



WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK

By LEMUEL F. PARTON

NEW YORK.—News of the approaching retirement of Brig. Gen. Harley B. Ferguson is a reminder that it was he who supervised the raising of the battleship Maine in Havana harbor for the U. S. government in 1910 and 1911. In the service for 42 years in the engineering corps, he probably has won more shirt-sleeve battles against all the disasters of the Anglican litany than any other army officer with a gift for achieving the impossible. He will be 64 years old on August 14 and there is talk that he may be upped to the rank of major general before the bell rings on his finish fight against the elements.

He is the Hackenschmidt of flood grappers, winning one fall after another against the Mississippi. He has been president of the Mississippi River commission since 1932; member of the board of rivers and harbors since 1930 and is also a member of the St. Lawrence Waterway board.

Back in the days of "manifest destiny," starting in 1897, the young second lieutenant got his first practice workouts in the mud and miasma, floods and elemental and human catastrophe in the Philippines and Cuba, and with the army swamper's relief after the Boxer uprising around the turn of the century. If the "destiny" involved getting things shipshape in a hurry, he always made it a lot more manifest than it might have been otherwise. He was chief engineer of the China expedition.

He started fighting floods in Montgomery, Ala., in 1907 and through the years commanded army engineering works, defensive and aggressive, at Milwaukee, Cincinnati, New Orleans, Vicksburg, Pittsburgh and Norfolk, Va.

In the World war, he was chief engineer of the second army corps in France. He went to West Point from his home town, Waynesville, N. C. His son is a commander in the navy. He has two daughters.

DR. PAUL POPENOE, geneticist, biologist, and student of family relations, who has given much of his interesting career to clinical studies of home life, discovers that women are aggressive proposers and that 70 out of 85 get their man. This is his finding in his survey of this hitherto unexplored field of statistics.

Women a Close Second to the N. W. Mounties

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Dr. Popenoe is director of the court of family relations at Los Angeles. A specialist in the daily squabbles of married life, he has been effective in settling many of them. He says it is a good idea to write down all your wife's faults, check them against your own, and then burn the paper. You should keep the family budget straight, refrain from nagging, and keep yourself and everybody else around the house interested and never bored. As a geneticist, he thinks it is a fair bet that we will become a race of "super-idiots," whereas we could be super-Einsteins if we could use collectively the sense that God gave geese.

He is a native of Topeka, Kan., educated at Occidental college and Topeka university. He was a newspaper reporter in Pasadena and Los Angeles before he became a biologist and sociologist.

BIG, ruddy John M. Carmody, known as "Powerhouse John," takes over 2,500 PWA employees under the new arrangement by which he assumes a load, compared to which Atlas would be just totting a tennis ball. Leaving the Rural Electrification administration, he heads the new Federal Works agency, which takes in both the PWA and the FWA; also the bureau of public roads, the building operations of the treasury, the U. S. Housing authority and many other Herculean endeavors.

He is a rip-snorting Irishman with a booming voice, employing section boss technique in getting things done. He was for many years an editor of the McGraw Hill Publications, making his career in industrial engineering. In earlier years, he managed coal companies, factories and steel mills.

He has been with the New Deal six years, first with the NRA and later with the NLRB. He has a Pennsylvania farm background and attended Columbia university.

(Consolidated Features—WNU Service.)

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS BY JOSEPH W. LaBINE

Charge Pittman Embargo Bill Constitutes Admission by U. S. Of Japan's Belligerent Rights

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

CONGRESS: Neutrality

First guesses after the senate foreign relations committee tabled the Bloom-Hull measure held that neutrality was a dead issue this session. Not counted upon were Sen. Key Pittman's enthusiasm and the White House's insistence. Because President Roosevelt evidently feared a European war after the harvest season, he demanded that neutrality legislation be passed this session. Nor would congressional objection avail much; filibusters are a handy weapon for stalemating legislation, but the President's special session threat made it seem more desirable to act now than be called back from vacation.

The President's program: (1) retention of the munitions board; (2) barring of American ships from combat zones; (3) restriction of American travel in such zones; (4) transfer of title of goods sold to bel-



KEY PITTMAN
Japan would suffer, also gain.

ligerents before shipment; (5) continued restrictions on loans and credits to warring nations; (6) regulation of fund collections in the U. S. for belligerents.

Though all inclusive and apparently carrying more tenacity with which American isolationists fear the U. S. might become involved abroad, the President's program carries far less potential dynamite than Senator Pittman's measure. Under this bill, the President would be forced to declare a munitions embargo against any nation violating the 1922 nine-power Chinese non-aggression treaty. The obvious target: Japan.

But what Mr. Pittman apparently forgot is that such declaration would constitute American admission that a state of war exists in China—a fact Japan has never admitted. Japan would thus gain belligerent rights in China and U. S. interests would have to flee the war zone. Thus America's entire Oriental position would be toppled, and the embargo would have little effect unless Great Britain follows the unlikely course of adopting similar tactics.

Most vital from a White House viewpoint is immediate repeal of the existing arms embargo, which the President and Secretary of State Cordell Hull believe gives encouragement to Dictators Hitler and Mussolini, who know that in event of war with Britain and France the ban on U. S. arms shipments must be invoked against all belligerents. Isolationists, admitting this, think it would be a good idea.

AGRICULTURE: More Trouble

On July 1 the U. S. looked forward to a wheat crop of 716,655,000 bushels, comparatively small beside last year's 930,801,000 bushels and the 10-year (1928-37) average of 752,962,000 bushels. Obviously, wheat is not a source of worry for Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace this year. But a job with more than its just quota of worries has produced three others to take the place of wheat:

Tobacco. Last year growers voted to remove strict marketing control provisions of the farm law, resulting in a big expansion of acreage this year. As of July 1 the tobacco forecast for this year was 1,654,622,000 pounds, compared with an average crop of 1,360,400,000 pounds. If estimates materialize, some experts believe prices will be depressed 25 per cent below last year; also that—under law—another referendum must be held on tobacco quotas. If approved the quotas would not become operative until the 1940 crop started to market.

Corn. Forecast now is a crop of around 2,570,795,000 bushels, compared with the 10-year average of 2,309,674,000 bushels. Reasons: (1) unusually favorable weather in June; (2) a sharp increase in plantings of high-yielding hybrid corn. With a surplus of about 450,000,000 bushels from previous seasons already on hand, experts predict some

governmental action will be necessary to forestall undue price depression. If marketing quotas result, approved by two-thirds of corn-belt farmers, growers would be required to store their share of the excess supply or pay a penalty tax of 10 cents a bushel.

Cotton. With 14,350,000 bales of cotton hanging over his head, Secretary Wallace persuaded congress to give him \$926,000,000 for curing the surplus problem. Of this, a large part will go to cotton, distributing it among U. S. relief families and offsetting losses in selling cotton to foreign buyers at cut-rate prices, i. e., government subsidy. But in New York the Cotton Exchange service moaned a few days ago that cotton exports this season may be the smallest in more than 50 years, not in spite of, but because of government aid. The factors:

"First—American cotton has been priced roughly at one cent a pound above competitive relationships with foreign growers that can be readily substituted for American cotton. This, in turn, being due to the fact that American cotton prices have been largely pegged by government loans.

"Second—For several months foreign users of American cotton have not dared to make normal forward purchases of the American staple because they have not known to what extent the price of American cotton abroad will be lowered by the prospective subsidy payments on exports by the U. S."

POLITICS: Yes or No?

One good way of ruining an opponent is to give him so much rope he hangs himself. When Indiana's one-time Gov. Paul V. McNutt returned from his \$18,000-a-year post as governor general of the Philippine islands, he became the nation's No. 1 outspoken seeker after 1940's Democratic nomination. What amazed onlookers was that he boldly walked into the lion's mouth, conferring with President Roosevelt and his traditional enemy, Postmaster General James A. Farley. What amazed them still more was Paul McNutt's appointment a few days later as \$12,000-a-year head of the newly created U. S. security agency. What did it mean? Was Paul McNutt the President's choice for 1940? Or was Mr. Roosevelt craftily plotting the political suicide of this ambitious Hoosier, thus insuring his own renomination for a third term? The pro and con:

Buildup? "Liberalism" is a much worn-out word denoting the New Deal's objectives. The last few months it has been succeeded by "humanitarianism" as the keynote for 1940. Not to be forgotten is the "humanitarian" scope of Paul McNutt's new job, where he has charge of social security, the office of education, National Youth administration and Civilian Conservation corps,



MANAGER McHALE
Coming along fine.

all strong talking points a smart politician can use to further his own cause. Neither should Paul McNutt's travel opportunities be forgotten; as head of the security agency his chances for speeches and political contacts are practically unlimited and he is expected to make the most of them.

Breakdown? The security post is not all roses. Keen observers know Paul McNutt is in the limelight where both Democrats and Republicans can take pot-shots at him between now and nomination day. They also know that his new job may be a good place to build a man up personally, yet "humanitarianism" should have nothing to do with politics; therefore Mr. McNutt must be discreet.

Meanwhile, in Indianapolis, McNutt Manager Frank McHale could figure his campaign to date had been a success. His candidate, like young Lochinvar, had come out of the west after 2½ years in Manila, where he could make no embarrassing entangling alliances. More important, he had returned to get what Frank McHale termed the President's endorsement as a candidate for 1940.

HOUSING: Political Vogue?

Periodically there arises a David who slays the wicked giant Goliath. Usually it sets a fashion until corruptness again catches hold. Last year New York's racket-busting States Attorney Thomas E. Dewey became a David, captured public fancy, inspired radio programs and placed wicked politicians on the defensive. The public obviously wanted reform and no more rackets.

When Tom Dewey began looming as a 1940 G. O. P. presidential possibility, reformation sounded like good strategy for any aspiring politician or party. By early July, Attorney General Frank Murphy had behind him an excellent record of smashing corrupt political machines (like Kansas City's Tom Pendergast) and tracking down income tax



RACKET BUSTER DEWEY
Everybody's doing it.

evaders. This was the signal for Scripps-Howard Columnist Raymond Clapper to charge that Frank Murphy was trying too hard to win the vice presidential nomination.

Meanwhile there was arising another administration racket-busting program under guidance of the justice department's Thurman W. Arnold. Its aim: To drive trust practices, price-fixing and collusion out of the U. S. building industry. The day Mr. Arnold told his plans to the temporary national economic committee, Chicago Daily News' William H. Fort wrote from Washington that this was "obviously the New Deal's most ambitious trust-busting venture in its attempt to push young Tom Dewey's New York activities into the shade."

Designing or not, Thurman Arnold's drive bids fair to accomplish something. With 140 lawyers and an enlarged appropriation, the justice department expects to uncover plenty of reasons why a metropolitan dweller runs into trouble when he wants to build a house. Alleged monopolistic devices: (1) fixing of prices by producers of building materials and trade associations; (2) use of joint selling agencies; (3) control of sales and limiting of quantities.

TRADE: Penalties

It is no coincidence that the world's topmost aggressive powers, Italy, Germany and Japan, must force exports to maintain a balance of trade. One primary reason is that peace-loving nations would sooner trade elsewhere; another, goods for which foreign markets are available must be kept at home to guarantee self-sufficiency in case of war and to build military machines.

Therefore no deliberate anti-Nazi gesture was involved last spring when the U. S. began levying countervailing duties on goods imported for Germany. Though this move coincided with the Reich's absorption of Czechoslovakia, treasury and state departments pointed out that Germany customarily forces exports through subsidy, thereby giving its manufacturers an unfair advantage.

Similar reasoning was behind the countervailing duties recently imposed on Italian silk exports to the U. S., which treasury officials discovered were being subsidized.

Skipping next to aggressive Japan, the U. S. is investigating complaints from domestic textile manufacturers that Nipponese cotton goods makers are being given government subsidy, boosting still further the natural world trade advantage they gain by low operating costs. Result: Observers predict countervailing duties will soon be imposed on cotton imports from Japan.

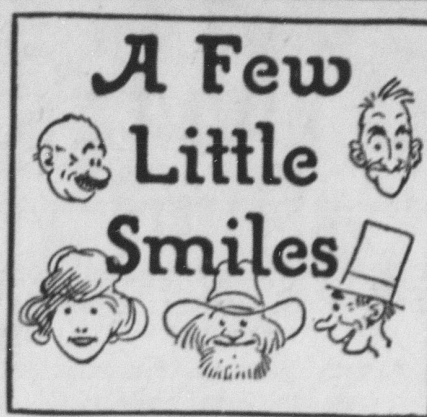
Trend

How the wind is blowing . . .

LABOR—Oregon's Supreme court has held constitutional the famous "anti-picketing" law adopted by referendum last November, confining picketing to bona fide disputes between employers and a majority of employees, prohibiting boycotts and outlawing minority strikes.

BABIES—Since both 1937 and 1938 found France's deaths exceeding her births, Premier Edouard Daladier has announced decrees to reward large families and thus stimulate the birth rate.

BUILDING—Major U. S. engineering construction awards for 1939's first half reached the great volume since 1930.



HERE AND THERE

An Irishman entered a ticket office one day and inquired the fare to Chicago.

"Ten dollars," returned the clerk, "but we are making a special rate today. We'll sell you a round-trip ticket for fifteen dollars."

"A round-trip? What do you mean?" puzzled the Irishman.

"Yes," explained the clerk, "you can go to Chicago and back."

"Well," said Pat, "what do I want to come back for, when I'm already here?"

False Alarm

The host showed his guest into his bedroom.

"I hope you're not nervous, old chap," he said, "but this room is supposed to be haunted."

"Haunted!" exclaimed the guest. "What by?"

"A wraith—a spectre!"

"A w-what?"

"A wraith—a spectre."

The guest sighed with relief, and the color returned to his cheeks.

"Oh, that's all right!" he said at last. "At first I thought you said a rate collector!"

THIS WAY IN



"Young lady, I shall never darken your doors again."

"How 'y' gonna git in—through the windows?"

More Profitable

An amiable old man, a visitor, was trying to win the friendship of the small daughter of the house.

"I'll give you a nickel for a kiss," he said.

"No, thank you," she replied sweetly. "I can make more money taking castor oil."

Something Picturesque

"You can win in a walk," said the admiring friend enthusiastically.

"Public sentiment would never be satisfied with anything so sedate and orderly," answered Senator Sorghum. "Can't you arrange for me to win in an airplane or a parachute jump?"

Something From Above

"Isn't there danger," said the timid man, "of dropping things from an airplane on the people below?"

"That isn't the worst," answered the candid inventor, "you're lucky if the whole thing doesn't fall on you."

Hey, That Girl's In Again!

He—Why did you send that poor fellow back for your cold cream? He'll never find it.

She—I only wanted to get the chap off my hands.

People Are Too Suspicious

Judge—How could you swindle people who trusted in you?

Prisoner—But, judge, people who don't trust you can't be swindled.

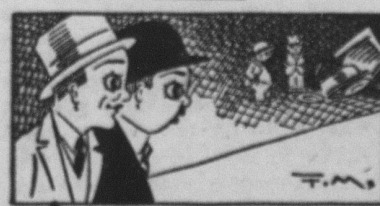
That's Different

Office Boy—Sorry, but you can't see Mr. Blodgett.

Caller—Is he in conference?

Office Boy—No, he's busy.

WRECKLESS DRIVING?



"He was arrested for reckless driving."

"When he'd smashed his car to splinters like that?"

Hard to Please

"In running for office," said Hi Ho, the sage of Chinatown, "you cannot please every one; the best that you can do is to look benignly pleasant and convey the impression that everybody pleases you."

On a Dude Ranch

Cowboy—What kind of saddle do you want—one with or without a horn?

Dude—Without a horn, I guess. There doesn't seem to be much traffic out on these prairies.

Smart Patterns in Midsummer Styles

IF YOU'RE looking for a gracious, sophisticated afternoon fashion in women's sizes, you will be delighted with 1763. Cut on true princess lines, it is beautifully slim and graceful. The shirred vestee and narrow collar give a pretty, soft, dressy touch, and it has the simplicity that you like in midsummer. For this, choose silk crepe, georgette or chiffon.

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No. 1765 is designed for sizes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 years. Size 2 requires 1¼ yards of 35 inch material, without nap, for pinafore, ¾ yard for playsuit, ½ yard for bonnet. 8½ yards of braid or bias binding.

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(Bell Syndicate—WNU Service.)

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