

SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL By Carter Field FAMOUS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT



Washington.—Evidence increases that there will be a real drive for the 30-hour week when congress reconvenes. In fact, despite the bitter opposition of many business men, particularly large employers whose plants require continuous operation to obtain maximum efficiency and economy, the probability is that congress would pass the 30-hour week bill at this session if the union labor leaders were sincerely for it.

Nearly every development is gist to the mill of the measure's advocates. For example, the latest government figures show that wage payments—a rough way of stating employment—have advanced to within 71 per cent of normal. But production as a result of that employment and these wages has reached 91 per cent of normal.

It's technocracy all over again—the constantly recurring problem of how to pass the work around—how to keep enough consumers in funds to purchase the products of the decreasing number of workers.

Many experts still think that this cycle, far more than the loss of cash by the purchase of foreign bonds that later defaulted, and infinitely more than the stock market crash, was responsible for the economic troubles which began in this country in 1929.

No better illustration of this theory has even been advanced to this writer than what he discovered in Birmingham, in August, 1929. Just a year before, the steel mills of that district had employed 42,000 men. In August, 1929, they were employing only 24,000 men. But they were turning out more steel!

Down the Line

In short, 18,000 well paid men had lost their jobs, had stopped buying at the local department store and other stores, were wearing old clothes and squeezing their pennies. Newspapers were forced to cut expenses because the stores had been forced to cut their advertising. And so it went all the way down the line—more than two months before the stock market crash. And the same thing was happening in Pittsburgh, Gary, Youngstown, Chicago and Bethlehem. The same sort of thing, to a greater or lesser extent, was happening in every other industry, which meant that the buying power of the country was being dried up.

But virtually nobody realized it! In the last session of congress so much sentiment developed for the 30-hour bill that, in the early stages, leader after leader told a group of editors inquiring into the general legislative situation that they expected some modification of the 30-hour measure, if not that itself, to pass. It did not pass because union labor leaders traded it for the Wagner labor relations bill. They far preferred that.

There are two major objections to the 30-hour proposal, one by the big employers, and the other by some of the very people who believe that the type of thing illustrated by the Birmingham steel mills not only caused the depression, but has held back the return of prosperity.

The objection of the employers is that it will disrupt their organizations. Thirty hours a week is only five 6-hour days. Such a limitation on work hours does not fit in readily with shifts. And of course there is always the objection to a blanket raise in wages, boosting production costs. This last phase is especially true now because business generally is concerned over the resentment of housewives in particular and buyers in general over advancing prices.

Stock Rise Too Fast

The stock market has been rising too rapidly to suit the administration. Information to this effect comes from the same sources that enabled the writer to make this same statement in June, 1933, when it may be remembered, the administration literally smacked the market down and took considerable pleasure in the process.

The administration does not want any such crash at the moment. In fact, all it wants is a small decline, and it does not want that until after January 1.

The significance of this is that it knows many business executives plan their budgets around the end of December and at that time lay out their plans for expenditures and expansions during the year. For this process the administration wants the business leaders of the country to have all the encouragement possible. Hence it will make no move to interfere with the boom so evident in the market until after January 1.

Of course the administration even then does not want anything approaching a confidence-destroying debacle. It would merely like to see a decline set in which would carry security prices, stocks in particular, down to a level from which a slow, creeping progress could be made next summer and fall.

Politics is behind all this. The New Dealers fear if the present boom continues, well through the winter, there is likely to be the nor-

mal setback in the summer and fall. The effect of this on the country would be precisely opposite to that desired.

The most encouraging sort of stock market movement to the country, the New Dealers figure, is the creeping advance. It indicates improving business prospects, not speculation. But it cannot occur, very well, after a big bull movement.

There's the Rub

Now that is where the rub comes in. For despite all this talk about "breathing spell" and reassuring business, every one close to the administration knows that there are going to be more taxes—after election—and that these taxes, assuming the New Deal is continued by the voters next November, will fall on business. Especially big business.

Although this is absolutely clear to anyone, no matter how remote from touch with the White House, who carefully studies the President's official utterances (he pointed out in the "breathing spell" statement that no more taxes should be imposed on the little fellow, already burdened by processing taxes, etc.), it has not been generally appreciated.

But by next summer, the New Dealers figure, the gentry who buy and sell securities in large quantities, and therefore come pretty close to controlling prices, will realize it. Hence they will be inclined to liquidate their stock holdings, if stock prices at the time happen to be high.

It is well known that stock prices are controlled by what the buyers and sellers regard as future prospects, rather than past performance. Hence the conviction that the corporations must shoulder a much greater load of tax burdens will not be helpful to better dividend prospects.

The fortified rock of Gibraltar, long the symbol of strength, rears its lofty summit above the north bank of the 14-mile-wide Strait of Gibraltar. It is known to every school child; yet there is, at its base, a city named for the rock, that is, perhaps, known to but few.

Hangs on Farm Plank

The most significant point about the recent poll taken by the American Press association, which shows a considerable fading of the Roosevelt popularity, is the clear demonstration, by putting certain unrelated points together, that the agricultural plank of Roosevelt's opponent may decide whether the New Deal is to have four more years, or is to die on March 4, 1937.

Most important in the poll is not the fact that the Northeast has turned against President Roosevelt. This has been known for some time—been generally accepted since the Rhode Island by-election. Nor is the fact that New York state is included. The big point is that the poll shows sentiment against the President, apparently strong enough on the returns so far in and as of today, to indicate the President might lose the electoral votes in Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota and South Dakota. Also Wisconsin.

To appreciate the significance of this, a resort to electoral votes is necessary. In these dispatches some months back it was pointed out that Roosevelt could lose every state north of the Mason and Dixon line, and the Ohio river, and east of the Mississippi, except Wisconsin, and also lose California, Kansas and Delaware, and still have 269 electoral votes, or three more than enough.

In short, he could lose all New England, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Kansas and California, and still win.

At the time this table was presented by the writer largely to show the tremendous importance of New York, and hence the possibility that Tammany Hall could re-elect Roosevelt by straining every nerve to get out the vote, or defeat him by mere apathy. This was on the theory that upstate New York would probably be about the same in sentiment as its neighboring states in New England.

Loses New York

This emphasis on New York is abundantly justified by the recent poll, which indicates New York is against the President. Also two of the trans-Mississippi states included in the anti list in these dispatches—California and Kansas.

So that the important new point is really involved in the additional Middle Western states—Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota and South Dakota. Wisconsin may be left to one side. No political observer believes that Wisconsin will buck over the traces if the La Follette organization sets out to deliver it to Roosevelt. Further, no one has much doubt at the moment that the La Follettes will do just that. If there should be any slip-up there, and there should be no material change otherwise in the lineup, it will be just too bad for Roosevelt. It would make the New Deal battle line so long and vulnerable that breaks would be sure to occur somewhere.

But these farm states in question, may be depended upon to go as the intelligent self-interest of their farm population determines.

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"GIB" and MALTA



A Street in Valetta.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

GIBRALTAR, western gateway to the Mediterranean, and Malta, the mid-Mediterranean sentinel, both British-owned, have been brought into the news spotlight because of the Italo-Ethiopian political situation.

The fortified rock of Gibraltar, long the symbol of strength, rears its lofty summit above the north bank of the 14-mile-wide Strait of Gibraltar. It is known to every school child; yet there is, at its base, a city named for the rock, that is, perhaps, known to but few.

Gibraltar is a British city if the traveler confines his observations to British soldiers who are everywhere. British "Bobbies" who appear as if they had just emerged from a London police station. British flags that top the masts of municipal and government buildings, and British warships and commercial vessels that outnumber all others anchored in the harbor.

But a glance at the street crowds and the city's buildings reveals a strange mixture. Most Gibraltar buildings are Spanish in design. Its narrow streets are crowded with bustling throngs from many parts of the world. Scotchmen in kilts brush past turbaned Moors from the other side of the strait; Spaniards from Madrid, Malaga, and Cadiz mingle with sturdy Greeks; ruddy-skinned Hindus and Egyptians jostle Levantine Jews in gaberdines; and dusky Senegal negroes rub elbows with Chinese from Canton. And weaving in and out of the human mass are hundreds of foreign seamen from boats that come to Gibraltar for fuel, trade, and repairs. The mixture of races has become even more noticeable in recent years since Gibraltar has increased in popularity as a pleasure resort for European and American vacationists.

The shops also present an international aspect. On their shelves the traveler finds carved ivory ornaments from Ceylon and the African east coast, trinkets from the cramped factories that line the narrow streets of Foochow, China, objects of carved teak from Burma and bolts of cloth from Manchester and New York. Baghdad, Samarkand, Baltimore, and Timbuktu also are represented in the display of merchandise.

Town Climbs the Rock.

The town begins at the shore of the broad bay and rises 250 feet up the north side of the rock. Long flights of steps lead to the upper portion of the town, making wheeled traffic impossible on many streets. The Mediterranean, or south side of the rock, is almost a sheer cliff. Fishermen have built, however, small villages in the few recesses which are reached by narrow paths.

Between Spain and the British territory is a narrow strip of land called the neutral zone where travelers get the best land view of the rock. The giant mass of stone was one of the Pillars of Hercules of ancient times.

The rock's highest point is more than twice the height of the Washington monument or about 100 feet higher than the world's tallest building. Since the Moors first occupied Gibraltar centuries ago, its face has frequently undergone "treatment." A fortified castle still stands in one of its recesses, sharply contrasting with the more modern British ramparts. Tunnels have been bored, paths dynamited and in places its rough "countenance" has been given an application of cement upon which rainwater is caught and drained into reservoirs of the town. In natural caves in the rock live the famous Gibraltar

monkeys, probably the only monkeys in Europe that were not brought there by men in modern times. The animals are protected by law and are fed by the British army.

The city took its name from the rock, which was called Mount Abyla or Apes Hill in ancient times. It was once owned by the Phoenicians and fell, in turn, to the Carthaginians, Romans and Visigoths.

In the Eighth century the Moorish chief, Tarik Ibn-Zeyad, landed on the rock and called it Gibelet-Tarik or Mountain of Tarik, of which "Gibraltar" is a corruption.

The Moors had held Gibraltar for six centuries when in 1309 the Spanish seized it, but 24 years later the Moslems regained possession. It became Spanish territory again in 1462. The British have held the rock since 1704 when they defeated a combined Spanish and French fleet. Since, the British have had frequent wars over Gibraltar's possession. One Spanish siege lasted four years (1779-1783).

Malta a Strong Base.

For more than a century Malta has sheltered powerful British warships guarding sea lanes to Mediterranean ports, and, in more recent years, to India, Australia, and the Far East via the Suez canal. Now it is a strong aerial base as well.

Malta deserves attention, however, for other than military or strategic reasons. On the little island an ancient race still lives and speaks an otherwise extinct tongue. Recently Great Britain suspended Malta's constitution to combat a movement to turn Malta to the Italian language in preference to English, or the islander's own unique speech.

Planted by fate at a strategic point on one of the world's great marine highways, this drab piece of land, less than a hundred square miles in area, has been called to fill an important role in the history of the world.

Malta and its satellite islands were once linked to Africa and Europe by a land bridge. With the sinking of this link, the islands were left standing like sentinels between the eastern and western basins of the Mediterranean, 58 miles from Sicily and 180 miles from Africa.

Malta has been called the stepping-stone, as well as the "stepping stone," of the Mediterranean. Since the dawn of its recorded history, many nationalities have ruled it, beginning with the Phoenicians, and running a range which includes Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Arabs, Normans, French, and British.

Maltese a Race Alone.

But though always under a foreign flag, the Maltese retained their racial identity. Handsome, good-humored, and sturdy, they are believed to be remnants of the great Mediterranean race which peopled the shores of this storied sea long before the rise of Greece and Rome.

Their present speech is derived from the language of the Phoenicians, whose ships more than 3,000 years ago floated in Malta's harbors as do the British men-of-war today. Among the upper classes and the younger generation it is being replaced by English and Italian.

Weaving a pattern of mystery over the island are deep parallel lines in the solid rock, believed to be the tracks of ancient cart wheels. Some plunge beneath an arm of the sea and reappear on the other side—testimony to the comings and goings of a people who dwell here before the land assumed its present shape. Neolithic temples also have been found.

BRISBANE

THIS WEEK

Something About Billions
Earthquakes
Marvelous New Cars
News From Ethiopia



Arthur Brisbane

Silas H. Strawn, once head of the American Bar association and president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, says the country is spending \$7,000 a minute, and thinks it is too much. Your small boy will tell you how much \$7,000 a minute makes in one year. Once "all the world wondered," or at least we did, when there was talk of spending one-quarter of a billion on the Panama canal. Now, any professor could spend that, after three minutes' thinking, and news that the nation's deficit has increased fifteen hundred millions in the past few weeks startles nobody.

The world has passed through earthquake week. Earthquakes in Montana, greatest sufferer on this continent. Severe shocks are reported in Siam.

Earthquakes in Buffalo, N. Y.; Ottawa, Toronto, Guayaquil, Ecuador; a busy seismographic week.

And the moon is partly to blame. Its power of gravitation exercises a strong pull on the earth, as it shows in lifting the ocean tides. Dr. Harlan T. Stetson, of Harvard, says the moon causes "sub-surface adjustments of the earth."

The new cars of 1936, now on exhibition, are so extraordinarily beautiful that every American should see them, regardless of intention to buy a new car. Most encouraging is the determined energy that business men and engineers of the automobile industry have shown in fighting the depression, while improving that which seemed beyond improvement.

Rome gives confirmation of the slaughter of six thousand women and children by Ethiopian warriors taking vengeance on the fathers of the children who deserted to Italy. Rome also reports the killing of five hundred Ethiopians by Italian bombing planes, "an attempt to assassinate Haile Selassie by an unnamed American negro."

Haile Selassie of Ethiopia has "flung the last available man into the battle line," relying on old men, young boys and women to run his government, reminding you of the late czar's announcement that he was going to send "his last monnik." He did not live to do that.

The national effort to "buy ourselves out of the hole" encounters difficulties. The President, to make his four billions cash spread as far as possible, announced top wages of \$93 a month. But union labor says, "No; you must pay us full union wages," and New York may have a state-wide strike to back the demand. President Roosevelt, it is said, refuses to concede that public relief is a branch of union labor, and, even with 1936 looming ahead, may insist that two governments in the country are one too many.

Greece is ready to take back her king and many Greeks are growing "spike" mustaches like his. Many Germans grew mustaches, curling upward, to imitate their former kaiser. There is not much in imitating mustaches.

You wonder why the Greeks cannot find a Greek for king, if they must have a king. In days of "the glory that was Greece" it wasn't necessary to go outside among "barbarians" to find a ruler.

You may want to know that in England, where good times have really come back, the Tories have made heavy gains at the present election and the Labor party sustains heavy losses. Ramsay MacDonald, head of Britain's first Labor government, rejoices openly at labor's downfall. His work as prime minister seems to have changed his opinions. Experience often changes our minds.

"It is a very great rebuff for labor," says MacDonald. "The people are not being taken in by wild and reckless promises which they know cannot be carried out, in municipal or national government."

Ed Howe, an able writer of Kansas, is expected to "put aside his pencil and pen forever," because his doctor warns him that blindness is approaching.

Perhaps Mr. Howe will tell his doctor: "Milton did much of his important writing after he was totally blind, and I can do the same." Mr. Howe can use a dictating machine, whereas Milton dictated to his daughters, who, uneducated, found it difficult to write down his Latin dictation.

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Useful Laundry Bag an Inexpensive Gift

By GRANDMOTHER CLARK



If you want to make up an inexpensive useful gift, here is a laundry bag that will answer very nicely. This bag, when made up, measures 15 by 20 inches. The embroidery design is stamped on muslin material ready to be embroidered and sewed up. You will find a wire clothes hanger about the house somewhere to sew into the bag. This stamped piece No. 1003 will be mailed to you for 15 cents. Hanger and crochet cotton are not included.

Address—Home Craft Co., Dept. A—Nineteenth and St. Louis Ave., St. Louis, Mo. Inclose a stamped, addressed envelope for reply when writing for any information.

Farmer Makes Home of Tomb, Fears Only Rats

Back in 1880, Linus Smith designed and built a mausoleum near Medina, Ohio, to hold the bodies of his entire family. But only the remains of Smith's father, mother and younger brother ever were placed in this tomb. Soon after the body of the younger Smith was placed in the vault, the door at the entrance was broken down and the body stolen. An unsigned note offered return of it for \$200. A neighbor youth was suspected, confessed the ghoulish act and returned the body. This occurrence turned Linus Smith against mausoleums and he transferred all three bodies to a cemetery. The vault, empty for years, now is occupied by Charles Ritter, bachelor farmer, who finds it quite a desirable place in which to live, cool in summer and warm in winter.

A chimney was built and a stove installed which Ritter uses for cooking and what heat he needs in winter. Ritter says he doesn't fear ghosts nearly as much as rats that like to share his strange home with him.—Capper's Weekly.

Eavesdropping on the "Monticello Party Line"

"The Monticello Party Line" is a radio program recently begun on a series of middle-western and southern radio stations. The radio listener is asked to imagine that he is eavesdropping on the party line of Monticello—and in this way he daily hears all the activity, the gossip, the fun, and the occasional trouble, that marks life in Monticello.

All the people in this program are thoroughly natural, everyday folks. The setting is that of a real town—Monticello, Illinois—the home-town of Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, the product that sponsors this new and different radio show. "The Monticello Party Line" is broadcast every week-day except Saturday.—Adv.

Life's Surprises

Life is always opening new and unexpected things to us. There is no monotony in living to him who walks even the quietest and tamest path with open and perspective eyes. The monotony of life is monotonous to you, is in you, not in the world.—Philips Brooks.

Age of Yellowstone's Springs 14,000 Years

Because Yellowstone park's hot springs deposit travertine, a limestone like substance containing minute quantities of radium, it is possible to ascertain their ages, according to Prof. Herman Schlundt, of the University of Missouri. The amount of radium varies according to the age of the deposit.

Professor Schlundt has determined the extinct springs atop Terrace mountain to be 14,000 years old. Liberty cap, the cone of an extinct hot spring, is about 2,500 years old, and Hotel Terrace about 3,200.—Literary Digest.

Don't Guess But Know

Whether the "Pain" Remedy You Use is SAFE?

Don't Entrust Your Own or Your Family's Well-Being to Unknown Preparations

THE person to ask whether the preparation you or your family are taking for the relief of headaches is SAFE to use regularly is your family doctor. Ask him particularly about BAYER ASPIRIN.

He will tell you that before the discovery of Bayer Aspirin, most "pain" remedies were advised against by physicians as bad for the stomach and, often, for the heart. Which is food for thought if you seek quick, safe relief.

Scientists rate Bayer Aspirin among the fastest methods yet discovered for the relief of headaches and the pains of rheumatism, neuritis and neuralgia. And the experience of millions of users has proved it safe for the average person to use regularly. In your own interest remember this.

You can get Genuine Bayer Aspirin at any drug store—simply by asking for it by its full name, BAYER ASPIRIN. Make it a point to do this—and see that you get what you want.

Bayer Aspirin



Precarious Interlude
Until war is outlawed and overcome, civilization is ever a precarious interlude between catastrophes.

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