

Review of the History-Making Events of the World

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

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Senator Borah Maintains Independent Attitude

SENATOR WILLIAM E. BORAH of Idaho, whose attitude in the Presidential campaign is a matter of great interest to all parties, has declared he would confine his attention to state matters; but then, being irked by some criticism from Republicans he went further and said he was "going after the Republican party." The veteran said he had been accused of not being regular.



"Well, what is a regular?" he asked. "A regular is a man with no ideas, who waits for someone to tell him what to do. My idea of being regular is in doing what you believe to be right in the interests of the people you represent."

"Let this be understood—I'm telling all parties, Republican, Democratic, Union—I'm going to advocate the things I believe in whether they cross party lines or not."

Pessimism Prevails at Last League Sessions

PESSIMISM and discontent marked the final session of the League of Nations assembly, the leaders admitting that little had been accomplished. Carlos Saavedra Lamas of Argentina, president of the assembly, even asked if he might not raise the question whether "civilization is on the verge of a final breakup."

The question of reforming the league covenant provoked a bitter controversy on whether nonmember states should be consulted. Russia was understood to be anxious particularly to bar German influence and achieved a minor triumph since no definite action to solicit nonmember co-operation was taken. A committee of twenty-eight was named to study reform proposals.

The assembly approved reports of its economic and disarmament committees. The economic report carried a British proposal to create a commission to study accessibility of raw materials. The United States and other nonmembers would be invited to participate. The report of the disarmament committee approved the reconvening of the world disarmament conference at an early date.

Disorders in Palestine Are Dropped by the Arabs

ARABS of Palestine, who had been on "strike" for 175 days in protest against unrestricted immigration of Jews, were persuaded by the British to call off the strike, which had been accompanied by great disorders and the killing of several hundred persons. The Arab high committee issued an appeal to Arabs throughout the country to return to work quietly, and this command was obeyed generally. Sir Arthur Wauchope, British high commissioner, was said to have informed the British government that it was now safe for the royal commission of investigation to begin its work of inquiring into the grievances of the Arabs.

According to a Hebrew newspaper of Jerusalem, the Arabs have arranged for backing by Italian Fascists for their aspirations. Also the Moslem authority administering Islamic church property is reported to be prepared to sell Catholics a Christian holy place on Mount Zion.

Waterway Money Allotted for Atlantic Coast

MEMBERS of the Atlantic Deep-sea Waterways association, assembling in Trenton, N. J., for their annual convention, were informed by President Roosevelt that funds totaling \$24,000,000 have been allotted for waterway improvements along

the Atlantic coast during 1937. In a letter to President J. Hampton Moore of the association, to be read to the convention, Mr. Roosevelt also said:

"This year has been noteworthy in witnessing the completion of the 1,435 mile inside route of the intra-coastal waterway from Trenton to Miami. Much credit for this accomplishment belongs to your association and it is to be congratulated therefor. Other waterway projects of permanent value to the nation sponsored by your organization have been completed or are progressing in a satisfactory manner."

Swanson's Hint to Japan About Fortifications

AS THE time for the expiration of the Washington naval treaty draws nearer, the utterances of Secretary of the Navy Swanson take on more and more the nature of sharp warnings to Japan not to get too gay in the Pacific. In a press conference the other day he said:

"Fortifications are intended to answer fortifications. One menace must be met by another menace."

And he gave notice that the navy should be ready to do the necessary meeting.

About the same time the State department was studying a proposition, made to it and to Japan by Great Britain, for an extension of the treaty pledge of the three nations not to build new fortifications or naval bases in certain of their Pacific possessions.

Austria Private Armies Forced to Dissolve

KURT SCHUSCHNIGG, chancellor of Austria, is taking his place among the European dictators. In order to consolidate military power in his own hands, he decreed the dissolution of all private armies, this being aimed especially at the Fascist Heimwehr headed by Prince Ernst von Starhemberg. The prince directed his followers to obey the edict, and Major Fey, Starhemberg's rival for control of the Heimwehr, called on the elements recognizing his leadership to preserve order.



The chancellor's order also affected his own Catholic storm troops. All the private troops were ordered consolidated with the Austrian state militia. This would increase Austria's official armed forces to about 158,000 men. The dissolution decree met strong opposition within the cabinet, and was voted after three ministers had walked out.

Schuschnigg's task now is to actually disarm the private armies. If he succeeds in doing this, his complete control over Austria may be conceded. It is recalled that the Heimwehr was ordered to disarm in 1931, that the government seized many weapons, and that a year later some 40,000 Heimwehr men appeared fully armed and uniformed. Von Starhemberg may not be really squelched this time, either. It is a certainty that he has a powerful friend in Premier Mussolini of Italy.

Russia Angrily Warns Fascist Nations

HELP given the Spanish insurgents by Fascist countries so enraged soviet Russia that she gave notice that, unless it ceased she would free herself from any obligations to the agreement for neutrality. The representatives of the 27 nations on the international committee of non-intervention in the Spanish war were about to meet in London, and Moscow's challenge caused a real sensation. Moiseyevich Kagan, soviet delegate on the committee, specifically named Portugal,

Italy and Germany as the offenders and called for an investigation. It is believed that if Russia is not satisfied in this matter she will send airplanes and other war material to the Spanish government.

Kagan's communication made the direct charges that German airplanes reached the Spanish rebels from Germany, that poison gas reached the rebels from Italy, and that Portugal permitted its frontier to be used by the rebels.

The committee refused to take any action of the Russian complaint, averring that the charges were not specific enough.

Spanish Fascists pushed their lines so closely around Madrid that they called on the government to surrender the capital immediately and thus save it from a destructive bombardment. An airplane fleet showered the city with circulars telling the citizens that further resistance was useless. One of the most threatening of General Franco's advances was directed at Aranjuez, whose capture would cut off Madrid's food supply from the Mediterranean.

The government claimed that an army of loyalist miners had fought its way to the center of Oviedo against the desperate resistance of the rebel defenders.

Gen. Francisco Franco, chief of the insurgents, decreed a Fascist dictatorship and created a "junta of state" which will govern subject to his will. In his first statement of policy, Franco assured workers they would be "protected against the ills of capitalism and that steps would be taken to regulate favorable working hours."

Finds Private Debt Load Is Not Excessive

BASED on its conclusions on a study covering the period from 1900 to 1935, the National Industrial Conference board finds that there is no evidence to support the theory that the burden of private debt upon business is excessive. Statements that private debt is "absorbing wealth" or is showing a changed and unfavorable relationship to wealth, or that the depression was precipitated by an excessive debt burden are without factual basis, the board reported.

Interest charges have not outrun the capacity to pay them, according to the board's study, which showed that the rates of growth of private long term debt and of interest charges from 1900 to 1935 were similar to those of national wealth and national income.

Since 1930 private long term debt has tended to decline. Only the public utilities have increased the amount of their outstanding debt. But the board points out that no debt problem exists in the public utility field as a whole and that expansion of the electric light and power utilities has been on a sound basis, with the industry in a safe position to meet interest charges.

The steam railroads, taken as a whole, are neither overcapitalized nor overburdened with debt, the board concludes.

Swedish Aviator Fails in Stockholm Flight

KURT BJORKVALL, Swedish aviator, made an attempt to fly alone from New York to Stockholm. Thirty-two hours after the start he was picked up from the ocean about one hundred miles off the coast of Ireland. Supposedly he had run short of fuel. The rescue was made by a French trawler. The plane was badly damaged and was abandoned.

Court Opens Way for Security Act Test

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE C. B. KENNEMER of Montgomery, Ala., issued an order halting collection in Alabama of a one per cent payroll tax to finance the unemployment program. The result, it is expected, will be a clear cut test of the validity of the New Deal's social security act, for lawyers had no doubt the case would

be carried to the United States Supreme court. The order was granted the Gulf State Steel corporation of Gadsden, Ala., on a plea that the unemployment insurance program, operated in co-operation with the federal government, violates both state and federal constitutions.

Karl Radek Is Latest Accused in Russia

ACCUSED of complicity in the plot against Dictator Stalin for which 16 prominent Russians were executed in August, Karl Radek, brilliant journalist, is under arrest and in danger of losing his life. He disappeared just after the executions of the others, but was caught a few days ago.

In his last article, published in the official newspaper Izvestia, Radek confessed his unfaithfulness to the Communist party, but defended himself with a vitriolic attack on Trotsky and claimed he had "expiated" his sins by foiling Trotsky's attempted sabotage of the Stalin regime.

Odd Political Condition Up in Minnesota

POLITICAL expediency brought about a strange state of affairs in Minnesota. Fred Curtis and Patrick J. Delaney, respectively Democratic gubernatorial and senatorial nominee, withdrew from the race in favor of the Farmer-Labor candidates in return for Farmer-Labor support for the re-election of President Roosevelt. The members of the Democratic party throughout the state were rather dismayed by this action and some of the leaders protested vigorously.

John E. Regan, the party's 1934 gubernatorial candidate, issued a statement asserting that Minnesota Democrats had traded votes and engineered "coalition of parties" before, but "never has there been an absolute sellout."

Alic Anderson, St. Paul attorney who was the Democratic candidate for attorney-general two years ago, marshaled his followers into the "Democrats-for-Nelson Club." Martin A. Nelson is the Republican gubernatorial candidate.

Joseph Wolf, former national committeeman, and Judge J. D. F. Meighen, state central committee chairman, led that group of Democrats supporting both Farmer-Labor candidates and President Roosevelt.

John L. Lewis States Labor Peace Terms

WILLIAM GREEN, president of the A. F. of L., who had just been calling on President Roosevelt at Hyde Park, N. Y., told the newspapermen that the prospects for peace between the warring factions in the federation were better and that those participating in the controversy were becoming "more temperate." However, that same evening John L. Lewis, the dynamic leader of the Committee for Industrial Organization, rather dashed the aforesaid prospects for peace. In Washington he laid down, as the only basis for restoration of peace in the ranks of organized labor, a program consisting of these two propositions:



J. L. Lewis

1. Revocation by the executive council of the American Federation of Labor of the order suspending ten C. I. O. unions on charges of insurrection.

2. Isolation of certain mass production industries which would be organized strictly on Lewis' "one big union" theory.

It had been stated that David Dubinsky, head of one of the suspended unions, had submitted a compromise peace proposal, but Lewis told the correspondents that he knew of no change in feeling between the battling factions; that he had made no move for peace and contemplated none; that the C. I. O.

drive to unionize the steel industry was "proceeding satisfactorily" similar to the one previously attempted and rejected by the A. F. of L. council.

Winant Shows Well in Franking Abuse Attack

ATTACKING abuse of the franking privilege, which has been practiced by followers of any party all parties when they got the chance, Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg of Michigan proposes that congress pass legislation that will put a stop to this evil, "for the sake upon the one hand of the postal revenue and for the sake, on the other, of political fair play."

When John G. Winant resigned from the social security board, a letter to the President was a pro-New Deal document. It printed by the press bureau of social security board and mailed to a large mailing list, and Senator Vandenberg asked Mr. Winant whether he thought that was a legitimate use of the franking privilege. Mr. Winant replied promptly that there be any question of propriety of the matter, he paid the mailing costs. The attitude was warmly commended by Senator Vandenberg, as it must be by all good citizens.

Typhoon in Philippines Kills Many Persons

ONE OF the worst typhoons in the history of the Philippines swept across Luzon island, killing scores of persons and destroying villages. At least 109 perished and the authorities feared the death list would be much larger for four bodies were reported missing. Egyptian bodies were recovered from the island of Cabanatuan alone.

War of Postal Systems, a Most Curious Episode

The entry of the Low countries into the Holy Roman empire in the Sixteenth century brought on one of the most curious episodes in the history of mails, a war between local carriers supported by the townspeople and the Imperial post which had come in with the Spanish army, relates a writer in the New York Herald-Tribune. The industrial cities of the Netherlands were at this time the richest in Europe and over the centuries had obtained a large measure of self-government which included operation of a primitive courier system to serve the needs of the merchants and guilds. The postmen were appointed by the burgomasters and operated over individual routes for their own profit. These routes which were traveled on foot, back or by boat, connected all the towns of the Netherlands and extended to the industrial centers of England, France and Germany.

The mails carried were considerable and the Imperial post immediately set out to obtain the business, but this the townspeople stoutly resisted. The carriers were concessionaires and they would see them interfered with. When requests to have the Imperial post suppressed failed, the townspeople turned into their own hands and attempted to forcibly oust it. Imperial postmen were seized, their mails turned over to the carriers, and, when government officials tried to break up the posts, they were set upon and beaten by the mobs. This little "war" at times reached considerable proportions. Troops had to be called to quell the riots and one severe outbreak in Antwerp at the end of this postal war came with the complete independence of the Netherlands.