

BRISBANE THIS WEEK

Alas, One Rich Man Only!
Gasoline Is King
All the Ships She Wants
Senator Borah's View

Only one solitary American citizen had a net income of above \$5,000,000 last year, and they were 50-cent dollars. The man did not realize it, perhaps, but he will realize it later as inflation, which is now a fact, becomes known to all.

Who the last, loneliest, remote, unfriendly, melancholy, five-million-dollar-a-year man is may not be told. The law forbids publishing income tax names, but the government tells you there is one and only one.

That "last rose" of depression's summer must look around him, saddened, mourning over his old companions, withered and strewed.

What is important today may be nothing tomorrow; what was nothing yesterday may become all important now. Once man was helpless without his horse, camel, ox, yak, ass, mule, reindeer, dog sled or tame elephant. Now, in civilization, they mean little, while Lloyd George tells you, "Oil is the decisive factor in the Abyssinian campaign." Of all the great powers whose attitude is being canvassed, that of King Gasoline is most important. Without oil, Mussolini cannot win his war; with oil, victory is certain.

Japan at the naval conference will consider nothing less than a battle fleet as big as any the United States may build; no 5-5-3 ratio.

No American should object to that, if Japan can afford it. It is not the size of the fleet that counts. Unfortunate Spanish grandees in charge of the great Armada could testify to that, after they met Elizabeth's small fleet and big sea captains.

Also, there is the fact that if real war started, above the clouds and under water, every fighting nation would hide its battleship targets out of airplane sight, in safe harbors; many battleships or few would make no difference.

Senator Borah tells over the microphone what the country needs: Support of the Constitution; a fight against those who would undermine it.

The destruction of monopoly without necessarily enacting new legislation.

An end of crop restriction.

Senator Borah says restriction has always failed in depression ever since the days of Roman emperors.

The scientific news, gruesome but important, tells you that the eyes of the dead can supply transparent tissue from the cornea useful in curing blindness in the living. Tissue from dead eyes has been successfully transplanted to living eyes, and there is hope of thus curing certain types of blindness.

England has always acted like one "walking on eggs" in dealing with Japan, but she does say that Japan's proposed seizure of Chinese territory "harms the prestige of Japan and hampers the development of friendly future relations between Japan and her friends."

Walter C. Teagle, head of Standard Oil of New Jersey, did not make a deal to supply Mussolini with all his oil for thirty years, casually arranging to finance the Italian oil market up to \$300,000,000. Mr. Teagle says so, and it is so. But when the wise John D. Rockefeller once said, "I want to see my managers, their desks cleared and their feet on the desks studying how to make money for Standard Oil," he had men like Walter Teagle in mind.

In Georgetown, British Guiana, a kindly clergyman sprinkled a tiny negro baby just born, naming him "Roosevelt Selassie Caleb." The boy's parents, descendants of slaves, say the name was chosen to honor "the greatest man in the world, President Roosevelt."

The little baby may wonder later why his parents dragged in Hattie Selassie, in whose empire slavery still exists as a major industry.

An official representative of Russia said to this writer not long since: "We have nothing to fear from Japan. They waited three years too long." While Japan was waiting, Russia established a great submarine and air base at Vladivostok, within short striking distance of everything Japanese.

Since then Japan and Russia have got along peacefully. This country may suddenly wake up to find problems more important than any theory on how to make everybody happy on short notice.

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Scenes and Persons in the Current News



1—Entrance to Clarence House, in Mathew Park street, London, where the international conference on naval limitation will be held. 2—View of the Pan-American Airways airport at Natal, Brazil, scene of hard fighting during the recent revolt. 3—Capt. MacGillivray Milne, United States navy, who was appointed governor of Samoa by President Roosevelt.

Not Easy Going for the Italians



This difficult mountain slope in the region of Makale, Ethiopia, furnished plenty of work for the Italian soldiers after the automobile broke down. They were forced to put their shoulders to the wheel and push. Italian roadmakers are doing wonders in making these roads more modern and passable.

Ski Club Picks First Snow Queen of 1935-36 Winter

Blizzards Are Balm Weather for Theresa

To Theresa Sham of Stows, Vt., goes the honor of being the first young woman to be elected a snow



queen this winter in the United States. She was given the title at a carnival of the Mount Mansfield Ski club.

President Dedicates Atlanta Housing Project



Aerial view of the EWA's \$2,575,000 Techwood housing project in Atlanta which President Roosevelt helped to dedicate by the unveiling of a commemorative plaque. The project will house 800 families.

Names Cooper to Direct Britain's War Department

Former Financial Official Is Lady Diana's Spouse

Alfred Duff Cooper, former financial secretary to the treasury, who has been named war minister of



Great Britain by Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin. His wife is the beautiful Lady Diana Manners.

He's a Pet, Not a Prospective Dinner



Tom (his first name is not "Peeping"), is the proud 55-pound pet of Miss Elsie Edwards.

SWAN HEARD AROUND THE NATIONAL CAPITAL By Carter Field

Washington.—Roosevelt is going to cash in, next month, in his budget message, on spade work which goes back for two years to his first budget message, in January, 1934. His first message asked for extraordinary appropriations of \$3,100,000,000. No one thought at the time that he could possibly spend it, and he didn't.

The following budget message, January, 1935, asked for the eight hundred odd million left over, and \$4,000,000,000 additional. Again everybody knew that he couldn't spend it all during the fiscal year, and many did not hesitate to say so. This time he asked for many of the appropriations to be made for two years.

Best calculations available at the moment are that not less than \$1,000,000,000 will be left at the end of this fiscal year, June 30, next. Which means that in appropriations to be asked for in the next month's budget message the President will be able to make a magnificent showing so far as working toward a balanced budget is concerned.

But that is only part of the picture. The President did his utmost to paint the picture, one year ago, in its darkest possible shades. With the result that almost any picture painted next month will appear to be a long step forward. For example, there was no reference whatever in last year's budget message to the \$2,000,000,000 profit on gold, which has been locked up in the secret stabilization fund. There was no intimation to be found that any of the billions loaned out by the RFC and other government agencies are an asset, although as a matter of fact if the RFC books were closed today, and the paper it holds auctioned off in the open market, not only would the government recover 100 cents on the dollar, but there would be a profit.

Dramatic Touch

As though all this were not enough, the President just recently added another dramatic touch to the picture, which is intended to reassure business and taxpayers and meet the criticisms of such Republicans as former President Hoover and Governor Landon about too much spending by the federal government.

This was his statement that he had been assured by bankers that the federal credit would not be in much danger until the national debt reached a total of from 55 to 70 billions.

As the President knew it would before he made the statement, it roused a flood of comment, criticism, and curiosity. Bankers here and there denied they had made such statements, and demands poured in that the President name his informant.

All of which accomplished perfectly the President's objective in making the statement—to attract a lot of attention—rivet national attention on the huge figures—and—inevitably bring about a different impression entirely from what might otherwise have been the case when his budget message figures are given to the country.

So that when the figures come out the country will be reassured, instead of being freshly alarmed. And the total national debt that will be disclosed, together with the prospect that it will be slightly increased if the New Deal program goes forward, will seem much smaller than the same figures would have appeared without this preliminary flurry.

It's the kind of thing Mr. Roosevelt likes very much. He gets the same sort of kick that someone else might get from a shrewdly calculated attack in chess. It's the same thing he worked during the campaign of 1932 on the people who kept heckling him on the soldier bonus.

Victory for Hull

Lots of conservative business men are going to pat George N. Peek on the back, and sympathize with the "gross stupidity" which he fought in vain on the international trade policy. Some of them will really mean what they say, but a very considerable majority will be trying to pour oil on fire instead of oil on water. Their real object will be to inflame Peek to the point where his attack on the administration will be red-hot.

For the truth is that most conservative business men interested in international trade agree with Secretary of State Cordell Hull, and not with George Peek. Hence they approve the action of President Roosevelt in awarding the victory in this long drawn out battle to Hull.

This is not a discussion of the merits of the controversy. Its merits have nothing to do with the political point involved. But it is not guesswork that most business

men interested in international trade approve the still more radical treaty idea, and enthusiastically favor maintaining the "most favored nation" clause.

Swap Plays Have

Germany took more coffee than she needed on one international swap, dumped it in New York, and broke the world price—thus playing havoc with the country she was swapping with as well as that country's competitors.

In the normal processes of international trade, the wants of the buyers are studied. Little things of taste in food, preferences in colors, etc., are studied. Bartar comes along, and the customers sometimes do without rather than buy the goods offered.

Naturally, too, the exporters and importers want to run their own business. They don't want the government running it for them.

On the other hand, the "most favored nation" clause frequently benefits a nation making no concessions whatever to the United States as much or more than the nation for which the concession was made. Japan has benefited enormously by some of the reciprocity treaties this country has made.

But all the objections to Peek's policies are going to be forgotten now. There is no need of fighting about them. The questions are settled. So the very men who opposed Peek most bitterly, in many instances, will seek to use him now as a weapon to hit Roosevelt.

Even the big importers, while they like the Democratic ideas about tariffs more than the Republican, are mostly conservative. They do not enthuse much about the New Deal, and the taxation they fear it will bring on big corporations and big incomes.

Different Picture

More independent voting than President Roosevelt has had to face so far promises to characterize the sessions of congress to convene next month. The whole picture is entirely different. Private comments of a lot of returning senators and members of the house, many of whom are already in Washington because their children go to school here, indicate that it will be an "every man for himself" session.

The tendency was already apparent when congress adjourned. It cropped up sharply when house and senate paid no attention to the White House wishes on the neutrality act. It is perfectly true that the administration did not bring up its heavy artillery on the neutrality act. In fact, the White House was not expecting the measure to pass at all. But the wishes of the President and of Secretary of State Hull were made known very clearly on Capitol Hill.

It is interesting to note that these wishes were expressed by State department men—who normally, with the exception of the secretary himself, have almost no political influence, however thoroughly they may understand the department's problems, and however able they may be personally.

Actually, the President was so busy concentrating his barrage on other legislative problems that there was no ammunition of the political variety available to cajole or threaten legislators tending to be independent on this issue.

Feared to Speak Out

Three years ago, two years ago, and even one year ago congressmen faced a situation where Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal cause were unbelievably popular. Republicans in the National legislature hesitated to speak out against him or his policies. They feared it might ruin them. Witness Senator Vandenberg. And many others.

Then there were more than a hundred Democratic members of the house who had been elected from normally Republican districts. And a hundred more from highly doubtful districts. Their main hope was for Roosevelt's strength to pull them through the next election. It worked marvelously well in 1934.

But meanwhile two things have happened. By the end of last session both of them had percolated to the politically minded legislators, with their ears close to the ground back home. By now the casual newspaper reader knows it, as a result of numerous polls.

One is that Roosevelt has lost a great deal of his popularity. He may still have enough to re-elect himself, the legislators figure, but not enough to exert any substantial influence for others running on the same ticket with him.

The other, as also demonstrated by polls, is that a lot of people still approve Roosevelt heartily, but do not like many of his policies. So that a great many voters may be expected next November to mark their ballots for Roosevelt electors, and then vote against a senator and representative just because these legislators voted for the Roosevelt policies. There is no point in saying this is not logical. It happens all the time in politics. And politicians are not interested in logic so much as in votes.

So look out for a lot of independence, which will prove very annoying to the White House on Capitol Hill this session.

at home even to the extent of trying to determine our government. Whereas, if all these violent foreign-born men who lack citizenship papers were laid end-to-end, it would indeed be a lovely sight, especially if each one had a lily in his hand. As for the average chronic offender against the laws—well, on his way into the penitentiary, he's likely to meet himself coming out, with release papers in his pocket and hope in his heart. For him a sentence is just a pleasant week-end back among the boys at the "old man."

Here today and gone tomorrow—that's the grand idea. Might I make so bold as to suggest there would be more habitual criminals staying in prison if we had fewer parole boards going at large?

Old-Fashioned Ideas

SECRETARY OF STATE HULL makes a statement on the heels of a similar statement by the British foreign secretary, and, if you dig down through the diplomatic aplomb under which utterances are always buried, you'll find that neither nation is deeply tickled over the plan of Japan to gobble up north China by what is called politely an "autonomy movement."

But if that wasn't its fashionable name it could pass anywhere for an armed invasion. Unless you're a statesman, you wouldn't be able to notice the difference.

For some days the impression has been getting around that the Chinese weren't so hot over the idea either. Well, the rabbit that's about to be absorbed by the python rarely does show any real enthusiasm.

Here's the curious thing though—apparently both Mr. Hull and his English brother still labor under the whimsical belief that a treaty by a stronger nation guaranteeing the integrity of a weaker nation is meant to be kept. How quaintly old-fashioned.

Prison Petulance

THAT on the same day three jail-breaks should occur at places as widely separated as Boston in Massachusetts, Nashville in Tennessee and Muskogee in Oklahoma is only to be accounted for as proof of a growing wave of dissatisfaction with prison life on the part of the boys.

How much better we manage in some states I might name where it would seem a boarder has merely to mention to the parole board that he's getting bored with the accommodations and craves to go and sin no more. "Well, so long warden," says the departing one. "Hold any mail that comes and try to keep my old room for me—the one with the southern exposure and the radio set. It's not good-by, just a revolt."

But no, those chaps who blasted their way out got so irritable they just couldn't wait. It all goes to show that petulance never pays in this world. Kindly be patient, fellows, and sooner or later, the sentimentalist will perfect a plan to turn practically every body loose immediately after conviction, thus curing the present unavoidable annoyance of a round trip to the hoosegow.

Joint Debates on Religion

A CONTROVERSIAL gentleman, who thinks he read between the lines of one of those subtle-hidden meanings which I certainly never meant to put there, writes in, challenging me to a joint debate on socio-religious grounds, whatever they are. Much obliged, but the answer, briefly and in a word, is no.

So far as I've observed, the only person who ever wins a joint debate is the one who takes no part in it.

A Laugh on Berlin

WOULDN'T it seem to you to put the laugh on somebody if we sent a lot of Jewish athletes—and there are many splendid ones scattered around—to Berlin on our Olympic team, and our team mopped up?

Everybody in Hollywood turned out for a party to H. G. Wells. I think they thought he was a visiting producer.

Signs of returning prosperity—women have started to appear wearing the Midwest boys.

IRVING S. COBB

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