

News of the Day

WAS the flying saucer reported early on Saturday a visiting aircraft from another planet or just a normal meteor?

Perhaps that question may never be answered, but the reports have stirred up an interesting controversy.

Since the first flying saucer was reported in America in 1947, hardly a week has gone past without someone sending in a new story.

At first the U.S. Air Force firmly rejected the reports as figments of the imagination, but early this year its spokesmen changed their tune when two of its own men sighted a strange, disc-shaped object in the night sky over Wonsan, Korea.

It flew alongside a bomber at 200 m.p.h. for five minutes, then disappeared. Over Sunchon, 80 miles away, another bomber crew reported sighting the same object the same night.

Now the American Air Force wants all the information it can get on saucer sightings. Its attitude has changed from scepticism to uneasy credulity.

Chief student of the mysterious saucers is Dr. Wal-

ther Riedel, former chief V-2 designer in wartime Germany, now working in America.

Loan "Blues"

GOVERNMENT and Parliamentary circles in Victoria are suffering the depressing effects of "the Loan Council blues."

Even the late autumn sunshine pouring in through the Cabinet room windows yesterday failed to cheer the outlook for Ministers and Treasury officers as they spent the day and then late into the night with a packet of sandwiches huddled over lists of works.

Little thought can be given in the new revision of State works to the political opportunities that doling out money for district works usually brings. Ministers realise that once the major works have been given their share little will remain "for other purposes."

They feel incensed, too, that the Commonwealth Parliament does not accord State Premiers the same courtesies which the Victorian Parliament extends to Federal members in Melbourne.

Parliamentary visitors here always are invited to dine in the members' diningroom, but at Canberra on Saturday the

at Canberra on Saturday the Premier (Mr. McDonald) and all other State Premiers had lunch, not in the members' room, but in the staff room.

Coral Sea

ONE of the most interesting Coral Sea commemoration messages to Australia has come from Captain Robert B. Pirie, of the United States aircraft carrier *Coral Sea*, now on duty in the Mediterranean.

The *Coral Sea* is the latest U.S. carrier to be commissioned, named, of course, after the famous battle the anniversary of which we now celebrate.

Captain Pirie, whose message is for the Australian-American Association, says that all members of his ship's company join with him in sending greetings to "our comrades down under."

He adds that Americans were proud to have served with Australians at the turning point of the war in the Pacific.

Not Silent

BY tradition "the Silent Service," the Royal Australian Navy will today

tralian Navy will today send out its officers with orders to talk about the battle of the Coral Sea.

Five officers of the R.A.N. who were serving in ships engaged in the battle will be addressing school children in 10 schools in Melbourne and Frankston.

Although all were present, none will be able to give the children an eye-witness account of the decisive battle.

The battle was fought out in the noisy skies above the Coral Sea. No enemy ship was sighted or fired on by the Allied fleet.

Son of India

FOR the Republic of India, tomorrow will be a day of reverence and thanksgiving, commemorating the birth of Rabin-dra Nath Tagore, founder of the modern Indian political and social renaissance.

Though Tagore restricted himself to the field of literature, his humanism had an ennobling effect on all spheres of Indian activity.

An ardent patriot, his India was "an idea, not a geographical expression." He gave India's national struggle for freedom a new orientation and purpose by relating it to its social and historical context.

text.

He has been acclaimed the greatest poet that India has produced since Kalidissa, but he was much more than a poet.

He was a novelist and essayist, a brilliant journalist, an eloquent orator, and educationist, and above all an inspiring patriot.

President

KEENEST rivalry exists between supporters of the three major aspirants for election as Victorian president of the Liberal and Country party.

Mr. W. H. Anderson, one of the movement's most prominent leaders for years and now its Federal president, will preside at his last State council meeting tomorrow.

Delegates to State council will find the greatest support is being shared between Mr. J. M. Anderson, a former P.O.W., and no relation to Mr. "Bill" Anderson; Mr. J. F. Patrick, vice-president and acting president during Mr. Anderson's tour abroad, and Mr. Peter Howson, a prominent member in the Young Liberal movement.

The fight by the younger members for influence in the party has already caused long-service members of the Legislative Council to lose party endorsement to new aspirants for political honors.

Frank Apology

IF Mr. Mercury, who her-

IF Mr. Mercury, who heralds this column, is capable of doing so, his face today should be red with the shame of being caught out.

On Saturday, we published the photograph of an envelope with the date stamp two days ahead of the correct date. We pointed gleefully at the post office.

Now we find that the envelope in question was franked, not in the post office, but in the office of "The Age." To the post office, our apologies.





Rabindra Nath Tagore
(See Story Right)
