

# Review of the History-Making Events of the World

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

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## Justice Van Devanter to Quit the Bench

WILLIS VAN DEVANTER, associate justice of the Supreme court, informed President Roosevelt that he would retire from active service on that tribunal on June 2. He conveyed the information in a letter sent to the White House shortly before the senate judiciary committee was to vote on the President's bill for enlargement of the Supreme court.

Justice Van Devanter, who is seventy-eight years old, has been one of the so-called conservative group on the Supreme court bench.

## Edward and Wallis to Marry on June 3

EDWARD, duke of Windsor and former king of Great Britain, and Mrs. Wallis Warfield are to be married on June 3 at the Chateau de Candé. This was announced in London. In the controversy between the government and the duke, who was backed up by his brother, King George, and their mother, concerning official recognition of the marriage, the government seemed to have won. It was understood the wedding would be extremely private and that no member of the royal family would be present. There will be only a few guests in addition to the witnesses and the servants. Lieutenant Forwood, the duke's equerry, carried to Buckingham palace information of the duke's final plans. He also invited London Daily Mail and London Daily Express to send reporters to the wedding. These papers have been most friendly to Edward and Mrs. Warfield.

## President Insistent on His Complete Program

IN CONFERENCES with Democratic congressional leaders and department heads, President Roosevelt was insistent on the carrying out of his program without any compromises. He made it clear that he still demanded passage of his bill for enlargement of the Supreme court as it was submitted and that he would not be satisfied with fewer than six new associate justices, although his advisers told him frankly that the measure in this form faced probable defeat in the senate.

Mr. Roosevelt also demanded the following legislative action:

A substitute for the outlawed NRA, covering minimum wages and maximum hours, child labor, and the regulation of industrial trade practices.

An appropriation of 1 billion 500 million dollars for work relief in the 1938 fiscal year.

A start on farm tenancy legislation, providing federal loans for sharecroppers and other tenant farmers with which to purchase their own land.

The declaration by congress of an integrated, national power, flood control, and navigation policy, contemplating the ultimate development of the nation into eight regional TVAs.

As for economy measures, the President rejected the senate plan calling for a mandatory horizontal slash of 10 per cent in all appropriation bills and indicated a preference for the house plan, which would give him discretionary power to reduce all appropriations by 15 per cent.

The house appropriations committee already had yielded in the matter of the work relief appropriation, making it a billion and a half. A brigade of fifty women organized by the Workers' Alliance of America gathered in Washington to demand that congress appropriate \$3,000,000 for relief in 1938, and will sit in the house gallery during the debate.



President Roosevelt

## Process Tax Refund Case Won by Government

NO DECISIONS involving the constitutionality of the social security act were handed down by the Supreme court, but that tribunal did give an opinion that upheld the provisions of the 1936 revenue law restricting refunds of processing and floor stock taxes illegally imposed by the agricultural adjustment act. The treasury was saved nearly a billion dollars by this decision.

"While the taxpayer was undoubtedly hurt when he paid the tax, if he has obtained relief through the shifting of its burden he is no longer in a position to claim an actual injury and the refusal of a refund in such a case cannot be regarded as a denial of constitutional right," said the opinion.

Another decision upheld the chain store tax law enacted by the Louisiana legislature at the order of the late Huey Long, the court holding that states may tax chain stores on the basis of the number of units in the chain outside as well as inside the state.

## Viscount Snowden, British Labor Leader, Is Dead

PHILIP SNOWDEN, who in his active days was regarded as the brainiest man in the Labor party of Great Britain, died of heart disease at the age of seventy-two. Twice he served as chancellor of the exchequer, and then was elevated to the peerage as Viscount Snowden of Ickneshaw.

Lord Snowden had been crippled since he was twenty-seven, when he was knocked from a bicycle. He was a pacifist, an atheist and a Marxian Socialist, and he had a vitriolic tongue that made him feared in parliamentary debates. Though he had disagreed violently with Ramsay MacDonald when the latter was Laborite prime minister, MacDonald said when Snowden died: "A great man of our age has passed by."

Heart disease also carried off a picturesque figure in American politics, Percy L. Gassoway, former cowpuncher who served one term as congressman from Oklahoma after being a judge in that state. In Washington he always wore exaggerated cowboy garments and kept things lively in the house by his bitter warfare against the late Huey Long of Louisiana.

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## "Inconsistency" Is Cry of the Economists

ECONOMISTS in congress denounced what they termed the "appalling inconsistency" of the majority, but the spenders went right ahead with their spending plans. The house passed the \$115,000,000 appropriation bill for the Department of the Interior, which measure carries \$40,000,000 for the reclamation bureau to be used for the building of dams and reservoirs to increase the acreage of tillable land. At the same time the house agriculture committee introduced a new farm bill, the main object of which is the controlling of excessive farm surpluses and which calls for the expenditure of \$287,000,000 annually. This latter bill is based on the recommendations of Secretary Wallace's farm conference of February but it was declared it did not as yet have the full sanction of the administration.

## Al Smith Sails for His First Visit to Ireland

NOTWITHSTANDING his certainty that he would be seasick, Alfred E. Smith sailed on the steamship Conte di Savoia for his first ocean voyage and first trip to the old country. As he departed, Al said:

"This is a regular pleasure trip. I've never been to the other side and I'm going now, and I want to have a good time. Ireland? Yes, I'm going to Ireland. A priest wrote me that he knew where my grandmother's house was in Westmeath, and I'm going there and look it over. I have no relatives there, but I want to look over Ireland."

## Steel Industry Tackled by Lewis' C. I. O.

PHILIP MURRAY, chairman of the steel workers' organizing committee of the C. I. O., called the first major strike in the campaign of Lewis and his associates to unionize the steel industry. On his order the employees of Jones & Laughlin Steel corporation plants in Pittsburgh and Aliquippa walked out after Murray had failed to get from the company a signed collective bargaining contract. The strike call affected 27,000 men. Thousands of pickets surrounded the Jones & Laughlin mills and kept non-union workers from entering.



Philip Murray

Next day the strike spread to the plants of the Pittsburgh Steel company at Monessen and Allenport, Pa., where 5,900 men went out. Murray said it was inevitable that the Republic, Youngstown, Bethlehem and Crucible steel concerns would be involved very soon.

The Jones & Laughlin corporation agreed to sign a contract if the union won a majority vote in a government-supervised election.

The sixteen leading hotels of San Francisco were closed by a strike, and so were some of the hotels in Los Angeles and Hollywood. In St. Louis the hotels gave in to strikers and granted a "closed shop."

Employees of Fisher Body and Chevrolet in Detroit returned to work pending a conference with the management; but the plants of those concerns in Janesville, Wis., were closed by a dispute over the status of 14 non-union workers. Their plants in Flint and Saginaw also were shut down, as was the Fisher Body plant in Cleveland.

## Treasury's Silver to Be Stored Near West Point

ANNOUNCEMENT was made by the Treasury department that approval had been obtained from the secretary of war for the use of a four acre tract near West Point, N. Y., for a depository to store silver.

The treasury's 1936 building plan contemplated the expenditure of \$600,000 on the depository. It will be similar in some respects to the gold depository at Fort Knox, Ky., except that the silver will not be stored in vaults. The capacity has been estimated at 70 tons of silver.

## Danish King's Silver Jubilee Celebrated

CHRISTIAN X, king of Denmark, and all his subjects celebrated the monarch's silver jubilee in Copenhagen and throughout the kingdom. The festivities were marked by characteristic simplicity but clearly demonstrated the affection the people have for the tall sixty-six-year-old ruler who has been on the throne for twenty-five years. In the gaily decorated capital there was a joint session of parliament, a reception at the palace, a procession through the streets, and a gala dinner and a torchlight parade. Kings Haakon of Norway and Gustav of Sweden were among the notables present.

## No Exports of Helium for Military Purposes

IN RESPONSE to the recent request of a foreign government, reported to be France, the administration has taken the position that it will not permit the export of helium for military purposes abroad. The request was for a very large

amount of the gas, presumably for a large airship, and investigation convinced officials in Washington that the nation asking it was planning no such commercial service as was performed by the German government with the ill-fated Hindenburg.

## Mussolini Says Italy Must Be Self-Sufficient

MEMBERS of Italy's corporative guild, which includes all phases of Fascist life, held their annual meeting in Rome and loudly cheered Premier Mussolini when he declared that Italy will make herself self-sufficient economically even if she "has to work 25 hours a day." Il Duce asserted his program was a guarantee of peace and a surety of "the life, the future and the power" of the Italian people. He continued:

"For us it is impossible in a world armed to the teeth to abandon such a policy. It would mean putting ourselves tomorrow, in case of war, at the mercy of those who have all and who can make war without limitation of time or consumption.

"Fascism does not wish to absorb the economic life of the people, because Fascism doesn't wish to become paralytic as happens under bolshevism."

## House Refuses to Make the CCC Permanent

REMEMBER, this is the President's pet project. He wants the CCC made permanent, not extended for a two year period."

So shouted Representative William P. Connery of Massachusetts at the members of the house. But the house would not heed the implied warning and voted, 224 to 34, in favor of giving the CCC two more years of life. This was in committee of the whole, and next day this action was confirmed.

The senate, forgetting all about economy, approved, 46 to 29, an amendment to the second deficiency appropriation bill which commits the government to the expenditure of 112 millions on a new Tennessee river dam at Gilbertsville, Ky.

## Wants President to Call Monetary Conference

REPRESENTATIVE DIES of Texas has proposed to congress that President Roosevelt call an international monetary conference for the purpose of seeking an equitable distribution of the world's supply of gold and silver. Specifically, he would have the conference:

1. Stabilize currencies on some permanent basis that would prevent wide fluctuations in their purchasing power.
2. Establish a bimetallic—gold and silver—base for the currencies.
3. Distribute the world's gold and silver supply more equitably so as to give each nation proper support for its currency and an adequate medium of international exchange.
4. Make available to the countries involved the raw materials which they need.

## May Amend Railway Retirement Act

TO SETTLE the long pension controversy between railroad operators and their employees, a compromise bill was introduced by Senator Wagner and Representative Crosser amending the railway retirement act. Fundamental concessions to workers include eligibility for pensions for employees absent on account of sickness, increases in death benefits, and authority to include prior service in calculating length of service upon which annuities are based.

## Striking Movie Workers to Picket Theaters

TECHNICAL workers in the movie industry at Hollywood were disappointed when the screen actors' guild, settling its own troubles with the producers, refused to support their strike. But the C. I. O. took up their cause, assured them of active support and promised to

place 340,000 men on picket duty in important cities throughout the country. At least, that is the assertion of Charles E. Lessing, head of the striking unions.

Lessing said the film boycott would be directed at theaters in industrial areas where unions are strong. He selected New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Minneapolis and St. Paul as key cities for picketing.

## New Method Proposed to Impeach Federal Judges

REPRESENTATIVE HATTON W. SUMNERS of Texas has introduced, and the house judiciary committee has approved, a bill offering an alternative method of impeaching federal district judges, providing that they may be tried by a court composed of three United States court of appeal judges to be designated by the Supreme court.

The bill does not seek to change the present method of impeachment, as regards Circuit court of appeals judges or members of the Supreme court, which in case of impeachment, are tried by the United States senate and prosecuted by managers from the house.

Under the terms of the measure the house still must vote the impeachment charges, and the present method of trial by the senate is not entirely discarded if congress desires to employ it. If a district judge were tried by the court, the attorney general, not the house, would prosecute the case and there would be no appeal.

## Ambassador Dodd Hears of American Fascist Plan

WILLIAM E. DODD, American ambassador to Germany, has stepped into the limelight and the result may be embarrassing to him

and to the administration. In a long letter to Senators Buckley of Ohio and Glass of Virginia he urges all Democrats to unite in support of the President and thus avert a dictatorship in the United States. It was assumed he meant the President's Supreme court enlargement bill should be supported, since that is the measure that split the party in congress. Dodd, former professor in the University of Chicago, said he had been told by certain friends that an American, not named, "who owns nearly a billion dollars," was prepared to set up a fascist regime which presumably he would control. There are not many American billionaires now, but no one has ventured to guess publicly the man Dodd has in mind.

"There are individuals of great wealth who wish a dictatorship and are ready to help a Huey Long," he wrote. "There are politicians, some in the senate, I have heard, who think they may come into power like that of the European dictators in Moscow, Berlin, and Rome." Congressional leaders were quick to take up Dodd's assertion, Senator Borah of Idaho leading off with the declaration that the ambassador was an irresponsible scandal monger and a disgrace to his country. "I have an idea," said Borah, "that his supposed dictatorship is the figment of a diseased brain." Senator Gerald Nye of North Dakota, radical, introduced a resolution calling upon the State department to demand that Dodd name the billionaire in question.

In the house Representative Fish of New York denounced Dodd, and demanded that he be recalled.

This reaction in Washington led Ambassador Dodd to amplify his warning by a prepared statement cautioning against perils which would result from defeat of President Roosevelt's recovery program and reiterating the assertion that Americans of great wealth are looking toward Fascist rule; but he still disclosed no identities.



Ambassador W. E. Dodd