

BRISBANE THIS WEEK

The Gold Decision
Beheading Women
Murder With Germs
The Atom, Absolute Zero

The Supreme court upholds the President and congress in their legislative and executive action outlawing gold as money in the United States and invalidating "gold clauses" in private contracts.



Arthur Brisbane

The Supreme court's decision is all the more important and gratifying, because every American knows that no consideration outside the letter of the Constitution could have influenced Chief Justice Hughes or his associates.

The Supreme court decision disposes of the statement that President Roosevelt's administration has been proceeding "regardless of the Constitution." The decision will be reassuring to business and the public generally.

From every point of view the beheading of women by Mr. Hitler's government seems to have been a painfully disgusting performance. The women's hands were bound with steel chains—in fear, perhaps, that they might bite through strings or straps. The agile headsman, in full dress, cut off both heads in six minutes. The women were beheaded out of doors in the night, just before dawn, with floodlights for the headsman's work.

Witnesses of the killings praise the composure of the two women. Each walked to her death erect, wrists chained behind her, showing no sign of fear. An eyewitness said: "They set a good example to our men, whom we usually have to drag to the scaffold."

You have read about "war with germs" in the next great outbreak. India proves that it could be done. At Alipore two are condemned to death, convicted of "germ murder." As rich Amarendra Nath Pandey walked along the street he felt a sharp stab. He cried out. A germ poisoner had injected plague germs into his blood. Amarendra died. His murderers were his step-brother and his doctor. Two other doctors, accused, were acquitted.

A well-organized germ war could be disagreeable, distributing disease germs above great cities and in reservoirs from planes.

At Leyden, in Holland, scientists have produced a degree of cold said to approach within one five-thousandth of a degree of absolute zero.

A gigantic electro-magnet, in combination with liquid helium, produces the lowest temperature ever known on earth.

The lowest possible degree of cold, the absolute zero, would be minus 273 degrees centigrade, or minus 459.6 Fahrenheit. At least science thinks so. It used to call the atom "smallest fragment of matter."

Science needs "absolute zero" to help in tearing apart the atom, now known to be a miniature solar system.

Doctor Steinach of Vienna, whose business has been transplanting glands of lower animals to the bodies of men, to prolong youth and extend the years of possible parentage, announces now a "chemical substance" that makes transplanting glands unnecessary. The chemical, called progynon, possibly a compound of "progynon," is available for men or women.

The fact that a demand for it exists proves what fools there are, among men and women, seeking for more trouble, after kind nature has set them free.

Henry Ford views money philosophically as merely an abstract "indefinite, incoherent homogeneity," as Herbert Spencer might have called it. Mr. Cameron, broadcasting, mentioned casually the fact that Mr. Ford in one year lost \$68,000,000.

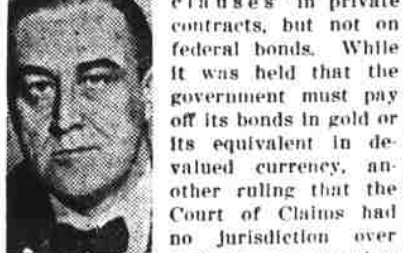
When this writer asked Henry Ford what was the most money he had lost in any year while "changing type" and reorganizing, he replied: "I didn't lose any money. I only distributed some money."

CURRENT EVENTS PASS IN REVIEW

ADMINISTRATION GOLD LAWS SUSTAINED BY DECISION OF SUPREME COURT.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT and the New Dealers breathed easier after the United States Supreme court handed down its decision sustaining invalidation of "gold clauses" in private contracts, but not on federal bonds. While it was held that the government must pay off its bonds in gold or its equivalent in devalued currency, another ruling that the Court of Claims had no jurisdiction over such cases means that it would be impossible for holders of federal bonds to collect on their old gold basis.



President Roosevelt

In other words, the holder of a \$1,000 federal bond is entitled to a technical value of \$1,000, but in reality it would be impractical to make any collection of that amount, since the Court of Claims is the only tribunal before which suits against the government may be taken, and other courts may not entertain such suits without a special act of congress.

The court also held that those who held gold certificates had no cause of action and could not sue the government. The power of congress to deal with currency was fully upheld.

Not only this country, but the entire world, awaited what the "nine lonely old men" of the Supreme court had to say about the Roosevelt monetary policies. The decision is ranked with the court's decisions in the Dartmouth college cases in 1818 which upheld the sanctity of contract, and in the Dred Scott slavery case in 1857 which had much to do with hastening the outbreak of the Civil war.

Briefly, the ruling said:

1. Congress has the power to nullify promises to pay in gold contained in the bonds of private corporations.
2. A gold certificate is worth only its face value in present devalued currency. Congressional power over the currency includes the right to establish circumstances under which gold certificates need not be redeemed in gold or its equivalent.
3. Congress has no authority under the Constitution to abrogate the payment-in-gold clause of government bonds, but, as no actual damage has been shown, therefore there is no basis for suit for recovery.

The decision was read by Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes, who voted with Justices Brandeis, Stone, Roberts and Cardozo in the majority. Dissenters were Justices McReynolds, Van Devanter, Sutherland and Butler, the four so-called conservatives.

Satisfaction within the administration was evident at once. Justice McReynolds was spokesman for the dissenters. He unleashed a scathing attack on the majority views. His voice vibrant, he said:

"The Constitution as we have known it is gone."

If given effect, the enactments here challenged will bring about confiscation of property rights and repudiation of national obligations.

"Just men regard spoliation of citizens by their sovereign with abhorrence, but we are asked to affirm that the Constitution has granted power to accomplish both."

"No definite delegation of such a power exists; and we cannot believe the farseeing framers, who labored with hope of establishing justice and securing the blessings of liberty, intended that the expected government should have authority to annihilate its own obligations and destroy the very rights which they were endeavoring to protect."

Notified that Chief Justice Hughes was reading the decision, President Roosevelt went to the cabinet room, where he listened to telephone reports from an aid. Three cabinet officers were at his side. The Chief Executive was prepared to take swift action to protect the credit of the government in case an adverse decision was handed down, but executive orders were unnecessary. The carefully prepared program was not needed.

After a three-hour conference between the President and administration leaders, Attorney General Cummings said:

"As far as they concern us, the decisions constitute a complete victory for the government all along the line."

The announcement caused stock and commodity markets to soar, and because of the speculative frenzy, the Chicago Board of Trade suspended all trading temporarily in accordance with a recent resolution of the directors. Grain exchanges in other cities did likewise. Stock exchanges remained open and the ticker was soon nine minutes behind the trading. Railroad stocks were particularly strong in view of the decision which held the carriers would not be obliged to liquidate their obligations in the new currency at the present price of gold. Had an adverse decision been handed down, a number of the country's strongest lines would have been forced into bankruptcy.

that body any information he may have regarding investigations of public works contracts with which Farley may have been connected. The postmaster general, who was in Sarasota, Fla., said merely: "I do not take it seriously."

Long did not get along so well with his demand for a senatorial investigation of Farley. It was referred to the post office committee, and Chairman McKellar said: "If there is anything to be investigated it will be investigated. But I don't know what the acts are. My committee will invite Farley and Long before it and will settle the matter on its merits as shown by the facts adduced."

D. R. F. E. Townsend of California, whose pension plan for the aged has gained the support of many thousands of thoughtful citizens, went before the senate finance committee and tried to explain how the government could get out of its economic troubles by paying \$200 monthly pensions to all persons over sixty, \$200 for commodities or services within the country each month. The senators didn't treat the proposition with much seriousness.

Chairman Harrison said that with 10,000,000 or more aged, the plan would cost \$24,000,000,000 a year. But a 2 per cent tax would raise only \$5,000,000,000, leaving a deficit of \$19,000,000,000 a year.

"Yes," Townsend said, "but we will not be able to put 10,000,000 on the pension immediately. It took two years to get 4,000,000 men into the army. We would have to examine each citizen for his citizenship and age, as we examined applicants for the army."

REPUBLICAN heavy guns, some light ones and a few Democratic mortars bombarded the \$4,880,000,000 work relief bill in the senate, and then the administration forces had a breathing spell over the week-end during which they worked hard to win over those members of their own party who were consorting with the enemy.



Senator Vandenberg

Senator Adams of Colorado, Democrat, who fears an appropriation of the size asked will damage the credit of the nation, carried to the floor the amendment that had been beaten in committee, namely, cutting the total amount to \$2,880,000,000.

Senator McCarran of Nevada, also a Democrat, was still arguing for his plan that the committee had rejected and the administration opposed, fixing work relief wages at the rates prevailing in different localities. The bill as modified by the senate appropriations committee after long controversy requires that prevailing rates be paid if the President finds wages in private industry are being undermined.

Vandenberg in the course of his speech asserted the bill would permit the government to compete with any business it pleased. In reply to this Senator Mahoney of Wyoming, who had just called on the President, said from the White House steps that Mr. Roosevelt is determined to authorize only projects that will not compete with private industry, and also that he "will use all his influence to maintain rates of wages and standards in private industry."

In a party conference the Republicans agreed to try to limit the bill to one year instead of two. Their reason is that as it stands the measure gives the President authority to allocate funds for projects through the months when the 1936 Presidential campaign will be going on. Most of the Republicans also favored the prevailing wage amendment, and some of them supported the plan fathered by Adams. The administration Democrats were still confident they could put the bill through without serious changes.

LIEUT. GALVIN M. BOLSTER, a member of the crew of the Macon, gave some sensational testimony before the naval board of inquiry into the causes of the disaster that befell the dirigible. He said that several months ago three girders in the ship's tail had sheared, and that only minor repairs had been made because the bureau of aeronautics ordered that the work should not interfere with training flights. Bolster added that this work had not been completed when the Macon started on her last flight, but that he did not consider the craft unsafe for flight over the ocean except in extremely violent air.

The same indication of structural weakness also was given by K. J. Davis, chief boatswain's mate, one of two crewmen on duty near the "casualty" spot in the rear.

All four fins, two horizontal and two vertical, were fastened to the allegedly weak girder, known technically as "No. 17 1/2."

Commander F. I. Ketch, judge advocate of the court, made pointed inquiries to determine if progressive bumpings encountered in anchoring the Macon at its Sunnyvale base might have strained the girder. The lower fin was attached to the ground car in the anchoring operation.

Bolster said such was a possibility, but he did not see how such jars could hurt the upper part of the girder, where the casualty occurred.

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart
National Press Building
Washington, D. C.

Washington.—Certain signs of transition are appearing in the political picture. They are becoming clear enough to deserve attention. What they may mean in the ultimate can be made only the subject of a guess—politics being what they are—but interesting circumstances can be noted as of this day and time.

Third Party Rumbblings

Third party rumbblings are beginning to be heard along the whole political front. This is noteworthy because third party rumbblings usually are confined to a few sectors, some important, some unimportant. The insurgents, radicals, progressives, and independents all seem to be examining the political horizons of 1936. Roughly, those factions enumerated have been classified as the "sons of the wild jackass," an appellation given them by George H. Moses of New Hampshire, when he was filling a Republican seat in the United States senate. The fact that they remain and that Mr. Moses has passed out of the political picture is not the point. It was his description of them that gave the country its first grouping of the political factions that have consistently kicked over the traces of the major political parties.

The fact that these various groups are again examining the potentialities and the possibilities of 1936 brings directly into question the progress made by the New Deal in its program of reformation or revolution, depending on the political perspective from which you consider the New Deal.

It is two years since President Roosevelt carried his New Deal into the White House. Much water has gone over the dam since. Many experiments have been tried and many have failed. Doubtless considerable progress of a satisfactory form has resulted. Yet, the "sons of the wild jackass" are not satisfied. It may be because Mr. Roosevelt has ceased to pull so many white rabbits out of a hat after the fashion of a magician, that has caused unaffiliated factions so much disturbance. Or it may be because the Republicans, as the opposition party at present, have been utterly stymied in their efforts to perform opposition functions that have proved the temptation for the so-called left wingers to capitalize whatever political opportunities remain for exploitation.

I think it is the general conclusion that the New Deal has not come up to expectations of the left wingers. Perhaps, it might be said that nothing that the New Dealers can offer will be quite satisfactory to the left wingers, for they are difficult to satisfy. Their fertile minds are even more productive of experimental ideas than are the minds even of the brain trusters, and no one has ever said a brain trust mind was not fertile. At any rate, the circumstance is cut and dried and an abundance of material for a third party awaits us by that type of politician.

Observers here agree that one cannot consider the outlook for 1936, and the national elections of that time, without considering the influence that these left wingers may wield. I believe it is conceded everywhere that if Mr. Roosevelt succeeds in leading the country through to a higher level of prosperity than now graces our fortunes the Republican chances to defeat him are very, very low. If, on the other hand, conditions continue as they now are, Mr. Roosevelt certainly is going to have to battle this progressive set-up—to adopt one label for all of them—as well as the conservative group centering largely in the Republicans. From this it becomes plain that a third party probably would draw away from Mr. Roosevelt all of those radicals and liberals who would go beyond his policies, while the Republicans obviously will hold their own conservative strength and sap the Roosevelt forces to some extent by taking conservative independents from that side. All in all, if the third party idea comes through, we can look for a fine political scramble from July to November of the 1936 campaign.

The progressives, including such men as LaFollette of Wisconsin, Norris of Nebraska, and Wheeler of Montana, to name only three, seem to feel that the New Deal program has about jelled. They know, as all political observers know, that there are a good many hundred thousand votes scattered around waiting to be cast in favor of a program much more radical than that to which Mr. Roosevelt has been willing to agree. But the progressives have a distinct problem of their own. It is an entire absence of an outstanding leader of the hero type who can sound the trumpet and call for the progressives to "follow me." My inquiries among all veins of political opinion have given me no clue to the name of an individual who can head up the movement. As I said above, however, results cannot be predicted now and one must add to that statement also that one cannot guess at the leadership of this new movement because it will have to jell further before that leadership appears on the horizon.

It is even possible that these current third party rumbblings will mean no more than they have in many cases

in the past. This is true because there is not a Theodore Roosevelt in sight at the moment and some astute politicians insist there is not one in the country. If a man of the late Teddy's type and qualities should come to the surface then probably this third party movement would develop into formidable proportions. If one does not show up, I do not see how the progressives will be any more in 1936 than the scattered fragments of a dozen-odd political philosophies.

That brings us to some of the circumstances in congress at the present time. In previous letters I have reported to you that there were signs indicating difficulties for Mr. Roosevelt in holding his gigantic Democratic majorities together in the house and senate. That condition has become somewhat more aggravated than it appeared when I first commented upon it. There have been minor defections breaking loose from the Democratic majority in the house and in the senate with considerable frequency. On one or two occasions the defections were exceedingly large and, when joined with the Republican minority, were almost large enough to constitute the majority strength. The Democratic leadership has wriggled out, thereby saving its skin, but the margin of safety was such as to cause sleepless nights not only in the Capitol, but in high places in the administration.

As one of the signs of this growing discontent, one has only to look back over the last few weeks and observe the continued prodding being given the administration from the Democratic side. The worst phase of this prodding is the apparent willingness of many Democratic representatives and senators to promote investigations.

There is a faction in congress, all claiming to be good Democrats, who are on the trail of Farley's Postmaster General Scalp. There is another bloc of equally good Democrats who would be quite happy to have Secretary Ickes ousted out of the position of secretary of the interior and who squawked loud and long about giving Mr. Ickes control of the \$5,000,000,000 relief appropriation.

Within the last few days a gang has banded together on the trail of Donald Richberg, until recently the man who was closest of any in the administration to the President. To add to Mr. Richberg's troubles, he is on the outs with the American Federation of Labor and it must be said that the federation can do a great deal with many members of the house and senate. So, when the legislation for continuance of the National Recovery Administration gets on the floors of congress I think it is likely this group will tear off some Richberg bark.

Governor Eccles of the Federal Reserve bureau, a rather new New Dealer and a fast thinker, has not helped the administration's situation in congress any by his bank bill. He has antagonized the most virulent fighter in the halls of congress, namely, Senator Glass, Democrat of Virginia, by the banking proposals which he sponsored. Senator Glass has always had a following in the senate and he has it now. Whatever he does, therefore, his leadership will be important because he will have not only his own following but the conservative Republicans as well.

The banking legislation, according to the view in many quarters, may turn out to be the focal point, the issue, on which the line of cleavage between the administration New Dealers and the conservatives will be definitely established.

In discussing congressional troubles for the administration no one dares overlook the sticky figure of Senator Huey Long. Huey just does not like Mr. Roosevelt. In fact Huey would like to be President himself. Political ambitions combined with a vitriolic tongue give Huey a broad platform upon which to perform and unless I miss my guess he is willing to be increasingly troublesome to the administration.

Huey knows that the administration is going to overlook no opportunity for harpooning him. Among the executive departments in Washington, one hears hints, and sometimes more than hints, that Huey is vulnerable and that these weaknesses in his armor will be exposed in due course. How much steam the administration can or will turn on is highly problematical. It must be remembered that if, for example, Attorney General Cummings should authorize or direct any action against Huey the Louisiana senator immediately would capitalize those orders as an administration movement to persecute him. In other words the administration is in a spot where it can easily make a martyr out of Huey. The result of that would be to strengthen Huey's position immeasurably. I am told that any fighting back on the part of the administration, in so far as Huey Long is concerned, is going to be given long and serious consideration because Huey is a political bombshell.

Constipated?

The doctors say . . .
Use liquid treatment

Here is the soundest advice anyone can give on the subject of laxatives. It is based on medical opinion. We want you to have the benefit of this information no matter what laxative you may buy:

The secret of real relief from constipation is reduced dosage. You can't regulate the bowels unless you can regulate the help you give them. That is why doctors use a liquid laxative; the dose can be measured to a drop.

Avoid laxatives that you can't cut down in dosage; especially those that seem to require larger doses than when you began their use.

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Dr. Caldwell's SYRUP PEPSIN

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