

# Current Events in Review

By Edward W. Pickard

## New French Premier Helps Labor Win All Demands

STRIKING workers who paralyzed the industrial life of France at the moment when the "popular front" socialist majority was taking over the reins of the government, now complete victory with the aid of Leon Blum, new premier, as the general strike was settled, a disquieting note was added by a walkout of 150,000 coal miners and textile workers in northern France.

Labor won the following five demands:

1. Wage increases from 7 to 15 per cent.
2. Recognition of workers' rights to organize in unions.
3. A forty-hour work week.
4. Vacations with pay.
5. Collective bargaining contracts.

Settling of the strike marked a significant victory for the new government which assumed extraordinary powers to devise measures to bolster France's financial system and revitalize national defenses.

"White collar" workers were the only group excluded from the general agreement which was signed by employers at the behest of the government, but the premier promised relief for them. Premier Blum gained support from conservative forces with his announcement that "The People's Front is and will remain hostile to devaluation of the currency."

The end of the strike restored a measure of confidence to a panic-stricken nation faced with possible famine due to the tie-up of its transportation, processing and distribution systems by 1,000,000 striking workers.

## Texas Opens Its Great Centennial Exposition

TEXAS celebrated the one-hundredth anniversary of its independence by opening a \$25,000,000 centennial exposition in Dallas. Foremost among distinguished visitors attending the world's fair the first week was President Roosevelt. To obtain the centennial exposition Dallas made available more than \$8,000,000 in cash and property. The exposition will be open until November 29. Numerous other celebrations marking the state's 100 years of freedom have been held in various cities and towns of Texas. The exposition presents educational, historic and recreational features associated with a major world's fair.

Largest building on the exposition ground is the \$1,000,000 Texas Hall of State, which cost an additional \$200,000 to equip. The building was erected as a memorial to the patriots and pioneers of Texas, and is the largest historical museum on the North American continent.

Other buildings and their erection cost include: United States building, \$325,000, largest federal building ever erected at a world's fair; Negro Life building, \$100,000, also erected by government funds; Exposition Farm Center, consisting of five great buildings, erected at a cost of \$1,000,000; Travel and Transportation building, \$365,000; Varied Industries, \$440,000; National History museum, \$250,000; aquarium, \$180,000.

## Speaker Byrns of House Is Taken by Death

DEATH, sudden and unexpected, came to Joseph Wellington Byrns, speaker of the house of representatives, and put an end to a notable career. The veteran Tennessee congressman suffered a heart attack, followed by a cerebral hemorrhage, and passed away within a few hours in his apartment in the Mayflower hotel, Washington. For 27 years Mr. Byrns had represented the "Hermitage district" of Tennessee in the house, and he was elected speaker when the Seventy-fourth congress convened in January, 1935. He was a master of parliamentary strategy and so fair-minded a presiding officer that all, even his political opponents, praised and admired him. Before becoming speaker he served long years on the appropriations committee, as member and chairman, and he also was leader of the Democratic majority and chairman of the Democratic congressional campaign committee.

Grief for Mr. Byrns' death was general and sincere in Washington officialdom. "I am shocked beyond all imagination," said Representative Bertrand H. Snell of New York, the minority leader. "It is a terrible thing. It is an almost irreparable loss."

Senator Joseph T. Robinson of Arkansas, the majority leader, after expressing his own sense of loss, added: "His work during the session has been very difficult and trying. He was a great speaker."

President Roosevelt in a statement from the White House expressed well

the high esteem in which Mr. Byrns was held. Said he: "Fearless, incorruptible, unselfish with a high sense of justice, wise in counsel, broad of vision, calm in adversity, and modest in victory, he served his state and the nation with fidelity, honor, and great usefulness. I personally mourn the passing of a steadfast friend of many years."

Impressive funeral services were held in the chamber of the house, the President, members of the cabinet and numerous diplomats being present in addition to all members of congress.

## Senate Passes Its Own Tax Revenue Measure

THE senate passed the \$820,000,000 compromise revenue measure by a vote of 38 to 24. The bill then went to conference with the house of representatives which had enacted a revenue measure carrying out tax proposals made by President Roosevelt. The senate measure called for a 15 1/2 to 18 per cent tax on net corporate incomes as compared with the present 12 1/2 to 15 per cent levy; a new type of 7 per cent tax on undistributed profits; repeal of the existing exemption of dividends from the 4 per cent normal income tax; an increase of 1 per cent in the individual income surtax on surtax brackets between \$5,000 and \$50,000. The house measure called for a tax on corporate net income scaling up to 42 1/2 per cent, depending upon the amount of undistributed profits.

## Chester Davis Appointed to Reserve Board

AGRICULTURE was given representation on the federal reserve board through the appointment by President Roosevelt of Chester C. Davis, administrator of the AAA to that body. In discussing his appointment, Mr. Davis said: "The fiscal policy of the federal government has never been tied in closely enough with agricultural problems." Mr. Davis has spent most of his life in agricultural activities. He was born on a farm in Iowa, was graduated from Grinnell college and later owned and operated a farm. For some years he was a newspaper publisher and then became editor of the Montana Farmer.

Mr. Davis was succeeded as AAA administrator by Dr. Howard R. Tolley. Nationally known as a soil expert, Doctor Tolley helped Mr. Davis draft the soil conservation plan, enacted after the United States Supreme court decision invalidated the AAA. He has been carrying on this program during the absence of Mr. Davis in Europe.

## Fileue Plan Urges Ban on Unfair Trade Practices

IN A report just made public the business advisory council proposes a simplified basis for industrial self-regulation through the medium of voluntary joint agreements on unfair trade practices enforceable by the federal trade commission. The report was prepared by the council's committee on unfair trade practices of which Lincoln Fileue of Boston is chairman. Outstanding among the committee's proposals were suggestions that each branch of an industry, such as wholesale, retail, and manufacturing, police the activities of each other through confidential reports to the federal trade commission and that no attempt be made to include trade practice and labor provisions in the same agreements.

## Sir Samuel Hoare Back in British Cabinet

CALLED back to the British cabinet, which he left some months ago as a political scapegoat, Sir Samuel Hoare was made first lord of the admiralty, to succeed Viscount Monnell. Sir Samuel, who boldly faced a hostile house of commons last December to defend his part in the Anglo-French peace plan which would have given Mussolini only a part of Ethiopia, will face the task of solving problems arising out of British-Italian fleet difficulties in the Mediterranean. The biggest task facing Hoare, however, is restoration of the British navy to an undisputed position of supremacy on the seas.

## Industrial Mobilization Plan Is Condemned

THE so-called industrial mobilization plan of the War department, providing for a military dictatorship over labor, capital and industry, as well as censorship of the press in wartime, was severely condemned in a report to the senate by the munitions committee.

The committee objected particularly to the proposed conscription of labor as being dangerous to democracy.

## Thomas Held Responsible for British Budget Leak

J. H. THOMAS, until recently British colonial secretary, was found responsible by a special government tribunal for the leak in budget secrets which enabled some of his friends to profit largely through insurance against tax raises. Final disposition of the case was left to the house of commons. Thomas, once an engine wiper and later a powerful figure in organized labor and politics, termed the tribunal's verdict "cruel." He said: "My own conscience is clear. I repeat what I previously stated upon oath: that I made no disclosures of budget secrets to anybody."

## South China Declares War on Japanese

WITH a declaration of war against Japan by the Canton (south) Chinese government, first steps were taken in what may become a nationally concerted effort to resist further encroachment by Nippon on China's territory. Leaders were hopeful that a coalition of the Canton and the Nanking (north) governments might give China a united front against Japan for the first time. Should the South China war lords succeed in enlisting the support of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek and his Nanking forces, a substantial movement to expel the Japanese from North China could be undertaken.

## Sec. Ickes Complains of Wallace's Encroachments

THE Department of Agriculture recommended to the senate that the administration of the Taylor grazing act, affecting 80,000,000 acres of range land, be transferred to its control from that of the Department of the Interior. Secretary Ickes retorted with the accusation that the Agricultural department had hindered his program to rehabilitate western grazing lands. He said Secretary Wallace's department has insisted upon having so many CCC camps for the forestry service that the Interior department could not get enough CCC help to administer efficiently the Taylor act.

## Is Father Once More at the Age of 96

GEORGE ISAAC HUGHES, ninety-six-year-old Confederate veteran, amazed the medical world by becoming a father again. This time a girl was born to Hughes' twenty-eight-year-old wife, Libby Hill Hughes. The Hughes' first born is now a lusty lad of seven months. Surprisingly vigorous for his age, Hughes was the only veteran in his area to attend recent Confederate memorial exercises. The veteran's mental faculties are clear. He is able to do considerable physical work including caring for a garden, chopping wood and doing odd jobs.

## Marshal Badoglio Is Given Roman Triumph

MARSHAL PIETRO BADOGGIO, conqueror of Ethiopia and now viceroy of that part of the reconstituted "Roman empire," returned to the Eternal City in triumph and was vociferously welcomed as a hero. Sixty thousand Romans welcomed him as he stepped from his train, and Premier Mussolini modestly waited in the background until they had shouted their greetings to the veteran warrior. Then Il Duce came forward and kissed the viceroy on both cheeks, and the high ranking Fascist military leaders paid homage. With the premier and the picked troops forming the escort of honor were the entire cabinet. Several days later a great military review was held.

The other side of the picture was seen in London, where Haile Selassie, the deposed emperor of Ethiopia, arrived in tears and sadness, though he was given an ovation by the cheering thousands that had seldom been accorded to visitors to England. Many of the Londoners carried Ethiopian flags or scarlet banners reading "Welcome to the Emperor." With the white sympathizers were many African chiefs in native robes, Somalis, negroes, Hindus, Chinese, and colored people from all parts of the world.

There was an outburst of wild cheering when Selassie, bareheaded and wearing a long black cape, stepped from his private sleeping car and was greeted by many notables, including O. C. Harvey, private secretary of Anthony Eden, British foreign secretary. Harvey was the lone representative of the British government.

## Red Cross Mourns Death of Clara Dutton Noyes

MISS CLARA DUTTON NOYES, sixty-six, director of the American Red Cross nursing service, died in Washington a few minutes after she was stricken while driving to work in her car. Miss Noyes was assistant director of the American Red Cross nursing service during the World war. She also had been superintendent of nurses at the Bellevue and allied hospitals in New York.

Cyrus Hall McCormick, whose father developed the farm reaper and who himself helped organize the International Harvester company and was its president for 33 years, died at his home in Lake Forest, Ill., at the age of seventy-seven years.

## Shirred Sleeves, Wide Cuffs Feature This Comfortable Frock



No. 1846-B

Lovely shirred sleeves finished off with wide contrasting cuffs and a jaunty bow tie neckline are enchanting features of this dress. Carry it out in a becoming dotted swiss,

batiste, or voile, and your friends will compliment your good taste.

Incidentally it's very easily made, with only two pleats and stitcheings in the front skirt, and a flattering blouse trimmed with buttons. It's accented at the waist with either a self-fabric or purchased belt.

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Send your order to The Sewing Circle Pattern Dept., 247 W. Forty-third St., New York, N. Y.

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Start using these delicious, effective anti-acid, gently laxative wafers today

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The Original Milk of Magnesia Wafers

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## WHEN LIFE HANGS BY A THREAD—



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5.50-17	10.70

FOR TRUCKS	PRICE
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30x5	21.30

SENTINEL TYPE	PRICE
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