

News Review of Current Events

HITLER NOW SUPREME BOSS

Takes Control of Reich's Armed Forces, Crushing Army Clique . . . Japan Resents Naval Plans Demand



Brig. Gen. Jay L. Benedict, center, and his staff are shown inspecting the cadet corps at West Point as General Benedict took over command of the military academy as superintendent, thirty-seventh to hold that post since the academy was instituted.

Edward W. Pickard
SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK

Hitler Seizes Full Power

A DOLF HITLER has made himself the absolute ruler of Germany and has assumed full control of the armed forces of the reich, proclaiming himself "chief of national defense." Field Marshal Werner von Blomberg was removed from the post of war minister; Col. Gen. Hermann Wilhelm Goering, minister of aviation, was made general field marshal; Gen. Walter von Brauchitsch replaced General Werner von Fritsch as commander in chief of the army; seven army generals and six generals of the air force were summarily dismissed.

According to the London Daily Herald, between 180 and 190 senior army officers were arrested in the German provinces. Reorganization of Germany's diplomatic corps was announced, the ambassadors of several European countries being changed. In the shakeup Joachim von Ribbentrop was recalled from the London embassy and made foreign minister.

No new minister of war was appointed, but Gen. Wilhelm Keitel was named chief of the supreme command and will rank as minister.

Monarchy Plot Foiled

BACK of Hitler's sudden grab of absolute power was a movement among high army officers for restoration of the monarchy. It was revealed in Berlin that a secret speech delivered by one general to a group of his fellow officers in which the return of the exiled former Kaiser Wilhelm was urged was reported to the reichsfuehrer and aroused his anger, hastening his determination to assume personal command of the armed forces.

Anyhow, the coup is a crushing victory for the Nazi government group over the army clique that had been growing daily more threatening to Hitler's regime and that was said to be planning to force his gradual retirement.

The monarchists' plot, it is said, included the elevation to the throne of the ex-kaiser's second son, Prince Eitel Friedrich. Heinrich Himmler, head of the Gestapo or secret police, revealed it to Hitler.

The reichsfuehrer with several close advisers went to his Bavarian home and began planning for the next move, to be announced at the meeting of the reichstag scheduled for February 20.

Judging from the utterances of Nazi leaders, Hitler is likely to demand the return of Germany's lost colonies, control of the free city of Danzig, and greater influence in Austria. London correspondents reported that Great Britain was ready to sacrifice a colony to keep European peace, hoping to bring Germany and Italy into a ten-year pact with Britain and France.

What Small Business Wants

TWELVE delegates from the "little business" conference that held such uproarious sessions in Washington were received by President Roosevelt and presented to him a list of 23 proposals for the cure of their economic ills. These had been consolidated and toned down from the proposals conceived by the conference, the condemnation of much New Deal legislation being omitted.

The principal recommendations in the report were for easier credit for small business, repeal of the undivided profits tax, modification of the capital gains tax, equal responsibility of employer and employee for observance of mutual labor

agreements, the return of relief to local governments as soon as possible, the abandonment of wage and hour legislation and the immediate investigation of the Wagner labor relations board.

Through Secretary Early, the President announced that a large majority of the recommendations seemed constructive and possible of fulfillment. Others, however, he felt, sounded well but were rather impractical.

It is known that the administration does not want the undivided profits tax completely repealed. Neither does it want relief returned to local governments, abandonment of wage and hour legislation, or interference with the Wagner labor relations board.

Japan Won't Tell Navy Plans

IF JAPAN'S naval leaders have their way, Tokyo's reply to the Anglo-French-American request for information as to Japan's plans for battleship building will be a refusal to divulge them. This was the decision reached at a meeting of the naval ministry and transmitted by Admiral Yonai, navy minister, to Premier Ko-noye and Foreign Minister Hirota. The foreign ministry wished to be moderate, but the admirals were insistent.

Ambassador Joseph C. Grew presented the American demand to the foreign office in Tokyo, and similar notes were handed in by the British and French ambassadors. They asked the Japanese government to say categorically, on or before February 20, whether or not Japan is building or plans to build battleships in excess of 35,000 tons, the limit fixed in the London naval treaty. It has been rumored for some time that Japan was building or planning to build two battleships of 46,000 tons displacement armed with 18 inch guns. This is denied by a foreign office spokesman.

The three western powers intimated that if Japan's reply was not satisfactory they might be compelled to invoke the escalator clause of the treaty and themselves construct larger and more strongly gunned battleships.

The position of Japanese naval men is that, since Japan is not a signatory of the treaty, her plans are no business of others; and furthermore that her navy expansion is entirely "defensive."

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Farm Bill in House

SENATE and house conferees finally got together on the farm bill and submitted to the house the measure which sets up a system of price pegging for wheat, corn, cotton, rice and tobacco. The rules committee then approved of a rule permitting only four hours of debate.

The bill, as revised, continues the soil conservation act in the present form in normal times. But in years of overproduction of farm products, it was conceded, it enforces a program of restriction far more drastic than the original agricultural adjustment act outlawed by the Supreme court.

Want 400 Millions

MAYORS of eleven cities of the Middle West, meeting in Chicago, drew up and sent to the President and congress a demand that congress make an immediate emergency appropriation of \$400,000,000 to supplement WPA funds available until July 1.

The resolution was signed by Mayor Kelly of Chicago, and the mayors of Detroit, Cleveland, St. Louis, Milwaukee, St. Paul, Des Moines, Omaha, Toledo, Minneapolis and Indianapolis.

Fear Borah-O'Mahoney Bill

THE National Association of Manufacturers, apprehensive that President Roosevelt might take up the Borah-O'Mahoney bill to place corporations under a federal licensing system, denounced that measure as providing for an end of "home rule over business."

In a formal statement, the association declared the bill would permit the federal government to put any concern entirely out of business for "the most trivial violations" of the terms of its federal license.

Madame Perkins on the Spot

SECRETARY OF LABOR PERKINS, who has been having a hard time explaining why Harry Bridges, C. I. O. leader on the Pacific coast, has not been deported as an alien Communist, has put herself in a tight place and aroused indignant protests from Joseph Kennedy, chairman of the maritime commission and ambassador-designate to Great Britain.

Madame Perkins appeared before the senate commerce committee and took a stand beside Ralph Emerson of the C. I. O. affiliated maritime union in condemnation of the maritime commission's proposal to settle labor disputes in the merchant marine by the mediation methods successfully employed on the railroads.

Kennedy, who was in Palm Beach, sent angry telegrams to the White House and it was said he was on his way to Washington to demand a showdown between himself and the labor secretary. If the President should side with her, Kennedy might be expected to quit the administration and give up his appointment to the court of St. James. Should Mr. Roosevelt uphold Kennedy, Secretary Perkins might resign from the cabinet.

Emerson defied congress to pass the bill and apply the principles of railway mediation to the merchant marine. He said the union would not obey the law if it was enacted, adding that "there are not enough Kennedys to man the ships."

New West Point Chief

BRIG. GEN. JAY L. BENEDICT has assumed command as the new superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point, succeeding General Connors, about to retire for age.

General Benedict, who is fifty-five years old, began his military career as an enlisted man in the National Guard in 1898.

A. F. of L. Ousts Miners

WITH tears in his eyes, President Green of the A. F. of L. announced to the convention in Miami that the United Mine Workers of America, the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers and the Federation of Flat Glass Workers had been expelled from the federation. The miners' union is headed by John L. Lewis and is the nucleus of his C. I. O.

Firestone Dies

HARVEY S. FIRESTONE, rubber magnate of Akron, Ohio, died in his sleep at his winter residence in Miami Beach. He had been in ill health for some time. His death was due to coronary thrombosis.

Housing Bill Passed

ENOUGH Democratic senators switched their votes on the Lodge prevailing wages amendment to the housing bill, so the senate by a vote of 42 to 40 adopted the conference report on the housing bill and the measure went to the White House for the President's approval. This was the first item on the administration's program to be enacted since the special session was called November 15 last.

The measure provides for government insuring of mortgages on privately constructed housing up to 90 per cent of the value of the property on homes costing not more than \$6,000; and to 80 per cent on homes costing up to \$16,000.

Floyd Gibbons' ADVENTURERS' CLUB

HEADLINES FROM THE LIVES OF PEOPLE LIKE YOURSELF!



"Death in Two Tanks"

By FLOYD GIBBONS
Famous Headline Hunter

HELLO EVERYBODY:

Well, sir, we have Bill Schulz with us today—Bill Schulz of Woodside. We're glad to have him here—and Bill is a dog-gone sight gladder than we are, even. Because if Bill were not here he'd be pushing up the daisies in a nice quiet park full of tombstones. That can be said of most any of us adventurers, of course, but it's particularly true of Bill.

Bill was working in a garage, and it was the fall of 1918. The garage was in Fifty-fourth street between Sixth and Seventh avenues. It isn't there now—unless they rebuilt it. And Bill Schulz is lucky that they didn't have to do some rebuilding work on him.

It was a good-sized garage—that place Bill worked in. They did a lot of major repair work, and as a consequence there was a lot of machinery around the place. On the morning that this adventure happened Bill was fixing up a wrecked car that had a badly bent frame. A crew of welders had come in from outside to help him, and they had brought their own apparatus, consisting of a hand truck on which were mounted two tanks.

One of those tanks contained oxygen—the other acetylene gas. The welders did some work on the bent frame, and went off to take care of another job, leaving their apparatus behind. And just about the time they left Frank Lawter came into the room where Bill was working.

Deadly Mixture of Gases.

Frank Lawter was a battery repairman at the garage. He had run short of acetylene—which he used to burn out the pitch in storage batteries—and he came in to see if he could get a little out of the tank the welders had left behind them. Bill was busy, so he told Frank to get himself.

Frank went out and got an empty oxygen tank, in which he intended to get the acetylene. At least Frank THOUGHT that oxygen tank was empty, and if such were the case, everything would have been all right.



There Was a Terrific Explosion.

But the fact was that the tank was a brand new one—fully charged with oxygen. Frank had got hold of the wrong tank.

Standing about eight feet away from where Bill was working, Frank started to couple the two tanks together with a piece of copper tubing. He asked Bill for a wrench to fasten the couplings, and Bill, still busy, told him where he could find one. Then, after fastening the couplings up tight, he turned on the valves of both tanks.

Well, sir, oxygen and acetylene, alone in their respective tanks, are a fairly respectable pair of gases. But mixed together they form one of the most inflammable and explosive compounds that you will find anywhere. And they were sure being mixed up in that hookup of tanks that Frank had arranged.

The tank valves hadn't been open more than ten seconds when Bill Schulz smelled gas. Then he looked over and saw what Frank was doing. Immediately he caught the situation and shouted to Frank to get away from those tanks before they blew. At the same time he dropped his work, sprang to his feet, and took one step forward.

There Was a Terrific Explosion.

What Bill had intended to do was to grab Frank and drag him away bodily from the danger area. But it was too late. He took just one step forward—and there was a terrific explosion!

All the thunder in the world seemed to come together in one great, resounding roar. The ground shook—the building rocked and swayed. The garage roof lifted completely off its steel girder beams, and the walls cracked and tumbled in. Bill was picked up by the force of the explosion and catapulted across the floor. For thirty-two feet he flew through the air. Then he landed—hard—but on something that was soft—a pile of cotton waste stacked in one corner of the garage. He sat there in a daze for a minute, wondering if he had been hurt. He didn't feel any pain. HE DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING!

That's what frightened Bill. There wasn't a bit of sensation in his whole body—had there been he would have known that he was alive and had a chance to recover. But this business of having no feelings at all—it was just too much like being dead.

Bill sat like that for a minute. Then he began to lose consciousness. Dying? Bill was very much afraid so. And that was the last he knew for a while.

Thought His Arms Were Gone.

Meanwhile the whole neighborhood had felt the force of the explosion. Windows were shattered for a mile around. Fire apparatus—emergency patrol cars—ambulances, came flying to the spot from all directions. They put Bill in one of the ambulances and carried him off to the hospital. Poor Frank Lawter went off to the morgue. He had been killed instantly.

When Bill regained consciousness he felt numb all over. "Where are my arms?" he asked the ambulance doctor who was working over him. For it felt to him as if his arms—both of them—were gone. It was a long time before he would believe the doctor when he told him that his arms were there all right—that he was only suffering from shock. Bill is just as sound as ever now, after a month in bed—and his only regret is that he couldn't have saved Frank Lawter.

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Claimed Exemptions From Draft

During the Civil war immigrants who had not become naturalized filed claims for exemptions from the drafts. To counteract this, patriotic organizations made appeals for volunteers and endeavored to raise troops among their own people. In Cincinnati, Ohio, German and Irish organizations held meetings to denounce aliens trying to escape the draft and to ask their leaders to raise troops.

Portraitist Supreme

Rembrandt, 1606-1669, was a Dutch miller's son who became the greatest portraitist in history of art. He was a huge success at twenty-one. For years he lavished great wealth on his family and friends, and paid extravagant sums for other artists' pictures. One by one he lost love, riches, family, prestige. He died alone and forgotten in Amsterdam slums. He loved to paint himself and friends dressed in "prop" costumes from his studio.

The "Rich Port"

Porto Rico, one of the earliest of Spanish American colonies, has endured since its settlement by Ponce de Leon more than four centuries ago, as the "Rich Port," the name that Christopher Columbus gave it on its discovery. Its history in the development of the Americas is shared only by the Dominican Republic, where the early Spanish settlers established their first governmental base.

Perfection

The great Italian sculptor, Michelangelo, was once visited by an acquaintance, who remarked, on entering his studio: "Why, you have done nothing to that figure since I was here last." "Yes," was the reply; "I have softened this expression, touched off that projection, and made other improvements." "Oh!" said the visitor, "those are mere trifles." "True," answered Michelangelo, "but remember that trifles make perfection; and perfection is no trifle."

Historic Hoaxes

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
© Western Newspaper Union.

The Cardiff Giant

IN THE late sixties a Chicago tobacco dealer named George Hull heard a clergyman express the belief that men of gigantic stature once lived on earth. It gave him an idea. Out of a 12-foot block of stone he carved the figure of a man. It was a hard job to simulate pores in the skin but he managed to do it and after giving the stone man a bath in sulphuric acid and ink, he shipped it to the farm of his relative, William C. Newell, near Cardiff, N. Y. There it was buried for a year to "age" it properly.

Next Newell hired some of his neighbors to dig a well for him and behold! the well-diggers "discovered" the giant. Four doctors, called from town, examined it and agreed that it was the petrified remains of a prehistoric man. A Syracuse antiquarian declared it was a statue "probably made by early Jesuit missionaries" at least 300 years ago and offered Newell \$10,000 for it. A professor of natural science at Rochester university examined it and wrote that "although not dating back to the Stone age, it is nevertheless deserving the attention of archeologists."

Within a short time the "Cardiff Giant" was one of the wonders of the modern world. Newell began charging people 50 cents each to see it, and business was so good that a group of Syracuse business men bought a three-quarters interest in it for \$30,000. But such good fortune couldn't last always. A Yale professor examined it carefully, found tool marks on it and other evidence that it had not been buried long.

When it seemed that the hoax was about to be exposed, the giant was shipped to New York. But P. T. Barnum, who had failed in his efforts to buy it for his museum, suspecting that the giant was a hoax, had one of his own made and began exhibiting it. This led to public suspicion that Newell's discovery was also a fake and the Yale professor confirmed that belief. So the "Cardiff Giant" soon became just another "forgotten man."

The Drake Estate

FOR more than half a century the "Drake estate" legend has been used to defraud Americans of millions of dollars but so long as the "get rich quick" desire persists, it will probably continue to harvest its crop of gold for swindlers.

The story they tell is that Sir Francis Drake, naval hero and freebooter of Queen Elizabeth's day, left an estate which, held in trust by the British government, is now estimated at 10 billion to 25 billion dollars. They claim that they have discovered a "lost heir" to this fortune and offer persons bearing the name Drake or descended from persons of that name an opportunity to contribute to a fund which will be used in establishing the "lost heir's" title. Once that is established, they promise that everyone who has contributed to the fund will be repaid a thousandfold.

The fact is that Drake was never married, so he did not leave any heirs. Moreover, when he died aboard his ship in 1595 his estate was a very small one and that was settled long ago. Yet despite these well-known facts and despite repeated warnings by both the British and the American governments against anyone investing in such a scheme, thousands of gullible persons have been victimized in the past and it's only a question of time until the hoary old legend will be revived and other suckers will be taken in by it.

Flight Over the Atlantic

NEARLY three-quarters of a century before Charles A. Lindbergh thrilled the whole world by flying across the Atlantic, that feat was accomplished—in the imagination of an American newspaper man. His name was Edgar Allan Poe (later famous as a poet) and in 1835 he had printed the first installment of a fanciful tale about a trip to the moon. However, Richard Adams Locke's "moon hoax" in the New York Sun had monopolized public attention, so Poe tore up the second installment of his story.

But in 1844 when he wrote an account of the crossing of the Atlantic by a group of men in three days in a balloon or flying machine called the Victoria, he found that the public was just as gullible as it had been nine years earlier. His yarn, also published in the New York Sun, captured the imagination of the public and there was a great demand for copies of that paper.

Even when Poe explained that his tale was imaginary, many people insisted upon believing it was true. Later Poe said, "If the Victoria did not absolutely accomplish the voyage recorded, it will be difficult to assign a reason why she should not have accomplished it." In view of developments in aviation which were to come within the next 75 years, Poe was not such a bad prophet!

Gates to White House Grounds There are eight gateways to the White House grounds, all opposite to the various entrances.

Uncle Phil Says:



The Liking Is Vital

A child learns good manners by seeing good manners and liking them when he sees them. The panoply of modern warfare does not include honor or humanity.

It is in regarding a woman's "no" lightly that men often make themselves ridiculous.

Want to Be Themselves

Few envy another man; they envy his circumstances.

People who insist on "living their own life," are likely to impose on the lives of others.

Education lessens crime, because it opens the eyes of the tempted to its foolishness.



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