

SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL

By Carter Field

Washington.—There is more desire on the part of President and Secretary of State Hull to co-operate with the League of Nations in the sanctions against Italy than has appeared on the surface. Both regret exceedingly that the neutrality law passed by congress did not go further. They wish that the word "munitions" had been used instead of "arms, ammunition and implements of war," which phrase is so narrow in its strict definition that it could not possibly be stretched to include oil, or copper, for example, without subjecting the administration to another upset in the courts.

But despite this lack of legal authority, the government has been bearing down hard on exporters and would-be exporters of war materials. One of the latest incidents is that the shipping board bureau of the Department of Commerce—survivor of the old shipping board—warned a certain concern about to ship a cargo of oil to Italy that the proposed shipment was "disapproved."

The excuse here was that the ship and cargo would have to run the gauntlet of the League sanctions, and the government had an investment. It so happened that the ship would-be exporter desired to use had been subsidized.

As a matter of fact, the only risk involved is that in the time elapsing after the sailing and before the ship reached her Italian destination an actual blockade of Italy might be declared. For up to now there has been no more than a hint of actual blockade. No ships have been stopped by British or French warships in the Mediterranean. No threat has been made that any will be.

Nevertheless, insurance on ships traversing the sea that Mussolini claims the British now dominate, but that the Italians ought to, has jumped tremendously. For example, an American importing firm, which brings cargoes of figs and dates from Persian gulf ports, has been seriously considering sending this freight overland to Atlantic ports, or else around the Cape of Good Hope.

Change World Cruises

Further, most world-cruise ships for the last month or more have been advertising visits to South Africa, and have been eliminating the Mediterranean entirely, although normally most world tourists want particularly to visit Italy and Greece and the Holy Land.

So that the government, in this raise of insurance rates, which is interpreted naturally enough as a danger signal, is perfectly within its right in seeking to restrain shipments. Yet everybody knows that this is not the real reason at all, but merely an excuse. For the government could be just as much protected in its investment—through subsidy—in ships making the journey through the "war zone" as it is from any other maritime danger.

Questioned about the situation, officials of the shipping bureau replied blandly that the bureau "must conform to administration policy." That is the real answer, although the interesting fact is that the policy has never been stated. It has merely been hinted.

The first hint came when the State department, with no hint of publicity, sought to restrain the Standard Oil from shipping oil to its Italian subsidiary. The company made the thing public by giving out its answer. Standard's real point is also concealed. It would be perfectly willing to stop shipping oil to Italy if it were protected by public action on the part of this government against its Italian subsidiary.

Keen observers here figure the government will do something to restrain copper shipments also, perhaps using the same tactics.

Copying Wilson

President Roosevelt is taking a leaf from the book of Woodrow Wilson in talking over the shoulders of the diplomats to the peoples of the world. The President and his advisers know perfectly well that there is going to be no curtailment of armaments at the disarmament conference to be held in London. It has been a long time since there was the slightest hope of it. Hence the administration's objective has been switched to the future, and from the world's rulers to the world's peoples.

While there is considerable pessimism about this accomplishing anything, no one is particularly disposed to criticize it publicly. Army and navy officers have some bitter words about it in private. They agree with the general feeling that no one now living will be here when the fruit is borne, if ever. But they add that this propaganda will also reach the taxpayers, and through them the congress of the United States.

Hence, they fear, the net result may be to make no change whatever in the armament spending of any other nation, but to tend very directly to slow down such spending by the United States.

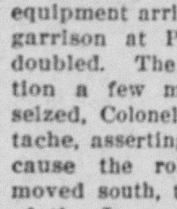
In particular, they point out that the one nation which has given less heed

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Chino-Japanese War May Come From Autonomy Movement—Oil Embargo Against Italy Postponed—President Busy With the Budget.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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DOWNRIGHT war between the Chinese armies of Dictator Chiang Kai-shek and the Japanese appeared almost certain when the autonomy movement in north China was revived in eastern Hopen and Chahar provinces by Yin Jue-keng, the administrative commissioner and friend of Japan. Leaders of the rest of the region were undecided on their course, but Japanese troops began to pour in by the train-load. Three thousand of them with full war equipment arrived in Tientsin, and the garrison at Peiping was more than doubled. The Fengtai railway junction a few miles from Peiping was seized, Colonel Takasashi, military attache, asserting this was necessary because the rolling stock was being moved south, threatening the isolation of the Japanese forces.



Gen. Chiang Kai-shek

In Nanking officials said the National government was determined to meet with force any attempt to force autonomy on the territory south of Hopen and Chahar provinces, and the executive Yuan proclaimed five sweeping reforms designed to stop the spread of the movement. Chiang was hurrying large bodies of troops to the northward. He also sought to hold the support of the Shantung war lord, Han Fu-chu, by entrusting him with the defense of the northern Honan and Shantung frontiers and promising him money and supplies, if needed, to stem invasion. Han Fu-chu of late has been wooed assiduously by the Japanese.

Wang Ching-wei, premier and foreign minister of the Nationalist government, resigned as president of the cabinet. He has not fully recovered from the recent attempt to assassinate him.

BRAZIL was experiencing another revolt, in the northern part of the country. Latest advice said the rebels had control of the city of Natal and that a hot fight was on for possession of Pernambuco. The uprising was laid to the Communists and was believed to be led by Luis Carlos Prestes, Communist leader for all of South America. It was said he planned to spread the movement all over Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Chile.

Under command of Gen. Manuel Rabelo, the federal troops, army and navy airplanes and two cruisers were hurriedly sent northward to combat the rebellion.

Several days later a revolt broke out in Rio de Janeiro, the capital, despite extraordinary precautions. The principal participants were the aviation forces. They seized the aviation field but government troops recaptured it and it was announced this outbreak had been suppressed.

Finally the Brazilian government announced that the revolt in the North also had been crushed and that 138 persons had been killed in the four days of fighting.

THERE was terror throughout Germany when Hitler started what apparently was to be another "purge." Hundreds of persons were arrested and taken to prison or concentration camps, those taken including some minor officials of the Nazi party in Berlin. Many others were known as Socialists. The Association of Nationalist Jews, composed of war veterans, was suppressed and its leader jailed.

NOVEMBER 29 had been set as the date for a meeting of the League of Nations sanctions committee to consider the imposition of an oil embargo against Italy, but Premier Laval and British Ambassador George Russell Clerk, after a conference in Paris, recommended that the session be indefinitely postponed, and this action was taken. The statesmen feared early oil sanctions would seriously aggravate the political situation, and Laval thought if he were given more time he might bring about the conciliation of the Italo-Ethiopian quarrel.

There were good reasons for the unannounced of the French and British governments. Benito Mussolini had bluntly told the world that the imposition of an oil embargo would mean war in



Premier Laval

Divining Rod for Brain Tumor Hunt Described

New York.—A new divining rod for the human brain, which literally smells out with the unconsciousness of a foxhound the presence of brain tumors that cannot be detected by the X-ray and also determines the tumor's size and exact location, was described for the first time at the New York Academy of Medicine.

The new tumor "detector" hailed by eminent neurologists present as an

epoch making advance in the detection and treatment of brain tumors, as well as opening up new avenues of approach in the study of the functioning of the human brain, was reported by Dr. Charles A. Elsberg, neurologist of the Neurological Institute of New York, one of the units of the Columbia-Presbyterian medical center.

Doctor Elsberg made his report before a joint meeting of the New York Neurological society and the section of neurology and psychiatry of the academy of medicine.

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ICKES has revived the controversy between the New Dealers and the big steel corporations concerning steel prices. Mr. Ickes said there was "prima facie evidence of collusion" in identical bids on a Florida public works project. The PWA administrator said the four companies bidding \$185,000 each on 3,300 tons of steel for a Miami dock—inland, Carnegie, Jones & Laughlin, and Kaiman (a Bethlehem subsidiary)—were the same that submitted identical bids on an ocean terminal at Morehead City, N. C., and the Triborough bridge in New York city.



Sec'y Ickes

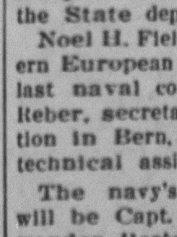
There was no foreign bidder on the Miami project and Mr. Ickes said the contract would be awarded to the concern "that is farthest away and has to pay the highest freight bill—the object is to spread prosperity around."

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT was mightily busy at Warm Springs studying the departmental estimates for the budget of 1937. Representative James P. Buchanan of Texas, chairman of the house appropriations committee, took part in the first conference and told the correspondents that he would carry a budget of not more than \$500,000,000 in excess of estimated revenues through the house by "a devil of a fight." Then Mr. Buchanan, who didn't appear to have White House support for this stand, left suddenly for Washington, refusing to explain his departure; and the conference continued with Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau, Acting Budget Director Bell and Mark Shields, clerk of the appropriations committee.

The President told the press they were making distinct progress in arranging the federal finances, having already cut the departmental estimates by \$400,000,000. He contradicted reports that he was contemplating division of the Ickes PWA and the Hopkins WPA to ease the friction between the two New Deal officials.

ELEVEN American diplomats and naval officers, selected by Secretary of State Hull, have sailed to represent this country in the coming naval conference in London. At their head is Norman H. Davis, the President's ambassador-at-large for Europe, who participated in the preliminary conversations last year. Acting with him will be Undersecretary of State William Phillips and Admiral William H. Standley, chief of naval operations. Advisers to the delegation will be Ray Atherton, counselor of the American embassy in London, and E. H. Dooman of the State department.

Noel H. Field of the division of western European affairs, who attended the last naval conversations, and Samuel Reber, secretary of the American legation in Bern, Switzerland, will act as technical assistants.



N. H. Davis

Old Age Due to Onions. Waukesha, Wis.—Dr. Margaret Caldwell, ninety years old, Wisconsin's oldest woman physician, attributes her long life to the fact that she never has done any heavy housework and has eaten "lots of onions."

Thankful Skunk. Attleboro, Mass.—Seemingly thankful the skunk found with its head stuck in a glass jar, withheld its offensive weapon while Rev. John C. Vernon, released it.

SOME interesting views on current problems:

Raymond Moley, former member of the "brain trust," told the Association of Buying Officers in New York: "I have said many times that the whole problem of government relief and work relief is a necessary temporary expedient; but it is also a shaky and dangerous one. Every one is willing to recognize that work relief in itself is no curative. It is narcotic in its effect."

Harry W. Nice, Republican governor of Maryland, declared in Chicago that America's constitution is no more in need of change than are the Ten Commandments. The issue in the coming election, he held, is that of free institutions versus dictatorship.

Gen. Hugh S. Johnson, former NRA administrator, told Milwaukee Rotarians that the administration is proceeding to the "left," that 97 per cent of the business men of the United States are against it because of the New Dealers' attitude toward the profit system. As prime exponents of the government's present philosophy, Johnson cited Rexford Tugwell, Aubrey Williams, and Harry Hopkins. "The idea of dividing the nation's wealth, as proposed by these gentlemen, is not the way out," he said. "Rather, the thing to be done is to create wealth, with more persons working and each creating new wealth."

PAN-AMERICAN Airways opened a new chapter in the story of aviation when its huge China Clipper carried the first consignment of air mail from Alameda, Calif., to Manila, with stops at Honolulu, Midway Islands, Wake Island, and Guam. Capt. Edwin C. Musick, veteran chief pilot of the company, was in command of the craft and was aided by a crew of six men. Fourteen passengers started on the flight and twelve were dropped off to relieve the staffs at Midway and Wake. The 1,700 miles between Guam and Manila had not been flown heretofore.

After one or two more flights to Manila the clipper will continue to China and operate on through schedules thereafter.

The Philippine Clipper, second of Pan-American Airways' trans-Pacific air fleet, arrived at Alameda from the Atlantic coast and her crew began preparations for a flight to Manila beginning December 6.

BRUNO RICHARD HAUPTMANN'S attorneys assert that some of the Lindbergh ransom money has been found in Massachusetts and that their investigators also have discovered some pieces of evidence that are of great importance to the defense. The doomed man himself issued a statement calling on Dr. John F. Condon ("Jafale") to "make a full confession" of what he knows concerning the kidnapping and murder of Colonel Lindbergh's little son.

GOVERNORS of the federal reserve banks, in the bulletin of the reserve board, have sounded a most cheerful note concerning business conditions. Summing up facts gathered all over the country, they concluded that the United States was undergoing the most substantial economic recovery since the depression began, with every sign pointing to its continuance.

Business activity has been sustained for ten months near the high level it reached the first of the year, the bulletin said, "in contrast to the course of business in the three preceding years when advances were not sustained but were quickly followed by declines."

FOR a long time it has been apparent that there would be a split in the American Federation of Labor over the issue of industrial unionism versus craft unionism. That split now has occurred, and in the ranks of organized labor there is coming a great battle between the two elements. The matter was precipitated by the resignation of John L. Lewis, head of the United Mine Workers of America, as vice president of the federation. He is the chief protagonist for unit production of mass production of industries, and his opponents, the craft union advocates, are led by William Green, president of the organization.

The latter have had a majority in the late conventions of the federation, but Lewis has a lot of followers and is a determined fighter. He has set up separate headquarters in Washington and seven international union leaders joined him immediately. It was reported that the "rebels" had a war fund of \$10,000,000. Four-fifths of this came from a special assessment of \$1 each on the 4,000,000 United Mine Workers this fall.

President Green sent a stern rebuke to Lewis and those associated with him.

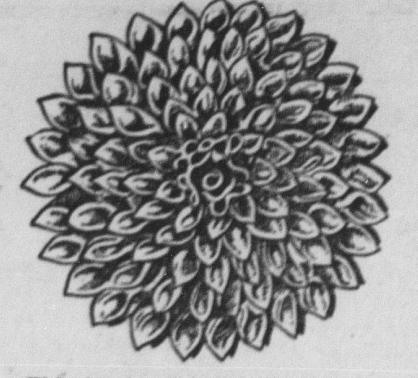
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WNU—4 40—35

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