

News Review of Current Events

WAR CLOUDS OVER CHINA

Japs See Little Hope for Truce . . . 13 Senators Hold Court Bill in Balance . . . Steel Mills Smoke Once More

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SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK
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New Sino-Japanese Conflict?

WAR between China and Japan was believed almost inevitable as hopes of settling a new outbreak of hostilities by diplomatic means faded out. The fighting ensued as Japanese gendarmes attempted to take over the policing of Yunnan and Lukowkiao, two villages in the Peiping area, near Marco Polo bridge. This, the Japanese said, was provided for in the North China truce.



Emperor Hirohito

According to the assertions of the Japanese war office, Chinese soldiers fired upon the gendarmes and opened up with trench mortars against the Japanese contingent at the Yuanping station. This action allegedly compelled the Japanese to make a night assault, costing 20 lives, in order to occupy the towns of Lungwangmiao and Tungshingwan. It was said the Chinese troops had also advanced into these points.

Officials of the Hopei-Chahar council claimed the Japanese moves were in open violation of the truce. They further accused the Japanese of conducting night army maneuvers, using real bullets instead of the blanks ordinarily employed in maneuvers. As Emperor Hirohito and Premier Fumimaro Konoe conferred with military leaders and the cabinet, the Japanese people frantically prepared for the war that loomed.

China's Nanking government gave orders to Gen. Sung Cheh-yuan, commander of the North China forces, that his army was not to retreat for any reason, but was to be prepared to make the "supreme sacrifice" to hold its position until Gen. Chiang Kai-shek should arrive over the Peiping-Hankow railroad with 50,000 fresh troops.

China's demands for a truce were considered intolerable by the Japanese government. They included:

1. Japan must assume responsibility for the "incident."
 2. Japan must express regret.
 3. Japan must pay damages to the Chinese and submit guaranties against such incidents in the future.
- Japan made counter demands at first reported to be accepted by the Chinese, later repudiated by them. These were:
1. Withdrawal of all Chinese troops from the area about Marco Polo bridge.
 2. Punishment for "the Chinese responsible for the conflict."
 3. Adequate control of all anti-Japanese activities in North China.
 4. Enforcement of measures against communism.

As the fighting continued in the Peiping area, with no hope of an effective compromise on the two nations' demands, war seemed the probable result.

Struggle in the Senate

TWELVE Democratic senators and one Farmer-Laborite were believed to hold the fate of the administration's substitute for the original bill which would increase the number of Supreme court justices to 15. The administration was certain that the bill would receive at least 39 votes, with 49 necessary to a majority. Forty-three senators were definitely committed against it. Thirteen were still uncommitted as the battle raged on the senate floor and in the cloakrooms.

The twelve uncommitted Democrats were: Andrews (Fla.), Bone

(Wash.), Brown (N. H.), Caraway (Ark.), Duffy (Wis.), Johnson (Colo.), Lewis (Ill.), Murray (Mont.), Overton (La.), Pepper (Fla.), Russell, Jr. (Ga.) and Wagner (N. Y.). Lundeen (Minn.) was the Farmer-Laborite.

The substitute for the original Ashurst bill provides for appointment of one new justice each year to every justice remaining on the court after reaching the age of seventy-five years. It would enable President Roosevelt to name one new justice this year and assure him of at least one new appointment in each remaining year of his term, in addition to the appointment he will have as the result of Justice Van Devanter's retirement. It also provides for appointments to lower court benches.

It was believed that public opinion would decide the commitment of the senators "on the fence." If it becomes apparent that public opinion is against the substitute as it was against the original bill, it is likely that the administration leaders in the senate will propose an amendment preventing the substitute bill from including present members of the court. This would postpone the enlargement of the court until some new appointee becomes seventy-five.

C. I. O. Steel Grip Loosens

THE grip of the C. I. O. continued to loosen in the steel strike as three big independent steel corporations—Republic, Bethlehem and Youngstown Sheet & Tube—reported more than two-thirds of their idle mill hands had returned to work. This covered plants in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Inland, the fourth of the steel independents, announced that it was operating with its normal force of 13,000 in Indiana since it and the Steel Workers' Organizing Committee signed a compact with the state labor commission. Steel production in the Youngstown, Ohio, area, one of the principal scenes of strike violence, climbed to 76 per cent of capacity, 3 per cent above the operating figure before the start of the strike.

The Youngstown Sheet and Tube plant in East Chicago, Ind., announced that it would open to 7,000 employees without benefit of written agreement with the C. I. O. A Youngstown vice president forcefully denied that the company had made any agreement with the steel affiliate of John L. Lewis' organization, as Gov. Clifford M. Townsend had publicly announced.

Strike Riot Kills Two

ONE striker and one policeman were killed and twenty men were injured at an aluminum plant in Alcoa, Tenn., when rioting broke out as 3,000 strikers started a back-to-work movement. The plant, belonging to the Aluminum Company of America, had been closed since May 18, when the strike was called by the Aluminum Workers of America, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor. Difference in wages paid at Alcoa and at the company's plant in New Kensington, Pa., was the issue in the strike. State troops were on hand, but Adjt.-Gen. R. O. Smith, in charge, said that they were there merely to protect rights, and no martial law had been declared.

Violence continued in the friction between steel and labor as one unidentified man was killed and six injured when striking workers of the Republic plant at Massillon, Ohio, brushed with city police near a union hall.



George Gershwin: Dead at 38.

Obituary in Blue

GEORGE GERSHWIN, composer who lifted jazz music up to the level of the classics, died suddenly in Hollywood after an operation for brain tumor. He was thirty-eight. His "Rhapsody in Blue" was famous among the world's music lovers, his opera, "Porgy and Bess" one of the most individually American of all musical works. His "Swanerie" sold more than 2,000,000 copies, his musical comedy score, "Of Thee I Sing," was a Pulitzer prize winner, and some of his compositions, such as "Strike Up the Band," "Soon," and "Somebody Loves Me" were sung and danced to by millions. Many prominent critics called him the most original force in American music.

Rebels Fall from Madrid

SPANISH rebel forces which took Bilbao after the city's first successful siege are still finding Madrid a tough nut to crack. In a two-day battle the loyalist forces broke through the siege lines about the city, captured the villages of Villaneuva de la Canada and Brunette, and threatened to cut the besieging rebels off from their main forces. So nearly successful was the attempt to rout the rebel forces that the latter were forced to admit new troops might have to be withdrawn from other fronts, delaying temporarily the drive on Santander, next rebel objective on the Biscayan coast. The loyalists were reported to have recaptured 100 square miles of territory about Madrid.

Meanwhile, the fall of Bilbao was expected to add 150,000 refugees to the constant stream pouring into loyalist Valencia. Although some of the refugees remained in France, where they were first taken, the vast majority preferred to go to Catalonia, where the government takes care of them at its own expense. Nearly 1,500,000 have arrived in Valencia since the start of the war and 300,000 have remained there.

Triple Split for Palestine

PALESTINE would be split into three parts and British mandate over the whole country ended, according to suggestions made by the royal commission on Palestine and delivered to the British government. The commission was formed a year ago to find some way of putting an end to Arab-Jewish riots.

Under the new plan, about two-thirds of Palestine would be converted into an Arab state and about one-third into a Jewish state. A small territory, including the holy cities of Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth, and a corridor to the sea, would be given to Great Britain as a permanent mandate. It is claimed that the plan would remove the Arabs from Jewish domination, give the Jews a home and protect Christian shrines.

Bingham's 4th of July

ROBERT WORTH BINGHAM, United States ambassador to London, became the third prominent American to bring down the fury of Nazi Germany's officialdom and press when, in an Independence day speech before the American society in that city, he declared Uncle Sam had been forced by the dictator countries to join Britain in an armament race. Mayor LaGuardia of New York and Cardinal Mundelein of Chicago had been other recent Nazi targets.

The ambassador was quoted as saying: "There must be some (of the dictatorships) who realize that

they have imposed upon the British commonwealth and the United States an armaments race.

"We did everything in our power to avert it, but it is a race, and the British and ourselves must inevitably win. I admit the strongest argument that can be made for dictatorships—they offer a better method of preparing for war. But I am sure that democracies provide a better way to finish a war."

The Nazis charged that the ambassador had insulted Germany and Italy with his "arrogance and ignorance." Voelkischer Beobachter, the official newspaper, added: "If there is any talk of defense, then we should speak of defense against the arrogant and teacher-like attitude of the defenders of western ideals."

Lewis Scans the Sea

JOHN L. LEWIS sought to expand the scope of his Committee for Industrial Organization by invading the maritime industry. With Harry Bridges, west coast longshoremen's leader, he sought to unify scattered maritime unions in one big industrial organization dominated by the C. I. O. The American Federation of Labor already has two strong unions in the maritime field, so this action brings Lewis into another point of friction with William Green's organization. The nation has 250,000 marine and coastal workers.

Mr. Eden Has a Plan

PLANS to maintain the non-intervention patrol of Spain in a fashion that will satisfy all the nations concerned and insure against the spread of the conflict beyond the Spanish borders have blown about like papers in a storm. And when you get right down to it, that is about all they have amounted to.

Now Anthony Eden, Britain's foreign secretary, has come up with a new one, as deft and perhaps as futile as any which have gone before it. It provides for the full re-establishment of land and sea control of movements of men and arms into Spain. French and British warships would patrol the coastline with German and Italian observers aboard (the Fascist nations, indignant over the Leipzig incident, have withdrawn from the patrol). This arrangement



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Use of Figures 1 to 24 on Clock Started in United States in 1884

The system of numbering the hours of the day from one to twenty-four, generally regarded as "foreign," is of American origin, early records of the American Society of Civil Engineers disclose. The society itself and one or two other scientific organizations used it for some time and meetings were announced "at 20 o'clock."

Prior to 1883 American railroads operated on "local" time, based on local meridians, and clocks in cities no farther apart than Chicago, St. Paul and St. Louis differed so much as to make it difficult to follow timetables. By 1881 the confusion became so great all over the country that the American Society of Civil Engineers appointed a committee on uniform standard time. This committee set up a tentative system of hour meridians and circulated a questionnaire among railroad officials of the United States and Canada to determine their reaction. Largely as a result of that work, the railroads reached an agreement on hour meridians in October, 1883, and put it into effect the following month. The numbering of hours from one to twenty-four was suggested at the same time.

The society's committee next sought to establish an international standard or base meridian, from which time could be figured by hourly intervals throughout the world. Together with other interested groups the committee brought the attention of congress to the need for such an arrangement. As a result

would operate only until a permanent scheme could be worked out, placing observers for the non-intervention committee in all non-Spanish seaports and airports from which men and supplies might leave for Spain, and in all Spanish ports to see that none landed there. After that, the sea patrol would be abolished.

Mr. Eden's plan, of course, would not work without the approval of the Nazis and Italians.

Navy Hunts for Amelia

FOUR ships of the United States navy, with attendant airplanes; two ships of the Japanese navy, and a British freighter scoured the vast wastes of the South Pacific in an effort to find and rescue Amelia Earhart Putnam, America's No. 1 woman flyer, and her navigator, Fred Noonan. The pair had been forced down before completing the 2,570-mile hop from New Guinea to Howland island, a "leg" of their 'round-the-world flight.

Signals received from the hapless flyers were so weak that it was impossible to tell whether they were afloat at sea or marooned on some tiny island, and as the days passed it became doubtful that many of the radio messages which served as clues for the searchers were from the two at all.

So alarmed was the world at the loss of Amelia and her companion, the United States even sent out the giant aircraft carrier Lexington with 98 planes aboard, which, it was said, could explore an area of 36,000 square miles in five or six hours.

Mae West Tells All

IT SEEMS Mae West, buxom blonde cinema menace DID marry Frank Wallace in Milwaukee on April 11, 1911, after all. After stoutly denying the marriage which aroused the whole nation when it was revealed in 1935, she did an about-face and confessed it, although denying she had ever lived with the vaudeville player as his wife. Her admission was necessitated when she answered Wallace's suit for declaratory relief in a Los Angeles court.

Nation Finds More Jobs

NEARLY 35,000 persons are now employed in non-agricultural pursuits, the federal reserve board has announced. This is only 1,000,000 or 1,500,000 shy of the average in 1929 and 8,500,000 to 9,000,000 more than in March, 1933.

President Arthur was authorized in 1884 to call an international conference to discuss the subject.

Twenty-six nations were represented at the conference and it was then that the Greenwich meridian was selected as the base. The "one to twenty-four" system was also approved and was adopted in England the following year. The United States, however, never followed suit, despite the fact that a great number of railroad managers approved the plan. The American Society of Civil Engineers soon ceased to "meet at 20 o'clock," and now the "American system" is far better known abroad than at home.

Three Scottish Canals

Being mountainous, Scotland has not many canals. There are, in fact, only three. The Crinan canal, but 9 miles long, goes from Loch Gilp, in the Firth of Clyde, to Loch Crinan, on the Atlantic coast of Argyll, saving a journey of 70 miles around the stormy Mull of Kintyre. The Caledonian canal is perhaps the most picturesque waterway in Europe. Although 60 miles in total length, only 25 miles are man-made, the rest being through Loch Ness, Loch Oich and Loch Lochy—fresh-water lakes flanked by the mountainous sides of the Great Glen. This unusual type of canal stretches between Inverness, on the North Sea, to Fort William, at the head of Loch Linnhe, leading to the Atlantic ocean.