

# Current Events in Review

By Edward W. Pickard

## Mrs. Simpson's Divorce Is Made Absolute

MRS. WALLIS SIMPSON was granted an absolute decree of divorce in London, and within a few hours Edward, duke of Windsor, was on his way from St. Wolfgang, Austria, to visit his fiancée at the Chateau de Candé near Tours, France. The former king of Great Britain had been waiting impatiently, baggage packed, for word that Wallis was entirely free, and he lost no time when his solicitors telephoned him from London.

It took only 25 seconds to make absolute the decree nisi which Mrs. Simpson obtained last October 27. The king's proctor had been satisfied with the lady's behavior in the interval, and Sir Boyd Merriman, president of the divorce court, personally granted the decree along with a lot of others.

The date for the wedding of the duke of Windsor and Mrs. Simpson has not yet been announced, but it probably will be in the week beginning May 24. Edward was willing to wait until all the coronation hullabaloo was over for he did not wish to annoy his royal brother in any way.

## London Getting Ready for the Coronation

FROM all quarters of the earth men and women of much, little or no importance were flocking to London for the coronation; the diplomats were trying on their new knee breeches; the peereesses were buying wigs to make their coronets fit more comfortably; the officials, troops and horses were being rehearsed in their parts; the proprietors of parade seats were desperately trying to dispose of them at cut prices; and hotel managers and tradesmen of all sorts were preparing to make lots of money out of this thoroughly commercialized affair. It was said by steamship officials in New York that hundreds of Americans booked for the coronation had cancelled their passages, but despite this it was certain London would be thronged with visitors.

One most disturbing feature was the strike of the London busmen. It disrupted traffic just when the city was filling up with visitors, and these persons as well as hundreds of thousands of residents of the city and its suburbs were compelled to get about as best they could.

## New Constitution for Ireland Is Published

RAMON DE VALERA, president of the Irish Free State, made public his proposed new constitution for that state which is to be ratified or rejected at general elections and a plebiscite probably late in June. The document declares all of Ireland, its islands and territorial seas, included in the national territory, and "Eire," an ancient name for Ireland, is designated the official name. Ireland is declared a "sovereign and independent democratic state," and no mention is made of Great Britain. The president is to be elected by direct vote for a seven year term. The Roman Catholic church is given special recognition, but other churches also are recognized and freedom of conscience and practice of religion is guaranteed. Titles of nobility are prohibited.

Support of home life is pledged, and the constitution declares "no law shall be enacted providing for the grant of a dissolution of marriage." Divorce in other states under civil laws would not be recognized in Ireland.

Ulster, the northern part of Ireland which does not belong to the Free State, received the proposed constitution coolly, evincing no desire to unite with the Free State. "We definitely prefer our position as citizens of the United Kingdom," said the Ulster commerce minister, John Milne Barbour, and this seemed to be the prevailing sentiment.

## Big Strike Is Started in Hollywood Movie Plants

ELEVEN unions of the Federated Motion Picture Crafts, with about 6,000 members, went on strike in Hollywood, Calif., and the great film industry there was in serious difficulties. The strikers counted heavily on co-operation by the Screen Actors' guild, but that body, which has 5,600 members, delayed action until it could confer with the producers. The guild already had presented a number of demands regarding working conditions and hours and overtime pay.

Pat Casey, labor relations expert for the producers, said the strike

would not curtail operations at any of the nine big studios and ventured the opinion that the dispute could be settled in a reasonable and sensible manner. He claimed that no more than 1,500 of the Hollywood movie industry's 40,000 employees were involved in the points at issue, and observed that no questions of wages or hours had been put forth by the striking unions.

The film companies have indicated their unwillingness to settle the issue of the closed shop and union recognition until they know what demands in the matters of wages and hours may be made by their workers.

Fifteen of the largest hotels in San Francisco were practically tied up by a strike of 3,500 employees. The strikers were given the active support of 13 unions. They insisted that hotel owners had refused to agree to preferential hiring and a five day week for clerks, although other groups of hotel employees had been awarded such conditions.

The 15 hotels involved were the Alexander Hamilton, Bellevue, Cathedral hotel apartments, Cliff, Sir Francis Drake, El Cortez, Fairmont, Mark Hopkins, Palace, Plaza, Whitcomb, William Taylor, St. Francis, Gaylord, and Steward.

## Moscow-Volga Canal Is Opened by Stalin

MAY day was fittingly chosen for the opening of the Moscow-Volga canal, one of the greatest physical undertakings of the soviet

Russian government. For four years 200,000 prisoners have been working on the project, these including not only Russians, but also Finns, Letts, Estonians, Poles, and Ukrainians. Many of them were political prisoners.

Josef Stalin, dictator of the soviet union, and President M. I. Kalinin were the chief figures at the official celebration of the opening of the canal. This waterway, part of the plan to make Moscow actually a seaport, is 90 miles long, has eleven locks, twelve large dams, and utilizes eight large lakes and man-made reservoirs.

The canal begins on the Volga seventy miles below the city of Kalinin (formerly Tver), where a large dam and hydro-electric station have been constructed. The lake formed there has been named the Moscow sea and is ninety miles long with an area of 205 square miles.

## Basques and Rebels Fight Fiercely Near Bilbao

SOME of the most desperate fighting of the Spanish civil war was taking place in the struggle for Bilbao between the sturdy Basques and Gen. Emilio Mola's veterans, reputedly mostly Italians and Germans. The insurgents had promised not to bomb the center of the city but bombarded its environs heavily from the land and the air. By fierce attacks they broke through the Basque lines on the Bay of Biscay coast, reaching Bilbao's seaports at the mouth of the Nervion river.

Disregarding the protests of General Franco, Fascist chieftain, the British and French governments undertook to remove from Bilbao a large number of women and children. These refugees were taken away by merchant vessels while British warships guarded outside Spanish waters. Franco maintained Bilbao was a military objective and that neutral nations had no right to evacuate the civil population as this would lift a burden from the Basques and permit them to concentrate on the defense of the city.

## War Department Bill Is Biggest Since War Time

RESISTING all efforts of the would-be economists, the majority in the house passed the War department appropriation bill carrying \$416,400,000 for the fiscal year 1938. This is the largest army bill ever passed in times of peace.

As passed the measure carries increases in the pay of the army totaling \$5,861,000; clothing and equipage, \$5,500,000; military post construction, \$5,400,000; ordnance service and supplies, \$5,800,000, and National Guard, \$1,600,000.

The bill provides more than two millions for the acquisition of land at Mitchell field, N. Y.; Kelly field, Tex.; at Tacoma, Wash., and at West Point, N. Y.

## Japan's Military Bloc Defeated in Elections

PREMIER SENJURO HAYASHI and the army bloc that supported his regime lost out in the Japanese parliamentary elections. The candidates of the Minseitō and Seiyukai parties, both anti-government, won about 400 of the 466 seats in the new house of representatives. Despite this defeat, General Hayashi refused to resign.

## Neutrality Act Signed by the President

CONGRESS completed action of the new neutrality measure just in time, for the old one expired on April 30. The draft of the act was sent by airplane to the President and he signed it aboard his yacht in the Gulf of Mexico. He also issued two proclamations, one prohibiting the shipment of arms, ammunition, and implements of war to belligerents in Spain, and the other adding certain articles of war to the proscribed list.

## Senate Committee Against Supreme Court Bill

ANNOUNCEMENT of their position on the President's Supreme court bill by three more Democratic members of the senate judiciary committee seemingly made it certain that body would report the measure adversely to the senate. The line up at this writing is 10 to 8 against the bill. The three who openly joined the opposition were Senators J. C. O'Mahoney of Wyoming, Pat McCarrren of Nevada and Carl Hatch of New Mexico. With them in opposition are King of Utah, Van Nuys of Indiana, Burke of Nebraska, Connally of Texas, Austin of Vermont, Borah of Idaho and Steiwer of Oregon. Those committed for the measure are Ashurst of Arizona, Neely of West Virginia, Logan of Kentucky, Dieterich of Illinois, Pittman of Nevada and Norris of Nebraska. McGill of Kansas and Hughes of Delaware, still non-committal, were counted as being on the administration side.

The committee agreed to begin voting on the bill and on proposed amendments on May 18.

## House Majority Refuses to Practice Economy

WHILE Democratic leaders in congress were disputing over various proposals for achieving the economy demanded by the President, the house without a quiver passed the second deficiency bill, carrying \$79,200,000. The Democrats called it an economy measure because the appropriations were 19 millions less than the amounts asked by the department heads. But 15 of those 19 millions represented merely a reduction in the 30 million appropriation asked by the bureau of internal revenue for the refunding of processing taxes collected under the agricultural adjustment act. The saving, it was pointed out, was more a deferred "economy" in that the 15 millions will be included in the next budget.

## President Goes Fishing in Gulf of Mexico

SENATORS, representatives, department heads, and almost everyone else in Washington officialdom were worrying themselves over expenditure reductions, taxes, rising prices and falling revenues, and Supreme court reformation. But President Roosevelt was gaily sailing the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, angling for tarpon. He was on the Presidential yacht Potomac, which he boarded at New Orleans; his vessel was escorted by three destroyers, the Moffett, the Schenk and the Decatur. At Galveston Secretary Marvin McIntyre set up a temporary White House, and Mr. Roosevelt planned to land at that city when he got through fishing.

## Hamilton Fish Moves to Amend Our Gold Policy

THIS is the outstanding financial blunder of the New Deal," said Representative Hamilton Fish of New York, Republican, speaking in the administration's policy of accumulating gold at \$35 an ounce, or nearly twice the cost of production. Mr. Fish thereupon introduced a resolution forbidding the Treasury to purchase any more gold from foreign countries at more than \$25 an ounce.

"The American taxpayers," declared Mr. Fish, "under the ruinous gold policy of the President and the secretary of the Treasury, have become the 'angels' of Europe, and are now engaged in helping to finance these countries in their mad armament race. All of the nations of the world including Soviet Russia have naturally unloaded their gold upon us at exorbitant profits, which, if we tried to sell back, we probably could not get 50 cents on the dollar."

"This insane and costly gold policy is almost on a par with the high financing of John Law's Mississippi bubble. The American people have been turned into milch cows, to be milked by every foreign country."

## William Gillette, Veteran Actor, Passes Away

WILLIAM GILLETTE, the veteran actor who became famous in the role of Sherlock Holmes and is remembered also for his good work in "Secret Service" and other plays, died in Hartford, Conn., at the age of eighty-one.

John G. Pollard, chairman of the board of appeals of the Veterans' administration and former governor of Virginia, passed away in Washington of bronchial pneumonia.

## What Irvin S. Cobb Thinks about

### Humane Fox Hunting.

SANTA MONICA, CALIF.—In England it has been decided that fox-hunting is humane. This opinion emanates from the hunters. The foxes have not been heard from on the subject.

Maybe you don't know it, but there's a lot of fox-hunting among us, especially down south. Being but a lot of stubborn non-conformists, southerners do not follow the historic rules. A party at large wearing a red coat, white pants and high boots would be mistaken for a refugee from a circus band. And anybody blowing a horn as he galloped across hill and dale would be set down as an insane fish peddler; and if you shouted "View, halloo! Tantiy, tantiy! Yoicks, yoicks!" or words to that effect, they'd think you were a new kind of hog-caller.

Down there they've chased the fox until he's wise. The foxes have learned that the hounds can't follow trail on a paved highway and so quit the thicket for the concrete when the chase is on. A fox has been sitting in the middle of the big road listening to the bewildered pack.

On second thought maybe Brer Fox isn't so smart, after all—not with automobile traffic what it is. 'Tis a hard choice stay in the woods and get caught or take to the pike and get run over.

### Courageous Republicans.

WHO, besides the writer, can recall when the Democrats held their jubilation rallies the night before a presidential election and the Republicans the night after the returns were in, when they had something to jubilate over? Now the situation is just the other way around. The Literary Digest poll was practically the only thing the Republicans had to celebrate during the entire fall season of 1936.

Still, we must give that diminished but gallant band credit for courage. Here, in an off-year, they're spiritedly planning against the next congressional campaign.

### English Recruiting.

THE English are still having trouble inducing young fellows to join the colors. First, the government tried to increase enlistments by giving every recruit a giddy new blue uniform, absolutely free of charge, and still the lads refused. So now, as an appeal which, 'tis believed, no true Britisher can withstand, the military authorities announce that, hereafter, Tommy Atkins will have time off for afternoon tea.

This may be a new notion for peacetime, but, during the great war, the custom was maintained ever up at the front. Many a time I've seen all ranks, from the brigadiers on down, knocking off for tea. However, this didn't militate against his majesty's forces, because, at the same hour, the Germans, over on their side of the line, were having coffee—or what the Germans mistake for coffee. And the French took advantage of the lull to catch up with their bookkeeping on what the allies owed them for damage to property, ground rent, use of trenches, billeting space, wear and tear, etc., etc.

Did it ever occur to our own general staff that guaranteeing a daily crap-shooting interval might stimulate volunteering for the American army?

### The Job of Censorship.

ONE reason why moving pictures are so clean is because some of the people who censor them have such dirty minds. To the very pure everything is so impure, is it not? That's why some of us think the weight of popular opinion, rather than the judgment of narrow-brained official judges in various states, should decide what should and what should not be depicted. Anyhow, there are so many movies which, slightly amending the old ballad, are more to be pitied than censored.

Sponsors of radio programs also lean over backward to be prudishly proper. But without let or hindrance the speaking stage, month by month, grows fouler and filthier. Suggestive lines once created a shock in the audience mind. The lines no longer suggest—they come right out and speak the nastiness.

Sauce for the goose isn't sauce for the gander, 'twould seem—or maybe, after the reformers got through saucing radio and screen, there wasn't any left over for the so-called legitimate stage.

### Modern Language Course

The study of French, English and German has been introduced into El Azhar university, Cairo, the oldest university in the world, established in 972 A. D.

## Parading the Fashions



### A STYLE show De Luxe for De Ladies on this De Lightful Spring day!

Betty Ann feels just a bit the most elegant of the three for her housecoat is superlative. She has "skirts" like the ladies in the feminine yesterdays; her basque is form-fitting; her sash has a bow, and her sleeves puff. The illusion is so perfect that she is about to reach for smelling salts or a sprig of old lavender.

### Matrons Have Vanity, Too.

Mama, very young for her years, can not resist styles that bring more compliments her way. The no-belt feature of this one is definitely new, and does wonders for the figure a bit past the slim stage. The continuing collar, which in soft pastels is always flattering, gives the break required by the all-in-one waist and skirt. The fitted top and flaring bottom make for style plus comfort, a demand matrons, even though youthful, always make.

### Parties and Picnics.

Winifred on the left is privately making up her mind to have a housecoat, too; though she is mightily pleased with the way her print has turned out. She chose this style because the fitted, broken waist line and front seamed skirt are so very slenderizing. She's on her way to the 4-H meeting now and has only stopped to remind Betty Ann of the picnic "The Jolly Twelve" are having on Tuesday.

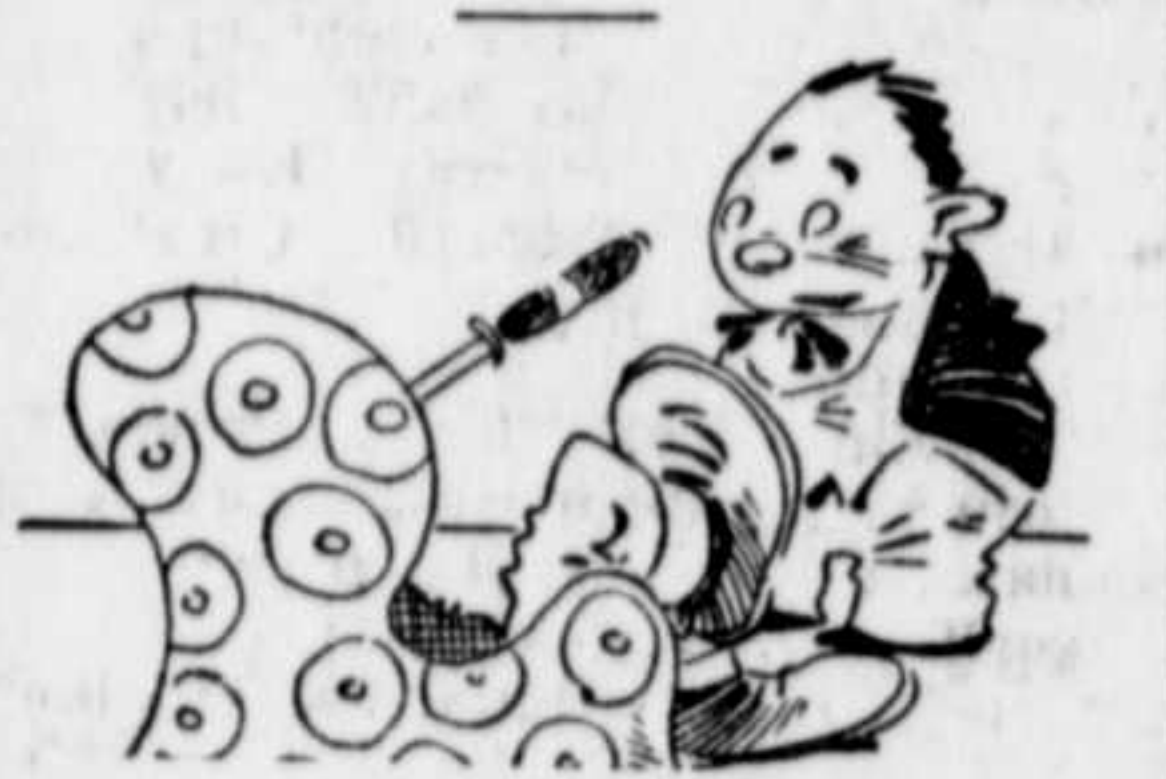
The Patterns.  
Pattern 1285 comes in sizes 12-20 (30 to 40). Size 14 requires 3 3/4 yards of 39 inch material.  
Pattern 1282 is for sizes 14-20



## Smiles

Knowingly?  
"Does your husband talk in his sleep?"  
"No, and it's terribly exasperating. He just grins."—Omaha World-Herald.

### SO THEY GET ALONG



Bragga—Does your wife use your razor to open cans?  
Docie—Oh, yes, of course, but I use her best powder puff for a shoe polisher.

Soldiers make good husbands, says Sergeant-Major Sam; they're trained to be tidy. Then why is their dining room always a mess?

(32 to 44 bust). Size 16 requires 5 1/2 yards of 39 inch material. It requires 2 1/2 yards of ribbon for tie belt.

Pattern 1983 is for sizes 36 to 50. Size 38 requires 5 1/2 yards of 39 inch material. With the short sleeves it requires only 5 yards of 39 inch material.

### New Pattern Book.

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