

LORDS

England staged its glittering law court pageant today. A peer of the realm was tried; and they put the show on with all the theatrical color and circumstance required by ancient custom. The Magna Carta, which the barons extorted from King John in the year Twelve Hundred and Fifteen, decreed that a man must be tried by a jury of his peers.

The defendant today was Baron deClifford, whose title dates back to Twelve Ninety-nine. So a jury of his lordship's peers could only be the House of peers itself. It is true that Baron deClifford is quite a modern person. A few years ago he achieved quite an up-to-date sort of fame by marrying a daughter of the queen of the London night clubs. The Kit Kat night club queen was a flaunting figure in the gay world of dining, wining and dancing. So when her fair daughter was wedded to that ancient title going back to the year Twelve Ninety-Nine, it made quite a stir - especially when his lordship was promptly hauled into court and fined Two hundred and fifty dollars for having falsified

his age in the marriage certificate. He was only nineteen but swore he was twenty-two.

Nor was the charge he was tried on today to the antique Magna Charta variety. It was based on reckless driving, speeding on the wrong side of the road. There was a crash, a man killed, and Baron deClifford charged with manslaughter.

Today the House of Lords assembled as "the Court of our Lord the King in Parliament". Their Lordships were garbed in scarlet robes, trimmed with gold and ermine. On their heads they wore black cocked hats. Viscount Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, presided in the capacity of Lord High Steward. He sat on a golden throne. The prisoner was ushered in and took his place. Young deClifford kneeled on a velvet cushion.

Then up stepped an official called the "Black Rod". He handed a White Staff to the Lord Chancellor. That White Staff symbolized the trial. Then the barristers, in their full bottomed wigs, recited the ~~xx~~ accusation and the defense. The contention of the Defense was that it was merely an unfortunate

automobile accident and that there was no real case of manslaughter. As a legal battle the arguments weren't so hot. It was the scenery and the stage business that made the show.

When the arguments were complete, an official called the roll, the roll of the peers, the lords spiritual and the lords Temporal. He recited the name of each and demanded, "How say you M'Lord?" And each peer placed his hand on his heart and said either "guilty" or "not guilty." The verdict was - "not guilty" defendant acquitted. Whereupon, Viscount Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, sitting as Lord High Steward, raised the white wand and broke it across his knee, signifying that the trial was ended.

It was a great show, all according to the ancient Magna Charta won on the Field of Runnymede. All that remains now is to send in the bill. The pageant of trial, with the House of Peers sitting as "the Court of our Lord the King and Parliament" ran up a cost of Fifty thousand dollars. According to law, the cost of trial has to be borne by the county in which the offense

was committed. In this case it is the County of Surrey, and the people of Surrey will have to kick in with the Fifty thousand! for that traffic case before "The Court of Our Lord the King ~~and~~ Parliament."

NAVAL CONFERENCE

The Japanese walked out of the Naval Conference.

They walked out physically, ~~on their feet, putting them down and~~
~~sinking them up, and~~ ^{out} through the door. But, was it a walkout?

It happened right after the vote was taken - a vote as to whether the Conference should accede to Japan's demand.

Admiral Osumi Nagano said: "We want parity. We want a navy as big as the English fleet or the American fleet."

The American delegation voted - no. Norman Davis stated the viewpoint ^{of} Washington under three headings: Number One - Japanese naval equality would mean the building of more ships, not ~~fewer~~ naval increase, not reduction: Number Two - Japanese naval equality doesn't fit in with the fact that different powers have different naval needs. One nation may need a fleet of a certain size and a certain kind. Another nation may need a fleet of another size and another kind. Number Three - Japanese naval equality would violate the Washington Naval Treaty, which is based on the Five-Five-Three ratio. In the fifteen years since it was signed, the international situation has not changed enough to warrant a change in ~~that~~ ^{the} Treaty.

The delegations of England and her colonies also voted "No" - for the same reasons as the Americans.

France and Italy likewise voted "No", but their reasons were something else again. The French and Italians are against the Japanese plan of equality, because it leaves them out of the equality sunshine. The Japanese idea was that Great Britain, the United States and Japan should be equal in the first place, while France and Italy be as equal as they please with smaller fleets - in second place. However - Rome and Paris think there should be equality all around, with themselves included. They want this as a matter of pride and principle, because nobody supposes that France and Italy will try to build each a fleet as big as the British Navy.

Whatever cross currents and mixed motives there were, the vote was solidly against Japan. So the Japanese delegation got up and walked out. They were so prompt and hasty about it, that at first people thought it was a real protest-and-indignation walkout. But later we hear authoritatively that the Japanese left in such a hurry merely because they were anxious to put some quick messages on the cable and shoot a few questions to their government at Tokio.

In Egypt the students have won out -- that's the only way to interpret today's event on the banks of the Nile. After all the anti-British rioting, week after week, the cabinet of ~~Pr~~ Premier Tewfik Nessim Pasha couldn't keep going any longer.

It decided to resign. Yesterday the leaders of the student agitators went around and paid a visit to all the political leaders who might be expected to form a new cabinet, and told them:-

"We won't be satisfied with anything unless the Egyptain constitution is restored. If that isn't done the rioting will go

on." That was the ultimatum of the students. ^{It} Last night, we

are told, the British high commissioner went to the house of

Premier Tewfik, and informed him that the British government

would make no objection if he went ahead and did restore the

constitution. ^{It} So, today, King Fuad of Egypt put his signature

on an edict -- restoring the constitution. ^{And} the students

have their way.

What does it all mean? England ^{allowed} ~~has~~ Egypt have its independence in 1922 -- with some strings attached to ^{that} independence.

The Egyptians were to have complete and free parliamentary govern-

ment-- so far as internal affairs were concerned. But England kept control of Egyptian foreign affairs and the Egyptian army. These were the terms of the constitution, about which such a hullabaloo has been raised.

52
It was put into effect three times, and ~~it~~ discontinued three times after various disturbances and agitation -- mostly anti-British. It was discontinued the last time a year ago, though England ^{did} promised to restore ^{it} ~~the constitution~~. During the British ~~in~~ elections Sir Samuel Hoare, the Foreign Minister, indicated that London wasn't in any hurry about that constitution business in Egypt. That provoked a succession of ~~violent~~ student riots which flared so dangerously in the midst of the Italian-Ethiopian crisis. Now London has conceded ^{the} ~~a~~ point, and the Egyptians get their constitution back.

ETHIOPIA

For weeks we had been hearing about today - Thursday, December twelfth. It was marked on the calendar with a red ring around it - oil sanctions day, ~~was~~ when the Sanctions-Committee-of-Eighteen-of-the-League would take up the dangerous and touchy matter of cutting off Mussolini's oil supplies. ~~But~~, how things have changed in the past few days, [!] changed by that Franco-British Peace Proposal, which would give Il Duce half of Ethiopia!

Well what happened to that oil embargo meeting scheduled for today? It got all tangled up with the revolt of the small nations against the Peace Plan. Led by Turkey and Poland, the little fellows won a victory at Geneva. France and England wanted the Peace Plan to be considered by ^{that same} ~~the~~ Committee of Eighteen, but the small nations today demanded that it should be debated by the full assembly of the League. And they were so loud about it that they had their way. ^{ff} They'll all have their say next Wednesday. So, for the moment, the Committee of Eighteen is on the shelf. And as it was to have considered the oil embargo, that's on the ~~shelf~~ shelf too.

53
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The whole business, Peace Plan, oil embargo, and all, will be aired on Wednesday - with France taking the position that they might as well call off the sanctions business entirely, all the ~~xx~~ sanctions. So you can see the possibilities for a complicated lot of argument.

Meanwhile, Rome continues to keep very quiet. Today we hear a cautious warning about excessive optimism.

Today a member of the British Cabinet predicted that the Paris-London plan would fail.

Meanwhile, the London dope is insistent that the sudden right-about face of the British government in its big offer to Mussolini was brought about by the intervention of King George. And that ties back to other rumors that the King of Italy had

74
appealed personally to the King of England, as one royal brother to another, asking him to intervene. They say King George did intervene, because he believed that the Ethiopian tangle ~~was~~ drifting in wild peril toward a blow-up, war in Europe. (The King
The King)

at { of England isn't supposed to have much to say, but we hear that King George persuaded his ministers to make those huge concessions to Italy. Still more striking is the word that it was His Majesty's personal appeal that has pacified Captain Anthony Eden, the League of Nations enthusiast. Eden was supposed to ~~be~~ have been bitter at the betrayal of the League and was ^{reported ready} ~~supposed~~ to resign. But at the King's word he is staying on the job and is pushing the Franco-British plan before the League of Nations. So says the dope from London.)

VAN SWERINGENS

Some weeks ago we had a romantic story of business - the comeback of the Van Sweringens. I told how the two brothers, having fallen from their lofty throne of railroading and finance, had staged a dizzy reversal and had recovered their empire of rail~~roads~~. Their vast holdings, mortgaged to the hilt, were put on the auction block and sold to the highest bidder. But the buyers were the two railroad brothers themselves, who at the last minute raised the money and stepped in and bought back the old homestead, or rather the old railroad empire.

In the events that surrounded this thrilling comeback story, was one detail which seemed utterly unimportant at the time. In some of the legal hearings that were held, the ~~elder~~^{elder} ~~younger~~[^] Van Sweringen, M.J., did not appear to testify. The Court was told that he was ill, laid up with an attack of flu. Some might have suspected that it was a convenient illness, the kind of malady that sometimes keeps people from testifying. ^{TP} But what do we hear today? The ~~elder~~ brother, M.J., was not merely ill, but he stayed ill, and today he died. From what malady did he suffer? The medical diagnoses is this: "General exhaustion brought on by mental and

VAN SWERINGENS

emotional strain", say the doctors. That's the aftermath of the brilliant comeback success story - too much mental and emotional strain in the drama of business and its happy ending. So tonight the great railroad brother act, the Van Sweringens, O.P. and M.J. - is broken up, right after its last success.

They began as two motherless Ohio boys, Oris and Mantis - odd names. From the very beginning Oris and Mantis displayed that tendency to work together which distinguished them all their lives - brothers and partners. They were office boys together working for the same firm. Together, they were promoted and became clerks. They struck out as partners in a real estate venture, and failed. In the second real estate try they succeeded - as partners. And always operating together, they got into railroading, climbed to a dizzy height of wealth and power, had their downfall in a nose-dive of fortune - then staged that last come-back! Oris and Mantis -- O.P. and M.J.

Now for what is called:- "The most epochal event in all protestantism since the reformation." The plan for reuniting the Methodist Church is now made public -- "The plan of union." It was ratified recently in a conference in Cincinnati, ^{but} ~~the~~ _^ terms were not immediately revealed.

57
Now we hear that the Methodist Episcopal ^{Church,} _^ the Methodist Episcopal ^{Church} _^ South, and the Methodist Protestant Church are to become, simply -- the Methodist Church. In the new name the word "Episcopal" is dropped. Nevertheless, the newly united church will be episcopal in government and administration, meaning ruled by bishops. At the top of the organization will be a judicial counsel which will scrutinize the actions of the various church conferences, and decide whether they are constitutional -- a sort of religious supreme court. There will be a general conference meeting every four years in addition to various local conferences.

This plan of union will ^{unite} ~~unite the~~ _^ three branches which have a total of eight million communicants, six million Sunday School students and a "constituency" of thirty million. And it will heal that long historic breach between the Methodist

churches of the North and South. They split in two, more than a century ago over the slavery and secession issue that brought on the Civil War. Immediately after the war the attempts to heal the split began, but for seventy years they were unsuccessful -- until now.

It would all please the heart of a man who lived and worked two hundred years ago and who had the crisis and turning point of his life right here in the United States. ~~the~~ The Colony of Georgia was just being settled. Two brothers came over from England, straight from Oxford, John and Charles Wesley. They were clerics in the Anglican Church, exceedingly high church. The young ritualistic minister, John Wesley fell in love with a young woman of the colony, and proposed marriage. She refused him and married another man. Jilted and angry, John Wesley refused to administer the sacrament to her in church. Her husband brought suit and a grand jury indicted John Wesley on ten counts for having exceeded his authority as a minister of the gospel. With that, ~~John~~ Wesley left America.

On the ship back to England he wrote in his diary:- "What

have I learned? That I who went to America to convert others was never myself converted to God." Yes, that was the turning point. John Wesley, himself, then and there became converted - and went on to convert others. And today the three branches of his church in the United States make public their plan to unite forming the largest protestant body on earth. Or am I right about that. Guess I'll run along and look it up -- and,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.