

N.R.A.

C.I. - Suwoco. May 16, 1935. Thursday.

Chambers  
M.C.

It looks as if we might have another lively demonstration of the old art of - pulling in opposite directions. And that contradictory pulling seems scheduled to be done by that familiar team ~~which~~ hitched to the carriage of state - the House of Representatives and the Senate. If you had a team of horses, one of them insisting on turning north while the other kept jerking around to the south, it might make the going somewhat exciting. After having put on a big show ~~of~~ not wanting to go the same way, in the case of the Work Relief Bill and its billions, the Senate ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~words~~ and the House of Representatives ~~was~~ <sup>mule</sup> ~~are~~ are now confronted by the N.R.A. sign board, and once more they show every ~~sign~~ <sup>evidence</sup> of disagreeing about the road.

The reports indicate that the lower House will take vigorous issue with the Senate in whether or not to do the N.R.A. thing the President wants. A two year extension is what he ~~wants~~ <sup>is after - -</sup> two years more for the Blue Eagle. The Senate, in ~~a~~ surprisingly decisive action against the Administration, said - ten months. That's as far as the ~~upper~~ <sup>upper house</sup> ~~lawmakers~~ <sup>lawmakers</sup> are willing to go in pleasing the President. With few words, ~~but it passed a bill~~ but many votes, it passed a bill to extend the N.R.A. for ten months, much to the disconcertment of the

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political bird lovers, friends of the Blue Eagle. Now it is the turn of the lower House to act, and we hear Speaker Joe Byrns declare that the House will vote, on its part, to deliver the two-year extension to the President. Speaking before the Ways and Means Committee, he said that a majority of the Congressmen feel that if the N.R.A. is worth extending at all, it's worth extending for two years. And Speaker Byrns' opinion is supported by preliminary polls, which indicate that the lower House will ~~support~~ <sup>back</sup> the White House and throw down the gauntlet to the upper House. ~~It sounds~~ like one of those Housing programs, ~~and~~ <sup>you'll recall</sup> Shakespeare didn't seem to have so much ~~respect~~ respect for our glorious system of government when he said: "A plague on both your houses."

*Anyhow* the promise is - another deadlock. Because, if the lower House is setting its mind on two years, the Senate is just as determined on ten months. <sup>π</sup> And now from this display of senatorial will-power proceeds another one of those feuds - a duel between two statesmen. Donald Richberg, Number One man in the N.R.A., is arguing fervently for the two year extension, belaboring the Senators with every argument he can think of. And from out of the Senate ranks



steps Senator Clark from Missouri, boldly confronting Richberg and uttering a defi. The Senator is notable, firstly because he's a son of the late great battler, Champ Clark, for many year's Missouri's favorite statesman. And the Senator is likewise the legislative father of the ten month extension bill. He's sore because Richberg is critizing his legislative child, and he hurls that fulminating accusation so popular nowadays - "dictatorship!" The Senator declares that Richberg wants to be the American Mussolini - Duce Donald.

The N.R.A. scrap is enlivened by the entrance of a contestant who is not renowned for enjoying any of those tooth and claw, cat and dog, fur flying, skin lacerating political brawls. Ex-President Herbert Hoover issues a blast in the two-year-ten-month controversy. He's not in favor of two years more for the N.R.A., nor ten months, nor ten minutes, nor two minutes. He calls for the immediate abolition of the codes, the instant decapitation of the Blue Eagle. He says it is built on false foundations, un-American, won't work, fosters monopoly, hits small business - and adds that some such proposal was handed to him when he was President and he turned it down.

Just to make the discord complete, here's labor coming to the defense of the N.R.A. and the two year continuation. Francis J. Gorman, leader of last summer's textile strike, announces that thousands of workers who are members of the Textile Union, are writing to their congressman urging them to support the President on the N.R.A., and there are reports of other labor groups putting on pressure in favor of the two year extension.



## BONUS

It's dull to hear something repeated over and over again. But it's the White House that's doing the repeating - which makes it less dull. The Patman Bill has gone to the President. But before it went the definite announcement was made that the President will veto it. It is added that he will explain his veto in a strongly worded message to the nation. The word continues that the President is disregarding every political slant and that he doesn't care what Congress wants or doesn't want in the matter of the bonus.

This follows talk in Washington of a possible substitute bonus bill, to be offered by the White House. The tentative predictions make it a three point plan, which would give the President the option of paying off the veterans in one of three ways -- as circumstances might dictate. Further, it would provide a way to do the paying without monetary inflation, the money would come out of the usual government sources. That's the political dope that's been circulating.

Meanwhile, there's talk of a bonus march -- reviving memories of that unfortunate affair during the Hoover Administration.

The name of Commander James Van Zandt, National Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars occurs in connection with this bonus march news. Not that he is calling for a march! He's trying to call one off. Commander Van Zandt makes public a wire he has sent to Portland, Oregon in which he asks veterans there to drop their plan to stage a march to Washington. He says he has pointed out to the Oregon vets' that a march now would turn public opinion against the ex-soldiers, and that the way they can best express their bonus desires is to bring pressure to bear on their Congressmen and Senators. Some say that the talk about a bonus march is intended to alarm the President and persuade him to change his mind.

But after that further veto declaration from Washington today it doesn't seem as if the President's mind was going to be changed.



## WAGES

One thing that makes Washington news something like a puzzle is such enigmatic expressions as agricultural adjustment, currency stabilization, and prevailing wage. We hear about the prevailing wage once more. It means merely the principle that workers on government projects should be paid the same as regular non-government workmen - the prevailing rate of wages in any locality. The President didn't want this to apply to the Public Works expenditures. He wanted to pay the people in the ranks of Work Relief less than the prevailing wage. And, he had his way. Now we hear complaints in the Senate because of the word that labor engaged in work relief projects will receive thirty per cent less than the prevailing wage. Several senators are up in arms about it and among them is Senator Pat McCarran of Nevada. "Call-me-Pat" is his nickname.

It's no wonder he's kicking, for he was the author of the McCarran Amendment which they tried to tack on the Work Relief Bill, the amendment calling for the prevailing wage. He is arguing now, as he argued then, that if you pay work relief labor less than labor in general, it will tend to beat down wage scales. He thinks that the figure of thirty per cent less would

decidedly tend to do that. If Senator "Call-me-Pat" has his way, there'll be a nice little work-relief-storm brewing in Washington.

Friends and critics of the Senator explain his money ideas <sup>thusly: -</sup> ~~this way~~ -

they say that he grew up in <sup>the</sup> gold mining country back in the old <sup>Nevada,</sup> Goldfield boom days, when saloon <sup>cuspidor</sup> cleaners got fifteen dollars a day,

and a shave cost two bucks. With that financial background, he is

disgusted with such small potatoes as ~~paying~~ Fifty Dollars a month

to relief workers.



METROPOLITAN

Operatic trumpets are blowing and the fiddles of the lyric drama are sawing away. That is, in a news sense. New York's Metropolitan Opera House jumps into the events of the day - under three headings. First, the presence of a new manager, secondly the absence of some famous singers, and <sup>in the</sup> ~~thirdly, revolutions of the~~ relation of the radio and the movies to the opera.

The new manager is an interesting figure -- Edward Johnson. <sup>He it is</sup> who takes command of America's premier operatic institution, following the retirement of Gatti-Casazza and the death of Gatti's successor, Herbert Witherspoon. There's an interesting touch of paradox about Eddie Johnson and the new program of operatic Americanism which he is to carry out: - more American singers and more American music. Eddie Johnson carries the banner of nationalism, though he's quite a bit of an internationalist himself: ~~he~~ a Canadian. His career began in Italy, where he was a reigning success. He sang in Rome <sup>and</sup> Milan as Edouard de Giovanni. What the Italians can do in trying to pronounce the name "Johnson" <sup>as Johnson</sup> is pretty awful. So the tenor translated his name into Italian. Moreover, to complete the international flavor, the new director's wife was a

Portuguese noblewoman.

Now about the absence of the famous singers. ~~the~~ Music <sup>circles</sup> ~~are~~ are ~~are~~ buzzing with talk about the new list of artists given out for next year. A whole series of names are missing from that list, including some exceedingly well-known names - like Lily Pons, Rosa Ponselle, Lawrence Tibbett and Nino Martini. It isn't known how many on the list will remain absent. Agreements may yet be made to bring some of them back to the Opera House.

The angle of movies and radio explains why some of the singers are missing. The Metropolitan is taking a definite stand about outside engagements that it will allow the singers to take. And that decidedly means engagements to appear in the movies or sing on the radio. They say it interferes with the high notes the singers ~~can~~ intone at the Metropolitan. They may have tired voices or they may get colds, in traveling <sup>back</sup> from Hollywood to New York. The Metropolitan has decided that it wants <sup>the</sup> full time of its singers during the season. But, ~~at the same time~~ those movie and radio ~~engagements~~ engagements pay plenty, so that's one reason why prominent names are absent from the operatic list.



## ITALY

The Italian-Abyssinian wrangle enters a new stage today. Neutral opinion opposed to war in Africa, becomes vocal in statements by high international figures. The chief of these is Viscount Cecil, England's ardent and tireless advocate of peace -- the original League of Nations enthusiast. It was Lord Cecil who twelve years ago began digging into the armament industry, finding out things about the ways of the gun-sellers. Our own Senate Munitions Investigation is a follow-up and result of the anti-armament propaganda begun by Lord Cecil. Leon, stoop shouldered, hawk faced, always wearing a black hat, this brother of Lord Salisbury is one of the odd characters at Geneva.

Now His Lordship speaks up with drastic words. His words are nearly always drastic, so burning and fervent is he. He scorches Mussolini's African policy. How can the Duce join the chorus of blame for Hitler as a war danger, when he himself is pushing on to a war - ignoring Italy's League of Nations promise to avoid international strife? Lord Cecil sums it up by asking, "How can Mussolini be sincere and consistent - supporting international peace in the north, while attacking it in the south?"

With that solo voice singing the aria we hear a few quartettes and quintets off stage - demanding that England shall close the Suez Canal to Italy, and thereby prevent Italian war materials from reaching Africa. This demand is made by members of the British Labor Party and by pacifist advocates. From British government circles the reply instantly comes back that England could undertake no such step without consulting both the League of Nations and the United States.

Abyssinia isn't likely to get much powerful support from the League. The Geneva statesmen regard Mussolini as a cornerstone of the present European arrangement. The League is well pleased with its work in dealing with the German rearmament cries. They won't rock the European boat, even though the African canoe capsizes. One curious report is that Geneva is worrying about an African war mainly because of the possibility that the Duce's prestige might be impaired if his African adventure struck a snag or two. They feel that if his prestige were diminished, it would likewise diminish his effectiveness as a peace-making power in Europe.





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It was inevitable that these trans-Atlantic flights should finally be illuminated by the rosy glow of romance. Of course, Jim and Amy Mollison fly together, but then they are married, which is not so romantic. And Amelia Earhart commonly sees <sup>husband</sup> George Palmer Putnam there to greet her -- some more marriage. I don't mean that the ~~that the~~ holy state of matrimony is the dead opposite of romance. In fact the sentiment of the heart should lead to wedding bells, but it's while it's leading there that it's romantic. And when that emotion leads a sighing lover to fly across oceans -- trans-Atlantic flying gets into the Jean Harlow-Clark Gable class. <sup>↑</sup> Naturally this story would have to come from Spain, the land where the señoritas make hearts whirl and flutter like an aeroplane propeller. The love--stricken aviator is one Ignacio <sup>h</sup> Pombo, who ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> engaged to a señorita, beautiful and also wealthy. Several months ago the señorita's millionaire father went to live in Mexico, and he took his daughter with him -- far away from the arms of her enraptured aeroplane pilot. They had a melancholy parting and she said:- "Fly over and see me sometime." And that's what he's doing.

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Taking off from Seville, Pilot Pombo steered <sup>first</sup> for Villa Cisneros on the west coast of Africa. Drawn by that familiar magnetism which not only makes the world go round, but also apparently makes aeroplanes fly -- he is winging on to Dakar, on the African Coast. And then across the broad Atlantic to Natal in Brazil. From there it won't be so hard to fly to Mexico, and also to the senorita's arms. As they are to be married as soon as he gets there, it will be what you would call a happy landing. Aviators have been called birdmen, but they can also be love-birds. ~~and~~

~~SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.~~

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That certainly was a magnificent precedent set by Professor Einstein, when he was called upon to speak before a vast and distinguished scientific gathering in Philadelphia. They were giving him a medal for scientific achievement. The newspapermen were there with pencils poised. The time finally came for Einstein's address. He was to discourse on microcosmic anarchism, and so on. Dr. McClenahan placed the microphone in front of him. The world was waiting -- waiting for the wisdom of the creator of relativity. He arose. He smiled. A smile isn't a speech. You can't broadcast a smile. But that's all he did. He didn't have anything to say, and he didn't say it. He just sat down. Later he explained: -- he had waited for an inspiration, and no inspiration came.

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And it's the same here, and SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.