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.

Edward W. Pickard
SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK
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THERE is no issue of wages, hours or other material demands 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 line.

Union officials have taken the position that if the company officials are willing to agree orally to union demands they ought to be willing to confirm the agreement in writing. Lewis has demanded that President Roosevelt intervene to force the 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 verbally.

Tom 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 a contract would be the first step toward the closed shop and the check-off.

"Under the closed shop every worker has to belong 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 contracts."

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Federal Intervention Asked

IT 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.

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Steel Wants Its Mail

THE Republic Steel corporation filed in the federal district court in Washington a petition for a writ of mandamus compelling Postmaster General Farley to deliver parcel post 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 circumstances involved," said John S. Brooks, Jr., counsel for the corporation. He said separate suits will be instituted in Ohio against the local postmasters involved.

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Court Plan Walloped

THE 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 utterly dangerous abandonment of constitutional principle.

"It was presented to the congress in a most intricate form and for reasons that obscured its real purpose.

"It would not banish age from the bench nor abolish divided decisions.

"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 precedent and without justification.

"It would subjugate the courts to the will of congress and the President and thereby destroy the independence 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 presented 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.

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Harry Loses 1st Round

DESPITE 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 evidence of the break between the administration and the conservative Democrats.

Harry Hopkins

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 he wanted no such rider on his relief bill, and it was Sen. Robinson's first break with the White House on an important issue.

Capital on the Move

THE Spanish loyalist government after another terrific bombing of the city by Insurgent airplanes of the German Junkers and Heinkel types, decided to move the capital from Bilbao to Santander, but to defend Bilbao to the death. The Basque battalions reorganized for a last ditch stand to protect the broken "iron ring" of the city's defenses from the forces of General Francisco Franco. The latter, it was admitted, already had penetrated the first line of fortifications near Fica and Larrabezua, five miles to the east. Several persons were killed and many houses destroyed by the rebel bombs and machine guns. Meanwhile the loyalists were claiming important advances along the Cordoba front.

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Reds Rub Out 8

EIGHT Soviet Russian generals, including Marshal Michail Tukhachevsky, former vice commissar of defense, learned the wrath of the Kremlin. Condemned for treason, they were led before a firing squad and killed, by order of the military tribunal of the Soviet supreme court. The court only the day before had declared them guilty of conspiring with the military intelligence service of an "unfriendly" foreign power. Although the "unfriendly" power was never named by officials, correspondents in Moscow declared indications were unmistakable that Red leaders believe the power was Nazi Germany.

Most of the Russian capital was virtually certain that the eight, who had been denied appeal, had been put to death for an ambitious plot to rob the Soviet of its western provinces and turn them over to Germany.

The Soviet purge was followed by the suicide of Alexander G. Cherviakov, forty-five-year-old president of the White Russian Soviet Republic, westernmost of the Soviet Union's republics. While it was said that he had killed himself "for family reasons" his death came almost immediately after his denunciation in a meeting as a plotter against the Communist party. Hundreds of thousands of suspects were reported removed from the Communist party rolls by the government.

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Fiscal Dictator for France

WHILE a congressional committee in the United States prepared to begin an investigation of alleged tax dodgers among the wealthy, Vincent Auriol, French finance minister, gave broad hints to French millionaires that they, too, had better get themselves square with the tax collector. He revealed that the tax rate will be raised on the higher bracket incomes and on products which are government monopolies, such as tobacco, matches and alcohol. Measures will be taken, in France's financial crisis, to prevent frightened capitalists from exporting funds abroad.

Premier Blum

All this because the Communist party, reversing its long stand at the last minute, agreed to accept Premier's Blum's proposal that he be made financial dictator of the nation for six weeks. In that time he hopes to raise the 30 billion francs needed to finance the government throughout the year. Most authorities believe that six weeks will not suffice, that he will be forced to ask for an extension of his "full emergency powers." Blum hopes that the long awaited business revival will actually set in during that period, solving the whole financial problem automatically.

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We're in the Money!

IF YOU don't think things are picking up, maybe the United States Department of Commerce can convince you. It has just reported the national income for 1936 reached a total of $62,056,000,000, and officials predicted that the figure for 1937 would reach $70,000,000,000. The all-time high was $78,632,000,000 in the dizzy boom year of 1929, and the all-time low $44,940,000,000 in 1933.

The department's report said that since 1933 the national income has risen more swiftly than prices and that the real purchasing power of individuals was much larger. Income, it said, increased 38 per cent from 1933 to 1936, while the cost of living advanced 8 per cent. The per capita income of employees last year was listed at $1,244, which was $58 more than in the preceding year and 88.4 per cent of the figure for 1929.

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CIO Starts at Bottom

JOHN L. LEWIS aimed another blow at steel through the United Mine Workers, of which he is president. Workers in the captive mines (mines operated by an individual steel concern which is the sole user of the coal brought to the surface) in Pennsylvania walked out of the shafts and joined the steel picket lines. The purpose was to cripple further the steel plants now shut down or operating under difficulties while picketed; the immediate objective was the closing of the Cambria plant of Bethlehem Steel. The effectiveness of the walkout was a matter for dispute; plant officials claimed all departments were in operation. In some plants the miners outnumbered striking steel workers as steel pickets.

What Irvin S. Cobb Thinks about

Summer Influenza.

SANTA 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.

Irvin S. Cobb

The symptoms remain practically the same. The eyes water copiously, but the nose runs second. The head stops up thoroughly, thus providing proof of the fallacy of the old adage—all sinus fail in dry weather. The patient barks like a trained seal, but the difference here is that the seal stops barking if you toss 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 dressing.

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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 himself.

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 for five minutes all right, but over and over again he used the same few familiar oaths which the English-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 profanity 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 noun and one compound phrase—the commonest of all.

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Romance for King Zog.

FOR 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 neither a typographical error nor a vaudeville gag. The name positively 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.

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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 natives 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.

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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 reason is that a belle of the Hollywood artistic group would feel so ostentatiously overdressed if she wore a full-fashioned nightie to a social function.

IRVIN S. COBB.

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Voices of God

"The voices of nature are the voices of God," Jean Sibelius, famous Finnish composer, has said, "and if an artist can give a mere echo of them in his creations, he is fully rewarded for all of his efforts."

Love Our Own Words

"However unimportant our words may be," said Hi Ho, the sage of Chinatown, "we love them like children and seek to give them prominent place when they are our own."

In as Much as Young Man Qualified for Job, He Got It

Applicant Finds Education Surely Is Requisite These Days.

"Well," inquired the man in the swivel chair as the seventy-fourth applicant of the day strode into his office, "have you had a thorough education in art?"

"Yes, sir," answered the young applicant confidently, "I have."

"Studied in Europe?"

"Yes. Four years at the Beaux Arts."

"And you're sure you could guide visitors through this place competently?"

"Yes, I am sure."

"Well, we shall see. What were the three Greek orders?"

"Ionic, Corinthian and Doric."

"Very good. What are the outstanding features of Gothic architecture?"

"Pointed arches, vertical accent, skeletonal framework with small wall space and large windows. This contrasts with the Romanesque where—"

"Whoa. Whoa. That's enough. And you'd be able to explain reproductions of great painters to inquiring visitors?"

"Certainly. The perspective of Fabriano, the power and religious fervor of Masaccio, the splendid chiaroscuro of Leonardo, the relentless realism of Rembrandt, the brilliant color tones of Veronese, born 1528, died—"

"Splendid! Now name some important sculptors."

"Praxiteles, Michelangelo, Houdon, Donatello, Bernini, Codion, Cellini—"

"You'll do. Now go and get your overalls on," concluded the proprietor of the Ducal Filling Station, Inc., "and give that customer out there a few gallons of gas." — Parke Cummings, in Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Words to the Wise"

The Plattsburg Manual, an American military handbook published in 1918, contained a section called "Some General Hints," which were words to the wise to be borne in mind on the battlefield. Among them was this bit of advice: "Don't get killed—unless necessary."—Collier's Weekly.

To the Point

Even a good resolution must have backbone to keep it from getting wobbly.

People who want more than they need have the minds of children.

The old-fashioned girl used to get a husband by making pies like her mother used to make. Now the modern girl makes eyes like her mother used to make.

A skeptic is a fellow who deliberately walks under a ladder just to see if he can change his luck.

Too many men never do a charitable act unless there is somebody around to applaud.

Time in Other Lands

Most countries introduced daylight saving time during the war. With the coming of peace Germany, Austria, Italy, and Scandinavia went back to the old system of keeping time. Summer time was permanently adopted in Britain in 1916, in Belgium in 1925, in Spain and Portugal in 1926, in New Zealand in 1927. Here only a part of the country makes any difference between time in winter and summer, but in Mexico summer time is observed all the year.

Masterpiece of Colonial Building Fully Restored

The magnificent stairway in the Chase house at Annapolis, which architects regard as a masterpiece of Colonial building and one of the two or three best examples of its period in the country, has discarded the crutches upon which it depended for support these last 30 years and now stands alone, as firm and strong as when some unknown carpenter fastened the final mortise into its fabric and pronounced it finished, says the Baltimore Sun.

Visitors to the house no longer are confronted by the unsightly white-painted columns which were installed a generation ago to prevent the then sagging structure from collapsing. They see, instead, a broad flight of easy steps which rise, with the inner edge of one resting so lightly that it seems to do little more than touch the top of the tread on the step below, to a broad landing lighted by a palladian window.

An Archeologic Find

Startling finds in the mound of Teppe Gawra, 15 miles north of Mosul, in Irak, have proved conclusively that the "painted pottery peoples" whom historians and archeologists considered a primitive race, had developed a remarkably artistic civilization. The stratum on which most of the diggings have been made goes back to the fifth millennium, and reveals magnificent temples, built in clay, decorated in red brick.

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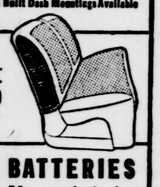

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