

# News Review of Current Events the World Over

## Johnson Averts Textile Strike and Tackles Steel Workers' Threat—Steps for Drouth Relief—Fletcher Made Republican Chairman.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD  
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GENERAL JOHNSON, administrator of the NRA, evidently must be given credit for a skillful piece of work in negotiating the agreement which forestalled the threatened strike of some 400,000 workers in the cotton textile industry. The immediate peril was to the workers themselves, for the cotton mill owners, embarrassed by over-production, would be willing to shut down their plants for a considerable time. Of course, the New Deal would have suffered a black eye, so General Johnson tackled the problem energetically and persuaded Thomas F. McMahon, president of the United Textile Workers of America, and George Sloan, head of the Cotton Textile Institute, to accept a compromise, and the call for the strike was revoked.

The employers are permitted to go ahead with their program of curtailing production 25 per cent, and the laborers have the promise of an NRA investigation into the matter of higher wages and other points of difference. The union also is assured of increased representation on the industrial relations board of the cotton textile code authority and on the NRA advisory board.

The next great labor trouble, the dispute between the steel masters and the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, promised to be more difficult for General Johnson to handle, and it seemed that prompt action by President Roosevelt would be necessary to avert the threatened strike. The men demand the right of collective bargaining through the union agents. Michael F. Tighe, president of the Amalgamated, declared it was up to Mr. Roosevelt to provide "prompt and unqualified enforcement of the law" on this point. He said the government had failed the steel workers and "their patience is exhausted."

General Johnson offered a compromise in the form of a special labor relations board for the steel industry, similar to that which was created for the automotive industry in March. But the proposition was rejected by both the steel masters and the spokesmen for the union.

According to the American Iron and Steel Institute, the strike threats are due to the activities of union leaders who seek government intervention "to maneuver themselves into positions of power and domination over the steel workers of the nation." In a formal statement, the institute asserted relations of steel companies and a great mass of their employees are "peaceful," and that the whole difficulty lies with the Amalgamated association.

The "closed shop" is the one point at issue, the statement says, and for the employers to "accede to such a request would be rank treachery."

ROUSED to action by the drouth, which is the worst the country has ever experienced, President Roosevelt telephoned from Groton, Conn., to the federal relief administration, directing that a special relief work program be put into operation immediately in the middle western states.

On his return to Washington he called a council of war to expand his plans and hear proposals from various government officials. It was stated by Mr. Roosevelt that farmers should be given cash income from work and also employment on projects so that their immediate distress might be alleviated.

Harry L. Hopkins, federal emergency relief administrator, at once allocated \$6,500,000 to 13 states so that the work could start. The states receiving allotments are: Wisconsin, \$2,100,000; Minnesota, \$1,000,000; South Dakota, \$1,050,000; Idaho, \$250,000; Kansas, \$200,000; Montana, \$350,000; Nebraska, \$276,000; New Mexico, \$100,000; North Dakota, \$500,000; Utah, \$600,000; Wyoming, \$150,000.

Work projects, Mr. Hopkins said, will be put speedily under way to employ the heads of farm families in need. The projects will include the development of additional water supply through digging wells and through impounding or diverting water from rivers and lakes.

Projects employing men and women in the canning of meat, fruits and vegetables also will be used to conserve food resources of the area and furnish cash income for the families. Road work, as well, will provide considerable emergency employment.

HENRY P. FLETCHER of Pennsylvania has been handed the rather difficult job of managing the Republican party. The national committee at its session in Chicago elected him chairman to succeed Everett Sanders. This would seem to be a wise choice, for Mr. Fletcher is an able and energetic man, notable for his diplomacy and tact and also for ready wit. In 1898 he abandoned law practice to become one of Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders, and after the campaign in Cuba he transferred to the infantry and served through the Philippine insurrection. He entered the diplomatic service in 1902 and after valuable service in Cuba, China, Portugal and again in China, he was successively ambassador to Chile, Mexico, Belgium and Italy. For a time during the Harding administration he was undersecretary of state, and after his retirement from the embassy in Rome he was chairman of the federal tariff commission.

The national committee adopted a statement of principles for the party in the fall campaign which in temperate but firm language condemned the doings of the Democratic administration, without any personalities, and more specifically set forth what the Republican party thinks should be done to restore the nation to prosperity. Opening with the statement that "American institutions and American civilization are in greater danger today than at any time since the foundation of the Republic," the statement plunged immediately into discussion of the need for social legislation.

There was assurance of liberal treatment of these problems in this paragraph:

"Our nation is beset with problems of infinite complexity—the problems of recovery; of unemployment, with its unending tale of human suffering; of agriculture, with its lost markets and relatively low prices; of forever checking abuses and excesses that have become all too apparent, and thereafter the problems of a wider spread of prosperity, of relieving the hardships of unemployment and old age, and of avoiding these tragic depressions. These problems must be approached in a broad, liberal and progressive spirit, unhampered by dead formulas or too obstinately clinging to the past."

Solution of the problems, however, said the statement, should be "within the framework of American institutions in accordance with the spirit and principles of the founders of the Republic."

Further on the platform said: "We are opposed to revolutionary change without popular mandate—and all 'change by usurpation,' the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed."

"We believe that the present emergency laws vesting dictatorial powers in the President must never be permitted to become a permanent part of our governmental system."

During its session the committee raised more than enough money to pay all its debts.

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR HAROLD ICKES journeyed to Chicago and testified in the disbarment proceedings brought by him against two Chicago lawyers, C. W. Larsen and J. M. Malm, the latter once a federal judge of the Virgin Islands. Mr. Ickes asserted the defendants had tried to blackmail him in order to obtain for Malm the position of governor of the Virgin Islands and a federal post for Larsen. He said their "conspiracy" was based on "trumped-up charges" growing out of a Probate court case he handled as an attorney some years ago.

The secretary's charges were later flatly denied by the defendants. The case was being heard by the grievance committee of the Chicago Bar association.

GREAT BRITAIN formally notified the United States that it would not pay anything on the war debt installment due June 15; that it would make no more payments until the

United States consents to a downward revision of the debt, and that any discussion of revision at this time would be useless. All of which means plain default. The British note was sent in response to a blunt notification from President Roosevelt as to the sums due. It was evident, from foreign dispatches, that the other debtor nations, except Finland, would follow the course adopted by the British.

THERE was rejoicing in Belgium when it was announced that a son had been born to the new king and queen, Leopold and Astrid. Mother and child were reported to be doing well. The monarchs, who were married in 1926, have two other children, Josephine Charlotte, six, and Baudoin, three, heir apparent to the throne.

MUCH interesting information was given the special house committee that is investigating "un-American" activities in the United States, these being especially the activities of the Nazis. Facts and figures were presented showing officials of the German government had spent money for the dissemination of pro-German information in this country, the German ambassador, Dr. Hans Luther, and the German consul general in New York, Dr. Otto Kiep, both figuring in the testimony.

Dr. Otto Kiep was said to have paid \$4,000 to a New York city publicity and business promotion firm to "obtain publicity in this country" of anti-Semitic statements. He was said, also, to have contributed, unofficially and in behalf of a third person, \$300 in \$50 bills for the publication of a pro-German pamphlet. Doctor Luther was described as the financial backer and sponsor of the pamphlet.

Under examination, Carl Dickey, partner in the New York firm of Carl Byoir and Associates, said his firm has a contract with the German tourist information office, receiving \$6,000 a month "giving advice, counsel, and getting together material for travel information."

About twice a month, too, he testified, a sheet titled "German-American Economic Bulletin" is prepared and mailed to a "list of about 3,000 newspapers and some few business institutions."

One witness, Rev. Francis Gross of Perth Amboy, N. J., linked Ambassador Luther with alleged pro-German propaganda in a letter which he read to the committee. Father Gross, a retired Catholic priest, told how he had published a pamphlet entitled, "Justice to Hungary, Germany and Austria."

Later the committee heard a story of the nation-wide distribution of Nazi "propaganda"—some of it allegedly brought into the United States without customs inspection. Evidence was presented to show that German consuls had encouraged organization of pro-German clubs to which the "propaganda" was sent.

Representatives of the State, Post Office and Labor departments were interested listeners to the testimony produced.

LOUIS BARTHOU, foreign minister of France, appears as the dominating figure in the negotiations that may dispel the war clouds hanging over Europe. The most important thing he already has accomplished is the engineering of an accord between France and Germany on conditions for the Saar plebiscite and setting the date for that vote on January 13, 1935. The agreement gives assurance that France, under the pretext of preserving order, will not use force to prevent the return of the Saar basin to Germany. It also means that the Germans now have everything to lose and nothing to gain from a putsch in the Saar, so the possibility of a clash in the near future is virtually eliminated. Of special importance is a clause that amounts to recognition of the rights of Jewish and anti-Nazi minorities in the Saar.



Louis Barthou

In the disarmament conference in Geneva M. Barthou has been equally forceful though not so peaceful in his doings. He has stood out firmly against the German demands for arms equality and has greatly angered Sir John Simon, British foreign secretary. In connection with Counsellor Rosenberg of the Soviet embassy in Paris, Barthou has been forming what is called an eastern Locarno pact to be signed by Russia, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, with France as its moral guarantor. This would be rather a shock to Germany and Poland, and the Franco-Russian bloc thus formed would force Great Britain into the background in matters concerning continental Europe. To block this scheme the British would be glad to have the arms conference agree on a minimum program and then adjourn.

## OREGON STATE NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST

### Brief Resume of Happenings of the Week Collected for Our Readers

Bend — Fire has destroyed the brooder house of E. L. Groff, near Bend. Included in the loss were 800 3-week-old chicks kept in the brooder in which the fire started.

Hermiston — The annual picnic of the Umatilla County Wool Growers' auxiliary will be held next Sunday at Battle Mountain park. Three prizes for the best lamb dishes will be awarded.

Eugene — The Lane county court has granted 351 old age pensions out of 498 applications. The average payment will be \$9.57 per month. The total June outlay for pensions will be \$3362.

Albany — C. V. Boyer, president of the University of Oregon, will figure in the circuit court at Albany as a defendant in a damage suit begun by C. W. Bengs. The trial is a sequel to an automobile accident on the highway south of Albany about a year ago.

Astoria — Temple lodge, A. F. and A. M., of Astoria, will celebrate its 80th anniversary. The lodge was organized in 1853 and was given a charter in 1854, five years before Oregon was admitted to statehood and two years before Astoria was incorporated as a city.

Astoria — Plans for the installation of a permanent lighting system for Gyro field in order that the field may be used for night athletic contests and other events during the American Legion convention are being pushed by the Gyro club of Astoria.

Medford — Squaw creek in the Applegate country has brought joy to another gold miner. Dave Force of Central Point last week took out a pocket there, which netted him \$4000.

Roseburg — Jesse Nevall, homesteader in the Mount Scott region near here, decided to go outside of his home. He did. An instant later a bolt of lightning struck and fired the structure.

Grants Pass — Destroying all the principal business houses, fire late last Saturday night swept through Cave City, southern Oregon's newest town, located about 30 miles west of Grants Pass. Damage was estimated at \$35,000.

Ashland — With approximately 50 per cent of the valley's cherry crop spoiled and made useless for market purposes by the recent heavy rains, shipments from Ashland that previously have lasted into the latter part of July will be virtually completed by the end of this month.

Salem Pulp Plant Down — Announcement was made at the plant of the Oregon Pulp and Paper company here that the plant had closed indefinitely due to a tie-up caused by the longshoremen's strike in Portland and also to conserve material in event an emergency run is needed. Six hundred employees were made idle.

Hood River — Vernon Kitchel, a Parkdale boy, has been notified that the bottle containing a note, which he sent floating down Hood river November 26 of last year, was picked up on the north shore of the Columbia river, near Stevenson, a week ago. O. F. Martin was the finder of the bottle, which had traveled about 60 miles.

Gresham — The Rotary cut box factory, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Felt, employs 26 men and women and is turning out an average of 35,000 halloweekers a day, all absorbed by the local trade. They have operated a box factory in Gresham for the past nine years and due to the developing business found it necessary to enlarge their plant.

Baker — A nugget containing about \$400 in gold was found recently by Joe McCoy on the McCoy and Lanyon placers near Granite. The property was worked by the Chinese placer miners about 45 years ago. Because of its unusually rich ore it was taken by force by white men. A gold "pocket" containing \$40,000 was taken out 35 years ago. The claim is near Alamo, a well-known ghost mining town.

## Howe About:

### Sentiment Manufactured Roar Ford's Philosophy

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By ED HOWE

THE gross sentimentality Americans have long practiced in their public affairs, and do not privately believe in, has done them great harm. No one can doubt it was our foolishly sentimental talk of making the world safe for democracy that landed us in the World war, at an expense which bankrupted us, and harmed instead of promoted democracy; it gave the politicians their present terrible power.

Gross sentimentality (too much sympathy for evil doers) ruined our courts, and built up a legal system that is the astonishment of the intelligent world; it has corrupted our youth, our women and our religion—everything we are now in almost universal revolt against had its inception in gross sentimentality.

The writers and leaders known as the Sob Squad have taken advantage of our smiling, hypocritical acquiescence in sentimental folly until we are the laughing stock of all sane foreigners. Our present groaning because of self-inflicted wounds will make a page in future histories that will disgrace the once brave word American.

I have lived so long, and heard so many tales, only a very unusual one interests me. Today I gave a little attention to this: A twenty-year-old girl of the best set in a small town is taking a liquor cure.

I have just been reading another African book, and encountered two well-behaved maidenly ladies who went everywhere. They had no ambition beyond seeing the country; no reforms to introduce. So they were welcomed by all the whites, and the natives found them so unusual they were also delighted to see them. The author thus dismisses them finally; "They had been everywhere in the world that one would like to go, and experienced nothing that in their eyes amounted to risk or discomfort. But they will never write a travel book, their observation is too accurate, their views too sane, to command attention."

The writing between the lines here is that publishers will print nothing about Africa, or anything else, not absurdly exaggerated. In everything in print publishers insist that lions roar menacingly, maul hunters, and carry off women and children. In all you read, look out for the manufactured roar, and discount it, or your reading will add to your confusion.

Henry Ford recently wrote: "A man has no divine right to a job, but must work to find work. Charity undermines character; self-help is the only road to economic salvation. I do not believe in routine charity; I think it a shameful thing that any man should have to stoop to take it or give it. It is neither helpful nor human. The charity of our cities is the most barbarous thing in our system. True charity is a much more costly effort than money giving. Unemployment has become one of the most dreadful words in the language." . . . This philosopher spent a large amount of money in getting this sound thinking before the people, but they paid not the slightest attention to it.

I was once in the company of a mother and daughter, and especially admired the daughter. "She deserves all you say of her now," the mother said, "but as a child she was terrible; I was busy half the time returning things she stole from the neighbors. And she was a tyrant with the other children and with her parents. In her babyhood I as sincerely regretted she ever was born as I now rejoice in it, for she is an unusually creditable woman; she frequently shames me with her ladylike manners." . . . I admired the young woman the more because she so successfully overcame the natural bad habits of youth. Success in life is realization as we grow up that if we are to enjoy the comforts of civilization, we must acquire civilized habits.

I rarely read without encountering a statement that capitalism has failed. . . . Every such statement is silly, but no one can be convinced of it. Capitalism is nothing more than the least troublesome way, demonstrated by long experience, of handling necessary barter. It has no more failed than has marriage, or law, or philosophy; not nearly so much as religion or democracy. . . . What do these men mean when they say capitalism has failed? Are they declaring that when we wish to buy a railroad ticket it is better to pay for it with corn on the ear or pigs on the hoof than with money?