

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Roosevelt Escapes Assassin's Bullets but Mayor Cermak Is Wounded—Senate Adopts Dry Repeal Resolution by Surprisingly Large Majority.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

SHOT at five times by an anarchist in Miami, President-Elect Franklin D. Roosevelt narrowly escaped being added to the list of America's illustrious victims of assassins. Not one of the bullets struck him, but Mayor Anton Cermak of Chicago, who was talking with Mr. Roosevelt, was seriously wounded. Two other men and two women in the throng that was gathered in Bay Front park to welcome the President-Elect also were hit by the assassin's bullets and it was feared one of the women would not survive. Mr. Roosevelt had just landed after his fishing cruise, had made a brief talk to the thousands in the park and was being greeted by personal friends when the anarchist, identified as Giuseppe Zangara of Hackensack, N. J., fired at him from a distance of 20 feet. In the great excitement and turmoil Mr. Roosevelt remained calm and insisted on taking Mr. Cermak to a hospital in his car. He remained over night on the yacht Nourmahal and visited the wounded mayor next morning before leaving by train for New York.

All the world was shocked by the attempted assassination and messages of congratulation on his escape poured in on Mr. Roosevelt, one of the first received being from President Hoover. Mrs. Roosevelt heard the news as she returned home from a club where she had made an address. Her only comment on learning that her husband was not injured was: "I am thankful." She did not change her plans, which took her next day to Utica to speak at a home and farm week celebration.

Secret service operatives in Miami said Zangara, the assassin, was a member of an anarchist group of Paterson, N. J., and that he declared he had no accomplices, acting entirely on his own initiative. Immediate steps toward his trial were taken, but the authorities were careful to avoid any possible charges that Zangara was being "railroaded."

BY THE rather surprising vote of 63 to 23 the senate adopted the revised Blaine resolution submitting repeal of the Eighteenth amendment to constitutional conventions in the states. In this form the measure is almost in accord with the plank of the Democratic platform. It provides for outright repeal except for federal protection for dry states against liquor importations.

Speaker Garner predicted the resolution would be speedily accepted by the house. The approval of the President is not required; but it must be ratified by thirty-six states.

Voting for the resolution in the senate were 33 Democrats, 29 Republicans and 1 Farmer-Laborite. Against it were 9 Democrats and 14 Republicans. The Illinois senate passed legislation wiping out the state prohibition law and the search and seizure act.

WHILE Ambassador Sir Ronald Lindsay was starting back to Washington with the British proposals for the war debt discussion scheduled for March, Senator Key Pittman introduced a bill that would seem to have some merit, though our expert financiers may tear it to pieces. The measure would permit Great Britain to make the payment on her debt due in June in silver, and this, according to Mr. Pittman, would operate to the advantage of the United States; would enable England to avoid transfer of gold to meet the next war debt payment and would make possible acceptance by Great Britain of silver in payment of a large sum due from India before the June war debt payment.

The Pittman bill would authorize the acceptance by this government of any sum up to \$100,000,000 due from Great Britain in silver at current market value.

Its purpose was explained as follows by Mr. Pittman: "The government of India owes Great Britain approximately \$85,000,000. It has been reported with some authority that India desires to pay this debt to Great Britain with silver. The acceptance by the United States of \$74,950,000 worth of silver at the world market price of silver of approximately 25 cents an ounce, which is probably lower than it will ever be again, would not only be profitable to the United States but advantageous to both the United States and Great Britain.

"Under such a settlement the United States would receive 250,500,000 ounces of silver at the present market price of around 25 cents an ounce. Under the provisions of the act our government out of such silver would

coin 74,950,000 standard silver dollars. It would deposit them in the treasury and issue and circulate against them \$74,950,000 in silver certificates similar to those now in circulation in the United States.

"As it requires only seventy-eight one-hundredths of an ounce of silver in the coinage of standard silver dollars, there would remain, therefore, in the treasury, in addition to such 74,950,000 standard silver dollars, 241,339,000 ounces of silver to be held in the treasury as security for the maintenance of the parity of the silver certificates so issued."

ONE of the eminent men called on to advise the senate finance committee, Dr. Herman F. Arendt, a Boston economist, condemning any plan for "internationally managed currency," such as may be expected to be put forth at the coming international economic conference, declared that what we need is less credit and more hard cash. Silver is the salvation, in this hard money campaign, he maintained. Its monetization would be the engine priming that would, in six months, enable America to sell to the Orient between 600 and 650 million dollars' worth of lumber, wheat, cotton and copper.

First of the advisers heard by the committee was Bernard M. Baruch, who is likely to be in the Roosevelt cabinet. He argued vigorously against currency inflation and in favor of a speedy balancing of the budget, and urged the adoption of a beer tax and the repeal of the Eighteenth amendment. He also advised the federal leasing of farm acreage to curtail production, and this plan was endorsed by C. C. Teague, former member of the farm board. Mr. Teague, asserting that the collapse of the credit structure of the country was the fundamental cause of the depression, urged federal guarantee of bank deposits, and in this he has the full support of Speaker Garner.

George N. Peck, a manufacturer of Moline, Ill., set forth his objections to the domestic allotment bill, which is doomed to death either in the senate or in the White House, and proposed a modification of the plan whereby curtailment of acreage would come after planting and before harvest, since "the variation in yield of all growing crops from year to year depends 75 per cent on weather and pests, largely beyond human control, and only 25 per cent on the acreage planted."

DESPITE the efforts of Brazil and other South American nations, backed up by our State department, real war has broken out between Colombia and Peru and the former country has severed diplomatic relations and declared that mediation is finished. This rupture resulted from an air attack by Peru on a Colombian flotilla on the Putumayo river which was repulsed by Colombian planes and was followed by an engagement at the town of Tarapaca, on the Brazilian border.

FINANCIAL troubles of the Union Guardian Trust company, an investment concern of Detroit, led Gov. William A. Comstock of Michigan to take the courageous step of proclaiming an eight-day bank holiday, and his drastic action received the approval and legal sanction of the legislature. The legislators also got busy at once with the enactment of measures covering the situation and bearing retroactive clauses.

Except for the upper peninsula, which is separated both geographically and economically from the remainder of the state, the banks were abiding by the holiday order. The upper peninsula is in a different federal reserve bank district and, although the governor of the Federal Reserve bank of Minneapolis said he was keeping hands off in the situation, most banks above the Straits of Mackinac were doing business as usual.

The Federal Reserve bank of Detroit remained open and received millions of dollars from Chicago and New York, and the Detroit Clearing House association made arrangements whereby \$25,000,000 was made available to depositors, the latter being permitted to withdraw not in excess of 5 per cent of their balances for emergency purposes before the expiration of the holiday. Several of the biggest Detroit corporations announced that they were continuing to pay their workers in cash, and all business concerns except the financial houses carried on as usual. The governor held conferences with Secretary of Commerce Chapin and leading financial authorities, and Mr. Comstock said he did not seek to prohibit any bank from making a sensible arrangement to permit withdrawals to meet family necessities or to allow the cashing of pay checks.

WRITING with restraint concerning the antics of the present congress is difficult. What the house does in the way of economy, if anything, is speedily undone by the senate, and vice versa, or else both sides agree on some legislation which they will know will not get by with President Hoover. Probably all economies that might hit the constituencies or the favorites of any members will be left for Mr. Roosevelt to put into effect through the extraordinary powers which the Democrats propose to confer on him. In the language of the street, they are passing the buck.

Senator Bratton's amendment to the treasury-post office supply bill providing for a 5 per cent cut in appropriations, and the Navy department's plans for maintaining the fleet efficiency by shutting down the pork barrel shore establishments caused a hurried lineup of the congressional supporters of the useless navy yards. But the two propositions put Chairman Carl Vinson of the house naval affairs committee in a quandary. He announced he would fight the Bratton plan in so far as it concerned the navy, and if it carried, he would fight to have the navy yards at Boston, Charleston and Portsmouth closed down at once.

SOMETHING concrete in the way of unemployment relief was done by the senate when it voted to add \$22,000,000 to the War department supply bill for 1934 for the purpose of enrolling and training 88,000 homeless and idle young men in year-round citizens' military training camps. Senator Couzens of Michigan was the originator of the part of the plan which is designed to provide a home, food and something to do for a considerable part of the 300,000 boys who are said to be tramping about the country. The clauses providing that the lads be placed under discipline, required to drill, and limiting those received to Americans physically and mentally fit for community life were introduced at the instance of Senator David Reed of Pennsylvania. As the bill was drawn, boys between fifteen and twenty-one years old will be admissible provided they can show that they have been without work for six months or more, and provided they can meet the C. M. T. C. entrance requirements as to citizenship and health.

INVESTIGATION of the election of John H. Overton as senator from Louisiana by a senate committee that went to New Orleans gave Senator Huey Long opportunity for many characteristic outbursts, and though he apologized frequently to the committee, Chairman Howell threatened him with action for contempt. Long's brother, now his bitter enemy, and various other witnesses told of many instances of alleged corruption, graft and extortion in Louisiana, and the retort of the "Kingfish" in nearly every case was "You're a liar"—with profane trimmings. The charges involved both Overton and Long.

JAPAN informed the world that its negotiations with the League of Nations in the Manchurian dispute had come to an end. The foreign office in Tokyo said it would offer no further concessions and would stand firmly by its determination to maintain the government of Manchukuo. Yosuke Matsuoka, Japan's able representative at Geneva, was given instructions to this effect and told to withdraw from the league and return home as soon as the league adopted the report of the committee of nineteen which reasserts the principle of Chinese sovereignty in Manchuria and declines to recognize Manchukuo. All this was formulated by the cabinet and approved by the emperor.

Dispatches from Tokyo said the government feels that withdrawal from the League of Nations will be the turning point in the empire's history. Before the ultimate decision is made, it was announced, there would be an extraordinary conference of the council of elders, the heads of branches of the imperial family, all living former premiers and other distinguished personages.

Meanwhile plans for a general Japanese offensive against the Chinese province of Jehol, which Japan claims is a part of Manchukuo, were reported well under way, and it was expected a campaign would soon begin to drive out several hundred thousands of Marshal Chang's troops. If this movement starts before Japan actually quits the League of Nations the league might apply sanctions under Article 16 of the covenant, and the results of this could well involve many nations.

SO FAR as the courts and prosecutors of Hawaii are concerned the Masse case has been closed with the dismissal of charges against four Hawaiian youths of mixed blood who had been accused of attacking Mrs. Thomas H. Masse, wife of a naval lieutenant. This action was taken on recommendation of Public Prosecutor J. C. Kelley, who made public a report of a detective agency on an investigation of the case made at the instance of Gov. Lawrence M. Judd and Attorney General Harry Hewitt.

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
By William Bruckart

Washington.—The important nations of the world are about to enter upon a new era. Historians urge that the record of events repeats itself with amazing regularity, but does history show any period wherein statesmen have turned to each other with an appeal, with a willingness to make concessions and sacrifices?

Such is the perspective that we get of the next five or six months. With Creditor America receiving Debtor England and Debtor Italy and other debtor nations to talk over the wartime loans made to them and means of settling the obligations, and with the international monetary and economic conference arranged for, is there any parallel in history?

But why the debt discussions? And why the conference of nations on economic and monetary matters? The answer is the peoples of the world demand that something be done to remove the barriers and the burdens that hold commerce and industry with a deathlike grip. Statesmen charged with official responsibility are settling to their task. They have responded, as they must, to the public call. Some observers think the picture indicates a new and higher order in world affairs. It certainly sets down the year 1933 as epochal.

While the United States has consistently maintained that the debts owed this nation on account of war loans are a matter separate and apart from any of the other world problems, the contention has been, and is now being made to apply only to the extent that readjustment of those debts would never be considered in the same conference with economic problems. No one in authority here doubts the relation between foreign debts and numerous other phases of the great depression. It is simply that the United States is not disposed to do horse trading with her debtors while they are trying to give us a Model T Ford in exchange.

Senator Borah, of Idaho, stated the situation succinctly when he said he was willing to concede some new and easier terms for the payment of the war debts provided the nations which owe the money were willing to forego some of their own selfish purposes in return. He wants to use the war debts as a club to force cuts in military and naval expenditures by those nations who find it hard to pay their debts; he wants to compel them by force of circumstances to live within their income, and he seeks at the same time to remove the underhanded and scheming conspiracies to which so many of the world powers are addicted.

The debts approximate \$11,000,000,000. Their influence, therefore, is quite beyond that of a simple commitment to pay. It hamstring the nation owing the money; it burdens the people of that nation, and it is a barrier to trade because it involves the transfer of moneys between nations, known as international exchange.

But the international debts constitute only one barrier. There are others. The list is impressive: unstable currencies, fear and uncertainty, private debts, disordered government finances in this country as well as abroad, trade restrictions laid down to help pay international and other public debts, restrictions on exchange so that there is not a free flow of money between nations in payment for commodities passing in commerce, falling prices, and contracted and disturbed markets.

The list explains why they must all be considered together. It explains why we have heard constantly that the depression is not a problem peculiar to the United States. Every nation seeks to trade with every other nation. If either one or both parties to the transaction is handicapped, just to that extent is trade slowed down.

The surplus of goods which America sells constitutes only about 10 per cent of the total normal output of this country, yet when that 10 per cent falls to move into the channels of trade with other nations, hard times invariably result. It is easy to see from the list set forth how that surplus which we ordinarily sell is blocked from foreign markets.

Take the trade restrictions, for example. Many foreign nations, in fact, most of them, have established a maximum quantity of many commodities which they permit to be imported. If that maximum is half of normal, our trade has suffered accordingly. The purpose of such a restriction is to create a home industry in that nation, but it has raised havoc with us and with others in the meantime, adding to the unemployed of selling nations and destroying the markets for the raw material which those factories hitherto had bought.

Tariff policies fall into the same category. The United States uses that method. It justifies its course on the ground that it must protect its home industries and its labor. The exchange restrictions are probably more serious from the American point of view than most of the others, because they fit hand in glove with

the depreciated currency situation in many foreign nations. Some of the nations, because they yielded to the impulse to inflate their currencies, to print more money, have found themselves with only a little gold in their hands. Consequently, their governments have laid down rules that gold may not be exported.

When an American firm wants to ship a tractor to the farmer in Rumania, for instance, he cannot sell the tractor because Rumania does not permit the exporting of gold at this time. The buyer, therefore, has nothing to use for money. There is no sale.

A discussion of the influences that flow from these various barriers could go on almost endlesly. It doubtless will go on at considerable length when the representatives of the several nations get together in the forthcoming international monetary and economic conference.

That conference, however, is going to test the sincerity of a great many foreign nations. There will be plenty of maneuvering for advantage. Of that, there is no doubt. Selfishness will be evident from the start. The conference may even fall altogether. Yet there is hope in it. If any progress at all is made, to that extent will there be benefit for all of the world.

It would be wrong to suggest that even a complete agreement on ways and means of removing trade barriers and a settlement of the international debt question on a basis satisfactory to the debtors would have the effect of immediately restoring prosperity everywhere. The world has been too sick for that. Behind it all, however, is this assurance: unless the debt conference and the monetary and economic conference are complete failures, some of the fear and some of the uncertainty will be removed. Mr. Hoover and Mr. Roosevelt and leaders in congress all have said that one of the greatest needs is a feeling of safety about one's food and clothes and money in the days ahead.

Although the Democrats are floundering around with this new control that has been placed in their hands, there is somehow a ray of hope flickering through the clouds. It surely seems like they are going to return to the old-fashioned system of party caucuses. If they do, they will get things done. Whether you agree with their program or not, at least they can succeed in putting it through congress.

It has been a long time since a real party caucus has been regularly used in legislative matters in congress. After all, a party caucus is no more than that. All of the members of that party in one branch of the legislative body get together. The doors are closed. There is no congressional record upon which to spread the sayings and doings of the individuals. Newspaper correspondents are barred. The urge for the individual to play politics for the benefit of the folks back home is quite effectively destroyed. The result naturally is something of a willingness among the members to pledge themselves to vote as the majority of their members think best. They bind themselves.

When controversial legislation reaches the floor of the house or the senate, after a caucus, the party proposing it can reasonably count on a fight only from the minority party. It does not have to battle its own ranks.

There are many reasons why the party caucus commends itself to those who believe in strict party government. One of them is that only by this method can the legislation be planned on a national scope. If an individual representative is not bound by action of his party in caucus, his breast is bare to the sharp knives of local interests. If a particular congressional district is going to lose a navy yard or an army post because of economy and the party says that course must be followed, the representative from that district is provided with a shield by being bound. The folks back home can be told that "the party did it, and I stand with the party that elected me."

Another phase is this: in the last few years there have been many representatives and senators elected because they shouted from the housetops of their communities that they were individualists. But when they took their oath of office and entered upon their duties, they were forced to the sudden realization that they had to trade co-operation with the other fellow, or 400-odd other fellows, to get anything accomplished. In other words, the party caucus provides a way out. At the same time, regular party men, be they Republicans or Democrats, maintain that a party caucus system regularly used makes of congress a national legislative body as distinguished from a body of legislators in behalf of individual communities and interests.

Some say my attitude toward women is unfriendly. A woman writes me: "My life is a more useful one because of you. I suffered most from laziness, and no one had the courage to tell me so. I had nothing to do but pity myself, and actually pitied myself into serious illness. I was unreasonable with my good father and brothers; I hope and believe they are better satisfied with me now. I cannot see in you a woman hater."

Howe About:

Henpecking Credit's Near Collapse Actors and Writers

By ED HOWE

THERE may be a suggestion in the following paragraph to women who are students of men: I do not believe I have ever known a man at all intimately who did not say sometime during our acquaintance: "There isn't another man in the world who dislikes henpecking as much as I do." In a recent reading of the memoirs of Silerius, who lived two thousand years ago, I found this old Roman felt the same way about henpecking; it may be depended upon that all men dislike it. I once had a friend who was a conspicuous victim of henpecking. I intimated as much to him, and have never seen an angrier man; I wondered he did not strike me. . . . I suppose women will never give up the practice; but they should at least be warned that men universally dislike it; and I have known some quite brutal cases of rebellion.

Everyone has remarked the frequent arrests of negro men for slight offenses, and their severe punishment. At Atlanta, Ga., the treasurer of a white Baptist Missionary society, drew three years for stealing \$953,000. In the next cell was a negro man who had drawn four years for chicken stealing.

For centuries civilized men have been trying to build up Credit, as a convenience in living our ordinary lives. The National Association of Credit Men lately met in convention, and their disclosures were startling: Millions of people "beat" their way; the convenient thing called Credit may be abandoned through necessity. . . . Bankers tell an equally startling story; hundreds of thousands of bad checks are given every day. Each one represents a penitentiary offense, and often another penitentiary offense is committed in trying to collect them; in compounding a felony. The people complain bitterly of dishonesty in public affairs, and are disgracefully dishonest in their own lives.

My bell rang today, and, on going down, I found a man there who asked if I would permit him to talk half an hour about the Bible. (He was not a good man; I can tell a good man as far as I can see him.) The Bible is an important book, and everyone should know about it; but I know more about it than this fellow knows. He was a nuisance; I had no respect for his attempt to do good, and quickly disposed of him with discouragement he should have met with at other doors.

Handling a dollar, as common human experience as there is, requires all the judgment a man may acquire. To throw it away is not proper; to hold onto it too long is equally objectionable. One should acquire a dollar like a gentleman, and let go of it in the same way.

I wish I had tried to learn to be an actor, instead of a writer. If an actor gives a bad performance, he may be consoled with the thought that he will play the same part the following night, and thus have a chance to improve it. . . . But I, poor wretch, am forever giving a rough first performance; when I write anything, and do not like it in print, I cannot better it. . . . Also note the performance of a musician; he has played the same thing so many times he can remember every note. No wonder Frits Kreisler is good.

I have long known a very nice woman, and she has been generally admired. Lately noting a falling off in her popularity, I inquired around as to the cause. A woman gave me the best answer: "She has overloaded me with her eccentricities. . . . Men do it, too, so I send out a general warning. Everyone is entitled to a certain number of eccentricities, and there is always a certain amount of charity for them, but eccentricities must be managed with care, or they will result in damaging grumbling."

I doubt that Old Soldiers realize the mean talk behind their backs. "I am having trouble with my stomach due to carelessness in eating," a man writes me, "but so far have not followed the example of a neighbor who put in a claim to the government, and now draws a pension of \$20 a month. This man wore the uniform three months, and was not injured. I was in France and Germany nearly two years, but still think I would be a grater if I put in a claim."

Some say my attitude toward women is unfriendly. A woman writes me: "My life is a more useful one because of you. I suffered most from laziness, and no one had the courage to tell me so. I had nothing to do but pity myself, and actually pitied myself into serious illness. I was unreasonable with my good father and brothers; I hope and believe they are better satisfied with me now. I cannot see in you a woman hater."

I have great respect for maxims, as they include philosophy, learning, wit, experience. One of the best is: "Work hard and behave." Were it not longer (in a maxim brevity is very important) "Make the best use of your time" would be almost equally good.