

News Review of Current Events the World Over

European Powers Agree on Blockade of Spain to Insulate the War—Farm Tenant Program—Supreme Court Controversy Grows.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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SO FAR as the international non-intervention committee can do it, the war in Spain is now insulated. Representatives of 26 European nations agreed that no more volunteers for either side in the civil conflict should be permitted to enter the Iberian peninsula, effective at midnight February 20; and they laid plans for a complete blockade by land and sea that would prevent the importation of any more men or war munitions. Only Portugal dissented, objecting to establishment of frontier guards on her territory; Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Russia ignored the Portuguese protests and went ahead with the blockade plans, which are to be put into effect by March 6.

The decisions were reached after France delivered a virtual ultimatum to her fellow committee members to end their bickering and warned Italy she would not stand for "open invasion of Spain." The French were quick to place guards at all strategic points along the Franco-Spanish frontier.

The international naval patrols presumably will not have authority to stop vessels suspected of carrying arms and men to Spain, but will report ship movements to the committee for action and will place observers on the vessels to check cargoes.

Supposing this blockade to be successful, it may well be that the Spanish civil war will die of inanition. Then may be brought about that which the international committee seeks—international mediation between the insurgents and the loyalist government.

For the present both sides are renewing their efforts for decisive victory. The fascists, still driving hard at the "life line" that connects Madrid and Valencia, also are attacking the capital itself again. Their airplanes made two night bombing assaults on the city and its environs, killing a number of persons; and their artillery constantly shells the highways to Valencia.

The loyalist government, at its temporary seat in Valencia, took a new mandate of absolute power from all Popular Front parties and mobilized all available man power to oppose the insurgent forces. All military classes of the last five years were drafted for immediate war service.

PRIME MINISTER STANLEY BALDWIN'S government of Great Britain is asking for \$7,500,000,000 to finance its "war plan in time of peace," and is meeting with determined opposition from the Liberals, Laborites and others in parliament. These especially object to the plan for enlargement of the nation's land, sea and air forces by a \$2,000,000,000 loan and increased taxation.



Sec'y of Navy Swanson

Commenting on the British naval construction program, Admiral William D. Leahy, chief of naval operations of the American navy, served notice that any foreign nations expanding their navies beyond the standards of recent treaties might expect that the United States would match their construction. He said it was his understanding that this nation was definitely committed to the maintenance of a "navy second to none." To maintain that principle, he declared, it would become necessary for the United States to build new ships if other powers did.

The present United States building program calls for start of construction this year on two new capital ships. Great Britain already has laid the keels of two new craft and the program announced in London calls for the start, after April 1, of construction of a third new vessel. When Britain lays a third keel, then this government is likely to start similar construction.

IN A special message to congress President Roosevelt urged legislation to "improve the present intolerable condition" of 3,000,000 farm tenants, presenting this four-point program:

1. Action to open the doors of ownership to tenants who now have the requisite ability and experience.
 2. Modest loans, with the necessary guidance and education to prevent small owners from slipping into tenancy.
 3. The retirement by public agencies of land proved to be unsuited for farming and assistance to the families living thereon in finding homes on good land.
 4. Cooperation with state and local agencies of government to improve the general leasing system.
- Congressional leaders promised immediate action, and Chairman Jones of the house agriculture committee said the Jones-Bankhead

\$500,000,000 farm tenant bill now before congress would be made the basis for the new legislation.

The President's farm tenancy committee, headed by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, recommended that congress make available "a definite sum each year for a number of years" for a land-purchase program, but mentioned no definite figure. Wallace said, however, he thought Jones' proposal for \$50,000,000 annual appropriation for ten years is "reasonable."

THOUGH President Roosevelt persisted in his intention to force through congress his measure to "reform" the federal judiciary, law-makers who have been his warm supporters are coming out one by one in hot opposition to his plan to pack the Supreme court. Among them are Senator Bennett C. Clark of Missouri and Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana, both leading Democrats. They studied the scheme carefully before issuing their statements. The announcements of these men were scarcely offset by a radio address by Attorney General Homer S. Cummings, dutifully defending the President's plan.

Senator Clark said he was entirely in accord with the minor proposals in Mr. Roosevelt's scheme, but was totally unable to agree with the provisions for packing the Supreme court.

Then came Senator Wheeler, stalwart radical, with a statement which it was reported he made public over the protests of the White House. He said in part:

"I am, always have been, and will continue to be opposed to the usurpation of legislative functions by the courts; I am, have been, and will be opposed to usurpation of legislative and judicial functions by the executive branch of the government."

"There is nothing democratic, progressive, or fundamentally sound in the proposal advanced by the administration."

Attorney General Cummings advanced these two reasons for supporting the President's proposal:

New blood should be injected into the judiciary in order that the Constitution shall be construed in keeping with the changing needs produced by new complexities of national life.

The congestion of dockets in the federal courts is largely due to the inability of aged and infirm judges to perform their share of the work.

Investigation has shown, however, that the second reason is unsound.

Commenting on Mr. Cummings' speech, Senator Glass of Virginia said: "I think it indicates that the country is in infinitely greater need of an attorney general than of additional judges on the Supreme court or of judicial wet nurses for six of the present members of the court." Senator Minton of Indiana defended the plan in a radio address but probably did it more harm than good, for he frankly admitted the purpose of the administration is to change the personnel and views of the Supreme court, in order that President Roosevelt's New Deal program will be held constitutional.

Other senators who came out against the President's plan were Nye of North Dakota, radical Republican; Bone of Washington, Democrat; Burke of Nebraska, Democrat; and Van Nuys of Indiana, Democrat. On the other side were McAdoo of California; Thomas of Utah and La Follette of Wisconsin.

Senators Bone and Wheeler introduced a resolution for a constitutional amendment that would give congress the power to override Supreme court decisions by a two-thirds vote of both houses, but only after a national election involving congressional seats has intervened so that the people have had a chance to speak on the issue.

The American Federation of Labor and Labor's Nonpartisan league declared their support of the court packing scheme, and the National Grange expressed its opposition. Legislatures of many states adopted resolutions for or against the plan, most of them being in opposition.

Mr. Roosevelt received several groups of senators, some of whom are among those opposing the packing of the Supreme court, and reiterated his intention to push his plan through congress without modification. He said the people had voted for the New Deal and were going to get it.



Senator Clark

REPRESENTATIVES of the soft coal operators met with John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, in New York to start negotiations for a new wage and hour agreement for 400,000 miners. Mr. Lewis said to the operators: "There is no friction in our industry. Peace dwells in the coal fields. I hope this conference will be successful in working out a new agreement without loss of time to a single worker."

Thereupon he presented the demands of the union, which were promptly dubbed "utterly impossible" and "quite amazing" by Charles O'Neill, president of the Eastern Coal Sales corporation.

Chief demands made by Lewis are:

1. A six hour day and a five day week in place of the present work week of 38 hours.
2. An increase in daily wages from \$5.50 to \$6 in the north, and from \$5.10 to \$5.60 in the south.
3. Time and a half for overtime and double time for Sundays and holidays.
4. A minimum of 200 days' employment each year.

The operators proposed a 40 hour week with no increase in wages.

SCAFFOLDING on the Golden Gate bridge at San Francisco collapsed and crashed through the great safety net, carrying with it thirteen men who plunged 200 feet into the bay. Ten were killed and the others seriously injured.

The tragedy, first major accident during construction of the \$36,000,000 span, which is to open next May, was caused by a broken roller-caster. The state industrial accident commissioner said an inspector had twice reported that the scaffolding was unsafe, but this was emphatically denied by Philip Hart, president of the construction company.

PAUL V. McNUTT, former governor of Indiana, has been appointed to the desirable post of high commissioner to the Philippines, at a salary of \$18,000 a year and with residence in a huge palace in Manila. Mr. McNutt is still considered one of the possibilities for the Presidential nomination by the Democrats in 1940. It had been thought he might get a place in the present cabinet.

THIRTY-EIGHT Germans have been under arrest in Russia for several months and are held without trial. The German ambassador to Moscow, Count von der Schulenberg, has made "serious" representations to the Soviet government and demanded that a representative of the embassy be permitted to interview the prisoners. Presumably the men are suspected of espionage and sabotage, in connection with the anti-Stalin conspiracy.

ONE officer and five enlisted men of the marine corps were killed and ten others were injured when a 5-inch shell exploded in the improperly closed breach of a gun on the battleship Wyoming. The accident occurred during battle maneuvers off the coast of southern California. The men killed were: Capt. Edward J. Trumble, Alexandria, Va.; John Bauer, Cincinnati, Ohio; Albert Enos, Cambridge, Mass.; Joseph W. Bozynski, Pittsburgh; Clinton Walker, Boykin, S. C.; and Richard Frye, Johnstown, Pa.

GEN. SENJURO HAYASHI, premier and foreign minister of Japan, in a formal statement of policy to the parliament, said his government would "pay special attention" to the adjustment of the empire's relations with soviet Russia and China, and urged those nations to cease their quarrels with Japan and try to comprehend Japan's position and aims in East Asia. He called attention to the fact that Japan no longer is bound by any naval limitations treaty but declared "there shall be no change in our policy of strict adherence to the principle of nonmenace and non-aggression."

Hayashi's cabinet decided on a budget reduction of approximately 8½ per cent; Lieut. Gen. Hajime Sugiyama, the new war minister, objected to any cut in the huge army budget, but it was reduced slightly.

RESTORATION of the Hapsburg dynasty in Austria was openly advocated by Chancellor Kurt Schuschnigg, who committed his government party to that proposition. He intimated that a plebiscite would be held to decide the question.

The chancellor asserted that increasing official support would be given to the campaign to place Archduke Otto of Hapsburg again on the throne which his father, the Emperor Karl, "temporarily renounced" November 11, 1918. The archduke is twenty-four years old.

HEADED by President Roosevelt and Vice President Garner, 1,600 Democratic government officials, state committeemen and prominent figures in the worlds of business and sports honored James A. Farley with a banquet in Washington. Mr. Garner was master of ceremonies and called the roll of distinguished guests by states. Mr. Roosevelt made a speech.

Floyd Gibbons

Adventurers' Club

Hello Everybody!



"The Saw That Clicked"
By FLOYD GIBBONS
Famous Headline Hunter

AND here's Russell Nelson of Dorchester, with a tale of adventure to tell. It was right in the middle of the depression, and Russ had been out of work a while.

But one day in December he met an old boss of his on the street. The boss said he had a job for Russ, and if he'd show up at the plant the next day he could start right in working.

It felt great to be back at work again, but maybe Russ wouldn't have felt so swell about it if he'd known what plenty of industrial insurance men could have told him—namely that an unusual number of accidents happen to men on their first day at work after a long lay-off.

Somehow or other men forget little things during a lay-off that they'd ordinarily remember.

They slip up on something, and then, first thing you know, they're in a jam.

Russ' job was in the mill room, or wood-working shop of the plant. That's where they turn out such finished parts of houses as the window sashes, the doors, and the newel posts they put in stair railings.

He Was Operating a Band Saw.

All during that day Russ was busy, running one machine after another. He and the boss were alone in that room, but along toward the end of the afternoon, the boss went out to do a special job and Russ was left alone.

At that time Russ was operating a band saw. "A band saw," he says, "is a large machine about six feet tall. It has two wheels about three feet in diameter, placed one above the other. Around these wheels runs a flexible saw blade, narrow, but about 18 feet long, the ends welded together to make it in the form of a belt.

"This machine is used for cutting scrolls and for making fancy-work of various patterns."

That's the sort of contraption Russ was working with. The saw was humming away, driven by another wheel from which a leather belt ran to the main power shaft.

As Russ worked, the machine began to give out rapid clicks.

of a sort that he had never noticed before.

And ordinarily, Russ would have stopped to find out what those clicks meant.

BUT REMEMBER WHAT I SAID A WHILE AGO ABOUT A MAN'S FIRST DAY AT WORK AFTER A LONG LAY-OFF!

Wrapped Up in a Saw-Blade.

Russ hadn't worked in a long time. And his mind wasn't working so well for that very reason.

Russ heard those clicks, but he paid no attention to them.

THEN, ALL OF A SUDDEN THINGS HAPPENED, AND RUSS WAS RIGHT IN THE THICK OF IT!

That long, flexible saw-blade SNAPPED—snapped at the crack that had caused all those clicks.

IT LEAPED FROM THE MACHINE, TWISTING AND SQUIRMING LIKE AN ANGRY SNAKE.

Eighteen feet of sharp, saw-toothed steel shot out and waapped itself around Russ—around his body—and his arms—and around his neck.

And the ends of that blade were wrapped up in a lot of whirling machinery.

Russ just stood there holding his breath, while his heart stopped and his legs seemed to freeze.

Still, Russ didn't dare to move.

Russ Didn't Dare to Move.

One end of that blade was rattling against the spokes of the lower wheel.

If the wheel ever picked it up he was a gone chicken.

And the slightest move on his part might send that blade into the wheel and start it SAWING AWAY AT HIS BODY AND NECK.

Russ didn't dare move—and at the same time he didn't dare stand still and do nothing.

"I couldn't stand there and wait for the boss to come back," he says, "for the end of the saw looked as if it might catch in the wheel at any moment."

"I looked at the switch that shut off the motor. It was way over on the other side of the room."

"I looked all around me, thinking that there MUST be something I could do to help myself."

And there was.

Saved by Lucky Accident.

On the bench in front of him were some large pieces of wood. If he could only reach one of them. Russ found he could move one arm without moving the saw blade. He stretched that arm toward the nearest piece of board.

His arm was just half an inch too short. He'd have to take a chance and move his body a little.

Holding his breath he bent ever so slightly and picked up the wooden stick. The wheel spun around, perilously close to the saw blade—but the blade didn't catch.

Russ was bringing his arm back with the stick in it when he dropped it. It fell to the ground with a clatter, and again he held his breath.

BUT DROPPING THAT STICK WAS THE LUCKIEST THING HE EVER DID IN HIS LIFE. For the stick fell on the leather belt that ran the machine. It jammed in between the belt and the pulley it ran on—AND THREW THE BELT OFF THAT PULLEY.

The machine, with no power to drive it, slowed down and came to a stop.

"Boy," says Russ, "I got out from under that blade in a hurry, and it was a few hours before I was able to work again. I hope you think this is an adventure, but whether you do or not—I still do!"

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"Commodity Dollar" Was Invented Many Years Ago

The "commodity dollar" was actually in use in Hingham a century ago, states a writer in the Boston Globe.

Manuscripts uncovered in the Watertown Public Library by the Federal Historical Sources Survey show that Hingham paid its minister on a commodity dollar basis in 1803. The minister was Rev. Henry Ware, afterward the first Hollis professor of divinity at Harvard.

Rev. Henry Ware went to Hingham in 1787 and the inference is that his salary was \$500 a year, enough and plenty in a period of low prices. But during the late seven-teen-nineties there had been a "very great demand and high prices for all the necessities of life" and the minister was at his wits' end to make both ends meet, for his salary remained stationary.

The remedy adopted by the parish was to adjust his pay on the basis of the average prices of the great staples between 1787 and 1803, and this settlement of the problem was accepted by the minister.

Kings, Other Commanders Participated in Battles

In the days of the old-style field battles, especially at critical moments, kings and chief commanders themselves went into action. Reclining on the crossed pikes of six grenadiers, Charles XII of Sweden, sorely wounded, had himself carried into the thick of the slaughter. Gustavus Adolphus died while leading his horsemen. In the meantime his adversary, the great Duke of Friedland, rode through the Austrian ranks "encouraging the bold, terrifying the timid with the glare of his baleful eye." At Kolin the great Frederick, gathering up a few shattered remnants, led them against an enemy battery.

Aged seventy-three, Field Marshal Count Schwerin fell at Prague. Snatching the colors from the hands of a wounded ensign, the old gentleman steadied a wavering regiment and led the way. Pipe in mouth and saber in fist, Seydlitz and Blucher rode with their men. At Munda, 46 B. C., Imperial Caesar himself fought as a common soldier. His body, enfeebled by disipation, his intrepid soul carried on.

Household Questions

Winter Salad—Mix one cup of celery with one cup of tart apples and half cup of walnuts. Cut the celery and apples into very small dice and combine with mayonnaise or cream dressing. Add walnuts just before serving. Garnish with celery tips.

Sometimes ink stains can be removed from the hands by rubbing them with the inside of a banana peel.

You can produce your own sour milk for use in sour-milk recipes by simply adding a teaspoon of vinegar to each cup of fresh sweet milk.

Cane-bottomed chairs should be brushed to remove all dust and then washed with salt and water and placed in the open air to dry. This treatment tightens up the cane.

If the roof should leak and stain your ceiling, cover the stain with block magnesium. Rub the block over the spot until the stain is covered, then smooth over with the tips of your fingers. It works like magic.

If you want to make bread crumbs in a hurry and have not a sieve or a large grater, put the bread in the oven or under the grill a few minutes to dry, but not to get brown. Then rub the two pieces together, and you will have quite good crumbs for eggs and bread crumbing or for stuffing.

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