

This Week in Washington

by Ralph E. Church
Representative, 10th Congressional District

Chicago, Ill., Oct. 3.—"Equal Justice Under Law." Those are the words inscribed in bold letters over the pillared portal of the stately building of the United States Supreme court. They are expressive of the American ideal which permeates our legal system—that no man shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law.

Justice as a matter of right, not of grace, and equal protection of the laws for all men, rich or poor, of high or low estate, is the very spirit of our national life. It is the fundamental principle of our constitution. It is the outstanding characteristic of American law.

The question is, to what extent have we translated this admirable theory of "equal protection" and "equal justice" into action? How far have we made the provisions of our laws effective?

As I endeavored to suggest in my article last week, the continued existence of democracy requires the constant readjustment of the principles of democracy, particularly the machinery through which the principles of democracy are applied, to changes in our economic and social order. With the industrialization of America, the growth of cities and the rapid rise of the wage-earning class, practical difficulties have arisen in the administration of justice and effective application of the principle of "equal protection" for all men.

It is not that our laws do not embody the principle of equality. It is not that our judges do not endeavor to decide fairly and honestly every case that comes before them. Every man may reasonably expect that justice will be done when his case comes before an American judge. Every citizen knows when he comes into court that the principal question asked him will not be, as in the days of Imperial Rome, as to what social position he holds or his financial status.

Our courts have persistently defended the equal, inalienable rights of all men, regardless of rank or wealth. Time and again the Supreme Court has enforced the rights of the humblest citizen as against the actions of his powerful government. The record of the American courts in the administration of justice is a credit to soundness of our legal theories of equality and the self-reliance of our people.

Thus the problem with which we are confronted is not one pertaining to the nature of our laws, and the calibre of men who administer justice under them. The problem is rather how to make justice accessible to all men, particularly the wage earner. It is essentially a question as to how to perfect our machinery of justice so as to enable the wage-earner to get his case into court with a minimum of expense and a minimum of delay in its final disposition.

I know of no better way to state the situation than to use the words of Chief Justice Taft: "The real practical blessing of our Bill of Rights is in its provisions for fixed

procedure securing a fair hearing by independent courts to each individual. But if the individual in seeking to protect himself is without money to avail himself of such procedure, the constitution and the procedure made inviolable by it do not practically work for the equal benefit of all. Something must be devised by which everyone, however lowly and however poor, however unable by his means to employ a lawyer and to pay court costs, shall be furnished the opportunity to set this fixed machinery of justice going."

This problem became imminent with the evolution of our social order from small towns and agricultural communities to large cities and industrial centers. The increased complexities of our economic life, with the increased dependency of men upon each other and the creation of a closer relationship between citizens, have inevitably brought increased litigation. Access to the courts has tended to become increasingly difficult for the wage-earner. Knowing he does not have the means to employ counsel and meet the costs of court litigation, knowing that he cannot afford delay, the wage earner simply accepts whatever injustices may have been done him and does not bring his case into the courts.

This situation is not beyond solution. Nor do I mean to suggest that it is one which has not had the attention of the legal profession, private organizations and the government. Tangible results have been realized toward a solution, and next week I propose to indicate the nature of these remedies.

But much remains to be accomplished in order that we may continue to have, as we have had in the past, "equal protection" under the law for all men. Readjustments are essential to progress. They are essential in order that we may continue to translate American principles of equality and justice into effective action.

Bannockburn Women Witness Bombing of Palma in Spain

New York, Oct. 5 (IGN)—The story of a peaceful sea trip that turned into near disaster, "but a thrilling one nevertheless," was related by Mrs. E. R. Seese and Mrs. Harold Norman of Deerfield, Ill., eye-witnesses to the bombing of the city of Palma in Spain, upon their arrival here in the Hamburg-American liner S. S. Deutschland from a two months motor tour through Italy, Germany and Austria.

While traveling through Mediterranean waters, enroute to Italy aboard the liner Exporto, Mrs. Seese related, the ship received a wireless to pick up 80 Spanish refugees.

"We arrived in port at dawn," she said, "and while the refugees were boarding the ship, two planes were sighted about a kilometer from where we were. Our attention was next drawn to a terrific roar coming directly from the shore. At the same instant it seemed as though the city was a huge mass of fire,

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Those attending the adult education classes this winter may be interested in further reading in the subject they have chosen. Below is a partial list of the classes to be held with the names of two or three books on each subject, available at the Public Library.

Drawing—Painting
How to Draw With Pen, Brush and Ink.

Composition, a Series of Exercises in Art Structure, by Dow, A. W.
First Steps in Water Color Painting, by Gleason, M. F.

Metal Work
Metalcraft and Jewelry, by Kronquist, E. F.
Pewter Design and Construction, by Varnum, W. H.
Art Metal Work, by Payne, A. F.

Pottery
Potter's Craft, by Binns, C. F.
Making Pottery, by DeSages, W. A.

Color Cement Handicraft, by Lemos, P. J.

Woodwork
Wood-Carving as a Hobby, by Faulkner, H. W.

Woodworking, by Wheeler, C. G.

Child Study
Parent's Questions, by Child Study Association.

Your Child Is Normal, by Adams, G. K.
Children of the New Day, by Glover, K.

English Usage
Your Telltale English, by Hadida, Sophie.

How to Use English, by Vizetelly, F. H.
Command of Words, by Smith, S. S.

Public Speaking
Speak! Read! Write! by Hannum, E. C.

Public Speaker's Scrapbook, by Hoffman, W. G.
Woman Speaker, by Richardson, E. R.

Dancing
Illustrated Tap Rhythms and Routines, by Ballweber, E.

Tap Dances for School and Recreation, by Duggan, A. S.
Tap, Caper and Clog, by Frost, H.

homes and cathedrals crumpled, and the people trying to seek refuge by swimming to small crafts in the water."

Their departure was delayed from war crazed Spain, the Deerfield woman said, by seven hours because of the disturbance.

"Prior to this incident," said Mrs. Norman, "it was of the opinion that the revolution in Spain was a trifle exaggerated in the American newspapers, but unfortunately it's all too true."

Asked whether she thought Spain would have any effect on the rest of Europe in so far as another war is concerned, she replied, "I don't be-

lieve it will, it seems as though Europe is not worried about Spain, they speak very little about it."

The Bannockburn women remained in New York several days and returned home Sunday.

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