

What Irvin S. Cobb Thinks about

Semi-Nude Fashions.

SANTA MONICA, CALIF.—Clothes may not make the man, but leaving them off certainly makes him foolish. And that goes double for the women.

Whence arises the present-day delusion that going about dressed at half-mast enhances the attractiveness of the average adult? Our forbears of the Victorian era wore too much for health or happiness or cleanliness. But isn't it worse to offend the eye all through the lingering summer by not wearing enough to cover up the blotches, the blemishes, the bulges and the bloats that come with maturity? Sun baths should be taken on a doctor's prescription, not at the corner of First and Main.



Irvin S. Cobb

Women old enough to know better are the worst offenders, seems like. If only they'd stop to consider that the snail, which is naked, would lose in any beauty contest against the butterfly, which wears all the regalia the traffic will stand!

But even though it's for their own good, you can't tell 'em. If somebody started the fad of going at the game while practically nude, inside of two weeks mumblebees would be the national pastime—until somebody else thought up a game to be played by folks without a stitch on. Or anyhow, just a stitch here and there.

Doctoring Movie Scripts.

USUALLY they lay these yarns on Mr. Sam Goldwyn, who thrives upon them and goes right on turning out successes, his motto being, "What's grammar as between friends so long as the box office shows results?" But, for a change, this one is ascribed to another producer, who proudly describes himself as a self-made man, which, according to his critics, is relieving the Creator of a considerable responsibility and putting the blame where the blame belongs. They also say no self-made man should stop with the job only partly finished. But then Hollywood is full of parties trying to push Humpty Dumpty off the wall.

As the tale runs, this gentleman entered the conference chamber at his studio and as, with a kingly gesture, he laid down a fat sheaf of typewritten pages, said to the assembled intellects of his staff:

"Jumppen, in all my experience in the picture business this is what you might call unique. Here is absolutely, possibly the only perfect script I have ever read in my entire life. I tell you that before we start altering it."

Strikes Versus Wars.

DID you ever notice how like a war is a strike? The operator and his operatives are the shock troops that suffer the heaviest casualties. The owner risks his profits and perhaps his market and sometimes his plant. The worker gives up his wages, frequently his job, occasionally his life.

Stockholders see dividends vanishing and investments shrinking. Citizens see their communities disrupted. Women and children go on short rations, many a time go actually hungry. For, as in a war, the innocent non-combatants bear most grievous burdens.

Those who really garner in the spoils—professional agitators; financial buzzards eager to seize on bankrupt industries; lawyers with their writs and their injunctions; imported thugs masquerading, for one side or the other as honest mechanics—these might be likened to stay-at-home diplomats and profiteers and hired mercenaries who induce friendly nations to turn enemies so they may gain their own selfish ends.

After it's over, we realize that almost any strike might have been averted had common sense and common justice ruled, rather than greed and entrenched stubbornness and fomented hate. And the same is true of almost any war. For every real benefit to humanity came out of peace and arbitration, not out of battle and destruction.

And here's the final parallel: Ultimately, the supposed victor finds himself the actual loser. Tell me which army won any great strike—or any great war—and I'll tell you who won the San Francisco fire and the Galveston flood.

IRVIN S. COBB.
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Crater Lake in Oregon

Crater Lake in Oregon has the most romantic geologic history of any lake in the United States. Its rim was once the base of a volcanic mountain which collapsed and sank into the earth. Later it cooled, springs came out of the sides, snow collected and it filled with water. It is 6 miles in diameter and contains the bluest water known to exist naturally today. There is no outlet and no streams running into it and yet the water is always fresh.

News Review of Current Events

SENATE KILLS COURT BILL

Votes 70 to 20 to Recommit . . . Elect Barkley New Majority Leader . . . Spanish War Enters Second Year



Senator Harrison (right) Congratulates Senator Barkley.

Edward W. Pickard
SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK
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'Glory Be to God!'

DYING for weeks, the scheme to add to the number of justices of the Supreme court finally choked its last gasp and left this world. On a roll-call vote the United States senate voted to recommit the Robinson substitute for the President's original bill to the judiciary committee. The vote was 70 to 20, the most crushing defeat the President's legislation has yet suffered at the hands of a house of congress.

In an agreement made at a session of the judiciary committee earlier, it had been decided to let the opposition senators write their own bill, an innocuous measure for "judicial reform" not dealing in any way with the Supreme court. Senator Barkley, the new majority leader, attempted to save the President's face by having the bill left on the calendar, but he never had a chance. When the roll-call came, even Senators Ashurst of Arizona and Minton of Indiana, two of the Supreme court bill's chief supporters, voted to recommit.

"Glory be to God!" said Sen. Hiram Johnson (Rep., Calif.) when the results of the roll call were made known. The applause that belled forth from the senators and gallery alike left no doubt that the veteran from California had voiced the sentiments of the great majority.

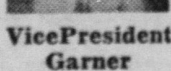
Low Interest for Farmers

BY A vote of 71 to 19, the senate overrode the President's veto of a bill extending for a year low interest rates on loans to farmers. It was a defeat even more crushing than the recommitment of the court bill, and made the bill a law without the President's signature, for the house had previously passed it by a two-thirds majority over Mr. Roosevelt's veto.

Senator Barkley made a half-hearted attempt to stave off the overwhelming vote, and the defeat was accepted by many observers as an expression of resentment over Barkley's having been elected majority leader instead of Sen. Pat Harrison of Mississippi.

Barkley, 38; Harrison, 37

SEN. WILLIAM H. DIETERICH of Illinois changed his mind at the last minute and today Alben W. Barkley, hard-fisted, blistering senator from Kentucky, is the majority leader of the United States senate, succeeding the late Joseph T. Robinson of Arkansas. The vote was 38 for Barkley to 37 for Sen. Pat Harrison of Mississippi.



Vice President Garner

The conservative Democrats in the senate had been assured of 38 votes, enough to elect Harrison, on the eve of the secret election. But that night Dieterich, apparently under pressure from the Democratic party organization in Illinois, begged Harrison to release his pledged vote, in order that the President's choice might head the party in the senate.

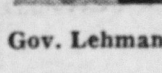
The slim victory by no means patched the obvious party rift. Even the administration admitted that the President's Supreme court bill was virtually dead, even then. Vice President Garner visited Sen. Burton K. Wheeler of Montana, leader of the opposition forces, and invited the opposition, which it was believed had enough votes to recommit the substitute court bill to the judiciary committee, to draft a new bill.

President Roosevelt then told Senators Barkley and Harrison at the White House that four measures "must" be passed before the January session: The minimum wage, maximum hours and child labor bill; the new AAA and ever-normal granary bill; the Wagner housing bill, and legislation to plug loopholes

in the federal tax laws. Congress was all for quick adjournment, the President was told. The possibility of adjourning congress, then recalling it in special session in the late fall, with committees continuing to function in the interim, was then discussed, but what agreement had been reached was not announced.

A Citizen Takes His Pen

CRUSHING blow to the President's court program, delivered at the time it hurt most, was a letter written by Gov. Herbert H. Lehman of New York to Sen. Robert F. Wagner of that state. The letter, made public, revealed Governor Lehman's opinion "as a citizen of the state of New York" that the bill would be "contrary" to the "interests" of the people of the state. "Its enactment," the governor wrote, "would create a greatly dangerous precedent which could be availed of by future less well-intentioned administrations for the purpose of oppression or for the curtailment of the constitutional rights of our citizens."



Gov. Lehman

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Bloody Anniversary

THE Spanish civil war entered its second year. For the populations of rebel cities, the occasion was one for joyous celebration, with fiestas, bull fights and concerts the order of the day. Gen. Francisco Franco, commander of the insurgent forces, publicly proclaimed it a "year of triumph." He ordered that all communications and public documents for the next twelve months be dated as of "the second year of triumph."

In the first "year of triumph," more than a million persons, including women and children, were killed. The insurgents claim to have taken 34 of the 50 provincial capitals of the country, and all of its colonies. They have captured six of the eleven cities of more than 100,000 inhabitants: Seville, Malaga, Bilbao, Saragossa, Cordoba and Granada.

The rebels lost little time in attempting to regain their losses around Madrid. Franco unleashed the full power of his main army of 160,000 in a drive to recapture Brunete and other suburbs of the loyalist stronghold; they were met by at least 250,000 defending government troops. Every weapon of war except gas was used. There was hand-to-hand fighting in the trenches and the greatest use of artillery since the World war as the fiercest battle of the Spanish conflict raged. The battle was opened by an spectacular aerial fight as the world has seen in years; insurgents were reported to have lost 27 planes against only four for the loyalists.

If there were any definite gains made in a week's fighting, they were probably on the side of the insurgents, observers reported, although the government estimated the rebels had lost 10,000 men.

Japs Maul U. S. Women

ASSAULT upon two American women by sentries in the Japanese embassy in Peiping brought vigorous protests, both orally and in writing, from the United States embassy. The two women, Mrs. Helen R. Jones of Detroit and Miss Carol Lathrop of Washington, D. C., were walking through the embassy when sentries charged them from behind sandbag barricades. While one sentry kicked Miss Lathrop in the side, another held off Mrs. Jones with the flat of his bayonet. When the women were released they were roughly shoved, Mrs. Jones being forcefully kicked from behind.

Sino-Japanese Crisis

JUST after a verbal agreement between Chinese and Japanese military commanders had appeared to have prevented an impending renewal of the Sino-Japanese war, the Japanese government officially announced that heavy concentration of Chinese troops had been made at Peiping, constituting a direct act of aggression against Japan.

At the same time the Nanking government claimed that 17 Japanese troop trains, carrying 30,000 soldiers, were en route to North China from Corea and Manchukuo. Earlier, 12,000 Japanese troops were said to have arrived in North China to supplement the regular garrison of 7,000.

At Tientsin, Gen. Sung Cheh-Yuan, chairman of the Hopei-Chahar political council and commander of the Chinese forces in North China, had complied verbally with the Japanese ultimatum for peace, although he refused to sign anything. In a talk with Lieut.-Gen. Kiyoshi Katsuki, the Japanese commander, he apologized for the clash between Japanese troops and the Chinese Twenty-ninth army at Lukowkiao July 7, the incident which precipitated the new crisis, and expressed the regrets of the Hopei-Chahar council. He said that he would dismiss several of his officers as a punishment.

Gen. Sung assured the Japanese he would evacuate the area west of Peiping, and would do his utmost to suppress communism and anti-Japanese activities.

Part of the agreement was that both Chinese and Japanese troops should be withdrawn from the walled city of Wapingshien, suburb of Peiping. But Chinese troops refused to withdraw when, they alleged, it became certain the Japanese had no intention of withdrawing, either. In the midst of many conflicting and confusing reports the outcome of any truce was problematical to say the least.

Europe Short on Grain

EUROPE began to worry about the possibilities of a hungry winter as early threshing indicated a serious grain shortage.

Germany's shortage was estimated at 3,000,000 tons. The deficit will be met partly with increased consumption of potatoes and sugar beets, and partly with cheap, plentiful corn from southeastern Europe. It is expected, even so, that Germany will have to buy 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 tons from other foreign countries. Experts estimated that the German harvest for 1937 would be 10 to 20 per cent below the average for the years 1930-35.

Poland, from which Germany has been able to buy grain in the past, will not be able to sell any this year, while Hungarian, Rumanian and Jugoslavian crops will be smaller than last year, because of drought.

It was believed that if the current drought continued the farmers of Great Britain would likewise suffer; rainfall in the past month has been about one-fifth normal.

Of the Baltic countries only Lithuania, it is believed, will have a crop equal to her needs. Crops suffered badly in Latvia, Estonia and Finland. Only Spain, in all Europe, with an increase of 15 per cent over last year's grain harvest, appears likely to enjoy a well-filled bread basket.

De Valera Is Re-elected

IF HIS party, Fianna Fail, can keep in power that long, Eamon de Valera will be president of the executive council of the Irish Free State for another five years. He was elected to the nation's highest office by a vote of 82 to 52 in the dai eireann (parliament). De Valera, in favor of severing all ties with Great Britain, won even the vote of the labor group, which does not endorse his party.

It was believed that De Valera would go ahead with legislation necessary to implement the new constitution approved in the plebiscite of July 1. He would in that case set up a senate and elect a president by popular vote, as the constitution provides. If De Valera is elected president, to serve seven years, political experts say he will virtually disappear from politics and his party will break up.

Static Wrecked Hindenburg

THE spectacular crash of the Zeppelin Hindenburg, killing 36 at Lakehurst, N. J., last May 6, was probably caused by an unseen spark of static electricity which jumped from the atmosphere to the frame of the dirigible. At least this is the theory of the board of inquiry which investigated the accident and reported to Secretary of Commerce Daniel C. Roper.

The experts considered every other possible cause—fire, sabotage, brush discharge of electricity from sharp points on the ship, broken propeller blade, radio transmitter spark lightning and structural failure—and decided that their theory most nearly fitted the circumstances attending the disaster.

Inventor of Wireless Dies

GUGLIELMO MARCONI, who altered the lives of all of us when he invented the wireless, died suddenly of a heart attack at his home in Rome. He was sixty-three years old, had been in good health and was planning the construction of a new radio station in the Vatican at the time of his death. Premier Mussolini paid homage to the great inventor, kissing the dead man's forehead in reverence.

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
By **WILLIAM BRUCKART**
NATIONAL PRESS BLDG. WASHINGTON, D. C.

Washington.—Many times in these columns I have had occasion to write in praise of Great Leader **Senator Joe Robinson of Arkansas**, the Democratic leader in the senate. His magnificent qualities, his capacity as a statesman and the regard with which he was held by Republicans and Democrats alike were such that further praise from this pen would be of little value. Suffice it to say that in Joe Robinson's death the nation is the loser because "he fought the good fight."

But Senator Robinson's sudden death a few days ago has precipitated a political condition of gravest importance. Although none of us who knew him nor those with whom he was associated in an official capacity could have foreseen his sudden death, I think it is proper to say that the passing of Joe Robinson may have more far-reaching influence upon his country's history than all of his long and distinguished career in public life. That is to say, fate possibly has turned in this instance to the role it sometimes plays—the role of master strategist.

The question may be asked: Why does the death of one man become so important? The answer is simple. Joe Robinson was the field marshal for the Roosevelt administration. Particularly, he was the field marshal in the greatest legislative battle to reach the floors of congress since the days of slavery, and this coincided with the daring adventure of an epochal administration.

President Roosevelt leaned upon Senator Robinson to put through the senate a bill that would permit the Chief Executive to appoint additional justices of his own choosing to membership in the Supreme court of the United States. He leaned upon the Arkansas senator for many other things as well, but it seems to be the consensus of opinion that Mr. Roosevelt's administration may well stand or fall by the success or failure of his program to reorganize the judiciary of the United States. It seems further that if the President fails to obtain congressional approval for this plan which would give the President domination over the court system of the country, he will have lost control of the legislative branch of the government for the remainder of his term. Few Presidents have been able to carry on successfully without the co-operation of the legislative branch.

It is too early, of course, to say whether the death of Senator Robinson means defeat for the court packing program. Nevertheless, most of the astute political observers in Washington—indeed, many of the President's own party in the senate—believe that the passing of the Democratic leader was a fatal blow to the President's power in congress. This results from the fact that Joe Robinson was able to mold together many groups and cliques and hold them by the sheer power of his lovable personality in a cohesive, workable unit.

The country never will know how well and faithfully Joe Robinson fought for the President and his policies. I have said in these columns heretofore and I repeat that I do not believe Senator Robinson favored all of the New Deal policies, in his heart. He was progressive but he had sound ideas; he stood by the President and the New Deal with courage and capacity, but on many occasions, I have reason to believe, he fought for those principles because he believed he should either fight as a member of his party or retire. Further, he knew that if he would retire he would not have the opportunity nor the influence to persuade the radical wing of the New Dealers to propose reasonable policies. In other words, the late Democratic leader was attempting to be a leader in fact as well as in name and many are the indications where he was able to pull the theorists and the radical New Dealers back from the brink of political destruction.

In view of the facts I have reported and the observations I have made above, it becomes perfectly plain that the President is in a present court battle with ease. In fact, there are many observers who believe the court legislation will have to be abandoned and that congress will be quickly overwhelmed by that annual desire of representatives and senators to conclude their work and adjourn.

Let us review the situation as regards the court legislation. The President got off to a very bad start when the original bill to add six new justices to the Supreme court was presented. The original reasons he gave for demanding the new power he sought were shattered within a few days after the draft of the bill reached the Capitol. He was forced to abandon

them. Mr. Roosevelt then came forward with a second set of reasons, namely, that the Supreme court as at present constituted could not and would not hold some of his social legislation constitutional. That set of reasons was knocked into a cocked hat when the Supreme court upheld the Washington state minimum wage law, the Wagner labor relations act and the social security taxes. Then came the resignation of Justice Van Devanter. Justice Van Devanter was one of the men whom Mr. Roosevelt had in mind as unwilling and unlikely to see social legislation through the same glasses as Mr. Roosevelt saw the situation in the country.

The Van Devanter resignation gave the President an opportunity to appoint a new member to the court. It also gave the senate an opportunity to burst forth with expressions of its own ideas concerning the type of man who should succeed Justice Van Devanter and the senators were not backward in promoting the name of the Democratic leader, Senator Robinson. But Mr. Roosevelt thus far has failed to fill the vacancy, and this failure has been interpreted by the opposition among the President's own party as an unwillingness to select anyone but a radical for the highest court. In any event, those opposed to the court bill contend that the President's delay constitutes only another reason why he should accept "the inevitable defeat" of the court revision program.

When it became apparent that the original bill for six new justices could not be passed because the Democratic-dominated senate judiciary committee reported the bill with a scathing denunciation, the late Senator Robinson astutely offered a substitute bill in the nature of a compromise. This substitute bore the authorship of Senators Logan of Kentucky and Hatch of New Mexico. Even the substitute which provided for one additional judge a year until the Supreme court numbered eleven members has received the same bitter criticism that characterized the first measure. Many members of the senate say they will fight it as long as they would have fought the original because it will give the Chief Executive control of the Supreme court just as the earlier one would have done.

President Roosevelt vetoed a little known and little discussed bill the other day. It was known as "H. R. 4408, An Act to Provide for the Renewal of Star-Route Contracts at Four Year Intervals." The title, of course, will mean little to most of those who read these lines. But, this was a bill intended to do justice to those underprivileged classes about which Mr. Roosevelt has often spoken in his fireside chats over the radio. The men who would have benefited by this piece of legislation were the star route carriers of the mails—the service that dates back to the stagecoach days of America and the service from which originated the Postal department's famous phrase, "the mails must go through." The star route is the only means by which a good many thousand persons are able to receive mails on anything like a modern basis because this service reaches the out-of-the-way inland towns where railroads are not yet and possibly never will be in operation.

I watched this legislation go through the house without dissenting vote; I saw Senator McKellar, Democrat, of Tennessee, attack the bill in vicious language and then I saw the senate pass it by a vote of nearly two to one. In addition, I know that the representatives of these little known carriers (little known except to those whom they directly serve) had tried for a number of years to obtain a basis of pay that will let them live. They finally were able to convince Postmaster General Farley that unless they were paid more money the number that would go broke in carrying out their contracts would be amazingly large. I have not the slightest doubt that this group ought to be paid more money for the work they do because their present basis of compensation is shamefully low—so low that if they were members of a labor union, they would all go on strike.

No change has been made in the basis of compensation or in the method of contracting for this service since it was organized in 1845, except in minor ways. Three quarters of a century or more is a long, long time. The President's action in vetoing this legislation, therefore, is very difficult to understand. His action is made the more inconsistent, many persons believe, because the additional cost to the government would be insufficient to maintain the smallest unit of the hundred New Deal agencies which the President has created.

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Court Bill Doomed

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