

(The fight over the Supreme Court began in earnest today. This was the opening date of the public hearing ~~at~~ before the judiciary committee) and it went off almost literally with a bang. The occasion was enlight~~ened~~ened and made memorable by a battle of words between Attorney-General Cummings and that veteran warhorse, Senator Borah of Idaho.

(The Attorney-General held the stage for an entire hour. He told the Senators that the need for action was immediate. And it rested upon four counts. First, he said, there's a situation in the land which he described as impossible because so many judges are suspending the operation of federal laws by injunctions. Injunctions ~~are actually~~ being used ~~wrecklessly~~. That ~~is~~ the word applied, ~~echoing the remarks made by his boss,~~ ^{he} ~~President's~~ ^{his master's voice - the} ~~Reesevelt in his fire-side chat last night.~~ ^{he} ~~Reesevelt~~ in his fire-side chat last night.

~~Again,~~ Said Mr. Cummings, the machinery of the federal law is creaking because so many aged or infirm judges continue to sit on the bench after their days of usefulness have passed. In consequence, ^{he} ~~the Attorney-General,~~ declared, federal dockets are jammed, delays in the lower courts are interminable and a

forbiddingly heavy burden is imposed upon the Supreme Court.

Lastly, Mr. Cummings told the Senators, there's a crying need for new blood, young blood in the judiciary of the United States.

The Attorney-General ^{spoke} ~~replied~~ ^{against} vehemently ^{to} the charge that the President's plans had any element of dictatorship in them. And he added: "The proposed increase in the number of judges is not for the purpose of enslaving the judiciary. It's object is to bring about an up-to-date administration of the law, forward-looking decisions upon questions of social and economic importance."

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With vigorous shakes of his leonine head, Senator Borah took up the cudgel. He found immediately the chink in Cumming's armor. The Attorney-General had claimed that if there were more justices on the Supreme bench there would be fewer split decisions. Mr. Borah pounced on this suggestion and tore it to shreds. In fact he made Mr. Cummings admit that split decisions would still be possible no matter how many judges there were to make them.

WHEAT

A curious situation developed on the Chicago Board of Trade which may have serious and wide reaching implications. The price of wheat jumped ^{ing} up to a new high level, going up five cents a bushel. It would have gone up even higher but for the law which prohibits any greater rise in one day. As a consequence the cost of domestic wheat in the wheat pit went up to a dollar and forty cents a bushel, ~~that~~ the highest in eight years. And the reason? ~~it turned out was large~~ ^{Heavy} buying for European countries. That gave rise to the speculation that governments are laying in large stores of grain in expectation of immediate war. ^{It} It is noticeable that commodity prices are going up all over the world.

STRIKE

There's just one ray of humor in the strike situation.

And that is provided by the one-man sit down of ~~Mr.~~ Frank

Peterlin of Joliet, Illinois. ^{Frank} ~~Mr. Peterlin~~ got stuck in the

mud right in the middle of a road. He was stuck so badly that he couldn't get out and then came a frost which froze him tight.

And now he says, "Here I stay until the city improves this

confounded road!" And he proposes to fight it out along this

line if it takes all ^{Spring} ~~summer~~, ~~said he~~, adopting a famous quotation

for his own use. But he says he's ~~quite~~ ^{In fact} in earnest. [^] He has been

stuck in that same spot thirty-two times. And thirty-two times

it has cost him two dollars ^{a time} [^] to be hauled out of that mud.

But the City Fathers of Joliet aren't worrying about

^{Frank} ~~Peterlin at all~~ The Commissioner of Streets tried to move him

but the street was ~~xx~~ too muddy even for his resources. And

said the authorities at Joliet City Hall: "It's just too bad,

but he'll have to stay. We can't get enough cinders to cover

the street and there's no appropriation for crushed rock, so

that's that."

There you have the ~~bright~~ one bright spot in today's strike news. The rest of it is not ~~any~~ too cheery. (Detroit is a city full of strikers. Seventy-five thousand automobile workers are out. In both the Hudson and Chrysler plants production is practically at a standstill.) Governor Murphy, who had to cut short his vacation in Florida, ~~returned to~~ *arrives in* ~~Detroit~~ *tomorrow.* By telegram he made an appointment with officials of the C.I.O., and also the Hudson and Chrysler Companies.

Evidently he is about to follow the same tactics with which he settled the General Motors squabble, wear both sides down until they compromise from sheer exhaustion.

Meanwhile, the Chrysler Corporation announced that it had filed suit against the United Automobile Workers of America and would ask a court order to force the strikers to vacate the Chrysler plants in Detroit.

But to complicate matters, there's a sit down strike in St. Louis. The workers at the Chevrolet and Fisher Body plants there have adopted the Flint tactics. It is said that the real origin of this affair is a fight between rival unions.

And, ~~strike~~ mediators of Uncle Sam's government have been in Chicago trying to bring peace among the striking cab drivers. Fifty-six of them who were arrested last night were released on bond today. But Chicago was also afflicted with a subway strike; ^afor _^ hundred and fifty tunnel and warehouse workers are sitting down and have tied up sixty-two miles of Chicago's thirty million dollar underground system. The effect has been to cut the supply of fresh foodstuffs not only to restaurants and hotels, but to private houses.

In New York, Mayor LaGuardia put a stop to the sit-down of the Workers Alliance. That's an organization of people on relief who had occupied emergency relief stations where they spent the night playing games and listening to the radio. Mr. LaGuardia promised them a hearing, so they went home.

At Pittsburgh the employees of the Carnegie Illinois Steel Company decided against affiliating with the American Federation of Labor. The craft union idea, said one of their leaders, would bring chaos in ~~the~~ the steel industry.

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The labor situation has simmered down now to a fight to the finish between the A.F. of L. and John Lewis's C.I.O. The organizers of ^{the C.I.O.} ~~that Committee~~ are at work all over the country establishing locals and inviting A.F. of L. members to join the new locals and desert the old organization.

One of the most curious but short-lived of the current strikes was that at the New Willard Hotel in Washington. Manager Harry Somerville wires me that the only question at issue was the Union's demand for a closed shop. The hotel declined and the strike ended ~~with the Union~~ when the Union withdrew its demand.

LAILA

~~On both sides of the Atlantic, ships were in distress today.~~
~~The hapless MAR CANTABRICO wasn't the only vessel afire.~~ At
Boston, the LAILA, the pride of Denmark, ^{burned today.} ~~a~~ new ship that cost a
million and a half dollars only six months ago, ~~was~~ totally
destroyed by flames. Early this week she docked at Boston with
a load of sugar and nitrates. A million pounds of the sugar
had been unloaded and the stevedores were preparing to tackle
the nitrates, when fire suddenly blazed in the forward hold.
The crew did all they could, but the flames were too much for them.
They swept over the entire ship. Fire engines ~~from the city~~
~~department~~ rushed to the scene, fire boats chugged alongside,
but all in vain. Not only was that handsome vessel completely
gutted, but it was all the fire department could do to save the
pier.

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SHIP

The extraordinary adventure of that Spanish freighter, the MAR CANTABRICO, becomes more dramatic every hour^{ly}. It sounds now like a tale out of the Eighteenth Century. For in addition to the exciting experiences told yesterday, ~~the~~ word today ^{is} ~~that to cap~~ ~~something, came~~ the grimmest of all marine sensations, mutiny on the high seas. Surely, no vessel in fact or fiction every had a more exciting cruise than the last voyage of the MAR CANTABRICO. Beginning with her escape from these shores with a cargo of contraband, ~~of her~~, to her shelling and capture by the Rebel man-o-war, she went through almost everything that could happen to a ship.

The tale was told today by the sole survivor of the hapless Spanish freighter. Pablo Juan Boo, so far as we know the only member of the crew still living, was picked up at sea by a French fishing smack. The fishermen who rescued him took him to Arcachon. There he is being held, technically under arrest, until the authorities decide what to do with him. And there he told the tale of the voyage of the MAR CANTABRICO.

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When she reached mid-Atlantic, the crew tried to disguise her. They hauled down the Spanish flag, hoisted the British Union Jack, and painted out the ship's Spanish name. But then the actions of the skipper became suspicious. The crew, who were heartily in sympathy with ^{socialist Madrid} ~~the subject of the vessel's voyage,~~ turned upon their captain, and held a summary court martial on deck. They found him guilty of having had communication with the Rebels, sentenced him, shot him, and threw his body overboard.

Whereupon the first mate took charge. ~~He, since it was~~

^{Surmising} ~~evident~~ that the Rebels had information concerning the plans of the MAR CANTABRICO, ^{he} changed the ~~is~~ course and steered in the direction of Nantes, in France. ^{And that} ~~is~~ was not such a happy idea.

It brought him right into the regular traffic lanes between England and Portugal. In short, the wily mate steered his ship bang into a trap of Rebel men-o-war. And so she ^{came under the} ~~fell into the power~~

^{guns} of the Nationalist cruiser CANARIAS.

^{As I said last night} ~~The sailor who told this story said that he~~ ~~jump~~

jumped overboard when a boarding party from the CANARIAS reached

the deck of the MAR CANTABRICO, and managed to keep himself afloat until a French fishing smack reached him.

The story is filled with rumors today that the Rebels were informed of every move the ship made - informed from New York.

Meanwhile, the hapless MAR CANTABRICO was being towed into port by the CANARIAS with fire raging in one of her holds. A rich haul for the Rebels. When she was brought into the port of El Ferrol, which is in the hands of the Nationalists, they discovered that she was carrying no fewer than forty-seven airplanes, and, ammunition by the millions of rounds, now to be shot at the left-wingers who bought it all.

She wasn't the only ship in trouble, in those trouble infested waters. A French steamer: DJEBEL-ANTAR, was pursuing her lawful occupation, in the Mediterranean. Suddenly her passengers were terrified by a plane coming from no one knows where. Without warning, she tossed five bombs on this peaceful passenger and cargo ship. One of those bombs that came flashing down from the sky actually fell through the engine room skylight and right down among the engines. Fortunately for that French steamer and

its crew and passengers, the bomb did not explode. The nationality of the plane is not yet known.

The Spanish Civil War again becomes spectacular on land. Taking the shape of another big Rebel push on Madrid. Aimed from the northeast where General Mola tried to break through six months ago and failed. This time, the Nationalists claim they have pushed the government forces back twelve miles.

There is a good deal of excitement in Europe over the charge made by Madrid that in the vanguard of this new attack are two whole divisions of Italian troops. No comment has been made in Rome, but the Madrid government declares that to beat back this attack they had to bring a hundred thousand reinforcements to the scene of battle.

FIGHT

German heavyweight Max Schmeling made a bit of news today. One way or another he is determined to get Champion Jim Braddock in the ring with him. Jim of course preferred ~~to~~^S to fight Joe Louis in Chicago because his manager believes that the anti-Nazi boycott and prejudice would keep customers away from the box office. ~~So~~^{Now} Schmeling ~~has got a fair~~^{comes back with an} answer to that.

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If Champion Jim will fight him in Berlin this summer, Schmeling will guarantee him two hundred and fifty thousand, not Marks, but Dollars, two hundred and fifty thousand of Uncle Sam's best. This money, said Max, will be deposited in a bank in some neutral country, as an absolute token of good faith.

That's decidedly different from Schmeling's last utterance in this verbal conflict. Up to now he has been threatening law suits, injunctions, and so forth. To an impartial mind, this latter offer sounds like a ~~real sporting~~^{pretty good Nazi} proposition. No word has been heard on the subject from Braddock or his manager. It looks as though they would be in a rather difficult spot if they should refuse. Alread, there have been box ~~office~~^{fight} experts unkind

enough to hint that Braddock's real reason for preferring to fight Joe Louis was that he thought, ~~as~~ as they say in ring parlance, that Joe was the softer touch, and Schmeling has improved so much in his technique that he is a dangerous contender for anybody. As a matter of fact, no less an expert than Gene Tunney has expressed the opinion that Schmeling is today the best fighter of them all.

Schmeling's ^{large and lavish} ~~offer~~ offer is decidedly astonishing.

In order to make good, he must have obtained an exceedingly

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special dispensation from ^{Reichs Fueerer} ~~his masters~~ Hitler. There is a ~~very~~ strict law against taking or sending money out of Germany.

So to deposit that money in a French or English bank, Schmeling and his backers must have peculiar and specific permission from the government. The only reason one can imagine ^{is} ~~is~~ that ~~is~~ ~~that~~ the Nazi moguls think it would be a feather in their cap to have the heavyweight championship of the world.

GEHRIG FOLLOW FIGHT

Late this afternoon sports fans heard of something else to gossip about. Lou Gehrig, Iron Man Lou, the first baseman who hasn't missed a game in all these years, has signed a contract to appear in a movie. He was signed today by 20th Century Fox for a picture called "Trail Blazers," along with Richard Arlen.

That is indeed something to talk about. Lou today is the leading hold-out among baseball players. He has refused to sign the contract offered him by Colonel Ruppert, the owner of the Yankees. What's more he hasn't put in an appearance at the training camp at Florida. Lou was paid thirty-one thousand for last season, and they offered him thirty-six this year. But Lou thinks he is worth forty, and there the argument stands, with today's bulletin that Lou has gone Hollywood, which looks like backing for his hold out gesture. And now for my get out gesture:- SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.