

News Review of Current Events

FAR EAST CONFERENCE

Davis Heads American Delegation to Brussels . . . Trying for Labor Peace . . . Special Session



Secretary of the Navy Swanson pinning a special congressional medal on Admiral Richard E. Byrd for the contribution he, with other members of the second Byrd antarctic expedition, which ended in 1935, made to science. The other members of the expedition received similar awards. Looking on are Admiral William Leahy, center, and William C. Haines, meteorologist.

Edward W. Pickard
SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK
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Davis Sent to Brussels

NORMAN H. DAVIS is on his way to Brussels, Belgium, as head of the American delegation to a conference of the signatories of the nine-power treaty



which, the optimists hope, will put an end to the warfare between Japan and China. More realistic observers of the course of events have no such expectation, for the pact has no "teeth" and the conferees can do little except talk.

Associated with Mr. Davis, the administration's roving ambassador, are Dr. Stanley K. Hornbeck and Pierrepont Moffat as advisers. Robert T. Pell is the press officer and C. E. Bohlen is secretary of the delegation.

Before sailing for Europe the delegates received instructions from President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Hull, but these were not revealed to the public.

The invitation to the conference was issued by the Belgian government "at the request of the British government and with the approval of the government of the United States." China and Japan are both signatories to the treaty. The former accepted the invitation to the Brussels meeting, but it was believed Japan would not be represented there. Tokyo has maintained the policy that the Sino-Japanese troubles must be settled without the intervention of other nations.

Why the Stock Slump?

WHO or what is responsible for the decided slump in the stock market is a moot question. In his recent "fireside chat" the President intimated that Wall Street was to blame for its own troubles and belittled the effect proposed legislation would have on the markets and general business.

Winthrop W. Aldrich, president of the Chase National bank, largest bank in the country, doesn't agree with Mr. Roosevelt in this. He says Wall Street is honest, and lays the blame for the adverse market situation on the doorstep of the admin-

istration and particularly the securities and exchange commission.

Airliner Wrecked; 19 Dead

SMASHING against Hayden peak in the Uinta mountains of Utah, a big transcontinental airliner of the United Air Lines was totally wrecked and its passengers and crew, numbering 19 persons, were killed. The debris was sighted by scout planes some 10,000 feet up the mountainside, but efforts of rescue parties to reach the scene were hampered by heavy snow.

Labor Peace Parley

LEADERS in the American Federation of Labor and the C. I. O. gathered in Washington for a conference designed to end the warfare between those divisions of organized labor in America. Some of them thought the negotiations might result in an early settlement of their disputes or at least a truce. Neither President Green nor John L. Lewis ventured any prediction as to the outcome of the deliberations. Some students of labor politics were inclined to think peace was not yet in sight and could not be brought about without the removal of Green from the A. F. of L. presidency and the elimination of Lewis from consideration for that post. Their suggestion was that peace might be negotiated eventually by replacing Green with some such labor figure as Charles P. Howard, president of the International Typographical union, or Edward F. McGrady, former assistant secretary of labor and now Radio Corporation labor relations chief, and by giving industrial union groups stronger representation in shaping the federation's policies.

President Roosevelt displayed active interest in the labor controversy and received Secretary of Labor Perkins at his Hyde Park home, where for three hours they discussed the subject. The restoration of harmony in labor's ranks is considered of great importance to the



Secy. Perkins

administration for both economic and political reasons.

Secretary Perkins announced in Washington that she had named a federal committee on apprentice training to become a permanent agency in the Labor department. Its purpose, she said, is "to provide a sufficient number of highly skilled workers to supply the country's growing needs and to guarantee a thorough trade preparation for apprentices."

Straus Heads Housing

NATHAN STRAUS of New York city was named administrator of the \$526,000,000 federal housing program by President Roosevelt. He is the son of the late Nathan Straus, philanthropist, and has been connected with the housing work in New York. His appointment was considered a victory for Senator Wagner over Secretary Ickes who wanted Howard Gray of the PWA named.

Arkansas Picks Miller

JOE ROBINSON'S successor as senator from Arkansas will be Congressman John E. Miller, Democrat, for he defeated Gov. Carl G. Bailey in the special election by an impressive majority. The Republicans had no candidate. Miller has been a rather lukewarm supporter of the New Deal in congress.

New Budget Figures

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT found his estimate of \$418,000,000 as the probable deficit for 1938 fiscal year was much too low. So he gave out new budget figures putting the probable deficit at nearly 700 millions. And it admittedly will be much greater unless the executive and congress achieve very considerable economies.

Divorce Rule Stands

CHURCH laws against remarriage of divorced persons by Episcopal clergymen stand unchanged for at least three years. Proposed liberalization of the rule was defeated by the house of deputies of the church at the general convention in Cincinnati. The deputies voted to continue for another three years the commission on marriage and divorce.

The defeated proposal would have permitted bishops to allow Episcopal clergymen to solemnize marriage of persons, who were divorced for any cause, after study of each case.

Brady Gang Wiped Out

LAST of the big "mobs" of bank robbers and murderers, the Brady gang was wiped out in a gun battle with federal agents at Bangor, Maine. Al Brady, the leader, and Clarence Shaffer, Jr., his lieutenant, were killed; and James Dalhover was wounded and captured. The outlaws were recognized by a clerk in a sporting goods store and the G-men were summoned. Dalhover was to be taken to Indiana to stand trial for the murder of a state policeman, one of four killings attributed to the gang. He made a full confession, and search began for persons who had been aiding them.

The gangsters' capture was believed to have nipped a potential New England crime wave. Floor plans of two banks were found in Dalhover's possession with maps of nearby roads.

Palestine Terrorism

BRITISH military authorities took stern measures to suppress the violence in Palestine, but apparently without success. The Arabs continued their attacks on the Jewish people and buildings and in Jerusalem began using bombs.

Gen. A. P. Wavell, commander of the 10,000 British troops in Palestine, ordered the homes of Arab terrorists burned, following the destruction of Kalandia airport, near Lydda, with an estimated loss of \$50,000.

Sixty persons were arrested for breaking the twenty-four hour curfew which amounts to virtual martial law.

If this sort of thing keeps up,

Great Britain is likely to make Palestine a crown colony instead of a mandate.

Big Battle at Shanghai

SHANGHAI was witnessing the fiercest battle of the Sino-Japanese war. Land and air forces of both sides were fighting furiously and the casualties were piling up hour by hour. The Chinese were making a great counter-offensive for which they had massed men and guns about the city. The Japanese were ready for the attack, and desperately battled to turn back their foes. Observers described the hand-to-hand fighting as that of madmen, especially in the Chinese quarter.

A big fleet of Chinese airplanes was sent down the Yangtze and bombs were showered on the Japanese warships along the Japanese occupied shore of the Whangpoo.

An American navy radio man, J. P. McMichael of Connorsville, Ind., was slightly wounded by Japanese shrapnel as he stood on the signal deck of the United States cruiser Augusta between Admiral Harry E. Yarnell, commander-in-chief, and Capt. R. F. McConnell, chief of staff. American navy authorities immediately entered a protest and the Japanese commander expressed his regret.

Special Session Called

CONGRESS was called in extraordinary session to start November 15, and immediately afterward President Roosevelt explained in a "fireside chat" over the radio the necessity for this as he sees it. Reporting cheerfully on his western trip, he outlined the legislative program which he declared the American people need to promote prosperity.



President Roosevelt

These are the five measures he said should be passed without delay:

Crop production control to "build an all-weather farm program so that in the long run prices will be more stable."

Wage and hour standards to "make millions of our lowest paid workers actual buyers of billions of dollars of industrial and farm products."

Regional planning to conserve natural resources, prevent floods and produce electric power for general use.

Government reorganization to provide "twentieth century machinery" to make the "democratic process work more efficiently."

Stronger antitrust laws in furtherance of "a low price policy which encourages the widest possible consumption."

Chairman O'Connor of the house rules committee predicted the house would pass a farm bill in the first week of the session and then take up the wage and hour measure. Some Democratic leaders said the labor bill, which was passed by the senate in the last session but held up in the house rules committee, would probably be the only one of the five measures to get through congress in the special session. Even that is strongly opposed by southern Democrats and has been condemned by the American Federation of Labor.

Italy Will Cooperate

DANGER of a European war as a result of the Spanish civil conflict was measurably lessened when Mussolini yielded to the firm representations of Great Britain and France. Count Dino Grandi told the nonintervention subcommittee in London that Italy would accept the proposal for withdrawal of a certain number of volunteers from Spain, provided it applied to both sides equally, and gave assurance of his country's "loyal and firm desire to co-operate." How many volunteers should be withdrawn and whether belligerent rights should be granted to Generalissimo Franco were questions still to be decided by the committee.

It was said in London that Great

Britain would ask for withdrawal of five men from the insurgent side to every man called out of government ranks. This ratio was worked out, it was stated, on the British belief that 100,000 foreigners are fighting with insurgents and only 20,000 for the central government.

While the diplomats were jockeying the Spanish loyalists started one of the fiercest battles of the war, attacking the insurgents in the Zaragoza sector with troops, tanks and air bombers. About 400,000 men on both sides were involved.

On the Biscayan front in the northwest Franco's forces shifted their attack from the mountains to the coastal plain and captured some strategic points.

Mussolini's newspaper, Il Popolo d'Italia, referring to President Roosevelt's arraignment of aggressor nations as his "Chicago Sermonette," pointed to United States arms shipments which it said reached Spain through Russia.

The paper reproduced the President's more striking condemnatory remarks in an article entitled "American Flowerets."

"Lindy" Still American

RUMORS that Col. Charles A. Lindbergh was planning to become a British subject seem to be false, for he has just accepted a five year renewal of his commission in the United States army air corps. Army officers expressed the belief privately he would not have renewed his air corps tie if he intended changing his allegiance. The airman has retained his military status since his graduation in 1925 from the air corps flying school at Kelly field, Texas.

Mine Disaster

COAL gas exploded in the Mulga mine in Alabama 12 miles from Birmingham, and the lives of 33 miners were snuffed out. Five hundred men were at work in the mine at the time, but fortunately the explosion was four miles from the entrance. The blast was the first since the operation of the mine was taken over by the Woodward Iron company, large producers of merchant iron in Birmingham. However, 56 men had been killed at Mulga in former years.

Labor Hits Labor Board

SEVERE condemnation of the federal labor relations board was voiced in a resolution adopted by the American Federation of Labor in the Denver convention. It was presented by John P. Frey, head of the metal trades department and charged that the board was acting "without warrant or authority" in interfering in disputes between the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O. and was violating "the spirit and specific intent of the labor relations act, with decided advantage" to the C. I. O. affiliates and damage to the A. F. of L.; that the board has sought to "destroy the validity of contracts" between bona fide trade unions and employers and that such actions were taken "in some instances with full knowledge of the facts involved"; that the board, in direct contravention of the meaning of the law, has repeatedly "denied employees the right of designating the bargaining unit and the right of selecting representatives of their own choosing with full freedom."

Frey in his speech asked that Edwin F. Smith be removed from the board and that three regional directors be dismissed.

U. S. Consul Murdered

THEODORE MARRINER, American consul general at Beirut, Syria, was assassinated by an Armenian who had been refused a visa for travel to the United States. The murderer was arrested and the police said he admitted having acted for personal vengeance only.

Marriner, who was forty-five years old and a bachelor, was considered one of the most valuable men in our diplomatic service, which he entered as third secretary of the American legation at Stockholm. At one time he was chief of the western Europe section of the State department.