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News Review of Current Events the World Over

Bru Plans Settlement of Cuban Debts to Americans—Roosevelt Says Federal Government Should End Child Labor and Starvation Wages.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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FEDERICO LAREDO BRU, the new president of Cuba, proposes to settle all Cuban obligations in the United States and is expected soon to invite the bankers and bondholders concerned to enter negotiations to that end. Credit for inducing Bru to do this is given to Col. Fulgencio Batista, who appears to be largely in control of affairs in the island. The obligations include about \$75,000,000 owed to many Americans who invested in public work gold bonds which were issued during the administration of President Gerardo Machado.

The new constitution which the Cuban congress recently voted originally prohibited any such negotiations as those contemplated before 1940, but when it appeared in the official gazette that article had been radically altered. It now orders the government to find a satisfactory way to settle all debts to the United States before 1940 and authorizes the president to open negotiations immediately.

This "error" in the gazette's composing room is supposed to have been ordered by Colonel Batista, and though congress has the power to correct it, a majority of congressmen, after reading the article in the gazette, gave it their approval. So President Bru, it seems, is free to go ahead with the negotiations.

ELIMINATION of child labor, long working hours and starvation wages is a necessity, and must be carried out by the federal government since it cannot be done by state action. So declared President Roosevelt in his press conference. He warned the correspondents not to say he was planning to revive the NRA and insisted all he could say at present was that something should be done to fix maximum hours and minimum wages.

Since the day of the NRA, said Mr. Roosevelt, there has been a steady decline in child labor, grueling hours and starvation wages by 90 per cent of American business. As for the other 10 per cent, he said, they were still failing to live up to the best standards since the death of the NRA.

Attorneys for the American Federation of Labor were reported to be about ready to submit to the President a bill designed to restore labor protective features lost in the death of NRA. It provides that congress catalogue unfair "conduct" which would be forbidden to employers and assure workers a adequate protection. Violations would be punishable by a fine. The federation is expected also to back federal licensing of interstate corporations as provided by the O'Mahoney bill.

TOM BERRY, before retiring from the governorship of South Dakota, appointed Herbert Hitchcock of Mitchell, S. D., to fill out the term of the late Senator Peter Norbeck. The new senator is Democratic state chairman and his appointment brings the Democratic membership in the senate to 76, the highest party total in history. The Republicans now number 15.

Mr. Hitchcock was born in Maquoketa, Ia., in 1867 and was educated at Anamosa, Davenport and Chicago. He went to Mitchell in 1894 and was admitted to the bar two years later. He was president of the school board in his home town for ten years and state's attorney four years. He served as state senator in 1909, 1911, and 1929.

AS NEBRASKA'S unicameral legislature, unique in the United States, was about to begin its first session, Gov. R. L. Cochran declared politics was out. He discouraged party caucuses among the members and said he would have no spokesman in the legislature.

The governor pointed out that the constitution provides that the one-house chamber shall be non-partisan and that the voters had done their part by electing, on a nonpartisan ticket, 22 Democrats and 21 Republicans. He said he would continue personally and as governor, all measures for new forms of taxation.

GOVERNMENT officials, from the President down, were anxious to prevent the export of American airplanes to Spain, license for which was given perforce by the State department to Robert Cuse, a Jersey City airplane broker. Cuse proposes to send \$2,777,000 worth of planes to the Spanish loyalists, and his action was criticized in Washington as "legal but unpatriotic." Senator Key Pittman of Nevada, chairman of the foreign relations committee, assailed the Cuse deal as improper and dangerous and said it might embarrass not only the United States but also other nations in their efforts to enforce the hands off policy toward the Spanish war. Congress may be able to rush through prohibitive legislation before the planes are shipped.

WHEN the German steamer Palos was captured by Spanish loyalists at Bilbao because it carried war munitions supposedly destined for the Franco forces, the Berlin government demanded its release under threat of reprisal.

The Basque authorities, when the German cruiser, Koenigsberg, arrived at Bilbao, let the Palos go, but held on to the cargo and to one Spanish citizen who was a passenger. This did not satisfy the commander of the cruiser who insisted the cargo and the Spaniard must be released. The authorities defiantly refused this, and several more German warships were ordered to the Bilbao sector.

There was a report in Berlin that Hitler had been advised by Mussolini to withdraw as gracefully as possible from the Spanish embroglio, and that Il Duce himself had decided to cease supporting Franco and the insurgents.

It was believed Hitler would avoid war measures in this crisis, and both Great Britain and France were hopeful that he would preserve peace because they have offered to help his economic and colonial needs in return for nonintervention in the Spanish conflict. However, informed German sources said the Anglo-French note sent Christmas, urging a cessation of German volunteer enlistments for Spain had come too late, and that Germany will permit and even encourage a continuance of such enlistments.

CHIANG KAI-SHEK, generalissimo of China and its dictator, is back in Nanking. Marshal Chang, who held him prisoner in Sianfu for two weeks, also is in the Nationalist capital, avowedly repentant and ready to submit to any punishment. The danger of civil war has passed for the time. The terms on which Chang released Chiang have not been made public. The dictator issued a statement, directed to his kidnaper, commending his change of heart and promising to use his influence to obtain leniency for him; and Chang also gave out a statement admitting his grievous fault.

These developments would seem to have quieted down the Oriental situation, but there is another matter that threatens continued trouble. This is the prospect that Chiang may decide to confine his attention largely to military affairs and to make Dr. T. V. Soong, his brother-in-law, premier. Soong, who used to be minister of finance, stands high among those who favor a strong foreign policy, including resistance to further encroachments by Japan. Therefore it is easy to see that his elevation to the premiership would greatly annoy Tokio and might easily bring about an open break between the two nations. Since Marshal Chang is one of those demanding war with Japan, it is rumored that the appointment of Soong was the specified reward for his release of Chiang and submission to discipline.

FRANCE took a census in 1936, and the figures, just given out, show the population of the republic on August 3 was 41,905,988. This was an increase of 71,045 over the last previous census, taken in 1931. Of the total, 2,453,507 are foreigners, their number having decreased by 437,416.

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE WALLACE has just apportioned \$200,000,000 to the states for road improvement. Of this sum \$125,800,000 will go toward improvement of the federal-aid highway system, \$25,000,000 for improving secondary or farm-to-market roads, and \$50,000,000 for grade crossing elimination.

The fund is for use during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1937, and funds for improvement of roads must be matched by the states. Grade crossing elimination funds need not be matched. Highway projects selected, contracts and specifications are subject to federal approval after designation by state commissions.

ARTHUR BRISBANE, one of the foremost newspaper editors and writers of the time, and the highest paid, died in his New York residence of coronary thrombosis at the age of seventy-two. The millions of Americans who have read faithfully his columns, "Today" and "This Week," mourn his passing. An indefatigable, able and often brilliant worker, he continued his journalistic labors almost to the hour of his death.

Born in Buffalo, N. Y., Mr. Brisbane at eighteen joined the staff of the New York Sun as a reporter. Shortly after he went to Europe for five years to complete his education and became the London correspondent of the Sun. From that time he advanced steadily in the profession. For the last 39 years he was employed by William R. Hearst. He had been ill for some time but characteristically concealed his condition from all but members of his family and died in the harness, as he would have wished to do.

SILENT for two years, Mahatma Gandhi once more comes into public notice with a speech tending to increase the opposition to British rule in India. He spoke at an industrial exposition held in connection with the annual session of the All-India National congress, the members of which were already agitating in favor of independence. Said the "holy man": "Show me the way. I am prepared to go back to jail again. I am prepared to be hanged. 'If you do all I want you to do, Lord Linlithgow (British high commissioner for India) will say, 'I am wrong. I thought you people were terrorists, and, if you like, we Britishers will go back on the next steamer.' We would then say to Linlithgow and the British, 'India is big enough to hold you and more like you.' 'That is my swaraj (self-government) under native influence.'"



Mahatma Gandhi

Jawaharlal Nehru, in his presidential address to the congress, warned the British his countrymen would not be "parties to an imperialist war."

PROGRESS of the illness of Pope Pius was followed with great anxiety, for it was admitted at the Vatican that he was steadily growing worse and was suffering intense pain. The paralysis was spreading along the left side and arm, and one report said his physicians declared science could do nothing further for him.

GEN. HANS VON SEECKT, who died in Berlin at the age of seventy, was one of the really capable commanders in the World war. While acting as chief of staff to Field Marshal Von Mackensen he was responsible for the great defeat of the Russians at Gorlice, and he planned the campaigns that resulted in the collapse of Serbia and Rumania. After the Von Kapp putsch of 1920 Van Seeckt was made commander-in-chief of the German army which he built into an efficient force.

AMONG the numerous governmental reports at the year's close that of M. I. Myers, head of the farm credit administration, is interesting and encouraging, showing that the outlook for the financial status of farmers for 1937 is bright. During 1936 the total loans to farmers by the various FCA agencies were \$970,000,000 compared to \$1,060,000,000 in 1935.

The decline reflected a decrease in the "emergency demand" by farmers for assistance from federal agencies, because they "had no other source of credit after the depression," Myers said.

"In the country as a whole, farmers apparently had more money for equipment, machinery, farm buildings and repairs in 1936 than in any year since the depression."

He added that this should continue next year because of increased purchasing power and the opportunity to get short term cash loans at the present reasonable rates.

New Engine for Fighting Airplane Fires



Here is a photograph of the chemical fire engine that was tested at Le Bourget airdrome, near Paris, recently, to determine its efficacy in fighting fires of gasoline or oil. An old plane was set ablaze with a large reservoir of gasoline and the new device put it out in 30 seconds. The engine consists of a fast car fitted with a specially adapted hose which throws artificial snow and chemical froth on the fire.



WHERE THE RATS WERE.

IF BILLY MINK didn't know where the rats who had left the big barn had gone to, the farmer who owned the big barn and the henhouse and the woodpile knew. Yes, indeed, the farmer and his family knew just where those rats were. They were in the farmhouse.

You see, the wise gray old leader of the rats knew the safest place for them was in that farmhouse. In the first place it was big and that meant that there was plenty of room with ever and ever so many hiding places. There was food there, plenty of it, to be stolen. They could be very comfortable in that farmhouse. More than this, they would be safe from Billy Mink.

That gray old leader knew that Billy Mink would hesitate a long time about actually entering the house because of his fear of man. He didn't believe that Billy would dream of looking for them in that house, especially if he couldn't track them over there. This Billy couldn't do, as the wise old leader very well knew, because it had been snowing when the rats left the big barn and the falling snow had covered their tracks and destroyed the scent.

So, while Billy Mink was looking under the woodpile and in the henhouse for those rats they were making themselves very much at home in the farmhouse. They could climb about between the walls and go where they pleased. The first thing to do was to make homes for the babies. It didn't take some of those rats long to find the way to the attic. Now the attic was filled with

In Black and White



Huge puff sleeves, a high waisted bodice and a full skirt are the style points emphasized in this attractive gown. It is fashioned of Bianchini's moire lame and black Lyons velvet.

THIS LAND OF OURS

By DOUGLAS MALLOCH

NO man is master in this land of ours, Since every citizen retains his power. The humblest is the highest, since the low Selects the high, and tells him thus and so. Who takes an office does not take a crown, Becomes the servant of the lower down, Hires out his services for certain pay, A hundred million others to obey.

They are the government, he but the tool, The instrument by which the people rule. What is this capitol upon the hill? It is the workshop of the people's will. Then where dwells power? Not under gilded domes— Beneath the roofs of twenty million homes. There reign what kings there are, who delegate To men less busy matters of the state.

And they, these public servants, rise and fall As they their limitations shall recall. Theirs not to order, wear a diadem, Theirs but to order as we order them. How he shall toil and where he shall abide Are matters for the freeman to decide. Not always right the humble man may be, But better to be wrong and still be free.

Test for the Nerves



Dr. Thomas H. Stagers, mechanic - therapist of Cleveland, Ohio, thinks he has something here as he piles match upon match upon match all upon the mouth of a beer bottle. The something is a test of steady nerves. Working most of two days, the doctor succeeded in erecting a tower of 3,585 matches before someone with a heavy tread caused the edifice to collapse. This tower upon which the doctor is shown working, is his second attempt. He has promised to keep at it until the first tower is left far in the shade.

ward toward the wrist. The lack of will power and the tendency to impulsiveness always associated with the overflexible thumb are usually found in exact ratio to the amount of flexibility.

In thumbs indicative of non-resistant will, the first joint may be either excessively long or short, but often is found with length disproportionate to that of the second joint. Its sides are either extremely straight or exaggerated in taper.

Those with first, or nail, joint of this type invariably possess wills that too readily fall in with suggestions of persons who may not always wish them well. They realize when it is too late the folly of impulse which has had its way unopposed by reflective thought.

The characteristics which mark the non-resistant will, when found in thumbs of refined structure, always signify that extravagance, where the purchase of luxuries is concerned, is almost sure to override sound judgment. In the coarser type of thumbs, indulgence in grosser material desires is apt to be a serious and always present risk.

DADA KNOWS—



"Pop, what is helium?" "Conversation over beer."

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er. "I should think all the rats in the barn had moved over here." He little guessed how exactly he had hit on the truth.

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MOTHER'S COOK BOOK



SEVERAL GOOD DISHES.

WHEN fresh coconuts are in the market, try using the grated nut freely in many dishes. A salad of fruit sprinkled with two or three tablespoonfuls of grated coconut is most attractive and appetizing.

Benares Salad.

Chop rather coarsely two cupfuls of tart apples, add two cupfuls of grated coconut, one-half cupful of celery finely cut, two tablespoonfuls of chopped onion, one tablespoonful each of chopped parsley and red pepper. Serve with french dressing. Sometime serve head lettuce with:

Blackstone Dressing.

Take four tablespoonfuls of mayonnaise dressing, the same of whipped cream, two tablespoonfuls of chili sauce, two tablespoonfuls of vinegar and a tablespoonful of finely minced onion, adding at the last a tablespoonful of cream roquefort cheese.

Cassolet.

This is a famous French dish which is both historical and appetizing. Soak overnight one quart of lima beans, in the morning bring to a boil, add salt, more water and cook until tender. Place in a casserole two cupfuls of cooked chicken or duck, add the beans, an onion, one-half cupful of strained tomato, one quart of chicken broth and a teaspoonful of kitchen bouquet.

Bake one hour, uncover and sprinkle with a little minced parsley and serve.

Hot Potato Salad.

Boil half a dozen potatoes with the skins on. Peel and slice while hot. Fry thin slices of bacon and cut into small bits, using half a cupful. Pour off the fat, leaving two tablespoonfuls, stir into this one tablespoonful of flour a bit of mustard, a dash of cayenne and salt to taste. Stir until smooth, adding gradually one-half cupful of mild vinegar. Let the dressing boil, add the bacon and a small, finely chopped onion, then the potatoes. Serve very hot.

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THE LANGUAGE OF YOUR HAND

By Leicester K. Davis
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The Non-Resistant Thumb

AS HAS been learned from preceding lessons, the first, or nail, joint of the thumb denotes the type of will power of the individual. The will however, expresses itself in many ways. The thumb will show you how. In this lesson we shall analyze the reverse of the inflexible or stubborn will.

The Thumb of Non-resistant Will

You will note many thumbs which indicate this kind of will power, or, rather, lack of it, in varying degree. The outstanding indication is the resilient, yielding quality of the first, or nail, joint when pressed back-

Eve's Epigrams



The things they mean are the mean things

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