

P.J. - Sunoco. Nov., March 15, 1937.

7/22

STRIKE

It's a gloomy outlook in Detroit in the strike deadlock, a turbulent outlook. ~~Eighty~~^{Tens of} thousand ~~automobile~~^s workers are idle in the capital of the motor car world: ~~Eighty thousand~~ employees of Chrysler, ~~Hudson, and~~^{and} ~~Reo~~. And the decision by Judge Allen Campbell of the Circuit Court of Wayne County promises trouble of the gravest kind. The sit-down strikers must get out, said Judge Campbell. They have until nine o'clock Wednesday morning to evacuate those nine Chrysler plants that they now occupy.

The Court declined to consider whether the Wagner Labor Act was constitutional or not. "The Wagner Labor Act has nothing to do with this case," says Judge Campbell. "It's a question of property rights. Whatever the grievances of the strikers, they cannot ~~all~~ be allowed just ~~cavalry~~ to seize and appropriate fifty million dollars' worth of the Company's property and ~~to~~ prevent the Company's agents from using it."

~~Naturally~~^{Naturally} this provoked ~~dismay~~^{worry} among Michigan ~~state~~ officials. The question before them is whether to enforce the Court's order or not. A similar injunction, you will

47

remember, was issued by the Circuit Court at Flint, Michigan,
when General Motors employees sat down and occupied ^{some of the} ~~Chevrolet~~

plants. There a ~~bloody~~ battle was ~~not so much avoided as~~
evaded by the sheriff, who postponed enforcing the writ of
the court until the dispute had been settled. But today it
is evident that the Chrysler executives are in a determined
mood. They declare they will insist that the Court's order
be enforced by the authorities. That puts Governor Murphy
of Michigan in a quandary. This afternoon he was in a long
conference with the Attorney General of the State, with the
Judge Advocate General, and with the prosecutors of the three
counties where most of the automobile building is done.
The issue is doubtful, the prospects ~~extremely~~ grave.

SUPREME COURT

There'll be no throwing out of the Old Age Pension Act. So we gather from a ruling of the Supreme Court today.

8
Mr. Norman C. Norman of New York, the retired jeweler who makes a hobby of Supreme Court litigation, had brought suit to have it declared unconstitutional. He lost out in the District Court and took it up to the highest bench. But the nine Supreme justices ^{today} declined to consider it. If that's a fair indication, old-age pensions are an American institution, here to stay.

Outside of that, the Supreme Court furnished ^{us} with ~~precious~~ little to talk about today. It adjourned for two weeks and the grapevine news in Washington informs us that it will be on March Twenty-Ninth that the country will hear the fate of the Wagner Labor Act, the decision we have been ^awaiting ~~for~~ so long. There was a good deal of conjecture over ~~once~~ announcement from the bench:- Eight new cases have been brought up for review, asking the justices to declare the Labor Relations Act unconstitutional. The court refused to consider hearing them. It already has under consideration five attacks on that much disputed measure of Senator Wagner's.

NORRIS

9

Replying to critics of his plan for reorganizing the Court, President Roosevelt has said more than once: "If anybody has a better idea, come on, out with it." To which Senator Norris of Nebraska replies: "All right. Here's a better plan. Amend the Constitution, then let's have federal judges ^{- including the Supreme Court -} appointed not for life but for nine years." And he adds: "Maybe even shorter terms if the other senators think fit."

That's one of two ideas urged by Uncle George Norris. His other suggestion is a bill which would make it impossible for the Supreme Court to throw out any law passed by Congress except by a two-thirds vote.

The agitation about this troublesome subject continues to be hot, heavy, various and ^d ~~var~~ious. One guess in Washington today was that the battle will end in a compromise. Instead of fifteen Supreme Court Justices, the number will be increased to eleven, not more than twelve.

The argument, however, has reached one definite stage. ^{A number of} ~~Even~~ the senators strongly opposed to the President's

ideas, are ^{advocating} ~~conceding the necessity of~~ some change: ~~Some of the~~
~~most prominent ones are~~ leaning to the amendment plan. Mr.
Roosevelt has opposed it because he said it will take too long.
Senator ~~Wheeler~~ Wheeler of Montana today said: "Nothing of the
sort. Our crowd could get together on an amendment in no time."

TAXES

Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their Uncle. He needs money, and if you haven't already done it, you have just five hours left. The last thing I want to do is spoil everybody's dinner. But the fact remains that midnight is the deadline.

The government expects giant returns, which some folks view with alarm. For instance, the Director of the National Economy League points the finger of warning at the tremendous rate with which all taxes, not only government but state, city and county, are climbing. Within ten years from now, we'll be paying sixteen billions of dollars a year to federal and other government. Seven years ago it was ten billion, two hundred millions. That's something to think about, if you feel like thinking.

FLOWERS

I saw today at the International Flower Show in the Grand Cental Palace of New York a most curious thing. It comes all the way from South America. They call it an air plant, for two reasons. It lives way up in the air many feet from the ground, grows on tall trees. But it doesn't feed on the trees, and it has no connection with the soil. It gets all its food and drink from the air. And that's the second reason for calling an air plant.

air plants ~~I was talking about~~, The Brooklyn Botanical Garden, which brought these almost unbelievable specimens from South America, ~~xx~~ has a numerous collection of others ^{curiosities} ~~that have~~ ~~come~~ from the far ends of the earth. For instance, there are window plants from the Karroo, the great South African desert. They are called window plants because they live entirely underground with the exception of the extreme tips of the leaf. The light which is so necessary to any flower, finds its way underground by a sort of window in those leaf tips. By such means the window plant is able to survive the severest drought you ever saw.

Also flowers from Ethiopia called sparges, climbing onions from South America, mescal buttons from Mexico, from which the Mexicans, ~~I am told~~, brew a drink which is highly disapproved by the righteous.

2
1
Lincoln Ellsworth, one of America's best known living explorers, has been proclaiming to all who would listen that there is no place left to explore. Like Alexander the Great, Ellsworth is weeping for more worlds to conquer. And, he can't find any.

~~But~~ Just for the fun of it I would like to take issue with ^{him.} Ellsworth. Many of you will recall ^{various} the important expeditions with which he has been associated! ~~Ellsworth was~~ with Amundsen ⁱⁿ ^{planes} on that vain attempt to fly to the Pole, when they landed in the ice. Their rescue was one of the thrilling Arctic stories of our time. Then, ^{Amundsen} Ellsworth and Nobile flew across the ~~North~~ Pole in the dirigible Norge. Since then Ellsworth has led three Antarctic expeditions. So he speaks with the voice of authority.

Nevertheless, I beg to take issue ~~with him.~~ I have just written an article in the magazine, THE COMMENTATOR, entitled:

"What is There Left to Explore?" And the subtitle is: "Plenty, Brethern, Plenty -- if You Can Take It." ^{I had to make a} ~~I have been making a~~ rather exhaustive study of this subject. ^{It's} ~~It happens to be~~ one

of my hobbies. ^H Dr. R. R. Platt, Secretary of the American Geographical Society, tells me that the vast Patagonian Ice Cap

is virtually unknown. Another region that is terra-incognito is the Gran Prajonal, in Peru, a region of battle, murder and sudden death. The warlike tribes who live there have a dislike for explorers. Also, Mr. Ellsworth might try the Pampa de Sacramento, a vast country east of the River Haullaga. If he comes out of there alive he might take a shirl at some of the tributaries of the Amazon. Or, how about Eastern Equador, or immense sections of Columbia and Venezuela, where no white man's foot has trod? He would solve geographical mysteries if he were to bring back a map, any king of a rough map, of the region south of the Orinoco, in Southern Venezuela.

North-eastern Honduras is called an unknown land.

Or if you are interested in hydrographic cartography, nearly all of the charts of the coastlines of Honduras are inaccurate.

Lincoln Ellsworth has accomplished much in the Antarctic, but there still are vast regions around that South Pole which no human being has ever seen. In the Arctic it's a similar story. Sir Hubert Wilkins tells me that the most important Arctic exploration today is being done by Russians.

If you don't like the cold regions, or the equatorial jungles, how about Central Asia -- the high Pamirs, the Tien Shan, the country of the Kirghiz, or the Altyn Tagh?

When you come to examine the matter, why it looks as though about a fifth of the planet were still to be explored -- ~~plenty for Lincoln Ellsworth, and~~ enough to satisfy all the rest of the ambitious explorers of our day.

The world

Naturally everybody's ears opened wide at the suggestion that the Dowager Queen of Roumania ~~xxxx~~ was ill because she'd been poisoned. Such rumors are apt to be current over any mishap in ~~Balkan~~ ^{the} royal circles of the Balkan countries. People remember the long train of morbid and melodramatic tragedies that have made the family histories of Balkan royalty ~~so~~ so sanguinary and gruesome.

27
However, there seem to be reasonable doubts in this case that the once beautiful Marie of Roumania was the intended victim of an assassination. As one observer points out, what reason could there be to murder the lady? She was long-since stripped of ~~political~~ political influence and is consequently powerless and therefore harmless. At any rate, King Carol and Queen Marie of Jugoslavia, two of her children, are at her bedside. Her other daughter, the Arch-Duchess Eleana, is still at her home in Vienna. She telephoned to Bucharest today and thereupon announced that for the present she would remain in Vienna. That seems to indicate that the ~~the~~ Dowager Queen's illness is not as serious as the first rumors made it out.

BASEBALL

Six years ago a sports promoter in Wichita, Kansas, organized the first sand lot tournament. Sixteen teams competed and the project made such a hit that it grew. Last year no fewer than two thousand teams took part in the tournament, two thousand from twenty-three states. The winners went to Wichita for the final play-off for the national championship.

Today the picture is quite formidable. All the sand lot teams have been welded together into an organization called the National Semi-Pro Baseball Congress. And, in addition five thousand American sand lot clubs teams from Montreal, Mexico City, Honolulu, and Havana have been entered for the 1937 tournament. The play-off, the National Little World Series, will be held at Wichita, Kansas in August. The Congress has discovered that more than eighty thousand players will take part, eighty thousand chosen from a round quarter of a million of semi-pro and sand lot players. Who said baseball was on the decline?

Down in Florida the question of the moment is: "Will Dizzy Dean stand pat to the bitter end. He hasn't shown up for

training, and repeats his declaration, "No fifty thousand, no Dizzy."

It is noticeable that, while Dean is holding out, he isn't far from the headquarters of the Cardinals.

Lou Gehrig of the Yankees, continues his sit-down strike at his home in New Rochelle. In Florida, Colonel Ruppert, says once more: "Thirty-six thousand is my last word to Gehrig, even if it costs us a pennant to have him drop out." And the Yankees' owner says further: "As it is, our team is going to cost us three hundred thousand dollars in salaries for the season; more than when Babe Ruth was getting his eighty thousand a year."

SIMON

A bit of news ~~that comes~~ from London ~~is somewhat~~ ~~startling.~~ It indicates that a member of His Majesty's government has been overtaken by a sense of humor. That's a dangerous thing for a cabinet minister to reveal. But the approach of the golfing season seems to have made Sir John Simon, former Foreign Minister, now Home Secretary, a bit reckless.

Some time ago, Sir John threatened to write a book. the title of it was to be "How to Play Golf by One Who Can." He hasn't carried out his th ~~g~~reat yet, but he has revealed one of his important ideas on the subject. He has invented a gadget which will eliminate the lost ball. It is perfectly absurd, he says when you go out for an afternoon's play, to waste so much time looking for the confounded pill. So he has invented this device somewhat after the principles of the Mills bomb.

Every ball if he had his way would contain a mechanism. Before teeing up you would press a certain place on the surface of the ball. When the ball lands after ~~this~~ being pressed it would emit a squeak at intervals of ten seconds. So instead of

straining your eyesight looking for one that has been sliced into the rough, all you'd have to do would be to keep your ears open -- strain your ears.

But Sir John says the ball will probably never be put on the market. The manufacturers wouldn't allow it.

But there are two things Sir John has to explain. How would a deaf man find his lost ball? And what happens if it plops into the water?

GIRL SCOUTS - END

58 1/2

Approaching the end of this broadcast, I am reminded that the Girl Scouts are celebrating their Twenty-Fifth Anniversary. ~~this week~~ What have the Girl Scouts to do with my signing off? ~~the air~~ It's this way. I've just been reading of the woman who founded the sisterhood of woodlands, streams and open places - Mrs. Juliet Lowe. In the story of her life, mention was made of - her charming unpunctuality. She was never on time, didn't know what time meant. In making an appointment with somebody, she'd give no specified hour. She'd merely telegraph - "Be prepared to meet me in Boston, Washington or New York." Not that she didn't have a watch. She carried one always. But that watch had only one hand - and only a minute hand at that. No wonder she was so charmingly unpunctual.

59

Which reminds me that, not being charming, I must be punctual - in going on the air, and especially in getting off.

59 1/2

And, SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.