

## News Review of Current Events

# BOARD MEDIATES STRIKE

More Deaths As Steel Riots Continue . . . Russians Hop Over Pole to U. S. . . New Cabinet for France



They flew here from Russia: (left to right) Beliakoff, Chekalov, Baibukoff.

### Miss Perkins Names Three

THE federal government took a hand in the settlement of the dispute between John L. Lewis' Committee for Industrial Organization and the big independent steel companies, as the mediation board of three, appointed by Secretary of Labor Frances E. Perkins, sat in Cleveland to hear the cases of both sides. The government's move was prompted as the steel strikes, affecting plants in several states, threatened new outbreaks of violence which might be beyond the powers of local or even state governments to control.

As the mediators began their task of effecting a compromise, a dozen persons had been killed in strike riots and scores more injured since the strike against Republic, Bethlehem, Youngstown Sheet & Tube, and Inland started May 26. Eighty-five thousand workers already have lost approximately \$10,000,000 in wages.

The climactic incident which finally goaded the government into some action other than occasional "off-the-record" statements was a widely-publicized telegram to President Roosevelt from Gov. Martin L. Davey of Ohio, fearful lest the bloodshed already occurring in Youngstown and other cities breed into a little civil war.

"Apparently every avenue of approach available to the state of Ohio has been exhausted for the time being," Governor Davey wired. "It appears that the matter has gone way beyond the powers and opportunities of one state to deal with it."

Charles P. Taft II, Cincinnati lawyer, son of the former President and chief justice, and a member of the "brain trust" of Governor Landon's presidential campaign, was named chairman of the mediation board. Appointed to sit with him were Lloyd K. Garrison, former president of the national labor relations board, and Edward F. McGrady, assistant secretary of labor and a former A. F. of L. organizer under the late Samuel Gompers.

The mediation board had a job cut out for it. It was to conduct an investigation of the strikes and the grievances of both sides, then make recommendations for a settlement. It has power to act as arbitrator only if both sides request it to do so. The first stumbling block it encountered was the refusal of Tom Girdler, chairman of Republic, to sit in the same room with C. I. O. representatives. Girdler, leader of the companies' fight to keep the plants open despite the unions, agreed to help in the supplying of facts and information, but would not consider appearance at a conciliation conference.

### Johnstown's Martial Law

MAYOR DANIEL J. SHIELDS, of Johnstown, Pa., where 15,000 were out of work because of the forced shut-down of Bethlehem Steel's Cambria plant, was not so successful in his appeal to the President. Federal action to prevent recurring riots with attendant injuries was refused him. But Gov. George H. Earle declared martial law there and forced Bethlehem to close the plant, despite vigorous protests. Forty thousand coal miners had announced they would hold a mass meeting to decide upon action in aiding the steel strikers; rioting between strikers, non-strikers and police seemed imminent, but in the face of the Pennsylvania police they did not come off.

### Death Strikes for Two

TWO C. I. O. strikers were killed and 25 persons were injured as strikers and police fought for three hours in front of the Republic Steel plant in Youngstown, Ohio, before a truce was arranged between Sheriff Ralph Elser and John Stevenson, union organizer. Gov. Davey finally sent state troops.

A mob of strikers had attacked a company of police on guard at the plant, forcing the latter to retaliate with tear gas guns. Snipers among the mob tried to pick off policemen from vantage points on nearby hills.

At neighboring cities of Warren and Canton police were apprehensive because of threats by the C. I. O. union to prevent a proposed back-to-work movement by loyal Republic Steel workers.

### Steel Wants Its Mail

THE Republic Steel corporation filed in the federal district court in Washington a petition for a writ of mandamus compelling Postmaster General Farley to deliver parcel post packages to steel plants in Ohio which local postmasters have refused to deliver.

The petition charged that the local postmaster at Niles, Ohio, was refusing to deliver packages containing food and clothing and addressed to the loyal workers who were being housed inside the Republic plant. It charged that this refusal was made after the postmaster had reached an "understanding" with two members of the union.

"Having waited a week for a reply to our letter . . . to Mr. Farley and having received none, we have no recourse but to such legal action as is available to us under the circumstances involved," said John S. Brooks, Jr., counsel for the corporation. He said separate suits will be instituted in Ohio against the local postmasters involved.

Harry J. Dixon, local postmaster of Warren, at a hearing by the senate post office committee, testified that because of a ruling by W. W. Howes, first assistant postmaster general, he had refused to accept for delivery to the plants thousands

of packages containing food, soap, clothing or other articles considered "abnormal."

### After the Red Purge

FOR the first time since the World War the chief of staff of the German army, Gen. Ludwig Beck, went to Paris to visit the French chief of staff. And just about the same time Baron Constantin von Neurath, German foreign minister who recently completed a tour of central Europe, announced that he would visit London as a guest of the British government.

It was believed that the purpose of the two visits was to reach an understanding between the four great powers of western Europe, to the exclusion of Soviet Russia—an understanding such as Germany and Italy have long dreamed about.

With eight important Russian generals having been recently executed for treason, with virtually the entire Red military staff under suspicion, it was apparent that Russia's importance as a military power had taken a sudden drop, for the immediate future at least. And with the resignation of the Popular Front government in France, which had been favorable to the communists, it looked like the golden opportunity to convince France that an alliance with Soviet Russia was an unreliable one.

### French Premier Quits

FACED with one of those financial crises all too frequent in recent French history, Premier Leon Blum asked the senate for powers which would make him financial dictator of France for about six weeks. He did not believe it possible to bring order into the treasury without so drastic a measure. When it was refused he and the 20 members of his cabinet resigned. He had served 117 days of his second year as premier of France—something of a modern record. President Albert Lebrun designated Camille Chautemps, radical socialist and a former premier, to attempt the formation of a new cabinet. A successor to Blum was not immediately in sight.

The Popular Front government was one of the bulwarks of leftist tendencies in Europe, as opposed to extreme Fascism, and openly expressed its sympathy for the Spanish loyalists. Its passing is extremely important in international affairs.

### Short Cut from Soviet

THREE Russian airmen successfully completed the first non-stop airplane flight from the Soviet Union to the United States. Taking the short, but hazardous, route over the North pole, they hopped off from Moscow to arrive in Vancouver, Wash., 63 hours and 17 minutes later, after traveling nearly 6,000 miles. They had planned to alight at Oakland, Calif., but poor visi-

bility drove them down 580 miles from their goal.

The three were Pilot Valeri Chekalov, Co-Pilot George Phillipovitch Baibukoff and Navigator Alexander Vassilievitch Beliakoff. Their flight, in a single-motored monoplane, took place only a few days after the opening of the Soviet floating weather station at the pole, to make scientific observations preparatory to establishing trans-polar air routes.

### To Sign or Not

THERE is no issue of wages, hours or other material demands in the strife between the independent steel corporations and John L. Lewis' Committee for Industrial Organization. The corporations have agreed to all of the demands of the unions—verbally. "Verbally"—that is the word which has for weeks kept thousands of workers in eight or ten states from returning to their jobs.

The C. I. O. demands that the corporations put their agreement in the form of a written contract. The corporations refuse. And the unions have refused to call off the strikes until they get the signatures on the line.

Union officials have taken the position that if the company officials are willing to agree orally to union demands they ought to be willing to confirm the agreement in writing. Lewis has demanded that President Roosevelt intervene to force the companies to sign. At a press conference the President refused to say officially what was his reaction to the demand. He did say—and emphasized that he was not speaking "officially"—that he could not see why the companies would not make written agreements.

Tom Girdler, chairman of the board of the Republic Steel corporation, explained the companies' stand:

"The reason the C. I. O. wants a signed contract is because such a contract would be the first step toward the closed shop and the check-off.

"Under the closed shop every worker has to belong to a union, whether he wants to or not. The closed shop is actually a 'deal' between the employer and the union whereby the employer helps to force every employee into the union. Under the checkoff the company takes unions dues out of the pay envelopes of all its employees and hands them over to the union.

"Does the C. I. O. contract preserve industrial peace? It does not. They have broken numerous contracts."

### The Tax Parade

AS A congressional committee opened hearings on tax evasion and avoidance by wealthy citizens, Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau was among the first to testify. He said the nation was losing hundreds of millions of dollars in annual revenue through such tactics. Then his under-secretary, Roswell Magill, suggested three changes in the present tax laws: That depletion reduc-

tions be eliminated, that community-property provisions now in effect in some states be circumvented, and that higher levies be put upon the American-earned incomes of non-resident aliens.

The first names mentioned in the hearings were connected with the practice of forming foreign corporations to which individual incomes are transferred, a scheme which treasury officials said was usually within "the letter of the law." Among the first names were: Philip De Ronde, former president of the Hibernia Trust company of New York, now Paraguayan consul in New York; Jules S. Bache, New York banker; Jacob Schick, ex-army officer and electric-razor inventor, and Charles Laughton, motion-picture actor.

### Bilbao Falls at Last

BILBAO, capital of the Spanish loyalists, fell before an attacking force for the first time in history; it had withstood many sieges dating from medieval ages. In the bombing and shelling which broke the "iron ring" of defense the loyalists had so steadfastly maintained the city was literally torn to shreds and the death toll, which included many women and children, was enormous. But as the



Gen. Franco

Fascists moved in, parading jubilantly, to take possession of the city for Gen. Francisco Franco, not a shot was fired. The last defenders had fled toward Santander, 45 miles to the west. The Basques were estimated to have used 75,000 men in defending Bilbao; 10,000 were either killed or wounded.

For the rebel army the immediate problems were feeding of the 300,000 hungry survivors of the long siege and pursuing the defeated Basque and Asturian forces.

The fall of Bilbao symbolized the road's end for the rebel army. The long siege of three months had converted the city into more than a military objective. The capture of Bilbao had become more important in the popular rebel imagination, as well as in military significance, than the siege of Madrid. Gen. Emilio Mola, second in command, had been named to lead the siege, and after his death in an airplane accident, Franco himself took charge. The final drive for the city started April 1; the Basques defended it heroically, but with no air force and with inferior mechanized equipment and artillery they were no match for the invaders.

### Barrie's Last Curtain

SIR JAMES M. BARRIE, novelist and playwright, whose whimsical pen gave to the world many important works of literature, including "Peter Pan," "The Little Minister," "Dear Brutus," and "What Every Woman Knows," died of bronchial pneumonia in London. He was seventy-seven years old.

## Quoddy Village Comes to Life Once More



A grading crew of boys, members of the National Youth Administration, at work on the new baseball diamond which will be used this summer for camp games at Quoddy Village, Eastport, Maine, the model community of the suspended \$36,000,000 federal Passamaquoddy bay tide-harnessing power project, which has been taken over by the N. Y. A. for the purpose of vocational training.