

News Review of Current Events

A YEAR OF WAR IN SPAIN

1,000,000 Killed, But On It Goes . . . Robinson's Death Perils Court Plan . . . Poor Harvest Worries Europe



Joe Robinson Rallies the Democratic National Convention.

Edward W. Pickard
SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK
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Bloody Anniversary

THE Spanish civil war entered its second year. For the populations of rebel cities, the occasion was one for joyous celebration with fiestas, bull fights and concerts the order of the day. Gen. Francisco Franco, commander of the insurgent forces, publicly proclaimed it a "year of triumph." He ordered that all communications and public documents for the next twelve months be dated as of "the second year of triumph."



Gen. Franco

In the first "year of triumph," more than a million persons, including women and children, were killed. The insurgents claim to have taken 34 of the 50 provincial capitals of the country, and all of its colonies. They have captured six of the eleven cities of more than 100,000 inhabitants: Seville, Malaga, Bilbao, Saragossa, Cordoba and Granada.

As the rebels celebrated the eve of the war's first anniversary, the loyalists marked the occasion by opening a new offensive in northern Spain. For the first time in months they sent out squadrons of planes to harass the insurgents near Santander; they made advances along the Aragon front, and forced the rebels to send reinforcements to the area about Albarracin. Airplanes also caused some damage to insurgent forces holding siege to Madrid. The government army apprehended a band of Moorish soldiers trying to succeed with a surprise night attack 15 miles west of Madrid, and slew 600 of them.

The rebels lost little time in attempting to regain their losses around Madrid. Franco unleashed the full power of his main army of 160,000 in a drive to recapture Brunete and other suburbs of the loyalist stronghold; they were met by at least 250,000 defending government troops. Every weapon of war except gas was used. There was hand-to-hand fighting in the trenches and the greatest use of artillery since the World war as the fiercest battle of the Spanish conflict raged. The battle was opened by a spectacular aerial fight as the world has seen in years; insurgents were reported to have lost 27 planes against only four for the loyalists.

Europe Short on Grain

EUROPE began to worry about the possibilities of a hungry winter as early threshing indicated a serious grain shortage.

Germany's shortage was estimated at 3,000,000 tons. The deficit will be met partly with increased con-

sumption of potatoes and sugar beets, and partly with cheap, plentiful corn from southeastern Europe. It is expected, even so, that Germany will have to buy 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 tons from other foreign countries. Experts estimated that the German harvest for 1937 would be 10 to 20 per cent below the average for the years 1930-35.

Poland, from which Germany has been able to buy grain in the past, will not be able to sell any this year, while Hungarian, Rumanian and Yugoslavian crops will be smaller than last year, because of drought.

It was believed that if the current drought continued the farmers of Great Britain would likewise suffer; rainfall in the past month has been about one-fifth normal.

Of the Baltic countries only Lithuania, it is believed, will have a crop equal to her needs. Crops suffered badly in Latvia, Estonia and Finland. Only Spain, in all Europe, with an increase of 15 per cent over last year's grain harvest, appears likely to enjoy a well-filled bread basket.

Inventor of Wireless Dies

GIUGLIELMO MARCONI, who altered the lives of all of us when he invented the wireless, died suddenly of a heart attack at his home in Rome. He was sixty-three years old, had been in good health and was planning the construction of a new radio station in the Vatican at the time of his death.

Sino-Japanese Crisis

JUST after a verbal agreement between Chinese and Japanese military commanders had appeared to have prevented an impending renewal of the Sino-Japanese war, the Japanese government officially announced that heavy concentration of Chinese troops had been made at Peiping, constituting a direct act of aggression against Japan.

At the same time the Nanking government claimed that 17 Japanese troop trains, carrying 30,000 soldiers, were en route to North China from Korea and Manchukuo. Earlier, 12,000 Japanese troops were said to have arrived in North China to supplement the regular garrison of 7,000.

At Tientsin, Gen. Sung Cheh-Yuan, chairman of the Hopei-Chahar political council and commander of the Chinese forces in North China, had complied verbally with the Japanese ultimatum for peace, although he refused to sign anything. In a talk with Lieut.-Gen. Kiyoshi Katsuki, the Japanese commander, he apologized for the clash between Japanese troops and the Chinese Twenty-ninth army at Lukowkiao July 7, the incident which perpetrated the new crisis, and expressed the regrets of the Hopei-Chahar council. He said that he would dis-

miss several of his officers as a punishment.

Gen. Sung assured the Japanese he would evacuate the area west of Peiping, and would do his utmost to suppress communism and anti-Japanese activities.

Gen. Chiang Kai-Shek, dictator of China, had not yet formally replied to the Japanese ultimatum.

See New Golden Age

"WE ARE on the threshold of tremendous economic and social changes that will be wrought by the development of epochal inventions just emerging into public view." That's from a report of scientists and engineers of the national resources committee, made public by President Roosevelt. "The utilization of these inventions," said the report, "will make for a period of great prosperity in which labor displaced by recent technological improvements will be absorbed by new industries and other activities."

The inventions listed in the report were: Mechanical cotton picker; air conditioning; plastics (creation of new materials and substances by chemical and other processes); photo-electric cell for automatic control of mechanisms; cellulose products; synthetic rubber; prefabricated houses; television; automobile trailer; gasoline produced from coal; steep flight aircraft, and ray agriculture (growth of food plants in chemically treated water).

The report said, in part:

"The question whether there will be a large amount of unemployment during the next period of business prosperity rests only in part on the introduction of new inventions and more efficient industrial techniques."

"The other important elements are changes in the composition of the country's production (such as appreciable changes in the proportion which service activities constitute of the total), the growth of population, changes in the demands for goods and services, shift in markets, migration of industry, hiring age policies of industries, and other factors."

Falls 'Face to Battle'

WHEN Sen. Joseph T. Robinson of Arkansas dropped dead of a heart attack in his apartment across from the United States Capitol, the President's plan for securing new appointments to the Supreme court bench, even in its amended form, died with him.



Senator Robinson

That is the belief of close observers in Washington. For "Joe" Robinson was the President's tower of strength in the legislative branch of the government. He had served the Democratic party well in the senate since 1913, and as the majority leader in the upper house since 1932.

Joe Robinson's job it was to keep a smooth balance between the conservative Democrats, largely of the South, and the more radical members of the party from the North and West, so that the objectives of the New Deal could be turned out of the legislative mill.

Robinson never fought harder than he did in his last battle. As he worked hard and long in an attempt to get the "compromise" court plan passed, often raising his voice and exerting himself mightily in senate arguments, it was apparent to his colleagues that he was not well. Sen. Royal S. Copeland, the only physician in the senate, had several times asked him to calm himself lest he hasten his own death.

While the senate was adjourned for Robinson's funeral, administration leaders sought to rally support so the court bill could be passed, even without the late senator's leadership. But the opposition forces were equally determined to take advantage of the psychological aspect of the senate following Robinson's death—the desire to effect a peace, finish the session's business and get away from the capital.

The forces opposed to the bill be-

lieve that when the issue came up again they would be successful in recommitting the substitute bill to the judiciary committee, an effective way of killing it. The indication of opposition greater than had been expected in the house of representatives was another factor pointing to the eventual fall of the bill.

Another battle was not long in getting under way: to decide who the new majority leader of the senate should be. Conservative Democrats were anxious to wrest a measure of control from the White House by backing Sen. Pat Harrison of Mississippi, who has been faithful to the President, but is fundamentally conservative. The more radical senators backed Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky, Democratic national convention keynoter, who had been Robinson's assistant as floor leader. Another prospect was Sen. James F. Byrnes of South Carolina, but it was believed his strength would eventually be transferred to Harrison.

Another thing that had Washington guessing as a result of Robinson's death was the vacancy on the Supreme court left by the retirement of Justice Willis Van Devanter. Robinson, it was generally believed, was to have received the appointment.

Security for 21,000,000

NEARLY 21,000,000 workers are now covered by the unemployment compensation laws of the 48 states, Hawaii, the District of Columbia and Alaska, the social security board estimates. When the social security act became effective August 14, 1935, it was expected only about 17,000,000 would be covered.

Most of the state laws specify that funds shall be made up only out of contributions by employers; eight require employees to contribute, and the District of Columbia adds a government contribution to those of employees and employers.

Wisconsin, where the state law was operating before the security act was passed, is already paying benefits. Twenty-two more states will start January 1. The last to start payments will be Georgia and Montana, in July, 1939.

Upper Silesia Still Puzzle

BEFORE a new accord could be reached, the 15-year-old Geneva convention designed to reconcile the interests of both Poland and Germany in Upper Silesia, expired. Upper Silesia was once part of both Germany and Poland. The people

Early American Wooden Indian Was Patterned After the British Model

Two hundred years before he became American the wooden Indian was British, and even as far back as 1617 occupied the counters of the apothecary's shop. Not until the reign of Queen Annes, according to a writer in the New York Times, were shops opened purely for retailing tobacco products. Owing, probably, to the fact that the average artist of that day did not acquaint himself with the aborigines of other lands through first-hand experience, the characteristics of the wooden Indian smacked of African lineage. His embellishments often included the Roman shield, spear and tunic, though sometimes the skirt was of tobacco leaves and his headdress was composed of ostrich plumes. In fact, effigies of that particular design were usually called black-boys, the possible connection being between slaves who worked in tobacco fields and Indians who smoked the leaves of the plant.

The carvers of these figures were not limited to amateur artists. Some of the foremost sculptors of the day turned out many a well-modeled brave. Unfortunately, sculptors did not hallmark their pieces, so that little or no positive identification is possible.

Pine was the favorite wood from which the body was made — usually of one piece, exclusive of the arms. It was first blocked out with

of the two sections have since that time mingled freely with one another, carrying on a live commerce unhindered over the boundary lines set by the League of Nations.

The diplomatic difficulties occurred when no solution was forthcoming for the problem of what to do with the Poles who wanted to remain in the German section and the Germans who wanted to remain in the Polish section.

Mrs. Roosevelt's Taxes

WHEN Representative Hamilton Fish (Rep. N. Y.) sought to demonstrate the unfairness of the tax evasion investigation committee, he demanded that the committee investigate the income of the wife of the President from radio broadcasts, charging that she was not paying a cent of income taxes upon those earnings. She had turned over \$39,000 to the American Friends Service committee, a Philadelphia charity, kept \$1 per broadcast for herself and paid nothing whatever from her radio earnings to the government.



Rep. Fish

Assistant Attorney General Robert H. Jackson replied for her, explaining to Chairman Doughton of the congressional committee that the bureau of internal revenue had advised Mrs. Roosevelt she need pay no tax on the receipts from the broadcast. He declared the responsibility "is not that of Mrs. Roosevelt, but that of myself and others who were treasury officials at the time."

After flying 6,625 miles from the Russian capital, Pilot Michael Gromov, Co-Pilot Andrei Yumoshev and Navigator Sergei Danilin, made a forced landing in a cow pasture near San Jacinto, Calif. A leaking gasoline line had exhausted their fuel supply as they battled heavy fogs which hung over the west coast region. Their flying time was estimated at 62 hours and 17 minutes. The fliers spent the next few days reaping the rewards of their accomplishments, as they were honored at many celebrations.

6,625 Miles in One Hop!

WITH the world still thrilling to the recent flight of three Russian aviators from Moscow to the United States via the North Pole, three more Russians did it again, completing the longest non-stop flight in history.

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Banana's History Is Old; Came From Southern Asia

Among the accounts of man's endeavors on this earth, the discovery and development of important foods stand out. The history of the banana can be traced back until before the beginning of history.

The yellow fruit is thought to have developed first in the humid tropical regions of Southern Asia. From there it moved slowly westward.

Alexander the Great found the fruit along the Indus three centuries before Christ. The Arabs carried it to the Holy Land, to northern Egypt, and perhaps also across the Dark continent to the west coast, according to the Union Oil Bulletin. When the Portuguese arrived on the Guinea coast, looking for slaves and gold, about ten years before Columbus sailed for the "Indies," they found the banana, liked it, and carried it to the Canary islands. From there, probably in the year 1516, it went to the New World.