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## News Review of Current Events

### CHINA'S HORROR GROWS

Thousands Die in Unofficial War . . . Senate Confirms Black Appointment . . . House Debates Deficiency Bill

**Edward W. Pickard**  
SUMMARIZES THE WORLD'S WEEK  
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#### Declared or Not, It's War

SHANGHAI'S "war" of 1932 was a second-rate movie sham battle compared with what's going on over there now. The city of 3,500,000 inhabitants and its environs are a scene of destruction, terror, flames and death on a mass scale the horror of which is unthinkable.

Thousands upon thousands of civilians lie dead, dying and wounded, and the toll increases day after day. No estimate has even been attempted to determine the amount of casualties among the Chinese and Japanese fighting forces. Indeed such an estimate today might be woefully inadequate tomorrow, for reports tell of whole brigades being shot or blown to bits in a single encounter.

Square mile after square mile, especially in the native Chapei district, has been gutted by fires that rise in the wake of bombs and artillery shells. Millions of men, women and children face slower, even more terrible death by hunger, for who is to bring supplies from the outlying farm fields while the whole area is under terrific fire?

Even in the International Settlement life is fleeting, insecure, for bombs and shells drop there, too. And with 1,000,000 refugees inside to be fed, shops are rapidly locking their doors to protect their wares from rioters.

As this is written, the Chinese land forces, outnumbering the Japanese four to one, are forcing the invaders slowly back to the Whangpoo in fierce ground fighting. Whether the Japanese reinforcements will be able to turn the tide of battle is problematical. At the same time Japanese warships—half the entire Japanese fleet must be in the Whangpoo—are showering exploding shells upon huge concentrations of Chinese soldiers.

Eye-witnesses reported that the Japanese had concentrated some 40 destroyers, six cruisers, four dreadnaughts, an airplane carrier and many gunboats in the rivers near Shanghai. Only through a clever maneuver did the Chinese prevent them from gaining the upper reaches of the Whangpoo and shelling Shanghai from the rear. The Chinese, in a surprise attack, captured six Japanese merchant ships, sailed them into the heart of the channel and scuttled them, preventing passage.

American authorities in Shanghai decided upon immediate evacuation of the 3,800 Yanks living there. The danger which confronted them was emphasized when stray Japanese bombs blasted the American Baptist mission, leaving the fate of 20 persons inside in grave doubt.

United States marines were on hand, of course, to offer what protection they could to American nationals, and reinforcements were quick in leaving San Diego, Calif., to join them. The U. S. S. Augusta, flagship of Uncle Sam's China squadron, lay in the Whangpoo alongside the Japanese ships. With shrapnel flying about their ears, Americans were getting out of China on every available ship.

It was not considered likely that President Roosevelt would invoke the neutrality act so long as no "official" state of war between Japan and China existed. This would involve the declaration of embargoes on arms and on the extension of credits to both nations, a situation which would be of definite aid to the aggressor, Japan, since China is in far greater need of war materials.

Japan continued to "defend" itself, officially, from the wicked Chinese, whom its foreign office characterized as "prejudiced." However, the "defense" was being carried on in the other fellow's back yard. Japanese authorities continued to insist that they meant no harm to the Chinese people, and that their aim was still for the cooperation of China, Manchukuo, and Japan. They also revealed that voluntary contributions to the nation's war chest, coming from all over Japan, had passed the \$2,500,000 mark.

#### Question Black's Eligibility

THE senate confirmed the President's nomination of Sen. Hugo L. Black of Alabama to the Supreme court, 63 to 16, but only after a bitter fight, following which the minority protested that the confirmation had been railroaded through. Six Democrats and ten Repub-



Appointee in judicial mien.

cans voted against Black. The Democratic insurgents, led by Edward R. Burke (Neb.) and Royal S. Copeland (N. Y.) based their objections principally upon charges that he was associated with the Ku Klux Klan, and therefore unfit to sit with the high tribunal for reasons of racial and religious prejudice. The Republicans, notably William E. Borah (Idaho), argued that he could not legally become a member of the court.

That his eligibility might be tested before the court itself was a possibility when Attorney Albert Levitt, former special assistant to Attorney General Homer S. Cummings, filed a plea for leave to pray an order for Black to show affirmatively why he should be permitted to serve as an associate justice. He raised the same legal questions as the Republican minority had:

1. That Black could not become a justice because during his term as a senator the Summers retirement act was passed, permitting justices to retire at full pay. The Constitution provides that no member of congress shall be appointed to an office which was created or the emolument of which was increased during his membership in congress.

2. That no vacancy existed on the Supreme court anyway, since Justice Willis Van Devanter had only retired, not resigned, and may still be called for judicial service by the chief justice.

#### Grist from the Mill

AFTER months of wrangling over the Supreme court measure, the wages and hours bill, the ever-normal-granary bill and other administration "musts" the house of representatives began to act upon some other legislation in haste, with a view to adjournment some day, some time.

The house appropriations committee reported out the year's last "deficiency" measure to supply funds for government operations overlooked in the regular budget. It called for \$78,500,000; two previous deficiency measures, totaling nearly a billion, had been passed. The committee turned down requests from the executive department for \$43,000,000 in additional appropriations. Some of the appropriations recommended were \$23,000,000 for new buildings, \$3,000,000 for federal participation in the New York world's fair and \$1,500,000 for participation in the San Francisco world's fair. Funds for the operation of the Jones-Bankhead farm tenancy act and for naval building were denied altogether; appropriations for payments to federal land banks and the Federal Farm Mortgage corporation, and the national labor relations board were sliced severely.

The house passed the low-cost housing bill, but with so many alterations that it had to go to a joint committee for the differences to be straightened out before it could be sent to the White House. The senate had approved a bond issue of \$700,000,000; the house shaved it to \$500,000. The house also raised the percentage of funds which local communities must contribute to projects; increased the limitation of cost of a single dwelling to \$5,000 or \$1,000 a room; and cut the limit of any one state's share in the funds from 20 per cent to 10 per cent.

The house also passed a bill designed to plug the tax loopholes by which, it was alleged, the wealthy have been, legally or illegally, avoiding the payment of income taxes which they have a moral if not a legal right to pay. The extremely complicated bill carried unanimously.

#### Campaign Aftermath

TURNED down by the house rules committee when he demanded a special investigation, Rep. Bertrand H. Snell of New York, Republican floor leader, has carried direct to Attorney General Homer S. Cummings his charges of violation of the federal corrupt practices act by the Democratic national committee. The charges arise from National Chairman James A. Farley's ingenious method of replenishing the party's treasury by selling Democratic convention books, autographed by President Roosevelt, for \$250 each.

In a letter to Cummings, Snell charged:

1. That sales of the book, autographed by the President, in 1936, at \$250 each constitute an illegal collection of campaign funds and a direct violation of section 313 of the corrupt practices act.

2. That a Colorado man was the "victim of eleven specific acts of reprisals" by the resettlement administration and threats to "put him out of business" since his refusal last October to subscribe \$500 to the book sales campaign.

3. That a New Yorker was approached by a Democratic campaign committee agent with promise of White House intervention in return for a \$25,000 subscription or retainer.

Snell attached affidavits and a synopsis of the evidence he had furnished the house rules committee.

#### Rebels Press Santander

REPORTS from the insurgent command said that 35 villages and 1,000 prisoners had been captured by the rebels in their drive on Santander and the tiny remaining slice of the northern Spanish coast held by the government. The government admitted that some advances had been made, but refused to concede that General Franco's forces were threatening the main defenses of the Santander area.

Franco, in his new drive, was using the same tactics which eventually brought about the downfall of Bilbao after a siege of many months. Bombing planes and artillery were pounding the fortifications while other airplanes poured machine gun fire upon trenches.

#### Rumor Has Farley Quitting

IS "Genial Jim" Farley going to resign as postmaster general to become the executive head of an automobile firm? That's what his friends in Washington say, and Jim has not denied the rumor, as he has promptly denied similar rumors in the past. Farley, it is said, seeks to rehabilitate his personal fortunes. As postmaster general he has lost \$10,000 a year over his salary of \$15,000 and is, according to his friends, today in debt. The story went that he would become an executive of the Pierce-Arrow Motor corporation, that 5,000 new shares of stock would be delivered to him, and that he would also be allowed to share in the \$100,000 stock purchase warrants.

#### Jim Farley

Wonder if the Pierce-Arrow sales force is watching the charts for Maine and Vermont?

#### French Lifeline Periled?

THE Paris press disclosed that France considers herself in danger of losing her possessions in the Near East and of having her air route connections with the Far East severed because of revolts in Syria. Censorship of the news out of Syria is strict, but some reports have leaked through which indicate the revolt recently quelled was a serious one. According to one dispatch the population is extremely dissatisfied with the terms of the Franco-Syrian treaty signed last September 10. As soon as the proper machinery can be set up, the treaty provides, a unified Syrian state will be formed from four of the five mandate areas which the French hold in the Levant.

Large sections of the population differ in religion from the Syrians in Damascus. They are willing to be governed by a foreign nation like France, as they have been for centuries, but they do not want to be subjected to the will of the Damascus politicians.

#### Protests Lease of Ships

LA NACION, influential newspaper of Buenos Aires, Argentina, caused some stir by vigorously protesting the proposed leasing of obsolete United States warships to Brazil, declaring that such an act would upset the balance of naval power in South America.

Secretary of State Hull had written a letter to the senate naval committee asking congressional authority for the leasing of over-age war vessels to South American republics, to be used for training.

### Keep Your Eyes on the Pipe—the World's Biggest



THESE pretty girls in a tobacco field at South Boston, Va., are carrying the biggest pipe in the world, made for the National Tobacco festival in their town. It is 18 feet long and two of the girls could get into the bowl.



#### BLACKY THE CROW IS AS EXCITED AS SAMMY JAY

WHEN Sammy Jay came flying out of the Green Forest screaming at the top of his lungs and so excited that he couldn't talk straight, everybody said that he had gone crazy. You see, he was too excited to tell what the trouble was. At last his cousin, Blacky the Crow,



#### He Caught Himself Just in Time and Flew to the Top of the Nearest Pine Tree.

managed to get him calmed down so that he could tell him all about it. When he heard the story which Sammy had to tell of the stranger he had seen deep in the Green Forest he looked very much as the other little people did when they heard Sammy screaming foolishly.

You see, it was very hard for Blacky to really believe that Sam-

#### Sable Kolinsky



Sable dyed kolinsky is a real success now and comes in beautiful dark brown. In the body of this three-quarter length swagger coat, which is elegant enough for evening wear, the skins are used vertically, with a horizontal working of the sleeves.

is something the matter with his eyes."

He was talking to himself in this way as he flew along, all the time keeping a sharp watch for the stranger, when, without any warning, the stranger himself stepped out from behind a tree almost under Blacky. It startled Blacky so that he let out a frightened "Caw! Caw!" and nearly turned a somersault in the air. He caught himself just in time and flew to the top of the nearest pine tree, where he could look down and see all that was going on.

Everything was just as Sammy had said. The stranger did wear

He asked Sammy just where he had seen the stranger, and Sammy told him that it was way deep in the Green Forest, beyond the pond built by Paddy the Beaver. Now, Blacky believes that the only way to make sure of things is to see them, and not be content with the word of some one else. So he suddenly made up his mind that he would visit the place where Sammy Jay had seen the stranger. He invited Sammy to go along with him, but Sammy refused. It was very plain to see that Sammy was afraid of the stranger. Blacky chuckled to himself as he flew over the pond of Paddy the Beaver and so deep into the Green Forest.

"The idea," said Blacky, "of there being a stranger as big as Farmer Brown's Boy and wearing a black fur coat! Nobody like that ever has lived in the Green Forest. I guess I'd know if they had. Sammy must have eaten something and had a very bad dream, or else there



"One thing about Sunday broadcasting," says Pious Prudence, "a husband can sleep through church services without embarrassing his wife and the minister."

### FIRST-AID TO AILING HOUSE

By ROGER B. WHITMAN

#### WOOD FLOORS ON CONCRETE

ONE very common complaint that I hear is the bulging and warping of wood floors that are laid on concrete floors in cellars. A cellar floor is usually laid directly on the earth, and inevitably contains moisture. The surface may appear dry, but even so, there is a continuous passage of moisture through the floor and into the air of the cellar. When anything is laid on the concrete, evaporation is prevented; moisture collects, and wood, linoleum, rugs or anything similar will suffer. A wood floor laid on concrete is particularly likely to rot. In absorbing moisture, wood swells and buckles.

Any covering for a concrete cellar floor should be waterproof and of a material that will not rot. Asphalt, either in the form of tiles or as a sheet, is satisfactory; for moisture cannot injure it. Asphalt tiles can be had in many different colors, and form a most attractive floor. They are laid in asphalt cement, which is also used in laying asphalt in sheet form.

When a wood floor is to be laid on concrete, one method is to cement it down with a layer of the same kind of asphalt cement; "mastic" is its usual name. This is becoming a very common method of laying a wood floor on concrete, and is a complete protection against rotting.

Also, there is a pleasant springiness to the floor. A less perfect method, but one that has many ad-

vantages, is to cover the concrete with sheets of heavy waterproof felt, with the edges overlapping. Two-by-fours are put down on this, and the wood flooring laid on top. This may not give complete protection against rotting, but it is far better than to lay the wood directly on the concrete.

By Roger B. Whitman  
WNU Service.

### MOPSY



Dickens' Home Is Museum  
The house where Charles Dickens lived in London more than 100 years ago, is now a museum, containing the most comprehensive Dickens library in the world.

### THE PANCAKE

By DOUGLAS MALLOCH

HE SAYS, when I bring home a hat, "Where in the world did you buy that?"

"At So-and-So's, And goodness knows It's long enough since I have had one!"

"The one you have is not a bad one, But that's O. K. But, anyway, Your friends will ask you, with that hat on, If it was made that way, or sat on."

"Well, that's the very latest style They're wearing now, so you can smile."

He says, "No doubt, Yes, laugh right out. What puzzles me, I can't see through it, Why do it just because they do it?"

"Well, that's the thing In style this spring—"

"What I can't see, why spend good money For anything to just look funny?"

We never do have spats Except on one thing, and that's hats.

You might as well Not try to tell A man why anything's good-looking, For all he thinks about is cooking. I'm mad tonight Enough to fight.

He said, "Ah, now I see the riddle: Is this the pancake, or the griddle?"

© Douglas Malloch.—WNU Service.

a black fur coat, he was as big as Farmer Brown's boy, and he did have great feet and the biggest claws Blacky had ever seen. Blacky felt just as if he ought to peck himself to make sure that he was awake. Of course he knew he was, but he just couldn't make it seem so.

Now, Blacky sometimes gets as excited as Sammy Jay, and this was one of the times. He started back for the Green Meadows as fast as he could fly, and all the way he was cawing at the top of his lungs. Sammy Jay heard him long before he saw him and Sammy grinned. "He found him!" thought Sammy. "Now he knows that I told the truth. My, but he sounds just as crazy as I ever did."

And then as Blacky came in sight Sammy once more grew excited, too, and began to scream questions at the top of his lungs, until it was hard to say who was screaming the loudest, Sammy or his big cousin, Blacky the Crow.

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### THE LANGUAGE OF YOUR HAND

By Leicester K. Davis  
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OCCASIONALLY one meets men and women whose greatest mental zest is found in anything which holds an element of risk. Such seem to possess the gambler's instinct, in business as well as social life. Such persons are often successful despite the dangers which their natures court; but just as often they find themselves on the "losing end of the game."

The Finger of Speculative Mentality  
Even the most casual survey of this type of fourth finger will impress you with the extreme length and crookedness which are its most pronounced characteristics. The length of this type is exaggerated by its leanness and the peculiar knottiness of the knuckles. The joints are set at decided angles, which gives the entire finger a distorted appearance. This is most noticeable with the hand extended wide, when the entire finger falls far away from the third finger.

The nail tip is long and pointed with an extremely long and sharply convex nail, which is often covered with small ridges running the full depth of the nail. Under backward pressure the finger is found to be stiffly resilient.

You need have no hesitation in placing the owner of such a fourth finger as one who is at least a gambler at heart, and who enjoys nothing better than activities governed largely by chance.

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