

L. J. Synovos. Tues., Jan. 4/36.

Chandler
WAC

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The picture in Washington tonight is that of a man surrounded by a lot of wreckage -- dizzy and dazed, not knowing what to do with the pieces, not knowing what the results of the smash-up will be, asking -- "Where do we go from here?" The bewildered gentleman of course is ^{Mr.}~~the~~ Administration. The wreckage is the remains of the Triple A. ^{TF} Today, the Administration made its first move in the stupendous job that's before it -- the job of assembling some sort of order out ~~the~~ of the chaos. In trying to steer a ^{new}~~a~~ course New Deal officials are going to consult that element of the ~~the~~ population which is so directly concerned -- the farmers. (Secretary of Agriculture Wallace ~~has~~ announced ^{that} a conference of farm leaders has been called to meet in Washington next Friday and Saturday. The conference will discuss the bewildering question:- "After the Triple A -- what?") The New Deal chiefs ~~and~~ and the farm leaders will try to work out some other program of federal aid for agriculture. Secretary Wallace makes an appeal to the farmers to help in planning the future of agriculture, a future so deeply effected by yesterday's decision. ^{TF} Today the ~~g~~ farm

organizations are split, divided in opinion. Some of the agrarian leaders violently denounce the Supreme Court decision. Others approve it, and give three cheers.

Meanwhile today witnessed a wild flurry on the Chicago Produce Exchange where the price of hogs staged a spectacular. And I told mine ten days ago.

The dilemma in Washington is of the most complicated sort. The Administration has committed itself to a series of bonus payments to the farmers, and feels it must carry out its pledge. But now where will it get the money? The processing tax, which is supposed to collect it is knocked out. So they'll have to get it from Congress. The President said today he intends to ask the lawmakers for 250,000,000.

And then -- there are the huge sums of money collected during the past couple of years in the form of that same processing tax. Will the government have to kick back? (Will the manufacturers who paid the now outlawed tax be able to go to court and get refunds?) (And if the government had to hand back the money, where will it get the cash?) millions piled on millions are involved

in these money-raising questions. (And it's easy to see the possibilities of the Supreme Court Decision knocking the budget and treasury department finance into a twisted tangle.)

FOLLOW A. A. A.

Beyond the immediate puzzles brought on by the downfall of the A.A.A. - ^{there's} ~~we see~~ the political angle, big and mystifying. We are sure to have a whole series of new projects to help the farmer, projects within the scope of the Constitution. On the Democratic side and on the Republican, there will be a bountiful crop of schemes for aid to agriculture. On the other hand, (we hear defiant mutterings in New Deal circles, talk of amending the Constitution, to permit the Government to have wider power in social and industrial regulations.

That's one form of defiance - and there's another form which thinks of curbing the power of the Supreme Court, depriving the Nine High Justices of their right to knock out congressional laws because they consider them unconstitutional.) This latter, this discontent with the powers of the Supreme Court, goes far back into American history. Some historians argue that the Supreme Court took upon itself the right to review, the right to decide whether the laws Congress passes are according to the Constitution. It happens right now that Senator Borah speaks up on this very

point, in a magazine article just ~~printed~~^{out} in the RED BOOK. Senator Borah denies that the Supreme Court took the power unto itself.

"The power of the Court", says he, "to void an act of Congress on the ground that it is unconstitutional is plainly and unmistakeably conferred by the terms of the Constitution." And he denounces the contention sometimes made that the famous Chief Justice, John Marshall, usurped that right. "No greater myth" writes the Senator, "was ever paraded before an intelligent people."

So you see the overthrow of the Triple A sharpens and emphasizes the lines of battle in a political struggle that reaches down into the basic essentials of our system of government. It is a decided question whether President Roosevelt, the New Deal or the Democratic Party would go to the length of making a drive to amend the Constitution ~~or~~ to curb the power of the Supreme Court. If ~~it~~ they did, Nineteen Thirty-six would be ~~turned~~ turned into the greatest basic political conflict since the Civil War.

~~These possibilities are magnified by the fact that yesterday's court decision not only tosses out the Triple A, but~~

Just by way of contrast to the Supreme Court complexities of the Administration, here's one New Deal law that doesn't seem to be getting any knocks. It's called the Corporate Reorganization Act, and its purposes are to allow a firm that is burdened with excessive charges to reorganize itself in a more favorable way. A whole series of big corporations have availed themselves of this law - like the Butterick Company, the General Public Utilities Company, the Paramount Publix Corporation, the McCrory Chain Stores, the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria. The Waldorf is an example of how under that reorganization law, a concern that developed with staggering obligations under boom time conditions, can work out an agreement to reduce the excessive charges and start out under a new successful financial system, and the other great corporations say the same.

appearance as a witness ~~at the~~ ^a Senate Inquiry -- several years

ago. That was when a midget sat on the lap of the Titan of

-- when those celebrated
finance, [^] pictures were snapped. It was all the work of that

singular genius, Dexter Fellows, press agent for the circus.

Today, however, there were no midgets. There were giants, the

shades of giants of World War days -- President Woodrow Wilson,

Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan, ^{Lansing,} [^] Jusserand, the French

Ambassador. They seemed to stalk like ghosts in ~~that~~ ^{today.} committee room [^]

Read, ^{indeed} [^] it was an expansive, jovial Morgan, but also a precise

Morgan. He ~~likes~~ likes his facts to be exact and authoritative.

They tell a story of how a little Morgan grandson asked the great

money master one day -- if locomotive engineers had to blow the

whistle every time the ~~xx~~ train came to a grade crossing? J. P. Morgan

didn't answer, not right away. He called upon ^{the} [^] attorneys of the

House of Morgan, to find out about the locomotive engineer and

whistle. They did. Then he told his little grandson. Morgan likes

correct answers.

So it's not astonishing today that he corrected one of

his partners, Thomas W. Lamont, who in testifying, misquoted the Bible. "Money is the root of all evil," misquoted Mr. Lamont.

"No," interrupted J. P. Morgan, the money master, "the Bible says the love of money is the root of all evil." ^(J. P. ought to know about that!) So there was precision

~~xxx~~ when ~~J. P.~~ Morgan took the witness stand and testified. ~~ix~~

And State secrets were revealed, financial secrets of the World War, the things that went on behind the scenes, the strings that were pulled, when that rage of battle took those millions of lives.

J. P. Morgan in a formal declaration took the occasion to deny the oft-repeated charge that the United States was drawn into the war by the loans the bankers made to the Allies, by the huge bills of goods they sold on credit. ^{He} ~~J. P. Morgan~~ declared roundly that the United States went into the war because of the misdoings of the Germans, misdoings like the sinking of the Lusitania. He said that he, as a financier, did everything he could within the law to help the Allies to win.

The testimony amplified by documents ~~xxxxix~~ revealed several important historical aspects. One was that Secretary of State Bryan believed that lending money to belligerents was

Vaughan.

Jan. 7,

1936.

VAUGHAN

Some days ago when the exile of the Lindberghs was large in the news, I was interested in picking up sidelights on the personality and legend of the Lone Eagle. There was one man who could have told us a good deal, but he was away, flying on business - Guy Vaughan, President of Curtiss-Wright. He's the man who built Lindbergh's motor for the history-making flight across the Atlantic. Well, sidelights on Lindbergh are always news - and Guy Vaughan is here to give us a few odd flashes. So tell us, Guy, about how Lindbergh wanted to buy a plane, and got a motor instead.

GUY VAUGHAN: Well, Lowell, into my office one day walked a tall, young fellow who said he wanted to buy a monoplane we had. I asked him what for, and he replied without batting an eyelash: "I'm planning to fly from New York to Paris, non-stop." I nearly fell over with astonishment. But the young fellow was cool, intelligently, and deadly in earnest. Then I refused to sell him the plane he wanted - because I thought the hazards of the flight were too great. But my pessimism didn't dampen his enthusiasm

one bit. He began to talk about a motor for his flight to Paris. I called in one of our engineers, and the three of us went over the engine problem. A couple of weeks later we got an order from the Mahoney Ryan Aircraft Company, in California, for a Whirlwind engine. And, the next thing, you know, the Lindbergh flight was on!

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L.T.: But, you also had something to do with that world famous take-off ten years ago, didn't you, Guy? Something to do with the motor - and also with a more curious and interesting object.

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GUY VAUGHAN: You mean the letter. The day before the take-off he came to our factory to check up on some mechanical detail. I took him to my home that evening, and he asked me if there was any way for him to get a letter of introduction to the American Ambassador to France. And I got him one from Charles Lawrence, designer of his motor, who happened to be a friend of Ambassador Herrick.

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L.T.: So that's how the Lone Eagle procured the famous letter,

which was the only way he could think of to get an introduction to the Ambassador when he landed in Paris.

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GUY VAUGHAN: As a news man, Lowell, you know a good deal about the Colonel's violent prejudice against being photographed?

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L.T.: Who doesn't? That's said to have been the last straw that drove the Lone Eagle and his family into exile.

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GUY VAUGHAN: Well, I've always noticed that Lindbergh is at his kindest and friendliest among mechanics, with fellows in greasy overalls around the aviation field. Once I saw a bunch of mechanics around the hangar, and they said they wanted to take some pictures of him. Lindbergh replied:- "All right, sure". And they dragged out all the cameras they could find and he posed for all the snapshots they could take. Consequently the people most loyally devoted to Lindbergh are, the mechanics.

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L.T.: And that is indeed a sidelight on the strange drama of

the world's most famous aviator - Lindbergh posing for pictures
for flying-field workmen, and loving it! - and then running
away in a panic when the news cameramen come to get pictures
for publicity!

INDIA

India seems to be prominent in the news these days -- the human interest part of the news. This time it concerns a strange ceremony, a significant one. A crowd of men, an assembly -- gathered around a fire. And the ceremony was -- a burning of books. It was a kind of funeral ritual, the offending volumes treated as dead, consumed by fire, as the Hindu dead are. An affair of deep significance.

The people were Untouchables, those Pariahs and outcasts of India considered by the lordly Brahmins to be less than the dogs. It was a local meeting of Untouchables -- "the Nasik district depressed Class Youth League." They were gathered to do their bit in the wide-spread revolt against the oppression and degradation put upon them by age-old Hinduism, the Hindu social system and Hindu religion.

And they burned the Shastras. These are sacred books, part of that copious body of ancient writings that are the Bible of Hinduism. The Shastras are the section of the sacred books that prescribe the treatment of the Untouchables. The Shastras contain passages that command the practice of untouchability

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So the Untouchables burned the Shastras in a funeral bonfire. Funeral orations were spoken as the books were committed to the flames. Passages of the Shastras were read, those passages which give religious sanction to the doctrine of untouchability, and recommend the depression of the depressed classes.

With that burning of the sacred books, the Untouchables of the Nasik district served ritualistic notice that they were withdrawing from the Hindu religion, that they were breaking with the aged social doctrines of Hinduism. And American missionaries are partly responsible for this revolt of the depressed classes in India. If it gains momentum there is no telling what profound ~~changes and~~ disturbances may come about in India.

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And there'll be a profound disturbance right here if I don't say s-l-u-t-m.