

# Review of the History-Making Events of the World

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

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## Chief Justice Hughes Opposes Court Plan

CHIEF JUSTICE CHARLES E. HUGHES created something of a sensation by sending to the senate judiciary committee a letter declaring that an increase in the number of Supreme court justices, as proposed by President Roosevelt, "would not promote the efficiency of the court." He added:

"It is believed that it would impair that efficiency so long as the court acts as a unit.

"There would be more judges to hear, more judges to confer, more judges to discuss, more judges to be convinced and to decide. The present number of justices is thought to be large enough so far as the prompt, adequate and efficient conduct of the work of the court is concerned."

Mr. Hughes said his letter was approved by Justices Van Devanter and Brandeis. He made it clear that he was commenting on an increase from the standpoint of efficiency and "apart from any question of policy," which he said, "I do not discuss."

Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana, Democrat, was the first opposition witness called before the committee, and he started in by reading Mr. Hughes' letter. Before entering the committee room he said he believed the administration would eventually accept a compromise plan. He advocates a constitutional amendment, permitting congress, by two-thirds majority, to override Supreme court invalidation of acts of congress, provided a national election had intervened between invalidation and overriding.

"The administration will compromise, don't worry," Wheeler said. "They can't get more than thirty-five senate votes for the President's plan. Public opinion, which swerved toward them for a while, is now swinging heavily against them."

Edward S. Corwin, professor of constitutional law at Princeton, was heard by the senate committee in support of the President's bill and he got along very nicely until Senator Burke, leader of the opposition, called his attention to a speech the professor made a year ago and a book he wrote 25 years ago, in both of which he expressed views quite different from those he seemingly now holds. Then Senator Tom Connally took a hand in the questioning:

"Now you say the court is biased. You want to add six new justices who will be biased in the other direction, don't you?"

Professor Corwin evaded a direct answer for some time, but Senator Connally demanded to know whether he did not support the President's plan for this purpose.

"Well, that is one of the reasons," the witness said.

The American Federation of Labor, like its opponent, the C. I. O., has favored the President's court plan, though rather mildly, but President William Green, when he appeared before the senate committee, was even less emphatic in his approval of it. He denied that the court as now constituted "has assumed dictatorial power or that its members have not the mental capacity or the necessary learning."

## Treasury Objects to the Railway Pension Plan

THE new railway pension plan agreed upon by railroad management and labor doesn't meet with the approval of the Treasury department, which says its taxes on employers and employees are too low to meet pension outlays. If the income fails to level up with outgo, say treasury officials, the difference would come out of general government funds. It was predicted in

Washington that President Roosevelt might intervene to settle the dispute.

Under the voluntary plan, taxes starting at 2.5 per cent on both employers' payrolls and employees' wages would increase gradually to 3.5 per cent on each in 1949. The management-labor understanding provides that both would back the plan in congress. It would supersede the 1935 retirement legislation now under court attack by the roads.

## Detroit Is Threatened With General Strike

BECAUSE the Detroit police, directed by Mayor Frank Couzens and Police Commissioner Pickert put an end to a number of the smaller sit-down strikes in that city by raiding and arresting the strikers, Homer Martin, president of the United Automobile Workers, threatened to call a general strike in all the auto plants there except those of General Motors.

"I don't believe Mr. Martin would be so unwise as to call out on general strike men who have just been through six years of suffering due to depression and loss of work," Mayor Couzens said. "It would be unfortunate for him to do so."

The mayor added that the police would continue to evict strikers from plants and stores held by others than employees at the places.

The eight Chrysler plants were still held by the sit-downers, and everyone was waiting anxiously for Gov. Frank Murphy to determine what action the state government would take to enforce the law. Eviction and arrest of the strikers had been ordered by Circuit Judge Campbell, whose order to get out was defied by the workers, but the sheriff said he couldn't act further until he was given a sufficient force of deputies.

Governor Murphy had declared that constituted authority must be obeyed, but he explained his failure to act promptly by saying that "blind adherence to a legalistic philosophy will surely lead to eventual frustration of the democratic ideal of true freedom."

The committee named by the governor to devise ways of disposing of future labor disputes was busy formulating legislation; and Mr. Murphy held frequent consultations with James F. Dewey, federal conciliator. Also he was in communication with Washington.

## Sitdown Strikes Debated by the Senate

SENATORS indulged in an indignant debate concerning the sit-down strike and there were demands for a congressional investigation of this new weapon of labor.

Majority Leader Joe Robinson said: "Manifestly the sit-down strike is unlawful. It is not within the rights of any individual or group of individuals to seize or retain possession of property to the exclusion of the employer for the purpose of enforcing demands against the employer."

However, he added, it was difficult for the federal government to do anything in the matter until the Supreme court has passed on the validity of the Wagner-Connery labor relations act.

Senator Van Nuys of Indiana, Democrat, and others protested against this seeming effort to place on the Supreme court the blame for the epidemic of sit-down strikes.

Senator Johnson of California gave a "general warning" that the

sit-down strike is the most ominous thing in our national life today, bad for the government and in the long run worse for labor.

The Democratic senate whip, Senator James Hamilton Lewis of Illinois, vehemently criticized sit-down tactics of labor and demanded investigation by congress. "Is the United States a government?" Lewis asked. "Every form of commerce is being torn apart under the name of controversy between employer and employee, leading to the danger of national riots."

## Pope Accuses Germany of Violating the Concordat

POPE PIUS XI, in a strong papal letter to the Catholic congregations of Germany, accused the Nazi government of violating the concordat with the Vatican which was concluded in July, 1933, and of fostering anti-Christian movements. If the terms of the concordat were not kept, said the pope, "that is not the fault of the church. The other side made unfair interpretation of the concordat, evaded its provisions, undermined its content, and finally more or less openly violated its stipulations and the unwritten law governing its actions."

Reichsfuehrer Adolf Hitler's newspaper Voelkischer Beobachter, in an editorial interpreted as an answer to the pastoral letter, implied the concordat might be cancelled by the reich.

"At the conclusion of the concordat, the state could not know how the church would later interpret its provisions," said the newspaper, declaring that "even an agreement with the holy see has not sacrosanct, unchangeable and eternal value."

## Spanish Loyalists Win on Guadalajara Front

SPANISH government forces were victorious in some heavy fighting on the Guadalajara front northeast of Madrid, their chief gain being the capital of Brihuega, headquarters of the insurgents. The latter, however, scored in the University City quarter of the capital, and on the southern front were preparing to attack Pozoblanco, the key to mercury, lead, sulphur and coal mining territory.

Paris claimed to have information that Germans had supervised and helped a line of fortifications along the Spanish Moroccan coast that threatens British control of the Strait of Gibraltar.

## School Disaster Cause Not Yet Certain

SEVERAL investigations into the terrible explosion that destroyed the fine London Community school in east Texas and killed nearly 500 pupils and teachers were under way, but at this writing the cause of the disaster has not been determined. The most plausible theory was formed when D. L. Clark, field foreman for the near-by Parade Oil company, testified that the school had been using "wet" gas from the pipe lines of the company. This is a residue gas rich in butane, a highly explosive compound of carbon and hydrogen, and it is considered too dangerous for home use. Clark said he first learned the school was using the gas when he was notified that Superintendent W. C. Shaw of the school wanted it shut off. School employees said the change from "dry" to "wet" gas was made only a month ago on order of the school board chairman. That gentleman said the company knew of the use of the gas.

Information elicited from witnesses indicated definitely that the crushing explosion in the school house had its origin in the air space between the floor of the one-story wing of the structure and the ground.

John Murrell, one time Army football player and all-American full back, now an oil engineer, described what he saw after the explosion. He said many bodies were blown into the yard and that most of the

victims were blasted out of their shoes. He noticed no burns.

President Roosevelt, hearing at Warm Springs about the horrible disaster, was most distressed and urged the Red Cross "and all of the government agencies" to stand by and render every assistance possible. Albert Evans, flood disaster head in Little Rock, Ark., and his staff rushed to the stricken Texas town, and all communities within reach gave aid to the extent of their capacity.

The blast smashed to bits the main structure of the educational plant that was termed the largest rural school in America and the richest in the world.

About 740 children and 38 teachers were in the building at the time and nearly all who were not killed outright were injured. Of the latter it was believed many would not recover.

## La Guardia-Hitler Row Makes Mr. Hull Tired

THAT controversy between Mayor La Guardia of New York and the German Nazis degenerated into a riot of abusiveness on both sides. German Ambassador Luther again asked and received an apology from Secretary Hull after La Guardia had called Reichsfuehrer Hitler "satisfaktionfahig"—a man without honor. And Mr. Hull politely expressed his weariness with the whole squabble. In Berlin Ambassador Dodd was telling Foreign Minister Neurath that the anti-American campaign in the German press should be stopped, and both those diplomats were pictured as ready to call it all off.

## Amelia Earhart's Flight Stopped by Crack-Up

AMELIA EARHART'S globe-encircling flight ended, for the present, at Honolulu when she cracked up her \$80,000 "laboratory plane" at the take-off for Howland island.

By quick thinking and action she saved her life and those of Capt. Harry Manning and Fred J. Noonan, her navigators, but the plane was so badly damaged that it had to be shipped back to the Los Angeles factory for repairs. The daring aviatrix sailed immediately for San Francisco, asserting that she would resume the flight as soon as possible.

As the big plane rushed down the runway for the take-off it swayed badly, the right tire burst and the ship went out of control. The left undercarriage buckled and the left wing slashed into the ground. The ship then spun to the right, crashed down on its right wing, and the right motor snapped off the right wheel. Miss Earhart quickly cut the ignition switches, so there was no fire, and no one was injured.

The first leg of the flight, from Oakland to Honolulu, had been made successfully and in record time, but an inspection revealed that the propeller bearings of the plane were almost dry when she landed. A motor expert there said Miss Earhart might have been forced down between Honolulu and Howland island had this not been discovered.

## French Woman's Bullet Stirs Mussolini Scandal

MADELINE LA FERRIERE, a beautiful Parisienne, stirred up a pretty scandal when she shot and slightly wounded Count Charles de Chambrun, former French ambassador to Italy. The young woman asserted the count had caused her to lose the love of a "great Italian" man of state whose affections she had won in recent interviews. She has made many trips to Rome, where she was received in diplomatic society, and is known to have been granted several interviews by Premier Benito Mussolini.

Paris papers did not mention Mussolini, but the London Daily Mirror did not hesitate to say that he was the "great Italian" involved.

## Communism Condemned by Pope Pius

POPE PIUS in a long encyclical condemned communism as "the ruin of family and society" and called on Christian employers everywhere to combat it by recognizing "the inalienable rights of the working man." He accused the communists of having played upon the susceptibility of the working classes with promises of alleviation of "many undeniable abuses."

## Eccles Sees Danger in Inflationary Prices

MARRINER S. ECCLES, chairman of the Federal Reserve board, started something when he issued a warning against the dangers in inflationary price rises, which are due, he says, chiefly to foreign armament demands, strikes and monopolistic practices by certain groups in both industry and organized labor. He argued for continuance of low interest rates but said the budget should be

balanced and taxes on incomes and profits should be raised, if necessary, "to sustain the volume of relief and at the same time bring the budget into balance and permit the paring down of public debt as private debt expands."

The federal reserve system, said Mr. Eccles, "is powerful to maintain a stable economy unless other essential nonmonetary factors necessary to stability are brought into line either by private interests or by the government."

This statement, presumably made with the approval of Secretary Morgenthau and the knowledge of President Roosevelt, aroused a lot of talk in Washington and the administration leaders were discussing taxes and receipts. Generally they agreed that there will be no extensive tax change—merely a resolution in June extending for one year \$400,000,000 in "nuisance" levies. It may be the Eccles warning will serve to curb the demands of various department heads and congressmen for more huge appropriations.

## Famous Napoleon Born Under Flag of France

For centuries before Napoleon's birth Corsica was under the domination of Genoa. King Henry II of France had in the Sixteenth century (1553 to 1556) attempted its conquest, but a few years later it was handed back to the Genoese republic. In May, 1769, after the Corsican patriots under Paoli had forced out the Genoese, only to be followed by a French invasion, the island became a French possession. A few months later Napoleon was born, a French citizen. His own father had been a follower and friend of Paoli, had declared against France and had fought for Corsican independence. The Story-Life of Napoleon says:

"Some 300 Corsicans, determined never to wear the yoke of the French, gathered around their general-in-chief and sailed away on an exile to England. Signora Buonaparte's husband was eager to go with them. But for the objections of the wife, who was to be a mother again in three months, London and not Ajaccio would have been the birthplace of Napoleon and he would have become perhaps a British soldier. Yielding to her counsels, the husband took the lead in making peace with the French commander."

Napoleon himself wrote. "I was born while my country was dying;" also "I will never forgive my father, who was Paoli's adjutant, for having concurred in the union of Corsica with France."—Detroit News.



Chief Justice Hughes



Governor Murphy



M. S. Eccles



Amelia Earhart



Sen. Robinson