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A glance at the news from Washington suggests reminiscences on the romantic and mysterious theme of secret prisoners, and secret trials - the Man-in-the-Iron-Mask kind of melodrama. Rumor in Washington is harking back to the case of the British officer a couple of years ago, who was kept in the Tower of London in the utmost secrecy, and then just as secretly tried and convicted for spy work. His case was a nine day wonder of concealment, guessing and general mystification. And the ^{affair} ~~affair~~ in our own national capital starts out in pretty much the same beguiling way. Let's see what hints and information ^{today} ~~the day~~ has given us about the unnamed high officer who is on secret trial.

But first let's project ourselves in imagination through those closed doors at the Army War College and take a look around in that ~~shrouded, concealed~~ ~~impenetrable~~ ~~crowded~~ courtroom. We see a number of men at a table. They're wearing ordinary togs, conventional business suits. And so we might be inclined to say, "This is no court martial." War Department regulations specify that in a ~~xxxixix~~ court-martial the jury officers shall wear full uniform and side arms. But it is a court-martial, one just a bit different. The army is so secret about the trial that the officers participating in it have been ordered to wear civilian clothes, so that their uniforms coming to and from the trial,

might not attract attention.

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And there's the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ accused officer. I must confess that we see him rather indistinctly in this imaginary visit. We don't know who he is. There are only a few things we can say about him, so let's see what these are according to the dope that comes from Washington. He's a high officer, but, he's not a general, so we are told. That would seem to make him a colonel. However, he's not Colonel Joseph I. McMullen, chief of the Patent Section of the Judge Advocate General's Department. That we are told positively, although Colonel McMullen has been under fire on charges of receiving fees-for-services from concerns doing business with the War Department.

We listen to the proceedings, the reading of charges of the testimony - but it's indistinct, a mere murmur, with an occasional significant word. We gather that the high officer is on trial on charges that connect with an investigation of lobbyists acting for firms that sell materials to the army. The Military Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives looked into the matter some time ago, and the War Department took it up, and there was a Grand Jury investigation - all centering around the accusation that army officers

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had been receiving favors from these lobbyists. At that time Secretary Dern gave out the formal statement that if the investigation indicated that any officer hadn't been doing the right thing, that officer would be rigorously punished. Such punishment would very likely mean - court martial.

In the low jumble of talk in the military court room, we may catch a mention of - Two thousand Dollars. ^{That former} ~~the~~ investigation made a considerable point over the charge that one high officer, who was not named, had got a Two thousand Dollar loan from a lobbyist. Presumably, the loan had something to do with favors the officer could grant to the lobbyist's firm in transactions with the War Department. So it is probable that the defendant whom we see there at the court-martial, is the officer ^{said to have} ~~who~~ received the Two thousand ~~Dollar loan~~.

The grapevine dope from Washington today make^s these probabilities more and more likely. There is just one thing certain - the court-martial must be mighty important, because the War Department is shrouding it with such elaborate secrecy.

WAGES

The "nineteen to ninety-four policy" brought a swift and violent flare-up in Washington today. The leader of the indignant insurgency is William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor. And beside him in the smoke of battle stands Senator Pat MacCarron, of "prevailing-wage" renown.

"Nineteen to ninety-four?" roars the President Green - Senator-MacCarron-faction. "No, -- nineteen times 'no'! ninety-four times 'no'!"

And they predict strikes, strikes against the government. Innocent bystanders predict that the blaze of insurgency is likely to cause quite a storm and a rumpus in Congress, with plenty of danger for the President's newly announced policy of work relief.

Meaning -- the wage rate of from nineteen to ninety-four dollars a month for workers on the relief projects. It's a graded scale with a recognition of the difference between wage rates in city and rural districts. Four levels of work relief pay have just been announced: one for large cities, one for small cities, another for towns, and still another for the farmland regions. Moreover, there are wage-class

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divisions based on the kind of work, unskilled labor and skilled, also technical and professional services. The nineteen to ninety-four layout is based on the President's decision to have the work relief scale thirty percent below the rate of pay in the various parts of the country, thirty percent below the prevailing wage.

This course of action is defended on the grounds that if work relief labor were paid the same rate as ordinary labor employed by private industry, the tendency might be for workmen to prefer the government service and refuse to leave work relief and take regular jobs, when occasion might offer. On the other hand, if they get thirty percent less, they would be likely to prefer to increase their earnings by jumping into employment with private industry.

The opposition to all of this is bitter, and the prevailing wage advocates, led by A. F. of L. President Green and Senator Mac Carron, predict ^{that} the direst evils will result from the nineteen to ninety-four. President Green foresees a wave of strikes and he says they will be strikes against the government. He declares that the work relief employees, far from being content with

getting from nineteen dollars to ninety-four dollars a month, will stage walk-outs. He says he doesn't see how the government can logically prevent the relief workers from organizing to demand higher pay.

Meanwhile, there are certain government operations that will not conform to the new wage scale. Right now the P. W. A. projects are paying the prevailing wage. The workers are getting pretty much the same money as ⁱⁿ private industry. ~~pays for equivalent services.~~ And Secretary of the Interior Ickes declares that this will continue on ~~the~~ P. W. A. projects.

Just another big battle
flaming in the city of battles — peaceful,
placid Washington on the Potomac. And,
as usual, Huey Long leaping in for
a swing at the government chin.

CANADA

The post of Minister to Ottawa is interesting for several reasons. First, because it became vacant on account of the death of a cousin of President Roosevelt, Warren Delano Robbins, who had been Minister, and secondly there was that tempest in a teapot some weeks ago, provoked by revelations that in American army circles, they were thinking of a defensive air basis on the Canadian border. And, we heard of army talk of the possibility of having to seize British and French islands in the ~~next~~ event of some remote crisis or other.

Now that we have a new Minister to Canada, America was seizing him up today. When President Roosevelt named Norman Armour he selected what they call a career-diplomat -- in the United States diplomatic service for twenty-three years. He began in Nineteen twelve, with a post at the American Embassy in Vienna. Since then, he's made the round of the diplomatic circuit. Petrograd, Brussels, Secretary to the Legations at The Hague and Montevideo, Counselor to the Embassy at Tokyo and in Paris. In nineteen thirty-two, he became Minister to Hayti. He's there now. He goes from Port-au-Prince to Ottawa.

It all sounds exceedingly international, but it's more so.

Because this Princeton alumnus with a Harvard law degree was born abroad, at Brighton, England, while his parents were visiting there, and during his diplomatic service at Petrograd he married a Russian princess - Princess Myra Kouδάcheff.

It sounds international all right, but a diplomat is not likely to be provincial.

RACE

I have two reminders today that the annual automobile classic will be flashed at Indianapolis on Memorial Day.

The first reminder was a cheery one, a postal card from Zeke Meyers, the auto racer who took part in that sensational demonstration of Blue Sunoco, when the airplane flew aloft with an automobile slung beneath it. Zeke will be out burning up the track in the Indianapolis race, trying to out-pace the other maniacs of speed on wheels. *Well, here's to Zeke.*

The second reminder from Indianapolis is tragic, a news dispatch telling how Johnny Hannon was taking his car for a spin around the speedway. ~~And his speedy car~~ ^{*But it*} did some disastrous spinning. So you can mark down on the black-bordered roll of race drives killed at Indianapolis, the name of Johnny Hannon of Norristown, Pennsylvania, who held the dirt-track championship of the Eastern states.

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His car was whizzing at a terrific rate along the brick track. The brick was wet. A whirling tire seemed to slip on the wet bricks. The low-slung racing car skidded wildly and jumped over the wall of the speedway. The mechanic, ~~was~~ seriously injured, *Johnny killed*

~~So it is~~ The old speed-mad story of brightness and
darkness, one driver hoping to win the race, another driver losing
his life.

ADDAMS

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The eyes of leaders among women are focused on a sick bed in Chicago, a sick bed whence comes the word - little hope or none at all. The doctors say that Jane Addams has reached the end of her long and distinguished career. She is Seventy-five years old. For half a century she has been in the forefront of the debate on social questions.

The career of Jane Addams spans one of the most extraordinary transitions in many a century. She not only saw the swift change of the modern world, but in particular witnessed the alteration in the realm of her own particular work and interest, the lives and activities of women. She began her labors for feminine emancipation in the deepest smugness of the Victorian era, when women were so primly hedged in and circumscribed.

It's almost fantastic to think of that kaleidoscope of change that has flashed in so brief a time. It was hardly more than twenty-five years ago that a royal Princess of Spain was asked to leave the dining room at the Waldorf because she had lighted a cigarette. By way of vivid contrast, take a thing that has happened today - the appearance by a firm so old and sedate as Park & Tilford, of an advertisement of those formerly forbidden beverages - and it

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is directed to women, advising the ladies concerning the art of a moderate and prudent refreshment. From the Waldorf frowning on the cigarette of a Princess of Spain those years ago, on down to that ~~Park & Tilford~~ ^{ad} of today - that's a hint of the startling panorama of change in the lives and ways of women.

GERMANY

Today's event in Berlin was a spectacular and emphatic confirmation of one point, concerning which we heard so much in the grand international hubbub of some weeks ago. That hubbub was the German rearmament pandemonium, and the point in question was Germany's insistence on her policy of rearming, no matter what the other nations had to say.

Two things happened today in Berlin, and the most impressive was a formal proclamation of Teutonic policy by Hitler himself.

Der Fuehrer appeared ^{today} before the Reichstag and ^{proclaimed} ~~declared~~ his diplomatic stand. *On the whole a decidedly conciliatory speech. But, as* He outlined thirteen points, ~~the chief of which and~~ the one that takes ^{the most} ~~predominant~~ attention is this - that Germany utterly rejects the League of Nations' action in condemning German rearmament. The League said to Hitler: "You were wrong to rearm."

And now Hitler says to the League: "I don't care what you say."

Of course it's no news that Germany is going to build up a big army, it's all mere reaffirmation. And Hitler's reaffirmation came right on top of a bit of action by the Nazi Cabinet. Just before he made his speech to the Reichstag, the Cabinet voted its approval of a law reestablishing universal conscription in Germany. The new conscription is for a year. Every German, upon coming of

military age, will do one compulsory year in the army.

Among those 13 points that Hitler
~~proposed~~ *we hear the word colonies. He*
~~Hitler~~ *proclaimed in his Reichstag speech today that*

Germany wants her lost colonies ~~back~~ and will insist on getting them back.

But there was ^{plenty} ~~a good deal~~ in his pronouncement of policy that has a peaceful and reassuring sound. He stated categorically that Germany has no intention of war, and is against any idea of war. And, moreover - that the Nazi Reich does not intend to enter into any armament race. Germany wants adequate defense and military equality, he said, but has no yearning to see who can build the biggest war machine. And the moderate peaceable note is accentuated by his statement that Germany is ready to go ahead along the lines of the Locarno Treaty and sign an aviation agreement. This points back to those war plane proposals of some time ago, according to which the nations would agree to go to each other's help in the air, in case any of them were attacked by an aggressor.

And Hitler is willing to come to an arrangement to abolish the submarine -- the German weapon that excites the most apprehension.

SPAIN

Listen, all you folks with large brains and capacious intelligence, you can't be a town councilor in Spain. I don't know that you would want to be a town councilor in Spain, but anyway you can't. Because here's news from Madrid, which tells the sad story of Thomas Garcia Ares, who was a member of the Town Council of the City of Leon. But he isn't any more. He has been removed from his post, because his mind was too deep, his intelligence too profound.

The other councilors in Madrid complained about him. They said his superior brain power gave him an unfair advantage. He was so fast-thinking and deep-thinking that the other members of the Council couldn't keep up with him. And so he was always persuading them to do things they didn't want to do. He could think up arguments they couldn't answer. His strength of mind over-powered them. So they always did what he said, and were they sore!

The only way to protect the brainless was to remove the brainy one. They made a plea asking that the giant intellect be expelled from the town Council. And the plea was accepted. So

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now the City of Leon has a governing body without any brains,
and perhaps some of you folks could mention some other towns
in that same condition - but not your town of course. Oh no!

AVIATOR

The champion Trans-Atlantic flight for youth and romance ends with an airplane skimming to earth on the coast of Brazil. This newest aerial oceanist is only twenty-one, which makes him the youngest Trans-Atlantic bird-man, or maybe - bird-boy. He flew across the wide waters with a photograph of a girl in his inside pocket, next to his heart, which makes the bird-boy also the most lovelorn of the ocean jumpers. He makes a conquest of the broad Atlantic, in order to make a conquest of a fair lady.

In other words, Juan Ignacio Pombo landed at Natal, Brazil, this afternoon, after a ten hour flight across from the coast of Africa. He is on his way to Mexico to meet the girl he hopes to marry.

9 1/2 A love lorn aviator says, "ah, senors, I fly to my loved one." While I, not at all love lorn say, "ah, s-l-u-t-m."