#### News Review of Current Events

### 'ON THE LINE!' DEMANDS CIO

Steel Refuses to Sign Contracts . . . And So There's a Deadlock . . . Look to U. S. for Strike Settlement



Monroe (Mich.) Women Defended Their Husbands' Right to Strike.

## SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK

mands in the strife between the independent steel corporations and John L. Lewis' Committee for Industrial Organization. The corporations have agreed to all of the demands of the unions-verbally. "Verbally"-that is the word which has for weeks kept thousands of workers in eight or ten states from returning to their jobs.

The C. I. O. demands that the corporations put their agreement in the form of a written contract. The corporations refuse. And the unions have refused to call off the strikes until they get the signatures on the

Union officials have taken the poare willing to agree orally to union confirm the agreement in writing. Lewis has demanded that President Rossevelt intervene to force the Court Plan Walloped companies to sign. At a press conference the President refused to say officially what was his reaction to the demand. He did say-and emphasized that he was not speaking "officially"-that he could not see why the companies would not make written agreements if they would make the same ones verbal-

Tum Girdler, chairman of the board of the Republic Steel corporation, explained the companies' stand

"The reason the C. I. O. wants a signed contract is because such · contract would be the first step toward the cineed shop and the check-off.

"Under the closed shop every worker has to being to a union, whether he wants to or not. The closed shop is actually a 'deal' between the employer and the union whereby the employer helps to force every employee into the union. Under the checkoff the company takes unions dues out of the pay envelopes of all its employees and hands them over to the union.

"Does the C. I. O. contract preserve industrial peace? It does not. They have broken numerous con-

#### Federal Intervention Asked

T WAS virtually certain that there would be some federal action in the steel strikes, with Gov. Martin L. Davey of Ohio and Mayor Daniel J. Shields of Johnstown, Pa., appealing desperately to the President for aid. Governor Davey, in a long telegram detailing the arguments on both sides, declared that the situation had gone far beyond the powers of one state to control. When a worker in the Johnstown steel mills was abducted by six strikers and stripped of his clothing in their automobile (he was later released), following weeks of rioting and bloodshed, the mayor decided that kidnaping was the last straw and appealed to Mr. Roosevelt.

Secretary of Labor Frances E. Perkins named a mediation board of three to meet in Cleveland and hear the cases of the union and the companies. On the board were Charles P. Taft, son of the former President and chief justice, a Republican and lawyer from Cincinnati; Lloyd K. Garrison, who served as the first president of the National Labor Relations board in 1934, and Edward F. McGrady, first assistant secretary of labor, and a known enemy of company unions, spy systems and the tear gas method of quelling strike riots.

In Monroe, Mich., where the C. I. O. union threatened to import thousands of pickets from Detroit, a band of several hundred deputized vigilantes, armed, kept the peace, aided by the police force of twenty. In Youngstown, Ohio, Johnstown and other cities vigilante groups were also being formed.

#### Steel Wants Its Mail

mus compelling Postman House on an important leaun.

THERE is no issue of wages, ter General Farley to deliver parcel hours or other material depost packages to steel plants in Ohio which local postmasters have refused to deliver.

The petition charged that the local postmaster at Niles, Ohio, was refusing to deliver packages containing food and clothing and addressed to the loyal workers who were being housed inside the Republic plant. It charged that this refusal was made after the postmaster had reached an "understanding" with two members of the union.

"Having waited a week for a reply to our letter . . . to Mr. Farley and having received none, we have no recourse but to such legal action as is available to us under the cir- for five minutes all right, but over cumstances involved," said John S. and over again he used the same Brooks, Jr., counsel for the corporation. He said separate suits will be demands they ought to be willing to instituted in Ohio against the local postmasters involved.

"HE senate judiciary committee made short work of President Roosevelt's Supreme court packing plan. Its report, in summary: "We recommend the rejection of

this bill as a needless, futile, and uttarly dangerous shandonment constitutional principle. "It was presented to the congress

in a most intricate form and for reasons that obscured its real pur-

"It would not banish age from the bench nor abolish divided de-"It would not affect the power of

any court to hold laws unconstitutional, nor withdraw from any judge the authority to issue injunctions. "It would not reduce the expense of litigation nor speed decision. "It is a proposal without prece-

dent and without justification. "It would subjugate the courts to the will of congress and the President and thereby destroy the inde-

pendence of the judiciary, the only certain shield of individual rights. "It is a measure which should be so emphatically rejected that its parallel will never again be pre-

sented to the free representatives of the free people of America." Informed Washington correspondents were of the belief that the bill hasn't a chance of being passed even with amendments. It seemed not unlikely that, due to the confusion and conflict over White House proposals and statutes, there would be an adjournment of this session of congress shortly, perhaps to reconvene in special session beginning November 1. The breathing spell

would give the administration an

opportunity to align its majority

more solidly behind the President's

desired legislation to improve the

#### lot of the underprivileged. Harry Loses 1st Round

ESPITE the pleas of Harry L. Hopkins, works progress administrator, the full senate appropriation committee approved the

Byrnes amendment to the relief bill, 13 to 10. The amendment to the \$1,500,-000,000 bill requires local governments to pay at least 40 per cent of the cost of all WPA projects, or else sign a kind of civic "pauper's oath." The South Carolina senator's

amendment was

seen as further evi



dence of the break between the administration and the conservative Democrats.

In the senate debate on the bill it quickly became apparent that Sen. Byrnes' "40 per cent amendment" would not carry. Sen. Joseph T. Robinson offered a compromise which would require states to pay 25 per cent of the cost of work relief projects. President Roosevelt had repeatedly made it known that THE Republic Steel corporation he wanted no such rider on his field in the federal district quart relief bill, and it was Sen. Robinagion a petition for a writ son's first break with the White

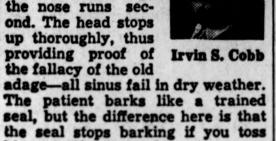
# Thinks about

Summer Influence.

CANTA MONICA, CALIF.—In this favored land we are now starting to celebrate the customary seasonal rite of having our summer influenza.

Summer influenza is distinguished from winter influenza by the fact that the former does not set in until September, thereby providing intervals

for spring and fall to slip in between. The symptoms remain practically the same. The eyes water copiously, but the nose runs second. The head stops up thoroughly, thus providing proof of Irvin S. Cobb the fallacy of the old



him a hunk of raw fish. One could go on at length, but it's difficult to continue a writing job when you're using a nasal inhalent to punctuate with and have a taste in your mouth like moth balls smothered in creosote dress-

The Art of Cussing.

MY OLD chum Burgess Johnson. once an editor but now a college professor, tells a credulous bunch of advertising men that Mark Twain was the champion all-time all-American cusser-could cuss five solid minutes without repeating him-

Pardon me, Burgess, but Mark Twain never did any such thing. Once I heard him at his out-cussingest best-denouncing a publisher who had offended him. He swore lish-speaking race always have used. He didn't introduce a new or an original one.

I studied the art of cussing, both by note and by ear, under such gifted masters of profunity as southern steamboat mates, New York newspaper men, London cab drivers, western mule whackers and north woods timber choppers.

With my hand on my heart I solemnly affirm that not one of these alleged experts ever employed any save the dependable age-seasoned standbys, to wit, seven adjectives, two strong nouns, one ultrastrong soun and one compound phrase-the commonest of all.

Romance for King Zog.

COR about the fifth time comes a plaintive plea from Albania, one of those remote little border countries of eastern Europe where every now and then peace threatens to break out. They have a king over there. At least they had a king at the time of going to press with this dispatch. His name is King Zog. This is neith-er a typographical error nor a vaudeville gag. The name positively a case is on one side of it or on the is Zog, and radio comedians may make the most of it.

For many months he has been paging the world for a wife. The qualifications call for the lady to have \$5,000,000. His majesty would also like for her to turn Mohammedan, but the main requirement is that \$5,000,000 bank roll.

#### California's Coastline.

WHILE it's quite a roomy coastline, California has at present only one coastline. This is a source of mortification to patriotic native sons, Florida having two such, one on either side, besides a dampish area in the middle known as the Everglades.

Still, in a way, California's silvery strand continues to excel. Within easy speeding distance we have at least one beach resort where, when Palm Springs folds up on account of the heat, many of our artistic colony go to relax. So wholeheartedly do some go in for this that often you may stand off a quarter of a mile and hear them relaxing.

Occasionally a relaxationist relaxes so completely that it takes weeks for him to get over it. His friends leave him at the seaside only to gather at the bedside.

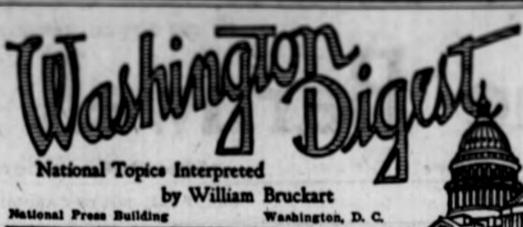
The Changing World.

IT WAS Susan B. Anthony who dedicated her life to the cause of emancipation for her sex. But it was her grandniece who lately attained the headlines by suggesting that, with the addition of a buckle here and a ribbon there, a nightie would make a suitable evening gown for almost any occasion.

Thus do we see how from one generation on to another is handed down the flame of genius and service to womankind.

But, although the inspired suggestion is already weeks old, there still are no signs that it is finding advocates among the queen bees of the cultural hive. Maybe the rea-son is that a belle of the Hollywood artistic group would feel so esten-tatiously overdressed if she wore a full-fushioned nightic to a social

EEVEN S. COMM



painfully apparent that there is no ternal revenue which prescribed Seek New

duce sufficient funds to maintain the cited the fact that the President ocadministration's rate of spending, cupies the White House without paythe President and the Treasury are | ment of rent and that he has availpeeping into every corner for new able a large staff of servants who sources of money. They have al- man that institution: that he is proready recommended to congress vided with automobiles and yachts that the present nuisance taxes be and various other services and cirre-enacted to bring in some five cumstances without cost. Editorialhundred million a year and they are | ly, the newspaper then goes on: casting their eyes elsewhere for other tax receipts.

general pinch that the Treasury now feels, Mr. Roosevelt has asked congress to revise certain provisions of income tax law to close up loopholes and prevent escape from taxation. The President's message to congress on this point was quite bitter and, many observers thought, rather unfair but, nevertheless, he told congress that it was up to the legislative branch to see that there was no tax avoidance.

The President's message dealt with an alleged moral phase of tax avoidance and that part of his message has provoked much criticism of the Chief Executive's attitude. He sought in his statement to the congress to make it appear that many wealthy persons had avoided taxes and that, by so doing, they had sinned.

Now, the President's view is entitled to consideration and his charge that there is tax avoidance is correct. Indeed, I believe no one of his pay." can successfully dispute the charge that there is tax avoidance of a wholesale character in the United States. But when the matter is placed in the category of a moral issue, it must be examined in a different light. The President did not talk about tax evasion in his ance. Tax evasion is illegal and immoral. Tax avoidance is purely and simply the arrangement by an individual so that he pays the lowest tax he can and still complies with the law.

I am inclined to side with those in congress who have criticized the President on the attitude he ansumed. As long as congress tells an individual, through the language of a law, that he must pay so much tax and prescribes the conditions, that individual complies with that direction of congress, he does not commit a crime when he pays only that much tax.

I am constrained to support my view in this instance with the language of the late Mr. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes who, as a member of the Supreme court of the United States, gained probably as much respect as any man who ever sat on the highest bench. Mr. Justice Holmes said in a decision of the court 21 years ago and now strangely apropos the following words:

"We do not speak of evanion, because, when the law draws a line, other, and if on the safe side it is none the worse legally that a person has availed himself to the full of what the law permits. When an act is condemned as an evasion, what is meant is that it is on the wrong side of the line indicated by the policy, if not by the mere letter, of the law."

Again and again, courts have held that a citizen may employ "any legal means" available to him to diminish the tax which he must pay. It would seem then that Mr. Roosevelt's message used rather ill chosen and ill advised language when, in dealing with questions of tax avoidance, he sought to make it appear that it was wrong for a citizen to try to save his own money.

It has been rather interesting to

note the type of outbursts, editorial and verbal, that Message has come as a result of Mr. Roose-Causes Stir velt's tax message. These outbursts have continued partly because the President asked congress to make an investigation of tax avoidance where some very large taxpayers are involved. Of course, congress is going to do that because it will give congress, or at least certain individual members, an opportunity for publicity.

And they do not overlook opportu-

nities for publicity. Since the discussion of tax questions has continued on the basis of the projected investigation, it has given plenty of writers an opportunity to express their opinion in detail. Many of these critics have become quite personal in their assault upon Mr. Roosevelt and their biting observations are doing him no good politically at all. In fact, I have heard some rumblings beneath the surface to the effect that his tax message has hurt him as much politically as his proposal to add six new justices of his own choosing to the Supreme court of the United States.

Probably the worst of these criticisms appeared in the Washington Evening Star, a newspaper that sel-dom takes a bitter stand on any

Washington .- As it becomes more | to regulations of the bureau of inbasis upon which that a person must count as income to expect present anything taken in payment of serv-Tax Sources returns of federal ices, whether that thing be money taxation to pro- or some other thing of value. It

"Has the President of the United States, unwittingly, failed to include In addition, and as a part of the | in his income tax the value to him of the Asidence provided by the government which pays him his salary? Under these regulations it would appear that even the automobiles and the yachts provided by the government should be considered in making out an income tax return. There is no publication of income taxes and therefore the public is not informed as to whether the high officials of the government who are provided with residences, as some are, or with automobiles, as many of them are, take these things into consideration in reporting their income taxes. It would scarcely be an argument to say that residence provided for a public official is not part of his pay. Cabinet officers, for example, are not provided with residences by the government. They must provide residences them-selves, at considerable cost. It is obvious, therefore, that a residence given a government official is part

> When the President proposed the tax investigation, he said that he believed there were

Pick on a good many mil-Big Ones forced into the federal treasury as tion followed sweeping orders issued to internal revenue agents and auditors to review every income tax return with the utmost care. The agents and auditors, of course, will go over the returns filed by the entire list of income tax payers, little as well as big, but the congressional investigation will be devoted only to some of the men called by Mr. Roosevelt, "economic rayalists." It is obvious that congress cannot go into all returns so congress will pick on the big ones because those men will have names out of which good headlines in newspapers can be

The Treasury had a different idea about the investigation which congress undertook at the President's equest. The Treasury's plan contemplated a number of secret hearings, star chamber sessions, and I believe everyone knows what can be had in a star chamber session with bureaucrats operating with all of the powers they possess in our

Word of the Treasury's ideas did please congressional leaders and they very quickly put their foot down on the scheme. Of course, members of the house and senate figured they would not share in the political benefits unless they did the investigating. I hear much comment to the effect, however, that an investigation in the manner congrees had decided to make it is much preferable to the star chamber proceedings which the Treasury

I mentioned that the congressional committee is dealing only with "big names." The reason for this is plain. It would do no good at all in a publicity way for the congressional groups to call in some small taxpayer who, by availing himself of the privileges of the law, had been able to reduce his total tax to a comparatively few dollars. On the other hand, if a big business man, an economic royalist, claims all of the exemptions and deductions that the law specifies and thereby cuts down his tax, he becomes the subject or the target for much ballyhoo about tax avoidance. I do not see the difference.

Since the President finds himself n a deadlock with congress on his proposal to add Piles Work six justices of his on Congress own choosing to the Supreme court

of the United States, he has turned to a new approach in dealing with the legislative situation. He has suddenly loaded congress down with work. This is to be distinguished from the course he has followed in his earlier years of his tenure when he submitted only one legislative suggestion at a time.

Now, in addition to the court reorganization proposal, there is before congress the far-reaching governmental reorganization plan, the billion dollar slum clearance and house building, farm tenancy bill and a highly controversial piece of legislation proposing to establish minimum wages and maximum hours for labor. These are, in addition, of course, to the tax revision proposition I have discussed above and the annual appropriation bills with the billion and a half relief fund measure.

## Way Back When

GERTRUDE STEIN DROVE AN AMBULANCE

DERHAPS your brother or your father went over to France with the A. E. F. and saw a rattling old French ambulance jolting over the shell-torn roads with two women on the driver's seat. One, a husky, healthy woman with hair clipped short and heavy masculine shoes, was Gertrude Stein; the other, tall and angular and more feminine, was her secretary, Alice B. Toklas.

Gertrude Stein was born in Allegheny, Pa., in 1872. Much of her childhood, until she was five years old, was spent in Europe. Then her family moved to California, and she was raised in San Francisco and Oakland. After attending Radcliffe college, she went to medical school at Johns Hopkins. She settled in Paris in 1903, and the world may have lost a great surgeon as she abandoned the scalpel to carve out a career as an author.

She paid to have her first book printed, because no publisher would accept it. Wide recognition came to her with the publication of her book, "The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas," in which she uses



lions of dollars her secretary's life story as & that could be means of praising her own accomher book, "The Making of Americans," is the greatest ever written. Her motto, "A rose is a rose is a rose," and some of her sentences such as "Tousted Susie is my ice cream," or this one from her play, "Four Saints in Three Acts" (there were actually many more saints and there were four acts), "If a magpie in the sky on the sky cannot cry if the pigeon on the grass alas can alas and to pass the pigeon on the grass alas and the magpie in the sky on the sky and to try and to try alas on the grass a'us the pigeon on the grans the pigeon on IP's grass and alas" have made many critics think that the strain of ambulance driving may have been too much for her.

#### FANNIE HURST LIVED LIKE HER CHARACTERS

HAVE you read "Back Street," for Fire, and Ten"? Have you wept and thrilled over the shop girls of Fannie Hurst's short stories? Fannie Hurst, herseli, was once a waitress, a nursemaid, a caleagirl, and a sweatshup worker. Had you met her then, you could hardly have known that some day she would be hailed throughout America as a leading novelist.

Fannie Hurst was born in Hamilton. Ohio, in 1889. She was raised in St Louis, Mo., an only child who had many lonesome hours for readng. At fourteen, she submitted blank verse to the Saturday Evening Post. Spurred on by ambitions, she wrote until three and four in the morning while a student at Washington university, came to New York to Columbia university, and for years wrote without having a single story accepted. From the



Saturday Evening Post, alone, she received 36 rejection slips.

Her first encouragement came from R. H. Davis, editor of Munsey's and success followed swiftly. Her first book, a collection of short stories, was published ir 1914, and her works appeared regularly thereafter, including "Mannequin" in 1926, which was awarded a prize of \$50,000 by a moving picture corporation.

Fannie Hurst now lives in luxury in New York city. A handsome woman, she loves fine furs, gare laces, and brilliant colors. What a contrast to the humble scenes that made possible her successful inter-pretation of shopgirl hearts and souls are the rich surroundings her persevering ambition has won for