

News Review of Current Events

JAPS SINK U. S. SHIP

American Gunboat Panay Bombed by Japanese on the Yangtse . . . Stern Protest by Roosevelt

Edward W. Pickard
SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK
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Latest Jap Outrages

JAPANESE aviators, strafing fleeing Chinese, bombed and sank the United States gunboat Panay on the Yangtse river above Nanking. The boat's storekeeper and an Italian journalist were killed.

At the same time and place the Japanese attacked and sank three Standard Oil steamers.

Several British gunboats speeding to the aid of the Panay were shelled, one enlisted man being killed and a number wounded.

Washington and London lodged stern protests in Tokyo.

Tokyo apologized with expressions of deep regret.

In America and Britain there was intense indignation over the latest outrages. No responsible person hinted that the United States or Great Britain should go to war with Japan on their account; but the man in the street felt there should be some way, short of war, by which the Japanese could be forced to cease their murderous attacks. Apologies may satisfy the diplomats but they do not restore lives.

President Roosevelt's protest was directed through Secretary Hull to Ambassador Hiroshi Saito with the request that it be sent to the Emperor Hirohito of Japan. It demanded apologies, full compensation and guarantees against repetition of similar attacks. The British foreign office was in touch with Washington by cable but Foreign Minister Eden denied that the British would take the lead in international action.

Even Tokyo was stunned by the attacks on American vessels, and the planned celebration over the capture of Nanking was called off.

Before the American protest reached Tokyo the Japanese officials and commanders began apologizing and explaining. To prove its sincerity the government promptly recalled Admiral Teizo Mitsumori, in charge of naval aviation and relieved him of his post. He immediately resigned.

Survivors of the bombing, most of them wounded, told how the Panay went down with colors flying and its gunners firing to the last of the Japanese airplanes. They agreed that the attacking planes were flying so low that it was impossible for their pilots not to know they were bombing foreign ships. They said the Japanese excuse that visibility was poor over the Yangtse that day was false.

Early Tax Revision

SUMMONING house ways and means committee members and treasury economists to a conference in the White House, President

Roosevelt directed that revision of the taxes that oppress business be carried through as soon as possible. Those called were Robert L. Doughton, chairman of the North Carolina, chairman of the house committee; Fred Vinson of Kentucky, chairman of a subcommittee on taxes; Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau and Undersecretary Roswell Magill.

On leaving the White House Mr. Doughton gave out the cheering assurance that the best possible tax bill would be formulated quickly and that the taxpayer would be given every consideration.

If the contemplated measure can be rushed through congress it may be made effective on January 1, starting out what business and industry hope will be a Happy New Year for them and for all the nation.

In his press conference the same day the President gave business additional encouragement, asserting that the interstate commerce commission should take action to preserve the solvency of the railroads. He declared himself in favor of private ownership and operation of the railroads, but said receiverships of the lines cannot continue without financial adjustment.

Shortly after this the commerce commission put in a sour note by overruling the carriers' petition for 15 per cent immediate increase in freight rates.

First Flight Celebrated

FRIDAY, December 17, was the thirty-fourth anniversary of the epochal air flight of the Wright brothers at Kitty Hawk, N. C., and the day was fittingly observed by all aviation interests in the country. Under orders from the army general staff every military flying post sent up all its available aircraft at the exact hour when the two inventors first made their plane fly. About one thousand fighting planes were in the air at the same time.

Steel Workers Meet

MEMBERS of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, affiliated with the C. I. O., opened their first convention in Pittsburgh and

Silver Policy Stands

REPRESENTATIVE MURDOCK of Utah stated in Washington that he had assurances from President Roosevelt that the present silver policy would be continued as long as it was deemed necessary. Murdock asked the chief executive's views when he transmitted a resolution drafted by western congressmen urging no change be made in the silver program.

Government Wins

THE Supreme court decided that the government need not pay interest on gold bonds that were called for redemption in advance of the maturity date.

The decision, written by Justice Cardozo, was unanimous, although Justices Stone and Black had separate concurring opinions. Cardozo is ill and his opinion was read by Chief Justice Hughes.

The litigation was started by Robert A. Taft of Cincinnati, son of the late President and Chief Justice William Howard Taft; the estate of James J. Ransom of Des Moines, and Arthur Machen of Baltimore.

New Men for SEC

TWO vacancies on the securities and exchange commission were filled by the President by the appointment of John Wesley Hanes, partner of a New York stock brokerage firm, and Jerome N. Frank, radical New York attorney, now serving as an attorney for the Reconstruction Finance corporation and formerly chief counsel of the defunct AAA.

Frank fills the position vacated by James M. Landis, who retired last September to become dean of the Harvard law school. Hanes fills the post of J. D. Ross of Seattle, recently named administrator of the Bonneville dam.

House Passes Farm Bill

NARROWLY escaping return to committee, the administration farm bill was passed by the house by a vote of 268 to 129. It was believed the senate measure also would be put through successfully at once. Then it would be up to conferees from both houses to iron out the differences. There was doubt that final enactment could be obtained before adjournment of the extraordinary session.

More WPA Spending

HARRY HOPKINS, WPA administrator, announced that increased unemployment was compelling the WPA to increase its expenditures by \$23,000,000 a month. He said its employment rolls, now totaling 1,575,000 persons, would be enlarged to provide work for an additional 350,000 persons. The expansion, he said, could be handled within his budget, at least for some time.

Landon Won't Run Again

ALFRED M. LANDON definitely removed himself from the presidential campaign picture of 1940 by announcing in Washington that he would not be a candidate for nomination by the Republican party and would not accept the honor if it were offered him. He added that he was not retiring from politics, but would continue active in his party.

While in the capital Mr. Landon was invited to the White House and had a pleasant chat with the President, politics and business not being discussed.

Atlantic Planes Wanted

EVIDENCE that passenger plane service across the Atlantic would be started within two years was seen in the request of Pan American Airways for bids on 12 planes capable of carrying 100 passengers each.

Performance demands call for a speed of 274 miles an hour at 20,000 feet and indicate the type of craft required would cost one million dollars each.

Brave Scouts Honored

EIGHT Boy Scouts who risked their lives to save others were cited for heroism by Daniel Carter Beard, national scout commissioner and chairman of the national court of honor.

Three scouts who received gold honor medals are J. P. Fraley of Hitchens, Ky.; Guy Groff, Jr., of Marengo, Iowa, and Kenneth Simonson of Redridge, Mich., each of whom rescued a drowning person.

Five others who received certificates for heroism are John Mentha, New York; John Ruggi, Yonkers, N. Y.; Philip Beane, Bath, Me.; William Benham, Napoleon, Ohio, and Eldon Shaffer, Berrien Center, Mich.

Liner Aground; All Saved

THE Dollar liner President Hoover ran aground on a small island off Formosa when en route from Kobe to Manila. Her passengers, about 600 in number, were put ashore on two rocky islets, and there were picked up by the President McKinley of the same line and taken to Manila.

Wally Lowest Duchess

THE new edition of Burke's Peerage, authoritative book on British nobility, reveals that the duchess of Windsor has been placed in the twenty-ninth or last place among duchesses. Her husband, the duke of Windsor, former King Edward VIII, is placed as No. 4 man in the empire, behind his brothers, King George VI and the dukes of Gloucester and Kent.

What S. Cobb Thinks about

Vanishing Wild Life.

VARNER PLANTATION, Tex.—Thanks to wise legislation, the wild fowl are coming back to this gulf country. True, the flocks may never again be what they were; yet, with continued conservation, there'll again be gunning for one and all.

But when I think back on the ducks I saw down here 10 years ago—in countless hosts—I'm reminded of what Charley Russell, the cowboy artist said to the lady tourist who asked him whether the old-time era exaggerated when they described the size of the vanished buffalo herds. "Wellum," said Charley, "I didn't get up to this Montana country until after the buffaloes started thinning out. But I remember once I was night-herding when the fall drift got between me and camp and I sat by and watched 'em pass. Not having anything else to do, I started counting 'em. Including calves, I counted up to 3,009,065,294, and right then was when I got discouraged and quit. Because I happened to look over the ridge and here came the main drove."

Becoming a Head Man.

LET an unshorn dandruff fancler claim he's divine and, if nobody else agrees with his diagnosis, the police will jug him as a common nuisance and the jail warden will forcibly trim his whiskers for him or anyhow have them searched. But if enough folks, who've tried all the old religions and are looking for a new one, decide he is the genuine article, then pretty soon we have a multitude testifying to the omnipotence of their idol.

Let another man think he is a reincarnation of Julius Caesar or Alexander the Great, and if few or none feel the same way about it he's headed for the insane asylum. But if a majority, which is a large body of persons entirely surrounded by delusions, agrees with him that he is what he says he is he becomes a dictator and rules over the land until common sense is restored, if at all.

Let the writer of a daily column begin to think his judgments are perfect and his utterances are infallible—but, hold on, what's the use of getting personal?

Grandma's Togs.

WE LAUGH at our grandmothers who believed that, for a lady to be properly dressed, she should have a little something on anyway.

Maybe those mid-Victorian ladies sort of overdid the thing—bustles that made them look like half-sisters to the dromedary, skirts so tight they hobbled like refugees from a chain gang, corsets laced in until breathing was almost a lost art, boned collars so high they seemed to be peeping over an alley fence. Still, wearing five or six starched petticoats, the little woman was safe from Jack the Pincher unless he borrowed some steamfitter's pliers.

And later when, for a season, blessed simplicity ruled the styles, her figure expressed the queenly grace that comes from long, chaste lines. Probably the dears never figured it out. Just the natural cunning of their sex told them 'twas the flowing robes which gave majesty and dignity to kings on the throne and judges on the bench and prelates at the altar—and shapely women-folk.

How old-fashioned those times seem today when every dancing floor is a strip-tease exhibit and every bathing beach a nudist show; and a debutante, posing for snapshots, feels she's cheating her husband unless she proves both knees still are there.

Reading Dickens.

I'VE been reading Dickens again. This means again and again. I take "Pickwick Papers" once a year just as some folks take hay fever. Only I enjoy my attack.

Dickens may have done caricatures, but he had human models to go by. He drew grotesques, but his grotesques had less highly-colored duplicates in real life. And readers recognized them and read them as symbols of authentic types. The list is almost endless—Sam Weller, Sairy Gamp, Daniel Quilp, Uriah Heep, Mrs. Nickleby, Mr. Micawber, Mr. Pecksniff—oh, a dozen more.

What writer since Dickens has been able to perpetuate one-tenth so many characters? There is Tarkington with his Penrod and his Alice Adams; there was Mark Twain with his Huck Finn and Colonel Mulberry Sellers. There lately has been Sinclair Lewis with two picturesque creations to wit: Babbalanza and Sinclair Lewis.

IRVIN S. COBB

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Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted

by William Bruckart

National Press Building

Washington, D. C.

Washington.—Authorities generally agree that good administration can make even a

Workable Labor Law
definitely ruin it. The same is true, of course, of any law. A bad law's effect can be doubled or trebled by irresponsible administration of its provisions. Of this, I believe there can be no doubt. Certainly, we have fresh evidence on the point over which we can ponder and the truth of the above statements seems inescapable.

I have been among those who have criticized the national labor relations act, and the national labor relations board created by it. It has always impressed me as being a half-baked statute. That it has many weaknesses, there is no doubt. That it has worked out in biased form and that it has done grave damage to the feeling of the general public toward labor organization, there certainly can be no doubt. Or, to summarize the situation, it has been made painfully evident that Senator Wagner, New York Democrat, who sponsored the law, took prejudiced advice when he drafted the measure. He was given only one side of the picture.

But I suspect the law can be made workable and I entertain no thought at all that it should be abandoned entirely. We need a national labor policy expressed in statute form. Changes in its provisions ought to be made, but to my way of thinking there is a more urgent circumstance. The urgent need is improvement in administration of the law in order that the benefits of even a weak and biased law will not be denied to the country's economic life.

It is the recent administrative acts under the law that have brought it into the spotlight again. These acts should be reviewed to bring the whole situation into proper focus for examination, and I shall refer to two of them in this connection. They will substantiate my earlier criticisms.

Early in December, we learned of how the national labor relations board subpoenaed the editor of a magazine. It called for the editor to supply all of the background of information upon which he based an article that was critical of the board. Since the article was critical of the board and its methods, officials of the board regarded the background information as "essential." The article in question had been reprinted and circulated among workers in several mills, according to the board, and this fact was used by the board as a basis for bringing the editor under the board's jurisdiction.

Ten days after the first unusual exercise of power by the board, it took another unprecedented step. Rather, one of its attorneys took the unprecedented step, but since the attorney was an employee of the board, it seems clear the action is chargeable to the board because it is the responsible, policy-making head of the agency.

The second case resulted from the refusal of an editor of a small daily newspaper to tell a trial examiner for the board who wrote an editorial in his newspaper, the St. Mary's (Pa.) Daily Press. Harry T. O'Brien, the editor, declined to answer the question put to him by a board attorney in a public hearing. He stood pat and the trial examiner, Charles H. Bayly, and the attorney, Jerome I. Macht, called his attention to provisions of the Wagner act requiring him to answer. The question of freedom of the press as guaranteed by the Constitution was mentioned, but according to the stenographic record of the hearing, the trial examiner and the attorney each held to the provision of the law as being superior to the other guarantee. Or at least, that is my impression of the proceedings.

As far as I am informed, the board has taken no further action in the O'Brien case. It has moved, however, to enforce its subpoena in the case of Hartley W. Barclay, the magazine editor. A federal court has been asked by the board to enforce the subpoena which Mr. Barclay ignored. He probably will be compelled to appear. At least, he should be compelled to appear in response to the subpoena. No one can ignore a subpoena. As for supplying the information—that is a different matter. His refusal to supply confidential information and imperil the freedom of the press is, indeed, quite a different matter.

As one writer, I hope Mr. Barclay and Mr. O'Brien stick by their guns. I hope, too, that the board will not imperil its existence and the good points in the law by attempting to assert power which I do not believe it possesses. There is no excuse, legally or morally, for a crew of officious individuals to undertake the sort of things disclosed in these two instances. They abuse confidence and besmirch the titles which they bear.

Further, they have forced an is-

sue that ought never to be raised. It is a sad day in our country when government officials, great or minor, try to break through the guarantees which the Constitution gives you and me. It portends more evil things.

Consider, for example, my own personal situation. If the board's attorneys get away with the sort of thing represented in these two instances, how long, I ask, will I be permitted to write as I am now doing, freely, frankly? And if they get away with it, how long will it be until you, who do me the honor to read my reports, will find yourselves without any honest expressions in anything you read? It is not blackjacking the press yet, but if it goes further, that will be the proper term to apply.

Returning, now, to the original premise, namely, that a good law may be destroyed or the effects of a bad law may be made worse by bad administration, it appears to me the conditions related demonstrate the theory as a fact. I have noted some comment on the floors of congress that the board was not aware of what was happening in these two cases; that it had issued no such orders, etc. Such observations are, of course, no answer. Anything that is done by any employee of a government agency is done by that agency because it is to that agency, not to any particular person who may be on its payroll, that congress gave authority to act.

I am beginning to doubt that the American farmer is going to have his problem solved, or even partially bettered, by the present tactics.

Farm Problem

The word "tactics" is used advisedly. Congress has not acted with the full freedom that ought to obtain insofar as the current crop control legislation is concerned. It is suffering from an overdose of some strange medicine, currently called "Wallace's formula." There is real doubt whether the ailment from which agriculture suffers is as bad as the Wallace prescription of medicine for its cure.

Use of the word "tactics" can be further justified if the legislation is considered from the angle at which the problem is approached. I refer in this to the projected limitation on production. That is to say, I believe in processes that will allow all of the production that is possible and that there are ways for handling the surplus without turning over a great industry, like agriculture, to have its fate decided by one man or group of men. The fact is that while Secretary Wallace and his advisers are learned men, they are still human beings. I hold to the old-fashioned belief that even those learned men are not equipped to tell farmers how much they ought to plant and what they ought to plant. It stretches my credulity too far for someone to ask me to believe any government official or anybody else can forecast next month what the demand is going to be next year. And that is almost an accurate statement of what is proposed by the current model of farm relief.

The reason I called the influence "Wallace's formula" goes back several months. It is my recollection without checking up the dates that I reported some goings-on by Mr. Wallace last summer. At that time, I said the agriculture secretary and numerous of his subordinates were traipsing about the country, telling the farmers what was good for them. It was quite evident then, as facts have since proved, the Department of Agriculture was staging a gigantic propaganda for Mr. Wallace's type of farm legislation. He persuaded a couple of senators to go into the interior and hold hearings and it was from these hearings that Senators McGill of Kansas, and Pope of Idaho, both Democrats, obtained their ideas for the bill that the senate considered.

Unless the usual signs at the capitol fall me, the vast majority of the farmers of this country do not want to have their production limited. Probably, the best general statement that can be made on that phase of the legislation was made by Senator Borah of Idaho, who attacked the theory of compulsion vehemently in a speech. Aroused to use of his full oratorical powers, Senator Borah declared to the senate:

"This bill, if enacted, will accomplish two things. First, it will place the farmer under complete bureaucratic control. Second, it will bring about a reduction of crops when millions are hungry and in need."

That thought will be echoed more after the country has tasted of the fruits of the bill than now according to my way of thinking. Therefore, it seems to me that rather than face economic suicide as Senator Borah predicted, congress could very well lay plans to permit unrestricted growth of crops and couple with that the means of taking the surplus off the hands of the farmer.

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One Car—109 Steels

To most people steel is just steel, and they could not tell the difference between a mild and a high-carbon steel. But it would give the average car owner a big surprise to learn that his car contained more than 100 kinds of steel. In 1911 about seven carbon steels and eleven alloy steels were used in car manufacturing practice. Last year the good-class car contained 109!

There is as much difference in strength, elasticity, and hardness between a mild steel and a nickel chrome steel as there is between deal wood and teak. In the average car about eighty kinds of steel contain alloys, ten are nickel steels and twenty-five nickel-chromium steels.

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No matter how many medicines you have tried for your cough, chest cold, or bronchial irritation, you can get relief now with Creomulsion. Serious trouble may be brewing and you cannot afford to take a chance with any remedy less potent than Creomulsion, which goes right to the seat of the trouble and aids nature to soothe and heal the inflamed mucous membranes and to loosen and expel the germ-laden phlegm. Even if other remedies have failed, don't be discouraged, try Creomulsion. Your druggist is authorized to refund your money if you are not thoroughly satisfied with the benefits obtained from the very first bottle. Creomulsion is one word—not two, and it has no hyphen in it. Ask for it plainly, see that the name on the bottle is Creomulsion, and you'll get the genuine product and the relief you want. (Adv.)



WNU-7 52-37

Were you ever alone in a strange city?



If you were you know the true value of this newspaper. Alone in a strange city. It is pretty dull. Even the newspapers don't seem to print many of the things that interest you. Headline stories are all right, but there is something lacking. That something is local news.

For—all good newspapers are edited especially for their local readers. News of your friends and neighbors is needed along with that of far off places. That is why a newspaper in a strange city is so uninteresting. And that is why this newspaper is so important to you.

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