

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



Washington—"Edging a little further to the left," the advice given by Democratic National Committeeman Joseph Wolf of Minnesota to Roosevelt leaders to offset the defections caused by the bolting of conservative Democrats, is not so significant so far as the administration policies—assuming Roosevelt is re-elected—are concerned. Roosevelt will continue his own sweet way whether his "mandate" to do so comes by a big majority or is of the "skin of his teeth" variety. He will be no more disturbed in his course than was Woodrow Wilson when the expected mandate of 1918 resulted in a popular rebuke.

What is really important is that Wolf, a very astute observer of trends in the Northwest, is distinctly disturbed over the Lemke-Father Coughlin-Townsend third party ticket. He is frankly afraid, and so told leaders of the New Deal that the net result might be to throw Minnesota to Gov. Alf M. Landon.

Most unprejudiced political observers have been figuring for some weeks now that South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska, as well as Kansas, were leaning Republican. All of which would do Landon no good unless he holds all the big eastern states. But they had been virtually unanimous in conceding North Dakota and Minnesota, and of course Montana, to Roosevelt. In short, most observers had come to the conclusion that Landon could be elected if—he could carry New York and Illinois. That goes for Indiana also, and Ohio. But opinion has been that if the tide for Roosevelt should turn in Illinois, Indiana would be for the Kansas Colquhoun by the same token, while Ohio seems set to go Republican regardless of what its neighbors may do.

Experts Are Wrong

Putting Minnesota in the balance does not change the essential elements of the situation. But it does contribute to the sporting aspects of the election battle. It keeps it from being as one-sided as the fight experts thought the Joe Louis-Schmeling battle was going to be. And the political experts have not been as wrong for 20 years—since Wilson beat Hughes in 1916—as the sporting experts were on the big fight battle.

And they are not going to be as wrong as that this year, for one very simple reason. Ever since that election when the big eastern newspapers were chagrined at claiming Hughes' election on the early returns, the big eastern editors have realized that the western states had electoral votes also. So they have sent their own political reporters on tours of inquiry, so they would know what to expect on election night.

As of the present moment, New York is vital to the Republicans—is not vital so far as the Democrats are concerned, but would end all doubt. The same goes for Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

Recent developments have changed the situation in a number of states, notably Maryland, West Virginia, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, North and South Dakota and Minnesota. The Mormon church action on relief has given Utah a Republican instead of a Democratic tinge, and has moved Idaho from the sure Roosevelt to the doubtful column.

The whole point is that, while a Roosevelt landslide is still possible, evidence now points to a close election, with Roosevelt still the favorite, but in decided danger.

Slightly Sour Note

One slightly sour note in the Democratic platform situation is not being talked about—openly. It concerns one of President Roosevelt's fundamental policies, and is wrapped up in the tax bill just passed by congress. The fact that 18 Democratic senators voted against the final bill, that two more were paired against it, and that a twenty-first, Sen. Marcus A. Coolidge of Massachusetts, was absent and unpaired but is nevertheless against the bill, is rather interesting in view of the fact that the platform endorses everything Roosevelt stands for.

All of which is important because of the reasons actuating these 21 Democratic senators. The final draft of the tax bill means a great deal more than a tax measure. It works toward some of the dearest objectives of the Roosevelt policy. It is a natural sequence to his acceptance speech at the convention four years ago. On that occasion he made his views about "piled up surpluses" of corporations rather clear. This tax bill, following up on the one of last year, but going a great deal further, is in line with that policy.

Roosevelt wants to go still further. He will go still further along this line, if it is humanly possible, assuming he is re-elected. So the fact that 21 senators of his own party are against that policy is of more than a little interest.

Very little will be heard of it from Democrats from now on. Republican orators will call attention

to it, in such quarters as the, think it will help their cause to do so.

Expect Close House

The most interesting angle politically lies in the future. Unless there should be some tidal wave not really expected even by James A. Farley down in his heart, the next house of representatives will be fairly close. It may be Democratic and it may be Republican, but the best guess at the moment is that the majority will not be more than 50 if it is Democratic, or 20 if it is Republican.

With a close house, such a difference of opinion within a party as was manifested in the senate vote on the tax bill will become of overwhelming importance on every vital allied issue. It would seem to mean that while the critics of the present tax plan would not be able to force its repeal, they would be able to prevent any further moves toward the Roosevelt objective.

On the other hand, there is not the slightest sign that Roosevelt will lose his grip on the senate. On the contrary, the vote on the ax-high-war mark of his opponents. On few issues could such a number of Democratic dissenters be raised.

Reverse Policy

Complete reversal of the normal "sock the taxpayer" policy of the internal revenue bureau, the policy established under Robert H. Jackson of never compromising, forcing little taxpayers to pay lawyer fees and endure court trials even when all the precedents favor the taxpayers' side, is seen in the quashing of indictments against lieutenants of the late Huey P. (Kingfish) Long in Louisiana.

The strongest pro-administration paper within a hundred miles of Washington, if indeed there is any stronger anywhere in the country, the Washington News, carried a biting editorial under the heading, "It Smells Bad."

Editors of the News suspected what might underlie the affair, which had Attorney General Homer S. Cummings squirming in a recent press conference, but they apparently overlooked a fairly important detail. This is that the former Long lieutenants, now enthusiastic for the New Deal, arranged a special train to run over to Dallas to meet President Roosevelt on his recent trip to the Texas Tercentennial, there to demonstrate their undying loyalty.

The News editorial concluded: "When he quashed the indictments, U. S. Attorney Viosca gave the explanation that there was a 'changed atmosphere' in New Orleans. Better continue to hold your nose until Attorney General Cummings gives a more deodorizing explanation."

Mr. Cummings' defense was that he had complete confidence in the integrity of U. S. Attorney Viosca. All of which is the sequel to a most interesting political yarn, rivaling that about how the gangster chieftain Capone, suspected of every crime on the calendar, was finally put behind the bars on income-tax evasion charges.

Recent History

The point is that that back some months before Huey Long was assassinated, there was very grave fear on the part of the New Deal leaders that he might lead a third party movement which might throw the electoral votes of Louisiana, and perhaps some other states (with the aid of Father Coughlin and the Townsend plan advocates) away from Roosevelt.

It was at this time that the internal revenue sleuths began looking into the income tax returns of Huey himself as well as some of his lieutenants.

At this stage Dan Moody, former governor of Texas, was called into the picture. He had made his reputation and been elected governor of Texas on the strength of his prosecution of graft in road contracts in the Lone Star state. He was called to Washington, conferred with high officials of the Department of Justice, and convinced by them that there was a sure-fire case. Amos Woodcock of Maryland, former prohibition director, was also called in and persuaded the government could convict.

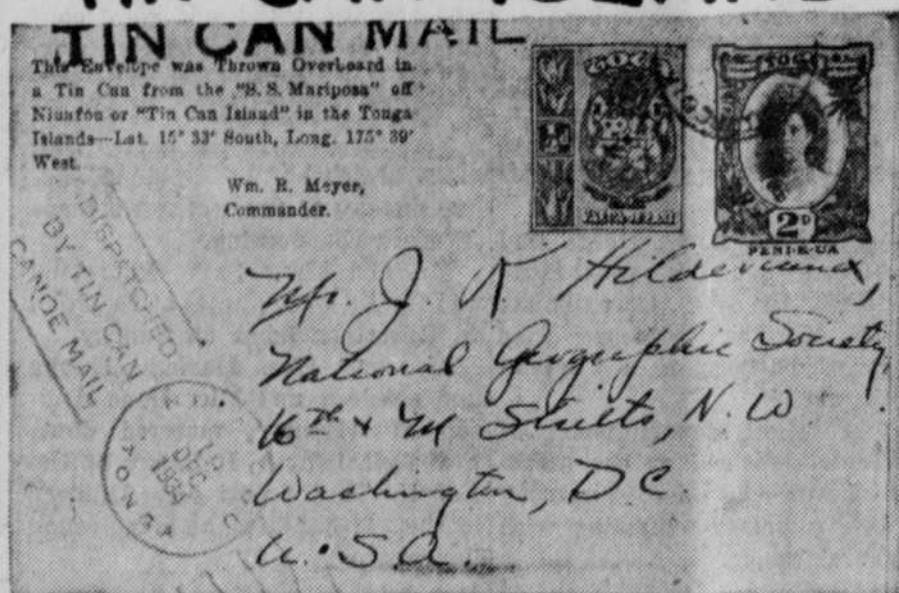
The whole idea, of course, was to eliminate Huey Long and all his lieutenants by the simple expedient of putting them behind the bars. The processes were set in motion, and eventually one of the lieutenants was actually convicted.

But then Long died, and his lieutenants, after some little delay, made their peace with Washington. Those not worried about the prospect of income tax prosecutions were interested in other questions. Party regularity, perhaps, and the good patronage jobs at the disposal of James A. Farley, Harold L. Ickes, and Harry L. Hopkins.

Whatever the reason, they all became good New Dealers, and the Father Coughlin and Townsend enthusiasts found no encouragement in Louisiana for their party ideas.

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"TIN CAN ISLAND"



Stamp Collectors Prize "Tin Can Island" Mail.

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

ALTHOUGH the south Sea island of Niuafuu is the top of an active volcano that erupted in 1929 and destroyed a village, it remains the happy home of some 1,100 of those superb Polynesians, the Tongans.

Dwelling for untold generations on this remote crater in the sea, they have learned to act quickly and shrewdly in volcanic emergencies, and in recent years there has been little loss of life.

How they behave was dramatically illustrated at 4 a. m. on July 25, 1929. A hundred or more villagers, on the northwest coast, were awakened by a rumbling and saw fire breaking out in the hillside less than two miles to the southeast.

No time was lost. The alarm was spread in the village, and the babes in arms, the sick and the aged were hurriedly carried off along a good road that led to the northern village of Angaha. All realized that safety lay in reaching there or the high ground of the island's circular ridge.

From three vents on a fracture that opened northward, the molten rock descended upon Futu. By eight o'clock in the morning most of the abandoned buildings were consumed by fire and buried under floods of heavy basaltic lava. Poursing into the ocean, the hot flows killed fish, sent up clouds of steam, and heaped enormous quantities of black sand along the water front.

Fringing the shore were patches of cultivated land that remained uninjured among the lava streams. In one of these the returning villagers found a few of their horses, pigs and chickens still alive. Thanks to the prompt exodus, every one of the human inhabitants escaped.

How It Became "Tin Can Island"

Niuafuu reminds one of a hat with a hole in the crown. At the bottom of the hole is an islet-dotted lake of fresh water, with its bed some 200 feet below sea level, its surface only 70 feet above. The wide "brim" has been formed by lava flows.

So nearly perfect is the ring which Niuafuu forms about its lake-encompassing crater that at first sight it appears to be a coral atoll. The island's highest point is about 800 feet above the waves, but the volcanic cone it crowns thrusts itself up some 6,000 feet from the ocean floor.

This detached bit of the Tongan archipelago is a straggler from the line made by those islands north of New Zealand. It lies near the center of the ocean triangle formed by Samoa, Tonga and Fiji.

Lacking harbors, the island is utterly isolated. Precarious was the regular carrying of mail to and from the island until recent years. The monthly mail steamer, unable to anchor, stopped about a mile off the northern landing at Angaha. Natives, fortified with log floats, swam out to it, regardless of sharks, holding above the water brown paper-wrapped packages of outgoing letters tied to the tops of sticks.

The sailors on the steamer lowered a bucket and collected these parcels. In exchange they dropped into the water the more bulky mail from the outside world, soldered in large biscuit tins. The athletic villagers towed these tins ashore and thus completed delivery of the mail.

An unfortunate encounter between a swimmer and a shark finally caused a suspension of the swimming mail service, and native canoes now collect tin cans. It is easy to understand why Niuafuu, called "Good Hope Island" on some charts has become known also as "Tin Can Island."

On the west side of Niuafuu is a desert of new lava flows, but on the east is a tropical glory of coconuts, ironwoods, mangoes and pandanus, yams, taros, papayas, sweet potatoes, pineapples, bananas, melons, and manioc.

Although the island lies some 15 1/2 degrees south of the equator, the trade winds give it a delightful climate, much like that of Hawaii.

Explosive Eruption of 1886

Explosive volcanic eruptions around the lake have occurred about 72 years apart, and lava outbreaks in the western deserts have come at intervals of approximately 16 years.

The last steam-blast eruption, which occurred in 1886, was a major event in the history of Niuafuu. There was no loss of life, for the trade wind forced the huge cauldron clouds of sand and dust westward, away from the settlements. The site of this eruption was near the northeast corner of the big lake,

where large blocks of cliff rock were engulfed, and heaps of sand were piled 200 to 400 feet high. Ponds were left where the explosive craterlets had formed. About three feet of ash fell on the settlements.

The story goes that an earthquake shook the island with a gentle swaying motion at 7 p. m. on August 31, 1886, and smaller shocks continued till midnight, causing alarm. Then came a detonation, a "rocket" ascended 3,000 feet above the lake, and quaking ceased. Violent thunderstorms developed, and lightning struck in many places.

A blizzard of black dust and sand weighted down the vegetation during a night of inky darkness. On the leeward side of the island, broken fragments of rock and pumice, along with sand and fine dust, piled 20 feet deep. The eruption continued in spasms, geyserlike, for 18 days, with recurrences of terrifying clouds of dust that shut off the light of day.

Only two months before, Tara-wera volcano had erupted disastrously in New Zealand, indicating volcanic sympathy between two craters hundreds of miles apart on the same general rift in the earth's crust; and Funuafoa (Falcon island), nearer to Niuafuu, had begun eruption in October, 1885.

Legend of Ahau's Destruction.

Destruction of property by hurricanes and eruptions on the northern and western sides of the island have been lamentable during the last century. The story of the village of Ahau in the southwest is reminiscent of that of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Ahau, legend says, was founded by men and women who, refusing to conform to the laws governing legal marriage, rebelled against the strict high chief at Angaha.

They founded their village purposely on the side of the island most remote from Angaha, and their headman denounced with impassioned oratory the taxes imposed upon them by the high chief. He called upon the gods to send a sign from heaven to destroy all his people rather than permit them to submit to such oppression.

Whatever the truth of these stories, certain it is that on June 24, 1854, the ground rifted and lava spouted up directly under the village headman's house. Such destruction of human life by a sudden lava flow is unusual in volcano annals, for lava is usually so slow-moving that people have time to flee from it.

An aged woman recalls the frenzied flight of those inhabitants who escaped and the gossip about the village. She will tell you that two-thirds of the population, possibly 60 or 70 people, were killed.

When a volcanologist visited the site of this village recently, he found the lava flows covered with a moderate growth of ironweed, somewhat resembling a pine forest with its small cones and long needles. Not a trace remains of the village green or native huts.

There is a 50-foot double spatter cone of black lava at the place where the headman's house is said to have stood. From this hill all lava gives place abruptly to a luxuriant growth of coconuts and fertile plantation lands on the slope of the circular ridge.

Outbreaks Can Be Predicted.

A study of the eruptions and the dates when they have occurred provides some basis for predicting, roughly, when future outbreaks may occur.

It may be said that Niuafuu is continuously erupting, and that these lava flows and explosive engulfments are merely punctuation marks in a continuing process.

After an explosive eruption in 1814, the intervals were 26, 13, 14, and 19 years. From the 1886 explosive eruption to the present time the intervals were 26 and 17 years. Considering the average lava interval of 16 years, we have reason to expect another lava eruption about 1945. Adding the average explosion interval of 72 years to 1886, it may be estimated that the next explosive eruption will occur about 1958.

These expectations are not accurate forecasts, but merely suggestive experiments in volcanologic reasoning. It is probable that the explosive eruption about 1958 will break down the very high cliffs to the southeast of the lake, and that opposite this the lava flow, about 1945, will extend the crack of 1929 along the northwest shore of the island, in the direction of the village of Esia, near Angaha.

A Charming Sports Frock

Trim modish raglan shoulders, no sleeves to set in, make this attractive dress easily fashioned by even an amateur sewer. And the neckline is extremely flattering and youthful. Equally lovely

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Household Questions

Air the bread and cake boxes frequently during the summer months. Mould is likely to form on breads and cakes kept in boxes during the warm weather.

Mayonnaise may be kept for several weeks in refrigerator if a tablespoonful of boiling water is added to it before bottling.

Mix salads with a fork instead of a spoon or ladle.

Do not remove husks from green corn until just before putting on to boil. Corn spoils quickly, so it should be used as soon as possible after purchasing.

A little garlic rubbed over the broiler on which steak is broiled gives steak a delicious flavor.

Chamois wet in cold water and wrung dry will polish mahogany furniture that has become cloudy.

When cake or bread is too brown or is burned, grate gently with a fine grater (nutmeg grater preferred) until the cake or bread is a golden brown.

Always strain hot fat used for deep frying through a piece of cheese cloth each time it is used and set in a cool place. Treated in this way fat may be used many times.

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Uncle Phil Says:

See the Bright Side

The world may be pretty sordid, but one does not have to contemplate that phase of it too much. It has others that are brighter.

The best angle from which to approach any problem is the try angle.

One needs to learn how to enjoy two or three hours of quiet reflection. You can't be entertained every waking moment.

A Friend Cheers

When your friend remains with you to cheer you at a time you are unhappy that's the acid test.

All you need in order to revel in Nature is a tent, a cot, a pan of bacon and eggs, and immeasurable love of the woods.

Calling a man "man" and calling him "guy" marks the difference between the intelligentsia and other people.

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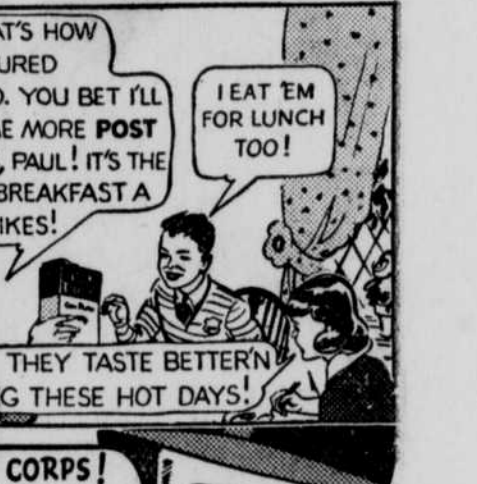
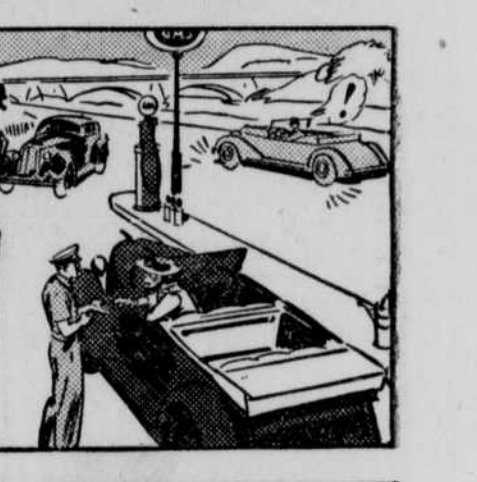
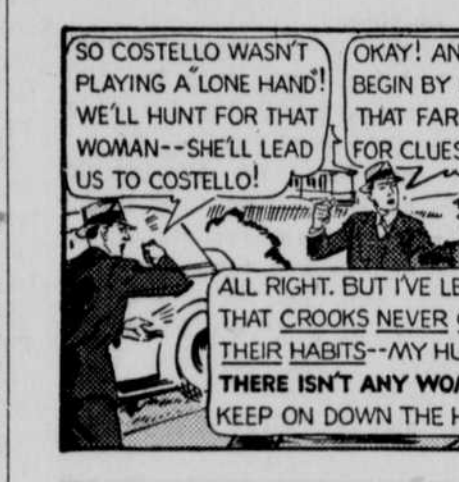
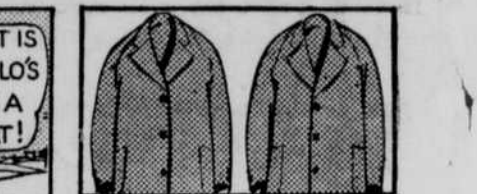
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THE COAT THAT SQUEALED
OR THE CAPTURE OF COSTELLO, THE INTERNATIONAL FORGER

AN INSIDE STORY OF MELVIN PURVIS AMERICA'S G-MAN NR-1

MELVIN PURVIS, who became America's ace G-Man, who directed the capture of Dillinger, "Pretty Boy" Floyd, many others, Mr. Purvis reveals here methods used in capturing criminals. Names have, of course, been changed.



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