

# SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL By Carter Field

Washington.—There are certainly signs in Chicago, at the conference between railroads and labor, that on the part of those particular labor leaders at least there is promise of a rule of reason.

For the first time since this country started to work out of the depression, labor, in these conferences, despite the knowledge that the administration is on its side, has shown a disposition to let the employer live and make a profit. This doesn't sound as though it were much of a concession. Some might think that of course labor would have to take this stand, as, if there were no profits—if the employer did not "live"—there would be no jobs.

Every employer who has had labor troubles, however, believes that it is simply impossible to exaggerate the importance of dealing with labor union representatives who agree frankly that the employer should not only "live" but should make a profit. And it does not often happen that labor representatives, in a conference with employers, have been willing seriously to discuss abandoning restrictions on their employers which they hoped to obtain by law!

A case in point in the railroad labor negotiations is the bill pending in congress, which restricts the length of freight trains—generally called the 70-car bill. Most experts agree that this idea is not primarily in the interest of safety. In fact, some contend that it would increase rather than diminish hazards. It is primarily to force the employment of more men to operate more trains. But the railroads contend that it would not only increase their pay rolls, but would cause congestion in railroad terminals at times when there is a rush to ship perishable freight.

## Sounds Reasonable

Now the point is that this bill passed the senate—the "greatest deliberative body in the world"—with hardly any discussion. It was stopped in the house not because of the actual strength of its opponents, but because of other things. Those who wanted to stop it had the advantage of the crowded closing days of a session. They had the advantage of the wages and hours bill and others far more spectacular than the 70-car train bill. But railroad representatives here admit privately that they have small hope of killing it next session if the railroad unions continue to press for its passage.

So the willingness of so many labor representatives at this Chicago conference to call off passage of this law was not an empty gesture. They were giving up something they thought of real importance in order to permit the railroads to make enough money to give them an advance in wages.

It all sounds reasonable enough, but it was spectacular in labor relations history, of tremendous importance to every employer of labor and to every person living in this country as indicating a long step towards industrial peace.

Most observers are inclined to think that this conference is a straw in the wind indicating the trend of labor relations for the next year. This view may prove too optimistic. There is no certainty about it. But it seems probable for several reasons. One is that intelligent labor leaders realize they have a much aroused public opinion to deal with. There is more sentiment than they like for something they would fight to the last ditch to avoid—responsibility of labor unions for their actions, clinched on them by a law forcing incorporation of unions.

## Find Ally in Lewis

The bituminous coal producers may find John L. Lewis a very potent ally on one of the problems that is worrying them more than anything else.

This is government competition for the coal industry from hydroelectric power developments. It just so happens that Mr. Lewis is very strongly persuaded that all this hydroelectric stuff is the bunk. He believes that electric current can be produced more cheaply from coal than from water power, even under circumstances favorable to economical water power development. Further he believes that the engineers of the electric industry have long since pre-empted most of the sites promising low cost development.

It also happens that Mr. Lewis has expressed himself very forcibly about the lobbyists who come to Washington paid by local chambers of commerce and other associations and maneuver to get big power developments financed by the federal treasury in their localities.

Naturally, Mr. Lewis has pointed out, this benefits that particular community during the period of construction. So would tearing down a row of houses on one side of a street, and erecting them again in

precisely the same condition on the other! The local merchants would be selling groceries and clothing and drugs to the workers. The local doctors and dentists would be getting some fees from the transients.

But when the whole job is completed, Lewis points out, it takes very few men to take care of the dam and the electric plant. Whereas a lot of coal miners are out of work forever as a result!

## Agree With Lewis

It so happens that every one in the electric industry agrees with Mr. Lewis in every particular on this particular subject, little as they may think of his C. I. O. and ideas about gratitude in politics, etc. The point they make is that the government right now in this electric business is gambling with the people's money.

The point is that the chief cost of producing electricity from a hydroelectric development is interest on the cost of the project. Due to abnormally low interest rates at present—they being held down by artificial government restrictions—this particular item of cost is very unlikely to decrease. Quite the contrary. When the bonds sold now to finance such developments mature the government is more likely to pay a much higher rate.

But the cost of producing electricity from other sources is extremely apt to become less. Mr. Lewis says current can be produced more economically now from coal than from water power. Most engineers agree. But not after the dams and hydro plants are built, providing the cost of these dams and plants is charged to profit and loss.

Nearly every year the cost of producing current from coal is reduced. Every few months there is some improvement in Diesel engines, which makes the production of current from oil cheaper. No one knows when the terrific waste now involved in cooling systems will be eliminated. But scientists say it's coming and will revolutionize the production of power, cutting its cost to a fraction.

So it might pay the coal barons to have Mr. Lewis discuss this question with them to their mutual advantage. It would certainly dramatize the situation before the country and tend to stop more government competition!

## Scribes Snicker

The fendish glee of anti-administration column writers over the discovery that Charley Michelson, premier Democratic press agent, attacked Hugo L. Black in 1926 as a Klansman, and as unworthy to fill the shoes of Oscar W. Underwood, is a rather interesting commentary on how the status of the once abused press agent has advanced in the last decade. Also on how much this same Charley Michelson has done to advance it.

But it is also rather amazing in that it has always been the accepted doctrine that newspaper men who wrote editorial or policy into their stories at all injected the partisan flavor desired by their bosses! So that unless one assumes that bosses employ writers solely for the brilliance of their writing, or perhaps in order to present all sides of the picture, the slant taken by the writer is in accord with the editorial policy of the paper.

It so happens that the New York World, at the time Michelson wrote this attack on Hugo Black, had been running an anti-Klan crusade. This crusade was conducted by men in the New York office, only helped out in pinches by the Washington bureau, of which Michelson was the head.

It also happens that the World was, of all the outstanding newspapers of its time, the most anxious to have its editorials backed up by news stories, interviews and color in general.

## Brought Up Reserves

As a matter of fact, there was a sort of reserve staff, consisting of ten or twelve young men working for other—though never rival—papers. Generally these were youngsters covering the senate or house of representatives for non-New York newspapers or press services. They would be called on the telephone, as soon as the chief of the World bureau received his orders, and directed first to read the editorial for which endorsements were wanted, and then get them.

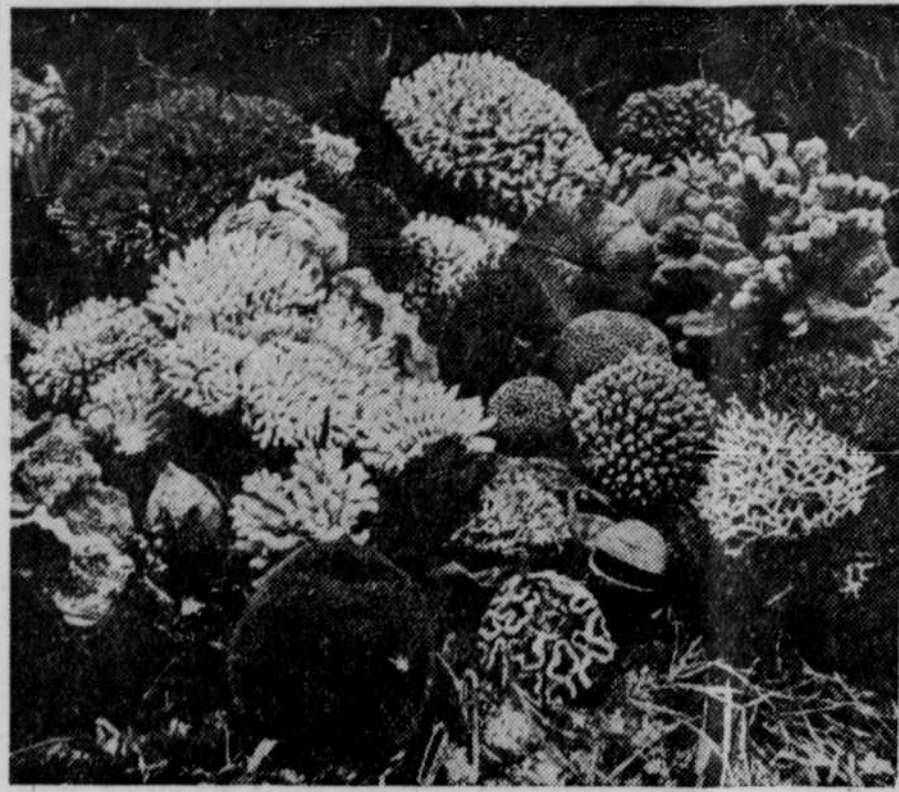
This policy accomplished the point of indicating to World readers that their paper had a tremendous following among the government officials and important persons generally. The World did not pay money for endorsements. It only paid hacks to get them.

Later on Michelson went to work for John J. Raskob, and did his amazing job of smearing Herbert Hoover, probably the most effective press agenting job ever done in this country. When they were thrown out of the window in the 1932 Democratic convention, Michelson was retained by Franklin D. Roosevelt and James A. Farley—has been writing Farley's speeches and many others ever since, and cheerfully blasting his former employers, Raskob and J. P. Morgan.

The whole point is that a good press agent works for his employers, and shoots at whatever target they direct, just as a good lawyer resorts to all sorts of legal technicalities as well as sound argument to attack his client's opponents.

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## BEAUTY ON OCEAN'S BED



A Coral Garden in the South Pacific.

## Sea Gardens of the Tropics Are Replete With Lovely Growths

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

AS ONE sails over the coral reefs in the Tropics in a glass-bottomed boat and gazes down at the deep sea gardens, the coral castles of the reef-builders are seen to be adorned and surrounded by thickets of waving sea growths that to the uninitiated appear to be a plant vegetation of varied hue and graceful form. These are the gorgonians and, far from being plants, are in reality animal structures. Like the corals, they are colonies of polyps, but instead of building limestone habitations they have specialized in horn, or chitin, as a building material.

Descending to the ocean bottom to examine the gorgonians, you see that the fernlike plumes, the flat, lacy fronds of the sea fans, and the club-shaped branches of the sea bushes are alive with close-set ranks of tiny expanded polyps, tinted green, yellow, pink, or white. Myriads of starlike forms extend radiating arms around open mouths, hungrily sweeping in their invisible prey. The delicate, transparent columns, which are their bodies, rise from pitlike openings perforating the branches of their common dwelling places. There is no obvious sign of activity.

Yet beneath the outer crust their bodies unite in a network which permeates the entire structure, and the microscopic cells of their tissues are ceaselessly engaged in laying down and cementing the central core of flexible and tough horn which supports the entire community.

**Beautiful Patterns and Colors.** Surrounding this inner skeleton, the polyps have set in a mosaic of interlocking needles of lime of most delicate workmanship and minute size, the whole forming an investment of rich color.

Yonder rises the reddish-purple, double-edged gorgonian, its two- or three-sided branches bordered with long lines of white polyps standing in single file like soldiers. If you remove a small colony of this species from its anchorage among the coral heads and carry it with you up the ladder to the boat, you can place a portion of one branch in a dish of sea water under a microscope. In a short time the polyps expand and through the magnifying power of your lenses you can see what they are really like.

At the tip of the branch several polyps are fully open. Each translucent silvery creature erects itself full length and spreads a circle of eight tentacles, edged with tiny toothlike projections. This number of tentacles, with their ornamentation, is characteristic of gorgonian polyps, as distinguished from their cousins, the corals. The central, circular mouth leads down to the hollow interior of the creature. The gorgonians of the West Indian waters are closely related to the famous precious coral, which occurs in the Mediterranean and the Sea of Japan, but is entirely lacking in American coral reefs. This species, so important in the jewelry trade, grows in small branching clusters on the sea bottom. In life the coral structure is covered with a brittle outer crust of soft reddish color, from which the delicate white polyps protrude. They are quite similar to other gorgonian polyps.

If the crust is removed, together with two other concentric whitish layers, the hard inner core is uncovered. This is the part that becomes the precious coral of commerce. It varies in color from a brilliant scarlet, in some specimens, to a delicate rosy pink, or even white, in others. It is capable of taking a high polish and, as everyone knows, may be carved into beads or other ornaments.

The relative value of the different shades depends upon the fashion of the time. A number of years ago the deep scarlet was in favor, to be supplanted later by the rose-colored coral in popular esteem.

While reef-forming corals and gorgonians are confined to tropical waters and to comparatively shallow seas, not exceeding 20 to 25 fathoms in depth, other species, which are solitary in habit, or that form small colonies, grow in deep seas, and in a few instances in more northern shallow waters.

The beautiful astrangia is found along the New England coast, encrusting rocks where the tide flows freely, in patches about the size of one's hand. Its delicate rosy tints remind one of the terrestrial arbutus. Again, those first cousins of the corals, the sea anemones, adorn tide pools and wharf piles with their colorful beauty along the entire Atlantic and Pacific coasts, while in the Tropics their brilliant hues add to the glories of the coral reefs themselves.

These lowly creatures, together with other lime-forming organisms associated with them, have filled a most important place in determining the geographical and geological features of the globe. Their massive reefs penetrate the surface of the tropic seas and must be recorded carefully on hydrographic charts for the safety of navigators.

**Vast Effects of Tiny Creatures.** Their islands dot the southern oceans, many of them the abode of men. Their huge submarine deposits, elevated by geologic changes of past ages, have been important factors in determining the outline and surface features of continents and have entered into the structure of mountain ranges. They have furnished building stones for houses and marble for statuary.

Their disintegrated substance has fertilized fields and grown crops, finally washing down to the seas, to be worked over again by the ubiquitous polyps for future ages. Many diverse species of coral composing a reef form structures, ever growing higher and higher, crowding and becoming entangled with each other in thickets of grotesque and weird beauty. The soft colors of their outer surface run through varied hues of rose, pink, orange, tan, yellow, green, blue and purple—all the colors of the spectrum. These colors are partly due to pigments in the living tissues, which invest the surface of the coral limestone skeleton, and partly to another very interesting phenomenon.

Microscopic marine plants, or algae, live in the inner tissues of the translucent polyp wall. Each individual is a disk-shaped single cell, amber yellow in color. They multiply by millions, often completely filling the cells of the endodermal layer.

Since they are plants they use the carbon dioxide excreted by the polyp in which they live, and in the presence of sunlight transform it into food for themselves, giving forth oxygen in the process. The latter gas, so essential for animal existence, is utilized in turn by the polyp in its vital processes. Hence there is maintained a partnership between the plant and the animal of equal importance to both.

**Gets Strong Colors From Algae.** If the coral colony happens to be located in strong sunlight, the algae multiply with great rapidity, giving the polyp's tissues a deep golden hue. This fact accounts for the rich tans and saffrons of the great elk-horn corals that form the extensive treelike growths in the Andros island reef.

If the coral is growing in a submarine nook where the sunlight is weak, the algae are relatively few and the coral tissues are seen in their original pigmented color. For example, the brain coral is naturally green, due to the color of its pigment, and that is the way it appears in deeper waters and shaded localities; but in moderately illuminated areas the microscopic plant partners are more numerous along the summits of the sinuous ridges of the coral, producing a yellow color in contrast with the green in the winding valleys between them. Finally, brain corals located in the brilliant sunshine of the shallows on the top of the reef are so completely impregnated with algae as to appear a deep chocolate brown.

## what Irvin S. Cobb thinks about:

Rivals for Nudism.

SANTA MONICA, CALIF.—I took part in a parade celebrating old days in California, riding in an ancient open carriage with our postmaster here—he calls Jim Farley "Jim"—and our congressman, who like practically all Democrats in good standing in the southern part of the state, craves to be the next nominee for governor.

If any more aspirants bob up, there won't be anybody left to vote for them. This certainly has been a banner year for oranges and candidates.

Our outfit got a lot of cheers from the crowds and a perfect ovation when passing a given point where the Elks also were giving away beer. All three of us felt pretty proud of ourselves until we realized that probably the applause wasn't meant for us. There must have been thousands in that crowd who'd never before seen a horse-drawn pleasure vehicle.

If Lady Godiva, dressed only in her long hair, rode on a white horse through any modern city street, there'd probably be ten who'd hurrah for the horse against one who looked a second time at the lady. Sight of a white horse would be a treat to one and all, whereas in these days of nudism and public undressing on the beaches—but that will be about all for that.

## International Messes.

WITH the great powers tottering on the brink of hostilities to a more tottery extent than usual; with the Spaniards still willing to fight to the last Italian from Brother Mussolini's loan collection; with China battered to a bloody hash-meat in what would closely resemble a war if only Japan had so declared it, which must indeed be gratifying to the ghosts of the thousands already slain and the homeless refugees from ruined cities—this seems a mighty good time for us to keep our shirt on.

Kindly recall that other historic occasion when Uncle Sam felt called upon to hop into a mess cooked up for foreign nations and, as a result, not only lost his shirt, but has never since been able to collect the laundry bills for washing the said shirt. This, if you get the drift, is a subtle reference to those defaulted European debts.

Let us, therefore, highly resolve that, no matter how great the pressure from within or without—mainly it'll be, as was the case before from without—we'll keep the old shirt on.

## Classifying Bores.

I'VE been classifying bores. Class B bores are those still using the lapel clutch or buttonhole grapple, whereas a class A bore is one whose boast is that he never lays a finger on you—just holds the victim by psychic power.

Lately I've met what I should call a super A type, the same being a gentleman who, in addition to having perfect technique otherwise, had been imbibing garlic to excess—and didn't care who knew it. When finally rescued, they had to use a pulmotor on me.

Meeting this champion reminded me of what I heard the late Wilson Minzer say to a gentleman who insisted on boring Wilson while suffused with the afterglow brought on by combining bourbon whiskey and Bermuda onions in his diet. His hiccoughs were not only frequent but had echoes to them.

Finally, when Wilson was practically ready for artificial respiration to be applied, he said: "Dear sir, your breath would start the windmills turning in an old Dutch painting."

## Typical Texans.

I USED to think a typical Texan was one who said he was going to send you a ten-gallon hat and then didn't do it. But he is a subspecies.

A really orthodox Texan tells you he's giving you a pair of genuine Texas steer horns. They'll be along as soon as he can have them shipped. But he never ships 'em—that's what makes him typical.

So many typical Texans have volunteered to send me sets of long horns that, if all these parties were laid end to end, you'd have one of the finest consecutive strings of born liars ever seen. But they wouldn't stay that way; they'd rise right up and start looking for Easterners to promise long horns to.

Not that I'm craving any long horns. They stretch so far from tip to tip they make you think of a muskellunge fisherman trying to show you how much that biggest one measured. If you hang them low, they prong people in the eye. If you hang them high, they're chiefly useful for cobwebs to drape on. And no self-respecting wife will let you hang them anywhere.

IRVIN S. COBB  
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## Fall Fashion Parade



BE THE first to wear the new Fall fashions in your group—let Sew-Your-Own help you to step right out in front, in the parade of new Fall Fashions. Today's trio gives you wide choice. Your first occasion frock if you are young and slim is a good looking basque model; for run-around a pretty yoke model that is as easy to make as it is to wear; and if you are full bosomed a jabot model that takes away inches.

## The Popular Basque Dress.

If you are twenty or thereabouts, you'll adore this pretty basque dress with its flaring skirt. The slim wasp waist and short puffed sleeves above a swing skirt are as young as the morning. Have it in a pretty dark print banded in velvet ribbon for every afternoon festivity. It's a dress that you'll wear all through the winter.

## Yoke-Style House Frock.

Every woman will be quick to see the advantages of this frock, in style and wearability. The round yoke buttons at front and gives a fresh, young look to this design. Best of all, it is cut in one piece from neck to hem so that you can make it in practically no time at all. The waistline is darted for snug fit.

## Look Slim and Sleek.

The newest fashions give you a slim, sleek look even if you are not blessed with a svelte figure. The jabot model in the illustration is designed to make even the woman who is a bit on the plump side look sleek and inches slimmer. Make this dress in one of the new thin wools and see how you'll stand out in your crowd as a fashion leader.

## The Patterns.

Pattern 1257 is designed for sizes 12 to 40. Size 14 requires 4 1/2 yards of 39 inch material and 11 yards of ribbon to trim.

Pattern 1380 is designed for sizes 34 to 48. Size 36 requires 4 1/2 yards of 39 inch material.

Pattern 1373 is designed for sizes 34 to 50. Size 36 requires 3 3/4 yards of 54 inch material and 3/4 yards of 39 inch material for jabot in contrast.

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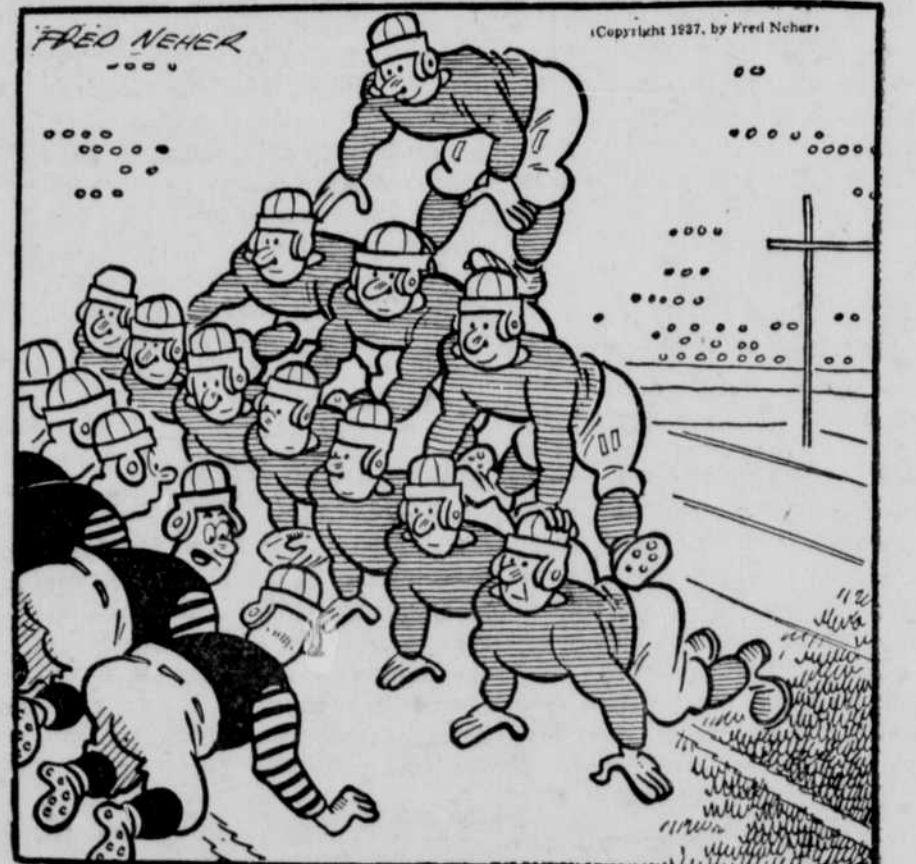
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LIFE'S LIKE THAT By Fred Neher



"Watch out . . . I think it's a trick play!?"