Scenes and Persons in the Current News



Descend Among Bicycles Many Strikes and Worries Two Flags That Clash Two National Hymns

This column, like others to follow, written in Europe, traveling about by auto-



see things clearly, and describe them simply, according to the old formula. You descend from the ship at

Havre into a world on wheels, bicycle wheels, a change from the world on automobile wheels left on the other side

Arthur Brisbane of the Atlantic. Here working men and women, thousands of them, ride to and from work, ten to thirty abreast, depending on the width of the street.

They have the right of way, properly, in a democracy.

So it used to be in America, when automobiles were new, small boys shouted "Get a horse," and New York state law compelled the automobile driver to stop his car and engine, while a farm wagon passed, if the farmer raised his hand, or even lead the farm team past his machine if the farmer requested it. Here the car stops, while bicycles circulate around it on both sides. Similarly, you stop, later, meeting flocks of sheep, on roads across the salt marshes of the Vendee.

many political parties, and, at the moment, a land of strikes. Like all other European countries, it is a land of permanent war scares. America looks upon war as a diswhen it comes spends billions on never go to sea, and similar evidences of patriotic dollar-a-year efficiency. Europe's nations live in a state of fear, as an American family might live if it knew that, at any moment, well-equipped gangsters from next door might enter, "shoot up" the household and set fire to the house.

American travelers leaving the boat by railroad, descending in Paris at the Saint Lazare station, were surprised to find crowds fighting each other, not waiting for Germany, crowds made up entirely of Frenchmen of different political opinions.

Some wore ribbons with the red, white and blue colors of the French flag; others, more numerous, wore the plain color red. One side sang the "Marseillaise," national hymn of France since the revolution.



DEVERLY HILLS, CALIF. -The future has a rotten trick of mussing up the judgments of the present. What a pity it is that we can't wear our hind-sights in front.

When I read where some ponderous performing pachyderm of the literary elephant quadrille says, "This story will live forever," I get to thinking about a time-yellowed copy of a

metropolitan newspaper that was printed on November 20, 1863.

It devoted great gobs of praise and nine solid columns very solid-to the eloquence of the Hon. Edward Everett of Massachusetts, who, on the day before, after Irvin S. Cobt months of prepa-

ration had, on a battlefield down in Pennsylvania, spoken two hours and turned loose enough oratory to fill about nine gas balloons. But of the subsequent and incidental remarks of another man, an awkward, shy man from Illinois, who had spoken just two minutes, it "The President was also said, heard briefly. The applause was formal and scattering."

Prejudices of Critics

OFTEN, 'twould seem, the professional reviewer makes up France is a land of bicycles, of his mind beforehand that he doesn't like you and behaves accordingly.

A friend sent me a clipping from a small city-it dealt with the opening of the picture, "Everybody's tant, improbable possibility, and Old Man." The writer was quite severe in his analysis. He didn't airships that do not fly, ships that like the film. Passionately, he didn't care for me.

The joke was that the theater where the picture was to have been shown burned down just about the time the paper went to press, and the picture wasn't ever shown in that town.

The next best illustration of the point I'm making dates back years ago. I was discussing various novelists with that gentle wit, the late Oliver Herford.

"Ollie," I said, "what do you think of So-and-So's books?" "My dear Cobb," he softly murmured, "something I once wrote about him -in a critical way-so prejudiced me against the man I could never bear to read any of his books." . . .

Self-Anointed Dukes.

OUT here we're waiting for that Spanish baron and that French count back in New York to form the mother branch of their Noblemen's club for the protection of holders of genuine titles in America and, presumably, as a guarantee to our own home-grown heiresses that, when they marry foreign princelings or what not, the goods will be as described. There's been a lot of title-legging, you know.



1-Drouth-stricken cattle being driven to a rail head from Pierre, S. D., for shipment to the eastern part of South Dakota. 2-Under Secretary of State William Phillips who is mentioned as successor to Breckinridge Long, as ambassador to Italy. 3-Vice President John N. Garner (right) and Gen. Eduardo Hay, Mexico's secretary of foreign affairs, at dedication of Pan-American highways at Laredo, Texas.

San Diego Girl Is Selected as War Vets' Queen

Shapeliness and charm were the two principal attributes which won the title of "Miss American Le-

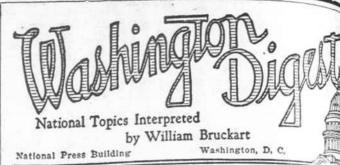


gion" for Betty Fulkerson of San Diego (shown above), when war veterans recently gathered at the California-Pacific International ex-



Quick Lunch for the Stenographer

A brand new grill with cooking surface of an amazing new aluminum alloy so sensitive to heat that a single folded newspaper provides sufficient fuel for cooking an egg enables hard-working stenographers to eat in the office during rush hours. Photo shows Laurette O'Neill testing the device at the International Homefurnishing show in the Merchandise Mart in Chicago.



Washington .- The steel industry of the United States has cast for itself a role in the

Labor and forthcoming cam-Politics paign-whether it

or not. The same is true of John L. Lewis and his segment of organized labor-and it is pretty generally suspected that Mr. Lewis intended to get labor questions well mixed up in politics. It is all more important because' of President Roosevelt's attack on "economic royalists" in his Philadelphia acceptance speech.

Whatever rights the steel industry has or whatever rights Mr. Lewis and his followers have, the fact remains that they are all knee deep in politics and there is every reason to believe that each side will suffer in public esteem as a result. It means simply this: each side is mixing up problems that are basically economic in character with sordid, even unclean, political motives.

This outburst is prompted by two things: the gigantic steel industry has taken the position that it will defend itself against encroachment of professional labor leaders like Mr. Lewis and President William Green of the American Federation of Labor and their satellites "from any source." The steel industry thereby has thrown down the challenge and now that such a die is cast, the steel industry will be compelled to do a number of indefensible things if it adheres to its program.

The same condition is to be observed in the organized labor situation. Whether Mr. Lewis is willing to admit it or not, his declaration that he will foster, even enforce, his scheme for organizing the steel workers is likely to lead to overzealous acts by his followers-and overzealous and foolish acts all too frequently lead to bloodshed.

For a number of years, steel companies have refused steadfastly to recognize un-Steel Bucks ion labor as rep-Unions resented by the

professional leaders in the American Federation of Labor. They have attempted to defeat the inroads of that organization by forming what is known as company unions, groups of employees on the pay roll of each corporation. They have accorded to these groups the right of collective bargaining and have insisted that they

would deal only with the representatives of the company unions for the reason that they believe they then are dealing with the employees concerned with question: of pay and working conditions in that particular plant. If the national unions were recognized, officials of a given company always have had to negotiate with the expert union ne-

they be engineers, penters, moulders or any the various other crafts Since the steel company unions, viction in many ou Lewis might well whether this is the t forward his program of steel workers under natio union control. There are t believe that the company eventually will become units larger labor structure of the try and, if that be true, it is to appear that Mr. Lewis has

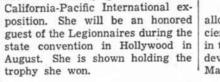
labor's cause.

On the other hand, the steel dustry already is under attac the government. Mr. Room suddenly "cracked down" ÚD a of the major companies rea charging them with colluring bids on government work came out with this charge time which undoubtedly will g the backbone of the union tors-and it is not unlikely the the same token he has still the resistance which the steel panies will use.

Yet, it does seem that the companies made a fatal sida the pronouncement they have sued. There are too many be who will be inclined to believe the steel companies have taken vantage of an apparent assurof collapse of federal supervi There are few who believe that federal compulsory collective gaining statute will last very but the fact that this statut due for the discard, it seems me, hardly warrants the at which the steel companies taken. They are no more ranted in that than union lab warranted in taking advantage the political situation to fe their own nest. A real darger, addition to this, is that Comm agitators are going to use this ation as one vehicle for spretheir propaganda of dissatisfat and discontent and Mr. Roose attack on massed capital unfor nately lends itself to the netaring schemes of the Reds. It long has been said that

method of administering laws quently has a Tax Law ed more dis faction among Irritation

citizens than requirements of laws themse Tax laws of whatever kind im a splendid example. It has also been true since we have had come tax laws that targat have complained more about i reaucratic regulation, indecis lack of uniformity in administ tion and, generally speaking si processes of settlement than ab the amount they were required pay. The same is true about a customs laws despite the fact they affect fewer persons directly The other day, the freasury sued a notice to customs inspec that was "effective immediately It was a change in policy resper ing the quantity of goods an ind vidual may bring in from lotes shores without the payment d customs tax. Since 1798 or thereabouts, the has been a law which permitted returning American to bring t commodities of whatever kind! desired, except narcotics, up \$100 in value but that law permit ted the Treasury to make enter tions. The Treasury notice the d er day was an announcement an exception to this \$100 exemp tion. It said that no inbound tra eler could carry more than of wine gallon of liquor without payment of the customs tax then on. A practice had sprung up son the import duty on liquors has been made so high of returning tourist bringing in almost the full exemption tion in liquor alone. Probably in practice was getting very bad a no one questions the judgment d the Treasury in determining po cy. But it is the method employ in making this change that b aroused criticism. In ordering the new regulation "effective immediately," the Tres ury forced upon hundreds o tat elers the necessity for paying and on their personal stocks of light in what amounts to a surplish of der. They had left foreign share under one regulation and arrive der another. I have no doubt at all that the Treasury's reason for changing rule while the game was been played will result in a considerable amount of revenue for the gover ment. But there are many w believe, as I do, that the depart ment in all fairness should have sued its regulation to became effe tive at some fixed date in the ture in order that citizens who may comply with it would be prepare by proper notification of what the were expected to do and the pend ties for failure to obey. The incident to which I have " ferred is an outstanding example of inconsideration and such that always cause citizens to have hurt feeling, a feeling that the st ernment changed the rules with consulting those who must obey the rules.



Others wearing small red flags sang the "Internationale," officia] song of the Communists the world over, from Moscow to Harlem. Crowds grew bigger, the Frenchmen sang the two hymns at each other, more and more violently, with excellent voices, not one out of tune, all knowing the words of their respective hymns. The "Marsellaise" says, "Let us go, children of the fatherland, the day of glory has arrived"; the other says, "Arise ye prisoners of starvation; arise, ye wretched of the earth."

It was a scene never to be described, now that Dooley is dead, and Artemus Ward. Nobody bothered the descending foreigners from across the water. A few Frenchmen hit other Frenchmen, not hard, then agents of the Surete, whom we should call policemen, gradually dispersed the crowds, that met and sang at each other again the next day. They live in the suburbs and work in Paris, or vice versa, and, meeting in the railroad station, it enrages them to encounter those that sing the wrong hymn and wear the wrong colors.

Those singers have chests like drums, complexions that reveal countless billions of red corpuscles and voices that could be heard, almost, from Los Angeles to Santa Monica.

One of them broke off at the sad word "starvation" and said to your marrator, who had politely congrat ulated him on his vigor: 'Tenez, tatez mon bras, et j'ai soixante sept ans"-mcaning, "Here, feel my muscle, and I am sixty-sever years old."

The muscle rose in a biceps like a small melon.

The duty of a visiting foreigner is to observe, describe and not comment; but this writer, had he accepted the invitation to speak at the American club in Paris recently, would have suggested that the French, whose only earthly possession is France, should be careful not to tear that property apart, especially with Germany ready to gather up the pieces.

This crosses the water by mail, is not new, and not news, when you see it. Only heaven knows what might happen in a week. © King Features Syndionte, Inc. WNU Service.

As soon as the organization gets started we're going to open the Hollywood division. Since only the authentic nobility may qualify, it's figured that the active roster will be confined to a very limited group. . . .

The State of the Nation.

FAR be it from me to turn alarm-ist right on the heels of the hot wave, but I feel it my duty to warn my fellow-Americans that this fragile and crumbling republic is doomed. That is, it's doomed if you can believe what comes out of our sainted political leaders in the way of predictions.

Hark to the quavering chorus which already has started up: A crisis exists. Every professional crisis-breeder in the land openly admits it. I can't remember when a crisis wasn't existing. But they come larger in campaign years. We are facing a dread emergency which has had no parallel since the last occasion when we faced a dread emergency. This very hour the nation totters on the brink of an abyss. It has been tottering ever since George Washington was President-tottering worse at times, but always on the tot.

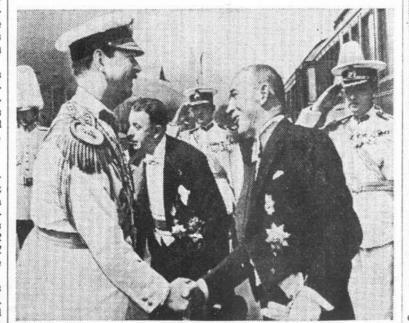
Miracles and Misdemeanors. ONCE upon an early time there was a man so holy that even the wild creatures would not harm him. He drew a thorn from the paw of a tame lion and the grateful beast followed after him. So he became a saint.

Only the other day in a court in Tanganyka, which is in Africa, a black man-a savage by our definitions-was on trial. It seemed the lions were raiding the stock, so the native authorities set traps for them. The accused found a lion in one of these traps and made a ladder and went down and helped the great brute to escape.

Being arrested, he explained simply that the lion was his friend. So they fined him \$12.50. In the olden times it was a miracle. Nowadays it's a misdemeanor.

IRVIN S. COBB C-WNU Service.

King Carol Greets Czechoslovak President



President Eduard Benes of Czechoslovakia was warmly greeted by King Carol of Rumania when he arrived in Bucharest for a conference of the Little Entente powers.

trolled Danzig senate.

Golden Gate Bridge Approaching Completion



Automobiles will be passing over the San Francisco-Oakland Bay bridge by next November, engineers predict. This view shows the center lane with the floor steel entirely erected on the West Bay Crossing. The bridge largest structure of its kind in the world, will cost \$77.209.000 on completion.

REPRESENTS LEAGUE

Removal of Sean Lester, League of Nations High Commissioner in the free city of Danzig has been demanded by Dr. Arthur Karl Greiser, president of the Nazi-con-

gotiators who are paid by the national organization. The results have not always been happy. This combination of circumstances, together with a disposition on the part of the steel companies, I am afraid, to be rather selfish in their attitude toward labor has developed a continuing controversy that has raged over the last score of years.

It happened that the rather insolent announcement of the steel companies, their challenge, came almost simultaneously with the delivery of President Roosevelt's speech accepting the Democratic nomination for re-election. It was in this speech, it will be remembered, where Mr. Roosevelt denounced "economic royalists," in which he resorted to expressions bound to create class hatred and in which he used language that is certainly going to help discredit corporations which are large enough to attract national attention. Of course, I know that Mr. Roosevelt did not have the steel industry particularly in mind in his assault on massed capital but the effect is the same as though he had been shooting directly at the steel industry because of the coincidence mentioned above.

The tragedy of the thing is that the professional labor leaders are going to use the steel industry's challenge politically; they are certain to attempt to gain government interference in their quarrel with the steel industry and, like all such conflicts, fairness on the part of either side to the controversy is likely to disappear because of the political mixture.

From all of the inside discussions that I have heard, it appears that

the issue between The Real the steel industry and its workers Issue

is no longer simply whether the steel industry shall be unionized. It is a question of how it shall be unionized. In addition to this, Mr. Lewis has been chiseling away for several years in promoting his labor union idea of organizing all workers in one unit instead of the craft union idea that is basic in the American Federation of Labor. That is to say, Mr. Lewis proposes to have a steel union or a shipbuilding union or a textile union instead of organizing the workers in accordance with the particular jobs they do, whether

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