

# News Review of Current Events the World Over

Senate Condemns Sitdown Strike but Sparing President—Henry Ford Defies Lewis—Governor Benson Incurs Censure of Minnesota Senate.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD  
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IN ORDER to get the Guffey coal control bill through the senate without an amendment condemning the sitdown strike, Majority Leader Joe Robinson promised to permit consideration of a resolution carrying similar condemnation, but when it was presented and adopted, by a vote of 75 to 3, it was not a joint resolution, which would require the signature of the President. That was what Senator McNary and others wanted, but Robinson said it must be concurrent, because he would not put Mr. Roosevelt in the position of having to indicate his position on the sitdown strike by either signing or vetoing the measure.



Sen. Robinson

Besides declaring the sitdown strike "illegal and contrary to sound public policy" the resolution as adopted took a double slap at the employers by also declaring: "That the so-called industrial spy system breeds fear, suspicion and animosity, tends to cause strikes and industrial warfare and is contrary to sound public policy; and "That it is likewise contrary to sound public policy for any employer to deny the right of collective bargaining, to foster the company union or to engage in any other unfair labor practice as defined in the national labor relations act."

HENRY FORD returned from Detroit to his winter residence at Ways, Ga., and there announced that the Ford Motor company "never will recognize" the United Automobile Workers of America or any other union. "We'll deal with individual workers," he said.

Ford said that any of his men who struck would be "led out" of the particular plant with regrets "because we know the men are simply being duped and coerced by the strike leaders."

"We won't hold any grudge against them and will be willing to hire them back," he added.

He said public officials were charged with protecting citizens from such disorders as sitdown strikes.

"Those who seize property not their own are in the same category as housebreakers," Ford said.

John L. Lewis in reply told a union meeting in Detroit that he had no doubt Ford will continue to deal with individual employees "as long as his employees permit him to follow that policy and no longer." And the C. I. O. chief added ominously: "I have no doubt Henry Ford will change his mind on this subject."

The strike in the Ford plant in Kansas City came to an end and the members of the United Automobile Workers were boasting of gaining a victory over the imperious Henry. But the advantage they won was slight and temporary, and the battle with Ford is yet to be fought.

The thirty-day strike of the Chrysler company employees came to an end when W. P. Chrysler and John Lewis reached an agreement under persuasion of Governor Murphy. The company agreed to recognize the U. A. W. A. as the bargaining agency for its members, and the union pledged that it would call no sitdown strikes nor permit its members to engage in any in Chrysler plants for the duration of the compact, which extends to March 3, 1938.

The strike of Reo company men was settled on approximately the same terms, and Governor Murphy then turned his attention to the Hudson company strike.

The C. I. O. invaded Canada by calling out 3,700 workers in the plants of the General Motors company of Canada at Oshawa, Ont. But it was the old-fashioned kind of strike, with picketing, and the union pledged there would be no violence.

THREE hundred sitdown strikers at the plant of the Hershey Chocolate corporation at Hershey, Pa., were overwhelmed and driven out by a mob of thousands of irate farmers and loyal workers of the company. The farmers were enraged because the strike had cut off their market for \$10,000 worth of milk daily. They and the non-strikers were armed with clubs and bricks and the strikers were treated roughly.

Gov. George H. Earle of Pennsylvania ordered an investigation and declared formally:

"The bloodshed at the Hershey plant was a disgrace to the commonwealth. The blame lies directly on the sheriff of the county, who said he did not need the assistance of the state police to maintain order. Precedent decrees that local authorities must ask the state's assistance before it intervenes.

"The state police will not be used to suppress union labor. Neither are they interested in the sitdown prob-

lem. They will prevent mob rule. Apparently the sheriff was not an unbiased law enforcement officer in this case."

MOVING back again to the West, we find Elmer A. Benson, Farmer-Labor governor of Minnesota, involved in labor troubles that might conceivably result in his impeachment. About 200 members of the "people's lobby" staged a sitdown in the senate chamber at St. Paul for the purpose of enforcing their demands for immediate action on the governor's relief plan. Benson had previously spoken to the crowd, telling them "it is all right to be a little rough once in a while" in dealing with the legislature, and the lawmakers were exceedingly resentful. The governor, after one day and night, persuaded the demonstrators to leave, telling them they had done a good job.



Gov. Benson

On regaining possession of its chamber, the senate put through a resolution condemning the governor for "inciting people to riot" and failing to perform his lawful duties to "quell and quiet the mob."

While there was no serious talk of impeachment, the report was current that the senate resolution was drafted deliberately as a possible basis for such action.

BITUMINOUS coal miners were on strike only one day, for the new wage scale, providing an \$85,000,000 increase of pay for the 400,000 men, was signed by representatives of the operators and the United Mine Workers of America. Of course the consumer will have to pay for this wage boost. Charles O'Neill, president of the United Eastern Coal Sales corporation and chairman of the operators' delegation at the conference, said the cost of bituminous coal at the mine would go up at least 25 cents a ton.

The miners won a raise of 50 cents a day, but lost their demand for a 30-hour week. The 35-hour week, or 7 hours a day and 5 days a week, which was in effect under the old contract, will remain. Also the men failed to get two weeks' vacation with pay and a guaranty of 200 days of work a year.

THERE is going to be a lively three-cornered struggle in the southwestern oil fields. The C. I. O., whose plans in that direction were mentioned in this column not long ago, has begun the campaign to organize the workers in the Texas field. Harvey C. Fremming of Washington, president of the International Association of Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers and close friend of John Lewis, is in charge of the operations. A rival movement for members and prestige will be started in a few days by the A. F. of L.

Gov. James V. Allred of Texas has given notice that he will use "every resource" against sit-down strikes, which he declares are unlawful and un-American. He added: "My investigation convinces me that sit-down strike organizers have invaded Texas. Sit-down methods do not represent the desires of an overwhelming majority of organized labor in this state."

TRANS-ATLANTIC air service between the United States and Great Britain may be expected to start almost immediately, for the last obstacle in its way was removed by an agreement with Canada concerning routes through the Dominion.

Assistant Secretary of Commerce J. Monroe Johnson announced that two routes through Canada had been made available for trans-Atlantic flying craft that will make a total of four trips a week. One route is by way of Shediac, N. B., and the other through Montreal. The hop-off point for eastward flights over the ocean would be from Bottwood, N. F., which also would be landfall on the westward flights.

Johnson said that under the agreement British and United States planes would make two crossings apiece weekly.

SENATOR JAMES HAMILTON LEWIS of Illinois told the senate that he believes the time has come for President Roosevelt to call an international peace conference that would revise the treaty of Versailles. He said the object of the conference would be to reach a "new disposition that might content the nations that are now in revolt and which continue in conflict because of the affront and injury they feel was worked upon them under the terms of the treaty."

The senator asserted the popularity of Mr. Roosevelt abroad would lend much to the success of such a conference.

THAT France and Russia are flagrantly violating the Spanish civil war neutrality agreement by sending aid to the Madrid government is the charge flatly made by Virginio Gayda, Italian editor who is generally regarded as voicing the views of Premier Mussolini. The charges are so serious that many observers believe they mean Italy may soon break away from the agreement and openly go to the assistance of the Franco regime.

Gayda said 25 officers of the French general staff were mapping the strategy of the loyalists especially on the front northeast of Madrid, and that transshipment had been permitted through France of much war material made in the United States. He alleged that Edouard Daladier, French minister of war, is receiving reports on the performance of the new 155 millimeter (6.1 inch) French guns sent to Spain and used extensively in the Guadaluajara battle.

The Spanish steamer Mar Negro, Gayda declared, was en route to Valencia from Odessa, Russia, with a cargo of munitions of war for the Spanish government.

THE house of representatives passed, 122 to 14, a measure, admittedly experimental, designed to speed Supreme court decisions on the constitutionality of acts of congress. It embraces one of the phases of the President's court program.

The bill provides that whenever the constitutionality of an act of congress is drawn in question in any suit in a federal court, the attorney general is permitted to appear and present arguments on behalf of the government. The attorney general is given the same rights as a party in the suit.

PERSISTENT search in the mountains of northern Arizona revealed the wreck of the skyliner that had been missing several days; and in the wreckage were the corpses of the eight occupants, six of them burned beyond recognition. The plane had been sold and was being taken from Burbank, Calif., to New York. It had smashed against the side of a mountain, the cause of the disaster being unknown.

PRICES of government bonds have been declining in a disturbing manner, and the administration decided to do something to check the slump. The open market committee of the federal reserve system discussed the matter all one day, and next day President Roosevelt, Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau and Chairman Eccles of the reserve board held a long conference. The result was this announcement:

"With a view (1) to exerting its influence toward orderly conditions in the money market and (2) to facilitating the orderly adjustment of member banks to the increased reserve requirements effective May 1, 1937, the open market committee of the federal reserve system is prepared to make open market purchases of government securities for the account of federal reserve banks in such amounts and at such times as may be desirable."

The security and commodity markets were given a rather severe jolt by the President when he told the correspondents that prices of durable goods, especially steel and copper, were too high and that it was time for a shift in federal expenditure from them so as to spread the national income more evenly.

PROCLAIMED by the President, congress and all governors, Army day was celebrated throughout the nation on April 6, the twentieth anniversary of America's entrance into the World war.

The keynote of Army day, according to Rear Admiral Reginald R. Belknap, U. S. N. retired, general chairman of the day, is "Peace through preparedness."

"We who have seen the terrible destruction wrought by war want to do all in our power to avoid another war," he said. "The best way to do this, we believe, is by having a strong, well-trained, well-equipped army and navy. So strengthened, an aggressor nation will think twice before trying to draw us into war."

The best way to achieve this preparedness, he added, is by carrying out the provisions of the National Defense act of 1920.

THAT Florida ship canal project, which would cut the state in two, has come to the fore again and probably will have to be fought out once more in congress. Two reports on the matter, have just been filed. One, from Maj. Gen. Edward M. Markham, chief of engineers of the army, says the federal government would be justified in completing the project at a cost of \$197,921,000. The other, from the river and harbor board, says the canal is economically unsound.

Neither report was made public at once, but the War department said General Markham recommended an Atlantic-Gulf waterway 33 feet deep and 400 feet wide.



Maj. Gen. Markham

## Household Questions

**A Mirror Brightens**—Many housekeepers have found that a hanging mirror will often brighten up a dark corner.

**Use Baking Sheets**—Baking powder biscuits and cookies rise better and brown more evenly on baking sheets than they do in pans.

**Removing Tea Stains**—Tea and coffee stains can sometimes be removed from china cups by rubbing them with a damp cloth dipped in baking soda.

**A Supper Special**—One cup left-over cooked vegetables, four eggs, half-teaspoonful salt, dash of pepper, half-cup grated cheese. Break the eggs and beat the yolks and whites together. Stir in the vegetables. Add pepper and salt. Put in greased baking dish. Cover with grated cheese and bake in hot oven ten minutes.

**Shining Saucepans**—Aluminum saucepans that have become discolored inside can be made to look like new by boiling in them water to which a tablespoonful of vinegar and some apple parings or lemon rinds have been added.

**Cleaning Paintwork**—Glossy paintwork should never be washed with soap and water, as it usually leaves a smeary surface. A teaspoonful of turpentine in warm water will make the cleaning a simple matter and will not scratch the paint.

**To Remove a Tight Lid**—Tie a piece of string round the tin two or three times, just below the lid; then push a pencil between the string and the tin, twist the pencil over, and the resulting pressure will release the lid.

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