

L.J. - Lunco. Wed., Feb. 19, 1936.

Cannon

POWER

The Roosevelt Administration loses no time taking advantage of the Supreme Court's T.V.A. decision. The new power program which was announced in Washington today is designed to do for the northwest what the T.V.A. means ^{or may mean} to the south. Ten hydro-electric dams on the Columbia River - that's a ^{truly gargantuan Brobindignagian step} ~~prodigious step in government enterprise~~ ^{in the direction of Government entry into business.} The news came from the ^(office) ~~office~~ of Secretary Ickes. But its real origin was the White House. It was admitted that this monster development was the idea of President Roosevelt himself.

What a lot of people would like to know is, "How much is it all going to cost?" Ah, that's a question! Apparently we're going to have to wait before that information is conveyed to us.

While the announcement of this program is news, it is far from being new. The report as issued by Mr. Ickes is dated January the Sixth. So it's obvious that the bosses have just been waiting for the Supreme Court to release the information.

What it means evidently is the establishment of a Columbia Valley Authority, a vast new government body, with the same power and scope as the T.V.A. However, it is intimated that it will differ in several important particulars. [#] A titanic scheme, however you look at it.

HAUPTMANN

^{Bruno}
The resentencing of [^]Hauptmann has lit another fire under the political kettle in New Jersey. Once again Governor Harold Hoffman ~~is~~ is seen as a political question-mark. Will he give the ~~German~~ Bronx carpenter another reprieve? He has said positively that he would not. That is, not unless new and positive evidence were forthcoming. No such evidence has been brought to light. The entry of a new lawyer in the case has resulted in nothing so far as we can ascertain.

This, as the whole world knows, is the third time the name of Thomas Trenchard has been signed to a document sentencing Hauptmann to the chair. The date set by Justice Trenchard, "some time in the week beginning March Thirtieth", ^{Richard} gives [^]Bruno Hauptmann still six weeks more of life, whatever happens.

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Even the largest and richest cities are suffering seriously from this ~~preposterous~~ ^{sudden} return of the cold spell. The latest to get into a jam is Philadelphia. With the most serious traffic jam in its history the ^{people of the} City of Brotherly Love ~~has no~~ ^{now vow they have} ~~no~~ ^{no} love for Jack Frost. The broken water-main that flooded the main portion of the Broad Street subway left the tracks under as much as six feet of water in some places. To make matters worse trolley service from East to West was also at a standstill in the Quaker City. That happened because the water from the broken main bubbled up to the surface and made a solid lake of ice several inches deep. Thousands of people delayed going to their jobs, hundreds of basements flooded.

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In Utica, New York, National Guardsmen, firemen and police were patrolling the entire downtown area, thirty blocks of it, ^{today.} All business ~~has been~~ held up. Not a soul allowed in the danger zone. Workmen and firemen have been risking their lives hurrying to cap the gas leaks. Though the flames which roared underground have been extinguished, pillars of smoke continued to rise. And the worst of the explosions that were

heard during the night shook the foundations of Utica's tallest office building. The fifteen-story structure of the Utica National Bank was said to have been weakened. Most of the workmen, police and firemen in Utica have been on the job for more than twenty-four hours. Today the authorities had to send out a call for volunteers. But they believe it is about over - back to almost normal tomorrow.

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Then, the fire that raged early this morning in Columbus, Ohio, killed three firemen. Two others are still missing, no signs of them to be found. And the collapse of the Odd Fellows Temple injured six more.

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In Iowa and South Dakota people are existing only by the help of airplanes equipped with skis and sledges, some drawn by dogs, some by men. Several Iowa towns have now been without train service for more than two weeks, with many of the highways hopelessly blocked.

Early this morning it was feared that Clyde Ice, the pilot from Watertown, South Dakota, was lost. He had been carrying relief to dozens of families stranded by the storm.

But he made a safe landing and now he's safe at Deadwood.

Those are just a few of the spectacular consequences of the terrific winter.

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There's quite a historic background to these ski marathons. The first of them all is called the Vasaloppet, after Sweden's great national hero, Gustavus Vasa. Four hundred and sixteen years ago, Gustavus Vasa was hiding from the soldiers of King Christian of Denmark. For years he had been trying to arouse his people to rebel against the Danish invaders. About Christmas time, fifteen twenty, the Danish troops almost had him by the heels. To get away from them, Gustavus Vasa took to his skis and a few Christians and a couple of Telemarke and made a non-stop run from Saelen, near the Norwegian border, to Mora, a distance of ninety kilometers. That famous royal run was the beginning of the end of the

SKI

This is the third day since fourteen hardy fellows started something that's never been tried in America before - so far as I know. For three days they have been racing on skis, racing all the way from Bangor to Caribou, Maine. A hundred and seventy-four miles. As all skiing fans will tell you, that's some race! Editor Bill Robins of the AROOSTOOK REPUBLICAN of Caribou tells me that half of the racers are descendants of old time Swedes, Swedes who used to take part in similar races in the old country.

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Danish tyranny over Sweden. And in honor of that, every year there's a race over that same route from Salen to Mora.

Now on in Maine

The American ski marathon differs from those that are held over in Sweden, in one respect. The racers get a rest at the end of every day's run. Over in Sweden they keep right at it.

On one occasion a couple of Swedes ran two hundred and eighty-six miles in fifty-seven hours. But the official record is twenty-one hours and twenty-two minutes for a hundred and thirty-seven miles.

The first American ski marathon will end about noon tomorrow at Caribou, just in time for the beginning of the three day winter carnival.

SPAIN

The name that is most on Spanish lips tonight is that of Manuel Azanya. It looks as though he were the most likely man to step into the shoes made vacant by the resignation of the Cabinet of Premier Valladares. ^{And -} The shoes he'll step into won't be any too comfortable, ^{- well broken in but full of tacks,} However, he has been Spanish Prime Minister before, so it won't be a new experience.

Personally, Senor Azanya is a burly, broad-shouldered, heavy featured man of fifty-three years. ~~Those who have seen him~~ ~~tell us that he~~ looks more like a go-getting ^{er} American corporation executive than the visionary that he really is. He started out to be a soldier, ^{and} studied strategy and tactics in the military school of Toledo, ~~University~~. His studies must have taken the glamor out of ~~the~~ military life for him, ^{for} He switched over to the law and went into the civil service of his country.

He didn't become active in politics until King Alfonso's dictator, General Primo de Rivera, took a flop. For the last eight years he has been one of the big shots in the Left Wing of the Republican Party. When King Alfonso threw his own ^{royal} towel into the ring, Manuel Azanya stepped in as the working head of the government.

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He had a stormy time of it. He was surrounded by enemies, constantly watched by spies, in continual danger of assassination. When he resigned in September, Nineteen Thirty-Three, he went to Catalonia. They say he hoped he would find a little peace and quiet in Barcelona. But he hadn't been there many days before he found himself the center of another revolution. He hadn't much sympathy with it. It was a rebellion of the Catalans, who revived their ^{age} ~~century~~ old ambition of ~~xxx~~ cutting loose from Spain. They made Azanya President of the Catalan Republic, ~~x~~ much against his will. He held the job for just one day and passed the next three months in the calaboose.

But politics is a see-saw affair in the land of the bolero and good sherry wine. Today Manuel Azanya is ^{leaning} ~~right up~~ ^{with the orchestra giving him a fanfare.} ~~against~~ ^{over} the footlights once more; [^] The choice of a premier to lead the new radical majority lies between him and Martinez-Barrio.

Whichever one gets it, will be surrounded by plots, counter-plots, intrigues and factions. The army is a strong political factor in Spain. And all the leading generals are conservative, died-hards, on the side of property and wealth.

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So (the first threat to be met by the new government of the Left is a military revolt. ^P People accused of intrigue are being arrested all over the country. As a matter of fact, warrants have been issued for the army's chief of staff, General Francisco Franco, and his principal lieutenant, General Manuel Goded. According to one account, those military moguls have disappeared and are being sought by the political police.) Another report says that the authorities know where they are and are watching them closely. However, three lieutenants of the Spanish air force have been taken into custody, accused of a plot to restore the monarchy.

MEXICO FOLLOW SPAIN

This seems to be open season for trouble in the Spanish speaking countries. Corporations, property owners and other employers are having ^{disturbed}~~troubled~~ days and restless nights south of the Rio Grande. The latest indication is that the Cardenas government will take over the railways in Mexico and run them.

At the present moment, there's danger that railroad communication between the U.S.A. and Mexico will be interrupted. The workers of the Southern Pacific, the only link between ^{Mexico and our Pacific Coast}~~the two countries~~,

are talking strike. If ~~the~~ Company doesn't give them what they want, they'll walk out tomorrow. So they say. The heads of the Railway ^{insist}~~say~~ they won't give in, ^{and claim they're not}~~but they aren't~~ worried about being able to run their trains, strike or no strike.

Another symptom of trouble comes from the ^{Mexican} General Confederation of Workers and Peasants. They had their axes sharpened ~~for~~ the Attorney General of the Republic, Senor Caste~~l~~^xlanos. "He's an enemy of the proletariat," they claim.

And just ~~for the~~ over the border from Laredo, Texas, a riot had to be put down by government troops. There was a ~~riot~~ ^{row} between Communists on one side and Fascist Gold Shirts on the other.

In all these disputes, President Cardenas, the man who overthrew Dictator Calles, takes the side of the workers. The Mexican Congress is also a laborite body today. The last law they passed yesterday makes it decidedly uncomfortable for employers. By this law you have to pay a man who works for you, whether he works or doesn't. At least that's almost what it amounts to. You have to pay him for each day of rest, for each six days he has worked, whether those six days were consecutive or at intervals. In other words, it doesn't pay an employer to discharge a man. If he does, he runs the risk of having to pay him for months after *he's fired. This sort of thing is nothing new there.* ~~he has discharged him~~

Naturally, manufacturers and all other employers have complained loudly. To them Cardenas replies: "If you don't like it, you can turn your business over either to the Government or *And* to the workers." With the same breath, President Cardenas says, "We have no Communist problem in Mexico."

JAPAN

The Spanish election was interesting - purely as news. But that the voting has been going on in Japan today really means something to us. Indeed, it will affect not only Uncle Sam but every power that has interests in the Pacific.

Upon that election in the Mikado's realm depends the future of the government that has ^{been running} ~~run~~ Nippon for four years. Under the rule of Premier Okada and his Cabinet, the war lords have had everything their own way. It is during their regime that all the sabre rattling, the grabbing of huge territories on the mainland, has been going on. So that's what is at stake in the island empire today; that's what fourteen million little brown voters are deciding.

The two principal parties are called "Minseito" and "Seiyukai". The Minseito are the government party. Premier Okada has held the reins of power under conditions that seem amazing to us. Actually, he has been the head of the minority, running the country against a parliamentary opposition that outnumbered him almost two to one. In the Diet, which was dissolved last month, the Seiyukai, his opponents, held two hundred and forty-two seats, while only a hundred and twenty-seven of Okada's followers sat in the House.

The discontent with the Okada government came to a head soon after the New Year. It became impossible any longer to conduct the ship of state with such ^a vociferous and numerous chorus of objections in the Parliament. By the Japanese Constitution, a general election was due in April anyway. Word got around that the leaders of the Seyukai had prepared to move for a vote of no confidence. With their large majority, it was a foregone conclusion that the vote would pass. To get out of this jam, there was one obvious move. The Son of Heaven dissolved the Parliament by imperial decree. That sharp play beat the opposition to it. Hence the election today instead of in April.

So we can readily see why a good deal of the future of the world's history is in the balance in the Land of the Rising Sun. The Seyukai, the opposition party, have three hundred candidates in the field. They need only two hundred and thirty for a working majority, to turn the government out. Premier Okada's ^{party,} ~~party,~~ the Minseito, have two hundred and eighty in the running.

Another feature of that Japanese election sounds strange in our ears. Evidently the saviours of the nation do the bulk of

their campaigning by mail. An article from Tokyo informs us that a hundred and fifty million electioneering letters have been sent out. (One consequence of that was to give jobs to ^{many people.} ~~all those people.~~

Another item from Tokyo tells us that more than half a million men and women were hired by the Ministry of Communications to get those

"Please vote for me" letters delivered.) Incidentally it must have been quite a chore since Tokyo has been having a worse snow and ice tie than New York. Streets blocked. All traffic stopped.

MITCHELL

(American aviation is poorer tonight. It has lost a voice that preached flying in season and out. Once it was a voice crying out in the wilderness -- back in the days when the flying machine was laughed at.) Yes, that's when Billy Mitchell shouted with a ringing voice -- saying that man was to become a flying animal. Since then aviation has risen to ever new heights, new heights in the sky, new heights in the affairs of men. And Billy Mitchell just kept on in the van guard, foreseeing new power and glory for the planes that wing through the air.

(Billy died today -- that fiery General who held high rank not only as a birdman but as a stormy petrel.) He flew with the Wrights in the box-kite days. He became the active head of ~~xxx~~ our Army Air Corps at the Front in France. Later in Washington his strenuous methods of controversy got him court-martialed for insubordination. And Billy was out. But he still remained a top-ranking figure and a splendid brilliant fellow in the world of planes and pilots. He had the admiration, respect and affection of a host of us.

MITCHELL - 2

Recently he contracted pneumonia, --- as I mentioned
the other night. And now (General Billy Mitchell, prophet of
aviation, has flown off on his longest flight - headed West.)

And --

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.