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News Review of Current Events the World Over

Wirt's Red Plot Story Flattened Out by Investigators—Senate Votes for Extra 10 Per Cent Income Tax—Auto and Coal Troubles.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

DR. WILLIAM A. WIRT, the really eminent educator of Gary, Ind., told his story of a "red plot" to overthrow the government of the United States, so far as the Democratic majority of the house investigating committee permitted, and the general opinion throughout the country was that it was "not so hot." The Democrats declared it was utter bunk. The Republicans, who had hoped to find good political material in the affair, asserted that gag rule had been enforced.

The revelation of the alleged scheme of the radicals, said Wirt, came to him at a dinner given by Miss Alice Barrows at a country house near Washington. The other guests were Robert Bruere, David C. Coyle, Miss Hildegarde Kneeland and Miss Mary Taylor, all, like the hostess, connected with the government, and Lawrence Todd, chief of the Tass, official Soviet government news agency in the United States. From their conversation, Wirt said, he gathered that men high in the councils of the administration were plotting the overthrow of the American social order and that they considered President Roosevelt as another Kerensky to be followed by another Stalin. The six men named by Wirt were Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace; Prof. Rexford Guy Tugwell, assistant secretary of agriculture and recognized head of the brain trust; Prof. Milburn L. Wilson, head of the subsistence homestead division of the Department of Interior; Dr. Robert Kohn, head of the housing division of the public works administration; Dr. Frederick Howe, consumers' counsel for the agricultural adjustment administration, and Henry T. Rainey, speaker of the house of representatives.

The most serious charges made by the gentleman from Indiana were directed at Professor Tugwell; but his basis for these, as for practically all of his story, was hearsay, second-hand information and vague statements by some of his fellow guests at the dinner. In that lay its weakness, though there are many serious-minded Americans who insist that there should be a real investigation of any government officials seeking to undermine the present form of government. The committee, having heard Wirt, adjourned for some days with the intention of calling as witnesses those who attended the country house dinner. Some of them already had denied flatly or belittled the statements made by Wirt.

LOTS of bickering resulted from the Wirt case, and in this some of the Democrats concerned did not make a good showing. Chairman Bulwinkle of the committee, for instance, asserted that Wirt was imprisoned at Gary during war times for pro-German activities, and this was indignantly denied by numerous persons who were in position to know its truth or falsity. Secretary of the Interior Ickes accused Doctor Wirt of having sought to obtain public works money for a "Fairland" project in the Indiana dunes by which Doctor Wirt was to sell 2,000 front feet of dune land along Lake Michigan at \$50 a foot, a total sale price of \$100,000. The project was disapproved by the Public Works administration as "visionary and impractical," Mr. Ickes said.

Doctor Wirt issued a denial of Secretary Ickes' tale, explaining that he had no connection with the proposed project and that the company with which he was connected had held the land in question for 12 years to preserve it for park purposes.

Representative McGugin of Kansas, Republican member of the investigating committee, was "gagged" when he tried to make a speech on the case in the house, but managed to get it inserted in the Congressional Record. At the same time the Department of Justice was seeking to revive a five-year old matter in which McGugin appeared as a lawyer for Mrs. Barnett, wife of the wealthy Indian Jackson Barnett.

DESPITE the opposition of the house leaders and the doubt of its approval by the President, Senator Couzens persisted in his effort to put through his amendment to the tax bill calling for a flat 10 per cent increase in all income tax returns. Chairman Pat Harrison of the senate finance committee had approved it as

an emergency measure and showed no disposition to reconsider.

When the Couzens amendment was first voted on in the senate it was defeated by the bare majority of 46 to 44, the Michigan senator changing his vote to the negative so as to move a reconsideration. He got busy among his fellow senators and was successful first in having the vote reconsidered and then in the measure's adoption by a vote of 43 to 36. It was certain the proposal would be firmly opposed when the revenue bill went into conference.

Under the Couzens proposal, a person subject to a normal tax of \$100 on his 1934 income would pay \$110.

Next day the senate adopted the La Follette estate taxes amendment to the bill, thus adding nearly \$100,000,000 more to the tax load of the country. The amendment puts a tax of 1 per cent on estates of \$40,000. This percentage is increased rapidly until 60 per cent is levied by the government upon estates of \$10,000,000 and more. Under the present law, estates up to \$50,000 are exempted from the tax.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S fishing trip on the Nourmahal ended with the arrival of the yacht at Miami. Friends advised against his landing, remembering the attempt on his life there two years ago, but he laughed at their fears. However, he and Secretary McIntyre drove directly from the pier to the train and the President was back in Washington on the next day.

General Johnson, Donald Richberg, Secretary McIntyre and some twenty White House correspondents and their wives narrowly escaped death as they were going from Coral Gables to meet the President at the water front. A big combination automobile trailer in which they were riding got across the railway tracks just in time to avoid by inches being struck by a speeding train.

JUST before he left Washington for Miami to meet the President and accompany him back to the Capital, General Johnson decreed a radical reorganization of the NRA along lines similar to those of the army. The most important part of this shakeup was the appointment of Lieut. Col. G. A. Lynch, an infantry officer of the regular army, as Johnson's right-hand man. Colonel Lynch, whom the administrator describes as "the most advanced thinker in the United States army," is given full jurisdiction over all matters not otherwise assigned. He has complete authority to approve codes, orders, amendments and other modifications, and may sign codes that do not require the signature of the President.

ADMINISTRATOR JOHNSON'S order to the bituminous coal industry to put into effect a seven-hour day and new minimum wage rates was bitterly attacked by southern coal producers at a code revision hearing in Washington. Especially objectionable to the Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky operators was the reduction in wage differentials accorded southern coal fields.

LABOR conditions in the Detroit area, mostly affecting the automobile industry, remained in chaotic condition, despite the partly successful efforts of government mediators. The strike at the plant of the Motor Products corporation, which had caused a shutdown of the factory of the Hudson Motor company, was settled when Edward P. McGrady, assistant to Gen. Hugh Johnson, laid before the strikers terms that had been accepted by the corporation. The workers agreed to the terms, which called for a 10 per cent increase in pay and arbitration of disputes over piece work pay rates. This enabled the Hudson plant to reopen.

The 1,700 employees of the Campbell, Wyant & Cannon foundry at Muskegon, Mich., struck. The concern makes castings for automobile builders. The 4,600 employees of the Nash Motor company still were on strike at Kenosha, Wis.

The Mechanics Educational Society of America, an organization of tool and die makers, had voted to strike unless executives of jobbing plants met their demands for a 20 per cent pay increase and 38-hour week. There was a strike by 800 employees of the Detroit-Michigan Stove com-

pany who demanded a 20 per cent wage increase, and pickets attacked men who approached the plant to work.

Industrial plants in Connecticut were involved in numerous strikes and labor disputes. The attitude of the workers was expressed by John J. Egan, secretary of the Connecticut Federation of Labor, who said: "No company should declare any dividends until the 1929 wage level is restored."

SAMUEL INSULL, fallen utilities magnate, is on his way home to be tried for his alleged misdoings in connection with the bankruptcy of his financial empire. Turned over to the American authorities by the Turkish government, he was taken from Istanbul by coastal steamer and train to Smyrna and there put aboard the American export liner Exilona. He is due to land in New York about May 20.

SECRETARY OF WAR DERN completed the formation of the committee which will investigate the army air corps and its tragic attempt to carry the air mails. Newton D. Baker, war-time secretary of war, accepted the chairmanship of the committee which was declined by Col. Charles A. Lindbergh. The other civilians named to assist the military members are Dr. Karl Taylor Compton, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Dr. George W. Lewis, director of aeronautical research for the national advisory committee on aeronautics; Clarence D. Chamberlin, noted transatlantic flyer; Maj. James H. ("Jimmie") Doolittle, widely known flyer and aeronautical engineer, and Edgar S. Gorrell, president Stutz Motor Car company.

BEFORE the criminal court in Washington Bishop James Cannon, Jr., of the Methodist Church South, and Miss Ada L. Burroughs of Richmond, his aid in the anti-Smith campaign of 1928, were finally arraigned to answer to charges of having violated the corrupt practices act.

If convicted they would face a possible term of two years in prison or a fine of \$10,000 or both. The specific charge is that only \$17,300 of the \$65,300 contribution made by Edwin C. Jameson of New York to the anti-Smuth Democrats' headquarters committee.

It was indicated that the defense would contend that Miss Burroughs did not have to report the \$48,000 in question, arguing that it was spent within the confines of Virginia by the state anti-Smuth committee.

IF HENRY A. WALLACE has his way, Arthur W. Cullen, millionaire member of the Chicago wheat pit, will be barred from future trading on grain exchanges. The secretary of agriculture summoned Cullen to appear before the Grain Futures administration in Chicago on May 14 to answer charges of failing to report his trades, as required by the grain futures act, with making false reports, and with concealing his trades through false entries, dummy accounts and other collusive practices. The alleged offenses were committed in 1930 and 1931.

FRANK WALKER, chairman of the President's national emergency council, made announcement of the next step in the administration's recovery program, the financing of housing projects all over the country with federal funds. New homes are to be built; old homes are to be repaired, remodeled, spruced up. Mortgagees are to be given on generous terms, with interest low and payment permitted over 10 and 20 years.

All of the activities of the government related to housing—such as the subsistence homestead plan, the Home Owners' Loan corporation, the home loan bank board, the farm credit administration, the Department of Agriculture's program of new housing for farmers—are to be co-ordinated under a single authority.

There is both an emergency and a permanent program in the scheme, and the temporary program as contemplated will be a rousing campaign, with citizens, real estate men, building contractors, union leaders, and laborers all being exhorted to join in a patriotic movement toward the restoration of the still slumbering construction industry.

WILLIAM WALLACE McDOWELL of Butte, Mont., the new American minister to the Irish Free State, collapsed and died of heart disease during a banquet in his honor given by President Eamon De Valera in Dublin castle. Mr. McDowell was responding to congratulatory speeches when he fell back into his chair and expired almost instantly.

Imposing Defenses of a Bloodier Turkish Age



CHARACTERISTIC of the new Turkey is the fact that the harem of the Ottoman sultans, who for centuries tyrannized over the Near East, has been transformed into a museum, and the casual visitor may wander through precincts once more closely guarded than any other in all the world. The harem was the most luxurious of women's prisons—for prison it was for its inhabitants—with its elaborate entrances, pillared courtyards, beautiful mosaics and jeweled treasures, including a throne inlaid with 25,000 pearls and a cradle inlaid with 120,000 pearls. In the days of its glory the harem contained from 300 to 400 women at a time. Four of these were the legal wives of the sultan, in accordance with the teachings of the Koran, and the others were attendants of the wives. The picture shows the fortress-like entrance to the palace, which represents several centuries of building.

BEDTIME STORY FOR CHILDREN

By THORNTON W. BURGESS

THE STRANGER WITH THE BEAUTIFUL COAT

PETER RABBIT never will forget the first time he saw Glory the Cardinal, sometimes called Redbird. He had just hopped over the Old Orchard when a beautiful clear, loud whistle drew his eyes to the top of an apple tree. With a little gasp of sheer astonishment and delight Peter stopped short. He couldn't quite believe that he saw what he thought he saw. He hadn't supposed that anyone even among the feathered folk could be quite so beautiful.

The stranger was dressed all in red except a little black around the base of his bill. Even his bill was red. He wore a beautiful red crest, which made him still more distinguished looking. And how he could sing!

Of course Peter lost no time in hunting up Jenny Wren. "Who is it, Jenny? Who is that beautiful stranger with such a lovely song?" cried Peter as soon as he caught sight of Jenny.

"Glory the Cardinal," replied Jenny Wren promptly. "Isn't he the loveliest thing you've ever seen? If I were Mrs. Cardinal I'm afraid I should be jealous. There she is in the very same tree with him. Did you ever see such a difference?"

Instead of the beautiful red of Glory, Mrs. Cardinal wore a very dull dress. Her back was a brownish-gray and her throat a grayish-black. Her breast was a dull buff with a faint tinge of red. Her wings and tail were tinged with dull red. But if she wasn't handsomely dressed she could sing.

"I've noticed," said Peter, "that people with fine clothes spend most of their time thinking about them and are of very little use when it comes to real work in life."

"Well, you needn't think that of Glory," declared Jenny in her vigor.

Do YOU Know—



That there are no "skyscrapers" in Paris. A decree of 1902 issued by the Prefecture—the center of the city government—limits the height of all buildings to sixty-five feet.

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A LITTLE SECRET SMILE

By Anne Campbell.

WE SAT and talked beneath the trees,
A scarlet bird sang from the wall.
The wind blew silver harmonies,
And Paula did not speak at all.

Of those who shared the garden close,
She was the only prisoner;
She and a flaunting yellow rose
From the green garden could not stir.

In her low chair she sat apart,
Her trusted crutches by her side,
Her eyes the mirror of her heart,
Her busy hands a sign of pride.

And as we spoke of many things,
The changing world, the lengthening
mile,
She watched the flirt of redbird's wings,
And smiled a little, secret smile.

Across her countenance it went,
As sunlight flits upon the sea;
And watching her, I grew content
With life, and all it gave to me.

In that gay group of women none
Abjured the world but she... The grace
Of her sweet spirit met the sun
And played upon her classic face.
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BONERS



The Anzacs are a ferocious half-cannibal tribe that live in the heart of Africa.

BONERS are actual humorous tid-bits found in examination papers, essays, etc., by teachers.

Venison comes from frogs.

The boy and girl studied their music lesson good in order that they wouldn't be connoisseurs by the teacher.

A pullet surprise is awarded every year in America for the best novel.

The people in the Tropics don't wear much clothing. They dress like statues.

Archeology is a study of ancient iniquities.

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Mother's Cook Book

CULINARY KIN

A GOOD soup is almost an indispensable part of the day's menu. Soup, like salad, may be made from almost anything with flavor. Those who have a soup pot always ready with stock may have countless variations, but for the small family bouillon cubes or beef extract are a great boon. A good soup stock may be made from vegetables with a cube or two of meat flavor or a teaspoon of extract.

Vegetable Soup.

Slice one large onion, a small turnip, three stalks of celery, three dozen peppercorns, six cloves, a stick of cinnamon and three bay leaves, the same amount of parsley, thyme, and summer savory. Cover with plenty of cold water and simmer for two hours. Strain through a coarse muslin, and for each quart of vegetable liquor add a teaspoonful of extract or two cubes. Boil up and serve. From this stock, with gelatin, one may have a good flavored aspic.

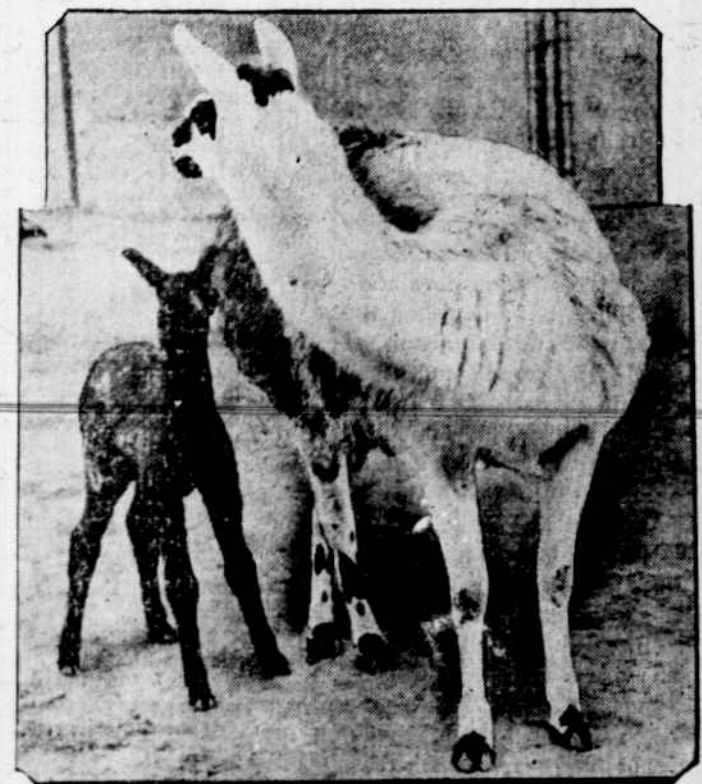
Split Pea Soup.

This is especially appetizing when carefully prepared. Soak the peas over night, then put them on to cook with an onion and a half pound or more of salt pork (one may use pigs' hocks, a ham bone or fresh pork if one prefers). Cook slowly for hours until the peas are thoroughly cooked and the fat pork well done. Serve with small cubes of the pork in each soup dish. For a pound of peas and the same of pork one may use at least two quarts of water. This will serve a large family with a bowl of nourishing soup.

Potted Fish.

Pick cold cooked fish into pieces, season with salt, pepper, mace and

Baby Llama Is Native Californian



"BOLIVIA" escaped a lifetime of dragging freight over the Andes by picking out Fleishacker park in San Francisco for its birthplace. "Bolivia" is the son of "Chile" and "Peru," the park's representatives of the llama family. This infant llama is one of the very few ever born in this country. The picture shows "Bolivia" with its mother.