

L. T. Sunoco, Friday, August 23, 1935

The boss of the Social Security Program is naturally to be rated as one of the country's most important figures -- the one who directs the working out of the huge scheme for unemployment insurance -- insurance and old age pensions. There ~~is~~ ^{has} been plenty of expectancy, while the President has been selecting the Social Security big shot. Now the choice is made. Who? Why, a man who has been mentioned as a possible Republican candidate against Franklin Delano Roosevelt next year. That is to say, Former Governor Winant of New Hampshire. *W* The White House today sent his name to the Senate for approval -- as Chairman of the Social Securities Board. He's a tall angular New Englander, something like a gilded version of Abraham Lincoln. Gilded is right. He's nothing like Lincoln in his antecedents. He attended ~~the~~ exclusive St. Paul's School ^{at Concord, N. H.} and went to Princeton. He was a flier in the World War. Cracked up six planes. *W* A crackerjack -- this new boss of Social Security. He taught school, grub-staked an oil prospector in the West, and made a fortune. Became governor. *And stayed governor longer than one in the history of N. Hamp.* He's bookish and intellectual but he's also a man of exceeding simplicity, which is a political asset.

He was on the board the President named to look into the
textile strike in 1934. Now he's the man named to put the
cure in social security.

BANK BILL

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The Banking Bill of Nineteen Thirty-Five is quite an inclusive law. The Washington Correspondents call it the "Omnibus Bill" -- there's so much in it. It makes some changes in the Federal Reserve System, takes some of the control away from the Regional Federal Reserve Banks; and gives Washington more power over them. That's centralization. The Government takes a more central control of the banking system. Washington plays a bigger part in regulating the ebb and flow of credit and money. To most of us the immediate point is this: The Banking Bill calls for Federal insurance of bank deposits. People with money on deposit won't be in danger of losing their savings because of bank failures.

The bill was one of the urgent demands of the President. When it was first drafted, it ran into the stern opposition of Virginia's financial expert, Senator Carter Glass. He took a big hand in rewriting the bill, changing it around -- the form of which was finally passed, by the two houses of Congress.

All of this is preliminary to the scene staged today. The Treasury Department heads gathered in the Oval Room at the

White House. They were the audience for the ceremony of signing. President Roosevelt took pen in hand and made the Banking Bill law.

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in year The Government is out to learn a few things about people with money in the bank, wealthy people, a secret survey of fat bank accounts. Who has how much? It isn't said just what this is for, just a general report that the information is to be used in forming National Credit policies. One angle will be to find out how bank accounts changed, grew big and small, passed from one person to another, during the years from Nineteen Twenty-Eight ^{to} ~~and~~ Nineteen Thirty-Two.

A Government spokesman emphasizes secrecy. How much people have is a highly confidential matter and will be kept confidential and secret. In the making of the survey, numbers of bank clerks out of jobs will be put to work.

LOBBY

Who was at the cocktail party the lobbyists gave? And why? These questions are agitating Washington. They caused plenty of agitation at the Senate Lobby Inquiry today.

There have been stories of various Administration celebrities at the parties given by the gentlemen leading the fight against the Administration Utilities Bill. Downing ⁷ festive drinks in the camp of the enemy. It's hardly political high treason to go to a party, but it provides some lively talk. So there's been plenty of chatter about Presidential Secretary Marvin McIntyre and prominent New Dealer Emil Hurja, said to have dropped in at the lobbyists' entertainment.

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Today the center of the stage was taken by the handsomest man in the Senate, Senator Tydings of Maryland. B. B. Robinson, the cocktail lobbyist against the Utilities Bill, said that Senator Tydings had been to one of his parties. The Senator leaped to his feet in Wrath, shouting denial. In the exchange of repartee there was ~~not~~ mention of some party or other to which the Senator had taken some lady or other.

There doesn't seem to be so much importance to all these tales of mirth and drinks and a hot time. But some say it's the most insidious of all lobbying -- the social lobby.

COUZENS

At the Mayo Brothers' Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, the physicians said today - "Condition satisfactory". Meaning - Senator Couzens, who had just had an operation. Another - of a series of half a dozen or so.

He's the richest Senator. A Canadian, his first job was pumping an organ in a Presbyterian Church at five dollars a year. Newsboy on a train, worked for a coal company, saved a thousand dollars and invested it in Henry Ford's original horseless carriage. And how that thousand dollar invest^{ment} in Ford piled up. ^{10000!} In nineteen nineteen, Couzens disagreed with Henry Ford's ideas about the World War and sold out to him for thirty million dollars. ^{on one thousand!} He became Mayor of Detroit and went to the Senate. His son Frank is now Mayor of Detroit.

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One of his major exploits was when the Treasury Department sued him for eleven million dollars, taxes. Couzens not only won the suit, didn't have to pay the eleven million, but got a refund of one million that he had previously paid. He gave that million to charity and added ten million more to the Children's Fund in Michigan.

SHIP

Hit and run. That's something shameful in the world of automobiles. I mean - in the world of ships. The hit and run sea-going steamship is something new.

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Federal authorities at Boston are investigating a story told by Captain Patrick McCue, Master of the fishing trawler "Patrick J. O'Hara". He had just put into port, growling about what happened to him on the Western Banks fifty miles out of Halifax. The "Patrick J. O'Hara" was chucking along in a dark pea soup fog. A large steamer loomed in the mist. The "Patrick J. O'Hara" put full speed astern but couldn't avoid a collision. Starboard rail sidwiped by the steamer. The steamer just slid off and kept going. The "Patrick J. O'Hara" tooted its whistles, nothing doing. The big ship, a craft of six or seven thousand tons, kept on its way and disappeared.

That's hit and run on the High Seas.

PINE CAMP

A spy captured and sentenced to death at Pine Camp, New York. The battle has been raging furiously up there. The New England National Guard Division, one hundred ninety-second Infantry, and the Second Corps engaged in a violent struggle. Right in the heat of the battle the twenty seventh New York National Guard caught a man in their lines. He was in civilian clothes. They detected him at once, a spy. Lieutenant Harold A. Fink, of the twenty-sixth Yankee Division -- on espionage duty. A court martial was instantly summoned. And he was ordered to be shot. *But don't worry he won't be shot.* It's just clean military fun at the big Pine Camp war games, the heaviest concentration of American troops since the World War. These military activities should afford amusement at the gathering of the Marine Corps League, which is holding its thirteenth annual convention at Newark.

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The Pine Camp manoeuvres take right up to the Canadian border — so let's cross over into the Dominion.

Attention is focussed on that election in the Canadian Province of Alberta because, for once -- a political medicine man cure-all program has won a smashing victory. Hitherto those magical world-saving remedies haven't got so far. But now the voters of Alberta went plump for a platform of -- "Twenty-five dollars a month for everybody."

The successful candidate is William Aberhart, a preacher, leader of the Social Credit Party, with a Socialist sort of political theory. He said if they'd elect him he would put across a policy of giving every citizen credit for food, clothing and shelter to the extent of twenty-five dollars a month. There are four hundred and fifty thousand people in the province. At twenty-five dollars a month the Provincial Government would have to fork out eleven million, two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, every thirty days. The Social Credit candidate never offered any details of how his plan would work when put into practice. Now the Province of Alberta will have a chance to find out.

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MUSSOLINI

Mussolini's declarations to the United Press correspondent strike deeply into the Italian philosophy of the Ethiopian affair. The Duce spoke in paragraphs of sententious brevity, which throw vivid light on the way the Italian Fascist leaders are looking at things. He said the Ethiopians had attacked Italian soldiers, killed officials and civilians, and were fixing up an army to harry the Italian colonists. He summed it up, stating that Ethiopia was a weapon pointed at Italy's back.

As for the morality of the Italian aggression -- Mussolini ~~once~~ pointed at the way that other empires were built: - always -- civilized peoples invading the ~~uncivilized~~ uncivilized.

He pointed especially to the history of the White men and Indians in America. *Perhaps suggesting that we shouldn't throw rocks!*

His most sweeping and deep digging idea came in a reference to the depopulation of the Western nations. He spoke of this depopulation - and then referred to the task of pushing civilization among backward people. When the western people^s were prolific and increasing rapidly in number, they advanced to the ends of the earth, colonizing ^{the more} barbaric continents,

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and spreading western culture. Now they are not increasing rapidly in numbers any more. They don't colonize. Should that make colonization wrong? These thoughts^s, advanced by Mussolini, point to the heart of ambitious Fascist theory:— Which is;— most western populations are not expanding any more, but are beginning to shrink, and will keep on shrinking. The Italians intend to increase their numbers, and keep on growing. In that way, they think, the future will belong to them. Meanwhile, they are going to follow an expanding colonial policy, the same as other nations did when they were expanding in numbers.

As for the immediate diplomatic tangle in Europe, the attempts to avoid a war, Mussolini was terse and decisive - epigrammatic. "Italy", he cried, "will ^up~~p~~ursue her aims, with Geneva, without Geneva, or against Geneva." That is what you might call unequivocal.

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After the rather feeble results of yesterday's far-famed British Cabinet meeting, the statesmen in London turned today to thoughts of guns and warships. The Imperial Defense Committee held a meeting at Ten Downing Street to talk over way and means of bucking up Britain's strength on land and sea. The Imperial Defense confab today ties significantly with a rather startling sort of report. This report is given as part of the explanation why the London Cabinet yesterday decided to do nothing to stop Italy. They say the Ministers asked for a report from the Admiralty-- for the British Navy would bulk mighty big in any row between England and Italy. And the Admiralty chiefs told the Cabinet that they could not promise that the British fleet could control the Mediterranean against the Italians, could not promise that John Bull's dreadnoughts would be able to prevent a landing of the Italian troops in Libia for an attack on Egypt and the Suex Canal. The naval lords added that this unfortunate circumstance was merely because of the disarmament tendencies of the last few years, which had kept the navy from being as big and powerful and efficient as it ought to be. And here we are reminded of things that had been

talked in Italy, things that sounded like over-heated Latin imagination. Some Italians have been loud in saying that modern war, airplanes and submarines might make the Mediterranean an uncomfortable place for the British Navy.

Meanwhile, there's not much comment on the reported offer by Haile Selassie to turn over a considerable stretch of Northern Ethiopia to the Italians, if they'll be satisfied. Nobody seems to be paying much attention to the offer, if it was made.

WEATHER

They were having an awful dry spell in New England. It hadn't rained for a long time in England. That's right - New England and England. The same story for the New and the Old, the same weather story. In each case they've had a simultaneous, long, blazing dry heat wave. And simultaneously, from each place, the word is - tremendous rain storms.

In Noah's time it rained for forty days and forty nights. In central New England it didn't rain for twice forty days and forty nights. Eighty days of incessant flaming sunshine. But right now New Englanders are cleaning up after one of the most sudden cloud bursting downpours on record.

2. { Just a coincidence that on either side of the Atlantic, New England and Old England they had a dramatic weather cycle, at just the same time. Today the long English heat wave and drought were broken by a sudden violent downpour. One incident was when Lightning struck the Police Station at Tottenham.

Just to make the story of rain complete - the sky opened and it poured ~~down~~ today in Arizona, the Hopi Indian

country. It was vivid drama down there - supernatural drama, in fact. The Hopi Indians today began their celebrated and ancient tribal ceremony - rain-making magic, weird barbaric rites to bring water from the sky. The first invocation of the rain Gods is always the Antelope Dance. So the Hopies staged their Antelope Dance today with fantastic gyrations and grotesque contortions. They had scarcely begun, when a rainstorm hit - thundering and pouring. And the Hopies yelled wild exultation.

Meanwhile - weather conditions in the Arctic have called a halt to that Soviet plane flight from Russia to San Francisco via the North Pole. The Red aviators, after a futile trial a few miles out and back, have been preparing and waiting. Now, with polar autumn coming on, there are wild atmospheric disturbances ^{at the} ~~on~~ top of the world. So it is announced ^{from} ~~at~~ Moscow today that the Soviet "across-the-North-Pole-to-American-flight" is put off till next summer.

ENDING

When you're in one place and you've got to hand out a medal at another place seventy miles away - well, the only way to do it is metaphorically, with the long arm of the ether waves.

Some weeks ago the Radio Guide Magazine staged a popularity poll. Who was the most popular radio announcer for 1935 - the star of stars among those who play the best-man part in ushering programs on and off the air. Now the contest has been won and the award has been made. And I've been asked to present the medal -- to Jimmy Wallington. Jimmy cops the Radio Guide prize for 1935. So now, while he is in the New York studio, waiting to give us the closing commercial -- I'm going to hand him that medal -- figuratively speaking. Here it is Jimmy. I'm pinning it on your chest. Congratulations, Old Boy, and,

SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.