

WASHINGTON

E. J. - Sunoco. Tues., Nov. 27/34

~~Now~~, The latest from Washington concerns that ^{relatively}~~thoroughly~~ unfamiliar word - economy. Yet of course, economy did have a big place in President Roosevelt's plans. Remember the drastic money saving measures he put into effect when he began his administration? These are complicated times, and ideas of economy got tangled up with ideas of relief. It was a paradox, a dilemma, with which the President has been confronted all the time. Economy means saving, relief means spending. So the earlier economy ^{wave}~~way~~ was sunk by the latter relief ~~way~~.

But now we hear that a wholesale campaign of saving is to be launched in Washington. They say the various departments will get orders to cut down their budgets. The money needed to run ~~the various~~ departments and bureaus will be shaved to a minimum. So, when the President submits the general budget to Congress in January, it will be down to bed rock.

But how will ^{the} money be saved? By dismissing needless employees? ~~But~~ That would merely increase unemployment, increase the need of relief, increase spending. There you have the paradox, the old dilemma. The Administration is against any wholesale discharge of

workers in the government bureaus. It wants to keep as many on the job as possible. So they'll try to save money on other items, supplies, materials.

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The new combination of relief and economy will take this form - spending to help the jobless, and saving in ways that will not increase unemployment.

Two things seem to be definite. One is that the President will not ask Congress to increase income taxes. The other is that he will fight to the last ditch to stop the movement for immediate payment of the veterans' bonus. The dope is that the Administration will start an immediate drive on Capitol Hill, to forestall the bonus agitation, which is sure to wax hot and heavy in the new congress. Taking the cue from the President's own declaration, they are going to try to make it unfashionable to demand the bonus right now.

GREEK BONUS

Here's another bonus problem - not in Washington but in Athens. In Greece the war veterans are demanding increased pensions, and now they have delivered an ultimatum. Are they going to stage a bonus march? Or a drive in the Hellenic congressional elections?

Not at all. They have served notice on the government that if the increased pensions are not immediately forthcoming, the veterans will mail their war medals back to the government. They explain that they are not interested in the ribbons and crosses unless they have the cash to back them up. So, if the Athenian government doesn't kick in, a carload of assorted war decorations will be dumped in the shadow of the ^{Acropolis.}~~metropolis.~~

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Russell Owen.

Nov. 27, 1934.

RUSSELL OWEN

I know I'm not the only one who is puzzled about the geographic aspects of Admiral Byrd's latest flight of discovery in the Antarctic. I'll bet there are plenty of you folks listening in who've scratched your heads just as ~~fa~~ I've scratched mine and wondered -- what the deuce is it all about? So I got someone to tell us -- and he ought to know.

When Admiral Byrd made his former expedition to the Antarctic a couple of years ago, and flew over the South Pole, just as he had flown over the North Pole, one prominent member of the big expedition was a representative of the New York Times. Remember him -- Russell Owen? Thanks to his fluent typewriter that Byrd Expedition was more copiously covered journalisticly than any other exploration show in history. Your Uncle Sam made Dick Byrd an admiral. And Russell Owen got the Pulitzer prize for the best newspaper job of the year.

And of course that former Byrd Expedition had an inside

story. Men in a community half buried by the snow! Were they getting on each other's nerves? Were they scrapping? What was that inside story? Well, the story has just been written -- by Russell Owen. The name of his book is "South of the Sun." The critics say it is great. And, having read it, I can say the same thing, although I'm not a critic.

But it is not the human ~~side~~^{side} that's the puzzle of the moment; it's the geographical. When they talk about the topography of the South Pole, it leaves me in a haze. So let's have Russell Owen tell us. And make it simple, Russell. All I know is that the Antarctic continent is a huge ice-covered land, as big as the United States and Mexico combined.

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RUSSELL OWEN:- The section we have to consider is directly opposite New Zealand.

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L.T.:- So that's the region that Admiral Byrd has just flown over and where he mapped out a huge unexplored territory, and annexed two-hundred-thousand miles of Antarctic ice to the territories of the United States?

RUSSELL OWEN:- Yes, but that annexing business is not the important part of it. The vital thing is geographical. On opposite sides of the Antarctic continent, there are two indentations. One is the Ross Sea, opposite New Zealand. Little America is on the Ross Sea. The other, all the way across the Antarctic continent, is the huge indentation known as the Wedell Sea. It's almost opposite South America. Now, many explorers believed that the Ross Sea and the Wedell Sea were connected by a strait, a channel of water all the way across the Antarctic continent, dividing the continent into two parts. For years that has been the big problem of Antarctic geography -- was there any such strait between the Ross Sea and the Wedell Sea?

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L.T.:- In other words, were there two Antarctic continents or one? How did they go about answering that question?

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RUSSELL OWEN:- It really began on the former Byrd Expedition, two years ago. Byrd flew along the boundaries of the Ross Sea and found a great range of mountains, the most important

discovery in Antarctica in many years. And behind the mountains he saw a high plateau that ran eastward. That left the question -- what was beyond that vast plateau?

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L.T.:-) ~~Maybe there was a channel of water beyond the plateau.~~

Well
~~Maybe that~~ *W* ^{ne a} *^* the strait dividing the polar continent. *?*

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RUSSELL OWEN:- Well, the present Byrd Expedition answers "No."

In a recent twelve-hundred-mile flight, Harold June, Byrd's pilot, explored that plateau from the east, and found that it seemed to extend all the way to the central polar land mass, the mighty plateau of the South Pole itself. And now comes this latest flight by Byrd himself. It definitely confirms what Harold June reported, and indicates that there is no channel between the Ross Sea and the Wedell Sea; and, that the Antarctic continent is not divided in two.

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L.T.:- That certainly does set our minds at rest.

Instead of having two Antarctic ^{continents} ~~continents~~ to worry about, we have only one. That's a relief. It's almost Federal relief. Thanks, Russell, for the encouraging news.

JAPAN

I thought we would 'not have anything more to worry about concerning that Chinese Eastern Railroad. It's not so long ago that Japan's Manchukuo government bought the stretch of tracks from ^{Russia.} ~~Japan, and~~ ^W With the sale finally concluded, it seemed as if we'd have an end to those interminable squabbles about what the Japanese did ^{to} ~~with~~ the Russians along the railroad line and what the Russians did ^{to} ~~with~~ the Japanese.

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But here's some more. Soviet Russia jumps into the news spotlight with a strong letter of protest to Japan, and all concerning that ~~Chinese Eastern~~ Railway. The Russians accuse the Japanese of moving troop trains over the Chinese Eastern tracks. They also claim that Japanese troops ~~brought~~ boarded the railroad trains and abused the passengers. Also, that the Japanese have erected telegraph poles on the railroad property. ^{TF} So maybe the Japanese and Manchukuan didn't buy the railroad from the Russians after all.

But it isn't that. It's the delicate distinction between something bought and something paid for. The Soviets

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sold the railroad all right, but they haven't got the cash as yet. In fact, after the dispute about the price was settled and the bargain was made, along comes another dispute about how the price should be paid. The Japanese told the Russians to collect from the banks of Manchukuo. But the Red authorities didn't seem to put so much stock in Manchukuan banks, and refused. The latest word is that the ^{Russians} ~~Japanese~~ have agreed to take their payments through a Tokyo banking syndicate, backed by the Japanese government. That financial operation is being arranged right now, but until the money has actually been forked over, the railroad remains technically Russia's property. Meanwhile, the Japanese have been acting as if it were their own. Hence the Russian protest.

And the Chinese also ^{to} ~~made~~ a protest. The Tokyo government could fill a box car with the accumulated documents of diplomatic complaints that have been fired its way. The Chinese have made a charge before the League of Nations at Geneva that Japan is flooding Manchukuo with opium, and selling it to the Chinese living there, for the purpose of weakening their morale. It is well known of course that the Chinese have a tremendous hold in that bleak

Manchurian country, and the new protest to the League paints a picture of Japan trying to weaken that hold by corrupting the Manchukuan Chinese with opium.

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The Japanese ~~of course~~ are protesting indignantly and are threatening to resign - not from the League of Nations of course. Tokyo ~~ix~~ has already resigned from the League. But it is represented on the League ~~of~~ Narcotic Commission for the Suppression of the ~~Traffic~~ Drug Traffic.. And that's what they are threatening to resign from, if the Chinese don't withdraw the accusation.

NAVY

The dwindling and dying Naval Conference in London gives us another angle today. Japan has asked France and Italy to talk things over, requesting that French and Italian delegates be sent to discuss the naval situation with the Japanese admirals, at the London parley. Tokyo wants a bigger navy. It is no secret that Paris and Rome, minor naval powers, would also like a few more warships - though they are not so loudly insistent about it. The belief is that Japan intends to get together with France and Italy on the basis of an understanding that the fleets of all three should be increased. Then, with the two minor naval powers lined up on her side, Japan would be able to bring a bit of pressure to bear on the two big boys, John Bull and Uncle Sam.

SAAR

There are reports of an agreement between France and Hitler concerning the Saar Valley. It is quite apparent to the French that in the January election the people of the Saar are going to vote for returning to Germany. There have been rumors that Nazi violence is likely, a Nazi putsch. There have also been hints that France might use some pretext and push French regiments into the valley of coal mines and break up the election to keep it from going in favor of Germany.

But now an agreement seems to have been reached between Paris and Berlin, with France agreeing to keep her soldiers out of the territory and let the election alone. In return for this, the ~~the~~ story goes, the Hitler government will pay for the rich coal mines. Under the Treaty of Versailles, France has a financial claim on the mines, and this claim the Germans will honor with cash payments as fast as they can make them. So Hitler gets the Saar and France gets the money - that's the report.

Meanwhile, the League of Nations is running the election.

In a strong effort to keep the peace, the League has decided to close the Saar district for fifteen days before voting time. No

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outsiders will be allowed to enter the territory without good reason. This is to keep agitators from Germany from pouring into the Saar at the last moment. . Geoffry Knox, the English High Commissioner who rules the valley, declares it is necessary to prevent bloodshed on election day. So the Saar will be a secluded hermitage^{land,} a little forbidden kingdom, for fifteen days.

WINE

The biggest wine cask in the world is falling to pieces. It's in Hungary, and it holds twenty-five thousand, eight hundred gallons of the ~~ju~~ juice of the grape -- or it used to before it began to sag and collapse. The cask belongs to Hungarians but was built by Englishmen, on a bet.

A hundred years ago a party of noble British sportsmen paid a visit to the broad acres of Count Esterházy, the great Hungarian magnate. And they told the Count they'd shoot every pheasant on his ~~estate~~ estate. Instead of being alarmed or angry the Count made them a bet -- that they couldn't do it.

"If you succeed in shooting all my pheasants," he declared, "I'll have the birds made into one huge pheasant pie and sent to your London Club. But if you don't shoot them all you'll have to build me a wine cask, holding as many Hungarian measures of wine as ~~the~~ ^{that} birds you ~~do~~ shoot."

The Hungarian measure of wine was the equivalent of twelve gallons. The Englishmen lost the bet. They didn't shoot all the pheasants, but they did shoot more than two thousand. So, according to the terms of the bet they had to

provide Count Esterhazy with a cask holding twenty-five thousand, eight hundred gallons of wine. They went back to England, had it built, and sent to Hungary.

The giant cask has been filled to the top only three times. On the last occasion it was emptied at one sitting by a regiment of Austrian infantry. That's the way the story goes.

They say that ~~the~~ regiment, having drunk the twenty-five thousand gallons, was out of ^{condition} ~~condition~~ for two days. I don't know if that wine-drinking exploit is possible, but if a regiment of American doughboys had ^{ever} got ~~over~~ to Hungary they ^{might} ~~might~~ have tried it.

But anyway, the historic old cask is falling apart and caving in. ^{And with Hungarian tears they} ~~And they'll probably be able to build a tavern~~

^{are saying solong to that old wine cask} ~~out of the giant barrel staves.~~
as I am saying solong until tomorrow.

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