

Review of the History-Making Events of the Week

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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Edward May Abdicate to Marry Mrs. Simpson

MERE scandal and gossip have no proper place in this department, but the "affaire Simpson," as the French would term it,

has progressed until it assumes world importance. As arrangements are being made for the quiet and uncontested divorce of Mrs. "Wally" Simpson, American friend of King Edward VIII of England, it is rumored in London society circles that the bachelor monarch will abdicate in favor of his brother, the Duke of York, and marry the attractive woman who has shared so much of his time in recent months. In support of this rumor is the reported fact that plans are being made for renting the farms of the Sandringham estate in Norfolk, which is the king's private property. Also, there is a story that this estate may be sold to the Aga Khan, the immensely wealthy spiritual head of the Ismaili sect of Mohammedanism.

Should Edward give up the throne, it would eventually be occupied by Princess Elizabeth, eldest daughter of the Duke of York, and this succession would be decidedly popular with the people of England. The abdicating king might revert to the dukedom of Cornwall, which provides a net income of about \$350,000.

There is nothing in British law to prevent the king from marrying whomsoever he pleases, but no ruler of the country since Henry VIII has wedded a commoner. Court gossip in London says that Prime Minister Baldwin and the archbishop of Canterbury recently appealed to Edward for greater discretion in his relations with Mrs. Simpson and were hotly rebuffed by the king.

English newspapers imposed on themselves a voluntary censorship in this affair, but it has been broken by the Sunday Referee which prints an article declaring the king "may marry by spring," that this would result in postponement of the coronation, and that tradesmen have been insuring themselves against such a delay.

Japan "Not Fortifying" Isles Under Mandate

FOR some time there have appeared in print stories about how Japan was establishing air and submarine bases in the former German islands of the South Pacific over which she holds a League of Nations mandate. It has been expected that the league's mandate commission would investigate these reports, and now Japan seeks to forestall such action by a formal report to the league in which she asserts she has "no fortifications, military or naval bases" in those islands. The Tokio government says it is scrupulously observing that part of the mandate which forbids the use of the islands for military purposes.

Following establishment of a south seas bureau in April, 1932, all Japanese armed forces and men of war have been withdrawn gradually from the islands, the report says, adding that the natives of the islands never have been subjected to military training.

Five Groups Accused by Trade Commission

CHARGES filed in Washington by the federal trade commission accuse five trade associations of attempting to corner the automobile parts and accessories business. The groups, which were ordered to show cause why they should not be compelled to cease their alleged combine, are the National Standard Parts association, Detroit; the Motor and Equipment Wholesale association, Chicago; the Automotive

Trade associations of Greater Kansas City, Mo.; Mississippi Valley Automotive Jobbers association and the Southwestern Jobbers association. Their officials also are defendants in the suit.

The commission points out that the associations represent a "substantial proportion of the total volume of business of all manufacturers and jobbers of automobile parts and accessories throughout the United States." The commission charges that these groups "have combined together with others jointly, preventing the establishment of new and additional competitors," and with "executing certain agreements and conspiracies among themselves and with others."

Blum Warns Socialists of Republic's Danger

RADICAL Socialists are threatening to quit the "Popular Front" government of France because of discord with Communists, and they have been warned by Premier Leon Blum that the one condition whereunder the life of the republic can be prolonged is that the Popular Front "remain united." In an address to the radical leaders, Blum said a split in the coalition government would force his immediate resignation, and that dissolution of the parliament and new elections would result.

Monarchs of Austria, who would like to make Archduke Otto emperor, were encouraged by a speech delivered by Chancellor Kurt Schuschnigg in which, defying the little entente, he shouted:

"No outsider, but only Austrians will decide whether the monarchy shall be restored!"

The day of a plebiscite to decide on the question of restoration of the Hapsburg claimant to the throne is "not yet in sight," the chancellor said. But, with Princess Adelheid, sister of Archduke Otto, listening, he declared that monarchist propaganda has a "proper place" in Austrian life.

New Gold Standard"

Tried by Uncle Sam

IT IS a new gold standard, a way of doing business which has never been tried before," was Secretary Morgenthau's characterization of the agreement just entered into by the United States, Great Britain and France, whereby, subject to 24-hours' cancellation, they will exchange gold for each other's currencies.

Financiers, economists and business men were taken by surprise by the move and immediately gave it close study. Some were disposed to label the maneuver "political expediency," but experts generally said it was a logical step in the sequence of monetary events but not positively in the direction of stabilization.

The new plan, Mr. Morgenthau said, differs from the old gold standard in that it will permit the export or earmarking of gold only to and between governments instead of private business institutions and traders.

"The door is wide open," said Mr. Morgenthau. "We're not going out drumming up business, but we'll welcome all other countries which want to participate."

According to the Treasury department, the United States alone will announce a selling price for gold. France and England will keep their selling prices secret, though there will be a free flow of gold between the stabilization funds of the three nations.

It was believed that Great Britain was the prime mover in this new pact. As one commentator put it: "The agreement was made neces-

sary when France debased her currency and placed an embargo on gold exports, because Great Britain suddenly discovered that nowhere in the world was there left a fixed yardstick against which to measure international commitments and handle international exchange."

Only America Lags in Naval Construction

FIGURES made public by the American Navy department show that since July 1 last every great naval power except the United States has increased the number and tonnage of its war vessels.

In the 2½ months from July 1 to September 15, the United States reduced the number of its ships from 324 vessels totaling 1,080,715 tons to 306 vessels, totaling 1,062,875 tons.

Great Britain increased ships from 237 to 309 and tonnage from 1,224,329, to 1,232,854.

Japan increased ships from 213 to 217 and tonnage from 772,797 to 776,397.

France increased ships from 178 to 187 and tonnage from 558,452 to 571,734.

Italy increased ships from 191 to 195 and tonnage from 403,865 to 406,333.

Germany increased ships from 49 to 53 and tonnage from 113,708 to 125,458.

The British foreign office announced that France and Italy had agreed to sign that protocol of the London naval treaty forbidding the use of submarines except under strict limitations.

No More Army Chaplains, Say Disciples of Christ

THE Disciples of Christ, in an annual international convention in Kansas City, voted to send no more of the church's ministers to serve as chaplains in the United States army. The resolution adopted also asked the Federal Council of Churches "to sever its connection with the war system by dissolving its chaplaincy commission" and to "provide a non-military ministry of religion to men in the armed services at the church's own expense and under their own authority without involving the Church of Christ in any alliance whatsoever with the state or the military system."

Many Are Killed in Moslem-Hindu Riots

FOR three days Moslems and Hindus in Bombay fought each other fiercely with guns and knives in riots that started during the construction of a Hindu temple near a mosque. Before the authorities had restored order about fifty persons had been killed and several hundred wounded. Nine attempts to set fires were made and one Hindu place of worship was burned to the ground.

Coast Maritime Workers May Decide to Strike

AUTHORITY of the national maritime commission to declare a permanent truce in current contract controversies is challenged by the negotiating committee for the Pacific coast maritime unions, and members of those unions are instructed to vote on a proposal for a coast-wide waterfront strike.

The maritime commission had peremptorily demanded that the Pacific coast ports be kept open while it sent an investigator to San Francisco to discuss the conditions which have long threatened to bring on industrial warfare.

In telegrams to President Franklin Roosevelt and the commission, the committee said the commission had caused "great unrest" among the workers through its participation in negotiations between shipowners and dock and shipboard employees.

The seven unions, claiming a membership of nearly 37,000 workers, are the International Longshoremen's association, the Ameri-

can Radio Telegraphists' association, the Marine Engineers' Beneficial association, the Masters, Mates and Pilots of America, the Sailors' Union of the Pacific, Marine Cooks and Stewards, and the Marine Firemen, Oilers, Watertenders and Wipers' association.

Russia Using Spanish War to Foment Discord

SOVIET RUSSIA made a second determined effort to aid the beleaguered government of Spain, and sustained a second rebuff. Ivan Maisky, Russian ambassador to England, handed to Lord Plymouth, British chairman of the non-intervention committee, a virtual ultimatum demanding immediate convocation of the committee to consider blockading the coast of Portugal against arms shipments destined for the Spanish insurgents.

It was understood in London that Lord Plymouth replied that if the proposition were seriously made, it should be presented through diplomatic channels to the governments concerned. The Russian plan was for a blockade by English of French warships.

Observers in Europe are convinced that the Soviet government does not expect the powers to agree to any such blockade as is suggested, but is chiefly interested in stirring up discord among the nations.

British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden, after hearing of Lord Plymouth's reply, made a speech at Sheffield in which he pledged Great Britain's unwavering support to the policy of nonintervention in Spain. He declared the government was determined to "confine that tragedy within the boundaries of that country."

Leaders of the Fascists were reported to have planned a steady, steam-roller advance on Madrid, and this offensive was already under way. The defenders of the capital were hastily building fortifications in the suburbs and surrounding the city with trenches. In Oviedo the dynamite-armed force of loyal miners was still battling with the garrison and rebel troops sent to the rescue were about to enter the city.

Nineteen Die When Ship Sinks in Lake Erie

EIGHTEEN men and one woman perished in the waters of Lake Erie when the Canadian ship Sand Merchant foundered off Cleveland during a gale. Seven men, including the captain, were picked up after clinging to life boats for eleven hours. The woman who was lost was the wife of the first mate, who also drowned.

Northern Italy was shaken by earthquake shocks that were felt as far away as Yugoslavia and Austria. Twenty persons were killed by tumbling walls, and thirty others were injured.

Samuel Merwin, Novelist, Dies Suddenly

DEATH came suddenly and unexpectedly to Samuel Merwin, one of the well-known contemporary American novelists. He succumbed to a heart attack in the Players' club in New York. Mr. Merwin, who was sixty-two years old, wrote, among other books, "Anthony the Absolute," "The Passionate Pilgrim," "Hills of Han," "Silk," and "Bad Penny." He was associate editor of Success magazine from 1905 to 1909 and editor the following two years.

French Communist Speech Causes of Trouble

Maurice Thorez, French Communist leader, made a speech in Strasbourg that is causing a lot of trouble. He was charged with deliberately insulting Adolf Hitler, and the Berlin government entered formal protest. The official Nazi organ, Der Angriff, says the speech was an attempt to precipitate war between France and Ger-

many, and also that it was an attempt "to overthrow the Reich and to achieve the declassication of France for the benefit of the Soviet Comintern."

The French rightists never declare the Thorez incident was of the Russian Communists to throw France against Germany so that Russia will not be left to face "any eventual German attack." The rightists were even vigorous in their accusations when it was learned that Maxim Litvinov, Soviet foreign commissar, was secretly in Paris.

Belgium Drops Alliances and Will Be Neutral

BELGIUM, which since the beginning of the World war has been tight to France by a military alliance, has decided to drop that alliance and to rely for safety on its neutrality and its army. King Leopold III informed his ministers that many's reoccupation of the Rhine "practically puts back where we were before the First World war." Belgium's geographical position, he said, makes it imperative for it to maintain a military machine size as to dissuade any aggressor from using our territory to attack another state. The period of military service was extended from 18 to 20 months.

"Belgium must pursue a policy exclusively and wholly Belgian," Leopold said. "In any case engagements should not go beyond keeping off war from our territory. Belgium must remain outside of its neighbors' conflicts." "Any policy of alliance with a single country would weaken our position abroad. A purely defensive alliance would not meet the needs because, however prompt the intervention of our ally, it would come after the invaders had which would be crushing."

Patent Law Was Enacted When Ideas Were Needed

There were patents before the colonies granted independence and so did the Federal Government from 1790 on. What set the law apart was the provision that patents were to be granted only to first inventors, meaning that the priority of invention had to be established by historical research publications. Before 1836 patents were granted virtually for the asking and the payment of a government fee of \$30, according to a writer in the New York Times.

With the act of 1836, the Patent Office was established, headed by a Commissioner of Patents. It was the principal factor in encouraging the American inventor.

The law of 1836 could hardly have been enacted at a more propitious time. Railroads were being constructed, and the country needed locomotives different from those which had proved useful in England — locomotives which burned wood instead of English coke, which could haul heavy loads on flimsy tracks. West of the Alleghenies a new country had been opened by pioneers.

Morse gave up portrait painting and invented a telegraph — just what a country of vast open spaces needed. Howe patented his sewing machine and transferred the idea of clothes from the home to the factory. Shoemaking machines were devised by McKay just when a large army drafted for the Civil war had to be shod.

But the most dramatic figure of all was that of Edison. He literally swamped the Patent Office with scores of applications for telephones to send several messages over the same wire at the same time, telegraphs, telephones, dynamos, incandescent electric lamps,

