

L. J. - Sunoco - July 17, 1936 (Fri.)

C. J. W. B. C.

(The Townsend Convention is getting tangled up in snarls and complications. The sudden and rather startling get-together of the doctor, Father Coughlin and the Reverend Gerald P. Smith, in a Third Party drive for Candidate Lemke -- has caused some lively dissension in the Townsend ranks. There's a strong faction among the Old Age Pensioners opposed to the Coughlin alliance. They don't believe the Townsend Planners should merge with any political party, third or otherwise this year.)

Last evening the dipe was that the Townsend-Coughlin line-up was just a loose working agreement, and wasn't likely to develop into a formal endorsement of Candidate Lemke by the Cleveland convention. That became official today when the Townsendites adopted a motion declaring that any suggestion of endorsing any candidate was out of order. They'll not allow any candidate endorsement to be brought up in the proceedings. This seems to have been put through by the faction supporting Dr. Townsend in his alliance with Father Coughlin. The party opposed wanted to put the ~~na~~ name of Candidate Lemke before the convention for endorsement. They wanted to do this

because they were sure it would be beaten. They declare that a vote would show a heavy majority against any combination of Old Age Pensioners and the Coughlin-Lemke Third Party.

( A still more raucous cause for dissension is found in the anger aroused by Father Coughlin's bitter denunciation of President Roosevelt. Amid the wild cheering for the Radio Priest yesterday, there was a loud sound of booing mixed in, when he slashed out against the President. The Southern Townsendites did not like it, the Democratic pension planners from the Solid South. ) And their revolt was voiced by Gomer Smith, a Vice-President of ~~the~~ the Old Age Revolving Pension organization, <sup>who</sup> ~~was~~ was a Townsend ~~in~~ candidate for the Senate nomination in Oklahoma, and who nearly won. Gomer Smith bucked over the traces and made a blazing speech. He didn't agree with what Father Coughlin had to say. He defended President Roosevelt vigorously. He denounced the alliance of Dr. Townsend, Father Coughlin and the Reverend Gerald K. Smith, follower of Huey Long. He had some particularly biting things to say about the Reverend Smith, accusing him of selling the Townsend Plan down the river.



The orator from Oklahoma sounded a raucous note of discord in the Townsend proceedings. And today he got his. Dr. Townsend this afternoon declared: "I don't consider Gomer Smith any longer a member of our organization." However, Brother Smith says he's still a Vice-President.

So there's a rift in the plan and it looks as if the Townsend organization might split wide open.

AUTO WEEK

19

The subject of safety on the road is always with us -- a theme of endless talk and investigation. And some of the most significant looking facts we've had made their appearance today. For eight years the National Research Council has been making a study of the safety problem -- an investigation directed by Professor H. M. Johnson. Here are some of the facts uncovered.

The vast majority of auto accidents are caused not by mechanical trouble but by the human element - the fault of the man at the wheel. The predominant cause of motor casualties is bad drivers, bad driving. Here's how it shapes up in figures. The tabulation of motor mishaps shows that five per cent of the drivers have thirty per cent of the accidents. Ten per cent of the drivers have more than half of the accidents. Seventy-five per cent of the drivers have no accidents at all.

From this it is clear - the smash and crash on the highway is predominantly the doing of a comparatively small percentage of drivers who are chronically liable to hit something in other words -- bad drivers.

Simple logic suggests the remedy -- eliminate that



percentage of bad drivers and you will also eliminate most of the accidents. In a special investigation for COLLIERS, Professor Johnson of the Research Council comes out for a campaign to take licenses away from drivers who have the accident habit. He says the law should keep children under the age limit specified by law and bad drivers from driving. Keep the unskillful and the temperamentally unfit off the highway, and death will largely vanish from that same highway. The Sun Oil Company has been leading this safety campaign for years.

FRANCE

*Here is one of the most important stories we have had in a long while*

That radical government in France is ~~certainly~~ going about things in a radical way; (The "popular front" regime of Socialist Premier Blum ~~is~~ taking one drastic measure after another. Yesterday it was the Bank of France that felt the Parliamentary hand -- that Bank of France which has been like a graven image of finance in the Third Republic. A government decree ~~took~~<sup>was</sup> it from the control of the two hundred families reputed to govern French finance. The Bank of France ~~became~~<sup>now</sup> semi-nationalized. The Chamber of Deputies voted that measure by a ~~large~~ huge majority.

51

Today there was another huge majority, ~~for~~ four hundred and eighty-four to eighty-five. This time it was the French munitions industry that felt the Parliamentary hand. The gun business -- nationalized.) In the Chamber of Deputies there were slashing denunciations of the munitions makers as profiteers in wartime. And in the debate, loud stress was laid on our own American munitions investigation and the things it revealed some months back.

The gun-making industries are so much a live question



52

all over the world, in our own Western Hemisphere too, that it is worth a moment to take a look and see what the Radical Government in France is doing. The law passed in Paris today divides the armament trade into two categories: First, by factories that make deadly weapons, from pistols to ~~small~~ <sup>giant</sup> cannon, cartridges to sixteen-inch shells, from crawling tanks to soaring war planes. Second, by industries that make accessories of war, goods which of themselves are not death-dealing but which are used by armies. The <sup>French</sup> ~~weapon~~ <sup>now</sup> industry is nationalized, completely, a hundred per cent, taken over by the government. The trade in accessories of war is left privately owned, but <sup>is</sup> it <sub>^</sub> put under strict government supervision.

In taking over the armament factories, the ~~the~~ French Government will buy them from the corporations that now own them. The price will be fixed this way:- They'll take an average of the prices of French munitions stocks over a period ~~wh~~ of seven years. Then they'll add to this what they consider a reasonable profit. That average stock price, plus the reasonable profit, will be handed over to the corporations

owning the munitions plant, <sup>s. Rud</sup> they're compelled to sell, forcibly bought out.

The outfit that will be hardest hit by this forced sale, is the French Steel Trust, that renowned industrial combination which is credited with so much undercover power and activity. It consists of two hundred and fifty companies, firms that own mines, smelters, foundries. It's an empire of steel, and the control of steel is also a control of armament and war.

53  
The French Steel Trust is said to have financed Mussolini in his conversion from Socialism to belligerent Nationalism in Nineteen Fifteen. That was when the Socialist Editor, Mussolini, broke with his party and advocated Italian entrance into the World War. And the great French Steel combine is believed to have given support to Hitler, this as a blow against Socialism.

The international scope of this empire <sup>of</sup> ~~and~~ steel and armament is vividly illustrated by the personality that governs it -- Francois de Wendel, President of the Trust. The Wendel Family comes from the iron district of Lorraine. Three



brothers are on record. One was a member of the German Reichstag before the war. Another was a member of the French Senate. The third is the French Steel master. Armament tentacles reaching out on both sides of that perilous frontier of France and Germany.

Such is the octopus of armament that was taken ~~in~~ over by the French Government in one fell swoop today.

## DEVILS ISLAND

And that Left Wing regime is up to another innovation, something that has been rumored before. (Today it comes out into the open - definite -- the abolition of Devil's Island. That most famous of penal institutions is to become a thing of the past. The move is being pushed by the Minister of Colonies in the new French radical government. He wants Devil's Island suppressed at once.)

And today he gave two interesting reasons:-

In the first place he said Devil's Island is such an awful place that no convict sent there improves, ever becomes any better. So terrible that it only makes men incorrigible. The second thing wrong with Devil's Island is that escape is too easy. No cinch; but, easy enough to be inviting. So the possibility of escape is forever luring the prisoners to make the attempt. Hence all those Devil's Island prison breaks that we have been hearing about.

That ~~name~~ world-wide name of evil fame is of course inaccurate. Devil's Island is a mere tiny fraction of the



55  
tropical penitentiary. On it are kept a mere twenty or thirty convicts -- everyone a political prisoner, a traitor. <sup>And</sup> There are two other penal islands of a similar sort. But the main convict settlements are on the mainland, in ~~a~~ French Guiana. <sup>And</sup> The diabolical name of that one island has been extended to the whole tropical penitentiary. The three islands are the mainland are included under the one name -- Devil's Island.

The escapes are usually from the mainland. There are two ways -- by land and by sea. The Devil's Island convict can make his get-away through the jungles and mountains and across the ~~the~~ border into Brazil, Columbia or Venezuela. But don't let him ~~make~~ make the mistake of fleeing into neighboring Dutch Guiana. The Dutch are relentless in handing back escaped French prisoners. The convict may wander for a long time in the tropical forest among ~~among~~ the wild Indian tribes. The land route of escape <sup>has been used</sup> ~~is followed~~ less and less. <sup>For</sup> The escaper, <sup>usually</sup> doesn't survive long in the jungle; <sup>either</sup> ~~between~~ the reptiles, fever ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> on hostile Indians <sup>get him.</sup>

56

So the usual get-away is by sea, wild voyages in small boats, from one island to another, British islands mostly. The British usually receive the fugitives with kindness and help, though naturally they don't want the escaped convicts to settle among them. So the escapers must be on. At Trinidad there's a Salvation Army group which makes it a practice to give aid and comfort to the fugitives. In one year the Salvation Army there helped one hundred, gave them food and money to send them on their way. French authorities don't like it and make complaints. The British say they have no legal way to stop it. The Salvation Army takes the attitude that it is working for the ~~the~~ redemption of those lost souls fleeing from Devil's Island.

This is the background for the argument made <sup>today</sup> by the Minister of Colonies in Paris -- that Devil's Island is so terrible ~~that~~ that it makes convicts incorrigible; and escape is ~~so~~ <sup>enough to</sup> easy ~~that it~~ makes them desperate escapers. So <sup>he says:</sup> ~~Devil's Island~~ ~~is to be~~ abolished <sup>it!</sup>



## SULU

A new monarch was crowned today. Not so important politically. But romantic to the Nth degree. Memories of musical comedy come echoing with the mention of that familiar musical comedy name -- "The Sultan of Sulu." And even the gaudy scenery of that old time extravaganza, wouldn't be half as bizarre and barbaric as those scenes witnessed today among the warlike Moros away off there at the Southern end of the Philippine archipelago as a new Sultan of Sulu was crowned. The great Datus, as the chieftains of the Moros are called, were there in all their warlike panoply. There was a wild beating of drums and naked blades glittered in the sword dance, as His Majesty, Rajah-Muda, became the Sultan of Sulu.

This marks the end of a month of trouble and agitation among the Moros. Also a time of worry for the Philippine Government and its American advisors. It likewise terminates the royal career of an ambitious lady formerly of the University of Illinois. For a proud, powerful princess - once an Illinois co-ed - aspired to reign over the Moros. Instead of Sultan of Sulu, she wanted to make it "Sultana of Sulu," which would have sounded even more romantic.

She's the princess Dayang Dayang, niece and adopted daughter of the late sultan, who died a month ago. This girl who once attended college in this country claimed the throne as his successor. She seized the palace and for a time was a virtual sultana. But there were fierce murmurs against the idea of having a woman as ruler of island tribes so warlike -- and so thoroughly Mohammedan as those who dwell in the land of Sulu. So the sultan's brother, Rajah Muda, said he'd be the monarch. Both claims were supported by powerful factions among the chiefs, the Datus. And each side threatened war, war being an exceedingly popular institution among the Moros. Finally, after weeks of wrangling, the proud princess, Dayang Dayang, lost out. Most of the Datus came around to the support of Rajah Muda.

Still -- at the coronation today, several of the most powerful Datus were absent, still discontent. And the would-be sultana is taking the enthronement of her rival with no good grace. She has left the land - left Sulu flat. On her way to Manilla -- now is the Princess Dayang Dayang -- I suppose Dayang Dayang with mortification.

And after that I'd better say what the Princess of Sulu was forced to say:- Sulu, SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.