

L. T. Dunnes - Fri. July 30, 1937

LABOR BILL.

All ~~xx~~ day today there was fiery debate in the United States Senate. The question at issue - the Wages and Hours Bill. The measure to ~~reim~~ regulate the pay and working conditions of labor throughout the United States. This morning Congress had rumors that President Green of the American Federation of Labor was opposing, that he disapproved of the bill. But that was set at rest later in the day, when the A. F. of L. President declared his position - in support of the wages and hours regulation. He is for it, although there are certain features he doesn't like, and wants to see amended.

The President is determined to drive the bill through. The administration leaders tried to force it to a vote today, but at last reports the Senate was still deadlocked. Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi is leading the opposition. He made a vitriolic speech against the bill. He denounced further federal regulation of industry, he defended industrial methods in the South. There's bitter opposition in the southern states against Government standards of pay and work, increasing hostility toward unionism in the land of cotton fields. That's why the gentleman from Mississippi

blasted the bill with all the power of his eloquence. The business of pushing the measure through was delayed by a flock of amendments. It seemed as if every Senator wanted to make some change or other. Some of the amendments were quickly turned down, others provoked long debate. A few were adopted. ~~One~~ of these exempts truck drivers and air transport workers from the provisions of the bill. Railway and maritime workers are already left out.

Today's Senate debate begins the last big fight during the current session of Congress. Wages and Hours are the last important measure that the Administration wants to put through.

SUPREME COURT

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One of the liveliest topics in ^{low home} politics ^{right} now is that vacancy on the Supreme Court - the bench left empty by the retirement of Justice VanDevanter. Who is to get the appointment? Who will President Roosevelt choose to be the new justice on the high tribunal? Naturally, there's all kinds of speculation, and here's today's rumor - Governor Frank Murphy of Michigan, the Irish Governor who was so big in the headlines when he was mediating Michigan's wave of automobile strikes.

Murphy for the Supreme Court! - ~~What's~~ What's at the bottom of the report? Just one thing - the Governor is scheduled to pay a visit to the White House this weekend. He'll be a Presidential guest, and that has set tongues wagging, saying - Supreme Court. Today the rumor was put up to Senator Brown of Michigan, who is a political buddy of Governor Murphy's. He refused to confirm or deny, merely said - that it was possible during the Murphy White House visit the Supreme Court vacancy might be discussed.

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A few days ago rumor mentioned - Lafollette of Wisconsin and the reason behind that was - a ⁱ _A visit to the President. Senator Lafollette spent a weekend aboard the Presidential yacht. It ~~seem~~

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seems that most anybody who calls on Mr. Roosevelt, is mentioned for the Court vacancy. Think I'll try to wangle a visit to the

White House, and maybe I'll be mentioned, *Col. McIntyre, how* ~~as a Justice of the~~

~~Supreme Court.~~ *about it?*

CHINA

In the middle of the Far Eastern War tonight is an American University, where the wisdom of the west is taught to the *youth of the East.* ~~Chinese~~ Around it the cannon have been crashing today, shells exploding. The Mikado's troops, on a swift fighting job are wiping up the remains of the 29th division of the Chinese Army which they have virtually destroyed. Chan-kai-shek, the Chinese chief, is said to be rushing fifty thousand men to stop the Japanese.

In the center of the struggle today was that American University at Yenching. There a group of Americans have taken refuge. At last reports they were safe. Dr. J. Leighton Stuart, the President of the Yenching University, made his way through the battle area today and reported that no American had been harmed.

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I had a talk today about Yenching University, a talk with Upton Close, a writer on Far Eastern affairs. Upton Close told me how the University had formerly been within the walls of Peking, but the quarters were too cramped. So Dr. Stuart, now the head, looked for a suitable site outside of the City.

Upon Close related how he and Dr. Stuart were on a trip into the interior of China, to the distant city of Sian, which then

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was controlled by an~~d~~ ex-bandit Governor named Chen. They learned that the former bandit had a marvelous piece of land at Yenching eight miles outside the City of Peking. This land had once belonged to the imperial household. The bandit had ~~won it~~ won it from a Manchu Prince in a game of Mahjong. It was of no use to Chen because he couldn't go near Peiping or he'd be arrested and possibly beheaded. So now he thought he might as well donate it to philanthropy. And this he did - handed the land over as the new site for the American University. They finally had to pay him a few thousand dollars for it, but that was merely nominal.

So there at Yenching they built a magnificent University, with the most beautiful campus in China. Everything Chinese style - but with all modern improvements. And there they educated Chinese youths. Yenching has turned out hundreds of important Chinese leaders, and has been a focus of anti-Japanese sentiment. So the Japanese hate the Institution. They regard it as one of the chief centers of intellectual ~~resistance~~ resistance to their control of North China. ~~When~~ Upton Close told me that he had heard Japanese leaders say

privately that some day they'd destroy Yenching University. *Will it happen during the present fighting? Not yet at any rate.*

SPAIN

The Spanish Civil War today flares with a new touch of fantastic horror - deadly germs, the bacilli of disease. The Franco Regime charges that there's an international plot of red radicals to create an epidemic of deadly disease in rebel Spain. And they press the charge seriously enough to condemn to death two Frenchmen, whom they claim they caught smuggling in the fatal germs. An insurgent court pronounced the death sentence today. But, General Franco has ordered the doom of the two Frenchmen to be delayed. He wants to put the case up to an international jury for investigation - the charge that an epidemic-plot was hatched in London by Britishers, Frenchmen and Spaniards.

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Also Spain tells us that on the left wing side a coalition has been formed between the two great radical unions, one Socialist, the other Syndicalist. They've been at bitter odds, those two rival red organizations - the Socialist Union inclining to communism, the Syndicalist Union being of Anarchist persuasion. (Some weeks ago, the Anarchists in Barcelona revolted against the Socialist Government, and there was savage fighting. But now the powerful red labor groups have buried their hatchet. They're uniting

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Communist and Anarchist in the battle against Fascism and Franco.)

LIONS

Today, in England, death brought to an end a strange and tragic career. The disrobed clergyman who was mauled by a lion, has succumbed to his injuries. And the news dispatches this evening bring us the garish details of the story.

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For years the Reverend Harold Davidson, was rector in an English town spelled Stiffkey and pronounced Stewky, according to the ^{real} curious ways of pronunciation in England. He had rather a sensational and brilliant career in the church. The Reverend Harold Davidson devoted himself to the rehabilitation of London's underworld, saving derelicts, preaching in the slums, a pastor of the poor. Then, he became involved in a scandal, was tried on charges of immorality, and was expelled from the ministry ~~and~~ ^{disrobed.} That was a story in the news several years back.

After he was ^{was} ~~dis~~robed, the former clergyman adopted a singular profession -- combined lion trainer and preacher. In a circus side show he put the wild beasts through their paces and delivered a sermon. He called his act - "Davidson in the Lion's Den."

Yesterday he was going through his routine. Having led his lions through their act, he was preaching, the great

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cats grouped around him. In the fervor of his exhortation, he made a false step, and accidentally trot on the paw of a lioness. The lioness roared, and instantly her mate, a shaggy maned old lion, leaped upon the former rector of Stewky, hurled him down and tore him with fang and claw. He'd have been killed instantly, save for the brave quickness of a girl performer in the side show. With a whip she drove off the ~~an~~ ^{beast,} angry ~~lion,~~ and the injured man was taken to a hospital.

Today, crowds thronged the amusement park and the side show. There, big ~~balloons~~ ballyhoo signs were posted: - "See the lion who clawed the rector," proclaimed the advertising, and it drew the business. Meanwhile, at the hospital - the rector died.

The tawdry, tragic end of what had been a brilliant career.

BLONDE

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On the roof of a fashionable New York apartment house, where there were benches and shrubs, a good-looking blonde sat sewing. It's always an agreeable sight, a smartly dressed, attractive young woman working away at the ancient feminine handicraft of stitching and mending. A detective came wandering onto the roof. He was looking for a burglar, trying to solve the mystery of a series of robberies in that swanky apartment house. He looked at the cute blonde, as she sat there busily sewing. He noted that she was stitching her handkerchief, which was all right. But he also observed that she was sewing with a key, not a needle, ~~but~~ a door key. And that was an astonishing thing to behold.

The detective walked over to the blonde and remarked "Well, this is the first time in my life I ever saw a girl use a key for sewing."

And the blonde answered - "So what?"

This was what - the burglaries had been committed with, a pass key, which gave admittance to all the apartments in the building. The pass key had been swiped from the place where it hung in the lobby of the apartment house. And the key

with which the blonde was non-chalantly sewing - that was the
pass key.

So today the blonde is under arrest, and the police
say she has confessed ^{to} the robberies.
A

SHIP

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Tonight it's the familiar story all over again -- an investigation, an inquiry into the reason for the disaster. And in Congress -- demands that something must be done to keep fire at sea from happening again. Senator Copeland told the law makers that the burning of the passenger ship in Chesapeake Bay was proof of the need of a bill he is sponsoring - a bill for stricter maritime safety regulations. Meanwhile, off the shore of Upper Chesapeake Bay, the fire scarred hulk of ^{the} SS CITY OF BALTIMORE rests on the bottom of the sea, with only the smoke stack sticking above the water. At last reports two persons were known to have lost their lives, but a number of others are missing.

The origin of the blaze is still undecided. Some think the fire began in the hold. Others say -- the engine room. The more likely account is that the flames burst forth in the ship's galley. There's a general agreement that the blaze shot up from below decks, a terrifying spurt of flame. The fire spread with almost incredible rapidity. The CITY OF BALTIMORE was a twenty-six-year-old paddle steamer with a wooden super-structure. And in an hour she was a mass of flames

from end to end, as the Captain drove her toward shore. Luckily the vessel was passing through a narrow channel when the fire broke out, and rescue boats from the nearby shore swarmed around by the score, as the passengers, driven by the flames, some of them badly burned, were forced to jump into the bay -- some with life preservers and some without. That's how it was that sixty-one survivors were rescued -- after an ordeal wild with the horror of flames.

ARCTIC

Five hundred new islands are to be added to the map. Half a thousand will be marked down where only one is charted now. That's the news from the Far North, the icy north above Labrador. It comes from the ^{Donald} MacMillan Expedition in the Arctic.

The message was received by ^{Commander E. J.} Gene McDonald of Chicago, aboard his yacht ^{Mizpah} in Lake Michigan. Gene ^{has} was associated with Commander MacMillan's ^{on} former expeditions. ^{— went along once,} The wireless reads: "We

worked out way through the ice in Hudson Straits to Resolution Island, and found it to be a mass of islands instead of one.

A conservative estimate makes it to be a group consisting of at least five hundred islands." Such is the ^{MacMillan} discovery announced across the ether waves.

Well, that certainly does multiply Resolution Island. It's marked on the maps as a large bit of land amid the icy wastes of Hudson Strait. It lies ~~xx~~ to the north of Labrador, just off the tip of Baffin Land. The real nature of Resolution Island has ^{long} been shrouded by the ice of the Far North. It has never been of any value as one island, and I don't know of what use it will be as five hundred. But, that's a lot of islands.

And here's something else from the Arctic, astonishing -

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a heat wave at the North Pole and a shortage of snow. This is related in ~~in~~ a wireless from the party of Soviet weather ^{living} observers at the Pole. They complain about the heat at the farthest^t point North - warm weather. It's not exactly a hundred in the shade, if there were any shade at the North Pole. But it is above freezing, and that has been causing the ice-flow on which they had camped to melt! Ice dissolving into rivers of water - a rushing stream flowing past their tent, a stream big enough for navigation in their rubber boat;

so deep in some places that they couldn't touch bottom with an

oar, and by bottom I mean the ice on which they are encamped.

That does seem a strange phenomenon, a river on polar

ice. The Russian scientists add they had to fetch snow to

^{There at the North Pole}
bolster up their tent. [^] They had to search far and wide for snow

and haul it on their sleds. Their dispatch ends cheerily,

however, reporting that snow has begun to fall, the first sign

of winter - the long Polar winter for which they are longing,

as I do my solonging - solong until Monday!

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