what Irvin S. Cobb thinks about:

The New NRA Bill.

SANTA MONICA, CALIF. — They do say the new NRA bill, as drawn by the Gallagher and Shean of the administration, Messrs. Corcoran and Cohen, is more sweeping than was the original NRA.

Even Gen. Hugh Johnson, once as conversational as Mrs. Astor's parrot, but lately exiled amid the uncongenial silences, crawls out from under a log in the woods with lichens in his hair, but the lower jaw still working smoothly in the socket, to tell how drastic a thing it is.

Irvin S. Cobb

Critics assert this legislation will cover business like a wet blanket over a sick pup, and point out that the number of sick pups benefited by being tucked under wet blankets is quite small. However, these fussy persons belong to the opposition and don't count. Anyhow, they didn't count much at the last election except in Maine, Vermont and one backward precinct in the Ozark mountains.

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Friendly French Visitors.

IT SEEMS we were cruelly wrong in ascribing mercenary motives to those French financiers who've been dropping in on us lately. They came only to establish more cordial relations. Of course, there's a new French bond issue to be floated, but these visits were purely friendly and altruistic.

Still and all, I can't help thinking of Mr. Pincus, who invaded the east side to invite his old neighbor, Mr. Ginsburg, whom he hadn't seen in years, to be a guest at Mrs. Pincus' birthday party.

He gave full directions for traveling uptown, then added:

"Vere we lif now it's von of dose swell valk-up flats. So mit your right elbow you gif a little poosh on the thoid button in the doorjam downstairs und the lock goes glick-glick und in you come. You go up two floors und den, mit your other elbow, you gif one more little poosh on the foist door to the left und valk in—und vill mommer be surprised!"

"Vait," exclaimed Mr. Ginsburg. "I could get to that Bronnix. I got brains, ain't it? But ulso I got fingers und thumbs. Vot is de poosh-mit-elbows stuff?"

Murmured Mr. Pincus gently:

"Surely you vouldn't come empty-handed!"

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Visiting Ancient Ranchos.

UNDER the guidance of Leo Carillo, that most native of all native sons, I've been visiting such of the ancient ranchos as remain practically what they were before the Gringos came to southern California. You almost expect to find Ramona weaving in a crumbly patio.

What's more, every one of these lovely places is lived on by one of Leo's cousins. He has more kinfolks than a microbe. They say the early Carillos were pure Spanish, but I insist there must have been a strong strain of Belgian hare in the stock. When it came to progeny, the strain was to the Pacific coast what the Potomac shad has been to the eastern seaboard. It's more than a family—it's a species.

And a mighty noble breed it is—producing even yet the fragrant essence of a time that elsewhere has vanished and a day when hospitality still ruled and a naturally kindly people had time to be mannerly and the instinct to be both simple and grandly courteous at once.

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Privileges of Nazidom.

THE German commoner may be shy on the food rations and have some awkward moments unless he conforms to the new Nazi religion. But he enjoys complete freedom of the press—or rather, complete freedom from the press. And lately another precious privilege has been accorded him.

He may fight duels. Heretofore, this inestimable boon was exclusively reserved for the highborn. But now he may go forth and carve and be carved until the field of honor looks like somebody had been cleaning fish.

This increase in his blessings makes me recall a tale that Charley Russell, the cowboy artist, used to tell:

"The boys were fixing to hang a horse thief," Charley said. "He only weighed about ninety pounds, but for his heft he was the champion horse thief of Montana. The rope was swung from the roof of a barn. Then they balanced a long board out of the loft window, and the condemned was out at the far end of it, ready for the drop, when a stranger busted in.

"Everybody thought he craved to pray, but that unknown humanitarian had a better notion than that. In less'n a minute he came inching out on that plank and there wasn't a dry eye in the crowd as he edged up behind the poor trembling wretch and slipped an anvil in the seat of his pants."

IRVIN S. COBB.

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"An Act of God"

In legal phraseology "an act of God" is an overwhelming natural event, such as a storm or earthquake, which no human being could be reasonably expected to foresee or prevent.

"Devil's Darning Needle"

The dragon fly is the object of several curious superstitions. Perhaps the most prevalent is that this insect will get into children's hair and sew up their ears. Hence the name "devil's darning needle."

News Review of Current Events

F. D. R. EYEING THIRD TERM?

Belief He Is Grows in Capital . . . State Troops Act For Peace in Strikes . . . Mediation Board Hits Snags

Being human at bar on island where President Roosevelt "humanized" relations between the White House and majority members of congress: Senators Key Pittman (left) of Nevada and John H. Overton of Louisiana.

"Humanizing" the Majority

AS MAJORITY members of congress met on Jefferson island in Chesapeake bay with President Roosevelt, to have their relations with the chief executive "humanized," the belief in Washington circles that the President is willing to accept a third term expanded to the greatest proportions it has yet known.

President Roosevelt

The spark which touched off the latest cloakroom whisperings of a third term was the declaration by Gov. George H. Earle of Pennsylvania that he would give "unqualified and final" support to a Roosevelt - for - President movement in 1940. Further reports had it that John L. Lewis, chairman of the Committee for Industrial Organization and leader of the sit-down strikes that have swept the nation, was working toward the same end. The President has only indirectly disavowed such an ambition. He said at his victory dinner:

"My great ambition on January 20, 1941, is to turn over this desk and chair in the White House to my successor, whoever he may be, with the assurance that I am at the same time turning over to him as President a nation intact, a nation at peace, a nation prosperous . . ."

The "humanizing" on Jefferson island was interpreted as attempts to salvage the New Deal programs, which have been getting a mild kicking around in congress of late, through heart - to - heart talks between Mr. Roosevelt and his supporters in the Capitol.

Several pieces of attempted legislation, most notably the President's Supreme court bill, have apparently created a split between the conservatives and liberals in the Democratic party. The President's continued silence throughout the C. I. O. strikes has been a factor, too. Democratic members of congress are puzzled to decide whether the President is unwittingly bringing about the split, or is doing so deliberately with an eye to freezing out the conservatives and creating a completely liberal party. They would also like to know whether he is silently supporting John L. Lewis or is simply giving the C. I. O. leader plenty of rope with which to hang himself.

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States Patrol Strike Areas

AS NATIONAL guardsmen, ordered out by Gov. Martin L. Davey, arrived on the scene to protect the public peace in Ohio cities where C. I. O. steel strikes have caused bloodshed and threatened more, violence dwindled, temporarily at least, to the throwing of a few stones and choice epithets.

At Warren, troops dispersed pickets and allowed loyal workmen to move in and out of the Republic Steel plants. A general strike which the C. I. O. had ordered and claimed to be 40 to 70 per cent effective was recalled after a day, with the threat, "The next time our men are called out, it will be on even a larger scale."

At Youngstown the strikers were celebrating the order by which several hundred state troops were forcing the four plants of Republic and the Youngstown Sheet & Tube company to remain closed. Then Gov. Davey reversed his order, commanding troops to keep the plants open.

Shortly before the arrival of the troops, in Youngstown two C. I. O. strikers had been killed and 25 persons injured as strikers and local police fought for hours in front of a Republic plant.

Bethlehem Steel's plant at Johnstown, Pa., was closed and kept closed for several days by Pennsylvania state police under instructions from Governor Earle. Martial law was finally lifted.

Any eastward movement of the sit-down strikes was given something of a setback when strikers in the Apex Hosiery company plant at Philadelphia were forced to evacuate under a federal court eviction order. During the seven weeks the sit-downers had occupied the plant they had wrought damage to machinery and books totaling $3,000,000, according to company officials.

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Nazi Fleet Moves on Valencia

FOR the second time Germany and Italy withdrew from the four-power non-intervention patrol of Spain, asserting that by this act their "freedom of action" was restored. Hitler immediately ordered the strongest units of the Nazi fleet to Valencia, the loyalist capital, the while assuring Great Britain he would commit no rash act. Britain, in turn, let it be known through her ambassador at Berlin that she would regard any hostile act against the Spanish government "most seriously."

The reason for the Fascist nations' withdrawal was that Great Britain and France had refused to join them in a naval demonstration at Valencia to protest the alleged loyalist submarine attack against the German cruiser Leipzig on May 18. Germany and Italy, who support the rebels, were assigned to patrol the eastern, or loyalist, coast of Spain under the four-power patrol agreement. Although they have quit cooperating with the patrol their ships remain in the patrolled waters.

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Hopkins Slices WPA Rolls

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATOR HARRY L. HOPKINS is busy trimming 314,759 names off the WPA rolls, to shave the total to 1,655,477 by mid-July. The cut was to be effected "simply through not replacing men who found jobs in private industry" and by combing the lists for ineligibles. WPA officials emphasized the need for economy by comparing the estimated $2,175,000,000 spent in 1937 with the $1,500,000,000 approved by congress for relief in fiscal 1938.

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Miss Perkins Names Three

THE federal government took a hand in the settlement of the dispute between John L. Lewis' Committee for Industrial Organization and the big independent steel companies, as the mediation board of three, appointed by Secretary of Labor Frances E. Perkins, sat in Cleveland to hear the cases of both sides. The government's move was prompted as the steel strikes, affecting plants in several states, threatened new outbreaks of violence which might be beyond the powers of local or even state governments to control.

Secy. Perkins

As the mediators began their task of effecting a compromise, a dozen persons had been killed in strike riots and scores more injured since the strike against Republic, Bethlehem, Youngstown Sheet & Tube, and Inland started May 26. Eighty-five thousand workers already had lost approximately $10,000,000 in wages.

Charles P. Taft II, Cincinnati lawyer, son of the former President and chief justice, and a member of the "brain trust" of Governor Landon's presidential campaign, was named chairman of the mediation board. Appointed to sit with him were Lloyd K. Garrison, former president of the national labor relations board, and Edward F. McGrady, assistant secretary of labor and a former A. F. of L. organizer under Samuel Gompers.

The mediation board had a job cut out for it. It was to conduct an investigation of the strikes and the grievances of both sides, then make recommendations for a settlement. It has power to act as arbitrator only if both sides request it to do so. The first stumbling block it encountered was the refusal of Tom Girdler, chairman of Republic, to sit in the same room with C. I. O. representatives.

French Premier Quits

FACED with one of those financial crises all too frequent in recent French history, Premier Leon Blum asked the senate for powers which would make him financial dictator of France for about six weeks. He did not believe it possible to bring order into the treasury without so drastic a measure. When it was refused he and the 20 members of his cabinet resigned. He had served 117 days of his second year as premier of France—something of a modern record. President Albert Lebrun designated Camille Chautemps, radical socialist and a former premier, to attempt the formation of a new cabinet. A successor to Blum was not immediately in sight.

Premier Blum

The Popular Front government was one of the bulwarks of leftist tendencies in Europe, as opposed to extreme Fascism, and openly expressed its sympathy for the Spanish loyalists. Its passing is extremely important in international affairs.

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The Mail Must Go Through

FEDERAL warrants were issued at Cleveland for six C. I. O. leaders in the strike at Youngstown and Warren, charging them with preventing delivery of the United States mails to loyal employees of the steel company plants there. Their names were not revealed.

The order for the obtaining of the warrant was given by Attorney-General Homer S. Cummings after he had looked over testimony at the senate post office committee's hearing. Charges have been made that C. I. O. leaders were censoring the mail in Ohio cities and refusing to permit delivery of parcel post packages containing food, clothing and other "irregular" articles for workers in the plants.

"All mail that the post office department sees fit to attempt to deliver must be delivered," said Cummings. This did not conflict with the post office department's refusal to deliver packages to the plants, but sought to prosecute persons who would prevent the delivery of mail the department had okayed.

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Bilbao Falls at Last

BILBAO, capital of the Spanish loyalists, fell before an attacking force for the first time in history; it had withstood many sieges dating from medieval ages. In the bombing and shelling which broke the "iron ring" of defense the loyalists had so steadfastly maintained the city was literally torn to shreds and the death toll, which included many women and children, was enormous. But as the Fascists moved in, parading jubilantly, to take possession of the city for Gen. Francisco Franco, not a shot was fired. The last defenders had fled toward Santander, 45 miles to the west. The Basques were estimated to have used 75,000 men in defending Bilbao; 10,000 were either killed or wounded.

Gen. Franco

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Louis Is Champ by K. O.

JOE LOUIS, the "Brown Bomber" from Detroit, became heavyweight boxing champion of the world when he knocked out Champion James J. Braddock of New York in the eighth round of a scheduled 15-round bout at Chicago. A total paid attendance of 41,675 saw the furious battle in which the young Golden Gloves graduate came back to win after being knocked down himself in the first round.

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The Tax Parade

AS A congressional committee opened hearings on tax evasion and avoidance by wealthy citizens, Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau was among the first to testify. He said the nation was losing hundreds of millions of dollars in annual revenue through such tactics. Then his under-secretary, Roswell Magill, suggested three changes in the present tax laws: That depletion reductions be eliminated, that community-property provisions now in effect in some states be circumvented, and that higher levies be put upon the American-earned incomes of non-resident aliens.

The first names mentioned in the hearings were connected with the practice of forming foreign corporations to which individual incomes are transferred, a scheme which treasury officials said was usually within "the letter of the law." Among the first names were: Philip De Ronde, former president of the Hibernia Trust company of New York, now Paraguayan consul in New York; Jules S. Bache, New York banker; Jacob Schick, ex-army officer and electric-razor inventor, and Charles Laughton, motion-picture actor.

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Barrie's Last Curtain

SIR JAMES M. BARRIE, novelist and playwright, whose whimsical pen gave to the world many important works of literature, including "Peter Pan," "The Little Minister," "Dear Brutus," and "What Every Woman Knows," died of bronchial pneumonia in London. He was seventy-seven years old.

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Polar Bear Nearly Kills Mate for Her Disloyalty

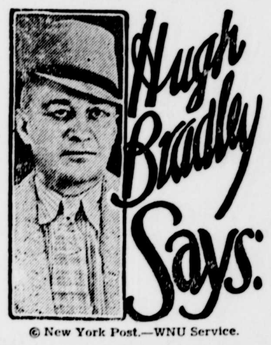
A triangle drama among polar bears nearly ended with the attempted murder of the disloyal female bear at the famous Krone circus, widely known in Europe and other parts of the world.

One female bear of the group of eleven performing stunts every night deserted her "lover," a strong and very jealous animal and fell victim to the wooing of another male "colleague" in the drama. The jilted bear deceived his ex-mate thoroughly by making her feel that he did not care very much about her anyhow, and continued to perform wonderfully well every night with the white-furred artists.

One day, however, when the group took a bath, he saw his chance. As soon as his faithless love jumped into the water he jumped after her and kept her under for such a long time that everybody believed her drowned. But she emerged alive.

"Dentist Fish" at London Zoo

To the angler fish with its rod and bait and the tailor fish with its shears-like jaws there has now been added a "dentist fish" to the aquarium at the London zoo. This fish, according to The Observer, actually uses its tubular snout to extract food particles from between the teeth of large voracious sea perch. As in most coral fishes, the newcomers are gorgeously tinte wearing vivid silver liveries, str with orange and black.



Hugh Bradley Says.

© New York Post.—WNU Service.

Dean-Frick Battle Has Made Cardinals More Serious Outfit

NO DOUBT the real facts in the case are merely that Dizzy Dean has recently happened to have some of his best days while ill-luck has been continuing its overdue catching up with Carl Hubbell.

Maybe that isn't the whole explanation, though. Certainly a change has come over the Cards' dugout since the St. Louis representatives were training in Florida and since the season opened.

During the training period Frankie Frisch's young men were more concerned with the lighter aspects of life than with the business of baseball. Having read in the newspapers that they were due to win a pennant they let it go at that and devoted their more diligent attention to guitar concerts on street corners. Once the National league season had started there was no greater concern over frequent defeats. Somehow the athletes seemed to believe that such rebuffs could not happen to them in real life and that they would wake up almost any morning to find they merely had been victims of bad dreams.

Captain Leo Durocher, having played with a Yankee team or two that similarly misplaced its confidence over a portion of the season, was one of the few who had a correct line on the situation.

"Yeah, we've got a good team but it's a young one," he explained when the Cards were moving blithely and none too adeptly through their early season exercises. "A team like that can win a pennant and it also can finish away down with the Dodgers. It's all how the breaks fall or, rather, how things click. Something's got to wake us up and start us going. What? How do I know? How does any one know? Those things just happen.

"Remember that time in Cleveland when Mike Gazella, just a substitute, practically browbeat a Yankee team into snapping out of it and grabbing the flag? Nobody told him to do it. He just happened to touch off the spark when too many great players were feeling low or acting careless. Something similar can happen to us. Then watch."

Viewing the Cards in the dugout before a game recently, I remembered that conversation. The collection of babbling, carefree young men who were more concerned with carrying on feuds among themselves than with doing serious damage to the opposition a month ago had changed. The Cards were not the hard - bitten Gas House Gangsters of two or three seasons ago but neither were they joy-riding youths.

Dizzy Dean

More than anything they were like the Giants who sat in the dugout across from them. Serious athletes, that is. Young men not given to too much carryings on but intent upon giving the fans who crowded the stands a fair break for the attention lavished upon them.

Even Dean, ordinarily a gentleman who could give a ten-mile start to Tennyson's famed brook in any babbling contest, was as silent as Hubbell across the way. Only once in the 30 minutes immediately preceding game time was there anything like the celebrated Dean wit and humor. Then some stranger intruded to ask for the classic Dean signature on a baseball.

"Shucks," was the reply then. "Get away, man. The only way I'll sign anything with that guy's name on it is with a bat."

Since the name of Ford Frick, president of the National league and the recent spanker of Mr. Dean, is prettily written on all the league baseballs before they leave the factory, there seemed no doubt about who "that guy" was. Also the chorused amens which followed this fervent announcement seem now to indicate what has converted the Cards into a team.

Definitely, the St. Louis representatives continue to chafe under the reprimand of the league president who was only doing his duty. Frick revealed to them that they were not quite the objects of popular adoration that some of them had conceived themselves to be. Since the truth hurts worse than anything else the young men were bound to get even.

Dean pitched as he can pitch when he remembers he is no longer a barefooted kid in an Arkansas cotton patch. The Cards played the ball of which they are capable and—

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THINGS I WONDER ABOUT:

If Max Baer's renewed interest in fighting and making money is not due to the fact Max and Mary Ellen are not anticipating the arrival of a future heavyweight champion this fall.

If any of the major-league scouts have heard about a seventeen-year-old, 190-pound right-hander named Joe Rutter who now pitches for Exeter. Folks who have seen him in action say he has a fast ball almost as good as the one Bob Feller seems to have lost.

NOT IN THE BOX SCORE:

BILL STEWART, baseball umpire and former chief of referees in the National Hockey league, plans to dress the Chicago Black Hawks in Balloon silk pants and gaudy jerseys when he starts managing them next season. Says it will give them more crowd appeal . . . Chan Parmelee, who gave promise of becoming as good a pitcher as his big brother who stars for the Cubs, has decided to quit baseball rather than continue on a Dodgers' farm . . . Archie San Romani writes that he is in the best shape of his career.

One of the most eminent metropolitan bookmakers, inside and outside the tracks, is getting away with a new gag. Each day one of the bookie's representatives noseys around the jockeys' room and secretary's office seeking red hot information . . . Jersey golfers are saying that Foster Fargo, powerful seventeen-year-old who enters Yale next fall, will be one of the links' top notchers within a couple of seasons. The Plainfield youngster, who tied with Craig Wood for the medal in the 1936 Jersey open and who has been champion at Hotchkiss for the past three years, is long off the tees and warm on the greens.

Owners of New York's three major league baseball clubs are tiffing with one another again because of their agreement to ban radio broadcasts from the parks. It seems that the bank which handles everything so nicely for the Dodgers and pays two managers to keep them in the second division wants to break the agreement for 25 G's . . . The U. S. G. A., which has managed to ball up most of its tournaments in recent years, should have sent a representative to the P. G. A. tourney at the Pittsburgh Field club. The pros and John McGraw, president of the club, did such a courteous and efficient job that even the most hardened golf writers now have new faith in human nature.

Those touts who expected to reap a harvest at the new du Pont racetrack near Wilmington are scared of only one thing—the Delaware lynching laws . . . John Ogden, Baltimore Orioles, business manager, blames International league happenings on the rainy spring weather. Says hard-hit balls had no chance to bounce on the soggy infields and so pitchers with very little stuff have been getting by against power teams.

Mr. and Mrs. Tony Now Follow the Horses

Now that he has retired from prizefighting Tony Canzoneri and the pretty Mrs. Tony get their thrills out of watching horse races. . . . Al Schacht, the baseball comedian who has just signed a handsomethree-year movie contract, gets $250 each time he puts on his act in a big league park . . . The use of that green aniline grass dye that attracted so much attention at the Army-Navy game last fall has spread to the hunts field where it is used to give a permanent appearance to the temporary jumps . . . Paul Mellon, incidentally, has joined that very select group of life members in the United Hunts.

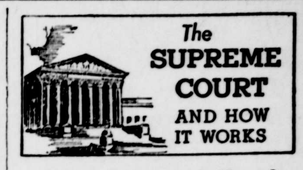
Tony Canzoneri

Pug Peace, 190-pound blocking back who starred for the frosh team last fall, is being named as a sure-fire star on the Pitt varsity, which should be better than ever in October . . . Although boxers are supposed to appear entirely in the nude when they weigh in for fights, the ever modest Tony Galento always wears his wrist watch . . . Flamingo Joe Widener, the Belmont owner who always runs off to Europe before the season's big race at his track, has patched up his feud with the United Hunts.

Ky Laffoon is the only big-time golfer who chews tobacco during a tournament. Whenever he gets in a tough spot he just spurts out a thin geyser of juice and steps up and belts the ball . . . Mrs. J. G. Clark named her clever Irish Battle jumper Wibm because of her friendly rivalry with Mrs. Marion Gibson, M. F. H. of the Goldens Bridge Hounds. The name means "Will I beat Marion" and the bookmakers don't like it . . . Gabe Genovise, manager of the former middleweight champion, Babe Risko, paid transportation charges on Hans Haverlick, the Austrian heavyweight who is being handled by the Woodman and Lawrence combination.

Battling Nelson, who held the lightweight championship from 1908 to 1910, celebrated his 55th birthday recently . . . Amateur golfers in Philadelphia play annually for a trophy donated by Howard Ehmke, former Athletic pitcher who struck out 13 Cubs in the 1929 world's series opener at Wrigley field . . . Sad Sam Gibson, who won his first ten games for the San Francisco Seals this spring, is thirty-nine years old . . . Frank Kanaly, Yale track coach, devised a set of blinkers, similar to those used on horses, to break Easton Burlingame, one of his sprinters, from looking back in a race . . . Hans Wagner, the Pirates' coach, has stopped riding subways to the Polo Grounds since a Johnny Quick Fingers picked his pocket for $60 on the Pirates' first trip to New York this year . . . Jimmy Isminger, dean of the Philadelphia baseball writers, has discovered what's wrong with the Athletics . . . Their first western trip didn't last long enough.

Max Starcevich of the University of Washington, who was regarded as one of the two or three best guards in 1936 college football, will be married midsummer . . . Merv Shea, the White Sox second string catcher, insists what this country needs most is air conditioned bull pens. . . . Max Baer, who will meet either Tommy Farr or Walter Neusel in London, July 30, is playing the role of a villain in an English movie titled "Over She Goes."



The SUPREME COURT AND HOW IT WORKS

Justice—Here and Abroad

By ROBERT MERRILL

THE power which the Constitution vests in the courts is called "the judicial power." This means the power not merely to decide controversies but to decide them according to the principles which judges in English-speaking countries have long been accustomed to apply.

In the United States the same courts have equal jurisdiction over the highest officials of the nation, the humblest citizens and everybody in between.

If an American citizen brings suit against a government officer for an injury done him, the defendant cannot plead his official position as a ground for transferring the case to some government-controlled court. On the continent of Europe, however, he would be able to do this; because under the continental system there are two sets of courts: ordinary courts for private citizens and administrative courts for those in the service of the state.

One set of courts for everybody, with the Supreme court of the United States as the court of final appeal, is our guarantee that the man without "pull" will get a square deal.

Need for Fair Tribunal.

Many persons have asserted that there is a difference between the attitude toward a citizen in an American court and in a government department. In the government department, they explain, the citizen is apt to find himself in the hands of a subordinate official who looks at every question from the government point of view.

If, for instance, it is a federal tax question the official knows that the government needs the money and that his own record, or the record of his unit, as a good collector is at stake. The federal estate tax unit wants to make a better record than the income tax unit, and vice versa. Under such circumstances the citizen wants access to a court to find out how an impartial umpire would look at his case.

Take two actual cases to illustrate the point. A citizen had several children, each of whom had property of his own. The father promised the children that if they would convey all their property to him he, in his turn, would by his will leave to them all the property so conveyed and also all of his own property. They did as requested and he kept his part of the bargain.

Upon his death, however, the federal government proceeded to treat for tax purposes the father's estate as if it included the property received from the children and by him willed back to them under the agreement. The children protested that the property in question was theirs—not their father's. In the government department and before the board of tax appeals they got nowhere. Finally they appealed to court and there they won their case.

Court Protects Insurance.

A widow had taken out insurance on her own life and named her children as beneficiaries. She had no right to change the beneficiaries or power to raise money on the policies without the consent of the children. After her death the federal government attempted to treat the insurance money, for tax purposes, as part of the mother's estate.

The children contended that as it was beyond their mother's power to get any value out of the policies, they, the children, were the real owners and that the mother's estate had no interest in the policy money that was subject to tax. They pressed the matter all along the line in the government department, but the tax officials and the board of tax appeals refused to change their position. On appeal to court the position of the children was sustained.

In thousands of cases every year the court is appealed to in differences between the American citizen and the administrative rulings of government officials. That is one of its functions as the guardian of the people's liberties.

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Lake Bottom for Speedway

The speed laboratory of all motordom, the mecca of speed enthusiasts from every land, and the probable testing ground for motor-powered vehicles of the future, is located on the dry salt bottom of ancient Lake Bonneville, 125 miles west of Salt Lake City. This great level body of smooth, hard salt formed by the drying of the ancient lake is fifteen by thirty miles, with an average depth of four feet. The salt flats are as white and dazzling under the noon-day sun as new snow. The salt has the consistency of ice and is almost as hard as concrete. It crunches under tires like snow, is 95 per cent pure and needs only a slight treatment for human consumption. The flats accommodate many ten and twelve mile circular speed courses and Sir Malcolm Campbell's 301-mile-an-hour straightaway was thirteen miles long.—Popular Mechanics Magazine

The Wren Boys

An old tradition of rural Ireland is kept up on St. Stephen's day (Boxing day), when the young men dress themselves in quaint clothes and, wearing weird masks, collect tribute from the villagers. They carry a gaily-decorated bush which is supposed to contain the body of a wren.

History Starts in 4326 B. C.

The civil calendar of Egypt was introduced in 4326 B. C. and is called history's start.