

P.L. - Sunoco. Monday, June 26, 1939.

SMITH

Imagine a university president being described as a fugitive from the police. Dr. James Monroe Smith, head of Louisiana State, is now being sought in the swamps on the east bank of the Mississippi River. And the latest is that Uncle Sam, ~~popularly known as Mr. Whiskers,~~ is taking a hand in the affairs of the man who used to be Huey Long's pet educator. Lynx-eyed ~~fellows from the Internal Revenue Bureau have been~~ <sup>government agents are</sup> snooping around, probing into the prexy's personal finances.

It's an interesting ~~little~~ tale, full of quaint episodes such as could have happened nowhere else but in Louisiana.

Louisiana State of course <sup>one</sup> was the instruments that the late Kingfish chose for ~~one of~~ his schemes of revenge. ~~It was~~ all

because Toulane, <sup>until then</sup> ~~up to that time~~ the premier university of the

state, <sup>Tulane had</sup> declined to consider the Kingfish worthy of a degree. <sup>So the</sup>

<sup>Kingfish</sup> ~~So he~~ said: - "All right, I <sup>am</sup> ~~going to~~ make Toulane <sup>just</sup> ~~put~~ a hole

in the road." <sup>Whereupon he built up Louisiana State.</sup>

He looked around for a president who would be a pliable agent and he picked upon Dr. James Monroe Smith, who was at that time head of a little college called Southwestern Louisiana. The bald, soft spoken Dr. Smith, though, <sup>then</sup> ~~at that time~~

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not a famous educator, had a string of letters after his name. He was a Ph.D. of Columbia, member of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, a Phi Kappa Phi, a Commander of the Order of the Crown of Italy, and Knight of the French Legion of Honor. After he was installed as President of Louisiana State, he began to live on easy Street. ~~He lived in a~~ superb residence, ~~with~~ a luxurious car and chauffeur, and ~~also with such~~ <sup>so on. All the</sup> trimmings. To every proposal of Huey Long, President Smith said:- "Yes, indeed," with his well known smile.

Huey lavished upon the University gifts of almost oriental splendor, sumptuous great pink buildings, and endowments of land rich in oil. He bought the University one of the best football teams in the country, <sup>brass</sup> and a band of two hundred pieces in which the Kingfish sometimes functioned <sup>himself</sup> ~~as a super~~ ~~himself~~ drum major. Occasionally, he hired special trains to take the entire student body on junkets. One way and another the student group <sup>grew to a</sup> ~~would~~ total <sup>of</sup> eight thousand. To all of which <sup>"well, well."</sup> President Smith would say:- "Yes, indeed."

One day the student newspaper published an editorial

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criticizing the Kingfish. For that Dr. Smith kicked out almost the entire class in journalism. ~~President Smith prospered along with the University.~~

Several weeks ago, a scandal broke concerning the funds of the University. A newspaper made the accusation that material belonging to the University was sent to New Orleans and used to build a new home for a colonel on the staff of <sup>the</sup> Governor. ~~Leche~~ There was an investigation, and Colonel McLachlan was absolved. That was thirteen days ago. Then the Attorney General continued investigating. The Attorney General of the State then produced evidence that there was a shortage in the school funds amounting to several hundred thousand dollars. Yesterday President Smith resigned. That resignation came just as <sup>the</sup> Governor ~~Leche~~ was himself on the verge of giving up his office, ~~xx~~ was to walk out today and hand <sup>it</sup> over to Lieutenant-Governor Long, brother of the late Kingfish, ~~Governor Leche~~ <sup>ing on</sup> ~~resigned on the~~ grounds of ill health. But <sup>opponents charge</sup> ~~actually~~ he was quitting under fire of a federal investigation into some of his own acts. <sup>Today</sup> ~~The~~ affair of Dr. Smith caused <sup>the</sup> Governor ~~Leche~~ to postpone his own resignation. Smith not

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only quit, but left town for parts unknown. So the Governor ordered the cops to bring him back, in handcuffs if necessary, to answer to the grand jury.

Last week when Smith was conferring a degree on United States Attorney General Frank Murphy, state police formed a guard of honor for him. Today, they are looking for him as a fugitive. With Dr. Smith went his wife, her nephew, and his wife.

We may be sure there'll be plenty of juicy details coming out in this story in the next few weeks. The head of a great university charged with the shortage of hundreds of thousands of dollars!

SENATE

(A revolt in the Senate <sup>today,</sup> and the most serious defeat administered to President Roosevelt since the fight over the Supreme Court. It was the western senators who did it, the silver bloc.) ~~They certainly reaped their vengeance on Mr. Roosevelt for refusing to hike up the price of silver.~~ Last week they were saying that they would keep up their filibuster until the White House yielded. Today they switched ~~and took a completely~~ <sup>to</sup> different tactic. (They let the monetary bill come to a vote, the bill to extend President Roosevelt's extraordinary powers over the currency. Then they ganged up with opponents of the administration, and refused the President any further authority to devalue the dollar.) However, they have not yet curtailed his control of the two billion dollar stabilization fund. But unless the extension of that power is voted to him by midnight on Friday, even that will come to an end.

The majority against the White House was ample, forty-seven to thirty-one. In that opposition of forty-seven, were twenty-seven Democrats including such usual wheel horses of the administration ranks as Senators Walsh of Massachusetts and Pittman of Nevada.

All the Republicans voted against the President except the veteran,

Borah, of Idaho.

( Having done this, the Senators took a fresh hitch on their galluses and handed the President another swift one. Since he wouldn't raise the price of silver himself, they did it for him. )

They increased it from ~~forty-six point six~~ sixty-four point sixty-four cents an ounce to seventy-seven and a half cents.

The vote on that was forty-eight to thirty.

When a  
▲ revolt in Congress ~~when it~~ begins you never can tell where it will end. Perhaps Mr. Roosevelt is now sympathizing with Ex-President Hoover.

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TOWNSEND

The followers of Dr. Townsend win a skirmish in the Senate. It takes the shape of a proposal to a constitutional amendment. And the purpose of that amendment is to give Congress the power "to levy taxes for old-age assistance." If that were passed, it would be the beginning of a wedge for the Townsendites. Of course it would have to be ratified by thirty-six of the forty-eight states. And that means a long way to go yet. Still, prohibition had just as small a beginning. The skirmish that the Townsendites won today was the adoption <sup>on</sup> of this <sup>amendment</sup> proposal by the Judiciary Committee of the Senate. The vote was nine to seven. That ~~is~~ <sup>s</sup> put the next step up to the main body of the senators.

## GOVERNORS

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For some years past, there has been an alarming tendency on the part of certain states, principally western states. This tendency was the passing of laws by one state to keep out the products of other states. Free trade all over the union has been one of the rock bottom American principles. Foreigners have said that it made this country the greatest living example of the success of free trade.

So the tendency in the opposite direction is to be one of the principal topics discussed by the conference of governors at Albany, New York. Governor Lehman of New York, as host for the governors, brought the subject up in his speech of welcome, and he said: "If that evil remains unchecked, I think there may be no doubt that the nation as a whole, and the individual states of the nation, are going to suffer." <sup>R</sup> We've been hearing that easterners driving out west are not only annoyed <sup>but</sup> ~~and~~ shocked when they reach certain state lines and find themselves halted by a customs barrier. At some state lines you have to pay a duty on the gasoline in your tank. And that's one of the things the governor is going to talk about.



STRIKE

Extra - use it

Another strike in the automobile business. It isn't here yet, but apparently it's coming. The Labor Board of the State of Michigan has been notified by the Union that a strike is impending against General Motors. The explanation is that <sup>Gen. Motors</sup> ~~GM~~ have refused to negotiate or bargain with the tool and die makers, <sup>and the</sup> maintenance and engineering workers <sup>of</sup> the international union. General Motors last week notified both factions of the ~~Automobile Workers~~ Union that it was waiting until either the courts or the National Labor Relations Board decide, which is entitled to be the sole bargaining agent. <sup>General Motors</sup> ~~General Motors~~ doesn't want to be squeezed between the two horns of a union factional fight.

MANCHUKUO

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More trouble for Japan on the Russian frontier. The Soviets are jabbing another series of pinpricks into the side of the Nipponese. One dispatch from Hsinking, the capital of Manchukuo, reports <sup>still</sup> ~~that there was more airplanes~~ <sup>in the air</sup> fighting on the frontier of Outer Mongolia. Sixty Soviet planes are said to have crossed the border, and the Japanese say it took only three of their <sup>s</sup> ~~fighting airships and their~~ <sup>plus</sup> anti-aircraft batteries to send the Soviet invaders <sup>on the run,</sup> ~~to the right about.~~

Actually, these skirmishes have been going on for a month. What really happened we don't know:- it depends entirely on which side is relating the alleged news. The Japanese say they shot down a hundred and forty of Stalin's airplanes in the last week. The Russian news agency <sup>gives the U.S.S.R. losses as</sup> ~~says that they lost~~ only twenty-three, ~~while~~ <sup>the forces of Japan and Manchukuo lost</sup> ~~the forces of~~ Japan <sup>ese losses</sup> and Manchukuo ~~lost~~ fifty-nine. It depends ~~which~~ <sup>on which side you prefer to believe</sup>

SWATOW

The latest from Swatow is that the Japanese admiral says he has isolated all foreign shipping at that port. The Nipponese of course take the stand that arms and munitions for the armies of Chiang Kai-shek have been shipped thru Swatow. For that reason, the Japanese naval authorities have forbidden not only the loading and unloading of cargoes, but the landing and embarking of passengers.

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(As for Tientsin, the <sup>2</sup>~~the~~ argument is still ~~in~~ a deadlock, and Prime Minister Chamberlain continues to talk peaceably about it. He said to the House of Commons today: "Though we insist that the ill-treatment of British nationals by Japanese soldiers must cease, at the present time I do not wish to say anything that may prejudice prospects for a satisfactory issue of the conversations with the Japanese government." Nevertheless, he added: "I regret to say that further indignities have been inflicted." ~~upon~~ ~~British nationals.~~)

From Tientsin itself we learn that two truckloads of fresh vegetables, escorted by British soldiers, were passed into the British concession today. There was a long argument

between these <sup>2</sup>~~two~~ British soldiers and Japanese sentries, which lasted almost an hour. Finally, a couple of high ranking British officers arrived on the scene, and insisted. Thereupon, the food supplies passed through.

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appropriate ceremonies. That also has been cancelled for this  
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Germany. By August the harvests from the German fields will have been  
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## BRITISH FLEET

An announcement by the British admiralty has ~~the~~ observers guessing. (Every year the home fleet of the British Navy pays visits in July to various seaside resorts in Great Britain. But this year those customary visits have been cancelled. Also, one week in every August is usually set aside as Navy Week, with appropriate ceremonies. That also has been cancelled for this year.) Instead of those usual July visits, ~~summer~~ leaves will be granted to the officers and crews of the whole fleet. During that time the warships will be refitted to prepare them for manoeuvres in August.

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BOMBINGS

Those Irish bombings in England are bringing consequences. The injuries to nineteen people on Saturday night, plus property damage, have the British authorities thoroughly aroused. The government has doubled the territorial soldiers manning the anti-aircraft batteries and balloon barrage posts around London tonight. The British ~~people~~ believe ~~these~~<sup>2</sup> bombings on Saturday night, two of which happened among the ~~crowds~~<sup>great</sup> ~~around~~<sup>in</sup> Piccadilly Circus, were the result of a careful conspiracy.

VOLCANO

More Volcanic fireworks in Alaska! Old Mount Veniaminoff ~~started~~ erupting again. From a steamer at sea off Perryville, passengers saw huge columns of smoke and steam pouring up into the sky higher than human eyesight could reach. Every ten minutes came a violent explosion. Tongues of red and orange flames poured out of the crater to a terrific height. Meanwhile, molten streams of lava poured down the side of the mountain. At night they looked like darting streaks of lightning.

From the other side of the world comes <sup>R</sup>~~the~~ report of earthquakes. Ever since last Thursday, the ground has been shaking violently. In the Gold Coast Colony of British South Africa, sixteen people have been killed, and a hundred and thirty-three injured.

Mother earth on the rampage.

CASSINI

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The prime comedy of the day is furnished by that group of young men out of the proud Social Register of Virginia. Two ~~of~~ <sup>so-called</sup> ~~those~~ members of the Virginia nobility are out on twenty-five hundred dollars bail each, <sup>^</sup>accused of having tarred and feathered a Washington society columnist. The lawyers of the third member of the alleged band said he would surrender next Monday. The charge against them ~~is~~, in the language of the law, is that they "did felonously and unlawfully constitute a mob and as such commit an assault upon Igor Cassini, without authority of law." The wording is a trifle quaint:— ~~just~~ it would be interesting to learn how a mob could commit an assault with authority of the law.

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The joke on the Virginia aristocrats is this:— one of them objected because Columnist Cassini had announced the engagement of a young lady bearing the historic name of Virginia Calvert, before it was officially announced. And the young man, named Colin Montgomery, is supposed to have been infuriated because Cassini wrote that Montgomery's papa had been excluded from ~~the invitations to~~ the garden party at the British Embassy —  
the party  
^ to King George and Queen Elizabeth.



Up to yesterday, the items about Miss Virginia Calvert and Papa Montgomery were read by comparatively few people in and around Washington. In consequence of that alleged assault, those names are now being spoken with titters from coast to coast.

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Cassini, a young newspaper man of Russian origin and diplomatic antecedents, said he was attacked by five Virginia sportsmen. As a result, sporting writers today are mentioning them as the five-to-one sportsmen:- five sportsmen to lick one columnist. *And e-l-u-t-m.*

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