

Current Events in Review

By Edward W. Pickard

Mrs. Simpson Offers to Free King Edward

DISTRESSED by the storm over King Edward's proposal to marry her, Mrs. Wallis Warfield Simpson, lovely American divorcee, took refuge in the villa of friends at Cannes, France, and there made a dramatic gesture of renunciation. Through Lord Brownlow, gentleman-in-waiting to the king, she gave the correspondents this statement:

"Mrs. Simpson, throughout the last few weeks, has invariably wished to avoid any action or proposal which might hurt or damage his majesty or the throne.

"Today her attitude is unchanged and she is willing, if such action will solve the problem, to withdraw forthwith from a situation that has become both unhappy and untenable.

This offer to abandon her romance was transmitted to London and all the world awaited the response of the king, in his seclusion at Fort Belvedere. Unhappiness is the fate of both Edward and "Wally", whatever the decision may be. If the king relinquishes the woman and retains the throne, Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin and the cabinet, together with the aristocratic caste, will have scored a victory, but the contest between the new and the old will certainly be renewed in other form.

At the time when Mrs. Simpson gave out her statement, it appeared that the king had scored a point. Mr. Baldwin, having failed signally to induce the monarch to abandon his determination to wed Wally, gave in to the extent of side-tracking the abdication issue and giving King Edward ample time to come to a final determination. He told the house of commons this and related the whole story of the controversy which, he said, was precipitated by the king himself when he informed the prime minister of "his intention to marry Mrs. Simpson whenever she should be free." Mr. Baldwin said the king "will no doubt" communicate his decision in good time "to the government in this country and the dominions." He added: "It will then be for those governments to decide what advice, if any, they would feel it their duty to tender him."

Replying to a warning from Winston Churchill that the government must not try to "extort" abdication from the king, Mr. Baldwin said: "It has always been, and remains, the earnest desire of the government to afford his majesty the fullest opportunity of weighing the decision which involves so directly his own future happiness and the welfare of all his subjects."

But, he added, both the government and the king were aware that "considerable prolongation of the present state of suspense and uncertainty would involve the risk of gravest injury to national and imperial interests."

In what the prime minister said it was made evident the king never had stated his intention of making Mrs. Simpson queen; and it appears the monarch was told that neither his government nor those of the dominions would countenance legislation making possible a morganatic marriage, which Edward desires. On this point neither the king nor the cabinet has yielded, and to date Edward has shown no intention of abdicating.

Having learned all about the Simpson affair when the British press dropped its self-imposed silence, the British public took hold of it with excitement and enthusiasm. Crowds paraded in London, carrying banners with such inscriptions as "God Save the King From Baldwin." They booed cabinet members and the archbishop of Canterbury, who was steadfast against the marriage, and surged about Buckingham palace in great throngs.

Blum's Spain Policy Wins Support of Deputies

PREMIER BLUM of France, for the first time calling for a vote of confidence, won the chamber of deputies to the support of his policy of neutrality concerning the civil war in Spain, and this victory saved his regime from disaster. The vote was 350 to 171. The communists refused to vote because they could not approve the "blockade of republican Spain," but affirmed their support of the Popular Front government. Following the vote the cabinet ministers all decided to retain their posts.

Foreign Minister Delbos told the chamber of deputies that France

would give army, navy and air aid to Great Britain and Belgium if they were attacked without provocation. He also said that France soon would propose at Geneva "a practical plan for reduction of armaments which will include provisions for publicity on military expenditures and limitation of air forces."

Mr. Hull Offers Eight "Pillars of Peace"

HEADS of 21 delegations to the peace conference in Buenos Aires outlined national policies, and among them was Secretary of State Hull, who proposed a program containing "eight pillars of peace" upon which rest peace and prosperity. These were:

1. Internal quiet and education.
2. Frequent international conferences.
3. Swift ratification of existing peace pacts.
4. Adoption of a common neutrality policy.
5. Fair and equal commercial policies.
6. Practical international cooperation.
7. Strengthening of international law.
8. Faithful observance of the sanctity of treaties.

"There is no need for war," Hull said in his address. "There is a practical alternative policy at hand, complete and adequate. It is no exclusive policy aimed at the safety or supremacy of a few, leaving others to struggle with distressful situations. It demands no sacrifices comparable to the advantages which will result to each nation and to each individual.

"Peace can be partially safeguarded through international agreements. Such agreements, however, must reflect the utmost good faith; this alone can be the guarantee of their significance and usefulness."

Next day Mr. Hull offered a neutrality pact for all American republics. His plan would create a permanent inter-American consultative committee to co-ordinate existing peace instruments and bring agreement on a common neutrality policy, based on the United States' neutrality theory.

Midland Steel Strike Ended by Agreement

EMPLLOYEES of the Midland Steel Products plant at Detroit returned to their work, having voted to accept a settlement of their strike which included wage adjustments and abolition of the piece work system. The strike had been seriously felt by the automobile industry.

The peace terms, which union leaders called a "90 per cent victory" for employees, provide for recognition of the union, a 45 hour week, time and a half pay for overtime and holidays, an increase of 10 cents an hour on the base rate of pay, and a 10 per cent increase on piece work until it is eliminated, which is to be done as rapidly as possible.

Pope Pius XI Stricken With Leg Paralysis

STRICKEN with paralysis that affected both his legs, Pope Pius XI was believed to be in a serious condition because he already was afflicted with asthma, arterio sclerosis and high blood pressure. At first the holy father flatly refused to submit to a medical examination, saying "I am in the hands of God," and he even insisted on dictating and signing letters. But later he was persuaded to take complete repose, which his physicians said was vitally necessary. Father Agostino Gemelli of Milan, a medical expert, was summoned to the Vatican City and gave out a statement indicating that rigid measures were being taken to stave off possible uremic poisoning.

The pope's illness was discovered when he was unable to arise for a ceremonial concluding a week of spiritual exercises. He was barely able to stir the left leg and physicians found that the heaviness of limb had spread also to the right leg.

Cardinal Pacelli, papal secretary of state, was more optimistic than many others. After a visit to the sick room he said: "The pope is improved. In about a week the strong constitution of the holy father will win out over the illness. He is nearly eighty years of age and has never been confined to bed by illness. It is only natural that he should just for once feel indisposed."

Wheat Farmers Approve Crop Insurance Plan

LEADING wheat producers held a convention in Washington and gave their approval to Secretary Wallace's plan for crop insurance and the "ever normal granary." It was proposed that the federal government supply the initial capital to start the program, acquire and maintain warehouses and run the "all hazard" insurance program through a corporation.

A permanent wheat farmers' committee of fifteen was established to advance a program for participating farm groups and to exercise pressure for legislation. The committee was instructed to report by January 15. M. W. Thatcher is chairman.

Hamilton Will Resign as Republican Chairman

JOHAN HAMILTON, chairman of the Republican national committee, called a meeting of that body to be held in Chicago December 17, and announced that at that time he would submit his resignation.

Mr. Hamilton desires that the committee shall be able to address itself to the plans for a party comeback with a clean slate and with new officers in command, if a change of personnel shall be deemed more conducive to success.

The management of the late campaign has been criticized by some leaders in the East, and also by a few of the most radical of the western leaders; but it may well be that the criticism represents only minority views of the committee and that Mr. Hamilton's resignation will not be accepted.

Vice President Garner Vexes Some Congressmen

CALLED back to Washington because he is acting President during the absence of Mr. Roosevelt, Vice President Garner promptly involved himself in the battle for the house leadership that is being waged by the supporters of John J. O'Connor of New York, chairman of the rules committee, and Sam Rayburn of Texas, chairman of the interstate commerce committee.

Mr. Garner put himself behind his fellow Texan, declaring: "I am for Rayburn 200 per cent. He is the best equipped man for the job and I will do all I can to further his candidacy."

O'Connor's friends and other representatives who had been neutral were astounded and angered by what they considered an unwarranted intrusion by the vice president into a house contest.

Treasury Financing Plans Told by Morgenthau

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY HENRY MORGENTHAU announced the mid-December financing operations of the treasury, the main features being further borrowing and refunding that will put the national debt above 34 billion dollars, lowered interest rates on government bonds and elimination of preferential treatment for the small investor. The secretary said that the December 15 financing, which includes the borrowing of 700 millions to cover continuation of deficits incurred, would be the last until March, when heavy income tax collections will pour into the treasury. Refunding raises the overall amount of the financing to \$1,486,631,900.

In announcing that the treasury would not permit the small investor to have his subscription up to \$5,000 met in full as in the past, but would be forced to accept a pro-rata share just as is the big bond buyer, Morgenthau declared that the public had "abused" the privilege. The plan "to give the little fellow a break" was initiated by Secretary Ogden Mills during the Hoover regime.

Russia's Constitution Given Final Approval

SOVJET RUSSIA'S new constitution received the final approval of the all-union congress of soviets, and the event was celebrated by a tremendous parade of the army and the civil population of Moscow. One revision of the original draft, made by the congress, authorizes the government to declare war "in case of necessity" instead of "in case of an armed attack against the U. S. S. R." This change was interpreted as bolstering the mutual aid treaty with France and also as a strong reply to the anti-communist agreement between Germany and Japan.

Williams Says WPA Rolls Must Be Decreased

"WHITE collar" members of the Workers' Alliance of America who called on Aubrey Williams to insist that no workers be dropped from the relief rolls were told by the acting WPA administrator that lack of funds made necessary the dropping of about 175,000 by December 15, and that 250,000 others would be transferred from drought relief to the resettlement administration. David Lasser, president of the Workers' Alliance, asserted that widespread strikes would result from the reduction of the rolls.

Decorating for Christmas—Some Handsome Window and Room Ornaments That Are Inexpensive

WHILE windows may have been decorated for Christmas before now, the arrangements indoors seldom are, made until the day before the holiday. The freshness of the beauty is wanted without any diminution. If the novelty has worn off, some of the zest of Christmas is lost. This is so true that many homemakers refuse to have windows trimmed more than a day or so prior to Christmas.

If you happen to be among this latter group, let me suggest that you take sprays of a tree that is misshapen and so very cheap and make a splashing bow of red crepe paper for each and hang one in every front window downstairs. Or have one in each downstairs window that is discernible from the street.

Ornamenting the Spray. You can dot the spray with holly berries, or whatever you have in addition to the green. Or you can dip popped corn in red stain or dye, and touch the kernels with glue and secure them to the sprays. These notes of red, with their irregular shapes, are intriguing, sometimes being mistaken for berries and sometimes for flowers.

Bank the mantelpiece over the fireplace where the stockings are hung, using sprays of the green intermingled with holly, mistletoe, pine cones, bayberries, or silvered or other metal painted motifs such as acorns, fine twigs with many fronds, etc. When everything is fixed to your fancy twine a string of wee colored Christmas tree electric lights through the greens. These will look ornamental by day and have a glamor when lighted during the evening.

Baskets filled with greens and dotted with the novelty units lend notes of appropriate Christmas

decoration. Any small baskets will do for this purpose. There generally are some about a house, but if not, metal paint or green stain some of the little market baskets such as strawberries, brussels sprouts or tomatoes come in. Make a rope or lengths of paper braid for the handles, painted or stained to match the basket. If a length of picture wire has been wound with the strands of paper rope and braid, these handles will keep their shape when ends have been thrust inside the baskets close to their opposite sides. The handles can be wired or glued to the baskets.

Bouquets. Bouquets of Christmas greens in vases can be put in rooms other than the living room and dining room, and give their beauty of Christmas about the house. Be sure to use vases and bowls that have broad standards, lest the uneven weight of the greens tips them over.

Foreign Words and Phrases

A cheval. (F.) On horseback.
Cela va sans dire. (F.) That goes without saying; it is obvious.
De bon augure. (F.) Propitious.
Erinnerung. (G.) A remembrance; a souvenir.
Fortiter in re. (L.) With firmness in action.
Ignis fatuus. (L.) Will-o'-the-wisp.
Pour encourager les autres. (F.) To encourage the others; Voltaire's comment on the motives of the English in executing Admiral Byng for cowardice.
Non omnis moriar. (L.) I shall not wholly die.

Household Questions

Ink stains may be removed from wall paper with a solution of equal parts of ammonia and hydrogen peroxide.

When tying children's shoes, tie string in bow first, then the loops in a single knot. They will not then easily become untied.

Did you ever try dipping your fresh fish in milk before rolling them in corn meal or bread crumbs preparatory to frying.

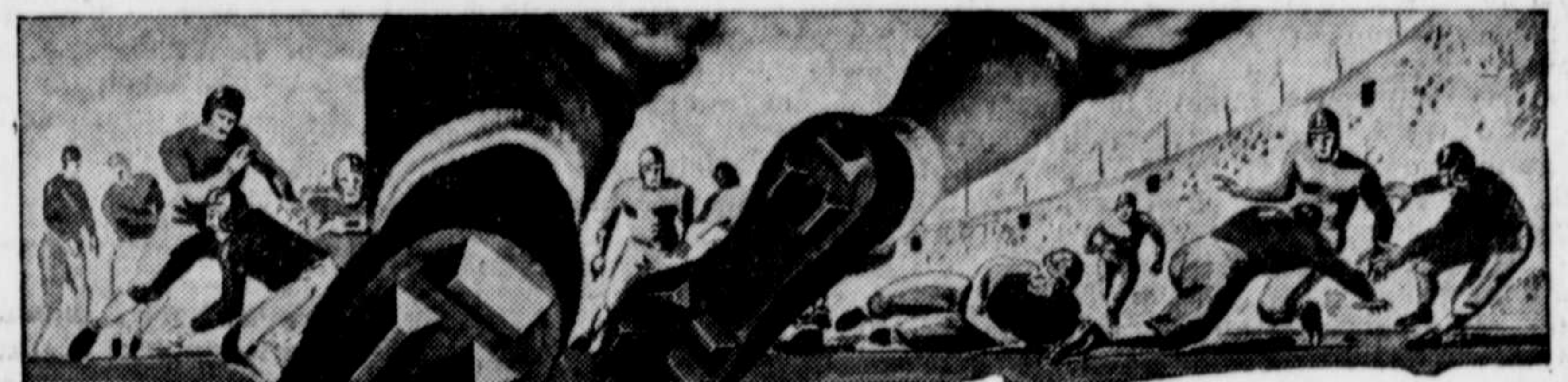
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