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News Review of Current Events the World Over

General Butler's Fantastic Story of Fascist Plot to Seize the Government—Strike in the Great Steel Industry Becomes Imminent.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

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SOBER minded American citizens find it difficult to take seriously the fantastic story that Maj. Gen. Smedley D. Butler told to the congressional committee investigating un-American activities. This retired officer of marines charges that there is a plot, engineered by Wall Street men, to seize the government of the United States and set up a Fascist dictatorship, and the chairman of the committee, Representative John W. McCormack of New York, considered the tale of enough importance to warrant the calling of witnesses to prove or disprove it. General Butler made his story public through the columns of the New York Evening Post, as the proceedings of the committee are conducted in private.

If Butler is to be believed, he was approached by Gerald P. MacGuire, bond salesman in the stock exchange firm of Grayson M. P. Murphy and Company, and urged to accept the leadership of a soldier organization of half a million men "which would assemble—probably a year from now—in Washington, and that within a few days it could take over the functions of the government." MacGuire, according to the general, thought the overturn of the government might be accomplished peacefully and suggested that "we might even go along with Roosevelt and do with him what Mussolini did with the king of Italy."

Butler's story continued: "He told me he believed that at least half of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars would follow me.

"MacGuire explained to me that they had two other candidates for the position of 'Man on the White Horse.' He said that if I did not accept an offer would be Hanford MacNider, former commander of the American Legion. "So far as I know, neither General MacArthur nor MacNider has been approached. Their names were merely mentioned as 'alternates.'"

The general said he was offered considerable sums "for expenses" which he did not accept. He said MacGuire intimated that among the backers of the plan were Mr. Murphy and Col. Robert S. Clark, a wealthy New Yorker with offices in the Stock Exchange building; and he added that later Colonel Clark offered him money to go to the American Legion convention in Chicago last year and make a speech for retention of the gold standard, which speech MacGuire had previously given Butler.

Clark, at present in France, admitted he had asked Butler "to use his influence in favor of sound money and against inflation," but strongly denied that he had sponsored a Fascist movement. He declared he would take action for libel against any person accusing him in such a connection.

Murphy and other Wall Street men said the story was absolutely false and unutterably ridiculous, and MacGuire, after being heard by the McCormack committee, said: "It's a joke—a publicity stunt. I know nothing about it. The matter is made out of whole cloth. I deny the story completely."

SO FAR as the great steel industry is concerned, it appears that the industrial truce asked by President Roosevelt cannot be arranged, and the prospect of a strike of the steel workers is growing.

In behalf of the United States Steel corporation, a proposal was made to the American Federation of Labor recognition of that organization would be granted, but that no contract would be made. This proposal, it was said, would be agreed to by 85 per cent of the steel industry.

The labor spokesmen, led by William Green, president of the A. F. of L., rejected the tender on the ground that it was hedged about in such a way to permit collective bargaining with minority groups or company unions, and that the employers were still unwilling to accept the principle of majority rule as set forth in the national labor relations board's decision in the Houde case.

If a rupture comes the Federation of Labor may find the federal govern-

ment rather unsympathetic. Mr. Green's influence in the White House has been waning noticeably and he has had no personal contacts with the President for some time.

BY ORDER of the national labor relations board there will be held soon a great workers' election which will determine whether organized labor shall dominate the country's rubber industry.

The board decreed that the Firestone Tire and Rubber company and the B. F. Goodrich company of Akron, Ohio, must allow their employees to ballot on the question of whether they want a company union or an American Federation of Labor union to represent them in collective bargaining under the NRA.

Twenty-one thousand workers, the largest number ever polled by the labor board on an NRA question, will participate in the election. In addition another 15,000 workers of the Good-year Rubber company may ballot on the same question.

DONALD R. RICHBURG, executive director of the national emergency council and now perhaps the President's chief adviser, addressing the Associated Grocers of America at their convention in New York, proposed the creation of a new federal body, combining functions of the NRA and the federal trade commission, to define and regulate concerted trade action in the "twilight zone" under antitrust laws.

Discussing the program for permanent NRA legislation, he reiterated his opposition to control of prices and production. He said the fixing of minimum wages and maximum hours had demonstrated its soundness for eliminating the worst forms of unfair competition in treatment of employees, and that admittedly dishonest business practices should be proscribed.

PHILADELPHIA lawyers are traditionally supposed to be able to unravel the worst of tangles, so President Roosevelt has picked one to be chairman of the national labor relations board. He is Francis Biddle, of the famous family of that name, and he succeeds Lloyd K. Garrison, who retired from the chairmanship to resume his duties as dean of the law school of the University of Wisconsin.

Francis Biddle has been engaged in law practice as a member of the Philadelphia firm of Barnes, Biddle, and Meyers. He served from 1922 to 1926 as assistant district attorney for the eastern district of Pennsylvania. In his new post his task will be the settlement of labor disputes arising out of the recovery act, especially those involving collective bargaining.

FRANCE is worried by the admitted fact that Germany has developed a military air fleet of considerable size, composed of modern pursuit and bombing planes, and Gen. Victor Denain, French minister of air, estimates that by January the fleet will have from 1,000 to 1,100 of these machines, swifter and better than those possessed by France. Consequently he has asked the chamber of deputies for about \$230,000,000 to finance a program for recovering the ground lost by French aviation. The task is already under way, \$22,500,000 having been spent out of an appropriation for modernization.

HUGH R. WILSON, American ambassador to Switzerland, laid before the disarmament conference in Geneva a proposal by the United States for international control of arms traffic and full publicity to prevent secret arming of nations. The proposal was well received by most of the delegates, and it will be studied by committees in January.

By the American plan each government would license its manufacturers of munitions for five year periods. No reserve stocks would be allowed and manufacturers would be required to present bona fide orders before receiving a license. Details of war vessels built for other nations would have to be reported. Reports of licenses and orders would be turned over to a central committee at Geneva and made a matter of public record. A permanent commission, including a member from each signatory nation, would be empowered to investigate transactions.

NOTABLES of the Catholic church gathered in Chicago from all parts of the world to take part in the silver jubilee of Cardinal Mundelein, who was consecrated a bishop 25 years ago. The pope sent his personal greetings and his blessing.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT is revealing in baths and rest at Warm Springs, Ga., but he is not neglecting the nation's business, keeping in close touch with Washington and receiving many official visitors. At his first press conference there he announced with glad smiles that he would again "lend his birthday," January 30, to the national committee that arranges birthday balls all over the country for the benefit of infantile paralysis sufferers.

COMPTROLLER GENERAL J. R. McCARL has thrown a monkey-wrench into part of the machinery of Relief Administrator Harry L. Hopkins. Turning down a check from Hopkins to the officials of the District of Columbia which was to have started work on a housing development, Mr. McCarl held that the federal emergency relief act, providing for the granting of funds for various relief purposes, could not apply to the acquisition of real estate and the construction of homes. This type of activity, he said, would be of a permanent and not an emergency nature, and the act was adopted to meet emergencies.

The FERA already has under way a program of "rehabilitating" 80,000 farm families in homes and on land to be sold to them by the government.

MORE and more it becomes evident that President Roosevelt intends to pursue a middle of the road policy in his efforts for national recovery, and that in the over-

whelmingly Democratic next congress there will be no one faction strong enough to dictate to him. The Chief Executive and the business leaders of the country are gradually coming together, and if and when they reach an accord on methods it will be found that a good many of the more radical ideas of the brain trusters will have been discarded. The best minds in industry and finance are no longer standing back and merely criticizing. They are taking an active part in planning for the future welfare of the nation. Here-with are summarized some of the important new developments in this direction:

President Henry I. Harriman of the United States Chamber of Commerce, in pursuance of a resolution adopted by the board of directors, has appointed a committee of six men, headed by Silas Strawn of Chicago, to co-operate with other business and agricultural associations in drafting plans for the recovery of business. The board of the chamber endorsed the continuation of relief and housing, but signified that business is still opposed to the unbalanced budget, further reduction of working hours as embodied in the movement for a 30-hour week, new and unprecedented outlays for public works, continuance of the NRA, the doctrine of majority rule in collective bargaining, and unemployment insurance.

Through the National Association of Manufacturers, invitations were sent to every manufacturer in the United States to attend a national industrial conference in New York on December 5 to draft "constructive recommendations" for presentation to President Roosevelt.

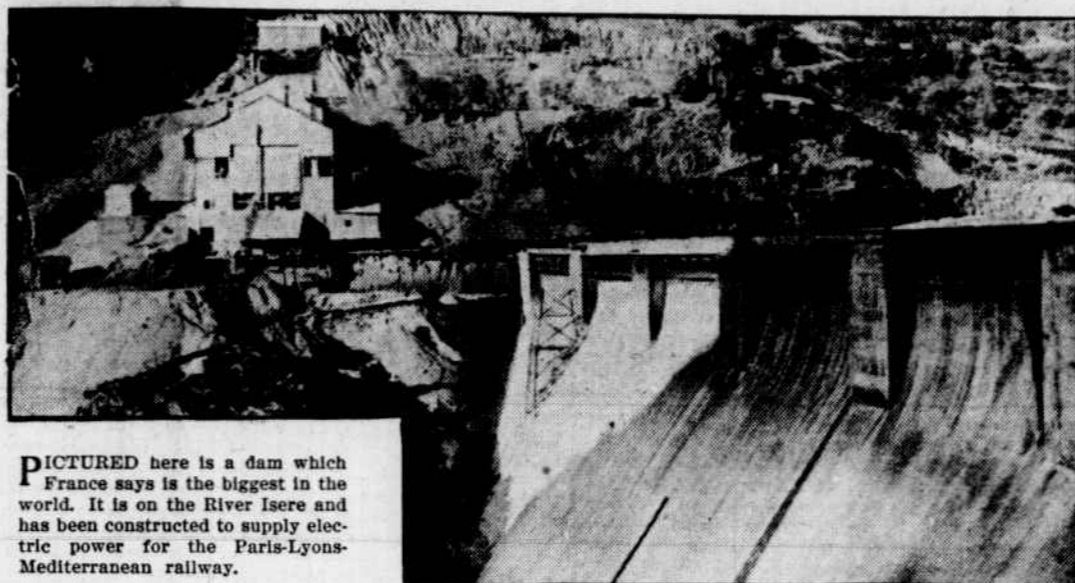
In a petition addressed to the President and congress the National Economy league has presented a definite program for balancing the federal budget in the coming fiscal year, holding that only by balancing the budget can sustained national recovery be accomplished. The petition proposes heavy reductions in government expenditures and additional taxes totaling \$935,000,000.

NOT so pleasing to the industrialists were the two speeches the President delivered during his inspection of the Tennessee valley project, for if his predictions are borne out, his "revolution" will bring about the death of private enterprise in the power industry. At Tupelo, Miss., he declared himself flatly for public ownership of public utilities, saying: "What you are doing here is going to be copied in every state in the Union before we are through"; the allusion being to the fact that Tupelo has contracted for TVA power.

In Birmingham the President said: "I am aware that a few of your citizenry are leaving no stone unturned to block and harass and delay this great national program. I am confident, however, that these obstructionists, few in number in comparison with the whole population, do not reflect the views of the overwhelming majority."

"I know, too, that the overwhelming majority of your business men, big and little, are in hearty accord with the great undertaking of regional planning now being carried forward."

France Claims This Dam Is the Biggest



PICTURED here is a dam which France says is the biggest in the world. It is on the River Isere and has been constructed to supply electric power for the Paris-Lyons-Mediterranean railway.

Bedtime Story for Children

By THORNTON W. BURGESS

PETER LISTENS FOR SOMETHING

THE leaves of the trees turned yellow and red and brown. They began to drop, a few at first, and more and more every day, until all but the spruce trees and the pine trees and the hemlock trees and the fir trees and the cedar trees were bare. The fur of Peter's coat was growing thicker. The grass of the Green Meadows had turned brown. All these things were signs which Peter knew well. They meant that rough Brother North Wind and Jack Frost were on their way down from the Far North to stay.

Peter spent a great deal of time in the dear Old Brier Patch just sitting still and listening. He didn't know what he was listening for. It just seemed to him that there was something he ought to hear at this time of year, and so he sat listening and listening and wondering what he was listening for.

Then late one afternoon there came floating down to him from high up in the sky, faintly at first, but growing louder, a sound unlike any Peter had heard all the long summer through. The sound was of many voices mingled. "Honk! Honk! Honk! Ka-honk, honk.

honk, ka-honk!" they cried. Peter gave a little jump.

"That's what I've been listening for," he thought. "Honker the Goose and his friends are coming! Oh, I do hope they will stop where I can pay them a call."

He hopped out to the edge of the dear Old Brier Patch that he might see better, and looked up in the sky. Very high up, flying in the shape of a letter V, he saw a flock of birds moving steadily from the direction of the Far North. By the sound of their voices he knew that they had flown far that day and were tired. One bird was in the lead, and this he guessed to be his old friend Honker. Straight over his head they passed, and as Peter listened to their cries he felt within him the very spirit of the Far North, that great, wild, lonely land which he had never seen, but of which he had so often heard.

Suddenly Honker turned and headed in the direction of the Big River. Then he began to slant down, his flock following him. Presently they disappeared behind the trees along the bank of the Big River. Peter gave a happy sigh. "They are going to spend the night there," thought he. "When the moon comes up I will run over there, for then they will come ashore, and I know just where. Now that they've arrived I know that winter is not far away. Honker's voice is as sure a sign of the coming of winter as is Winsome Bluebird's that Spring will soon be here."

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QUESTION BOX

By ED WYNN . . .
The Perfect Fool

Dear Mr. Wynn:
I went into a restaurant the other day and ordered some "liver and bacon." The waitress brought me some bacon, but said I would have to wait for my liver until after the two men at the next table were served. What answer have you for that?
Truly yours,
PHIL HARMONIC.

Answer: That is the toughest question I've had, but I've worked it out. The two men must have ordered before you placed your order. They probably ordered liver, the same as you. She served them first because she didn't want you to have your "liver out of order."

Dear Mr. Wynn:
I just arrived in town today and noticed some signs on the lamp-post. I am a little nearsighted and cannot see what are on the signs. Can you tell me what they are for and why they are up so high?
Yours truly,
I. VORY.

Answer: They are put on top of the lamp posts so that people passing will see them. You are supposed to climb up the post and read the sign. If it says "fresh paint" then you know you shouldn't lean against the post.

Dear Mr. Wynn:
I am a married man with three children. I keep working but seem unable to make both ends meet. What shall I do?
Sincerely,
AL. TRUISTIC.

Answer: That's easy. If you can't make both ends meet, make one vegetable.
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Portrait of One Business Man

By ANNE CAMPBELL

THEY say in business he plays chess. He takes no stock in happiness. Or the well being or the hope. Of those who work for him, and grope Back to the light of day again. The boss plays chess. . . . His pawns are men.

He sits aloof from those who try To please him, with a wary eye. Upon his interests . . . and feels Himself a man of high ideals. With no thought but of gain, he plays A game of stalling and delays.

I think there is a Power that sees His many needless cruelties. And sometime, though the years are long, That bait the weak, and feed the strong. The Boss will hear, as lights grow dim: "Checkmate!" . . . It will be said to him!

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water, cover and bake in a moderate oven about one hour. Remove the cover the last 15 minutes and brown. They are delicious without mushrooms, or with a bit of sausage.

Walnut and Salmon Salad.

Separate into flakes one-fourth of a cupful of canned salmon. Take one-half cupful of walnut meats coarsely chopped. Shred three-fourths of a cupful of cabbage, let stand in cold water to crisp. Drain, mix with the salmon and nuts, add one cupful of cooked salad dressing and serve on lettuce.

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Upholstery Satin



Upholstery satin appears for evening wear in this white and fuchsia striped gown of intriguing cut. The skirt follows the new line—fitted at the waist with fullness from the hips down. The corsage matches the fuchsia stripes.

DADA KNOWS—



"Pop, what is scrutiny?" "Scientist's glance."
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Restoring Historic Minnesota Home



LADIES of the D. A. R. are shown inspecting restorative work in the home of Henry Hastings Sibley at Mendota, Minn. The occasion was the one hundredth anniversary of the arrival of Sibley, Minnesota's first governor, who led the forces that quelled the Sioux uprising in 1862-63. The original wicker bird cage, wooden dash churn, sink and utensils are shown in the picture.

Do YOU Know—



That "chop suey" is unknown in China—except in a few semi-foreign restaurants. It was "invented" and named in the Southern Pacific railroad camps in America, more than half a century ago. A cook for Chinese workmen threw in a little of everything and called it "chop suey."
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GIRLIGAGS



"The trouble with most wives," says knowing Norah, "is that the only time they will listen to what their husbands have to say is when they talk in their sleep."
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