

STRIKE

L.J. - ~~June 30~~ Thurs., May 27/37.

Answer

There's a report tonight that John L. Lewis of the C.I.O. is in New York talking things over with leaders of the steel companies. It's only a rumor, but it's about the only hopeful sign to be seen on the labor horizon. Everywhere else the indications point to uncompromising opposition. (The ^{steel} companies keep repeating their determination not to sign contracts with the C.I.O., and the Union declares that those contracts shall be signed.

Right now it's impossible to measure the full extent of the strike. Three great steel companies are involved, corporations that have refused to imitate the policy of the Gargantuan United States ^{Steel} Corporation. (~~The United States~~ ^{U.S.} Steel is dealing with the C.I.O.) These three concerns that refuse have strike disturbed plants in the great steel area from Chicago to Cleveland. They employ ninety thousand workers. How many of these are out on strike tonight is in dispute. The Union boosts the figure^s, while the companies minimize ~~them~~. The best estimates are that fifty-five to sixty-five thousand men are out.

It's a menacing picture that we behold in the steel belt, plants still and silent, manned by armed guards, surrounded by strike pickets carrying clubs and baseball bats.

At Canton, Ohio, a foreman was shot, ~~by a company guard.~~ There are scattering reports of violence elsewhere.

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There's a loud clash of complaints. The Union is protesting to President Roosevelt that the Companies are under conspiracy to violate the Wagner Act. Labor leaders, appealing to the National Labor Relations Board, are accusing the Companies under the Byrnes Law. That law forbids the transportation of strike breakers across state lines. That, claim the Unions, is what the Republic Steel Company is doing. The Company makes the counter-charge that the Union is importing strike pickets by the hundreds.

So tonight the nation is facing a steel strike of major proportions, the first since Nineteen Nineteen in the giant industry based on iron. It is likewise one of the most formidable of the series of labor battles during the last few months.

The trouble on the Ford front is exasperated by reports of two more Union men beaten up. Yesterday, two prominent Union organizers were manhandled in front of the Ford plant at River Rouge. Today two other C.I.O. men beaten up, auto workers -- but not Ford employees. They're Chrysler men, the Chrysler Company having signed with the C.I.O. after its own strike trouble. The two are described as passing near the Ford plant at River Rouge in their automobile. They were wearing their union badges -- and were set upon and beaten up.

The Union is placing these cases of violence before the Senate Civil Liberties Committee, which is headed by Senator LaFollette. This committee is looking into cases where the rights of employees are said to be violated. On the Ford side of the argument we hear the complaint that the fights and beatings were provoked by the Union leaders - for the purpose of stirring up trouble, the violence to be charged against the Company before the LaFollette Committee. Just a clever trick, those men getting beaten up -- if taking a licking can be said to be clever.

(San Francisco was gay today as the new Golden Gate Bridge was opened.) and one hundred thousand people made merry and strolled across the mighty span. The ~~Outxxxx~~ gaiety was not depressed by the threat of ^{an} anti-Nazi boycott by the Maritime Federation of the Pacific. This followed the refusal of the San Francisco Mayor to remove the Nazi swastika flags, which the Germans hung out. The red flags of Soviet Russia on the other hand were hauled down, after a protest by World War veterans.

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P Meanwhile San Francisco is having a big hotel strike. But in spite of these sundry troubles the bridge celebration was a big success today.

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace asked Congress today for a law to put into effect that plan which reminds one so much of the Pharoahs of Egypt. ~~and~~ In the good years the Pharoahs stored up corn so that there would be supplies when the lean years came. Today the proposed plan ~~was~~ ^{is} called: "The Ever Normal Granary," a vast storage of grain to keep the ^{American} cereal food supply normal all the time.

The plan the Secretary proposed to the legislature ~~was~~ was drawn up by the big farm organizations from coast to coast. Its purpose is not only to have a store of grain when bad crops come, but also to have a place to put the grain in the good years -- so as not to dump it on the market when the crops are too big and bountiful. One of its prime objects is price stabilization, to prevent the ruinous fall of prices from over-production.

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When the Secretary presented his large and comprehensive ~~is~~ plan today, he also added words of caution. He asked Congress to decree the grandiose project, but he warned them to keep the cost down and to hold everything within the limits of President Roosevelt's economy program. Do it big, but ~~spend~~ spend little -- is the general idea.

INDIANS

There are a lot of war scares these days, of all sorts and sizes. Here's a threat of an Indian uprising here in the United States -- Redskins on the warpath!

What brings this into the news? The answer refers us to no less a personage than the First Lady, Mrs. Roosevelt. Not that the hostess of the White House is out stirring up an insurrection among the Blackfeet and the Piutes. All she did was resign as Honorary Vice-President of the National Indian Association, disagreeing with its attitude and policies.

The purpose of the Association is to teach the Indians to live like white men, make the Redskins live like pale faces. But the Indians still cling to their old habits, tribal feasts and rituals -- and the war dances. This the Association views with alarm.

So there's a controversy because of the resignation of Mrs. Roosevelt. And today the President of the Association, Mrs. Otto Heinigke, deploras the way the government lets the Indians continue their old tribal pagan practices. She says they go on celebrating their barbaric feasts. "Perfectly horrible, perfectly terrible!" exclaims Mrs. Otto Heinigke. Especially the war

dances. She says the tribal aborigines dance the ballet of battle, and rouse themselves to warlike frenzy.

And the President of the Association cries -- "Look out! If the Creeks and the Piutes are allowed to go on dancing the war dance, they'll dance themselves on to the warpath!" And she envisions the danger of a Redskin outbreak, and Indian war in the west; war whoops ringing out around Kansas City and Fort Worth!

Mrs. Heinigke cites one terrible example, something that happened recently. The Piutes staged a war dance, stomped to the throbbing of the drum. And then what did they do? Why they drank all the liquor they had, and even drank the anti-freeze alcohol in the radiators of the 12 cylinder automobiles. Eleven of them died, eleven redskins bit the dust!

However, you couldn't blame it all on the aboriginal customs of the Indians. For those beverages sound strangely pale face -- especially the anti-freeze alcohol in the auto radiators.

HOLLAND

Today they were counting up votes in Holland and the news drifting across the ocean reminds us of the tidings of some weeks ago. Then it was a Belgian election, and Belgium and Holland are next door neighbours. The Belgians turned down their Fascist Party and supported the moderates ~~of~~ the middle. Now Holland does the same. ~~things~~ The election-day returns are against the Dutch Nazis. They only won four places in the Parliament of the Netherlands, whereas they expected to win ten. And the victory goes to the middle-of-the-road premier, Hendrick Colijn.

I referred back to voting day in Belgium, because the election similarity in the neighbouring countries is significant -- an almost identical rejection of Fascism along that stretch of North Sea coast.

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Today's figures from Holland have an added interest, something of a vindication of women. Fascist Leader, Mussert, campaigned on a he-man platform. In his black shirt he is short and stocky; abrupt [^] with strength and decision. He called for the Netherlands to ~~return~~ return to the glorious ambitions of the Dutch ~~Empire~~ Empire. He warned Hollanders of the Japanese menace

against the Dutch ~~Empire in the~~ East Indies, and called for a big navy, -- "build warships!" He also proclaimed the gospel of virility -- for men, fighting men. He campaigned on a platform of loyalty to the ruling House of Orange, but was a trifle melancholy about that. Because right now the House of Orange is not so extensively populated by men. The sovereign is Queen Wilhelmina. The inheritance of the crown goes to Princess Juliana. Too bad, declared the Fascist leader, that these royal personalities are not men. But, there was obviously no way to make them so, -- and maybe that's why he lost the election.

WINDSOR

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A couple of weeks ago, in Coronation London, I sat in on a discussion of that inevitable topic - the Duke, and Wally, who will soon be the Duchess. I was arguing one point with a brilliant British novelist, of worldwide reputation. I won't tell his name - he certainly wouldn't want it mentioned. He was saying that Wally of Baltimore would not find her title as Duchess of Windsor so tremendously important - socially. It wouldn't mean so much. I argued, saying that surely her rank would give her social precedence - automatically. ^{Surely} at any aristocratic function, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor would take their high places, right up among the King's brothers and their wives.

"No, not at all!" exclaimed the author, "because to get to any aristocratic function they'd ^{first} have to be invited. ^{And,} he ^{added} they won't be." ^P This typical revelation of the bitterness in the British upper classes against the man who was King and the woman who will be ^{his} Duchess, came vividly to mind today. In London we find the powerful journalistic voice of Lord Beaverbrook talking bluntly about the social pressure that is

being brought to bear against Edward and Wally. "An increasingly severe form of ostracism," is the Beaverbrook description. Ostracism -- being avoided, being cut, not being invited.

The expression is used in commenting on the way government pressure has forbidden British officials and their wives from attending the Windsor-Wally wedding. There it is:- Not having your invitation accepted!

Lord Beaverbrook was a staunch supporter of Edward the Eighth during that far famed constitutional crisis. So what do we find the attitude of the great press lord to be today? He's still a defender of Edward. His newspaper, referring to the ostracism, asks this question: "Isn't it possible that the Duke is being treated with rather too much of a rough edge?" And the DAILY EXPRESS answers - "Yes, too much of a rough edge."

The largest daily paper in the English realm denounces the treatment of Edward in these terms: "A series of penalties and prohibitions are made against him and against those who desire to show him friendship and affection."

Whom does Lord Beaverbrook blame for it all? He answers that question bluntly: - "The Church of England." The ostracism

of the couple about to be married is being pushed and forced by the church, says the Beaverbrook press. And it launches a ticklish bit of controversy today. The leaders of the Church of England, it argues, are acting against Edward and Wally because of hostility against divorce. Yet divorce is legal in England. The views of the Church leaders, says the DAILY EXPRESS, are thus at variance with the law. And then the Beaverbrook paper makes this controversial announcement: "Churchmen," it says, "are entitled to their own opinions about the divorce law. But they are not entitled to use any form of state pressure to impose them."

And there's a subject for a hot argument. You can say with the DAILY EXPRESS that the Church leaders have no right to promote an official ostracism, because of their ethical opinions. Or you can reason to the contrary that it is their duty to foster official pressure against what they oppose on moral grounds. Just another one of those points of dispute and contention that have perplexed the royal romance.

Meanwhile Edward and Wally are getting ready to say
Yes -- French.

McNUTT

The toast is still hot in the Philippines, the burning question of toasting. Rebellion is smoldering against the order issued by High Commissioner McNutt, ~~that~~^{the} order prescribing the order in which the drinks must be drunk. Not only rebellion, but a plot - a conspiracy is being cooked up.

Inside information from Manilla tells us that members of the Cabinet of the Philippine Republic are ~~planning~~^{all set} to put the McNutt edict to a test. This historic test is to be made by throwing a big party, an official banquet - and then see how the toasts are drunk! - Who gets toasted first, second and third - President Roosevelt, High Commissioner McNutt, or Philippine President Quezon?

The Manilla Cabinet wants to bring on this crises before the return of President Quezon to Manila, where he is due to arrive in mid-summer. They're afraid that if President Quezon is there, he might not take the test-toasting so seriously. For the genial President of the Philippines has already announced that he is all in favor of the idea of drinking three toasts, he'll

drink them in any succession they please. So, he might garble the conspiracy by rising at the banquet and announcing that he so highly approves of the McNutt toast sequence, that they ought to drink it that way several times just to emphasise it.

To avert that danger, the Phillippine Cabinet members are determined to stage the crucial test in the next couple of weeks. The only trouble is that during that time there is nothing much to celebrate, no particular reason for throwing a state banquet, no Filipino patriotic date or anniversary. So the Cabinet is now thinking up something, devising an occasion for official festivity, hunting for a forgotten event of years ago which would be worth an anniversary banquet, or peering into the future to discover some future patriotic event, which might be commemorated in advance. Or they may just decide to hold a state dinner in honor of High Commissioner McNutt and in celebration of his toasting decree and then insult him by drinking the toasts the way he doesn't want them.

Anyway the toast is on the fire. Right now a red hot conspiracy is being plotted and High Commissioner McNutt may have to take back his words, and eat his toast, burnt on both sides -- And ----- SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.