

L. T. Sweeney, Thurs. Aug. 8. 1935

The lawmakers ground out some gold clause and some social security, and the farmers grew some cotton. That's ~~in~~ the news from Washington.

The Gold Clause Bill -- that measure to keep people from suing the Government because the Government called off ~~gi~~ gold payments. The purpose is to make the gold policy stick, to take no chance of anybody going to court ~~that~~ and knocking out the Administration's refusal to pay in the yellow metal. The Senate this afternoon passed alaw to that effect. The House has also passed a similar law --which would seem to make it unanimous. But it isn't. The two bills differ on one point -- whether the prohibition of lawsuits shall go into effect right away or whether there shall be a period of grace. The House bill says -- right away. The Senate bill provides a period of six months during which bond holders can sue if they want to. The idea is to stave off possible suits during the years of the future.

The Social Security item likewise concerns two different bills, one by the House and one by the Senate. They've

been holding conferences to iron out the difficulty. The conference of Senators and Congressmen reached an agreement today. They decided to eliminate the Clark Amendment, according to which business concerns with private pension systems of their own would not have to take part in the Federal Old Age Pension scheme.

The Upper House and ^{the} Lower will now pass on the decision of the Committee and then the Social Security program will go to the White House for the President's signature.

As for the farmers and their cotton -- it's nearly twelve million bales. That's the Department of Agriculture

forecast for 1935. ~~It's a~~ bumper crop; ^{in fact} bigger ^{than} the figure named in the crop limitation program. *More than the administration wanted.*

When the cotton news broke, there was a drop in prices. The New York cotton futures sagged from two to sixteen points -- on the supply and demand theory that the more you have the lower the price will be. There was a rally, however, cotton futures rebounded. The prices came back to some extent.

FULOIS

Many a man in the Army and many a man in aviation will have a dim feeling of tragedy about this bit of news. Today Major General Benjamin Fulois, Chief of the Army Air Corps made application for a three-month's leave of absence. At the end of that leave of absence he will make a further application -- to be placed on the retired list. So today ends the active career of Bennie Fulois, the sky general, so bitterly attacked, so warmly defended.

It is too bad that a cloud had to come over the last years of service of a man so intimately identified with military aviation in the United States. He learned to fly with the Wright Brothers. He looked at aviation in its first feeble flight, and became a believer. I think he told me once that he was Number One on the list of our Army fliers. That is the first soldier we ever had to earn wings. Thereafter he was the very personification of Army flying, and did an apostle's work in promoting the flying arm of the service. And he rose to the top, became Commander of the sky forces he had done so much to create.

Friends of Fulois will tell you that the difficulties that overcame his last years of service were

only because he didn't have the tact and discretion of a politician. The Congressional investigation into Army Air Craft attacked Fulois because of the practice of letting out orders without the full and necessary bidding commanded by law. They say he was only following a system he inherited, and in defending it ^t got the brunt of the blame. The Congressional investigators demanded that he be dismissed from his job. He wasn't -- quite. But almost. He ^aremained the nominal commander of the Air Corps but the sky squadrons were taken from his jurisdiction. He remained an airplane commander without any planes.

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Now he has retired. Army aviation will remember him as the general ~~who had been~~ taught to fly by the Wright Brothers.

GERMANY

And now the Nazis are hitting at somebody else. Not Catholics or Jews this time, but Freemasons. Hitler's own newspaper proclaims the ^{end} ~~end~~ of Masonry in Germany. And the zero hour is on Saturday. ^{By} ~~But~~ that time all the Masonic Lodges will have to be disbanded.

It is no secret that the Nazis have been clamping down on the Masons. This has been going on for some time, with the suppression of lodges here and there. Now it is total -- "Totalitarian" in Fascist phraseology.

Opposition to the Masonic order seems to be a logical part of the Fascist doctrine. The original black shirt system in Italy, soon after it got into power, abolished ^{all} ~~the~~ Italian lodges. Mussolini did it without any great stir or outcry. The Duce said that Masonry in Europe stood for liberalism, and Fascism is opposed to liberalism.

The German explanation is ~~is~~ somewhat more flamboyant. Hitler's editor speaks out thusly:- "The secret aim of Freemasonry," says he, "is a Jewish world republic." The Masons are accused of conspiring for a world state under Jewish control. It sounds

fantastic and unreal. But there is plenty of reality in the fact that Masonic lodges in Germany are ordered to disband by Saturday.

German newspapers, meanwhile, are given a hint of how they are to behave --- a broad hint, about as broad as a German can ~~mk~~ make a hint, and that's plenty broad. Max Amann, President of the Reich Press Chamber, tells the German newspapers that they have no right to exist unless they are "passionately fighting for national socialism." Those are his words -- words especially directed at what remains of Catholic journalism in Germany.

The Nazis are constantly uttering words that sound strange to outside ears, but here's something that has a familiar ring. Professor Max Fischer declares that there is a grave danger in the fact that Germany spends a quarter of a billion dollars a year on alcoholic beverages and he says that ~~it~~ if the grain used in making those beverages were eaten as food, the problem of provisioning the population would be solved. That's exceedingly reminiscent of the reasons employed when our own late-

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lamented prohibition was put across. However, it isn't likely that even so supreme an autocrat as Reichsfuehrer Hitler would dream of fooling around with Germany's beer.

Another flare-up in the argument about the Olympic Games scheduled to be held in Berlin next summer:- Hitler renews his pledge that there shall be no discrimination in the selection of Olympic athletes. He insists the drive against Catholics and Jews won't have anything to do with running and jumping, hurling the javelin, and shooting ~~with~~ the shot-put. "We have made a promise," the Reichsfuehrer declares, "and you may rest assured we shall keep it." But along with that comes the story of Greta ~~Berman~~^{Bergman}. She's a Jewish woman athlete, a lady high-jumper. She is considered a contender for the German Olympic Team. The German field sports championships have been going on. Greta Bergman tried to enter, but was barred. The reason given was -- that the competition was only for members of the Athletic association staging the show. But she couldn't be a member, because membership is limited to Aryans.

The Berlin Athletic authorities claim that this is not discrimination so far as the Olympics are concerned, because Greta Bergman will be allowed to take part in the Olympic elimination contests next Spring. But there seems to be a funny angle

to that. It is pointed out that, when Olympic selections are made, emphasis is laid on the way a candidate has performed in competition during the past two years. But if a candidate is ~~not~~ allowed to take part in any competitions -- what chance has he or she? In other words what chance has Greta Bergman? Olympic leading lights are wondering about that.

RUSSIA

3 { (Let's suppose a few things. Suppose that I solemnly promise not to interfere in your family affairs, not to do anything to encourage trouble in your household. Then I hold a meeting of trouble-makers in my house, and at my invitation several insurgent members of your family are there, and they orate and confabulate about raising all sorts of Cain in your house. Would you complain? Would you think that I was breaking my promise? I imagine you would.

Carry these reasonings from the family to the International field, and we have the background for the report that) the United States is going to register a strong protest with Soviet Russia. They say that Bill Bullitt, our Ambassador to Moscow, is merely waiting for the Comintern to complete its sessions -- the Communist Internationale. Then he is going to hand the American complaint to the Commissar of Foreign Affairs at the Kremlin.

Ambassador Bullitt has been keeping close watch on the Comintern proceedings, and he has heard plenty already. He has heard the Congress of Red Revolutionaries in Moscow declare their plans for overthrowing the capitalistic order everywhere. He has heard American communist leaders tell how they are going to stir

up social revolution over here. He expects to hear some more about the touching - off of Red revolt in the United States. When he has got a complete earful -- he will protest.

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There is one specific angle to the debates and declarations of the Comintern which is causing brows to wrinkle with doubt and suspicion. That get-together of the International Reds made a statement of policy which has caused some surprise. The Internationale went on record with a call for Communists to unite with the Liberal parties in a fight against Fascism. Hitherto the Communists have been at bitterest enmity with the Liberals and the advocates of democracy. A Bolshevick firing squad is traditionally as eager to shoot a Liberal as an aristocrat -- or moreso. So why the sudden alliance with democracy? The Communist explanation is that the threat of Fascism all over the world is so great that they had better bury the hatchet with the Liberals.

But observers on the sidelines are not so sure that that's the whole story. They are pointing to a speech made by Earl Browder, head of the American Communist Party. Comrade Browder said he was

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in favor of joining forces with the Liberal Democratic elements. Because, he said. "It will give the Communists a chance to get control of Liberalism. They could carry on their propaganda inside the democratic household -- "boring from within" as they call it. So that makes the alliance with Liberalism look like a disguised way of stirring up social revolt.

Add it all up, make a summary of events at the Moscow Congress of the International Reds -- and it's no wonder that Uncle Sam is preparing to enter a vigorous protest.

FRANCE

The crisis in France is told tonight by two pieces of news. One is that the Cabinet met in Paris today in important session the Ministers with grave and worried faces debated on what they could do in the face of the countrywide labor disturbance. Premier Laval and his colleagues are up against a dilemma. If they keep those wage-cuts in force, they also keep the trouble going. If they don't have the wage cuts, they can't balance the budget.

The second indication of the trouble is no mere indication. It is old man trouble fighting, in scores of places. Everywhere the Civil Service employees, with their wages slashed, are muttering in discontent. Only the French don't mutter, they roar. There is no one big outbreak, but sporadic outbreaks in a great many places. The most serious are in the great French ports of Brest, Havre, Cherbourg, Toulon and St. Nazaire. That's to be expected, because of the great number of naval workers the French Government employes in shipyards and arsenals.

The liner Champlain about which we heard last night, hasn't sailed. She's still strikebound, tied up by the walk-out

of crew and attendants. And there is no indication of when she'll be able to sail. But crowds are still sailing on the French liners from New York. A Movietone newsreel expedition to Ethiopia going on the Ile de France; the Martin Johnson expedition ~~in the~~ to Borneo ~~in~~ on the Ile de France, and so on.

What price glory in Abyssinia? Laurence Stallings is on his way to find out. It's a joint expedition of the North American Newspaper Alliance and Fox Movietone. The newspapers are telling how the high-spirited Stallings will head a party of camera and sound men. Today I saw some of the equipment that is being sent over -- a high-speed motor side car to go jaunting along through Ethiopian ravines, and a blue motor truck. On the top of the big sound truck is printed in large letters, "Fox Newsreel," "U. S. A.," hoping aviators -- Italian bombers will see it.

Stallings pays a deserved tribute to the crack cameramen who are going with him, Al Waldron of Washington, Len Hammond from China, Georges Mejat of Paris and Ercole Granata of Rome. He says:- "It will be easy for me. I'll have a typewriter to poke and a little camera to point. It's these cameramen who have the job -- setting a stop, calculating an exposure, focusing, selecting a lens, plotting a field while blood is dripping around them and the ground shakes under their feet."

But the irony is that Laurence Stallings of "What Price Glory" fame, and author of "The Big Parade" achieved his re-

noun as the grand debunker of war, showing it up in all its horror and ugliness, taking the glamour out of battle. Yet the moment he smells gunpowder you can't hold him. Off he goes -- where the guns are ready to shoot. What price glory -- indeed.

FIGHT

Things pugilistic happened quickly after last night's brawl in Chicago. Left hooks and right crosses last night, today it's signatures. It was King Levinsky and Joe Louis last ~~xxx~~ night, with the King smacked off his throne and the crown knocked off his head -- only he never had either a throne or a crown. Today it was Max Baer and Joe Louis signing signatures.

8 1/2 After polishing off the pugilistic kingfish so artistically, the brown bomber is overwhelmingly in line for the crown. Racial angles notwithstanding, he is going to be way up there. Even if he were refused a shot at Jimmy Braddock's title, he would still be King, one of those uncrowned kings.

9 All of this supposing he gets by Maxie Baer. They signed today to fight in September -- the twenty-sixth or twenty-seventh. Boxing experts are still wondering whether the coffee-colored clouter can take one on the whiskers and like it. Because Joe didn't get any trial last night. The Kingfish was just a poor fish. So the great experiment will come when the great married man Max Baer hangs one of his haymakers of looping dynamite on the black boy's chin -- if he succeeds in doing so.

ADD FIGHT -2

And some one will hang one on my chin if I don't stop
chinning and say --

9 1/2
SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.