Current Events IN REVIEW

by Edward W. Pickard

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Bloody Civil War Rages in Spain

CIVIL war, desperate and bloody, broke out in Spain, and though the government in Madrid declared it was in control of the situation, such news as got through the censorship indicated that the struggle was by no means ended. On one side were the Fascists and royalists led by Gen. Francisco Franco; on the other were the loyal troops and the workers, Communists and Socialists. The rebels started the game in Spanish Morocco and the Canaries and were soon in control there. Then Franco, who is only forty-three years old but a dynamic character, crossed over to Algeciras, followed by the Foreign Legion and a lot of Moors, Moroccans and black African troops. After a sharp batttle at La Linea, close to Gibraltar, these contingents began a march northward toward Seville and Cadiz. There was severe fighting in San Sebastian, where the American embassy is located in summer, and in other border towns. Malaga was reported to be in flames.

L. Companys

Commanders of the rebels asserted their aim was to "save the republic," to keep order and to destroy the Marxists. In Barcelona their attack was directed especially against Luis Companys, president of the Catalonian parliament, who was said to be besieged in his offices.

Jose Maria Gil Robles, leader of the Catholic C. E. D. A. (Confederation of Autonomous Right Parties) fled to Biarritz, France. An aviator who escaped the rebels in Morocco declared Gil Robles had instigated the revolt.

Premier Santiago Casares Quiroga resigned in favor of Diego Martinez-Barrio, speaker of parliament, but the latter held the office only a few hours. Then Jose Giral, former minister of marine, formed a cabinet with General Pozas, who has the support of both the powerful Civil Guard and Republican elements of the army, as minister of war.

The rebels sent word to the government that unless it capitulated they would bomb Madrid from planes.

Olympic Torch Started to Berlin Games

IN OLYMPIA, Greece, scene of the first Olympic games, a torch was lighted by the rays of the sun and a Greek runner seized it and started it on a 12-day relay to the sports field in Berlin where the Olympic flame is to be lighted on August 1. Five thousand distinguished persons were selected to carry the torch, these including King Boris of Bulgaria, King Peter of Jugoslavia, and a long list of princes, statesmen and sportsmen. On the last leg it was to be borne by S. Loues of Greece, winner of the marathon in the games of 1896. A hundred thousand Hitler youths will accompany Loues in a triumphal parade to the stadium.

Five thousand torches to carry the flame were donated by the Krupp works, so each of the bearers will retain one as a souvenir.

Hot and Dry Spell Broken by Rains and Cool Winds

RELIEF for the drouth-stricken regions in the Middle West came with rains in many sections and cooling winds that sent the temperature down toward normal. However, it was too late to save the crops in many states, and prices of foodstuffs continued to advance. The farmers began to receive aid from the government in the form of cash, and no one could deny that they needed this help.

Dr. Tugwell

Loss of life throughout the United States from the unprecedented heat wave exceeded 3,850, an all-time high.

Agronomists in Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois and Ohio expressed apprehension over the outlook for the corn crop unless general rains should develop rapidly.

Arriving at Bismarck, N. D., to help co-ordinate drouth relief enterprises, Rexford G. Tugwell, resettlement administrator, was informed that approximately 60,000 farm families in the state were among the needy. A conference of state and federal officials in Bismarck developed a three-fold plan for the relief of dwellers in the desolated areas of the Dakotas, western Minnesota, eastern Montana and Wyoming. These included:

Immediate advancement of money to needy families, repayable out of WPA earnings; granting of funds to farmers desiring to keep small livestock herds for the purchase of feed and subsistence to be repaid by work on WPA projects; loans and grants to owners of large scale cattle enterprises to cover the cost of shipping animals to other states for feeding.

Nazi Decrees in Danzig Crush Opposition

UNLESS the protests of Poland are effective, all opposition to Nazi power in the Free City of Danzig is due to be crushed. Dr. Arthur Karl Greiser, president of the Danzig senate, which is controlled by Nazis, has issued administrative decrees ordering:

1. Dissolution of any organization whose members, with knowledge of its executive board, spreads news "endangering the state interest."
2. Prohibition of review by the courts of police measures of a political nature, including those aimed at the right of assembly, the press, and free speech.
3. Prohibition of Jewish ritual slaughtering for food purposes.
4. Imposition of three month protective custody on persons declared to be "endangering the public peace."

Thus the city's constitution is virtually set aside, and the Poles especially, having extensive economic interests there, are indignant.

Doings of Towsendites in Their Convention

AN ALLIANCE between Dr. Francis E. Townsend, Father Charles E. Coughlin and Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith in the interests of a third party was announced at the Townsendite convention in Cleveland, attended by 12,000 followers of the California doctor who advocates pensions of $200 per month for every person over sixty.

Dr. Townsend

In an address before the convention, Father Coughlin bitterly denounced the present administration and President Roosevelt and called upon the delegates to follow Dr. Townsend in endorsing the candidacy of William Lemke for the presidency on the Union ticket.

Lemke himself appeared before the convention before it adjourned and made a speech in which he pledged himself to "stand foursquare behind the old age pension movement" and denounced the present administration as "national lunacy." The delegates applauded the first statement, but otherwise were rather apathetic toward the Union party leader. Doctor Townsend made no plea for him but merely urged his followers to concentrate on the election of senators and congressmen.

Nanking Troops Take Control of Canton

REVOLT of the Cantonese against the Nanking government has collapsed and latest reports say government troops have entered Canton and taken over maintenance of peace and order. There was no opposition and the city was quiet.

Chen Chi-tang, the Canton war lord, deserted his followers and fled to Hongkong on a gunboat. There was a scramble to find Chen's alleged silver hoard, said to amount to many million dollars, but much of it is believed to be deposited in foreign banks.

The Nanking government gains possession of Kwantung province's fleet of more than 300 fighting planes, and also of extensive armaments. These latter include quantities of heavy artillery, field artillery and machine guns, nearly half a million rifles, numbers of anti-aircraft guns, tanks, the southwest's navy, two arsenals and one airplane factory.

Turkey Given Right to Rearm the Dardanelles

EIGHT signatories to the Lausanne post-war treaty have granted to Turkey the right to remilitarize the Dardanelles, and they, with Turkey, have signed a convention covering the matter. Only Japan made slight reservations because it is no longer a member of the League of Nations.

The convention grants complete liberty to merchant marine passage through the straits in peacetime and wartime, even with Turkey at war, provided the commercial vessels do not assist the fighting powers.

The Russian navy is granted complete freedom in peacetime to leave and enter the Black sea through the straits, but nations outside will be subjected to limitations on passage of fighting ships through the channel.

During wartime belligerents will be prohibited from using the straits unless acting for the league.

Communist Campaign to Open on August 5

NATIONAL campaign headquarters of the Communist party have been opened in New York city and it is announced that Earl Browder, candidate for President, will start his speechmaking in Denver on August 5. From there he goes to Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Ore., Seattle, Butte, Bismarck and Minneapolis. All his speeches will be broadcast.

James W. Ford, colored, the Communist party's candidate for vice president, will open his tour August 5 with an appearance in Scranton, Pa.

Attempt to Kill King Edward of England

THE attempted assassination of King Edward VIII of England in London brought great alarm to the English speaking world. The attempt was made near Hyde Park and the monarch's life was saved by a woman bystander who grappled with the would-be assassin and wrested a pistol from him.

King Edward

The king was returning to Buckingham palace from Hyde Park, where on horseback he had presented new colors to six battalions of the Grenadier, Coldstream and Scots guards.

In Paris, the celebration of France's national holiday, Bastille day, saw the Champs Elysees a scene of rioting with rightists and leftists in combat with each other and the police. The disorders began when leftists were returning from their own parade in the eastern section of the city.

Lewis and Others Are Summoned for Trial

IMMEDIATE splitting of the American Federation of Labor into two rival groups was averted by the action of the Federation's executive council in voting to bring to trial on August 3, the union leaders led by John L. Lewis on charges of "dual unionism." It had been reported earlier that the council had voted to suspend the 12 unions grouped as the Committee for Industrial Unionization.

The council's action was looked upon as a peace move in the crisis that threatens open warfare in the labor movement. It was precipitated by the drive to organize 500,000 workers in the steel industry into one big industrial union by John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers and his followers.

The charges against the Lewis group include "competition as a rival organization with the A. F. of L."; fomenting an insurrection within the Federation; violation of contracts they have entered into with the Federation when granted their charters.

L. P. Ayers Predicts Big Business Improvement

PREDICTING 1936 will be the best business year since 1930 and "possibly since 1929," Colonel Leonard P. Ayers, economist of Cleveland, declared that statistics on all important business had shown substantial and "healthy increases" since the first of this year. Strikes, drouth and other difficulties have not affected increases in employment, markets and security exchanges, the economist said.

"More steel has been produced in the first half of 1936 than in all 1932," he pointed out. "A major factor in the increased steadiness of business has been well sustained employment among the factory workers making durable goods. Workers in the durable goods factories suffer most from lay-offs and shut-downs, but such has not been the case in the first half of this year and of last year."

Henry Ford Has Vision Concerning Foods

HENRY FORD, approaching his seventy-third birthday envisioned the eventual decline of farm animals as a source of the world's food and predicted that grains and other crops will largely be substituted for them.

Henry Ford

"We can, I believe, get a more plentiful supply of food cheaper and better," he said, "by processing the products of the soil instead of asking cows and chickens to do it for us. In the future farm animals of all kinds will decline in numbers. We won't need them."

Army to Get Many New Fast Fighting Planes

PERFECTED plans of the War department for procurement of airplanes provide for the acquisition of 60 new fast fighting planes every month during the rest of this year. This has been made possible by the smooth functioning of a new purchasing plan started by Harry H. Woodring, assistant secretary of war.

Before the end of the year, 500 new planes will be ready for action, officials said. Plans have been made for the purchase of more than 600 planes of various types in 1937.

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The Canny Poet

This peep at Longfellow, as a business man, is permitted us by Caroline Ticknor in "Glimpses of Authors":

In November, 1855, soon after "Hiawatha" had been published and was selling madly all over the country, a Boston newspaper dared to criticize it adversely. Soon criticisms concerning the source of "Hiawatha" and accusations of imitation were made by newspapers from coast to coast.

Longfellow's publisher, James T. Fields, was greatly annoyed. One day, bursting into the poet's study, he exclaimed:

"These atrocious libels must be stopped!"

Longfellow said quietly, "By the way, Fields, how is 'Hiawatha' selling?"

"Wonderfully! None of your books has ever had such a sale."

"Then," said the poet, calmly, "I think we had better let those people go on advertising it."

IF OUR BUSINESS WOMEN DECIDED TO WALK OUT ON US

The harried business man yelled for his breakfast. "Where's the maid?" he called upstairs to his wife. "Resting," was the reply. "And I'm taking the day off, too," Nor had the children gone to school. "Teacher's resting today," they explained.

At the office, the worried man found that none of the stenographers had put in an appearance. Worse still, the telephone was "dead." The morning paper disclosed the reason: "10,000,000 Women on a One-Day Strike," it screamed.

Miss Charl Ormond Williams, president of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, said that she "would not dream of suggesting that women go on strike." But, she pointed out, "the possibilities opened up are so upsetting that I think we should all consider how to avoid them."

According to Miss Williams, nearly 2,000,000 women are employed as clerks in the United States, more than 3,000,000 in domestic or personal service, 5,969 as postmistresses, countless others elsewhere.

"One interprets Miss Williams' remarks as meaning that she is convinced that there is a good deal of baloney in the talk about eliminating women from business and industry," wrote Fred Betts ir the Syracuse Herald. "We concur."—Literary Digest.

Birds Not High Flyers

Students of migration used to believe that birds traveled at heights above 15,000 feet. They had the idea that flying was easier in high altitudes. Every aviator today knows just the opposite is the truth. Most birds fly below 3,000 feet in migration, and some of them will even cross wide stretches of water only a few feet above the waves.

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