

News Review of Current Events

LABOR 'DIGS IN' FOR BATTLE

Nine Shot as Violence Continues . . . Coal Strikers Aid Steel Pickets...Bilbao's End Nears...Hopkins Checked



Monroe (Mich.) Women Defended Their Husbands' Right to Strike.

Edward W. Pickard

SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK

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VIOLENCE and threats continued to break forth on the strike front as the battle between certain industries, particularly steel, and John L. Lewis' committee for Industrial Organization became more and more tense. Nine men were shot and wounded at Anderson, Ind., as Homer Martin, president of the United Automobile Workers of America, a C. I. O. affiliate, stopped in the city to address a mass meeting. The wounded men, non-members of the union, claimed a member had opened fire upon them with a shotgun from a window in Union hall after an exchange of insults. Union members charged attempts had been made to injure the amplifying apparatus which was to carry Martin's words to the throng.



Governor Murphy

Martin was en route to Monroe, Mich., where 200 World War veterans had been deputized to prevent picketing of the Newton steel plant, controlled by Republic Steel, whose plants have borne the brunt of the C. I. O. campaigns in the last few weeks. The vigilantes, armed with shot-guns, rifles, revolvers and machine guns, were determined that the local Steel Workers Organizing Committee was not going to make good its threat to close the Newton plant with a mob of thousands of C. I. O. picketers from Detroit.

In other communities where plants of the independent steel companies — Republic, Youngstown Sheet and Tube and Inland — are located, citizens' groups were reported polishing the family shootin' irons in preparation for following Monroe's lead in preventing picketing and keeping plants open.

The Monroe deputies broke up a picket line and re-opened the plant to loyal employees; after that the local C. I. O. union made arrangements to import pickets from outside the city. Despite the impending trouble a battalion of Michigan national guardsmen, ordered to the scene by Gov. Frank Murphy, disbanded, leaving the task of maintaining the peace to the regular police force and deputies.

At the South Chicago plants of Youngstown and Inland 4,000 pickets were massed by C. I. O. leaders who anticipated that attempts would be made by independent unions to break through the lines keeping the plants closed. At Youngstown, Ohio, the city council thought it detected storm clouds of new strike violence and voted to allow Mayor Lionel

Evans to hire and equip what additional emergency police he thought would be necessary. Labor unions in sympathy with C. I. O. threatened to retaliate by declaring a city-wide "labor holiday" or general strike. Unions in Canton, Ohio, did likewise.

CIO Starts at Bottom

JOHN L. LEWIS aimed another blow at steel through the United Mine Workers, of which he is president. Workers in the captive mines (mines operated by an individual steel concern which is the sole user of the coal brought to the surface) in Pennsylvania walked out of the shafts and joined the steel picket lines. The purpose was to cripple further the steel plants now shut down or operating under difficulties while picketed; the immediate objective was the closing of the Cambria plant of Bethlehem Steel. The effectiveness of the walkout was a matter for dispute; plant officials claimed all departments were in operation.

Lewis meanwhile demanded that the federal government order governors of the seven states that felt the steel strikes to close the stricken plants until a settlement was reached.

Capital on the Move

THE Spanish loyalist government, after another terrific bombing of the city by insurgent airplanes of the German Junkers and Heinkel types, decided to move the capital from Bilbao to Santander, but to defend Bilbao to the death. The Basque battalions reorganized for a last ditch stand to protect the broken "iron ring" of the city's defenses from the forces of General Francisco Franco. The latter, it was admitted, already had penetrated the first line of fortifications near Fica and Larrabezua, five miles to the east. Several persons were killed and many houses destroyed by the rebel bombs and machine guns. Meanwhile the loyalists were claiming important advances along the Cordoba front, bringing them to the rich coal districts held by the insurgents.

Court Plan Walloped

THE senate judiciary committee made short work of President Roosevelt's Supreme court packing plan. Its report, in summary:

"We recommend the rejection of this bill as a needless, futile, and utterly dangerous abandonment of constitutional principle.

"It was presented to the congress in a most intricate form and for

reasons that obscured its real purpose.

"It would not banish age from the bench nor abolish divided decisions.

"It would not affect the power of any court to hold laws unconstitutional, nor withdraw from any judge the authority to issue injunctions.

"It would not reduce the expense of litigation nor speed the decision of cases.

"It is a proposal without precedent and without justification.

"It would subjugate the courts to the will of congress and the President and thereby destroy the independence of the judiciary, the only certain shield of individual rights.

"It contains the germ of a system of centralized administration of law that would enable an executive so minded to send his judges into every judicial district in the land to sit in judgment on controversies between government and citizens.

"It points the way to the evasion of the Constitution and establishes the method whereby the people may be deprived of their right to pass upon all amendments of the fundamental law.

"It stands now before the country, acknowledged by its proponents as a plan to force judicial interpretation of the Constitution, a proposal that violates every sacred tradition of American democracy.

"Under the form of the Constitution it seeks to do that which is unconstitutional.

"Its ultimate operation would be to make this government one of men rather than one of law, and its practical operation would be to make the Constitution what the executive or legislative branches of the government choose to say it is—an interpretation to be changed with each change of administration.

"It is a measure which should be so emphatically rejected that its parallel will never again be presented to the free representatives of the free people of America."

Patrolling Powers Agree

ABOUT the same time, the diplomats of Great Britain, France, Italy and Germany were signing an agreement which brought the latter two back into the International Non-Intervention committee. It has to be accepted by both factions in the Spanish fight before becoming effective. The understanding is that the two Spanish powers will be requested to extend the safety zones in Spanish ports and pledge to do their best to prevent incidents. It was agreed that each commander of the patrolling powers should have the right to immediate self defense if he were attacked, but that he must not begin any retaliation before the four powers have had an opportunity to confer and decide what action is best.

Great satisfaction over the outcome of the conference was indicated in Rome, with the newspapers expressing a friendlier attitude toward Great Britain than they had in weeks. Chief trouble was that until both Spanish forces agree, the Spanish coast remained open to gun-runners.

We're in the Money!

IF YOU don't think things are picking up, maybe the United States Department of Commerce can convince you. It has just reported that the national income for 1936 reached a total of \$62,056,000,000, and officials predicted that the figure for 1937 would reach \$70,000,000,000. The all-time high was \$78,632,000,000 in the dizzy boom year of 1929, and the all-time low \$44,940,000,000 in 1933.

The department's report said that since 1933 the national income has risen more swiftly than prices and that the real purchasing power of individuals was much larger. Income, it said, increased 38 per cent from 1933 to 1936, while the cost of living advanced 3 per cent. The per capita income of employees last year was listed at \$1,244, which was \$58 more than in the preceding year and 88.4 per cent of the figure for 1929.

The \$41,250,000 compensation paid to employees last year was 66.5 per cent of the entire national income

and 14 per cent over 1935. Labor's slice of the national income was the biggest on record, greater even than its share in 1929.

Dividends of \$4,573,000,000 were half again as much as those of the year before, but still 23 per cent below 1929. They amounted to 7.4 per cent of the national income as compared with 5.6 per cent in 1935 and 7.6 per cent in 1929.

Social Justice for Ford

FATHER COUGHLIN, Detroit's radio priest, refused to confirm or deny that he was entering the field of labor organization by sponsoring the new union which has sprung up at the Ford plant in opposition to C. I. O. efforts. The union is called the Workers' Council for Social Justice, and incorporates the principles of Father Coughlin's National Union for Social Justice. U. A. W. A. leaders, also attempting to organize the 90,000 men in the River Rouge plant, denounced the newcomer as a "company union." "The name," said the local U. A. W. A. secretary, "smacks of 'Coughlinism,' its program of company unionism, and its officers of company 'stoogism.'"

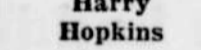
U. S. A. for Rebel Parson

REV. R. ANDERSON JARDINE, plucky little minister who defied the archbishop of Canterbury and endeared himself to millions by giving to the duke of Windsor and Wallis Warfield the religious marriage ceremony of the Church of England despite the fact that the church forbade it, has quit his job.

The "poor man's parson" whose surprise move skyrocketed him from obscurity to international fame resigned as vicar of St. Paul's church in Darlington, England. Although he had returned from France, where he married modern history's most romantic figures, only a few days before, he declared his latest act had "nothing to do with events which have taken place lately." The London Daily Mirror reported that the former vicar plans a two-month vacation lecturing and preaching in the United States and will visit an uncle, Sen. W. D. Rogers, in Coronado, Calif.

Harry Loses 1st Round

DESPITE the pleas of Harry L. Hopkins, works progress administrator, the full senate appropriation committee approved the Byrnes amendment to the relief bill, 13 to 10. The amendment to the \$1,500,000,000 bill requires local governments to pay at least 40 per cent of the cost of all WPA projects, or else sign a kind of civic "pauper's oath." The South Carolina senator's amendment was seen as further evidence of the break between the administration and the conservative Democrats. The South, especially, has been voicing its insistence upon states' rights as opposed to all-powerful central government as advocated by the New Deal, and the relief bill amendment was seen as a case in point. Hopkins had argued that compelling states to contribute 40 per cent of the cost of WPA projects would virtually eliminate such federal projects in the South. It was believed that this may be what the southern senators want; they claim that the payment of \$12 a week to negroes cut down their labor pool and they want to get the negro workers back into the cotton fields.



Harry Hopkins

Reds Rub Out 8

EIGHT Soviet Russian generals, including Marshal Michail Tukhachevsky, former vice commissar of defense, learned the wrath of the Kremlin. Condemned for treason, they were led before a firing squad and killed, by order of the military tribunal of the Soviet supreme court. The court only the day before had declared them guilty of

conspiring with the military intelligence service of an "unfriendly" foreign power. Although the "unfriendly" power was never named by officials, correspondents in Moscow declared indications were unmistakable that Red leaders believe the power was Nazi Germany.

Most of the Russian capital was virtually certain that the eight, who had been denied appeal, had been put to death for an ambitious plot to rob the Soviet of its western provinces and turn them over to Germany. Immediately after the sentences were announced, Russia began to strengthen its defenses along the German frontier, especially the great garrisons of White Russia and the Ukraine. In these garrisons officers and men were told in meetings that a thorough search would be made within their own ranks to make sure that no treasonous members remained. Scores of officers who had served under the executed generals were arrested and every man who had been under their command was regarded as a suspect.

They DO Come Back

FOUR years ago a husky young professional golfer named Ralph Guldahl stood on the final green of the United States National Open championship golf tournament, needing to sink an easy four-foot putt to tie Johnny Goodman for the title. He missed, and quit golf to sell automobiles.

Last year his love of the game overtook him and he decided upon one more try. He came back with a vengeance, cleaning up most of the money in the winter tournaments. He climaxed his return to form by winning golf's most coveted title, that of national open champion, at Oakland Hills country club, Birmingham, Mich., in the 1937 meet just closed. His score of 281 for 72 holes was an all-time record for open competition.

Tax Quiz a "Dodge"?

AS CONGRESS prepared to turn the spotlight upon the alleged wealthy tax dodgers, the Tax Research Institute of America, Inc., accused the President of pushing the investigation to cover "loss of face" through reversals to his Supreme court plan and government reorganization programs. The organization, which numbers 4,000 professional and industrial leaders in its membership, forecast the following results of the congressional inquiry:

1. An intensive drive against taxpayers in the higher brackets.
2. Curtailment of foreign personal holding corporations.
3. Sharply increased taxes on non-resident aliens.
4. Retention of the undistributed corporate profits tax.
5. Consideration of a "most drastic" change in the revenue act which would require all corporations distributing dividends to withhold a portion of the dividends for transmission directly to the treasury. This would eliminate the treasury's worry about securing the tax on dividends from the individual.

Shadow of the Moon

ASTRONOMERS were treated to the feast of a lifetime in the South Seas as they were permitted by almost perfect weather conditions to photograph the longest total eclipse of the sun in 1,200 years. On Canton island the United States Navy and the National Geographic society, with eleven tons of equipment, took unusual pictures and radioed a description of the magnificent scene to millions of listeners back in the states. The scholars of the American Museum of Natural History viewed the eclipse from an airplane 25,000 feet above Lima, Peru. Other scientists made observations from ships in the Pacific. The time of the total eclipse at the various place of observation ranged from three and one-half minutes to seven minutes. It was a short show for which to travel thousands of miles with costly, cumbersome equipment, but, measured by scientific standards, it was worth the cost and the trouble.