what has happened to religious

groups in Germany and Soviet Russia. Editorials from the Catholic press are being circulated privately among many legislators and against these are some Protestant preachers who take the position that the Supreme court is out of date and ought to be reformed. Numerous Jewish leaders are opposing the reform but among the Jews are many who feel that President Roosevelt is right.

Then there is the split among the farm leaders. I refer to farm organizations with national spokesmen. Some are for the change and some against it.

Uppermost in the minds of all of the opponents seems to be a fundamental fear that to change the court will open the door through which dictators may walk. To illustrate the type of statements coming forth from observers of national reputation as regards this point, I am going to quote from a recent expression by the distinguished columnist, Westbrook Pegler. Lately he wrote:

"All of a sudden, Mr. Roosevelt discovers that the Supreme court is largely senile and demands quick action on a proposal which, if adopted, would create an easy precedent for the most cynical packing of the Supreme court by someone of the type of Huey Long or Warren Harding, Mussolini or Hitler in years to come. It might not be many years either. . . . All dictators pack the courts by legal means as a preliminary to the promulgation of their dictatorial laws. After that it is comparatively easy to take over because the courts belong to the dictator and do as he orders."

There can be no question, of course, that the thing Mr. Roosevelt proposes to have congress do for him is legal. Since, however, it is legal in this instance, it will be legal, of course, for someone else to come along after Mr. Roosevelt and pack the court with men of his own choosing, men who will decide questions as the then President desires them to decide. There is no limit to what may come if once the door is opened. Senator Wheeler, the Montana Democrat who has long been outstanding in the liberal character of views he holds, has added to this thought the expression that if the door is to be opened, the people must do it—not the congress that was elected without voters having heard the proposition mentioned.

As the fight of packing the Supreme court waxes warmer, one can not help noting how even clever politicians make mistakes.

There are many who believe that Mr. Roosevelt made a grievous error in proposing revision of the Supreme court in the fashion he chose while there are others who say that he was elected by such a tremendous majority that he will have the people behind him regardless of the character of proposition advanced to congress.

It is interesting to note how many congressmen and senators are dodging the issue. Their silence is positively thunderous because they do not know how the people back home feel about the general proposition. There are others who have come out boldly for one reason or another in support of the plan and there are some 33 or more in the senate who have determined their position already and are ready to fight to the finish to stop passage of such a law.

Then there was the mistake which Senator Robinson of Arkansas, the Democratic leader, made in the senate the other day. He vigorously denounced what he termed propaganda and a conspiracy to defeat the President's plan. He called attention to much newspaper and editorial comment in opposition and accused all of those people indiscriminately with being part of a gigantic conspiracy against the court pack.

The humor of the Robinson outburst seemed not to be apparent to the otherwise kindly mannered senator whom I very much admire. What he did by an hour-long attack in the senate was to re-emphasize all of the criticism of the President's plan.

One might refer in this connection also to the explosive type of speech made by Harry Hopkins, relief administrator. Of course, everyone knows that Mr. Hopkins has made his life's work that of looking after suffering humanity. He is on the government pay roll in such a job. Mr. Hopkins attacked all opposition to the President's plan because he said it was in the interest of humanity to do so. The relief administrator made his appeal direct to all of those receiving federal money through relief rolls and that obviously will be taken up by opponents of the President's plan who undoubtedly will say as some already have hinted that Mr. Hopkins is trying to muster relief classes to bring pressure upon congress.

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## OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Brief Resume of Happenings of the Week Collected for Our Readers

**Lebanon**—Charles Lindeman has offered to purchase the old horse-drawn grader of the city of Lebanon and will use it for farm terracing.

**Klamath Falls**—Potato shipments from the Klamath basin for this season up to March 1 totaled 5418 carloads, more than the entire Oregon state shipments up to that date.

**Wheeler**—Silver-side eggs are now hatching at the state hatchery on Foley creek. Fifty thousand of the little fish hatched last Monday and more are coming every day. Three million are supposed to be the "turn-out" for the quantity of eggs planted.

**Oregon City**—Reaching figuratively for the last stick of timber, mills and logging camps in the Highland-Viola area are speeding operations as timber in the area is rapidly disappearing. Two mill operators were dismantling their plants last week, and several others will finish up this summer.

**Astoria**—A concentrated drive against smuggling is anticipated here following the arrival last week of two 33-foot coast guard picket boats. The trim craft were shipped to Portland from the east on the steamer Memphis City and were towed here. They will be overhauled before being placed in use. The boats are capable of 26 knots.

**Newberg**—A local soil conservation association was organized here with the following officers and directors: H. J. Swain, chairman; E. S. Strother, vice chairman; Kenneth Fendall, secretary; Earl Smith, treasurer; and Thomas Price, director. The organization, which will be aided by the federal soil conservation service recently located in Newberg, will work towards the prevention of soil erosion on farms in this section.

**Lakeview**—The Oregon State highway commission has authorized purchase of a strip of land along the Fremont highway near Summer Lake postoffice, on which will be erected a historical marker, according to word received here by the chamber of commerce. A sign will be placed there stating that General Fremont and Kit Carson descended from the Summer Lake rim at the point in December, 1843 en route from The Dalles to Fort Sutter, California.

**Klamath Falls**—Deaths of scores of deer against a fence along the Southern Pacific's Modoc line right-of-way, in the lava beds country, across the state line will be investigated by J. S. Hunter, chief of the California bureau of game conservation. Klamath County Commissioner Roy Taber, on his return here from California, said he conferred with Hunter. Klamath persons reported seeing eight deer killed when they ran against the fence as a train passed.

**Estacada**—That magic phrase, "There's gold in them thar hills," is once again the incentive of local prospectors whose gold-seeking lust was fanned into flame by announcement that the state is to grubstake miners. For years rumors have been circulated that there is much gold in these parts and also this section has its mysterious "lost mine." Now the miners are able to get a grubstake from the state and are preparing to use Estacada as a base to go into the mountains east of here.

**WELFARE WORKER NAMED**  
**Baker**—A child welfare worker has been assigned to the Baker county relief committee to make a more intensive and specialized approach to child welfare problems, according to Miss Margaret Kearns, social service supervisor of the county committee.

Miss Adams, formerly a worker with the Multnomah county children's bureau, will work with the local committee.

**CROP SHOWING GOOD**  
**Corvallis**—Crops introduced by the Oregon State college extension service have shown a marked increase in average during the past ten years, E. R. Jackson, agronomist, has reported in a survey of the counties.

Grimm alfalfa, once rare west of the Cascades, jumped from an acreage of 3310 in western Oregon in 1926 to 42,585 five years later. Ladino clover increased from 134 to 16,254 acres, sweet clover from 583 to 6175 and Austrian winter peas from 50 to 27,350. The most important change east of the Cascades has been in crested wheat grass, increasing from a test lot status to 30,000 acres last year. Oregon led in seed production in this grass with 89,444 pounds.

**Eugene**—Work of assessing property in Lane county has started in the several districts Assessor Welby Stevens has announced. Instructions in the assessment of personal property was given the deputies at a recent meeting.

**Klamath Falls**—Although no final plans have been made for the opening of between 400 and 500 acres of land in the Tule Lake district, the bureau of reclamation is taking tentative steps with the idea of receiving applications next September.

## What Irvin S. Cobb Thinks about

Twilight of Knee Pants.  
SANTA MONICA, CALIF. —

Since our diplomatic group must shed the half-portion breeches they've been wearing at official functions abroad, that means others present will quit mistaking them for footmen and start in again mistaking them for waiters, as formerly.

But the under-rigging doesn't make so much difference anyhow. In the best plenipotentiary circles, it's the top dressing that counts — the gold-plated cocked hat; the dress coat loaded with bullion; the bosom crossed with broad ribbons; the lapels and the throat lath so decorated with medals that, alongside one thus costumed, Solomon in all his glory would look absolutely nude.



Irvin S. Cobb

**End of the Holdout Season.**  
THE baseball season couldn't start off properly unless a certain catastrophe impended beforehand. Every self-respecting player who made a hit last year insists on more salary for this year, else he'll never spit in the palm of another glove. This makes him a hold-out. The manager declares the player will take what's offered him and not a cent more. This makes him a manager.

But fear not, little one. They'll all be in there when the governor or the mayor or somebody winds up to launch the first game and tosses the ball nearly eighteen feet in the general direction of the continent of North America.

**Changing Style Capitals.**  
HOLLYWOOD and not Paris is now the world center for fashions, if you can believe Hollywood—and not Paris.

At any rate, both for men and women, we do originate many style creations which, in the best movie circles, frequently make the women look mannish and the men look effeminate; maybe that's the desired effect; an oldtimer wouldn't know about that.

However, there's a new hat out here for masculine wear which fascinates me. It is a very woolly hat—a nap on it like an old family album — and the crown peaks up in a most winsome way, and there's a rakish bunch of tail-feathers at the back which makes it look as though it might settle down any minute and start laying. I think they got the idea for it from the duck-billed platypus.

**Civilizing Ethiopia.**  
CONQUERED Ethiopians attempt to assassinate their new overlord, Viceroy Graziani. Nobody is killed, but several individuals get bunged up.

So the conquerors arrest all natives of Addis Ababa in whose huts weapons are found. They round up 2,000 "suspects" out of a total population of 90,000.

So promptly 1,800 of these black prisoners are put to death in batches. In former days the firing squads would have worn themselves to a frazzle in a rush job of this sort, but no — well, who would deny that the machine gun is the crowning achievement of white culture? Poison gas is also much favored for pacifying rebellious savages, and plane-bombing likewise has its advocates.

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**The Public's Short Memory.**  
A FINANCIER, whose exposed devices are as a bad smell in people's nostrils, summarily is ousted from his high place and the shadows swallow up his diminished shape. A little time passes, and, lo, in a new setting, he bobs up, an envied if not an exalted personage. So-called exclusive groups welcome him in; newspapers quote him on this and that; he basks again, like some sleek and overfed lizard, in the sunshine of folks' tolerance—yes, the admiration of some.

No evidence that he has repented of his former practices; no sign of intent to repay any broken victim of those fiduciary operations. The private fortune which he took with him when he quit is still all his. And maybe there's the secret of this magical restoration to the favor of the multitude.

IRVIN S. COBB.  
©—WNU Service.

### Budapest Catacombs

The Budapest catacombs date back to the days when the Fort of Buda was held by the Turks, marking the farthest fortified advance of the forces of Islam into Christendom. They were probably intended as avenues of escape for a beleaguered garrison, but they also have fresh water wells in them, and some of the chambers were used as repositories for great numbers of human skulls and bones, as in the case of the catacombs at Rome.

## UNCOMMON AMERICANS

By Elmo Scott Watson  
© Western Newspaper Union

### Great Father, Great Son

RARELY does a great father transmit his genius to his son. But the Hopkinsons of Philadelphia were exceptions to that rule.

Francis Hopkinson, born in 1737, was the first scholar entered at the University of Pennsylvania (then the College of Philadelphia) and was graduated from its first class. He held several positions of importance in Penn's colony, then moved to New Jersey. There he was a member of the provincial council until he was elected to the Continental congress from New Jersey and thus became one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. But other facts make him more notable than almost any of the other 55 signers of that document.

He wrote an allegory in which he recounted the wrongs of the colonies and did much to fan the spirit of revolution. He wrote the famous song "The Battle of the Kegs" satirizing the British scare over an attempt to blow up their ships with a certain David Bushnell, and this song became the favorite of Washington's soldiers.

But most important is the fact that evidence exists which shows that he was the designer of the first Stars and Stripes as our national flag (the Betsy Ross tradition to the contrary notwithstanding) and that he had a hand in designing the first Great Seal of this nation.

His son, Joseph Hopkinson, born in 1770, followed closely in his father's footsteps. He also was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, studied law and held several positions in the state and federal government. He helped found the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts, served as its president for many years and was vice-president of the American Philosophical society which his father had helped found.

But he is best remembered for a song which he wrote—thus emulating his father again. It was "Hail Columbia" which was the only national song of this republic until Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star Spangled Banner."

### First "America's Sweetheart"

LONG before a popular movie actress was given the title of "America's Sweetheart" there was another. Ask any man of fifty years or upwards and he will tell you her name. It was Annie Oakley.

She was born in a log cabin in Darke county, Ohio, in 1866 and her full name was Phoebe Anne Oakley Moeze. Her father died when she was six and one of the few possessions which he left was a Kentucky long rifle. Little Annie, who was something of a tomboy, soon began using this weapon to help fill the family larder with quail, squirrels and rabbits. She became an unusual marksman and the fame of her skill spread to Cincinnati where hotel keepers had been buying the game which she killed.

When she was fifteen a noted sharpshooter named Frank E. Butler came to Cincinnati. He was accustomed to issue a challenge to all comers in a shooting match. This challenge was taken up by one of Annie's hotel-keeping patrons who urged her to shoot against Butler. The girl not only won the match but she won Butler's heart as well and a year or so later they were married. She began taking part in her husband's shooting act and, being a skilled showman, he pushed her more and more into the limelight and kept himself more and more in the background.

Then "Buffalo Bill" Cody organized his Wild West show and in 1885 the "Butler and Oakley" act joined it. But it wasn't long until the second half of the act was the whole act and as Annie Oakley she started on the career which made her the idol of Young America. "Little Sure Shot" she was named by the famous chief, Sitting Bull, when he went out with Buffalo Bill's show and as "Little Sure Shot" she became famous, not only throughout America but all over Europe as well.

When Cody took his show abroad her marksmanship thrilled everyone who saw it—and that included dukes, princes and kings.

One of her stunts was to use playing cards as targets and these cards, punctured by her bullets, became treasured souvenirs. In those days showmen who handed out free passes always punched a hole or two in them, thus saving a miscount when the day's proceeds were counted. Once a baseball magnate looked at a card which had been so thoroughly perforated that little was left. "Huh! Looks like Annie Oakley's shot at it!" he grunted. And from that day free passes became "Annie Oakleys."

The name of this remarkable woman whose career came to an end in 1926 is thus perpetuated in our "slanguage." But in the hearts of thousands of Americans today, the boys of yesteryear, it is enshrined as "America's Sweetheart."

## Two Blouses From One Smart Pattern



Blouses, like crocuses, always bloom early in the Spring, and here are two versions that can be made from the same pattern that will brighten your wintry wardrobe just like a pot of flowers brightens a room. You can make the dressier version, with charming machine-tucked ruffling, out of an airy organdie. And the sportier blouse with revers and two buttons and a plain-edged peplum, will do nicely in a silk crepe or crisp dimity or percale. There's bouffant charm in the dropped swing peplum and the big puffed sleeves.

Barbara Bell Pattern No. 1271-B is available for sizes 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20. Corresponding bust measurements 30, 32, 34, 36 and 38. The dressy blouse, size 16 (34), requires 2 yards 35-inch fabric, plus 3 yards of machine pleating and the sporty one 2 3/4 yards.

Send your order to The Sewing Circle Pattern Dept., 149 New Montgomery Ave., San Francisco, Calif. Pattern 15 cents (in coins). © Bell Syndicate.—WNU Service.

### Looked Like a Queen

One of the most picturesque first ladies of the land was Dolly Madison, who, at the inaugural ceremonies of President Madison, "looked like a queen." She had on a pale, buff-colored velvet gown made plain with a long train but not the least trimming; a beautiful pearl necklace, earrings, and bracelets. Her headdress was a turban of the same colored velvet with two superb plumes of bird of paradise feathers. Dolly painted and powdered a little; she took snuff constantly from lava and platinum boxes.

**Refinement Bent**  
Decency arises from a natural predilection for refinement.



### How Many Pennies Your Child's Life?

Don't Try to "Save" Your Home Remedies—Ask Your Doctor  
There is one point, on which practically all doctors agree. That is: Don't give your child unknown remedies without asking your doctor first. All mothers know this. But sometimes the instinct to save a few pennies by buying "something just as good" overcomes caution.

When it comes to the widely used children's remedy—"milk of magnesia"—many doctors for over half a century have said "PHILLIPS." For Phillips' Milk of Magnesia is the standard of the world. Safe for children.

Keep this in mind, and say "PHILLIPS' MILK OF MAGNESIA" when you buy. Comes now, also in tablet form. Get the form you prefer. But see that what you get is labeled "Genuine Phillips' Milk of Magnesia." 25¢ for a big box of the tablets at drug stores.

PHILLIPS' MILK OF MAGNESIA