

what Irvin S. Cobb thinks about:

Third Term Ballyhoo.

SANTA MONICA, CALIF.—After a president has been re-elected it's certain that some inspired patriot who is smuggled close to the throne will burst from his cell with a terrible yell to proclaim that unless the adored incumbent consents again to succeed himself this nation is doomed.

Incidentally, the said patriot's present job and perquisites also would be doomed, so he couldn't be blamed for privately brooding on the distressful thought. You wouldn't call him selfish, but you could call him hopeful, especially since there's a chance his ballyhoo may direct attention upon him as a suitable candidate when his idol says no to the proposition. He might ride in on the backwash, which would be even nicer than steering a tidal wave for somebody else.

Political observers have a name for this. They call it "sending up a balloon." It's an apt simile, a balloon being a flimsy thing, full of hot air, and when it soars aloft nobody knows where it will come down—if at all. It lacks both steering gears and terminal facilities.

There have been cases when the same comparison might have been applied not alone to the balloon but to the gentleman who launched it.

So let's remain calm. It's traditional in our history that no president ever had to go ballooning in order to find out how the wind blew and that no volunteer third-term boomer ever succeeded in taking the trip himself.

Modern Prairie Schooners.

WE'RE certainly returning — with modern improvements — to prairie schooner days when restless Americans are living on wheels and housekeeping on wheels and having babies on wheels. Only the other day twins were born aboard a trailer. And—who knows?—perhaps right now the stork, with a future president in her beak, is flapping fast, trying to catch up with somebody's perambulating bungalow.

So it's a fitting moment to revive the story of early Montana when some settlers were discussing the relative merits of various makes of those canvas-covered arks which bore such hosts of emigrants westward. They named over the Conestoga, the South Bend, the Murphy, the Studebaker and various others.

From under her battered sunbonnet there spoke up a weather-beaten old lady who, with her husband and her growing brood, had spent the long years bumping along behind an ox team from one frontier camp to another.

"Boys," she said, shifting her snuff-stick, "I always did claim the old hickory waggon wuz the best one there is fur raisin' a family in."

Pugs Versus Statesmen.

IT'S confusing to read that poor decrepit Jim Braddock, having reached the advanced age of thirty-four or thereabouts, is all washed up, and, then, in another column, to discover that the leading candidates to supply young blood on the Supreme court bench are but bounding juveniles of around sixty-six.

This creates doubt in the mind of a fellow who, let us say, is quite a few birthdays beyond that engendered wreck, Mr. Braddock, yet still has a considerable number of years to go before he'll be an agile adolescent like some senators. He can't decide whether he ought to join the former at the old men's home or enlist with the latter in the Boy Scouts.

Quiescent Major Generals.

SOMETHING has gone out of life. For months now no general of the regular army, whether retired or detailed to a civilian job, has talked himself into a jam—a raspberry jam, if you want to make a cheap pun of it.

Maybe it's being officially gagged for so long while on active service that makes such a conversational Tessie out of the average brigadier when he goes into private pursuits and lets his hair down. It's as though he took off his tact along with his epaulettes. And when he subsides there's always another to take his place.

You see, under modern warfare the commanding officer is spared. He may lead the retreat, but never the charge. When the boys go over the top he is out in front waving a sword? Not so you'd notice it. By the new rules he's signing papers in a bombproof nine miles behind the lines and about the only peril he runs is from lack of exercise in the fresh air.

Maybe, in view of what so often happens when peace ensues, we should save on privates instead of generals.

IRVIN S. COBB.
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News Review of Current Events

SEN. 'JOE' ROBINSON IS DEAD

Court Plan May Have Died With Him . . . Japan, China Face Another Crisis . . . Treasury Backs 'First Lady'



Joe Robinson Rallies the Democratic National Convention.

Edward W. Pickard SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK

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Falls 'Face to Battle'

WHEN Sen. Joseph T. Robinson of Arkansas dropped dead of a heart attack in his apartment across from the United States Capitol, the President's plan for securing new appointments to the Supreme court bench, even in its amended form, died with him.

That is the belief of close observers in Washington. For "Joe" Robinson was the President's tower of strength in the legislative branch of the government. He had served the Democratic party well in the senate since 1913, and as the majority leader in the upper house since 1932.

Joe Robinson's job it was to keep a smooth balance between the conservative democrats, largely of the South, and the more radical members of the party from the North and West, so that the objectives of the New Deal could be turned out of the legislative mill.

Robinson never fought harder than he did in his last battle. As he worked hard and long in an attempt to get the "compromise" court plan passed, often raising his voice and exerting himself mightily in senate arguments, it was apparent to his colleagues that he was not well. Sen. Royal S. Copeland, the only physician in the senate, had several times asked him to calm himself lest he hasten his own death.

While the senate was adjourned for Robinson's funeral, administration leaders sought to rally support so the court bill could be passed, even without the late senator's leadership. But the opposition forces were equally determined to take advantage of the psychological aspect of the senate following Robinson's death—the desire to effect a peace, finish the session's business in a hurry and get away from the capital.

The forces opposed to the bill believed that when the issue came up again they would be successful in recommitting the substitute bill to the judiciary committee, an effective way of killing it. The indication of opposition greater than had been expected in the house of representatives was another factor pointing to the eventual fall of the bill.

Another battle was not long in getting under way: to decide who the new majority leader of the senate should be. Conservative Democrats were anxious to wrest a measure of control from the White House by backing Sen. Pat Harrison of Mississippi, who has been faithful to the President, but is fundamentally conservative. The more radical senators backed Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky, Democratic national convention keynoter, who had been Robinson's assistant as floor leader. Another prospect was Sen. James F. Byrnes of South Carolina, but it was believed his strength would eventually be transferred to Harrison.

Another thing that had Washington guessing as a result of Robinson's death was the vacancy on the Supreme court left by the retirement of Justice Willis Van Devanter. Robinson, it was generally believed, was to have received the appointment.

The twelve uncommitted Democrats were: Andrews (Fla.), Bone

(Wash.), Brown (N. H.), Caraway (Ark.), Duffy (Wis.), Johnson (Colo.), Lewis (Ill.), Murray (Mont.), Overton (La.), Pepper (Fla.), Russell, Jr. (Ga.) and Wagner (N. Y.). Lundeen (Minn.) was the Farmer-Laborite.

The substitute for the original Ashurst bill provides for appointment of one new justice each year to every justice remaining on the court after reaching the age of seventy-five years.

New Sino-Japanese Conflict?

WAR between China and Japan was believed almost inevitable as hopes of settling a new outbreak of hostilities by diplomatic means faded out. The fighting ensued as Japanese gendarmes attempted to take over the policing of Yu-ning and Lukow-kiao, two villages in the Peiping area, near Marco Polo bridge. This, the Japanese said, was provided for in the North China truce.

According to the Japanese war office, Chinese soldiers fired upon the gendarmes and opened up with trench mortars against the Japanese contingent at the Yuanping station. This action allegedly compelled the Japanese to make a night assault, costing 20 lives, in order to occupy the towns of Lungwangmiao and Tungshingwan. It was said the Chinese troops had also advanced into these points.

Officials of the Hopei-Chahar council claimed the Japanese moves were in open violation of the truce. They further accused the Japanese of conducting night army maneuvers, using real bullets instead of the blanks ordinarily employed in maneuvers. As Emperor Hirohito and Premier Fumimaro Kono conferred with military leaders and the cabinet, the Japanese people frantically prepared for the war that loomed.

China's Nanking government gave orders to Gen. Sung Chih-yuan, commander of the North China forces, that his army was not to retreat for any reason, but was to be prepared to make the "supreme sacrifice" to hold its position until Gen. Chiang Kai-shek should arrive over the Peiping-Hankow railroad with 50,000 fresh troops.

As the fighting continued in the Peiping area, with no hope of an effective compromise on the two nations' demands, war seemed the probable result.

Although an agreement was reported to have been made between local Chinese and Japanese authorities at Tientsin, settling the dispute to the satisfaction of both, the national government at Nanking has continued to insist that no agreement reached locally would be observed.

Mrs. Roosevelt's Taxes

WHEN Representative Hamilton Fish (Rep., N. Y.) sought to demonstrate the unfairness of the tax invasion investigation committee, he demanded that the committee investigate the income of the wife of the President from radio broadcasts, charging that she was not paying a cent of income taxes upon those earnings.

She had turned over \$39,000 to the American Friends Service committee, a Philadelphia charity, kept \$1 per broadcast for herself and paid nothing whatever from her radio earnings to the government.

Assistant Attorney General Robert H. Jackson replied for her, explaining to Chairman Doughton of the congressional committee that the bureau of internal revenue had advised Mrs. Roosevelt she need pay no tax on the receipts from the broadcast. He declared the responsibility "is not that of Mrs. Roosevelt, but that of myself and others who were treasury officials at the time."

Loyalists Widen Front

THE Spanish loyalists' drive to push back the rebel forces to a safe distance from Madrid, continued, with the government forces widening the front by expanding both flanks several miles. The main line of advance was in a southerly direction, slow but steady. It had progressed as far as a point halfway between Brunete and Navalcarnero. Loyalist forces were attempting to acquire control of the Quernales river banks, there to dig in and protect the right flank while the main drive continues south.

Rebel military strategists were not particularly distressed over the government advance, for they believe that if they can draw the major part of the Madrid garrison out into the open country and destroy it the advance will benefit them more than it will the loyalists. Artillery of both sides worked overtime as the rebel reinforcements came in to make the struggle more equal.

The government was reported to be using dozens of Russian tanks. They are heavier and clumsier than the rebel tanks, but they carry field pieces of great accuracy and potency. Still, a new kind of anti-tank gun developed by the rebels stopped a number of them.

Government planes were reported doing serious damage to rebel forces on the Basque front to the north. In the east Gen. Sebastian Pozas, commander of the government forces in the Saragossa-Teruel sector, claimed that Albarracin "not only has been completely surrounded, but also government troops now are fighting in the streets of the town."

Mr. Eden Has a Plan

PLANS to maintain the non-intervention patrol of Spain in a fashion that will satisfy all the nations concerned and insure against the spread of the conflict beyond the Spanish borders have been blown about like papers in a storm. And when you get right down to it, that is about all they have amounted to.

Now Anthony Eden, Britain's foreign secretary, has come up with a new one, as deft and perhaps as futile as any which have gone before it. It provides for the full re-establishment of land and sea control of movements of men and arms into Spain. French and British warships would patrol the coastline with German and Italian observers aboard (the Fascist nations, indignant over the Leipzig incident, have withdrawn from the patrol.) This arrangement would operate only until a permanent scheme could be worked out, placing observers for the non-intervention committee in all non-Spanish seaports and airports from which men and supplies might leave for Spain, and in all Spanish ports to see that none landed there. After that, the sea patrol would be abolished.

Upper Silesia Still Puzzle

BEFORE a new accord could be reached, the 15-year-old Geneva convention designed to reconcile the interests of both Poland and Germany in Upper Silesia, expired. Upper Silesia was once part of both Germany and Austria, but after the World war it was split between Germany and Poland. The people of the two sections have since that time mingled freely with one another, carrying on a live commerce unhindered over the boundary lines set by the League of Nations.

The diplomatic difficulties occurred when no solution was forthcoming for the problem of what to do with the Poles who wanted to remain in the German section and the Germans who wanted to remain in the Polish section.

6,625 Miles in One Hop!

WITH the world still thrilling to the recent flight of three Russian aviators from Moscow to the United States via the North Pole, three more Russians did it again, completing the longest non-stop flight in history.

After flying 6,625 miles from the Russian capital, Pilot Michael Gromov, Co-Pilot Andrei Yumoshev and Navigator Sergei Danilin, made a forced landing in a cow pasture near San Jacinto, Cal. A leaking gasoline line had exhausted their fuel supply as they battled heavy fogs which hung over the west coast region. Their flying time was estimated at 62 hours and 17 minutes.

Obituary in Blue

GEORGE GERSHWIN, composer who lifted jazz music up to the level of the classics, died suddenly in Hollywood after an operation for brain tumor. He was thirty-eight. His "Rhapsody in Blue" was famous among the world's music lovers, his opera, "Porgy and Bess" one of the most individually American of all musical works. His "Swanee" sold more than 2,000,000 copies, his musical comedy score, "Of Thee I Sing," was a Pulitzer prize winner, and some of his compositions, such as "Strike Up the Band," "Soon," and "Somebody Loves Me" were sung and danced to by millions. Many prominent critics called him the most original force in American music

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart
National Press Building Washington, D. C.

Washington. — This article shall be devoted not to politics nor to affairs of the government of the nation exclusively but to the future—

Future Leaders

the future leaders. It shall be, to that extent, a discussion of fundamentals about which I think there can be no controversy.

First, let us take a quick survey. In the Capitol building of our own nation there is raging a bitter debate between two schools of political thought. The question is whether there shall be a law passed that will give to the President of the United States the power to appoint additional justices to the bench of the Supreme court when and if present sitting members reach the age of seventy-five and refuse to retire from active work.

In Spain, a bitter political warfare moves on apace. It is over the question whether Communism of the Russian sort or Fascism of the Italian brand should be the dominant influence in the government of that nation.

In the Far East, along the Russian border, troops of the Japanese emperor and of the Russian dictator, Stalin, glared at each other. Their controversy also involves political bases. That controversy also is complicated by economic conditions. It is a powder keg.

Back in Europe, we find a dictator, Hitler by name, persecuting citizens of Germany almost without end. A political question there is involved and it is complicated deeply by religion and race. Hitler and his minions seek to destroy, first, the Catholic church and, second, the Jews.

Somewhat set off by the great Alps, although woven intricately into the whole picture, is another distorted and disturbing condition. In Italy, Mussolini, having most of his people under his steel boot, is now preparing for new crusades. He has ordered all steel producing units in Italy to increase their production to the maximum so that war material will be available. Mussolini wants more territory; he wants to expand the influence of Fascism and he wants to build a gigantic world power in a military way with Rome as the center and with him as the head.

Building for Future

Through many years residents of Washington and visitors to the capital of the nation have gloried in a Spanish seaport and airports from which men and supplies might leave for Spain, and in all Spanish ports to see that none landed there. After that, the sea patrol would be abolished.

In this peaceful setting for ten days, more than twenty-six thousand boys—the leaders of the future—were congregated in a National Jamboree of the Boy Scouts of America. Tents were everywhere. Uncounted boys in the khaki shorts, which is their uniform, fitted about the city or held various maneuvers or staged dramas of the ages in a great arena. Among them was a sprinkling, and the number was not more than a sprinkling compared to the boys, of the scoutmasters and mature men who constitute the leadership of this great army of youth.

I hope I may be forgiven for interjecting here an expression of my personal feelings. It has been my lot to work hard from the time I put off swaddling clothes. The work I have done and the experiences I have met had a tendency to make me callous, somewhat cynical. But I must confess that on half a dozen occasions as I wandered through this tented city, I gave thought to my own boyhood and to two boys for whom I am responsible, I felt a swelling of pride, a satisfaction of heart, that I live in a nation which has given me the right to liberty and progress.

Moreover, there came to me the thoughts of the future of my own two boys and the millions of others just like them—future leaders of a nation that holds forth such possibilities as are best evidenced by the encampment of those twenty-six thousand then within the range of my vision.

Tribute to West

Then, no tribute to these future leaders of our nation and of the nation which bred them can or will be complete without mention of Dr. James E. West, Chief Scout Executive. Dr. West was an orphan boy. Worse, he was a cripple. And to add to these handicaps, there was a period in his early life when

the keenest medical minds said he could not live and if he did live would be a hopeless invalid.

But Dr. West was made out of the same mold from which came the founders of our nation and from whom, as founders, the traditions and the methods known now as the American way have grown.

It was Dr. West who devoted, indeed, dedicated his life to the organization and development of the Boy Scouts of America. It is now an organization of more than two million boys and there are some six million who can be called alumni because they have grown too old to remain in the ranks of active Boy Scouts.

I mentioned earlier that this was an army of peace, an army devoted to the maintenance of American traditions. No better proof of this need be given, if any were needed, than the notorious fact that representatives from the three totalitarian states—Italy, Germany and Russia—are missing from the encampment. In two of those states the Boy Scout movement has been superseded by a dictator's decree which forces regimentation and militarizing of the youth. They are being trained for war. Happily most countries still pin their faith to the virtues summarized in the Scout law—the boys promise not to die but to live, not to cringe but to blossom, by holding themselves ever trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, clean, and last but not least to maintain a reverence for God.

So, I think I can be pardoned for the feeling I have that in this encampment lie the seeds of a continued free America, waiting the time to take root and bloom into manhood. It is from these and from these alone that we can hope to maintain in our beloved nation a political system which warrants neither Communism nor Fascism; which desires liberty and peace and which challenges the cockeyed theories that government must care for the people rather than the people care for their government.

It seemed to me, therefore, to be something of a sour note that the National Youth administration which set up a hideous looking, box-like structure near the center of the capital city from which literature could be distributed to the Boy Scouts. This structure looked for all the world like a soft drink stand at a cheap carnival and I, personally, resented the action of National Youth administration officials who ordered its construction. I felt this way because the National Youth administration is predicated upon the very theory that I have just condemned—a theory that government must serve as a father for everybody and that it must lay down rules to which all must subscribe. It is the nearest thing to the regimentation that is going on in nations under dictators that exists in our government today.

Cabled dispatches from Russia indicate again that the dictator, Stalin, is determined to rid the Soviet of anyone and everyone who may

Heavy Hand of Stalin

be opposed to him. The official announcements of the so-called Soviet government tell of the "liquidation" of numerous individuals who have objected to Stalin's tactics or who are seeking to revise the Soviet system. "Liquidation" in Russia means that those individuals were executed by a firing squad. A dead man can cause no harm to the aspirations of a dictator.

The Stalin administration arranges for the "liquidation" of its opponents by coercion of confessions and this is followed up by what the Soviet calls a trial in a court of justice. The courts of justice are owned and controlled by Stalin; they decide as they are told to decide and there is no such thing as an impartial court in Russia because the government owns the courts and names the judges who are to do the government's bidding.

Private advices from abroad seem to show that there is a very serious uprising underneath the surface in Russia. Thousands of Russians have grown tired of having one man determine whether they shall live or die and they yearn again for a system of courts which will determine their guilt or innocence in accordance with honest evidence presented and not in accordance with the way the governing clique wants justice administered.

As the Russian judiciary is constructed under the mailed fist of Stalin, courts are a farce. Without such a court structure, however, a dictator could not perpetuate his own power. He must have control of the courts in order to carry out under the guise of law all of the whims and fancies and hatreds that he possesses. A nation of free people does not long remain free after its courts become subjected to the direction and control of one man. Judges who can administer justice without fear or favor are the first requisite to liberty.

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