

UTILITIES

When the historian tells you about the blaze of battle, he commonly informs you first about the causes of the war. So when we come to the flaming insurrection in Congress today, the climax of the revolt of the lawmakers against the White House, it might be well to glance back at the caususbelli, the bitterly contested point they have been fighting about. Sometimes, when the historian tells you the reasons why the armies marched to war, he has a hard time telling you just what all the shooting was about. Many of us will feel something like that when we peer through the midst and smoke of battle and take a look at the reason why in the Washington congressional pit they've been shooting and slashing each other with all the parliamentary weapons of politics.

Let's look at the two bills that have been the center of the congressional whirlwind. The President, calling for the death of utilities holding companies has been pushing a bill which carried what they have been calling a "death penalty". The Senate passed it. The bill went to the House. There the death

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penalty was turned down. The House voted in favor of a second bill, one of its own concoction. But what's the difference between the two bills? The "death penalty" measure, would give the President the power to abolish all socalled "unnecessary" holding companies. These to be put out of existence by Nineteen forty-two. That was turned down.

But what about the bill which the House approved? Does it take the death sentence off entirely and cry: "Long live the holding company?" Not at all. The House bill provides that it shall be up to the Securities and Exchange Commission to decide how many such companies are to be allowed to exist in the future.

In the difference between the two the innocent bystander might not be able to perceive a sufficient reason for all the thundering of legislative cannon. Yet the distinction is real enough and important enough to have caused the President to make a supreme exertion of his power and for the lower House to rise in open rebellion. It was spectacular yesterday! Still more so today! With the President tossing his last chips into the congressional pot, and losing.



Yesterday, the House turned down the death penalty bill in a "teller vote", balloting without record. It was said far and wide that the lawmakers were timid and shy in putting themselves on record in black and white concerning that dangerous utilities question. So today the President pressed the matter to the bitter end, and called for Congress to take a straight out vote, for the record, believing that many of the members would change their votes when it was a case of black and white.

But it didn't happen that way. It's just the reverse, a startling reverse. In yesterday's non-record ballot, Congress voted two hundred and sixteen to a hundred and forty-six to turn down the death penalty. Today, on the record, the vote against the penalty was two hundred and fifty-seven to a hundred and forty-seven. Instead of the black and white show-down gaining votes for the White House, it lost votes. Lost forty-one. And right after that the Representatives, still whooping it up, rushed ahead and passed that second utilities regulations bill, their own, the House bill.

So the day in Congress ended with insurrection in the saddle. The control of President Roosevelt over Congress was shaken as it has never been shaken before.

Meanwhile, the bitterest charges are being made by both sides - the President accusing a powerful lobby of bringing about his defeat and denouncing it with the epithets customarily hurled at the heads of lobbies. The White House opponents, on their part, accuse the Administration of having brought shameless pressure of patronage to bear, promises of jobs and relief money in return for votes. The latest is -- the scandal is blazing so high that there going to have a congressional investigation into the various pressures that were brought to bear in the battle over the holding companies.



## POLITICS

Politics getting hot once more. I mean national politics. Two successive Democratic landslides were plenty emphatic and who cares for a one-sided game? But there's life in the old sport yet.

There are makings of a rumpus in both parties. The fellow who is goading the elephant is Heap Big Chief Charlie Curtis. While Vice President he was content to let Mr. Hoover be President and continue being the likeable politico that he is and a darn good poker player. Now Mrs. Dolly Gann's brother Charlie feels that things aren't right with the G.O.P. "Too many bores and committees running the party," says he. Then he issues the call, "Cut out the red tape! Get down to business! There are at least a dozen men in this country who could defeat Mr. Roosevelt in 1936." That's the latest war whoop of Heap Big Chief Charlie, brother of Dolly.

There's another interesting angle to that Republican situation. Over the weekend the Page One story broke to the effect that Mr. Hoover had decided not to be a candidate in 1936. At

first reading it looked as though the sage of Palo Alto wanted to eliminate himself from the political picture. But a closer examination shows that he has done nothing of the sort. Actually, he sticks by his guns to the extent of declining to say whether he is a candidate or whether he isn't. In short he's not going to outsmart himself as the late President Coolidge did with his famous "I do not choose" declaration - or they say he did. The memoirs of Ike Hoover, chief usher at the White House, say it -- that Mr. Coolidge afterwards bitterly regretted his laconic "I do not choose." The real dope is that ex-President Hoover still considers himself thoroughly alive, both physically and politically.

The rebel among the Democrats is Jouette Shouse.

We haven't heard much of him lately. He was the Chairman of the



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National Committee that tried to put Al Smith in the White House. For the last year he's been active principally as head of the American Liberty League, the anti-Roosevelt Democrats. Anti-Roosevelt Shouse fires another shot at the New Deal. And his slogan is:- "Let's get rid of ~~the~~ bureaucratic autocracy in government."

~~There is one thing to be said for~~ Mr. Shouse and his league ~~to~~ promises to ~~make~~ a lively rumpus at the Democratic Convention next year.

## CELEBRATION

There's an interesting historic celebration going on in Coatesville, Pennsylvania. Exactly a hundred and twenty-five years ago, today, two years before the War of Eighteen Twelve with England, an iron master named Isaac Pennock, established the first iron mill in the United States.. And the oldest mill in the country is now owned by the Lukens Steel people. For a hundred and twenty-five years it has been making first iron, and then steel. The history of a cultural era told in pig iron.



## BASEBALL

There's a tradition in baseball that the teams leading their leagues on the Fourth of July are usually the teams that win the pennant. It didn't work out that way last year, as the New York Giants can tell you sadly, and the St. Louis Cardinals gladly. This year the boys approach the Fourth with the Giants way out in front. The Yankees are leading the American League by three games. And the St. Louis Cards, the world's champs, are down at the foot of the first division. That will make it exciting to see whether last year's history will repeat itself. It is significant that we aren't hearing so much about Dizzy and Daffy, the dazzling Dean duet, this ~~xx~~ season, except a sour note, squawking now and then.

But the topic the fans are talking about even more fluently today is the death of old Hank O'Day, the famous National League umpire. He's remembered principally because it was he who stood behind the plate during the game in which Fred Merkle pulled that historic boner, the boner with which his name was associated forever afterwards. One of the classics of baseball.

## CANADA

If a policeman is killed in America - that is, in the U.S.A., - it is usually inside page stuff - just another story. But when a Canadian cop is slain, that goes on page one. Up in romantically named Saskatchewan, they had a mass riot that equals some of the worst that we've seen this side of the border.

It was a tumult of relief camp workers, near the wheat city - Regina. Three thousand of them undertook a march upon Ottawa. Like our own bonus invaders of three years ago, they had grievances that they wanted settled right at the dominion capital. They demanded better camp conditions.

It's a long, long trek from Saskatchewan to Ottoaw, but that didn't daunt them.

However, when they got into Regina, they ran short of funds. So they held a mass meeting, hoping to collect some money somehow. The authorities tried to stop them. That only served to infuriate the marchers. Whereupon the tumult broke out and a Regina policeman was beaten to death.

The City authorities then sent for the Mounties. Steel helmeted troopers charged into the multitude. But the rioters fought on. Five more policemen were seriously injured, and more than twenty of the marchers. Even that didn't squelch the uproar. The Mounties then



brought on their tear gas. The mob ~~w~~ responded with volleys of stones and bricks. Policemen with clubs, and rioters with sticks and fists were mixing it all over the place. Even the tear gas didn't break up the mob. It was not until the troopers fired over their heads and were ready on the next volley to fire into the thick of the mob, that the strikers finally took to their heels.

The casualties were serious enough. A policeman killed, one Mounty and one striker dying, some twenty-five others gravely injured. A sad beginning for the celebration of Dominion Day!

By the way, while visiting the Governor of the Province where all this is happening, the Governor told me that the majority of the people in ~~this P~~ Saskatchewan are emigrants from the United States. Showing the good old independant Yankee spirit, maybe. But then our radical labor leader in the textile troubles is an Englishman.

## FRANCE

That breach between Paris and London goes even deeper than we had expected. Marian<sup>ne</sup> LaBelle France, has all the proverbial resentment of a woman scorned. John Bull is no longer the pal he was. ~~during the war~~ Since he made that Naval Treaty with Hitler, John ~~he~~ has resumed his historic status on the banks of the ~~Seine~~ Seine; ~~the~~ "Perfidious Albion". The latest gesture from France indicates that he's liable to stay unpopular for quite a while.

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The feelings on the Quai d'Orsay can be summed up in one sentence, "Monsieur Bull, you needn't expect us to back you up in any argument you have with Mussolini ~~about~~ about Ethiopia." This hasn't been admitted officially. But the grapevine report is that Premier Laval told Stanley Baldwin as much. He probably told it in the usual diplomatic terms, but the meaning is unmistakable. Even if the government were willing to play ball with London, after that secret treaty with Germany the French people would never stand for supporting England against Italy. And then too, a good many Frenchmen are saying: "it's no business of ours what Mussolini does in Ethiopia. So long as he doesn't interfere with our colonies in Africa, why should we interfere with a neighbor?"



Whatever its motive, the French attitude leaves Mussolini more and more with a free hand across the Mediterranean. <sup>And</sup> It makes his position in the League of Nations practically impregnable. It will leave England as the only important country in the League ~~that~~ is opposed to an invasion of Abyssinia, unless Russia takes a hand, And that isn't ~~extremely~~ probable.

## RUSSIA

During the recent imbroglio between Japan and China, Russia has been keeping surprisingly out of the party. Not an easy thing to do when you consider that the Soviet Union is an Asiatic as well as a European power. Far more so even than in the days of Peter the Great. Everything that's been going on in Manchuria and Chahar was inevitably of vital, intimate interest to Moscow. So it <sup>has</sup> been rather astonishing that in all this time no comment has been forthcoming from the land of the Bolsheviks.

But today it leaks out that Comrade Stalin's silence ~~has~~ not been ~~as~~ absolute as <sup>has been</sup> ~~he~~ thought. Several days ago Foreign Commissar Litvinov sent a little note to Tokio. ~~Here's the very note~~ This is what he wrote:- "Kindly stay out of our back yard." Then he explained:- "Please keep your honorable soldier boys and your honorable gun boats out of Soviet territory."

It seems that some over-zealous soldiers and sailors from the Land of the Rising Sun have been making too free with the Siberian-Manchoukuo frontier. What's more this has been going



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on for quite a while. Commissar Litvinov went on to make it clear why nothing has been heard about this until now. He explained:- "Hitherto our commanders on the border have been ordered to keep out of trouble. <sup>We told them</sup> ~~And orders were~~ to report any <sup>incidents,</sup> ~~such occurrences~~ keeping their own troops in check and ~~not~~ letting the diplomats settle <sup>the argument."</sup> ~~the troubles~~

There's a still deeper tone in the growl of the Russian Bear. He gives the war lords of the Son of Heaven a sharp hint with the words:- "If this sort of thing continues we shall have to change our instructions to our soldiers." In other words, if a Russian commander finds Japanese troops on Russian soil, he will settle the matter right on the spot.

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This episode may <sup>touch off the</sup> ~~bring the new~~ fuse to the Far Eastern powder mine. We might not have heard about it even now but for Tokio's failure ~~to~~ so far to reply. The affair was made public by the Soviet Foreign Office announcing that, though this note had been sent to Japan several days ago no answer had been received. That brings a tone into the <sup>argument</sup> ~~argument~~ that sounds <sup>a bit</sup> ~~quite~~ ominous. However, there may be one explanation. The war

lords are in such absolute control of the Mikado's government that the Tokyo Foreign Office is not allowed to make a move or write a letter without consulting the general staff. And my general staff passes me the order that it's time to say,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.