

Review of the History-Making Events of the World

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

© Western Newspaper Union.

Mrs. Simpson's Divorce Is Made Absolute

MRS. WALLIS SIMPSON was granted an absolute decree of divorce in London, and within a few hours Edward, duke of Windsor, was on his way from St. Wolfgang, Austria, to visit his fiancée at the Chateau de Cande near Tours, France. The former king of Great Britain had been waiting impatiently, baggage packed, for word that Wallis was entirely free, and he lost no time when his solicitors telephoned him from London.

It took only 25 seconds to make absolute the decree nisi which Mrs. Simpson obtained last October 27. The king's proctor had been satisfied with the lady's behavior in the interval, and Sir Boyd Merriam, president of the divorce court, personally granted the decree along with a lot of others.

The date for the wedding of the duke of Windsor and Mrs. Simpson has not yet been announced, but it probably will be in the week beginning May 24. Edward was willing to wait until all the coronation hullabaloo was over for he did not wish to annoy his royal brother in any way.

London Getting Ready for the Coronation

FROM all quarters of the earth men and women of much, little or no importance were flocking to London for the coronation; the diplomats were trying on their new knee breeches; the peeresses were buying wigs to make their coronets fit more comfortably; the officials, troops and horses were being rehearsed in their parts; the proprietors of parade seats were desperately trying to dispose of them at cut prices; and hotel managers and tradesmen of all sorts were preparing to make lots of money out of this thoroughly commercialized affair. It was said by steamship officials in New York that hundreds of Americans booked for the coronation had cancelled their passages, but despite this it was certain London would be thronged with visitors.

One most disturbing feature was the strike of the London busmen. It disrupted traffic just when the city was filling up with visitors, and those persons as well as hundreds of thousands of residents of the city and its suburbs were compelled to get about as best they could.

Big Strike Is Started in Hollywood Movie Plants

ELEVEN unions of the Federated Motion Picture Crafts, with about 6,000 members, went on strike in Hollywood, Calif., and the great film industry there was in serious difficulties. The strikers counted heavily on co-operation by the Screen Actors' guild, but that body, which has 5,600 members, delayed action until it could confer with the producers. The guild already had presented a number of demands regarding working conditions and hours and overtime pay.

Pat Casey, labor relations expert for the producers, said the strike would not curtail operations at any of the nine big studios and ventured the opinion that the dispute could be settled in a reasonable and sensible manner. He claimed that no more than 1,500 of the Hollywood movie industry's 40,000 employees were involved in the points at issue, and observed that no questions of wages or hours had been put forth by the striking unions.

The film companies have indicated their unwillingness to settle the issue of the closed shop and union recognition until they know what demands in the matters of wages and hours may be made by their workers.

Fifteen of the largest hotels in San

Francisco were practically tied up by a strike of 3,500 employees. The strikers were given the active support of 13 unions. They insisted that hotel owners had refused to agree to preferential hiring and a five day week for clerks, although other groups of hotel employees had been awarded such conditions.

The 15 hotels involved were the Alexander Hamilton, Bellevue, Cathedral hotel apartments, Cliff, Sir Francis Drake, El Cortez, Fairmont, Mark Hopkins, Palace, Plaza, Whitcomb, William Taylor, St. Francis, Gaylord, and Steward.

Basques and Rebels Fight Fiercely Near Bilbao

SOME of the most desperate fighting of the Spanish civil war was taking place in the struggle for Bilbao between the sturdy Basques and Gen. Emilio Mola's veterans, reputedly mostly Italians and Germans. The insurgents had promised not to bomb the center of the city but bombarded its environs heavily from the land and the air. By fierce attacks they broke through the Basque lines on the Bay of Biscay coast, reaching Bilbao's seaports at the mouth of the Nervion river.

Disregarding the protests of General Franco, Fascist chieftain, the British and French governments undertook to remove from Bilbao a large number of women and children. These refugees were taken away by merchant vessels while British warships guarded outside Spanish waters. Franco maintained Bilbao was a military objective and that neutral nations had no right to evacuate the civil population as this would lift a burden from the Basques and permit them to concentrate on the defense of the city.

New Constitution for Ireland Is Published

EAMON DE VALERA, president of the Irish Free State, made public his proposed new constitution for that state which is to be ratified or rejected at general elections and a plebiscite probably late in June. The document declares all of Ireland, its islands and territorial seas, included in the national territory, and "Eire," ancient name for Ireland, is designated the official name. Ireland is declared a "sovereign and independent democratic state," and no mention is made of Great Britain. The president is to be elected by direct vote for a seven year term. The Roman Catholic church is given special recognition, but other churches also are recognized and freedom of conscience and practice of religion is guaranteed. Titles of nobility are prohibited.

Support of home life is pledged, and the constitution declares "no law shall be enacted providing for the grant of a dissolution of marriage." Divorce in other states under civil laws would not be recognized in Ireland.

Ulster, the northern part of Ireland which does not belong to the Free State, received the proposed constitution coolly, evincing no desire to unite with the Free State. "We definitely prefer our position as citizens of the United Kingdom," said the Ulster commerce minister, John Milne Barbour, and this seemed to be the prevailing sentiment.

War Department Bill Is Biggest Since War Time

RESISTING all efforts of the would-be economists, the majority in the house passed the War department appropriation bill carrying \$416,400,000 for the fiscal year 1938. This is the largest army bill ever passed in times of peace.

As passed the measure carries increases in the pay of the army totaling \$5,861,000; clothing and equipage, \$5,500,000; military post construction, \$5,400,000; ordnance service and supplies, \$5,800,000, and National Guard, \$1,600,000.

The bill provides more than two millions for the acquisition of land at Mitchel field, N. Y.; Kelly field, Tex.; at Tacoma, Wash., and at West Point, N. Y.

Japan's Military Bloc Defeated in Elections

PREMIER SENJUO HAYASHI and the army bloc that supported his regime lost out in the Japanese parliamentary elections. The candidates of the Minseito and Seiyukai parties, both anti-government, won about 400 of the 466 seats in the new house of representatives. Despite this defeat, General Hayashi, after conferring with the emperor, intimated his government might continue in office. That probably would precipitate another election and increase the political bitterness in the island empire.

Moscow-Volga Canal Is Opened by Stalin

MAY day was fittingly chosen for the opening of the Moscow-Volga canal, one of the greatest physical undertakings of the soviet

Russian government. For four years 200,000 prisoners have been working on the project, these including not only Russians, but also Finns, Letts, Estonians, Poles, and Ukrainians. Many of them were political prisoners.

Josef Stalin, dictator of the soviet union, and President M. I. Kalinin were the chief figures at the official celebration of the opening of the canal. This waterway, part of the plan to make Moscow actually a seaport, is 90 miles long, has eleven locks, twelve large dams, and utilizes eight large lakes and man-made reservoirs.

The canal begins on the Volga seventy miles below the city of Kalinin (formerly Tver), where a large dam and hydro-electric station have been constructed. The lake formed there has been named the Moscow sea and is ninety miles long with an area of 205 square miles.

House Majority Refuses to Practice Economy

WHILE Democratic leaders in congress were disputing over various proposals for achieving the economy demanded by the President, the house without a quiver passed the second deficiency bill, carrying \$79,200,000. The Democrats called it an economy measure because the appropriations were 19 millions less than the amounts asked by the department heads. But 15 of those 19 millions represented merely a reduction in the 30 million appropriation asked by the bureau of internal revenue for the refunding of processing taxes collected under the agricultural adjustment act. The saving, it was pointed out, was more a deferred "economy" in that the 15 millions will be included in the next budget.

C. I. O. Claims Majority of Steel Workers

THE C. I. O. steel workers' organizing committee now claims a majority of the 540,000 wage earners in that industry.

Philip Murray, committee chairman, told the convention of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel, and Tin Workers in Pittsburgh that in the 10 months of the organization drive 325,000 members have been enrolled, equivalent to 60 per cent of the steel pay rolls.

"We have driven the company union out of American industry," Murray said. "No company union

can hope to live from here on. Ten months ago the steel workers' organizing committee started from scratch. We had no members. Today we have built up 600 new lodges, enrolled 325,000 members, and signed wage contracts with 89 steel companies."

Seventy-nine women and forty-one men, arrested during the eviction of sit-down strikers from the Yale & Towne Manufacturing company plant in Detroit were held guilty of contempt of court by Circuit Judge Arthur Webster. They were convicted for violation of an injunction which the judges had issued, directing them to leave the plant.

Judge Webster imposed maximum penalties of 30 days in jail and \$250 fines on George Edwards, United Automobile Workers of America organizer, and Peter P. Sedler, who said he was an employee of the Kelsey Hayes Wheel company. Ten-day jail sentences were given three other persons. Sentencing of the others was deferred to July 15.

Three New Yorkers Obtain Van Sweringen Rail Empire

SECURITIES controlling the \$3,000,000,000 railroad empire built up by the Van Sweringen brothers have been acquired from George A. Ball of Muncie, Ind., by Robert R. Young, Frank F. Kolbe and Allan P. Kirby, all of New York and comparatively unknown in high finance. The securities are those of the Mid-America corporation which Mr. Ball bought at auction two years ago for \$3,121,000. The price paid by the New Yorkers was \$6,375,000. The Muncie man, however, does not make a personal profit from the transaction for he had placed Mid-America with its holdings in a charitable fund.

Young said it was the plan of his group "to shrink the entire corporate structure" rather than expand it. He intimated that Mid-America corporation would be eliminated, and probably several other of the interlocking holding companies by which the Van Sweringens built up their intricate financial structure.

Senate Committee Against Supreme Court Bill

ANNOUNCEMENT of their position on the President's Supreme court bill by three more Democratic members of the senate judiciary committee seemingly made it certain that body would report the measure adversely to the senate. The line up at this writing is 10 to 8 against the bill. The three who openly joined the opposition were Senators J. C. O'Mahoney of Wyoming, Pat McCarran of Nevada and Carl Hatch of New Mexico. With them in opposition are King of Utah, Van Nuys of Indiana, Burke of Nebraska, Connally of Texas, Austin of Vermont, Borah of Idaho and Steiwer of Oregon. Those committed for the measure are Ashurst of Arizona, Neely of West Virginia, Logan of Kentucky, Dieterich of Illinois, Pittman of Nevada and Norris of Nebraska. McGill of Kansas and Hughes of Delaware, still non-committal, were counted as being on the administration side.

The committee agreed to begin voting on the bill and on proposed amendments on May 18.

President Goes Fishing in Gulf of Mexico

SENATORS, representatives, department heads, and almost everyone else in Washington officialdom were worrying themselves over expenditure reductions, taxes, rising prices and falling revenues, and Supreme court reformation. But President Roosevelt was gaily sailing the waters of the Gulf of Mexi-

co, angling for tarpon. He was on the Presidential yacht Potomac, which he boarded at New Orleans; his vessel was escorted by three destroyers, the Moffett, the Schenk and the Decatur. At Galveston Secretary Marvin McIntyre set up a temporary White House, and Mr. Roosevelt planned to land at that city when he got through fishing.

Hamilton Fish Moves to Amend Our Gold Policy

"THIS is the outstanding financial blunder of the New Deal," said Representative Hamilton Fish of New York, Republican, speaking of the administration's policy of accumulating gold at \$35 an ounce, or nearly twice the cost of production. Mr. Fish thereupon introduced a resolution forbidding the Treasury to purchase any more gold from foreign countries at more than \$25 an ounce.

"The American taxpayers," declared Mr. Fish, "under the ruinous gold policy of the President and the secretary of the Treasury, have become the 'angels' of Europe, and are now engaged in helping to finance these countries in their mad armament race. All of the nations of the world including Soviet Russia have naturally unloaded their gold upon us at exorbitant profits, which, if we tried to sell back, we probably could not get 50 cents on the dollar."

"This insane and costly gold policy is almost on a par with the high financing of John Law's Mississippi bubble. The American people have been turned into milk cows, to be milked by every foreign country."

Business Men Want Wagner Labor Act Amended

TWO thousand members of the United States Chamber of Commerce, gathered in Washington for their twenty-fifth annual meeting, started a vigorous campaign for change in the industrial and economic structure of the nation. To begin with, they adopted resolutions calling for amendment of the Wagner labor relations act and the undistributed corporate surplus tax.

The policies of the administration were hotly attacked by several speakers. Virgil Jordan of New York city, president of the national industrial conference board, said the government "has become an instrument of forces alien to the enterprise principle of American life and work who desire to destroy it and replace it by the principle of absolute subjection to the state, which in nearly every other part of the world holds the impoverished and fear-ridden people in its paralyzing power."

Assistant Secretary of Labor Edward F. McGrady asked the business men to give the Wagner act a chance to "work out."

"Labor must move as a collectivism," he said, "and must bargain through its own chosen representatives—just as the employer does. Unless labor, grouped collectively, can have its expert representatives wholly independent of employer influence, speak for it with a powerful voice, there is no real bargaining at all."

Neutrality Act Signed by the President

CONGRESS completed action on the new neutrality measure just in time, for the old one expired on April 30. The draft of the act was sent by airplane to the President and he signed it aboard his yacht in the Gulf of Mexico. He also issued two proclamations, one prohibiting the shipment of arms, ammunition, and implements of war to belligerents in Spain, and the other adding certain articles of war to the proscribed list.