



By John Boettiger

MEET MR. HUGH SAMUEL JOHNSON, THE DUCE OF THE NRA!

HUGH SAMUEL JOHNSON—a headstrong, blustering, bossy man of action ever since his career began. A searching study of the life of the taskmaster of American industry shows an astonishing chain of events through which Johnson runs true to form every inch of the way.

From his childhood, when he was rebellious against parental rule, through all of a turbulent life, Hugh Johnson has wanted to boss things, and to boss them absolutely, as he figured in his own mind they ought to be bossed.

Thus has he come to essay the bossing of American industrial and commercial life.

The story of Johnson's life is the clearest cameo of Johnson today. A runaway boy. The untamed West Pointer, standing at the very bottom of his class in deportment. The

bullying lieutenant of cavalry, savagely training rookies in the Philippines. He smashed the jaw of a soldier who had a supreme insult on his lips. Boss over the draft regulations in the world war, he sneered at his ranking officers, demanded dictatorial powers, and got them. He raged over failing to get to France; in all his soldiering he never faced an enemy.

Belligerent, unyielding, egotistical, he showed in all his earlier days those traits which the other day, when coal

operators defied his efforts to force an NRA code upon them and served their letter of protest upon him, made him rise in a livid rage from his chair in a crowded public restaurant and shout: "Why those ——— revolting ———" and then to storm on, despite the pleadings of his young woman secretary: "This is an insult to the President of the United States!" And then, making them give in, but with the aid of the President.

The stories of his youth give parallel for his impotent

struggle to "crack down" on Henry Ford. It is an amazing tale in its revelations, but why paint the lily? Here is the story:

Hugh Samuel Johnson was the son of a country lawyer, a man with a great wanderlust, and that trait in the parent gave the boy an adventurous, somewhat wild youth.

It should be recorded that the family name originally was "Johnston." Before Hugh was born, while Samuel Johnston was struggling for an existence, the latter settled in the town of Pontiac, Ill. He hung out his law shingle and when a bit of business trickled to his office, he was chagrined to discover that there was another Samuel Johnston in Pontiac who was also a lawyer, and this one was a Negro.

For a time there was much confusion, as the mail of the two counselors was misdirected, and their clients became befuddled; and so finally the white Samuel Johnston, Hugh's (Continued on Page Four.)