

Review of the History-Making Events of the World

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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Chiang Is Free Again; Soong May Be Premier

CHIANG KAI-SHEK, generalissimo of China and its dictator, is back in Nanking. Marshal Chang, who held him prisoner in Sianfu for two weeks, also is in the Nationalist capital, avowedly repentant and ready to submit to any punishment. The danger of civil war has passed for the time. The terms on which Chang released Chiang have not been made public. The dictator issued a statement, directed to his kidnaper, commending his change of heart and promising to use his influence to obtain leniency for him; and Chang also gave out a statement admitting his grievous fault.



T. V. Soong

These developments would seem to have quieted down the Oriental situation, but there is another matter that threatens continued trouble. This is the prospect that Chiang may decide to confine his attention largely to military affairs and to make Dr. T. V. Soong, his brother-in-law, premier. Soong, who used to be minister of finance, stands high among those who favor a strong foreign policy, including resistance to further encroachments by Japan. Therefore it is easy to see that his elevation to the premiership would greatly annoy Tokyo and might easily bring about an open break between the two nations. Since Marshal Chang is one of those demanding war with Japan, it is rumored that the appointment of Soong was the specified reward for his release of Chiang and submission to discipline.

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Arthur Brisbane, Noted Journalist, Is Dead

ARTHUR BRISBANE, one of the foremost newspaper editors and writers of the time, and the highest paid, died in his New York residence of coronary thrombosis at the age of seventy-two. The millions of Americans who have read faithfully his columns, "Today" and "This Week," mourn his passing. An indefatigable, able and often brilliant worker, he continued his journalistic labors almost to the hour of his death.

Born in Buffalo, N. Y., Mr. Brisbane at eighteen joined the staff of the New York Sun as a reporter. Shortly after he went to Europe for five years to complete his education and became the London correspondent of the Sun. From that time he advanced steadily in the profession. For the last 39 years he was employed by William R. Hearst. He had been ill for some time but characteristically concealed his condition from all but members of his family and died in the harness, as he would have wished to do. Funeral services were held in New York and the long list of honorary pallbearers, headed by Vice President Garner, included many of the nation's leading men and women.

Financial Status of Farmers Improving

AMONG the numerous governmental reports at the year's close that of M. I. Myers, head of the farm credit administration, is interesting and encouraging, showing that the outlook for the financial status of farmers for 1937 is bright. During 1936 the total loans to farmers by the various FCA agencies were \$670,000,000 compared to \$1,060,300,000 in 1935.

The decline reflected a decrease in the "emergency demand" by farmers for assistance from federal agencies, because they "had no other source of credit after the depression," Myers said.

"In the country as a whole, farm-

ers apparently had more money for equipment, machinery, farm buildings and repairs in 1936 than in any year since the depression," Myers said.

He added that this should continue next year because of increased purchasing power and the opportunity to get short term cash loans at the present reasonable rates.

Air Liner Crashes; Twelve Perish

ANOTHER big air liner, the third to meet disaster in a month, crashed against the top of Oak mountain, twenty miles from Burbank, Calif., and hurtled down into a ravine, a mass of tangled wreckage. The twelve persons aboard were all killed. Three of the nine passengers were women. The plane, a twin motored Boeing, was operated by the United Air Lines and was on its way from San Francisco to Burbank.

Condition of Pope Pius Is Growing Worse

PROGRESS of the illness of Pope Pius was followed with great anxiety, for it was admitted at the Vatican that he was steadily growing worse and was suffering intense pain. The paralysis was spreading along the left side and arm, and one report said his physicians declared science could do nothing further for him. After the Christmas eve radio message which the pontiff insisted on giving he fainted.

Mahatma Gandhi Again Prodding the British

SILENT for two years, Mahatma Gandhi once more comes into public notice with a speech tending to increase the opposition to British rule in India. He spoke at an industrial exposition held in connection with the annual session of the All-India National congress, the members of which were already agitating in favor of independence. Said the "holy man":

"Show me the way. I am prepared to go back to jail again. I am prepared to be hanged.

"If you do all I want you to do, Lord Linlithgow (British high commissioner for India) will say, 'I am wrong. I thought you people were terrorists, and, if you like, we Britishers will go back on the next steamer.' We would then say to Linlithgow and the British, 'India is big enough to hold you and more like you.'

"That is my swaraj (self-government under native influence)."

Jawaharlal Nehru, in his presidential address to the congress, warned the British his countrymen would not be "parties to an imperialist war."

Roper Urges Census of the Unemployed

SECRETARY OF COMMERCE ROPER in his annual report to the President and congress urged legislation for a census of the unemployed. It has been estimated that such a census would cost between 15 and 25 million dollars and would provide jobs for 25,000. Said Mr. Roper:

"Although approximately 6,000,000 unemployed persons have obtained gainful work since March, 1933, and the number of unemployed is steadily diminishing, the federal government must co-operate with state and local agencies and industry in making work available where the unemployed may provide a livelihood for themselves and their families." Showing in his report increases in

many lines of activity over the previous fiscal year, Mr. Roper admitted that considerable progress must yet be made to pull the country up to the prosperity level of 1928-29. But he asserted a per capita volume equivalent to that of the prosperous years would mean a higher aggregate, since the population has increased about 4 per cent in the last seven years.

Adolf Hitler Is Defied by Madrid Government

WHEN the German steamer Palos was captured by Spanish loyalists at Bilbao because it carried war munitions supposedly destined for the Franco forces, the Berlin government demanded its release under threat of reprisal. But the Basque authorities defied Hitler and decided to hold the vessel. This put up to the fuhrer the decision as to whether he would send to the rebels the 30,000 armed men they have asked, and all Europe waited uneasily for his answer.

It was believed Hitler would avoid war measures in this crisis, and both Great Britain and France were hopeful that he would preserve peace because they have offered to help his economic and colonial needs in return for nonintervention in the Spanish conflict. However, informed German sources said the Anglo-French note sent Christmas, urging a cessation of German volunteer enlistments for Spain had come too late, and that Germany will permit and even encourage a continuance of such enlistments.

Hans Von Seeckt, German Soldier, Is Dead

GEN. HANS VON SEECKT, who died in Berlin at the age of seventy, was one of the really capable commanders in the World war. While acting as chief of staff to Field Marshal Von Mackensen he was responsible for the great defeat of the Russians at Gorlice, and he planned the campaigns that resulted in the collapse of Serbia and Rumania. After the Von Kapp putsch of 1920 Van Seeckt was made commander-in-chief of the German army which he built into an efficient force. Later he helped to train the Chinese National army.

President Wants Revised Neutrality Law Passed

THE Supreme court having upheld, in the Chaco arms embargo case, the neutrality powers of the President, Mr. Roosevelt let it be known that he would ask congress to revise the present neutrality law to give him broader discretion in his relations with foreign governments. In other words, the "teeth" which he and the State department have always thought the statute lacked.

Government officials looked upon the Supreme court's decision as the most sweeping approval of a New Deal law the tribunal has yet given. They read in it an inferential approval of the reciprocal trade treaty program, still untested.

Panama Canal Tolls System Is Faulty

SECRETARY OF WAR WOODRING'S report on the Panama canal shows a deficit of nearly a million dollars in its operation for the fiscal year 1936, and admits that the present system of collecting tolls permits inequalities, manipulations and endless reductions in charges, resulting in losses to the United States and unfair advantages to shipping interests.

The report makes no recommendation that congress increase the toll charges to a point where they will at least pay the interest charges on the capital investment of \$46½ million dollars and eliminate the unfair discrimination against producers of the central states in favor of those of the Pacific coast and eastern seaboard. However, it does recommend legis-

lation to correct the present system of measurement of vessels, which, it declares, has "no justification in equity among the several types of ships and may be considered as a form of subsidy to certain types which are able to take advantage of the system."

Inter-American Peace Conference Is Ended

DELEGATES to the inter-American peace conference in Buenos Aires signed the 69 accords approved during the sessions and the conference came to an end. Farewell congratulatory speeches were made by Secretary of State Cordell Hull, Argentine Foreign Minister Carlos Saavedra Lamas and the head of the Peruvian delegation, Carlos Concha. They all urged that the peace efforts be continued in the next Pan-American conference, which will be held in Lima, Peru, in 1938.

Cuba Ousts Gomez and Laredo Bru Is President

MIGUEL MARIANO GOMEZ, president of Cuba, was on his way out because he defied Col. Fulgencio Batista, the real ruler of the republic, by vetoing the sugar tax bill to raise funds for the building of schools that would be conducted by army officers. Despite plenty of warnings, Gomez persisted in his opposition to the measure which, he said, would lead to fascism. So the house of representatives, dominated by Batista, impeached him and he went to trial before the senate with the certainty that the decision would be against him. He was accused of attempting to coerce the congress unconstitutionally to defeat the tax bill, and of mal-administration. It was the first bill of impeachment ever voted in the history of the Cuban republic.

Gomez defended himself vigorously but was resigned to his fate. The prosecution was conducted by three members of the house—Carlos Palma, veteran Republican leader; Eduardo Martinez Fraga, Nationalist, and Felipe Jay, Democrat.

Vice President Federico Laredo Bru at once succeeded Gomez automatically. He is a lawyer, sixty-one years old and was a colonel in the Cuban war of independence.

Oil Concerns and Men Are Again Indicted

THREE new indictments against major oil companies, oil trade publications and individuals were returned by a federal grand jury in Madison, Wis., in order to avoid delay in the trial of the anti-trust cases. With few changes the new true bills are similar to those returned previously by the 1935 grand jury and contested as invalid on grounds that the grand jury was illegally impaneled.

It is understood that the government plans to bring the cases to trial in March.

Archbishop of York Joins in Attack on Edward

ARCHBISHOPS of the Church of England just can't let the duke of Windsor and his love affair alone. The Most Rev. Dr. William Temple, archbishop of York and second only to the archbishop of Canterbury, took his turn in lambasting the abdicated king, in a Christmas diocesan letter that displayed little of the Christian spirit. Said the archbishop:

"It has happened to many a man before now to find himself beginning to fall in love with another man's wife. That is a moment of critical decision and the right decision is that they should cease to meet before the passion is so developed as

to create an agonizing conflict between love and duty.

"The decision often has been taken by men of honor. And when the power of personal attraction is reinforced by the glamor of the throne the moral obligation is the more urgent for that reason.

"Let us remember that any kind of love which can be in conflict with duty is not the love of which the gospel speaks."

The British press and a great many of the English people are disgusted with these repeated attacks on Edward by the prelates and there is a growing danger of a split in the Church of England.

Dispatches from Edward's haven in Enzesfeld, Austria, say that he is planning to make Mrs. Simpson the duchess of Windsor in May next, immediately after her divorce becomes absolute. Meanwhile he probably will remain at the castle of Baron Eugene de Rothschild without seeing Mrs. Simpson.

There were reports that the duke might take legal action against the archbishop of York, presumably for slander.

Baron Nuffield's Great Gift for English Poor

BARON NUFFIELD, one of England's wealthiest industrialists and a generous contributor to philanthropic causes, has just donated \$10,000,000 "to stimulate employment in Great Britain's poverty stricken depressed areas." Four trustees are given full discretion in use of the sum. Baron Nuffield, who is Sir William Morris, is head of a vast manufacturing organization including automobile plants, export companies, a publishing house and affiliated subsidiaries.

Decision Favorable to Labor Relations Board

ACCORDING to a decision of the United States court of appeals in New Orleans, the national labor relations board has authority to compel employers to bargain collectively with their employees. The tribunal upheld the board's cease and desist orders against Agwilines, Inc., which operates the Clyde Mallory Steamship lines, in connection with the dismissal of seven employees for alleged union action.

Program to Curb Credit Inflation Is Announced

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY MORGENTHAU and Chairman Marriner Eccles of the federal reserve board announced a new program for curbing credit inflation, and it is likely to involve \$1,000,000,000 of borrowings in 1937. About a billion dollars worth of gold is flowing into the country annually, and if this continues next year, it was said by officials, the treasury will take that amount out of the money market, to offset the effects of the gold influx on domestic credit.

The plan, which probably was devised by Mr. Eccles, is intended to hold the excess reserves, which are the reserves that member banks deposit with the federal reserve system in excess of legal requirements, on the same plateau where they are now. Previously gold flowing into the country was channeled up as excess reserves upon which an inflationary credit boom could be built.

Former Senator Fess Dies in Washington

SIMEON D. FESS, former senator from Ohio and for years a leader in the "Old Guard" of the Republican party, died suddenly in the Carlton hotel, Washington. He had been in retirement from national politics since 1932 when he was defeated for re-election to the senate.



Miguel Gomez



Mahatma Gandhi



M. S. Eccles