

L.J. - Sunco. Pri., June 7, 1935.

Comment
750.

~~Walt~~

The skeleton NRA was rushed through the Lower House today. The lawmakers acted swiftly. So the blue eagle with his wings clipped is due to ^{flap on} ~~soon~~ until April 1st ^{of next year} -- though of course the Senate must still write its own okay on the bill. This the Senate is likely to do.

Action by the Congress of the United States is important, more important than the action of any one individual. Just the same the big talk in Washington tonight, is Donald Richberg's resignation as Chairman of the National Industrial Recovery Board. That was the main administrative body of the NRA. It hasn't so much administrating to do any more. Of course, Donald Richberg had announced some time ago that he would return to his law practice as soon as Congress reenacted the National Recovery Act.

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~~That~~ Richberg's decision to retire was given out before the Supreme Court verdict shot the Blue Eagle Cock Robin. That heavy blow certainly didn't increase Richberg's anxiety to stay.

~~anyhow~~ ^{TP} Anyway, today Congress put through the bill extending the

NRA, as much as there is of it. So it was only straight schedule for Donald Richberg to do the resigning he said he'd do. But just the same, his disappearance from the National ~~Re~~ Industrial Recovery Board seems to emphasize the ^{present law} ~~colours~~ estate of the lordly bird, whose pinions of blue used to sweep over the land.

N.R.A.

Yesterday's declaration by the Attorney-General is re-enforced by a pronouncement today by the President himself. Attorney-General Cummings said that if voluntary codes included price fixing, there would be Federal prosecutions. The President's statement today is that the Supreme Court decision knocking out the N.R.A. simply means the return to former conditions, with the anti-trust laws in full force.

The logic of it is that the National Recovery Act specified that if, under the N.R.A. codes combinations were formed which violated the anti-trust laws, why those laws didn't apply. But, now -- with the N.R.A. out, they do apply now.

Mr. Roosevelt added that he was in favor of voluntary codes, but that such codes would have to square with the laws forbidding combinations in restraint of trade.

TRANSPORTATION.

The word "transportation" sounded ~~in Congress~~ loud in Congress today. The White House sent to the capitol a special message asking Congress to take action to coordinate the transport facilities of the nation, every sort and everywhere. Its presidential action today on that coordination plan we heard about some time ago when Joe Eastman drew up his plan to adjust and harmonize every line that hauls freight or passengers from one part of the country to another, by air, by land, or by sea.

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What the Eastman Report recommended to the President, the President now recommends to Congress. He told the law-makers that the various ways and systems of transportation were not a lot of various problems. He said the nation's transportation could be treated as one single unified problem. And he asked Congress to pass a ~~law~~ law to enable the government to regulate railroads, buses, ships and airplanes - the regulating to be done at first by the Interstate Commerce Commission, this to be followed by the formation of a federal transportation commission, to supervise all the ways by which a piece of freight can be moved or a passenger can travel.

ROOSEVELT

In the White House press conferences there's one custom from which the President and the newspapermen seldom depart. It is this - that the chief executive of the United States is not to be directly quoted. What he tells the press can be stated fully, but not given as the President's own words. The Washington correspondents tell what was said, give the gist of it - but nothing in quotation marks.

That rule was broken today. The President, in ~~effect~~^{effect}, used the familiar words, "You can quote me as saying . . ." This departure from press conference tradition serves to emphasize the things the President said. The quotation marks are the equivalent of underscoring ^{and} ~~in~~ big black type. What's the subject on which Mr. Roosevelt permits himself to be quoted? ^{His} ~~A~~ social program. The broader meanings of his projects for unemployment insurance, old-age pensions, and the rest of it.

The President said, QUOTE "The social objective is today what any honest government of any country would do: To try to increase the security and happiness of a large number of people; to give them more of the good things of life; to give them

assurance that they are not going to starve in their old age; to give honest business a chance to go ahead and make a reasonable profit; to give everyone a chance to earn a living." UNQUOTE

Having summarized his idealism in those words, Mr. Roosevelt added, QUOTE I think we are getting somewhere toward our objective.

UNQUOTE

That's the message from the White House, amplified by the loud speaker of - quotation marks.

JAPAN

Japanese military activity in North China is concentrated at Tientsin. There, as in some other Chinese cities, foreign powers have reservations of their own, concessions they call them, controlled by themselves, hardly under China's dominance at all - except in a broad sense. Japanese troops are advancing from their own legation concession, through the Chinese quarter of the city and on into China. Their troops have been and are being tremendously reinforced in ^{the} Japanese area of Tientsin.

Japan's demand for the resignation of Nationalist leader Chaing Kai Shek, head of the Nanking regime, is now followed by a report of far larger scope. This is that the Japanese intend to restore the Emperor of Manchukuo, Kang Teh, to the Chinese throne - in North China.

There's a good deal of history behind this, history of the boy emperor who abdicated when the Chinese Republican revolution overthrew the dragon throne of the Manchus, some years before the World War. Pu Yi, the boy emperor, lived in

exile for a long time. Several years ago the Japanese, seizing Manchuria, brought him out of retirement and made him their puppet monarch, with the title Emperor Kang Teh. Now, this former boy Son of Heaven may be restored to power in the imperial palace at his old capital of Peking. In this plan Nippon would be clothing its ambitions in the imperial robes of a restoration of the old Manchu dynasty in China.

ENGLAND

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Today is something of a red letter day, because of a rather stately coincidence. It doesn't often happen that two of the greatest nations get a new ~~government~~ ^{ministry} on the same day. It's very likely the first time in history - London and Paris simultaneously installing new heads of government. Nothing very significant or startling about it, merely beguiling as a coincidence.

A stalwart Scotsman, graying and a bit stooped about the shoulders, drove to Buckingham Palace today. He was admitted to the royal presence, ^{And then and there} ~~and~~ Ramsay MacDonald handed his resignation to the King. He explained he was retiring as Prime Minister because of failing health. His Majesty accepted the resignation with suitable expressions of royal esteem.

The next move followed promptly. Stanley Baldwin, Chief of the Conservative Party, stepped into MacDonald's place as chief Minister to the Crown. He didn't ^{gape} ~~seem~~ about like ^{any} ~~a~~ stranger. He's quite familiar with the prime ministry. He's had the job twice before. He ^{now} ~~steps~~ up from the rank of Lord President of the Council, and one of his first acts was to turn ^{his} ~~that former~~ job ~~of his~~ over to the retiring Prime Minister. MacDonald and Baldwin merely switched places.

The only news about it is that it just happened. We have known and discussed it, in advance. There is likewise little novelty when you look over the Cabinet which the new Prime Minister has chosen. It is predominantly Conservative in tone, as was to be expected. The Conservatives are a hundred per cent in power.

The only point of interest in the new government that Britain acquired today lies in the Foreign office. Sir John Simon, so much in the limelight in recent diplomatic high-jinks, has retired.

But what about Captain Anthony Eden, Lord Privy Seal, the brilliant young virtuoso of statecraft, who crashed the world's headlines in his rapid-fire diplomacy with Hitler, Moscow and Warsaw? There was many a guess some weeks ago that he would become the new Foreign Secretary. More recently it became clear that he

wouldn't. Nor does he. Sir John Simon is succeeded by Sir Samuel Hoare, as boss of British transactions-of-state with other nations.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ But once again - what about Captain Anthony Eden, so loudly acclaimed as the fair-haired boy? Is he out in the cold?

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Not exactly. The temperature is middling - warm for him - tepid, as the British say. They haven't given him a regular ~~fix~~ portfolio, but they created a special job for him - a job dealing with the League of Nations. Captain Anthony Eden becomes the head of the department that will handle Britain's affairs with the League. ^{So} He still seems to be on his way up.

As for Ramsay MacDonald, his retirement from the prime ministry undoubtedly ^{marks} ~~signalize~~ the close^{e and} completion of one of the most singular of political careers. Born in the bleakest of Scottish poverty, a young striving Scot in London, a clerk, then a worker in the formation of the Labor Party, ^{- a great labor editor,} he was rising swiftly, when the War tossed him in what seemed to be final oblivion, for Ramsay MacDonald was a Pacifist. He opposed the War. He was jeered at, attacked. Then came a startling reversal, after the War - MacDonald, the hated Pacifist, swinging back to leadership in the Labor Party.

And, he became Prime Minister. Then, he lost out. But, he became Labor Prime Minister again.

Then - this was followed by the dixxiest reversal of all - the Labor leader breaking with his Party, joining forces with the Conservatives, and becoming the head of a strictly Tory government. Yet all the inconsistency was a definite and logical work-out of a Scottish conscience and a Puritan sense of rectitude.

Today seems to mark the end of those dizzy swings up and down, left and right - with Ramsay MacDonald retiring to the decorative unimportance of Lord President of the Council.

FRANCE

From France the matter of a new government was a good deal more exciting. The report from Paris is that a Cabinet has at last been formed, and the man who accomplished that feat was Pierre Laval.

He had tried it a couple of days ago along with a whole string of

other political notables, but all had failed. *But now, Laval has succeeded. He got a vote of confidence in a minor matter, but the real test comes tonight, because* ~~parliamentary job. But now, Laval has succeeded. And~~ his program

is that same one which caused the downfall of the Flandin Government,

the downfall that precipitated the crisis:- The dictatorship or

• semi-dictatorship - the right of the ministry to govern by decree

for the next six months, without consulting the Chamber of Deputies.

That free hand of action concerns measures to be put ^{through} in France to meet the dangerous financial situation, and save the franc.

Along with riots on the boulevards, ^{fiery} Royalist ~~fiery~~ leaders battling with the gendarmes, Paris has been agitated by another

threat - the Croix de Feu, the French Fascist organization. A rumor

flashed that Colonel de la Rocque, leader of ^{the} Croix de Feu, was

preparing for a march on Paris, with four thousand men and six

hundred and fifty armed motor cars. ~~The Fascitsts - were supposed to~~

~~begin at Amiens and then on to Paris.~~ Four thousand men, even with

six hundred and fifty armed motor cars, might not seem so devastating and powerful, but the probabilities were that if a march got going, other national organizations, especially the Royalists, would jump to the support of the Fiery Cross.

Croix de Feu literally means "Cross of Fire", but Frenchmen understand it to signify - "decorated under fire," "winning the Cross under fire." It was originally an organization of decorated World War veterans who staged patriotic parades and festivities. ~~It~~ But it has become decidedly political in tone. It denies it is Fascist, but to the eyes of most Frenchmen its program is hardly distinguishable from Fascism. The Croix de Feu calls for a political renovation of France and advocates a ^{kind} ~~man~~ of modified bourgeois Socialism.

If the movement should get anywhere, Colonel de la Rocque would be its logical Mussolini. He is a quiet man without much of the flaming French temperament. He has a striking face, intense, strong, stubborn, tight lips and a high forehead. He is an army man, a War hero.

ITALY

The Latin temperament as displayed in Italian newspapers brought a word of warning from London. And the speaker was that ^{young} same Captain Anthony Eden who today in the new British government took charge of all London's dealings with the League of Nations.

~~In~~ In spite of the way Mussolini squelched one Roman daily for violent attacks on England, the anti-British newspaper campaign continues -- with fiery journalistic charges that the hand of London is against ~~in~~ Italy in the Abyssinian trouble. The important Giornale d'Italia comes out with the declaration that England is opposing Italy because she herself wants to grab Abyssinia. This newspaper agitation is all the more important, because the Fascist government holds the newspapers in rigid control. So it isn't just so many editors having their say. That anti-British flare-up must have at least the tacit consent of the censor in Rome.

These are the facts that give importance to the spectacle ^{of} ~~that~~ Captain Anthony Eden, arising in the House of Commons, ^{and} declared ^{ing} that the Italian newspaper attacks might have a bad effect upon Italo-British relations. He said they were absurd,

fantastic, ~~and~~ mischievous.

It was all part of the debate in which radical labor
M.P.s declared that England should close the Suez Canal to
the Italians in ~~xx~~ case war broke out in East Africa.

AFRICA -

It's always a thorny problem, applying white man's justice to primitive peoples, but out there there are also problems in applying white man's justice to the white man. A British magistrate in Africa has found that out. He learned it when a white man was brought before him in a domestic case, an Italian charged with beating his wife. The judge was stern. He didn't relent. He showed no mercy. He imposed a fine of Two hundred Dollars. The Italian took out a check book, wrote out a check, and paid. It turned out that the bank account belonged to him and his wife, half his and half hers. So by prosecuting him for beating her, she was out a hundred dollars!

Justice is blind, and Africa is the dark continent. Between the two, there doesn't seem to be any light at all. And they're turning the lights out on me - so,

SO LONG UNTIL MONDAY.