

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Norris and Other Radical Republicans Reject Third Party Suggestions—Wickersham Report Sure to Start Fight in Congress.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD



Dr. Dewey

DEMOCRATS, no doubt, are highly edified by the way in which the row within the Republican party is being kept going. The radicals and regulars taking turns in swatting one another. But there seems small prospect that the insurgents will be led into accepting the suggestion of Dr. John Dewey, head of the League for Independent Action, that they form a third party with Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska as their leader and potential candidate for the Presidency. Norris, Borah and the rest of them are convinced that the formation of another party, under present electoral provisions, would be futile, and have so informed Doctor Dewey. Of course there remained Gifford Pinchot of Pennsylvania as a possible banner bearer of a third party in 1932, but undoubtedly he, like the other radical Republicans, knows on which side his bread is buttered.

Responding to a question, Norris said if the Democratic party should nominate a real progressive in 1932 many of the western Republican independents would support him.

"It is an open secret that the power interests are trying to nominate a Democrat who will be satisfactory to them," he stated. "Known emissaries of the power trust are busy now trying to line up the Democratic party for Owen D. Young. The trouble is that under our present system the people have to vote for one man or the other. Often it is a case of voting for the lesser of two evils. The people don't really select our Presidents. What we need is a system by which the rank and file can get control of a party any time they have a mind to."

There were various interesting developments in the quarrel between Norris and Robert H. Lucas, executive director of the Republican national committee. Treasurer Joseph R. Nutt of the committee demanded from Senator Nye an apology for his assertion that the national committee account used by Lucas was a "slush fund," and the North Dakotan, who was in Florida inspecting the Everglades as a possible site for a national park, admitted grudgingly that "further investigation may reveal that the \$40,000 was not a slush fund." But both he and Senator Walsh, also at Miami Beach, had more hard things to say about the Lucas campaign to defeat Norris, and Nutt kept things going by accusing Nye of being a headline hunter. Representative Will R. Wood of Indiana took a hand in the row by the published assertion that Norris is not a Republican but a demagogue, and that he is now assuming to be a dictator to the Democratic party.

WITH the news that the report of the Wickersham commission would be given to President Hoover on January 5 and undoubtedly transmitted by him to congress immediately thereafter, it became evident that there was going to be a great deal of fighting over the prohibition question during the remainder of the short session. There was nothing authoritative concerning the contents of the Wickersham report, the members of the commission being evidently determined to keep it secret until it reached the White House. But whatever its findings, the battle seemed certain to open soon.



G. W. Wickersham

Members of the lower house were said to have determined to force a roll call on some prohibition items in the Department of Justice appropriation bill which is to be reported to the house about January 13; and in the senate both wets and dries are getting their ammunition ready.

If the report contains specific recommendations for legislation changing the prohibition law in a vital way, observers in the national capital think this might be the factor that would make necessary the calling of a special session of the new congress in the spring. The administration leaders are determined this shall not happen if they can prevent it. Senator Watson of Indiana, majority leader, said:

"It is the consensus of most members of congress, and of the entire American business world, as far as is ascertainable, that an extra session is to be avoided except in case of an extreme emergency. I do not believe that this emergency will occur if members will forego speeches on extraneous matters and confine debate to the immediate problems confronting them."

On the other hand, Senator Borah of Idaho asserted the opponents of an extra session were trying to find patriotic excuses for going home or to Europe, and that there was much important legislation, aimed at helping business, that demanded immedi-

ate enactment. The program on which the radical Republicans want action includes such controversial measures as the debenture plan for farm relief, Muscle Shoals and power, further relief measures including the Wagner unemployment bills, regulation of bus traffic, and increase in the income tax rates in the upper brackets.

QUICK relief for the drought sufferers is a certainty. The subcommittee of the house committee on appropriations approved of an appropriation of \$45,000,000 for this loan, the full amount authorized in the legislation already enacted, and the full committee was prepared to recommend this to congress immediately after the session was resumed. It was expected to be put through in both houses as a deficiency measure within a few days.

Secretary of Agriculture Hyde appeared before the subcommittee to support the appropriation, although he reiterated his belief that \$25,000,000 would be sufficient to care for the drought area. He asserted that he had no intention of approving any loans for human food, although the language of the authorization was construed during the congressional debates as being made broad enough to include such loans in cases of emergency. Mr. Hyde said the loans would be available for distribution within a week after the money is appropriated.



Hamilton Fish, Jr.

REPRESENTATIVE Hamilton Fish, Jr., of New York, in whose district West Point is situated, is urging the early passage of his bill appropriating \$1,500,000 for the purchase of 15,000 acres additional for the Military Academy. Though the academy is considered by many the greatest military school in the world, high officers of army have asserted that it is greatly handicapped by insufficient ground, meager water supply and lack of facilities for training the cadets.

Gen. John J. Pershing has endorsed the move to acquire 15,000 acres of land adjacent to the academy. He said:

"If West Point is to continue to fulfill its mission of preparing its graduates for emergencies, greater facilities for the special training required must be provided."

He urged that the government immediately acquire the land as recommended by Maj. Gen. William R. Smith, superintendent of the academy.

AT THE instigation of President Hoover, the executives of the chief eastern railroads got together and arranged for consolidation into four major systems, the focal points of which are the Pennsylvania, the New York Central, the Baltimore and Ohio and the Van Sweringen lines. Mr. Hoover announced that he gave his endorsement to the plan as a means of aiding business recovery and improving railroad service. If certain minor details are agreed upon and the scheme is approved by the Interstate Commerce commission, the merger may go through. However, opposition in congress developed at once, among the objectors being Senators Couzens and Wheeler, both members of the senate committee on interstate commerce.

It is understood the executives agreed to allot the Reading and Jersey Central lines to the Baltimore and Ohio, the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western to the New York Central, and the Lehigh Valley to the Chesapeake and Ohio-Nickle Plate system, while the Pennsylvania will get trackage rights over both the Lehigh Valley and the Nickle Plate lines into Buffalo and a cash consideration.

IN ORDER to round out the federal building program in Washington, according to Senator Henry W. Keyes of New Hampshire, the property adjacent to the Capitol grounds now occupied by the Methodist building is necessary and may be purchased under condemnation by the government. Keyes is chairman of the senate public buildings and grounds committee, so he speaks by the card. The Methodist building, sometimes called the Methodist "vatican," is located just east of the Capitol, across the street from the new Supreme court building, now under construction. Senator Keyes said the ground occupied by the Methodist building could be used partly for open park space and partly for some government building. Although no bill is pending in congress providing for its acquisition, Senator Keyes intimated that such legislation was in prospect. The Methodist board of temperance, prohibition and public morals, which

occupies the structure, recently was refused permission to build an annex to it by the District of Columbia zoning authorities. This ruling, however, did not molest the present building, which would be demolished if the property was condemned and purchased.

JUDGE DAVID JENKINS of Youngstown, Ohio, put an end to proposed plans for the million dollar merger of the Bethlehem Steel corporation and the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company when he granted to minority stockholders a permanent injunction restraining the combination. His decision was the climax of a bitter legal struggle that had been going on for six months and was a victory for Cyrus S. Eaton, Cleveland financier, who headed the minority stockholders of the Sheet and Tube company and carried the battle to court with charges of fraud.



Dr. Millikan

SCIENTISTS from all parts of the United States and Canada spent the week in Cleveland, Ohio, attending the sessions of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Affiliated Societies. They numbered more than five thousand and they read and listened to papers relating the latest researches into the secrets of the universe. The retiring presidential address was delivered by Dr. Robert A. Millikan, Nobel prize winner in physics, his topic being Atomic Disintegration and Atomic Synthesis. He took issue with Sir James Jeans and others as to the "heat death" of the universe, the debated second law of dynamics, and from his deep study of the nature of cosmic rays ventured the suggestion that there is as much reason to think the universe is constantly being rebuilt as that it is running down and doomed to extinction in some millions of years.

Doctor Millikan was presented by the new president, Thomas H. Morgan of the California Institute of Technology, after welcoming speeches by Dr. Robert E. Vinson, president of Western Reserve university, where many of the meetings were held, and Dr. William E. Wickenden, president of the Case School of Applied Science.

ONE of the features of New Year's day was the inauguration of Franklin Roosevelt as governor of New York for his second term. At 11:15 the governor started from the executive mansion in Albany for the state capitol, accompanied by his military staff; Maj. Gen. William N. Haskell, commanding officer of the New York National Guard; Rear Admiral William B. Franklin, commander of the naval militia, together with Troop B of the One Hundred and First cavalry. The ceremony took place at noon, Secretary of State Flynn administering the oath to Governor Roosevelt.

NEW YEAR'S day in the White House was the occasion for the annual reception that is traditional. President and Mrs. Hoover went to the Blue room at 11 o'clock in the morning and there greeted the members of the cabinet, justices of the Supreme court, army and navy officials and members of congress and of the diplomatic corps. At one o'clock the doors were thrown open and the general public was admitted. For hours the callers passed through the room, each one shaking hands with Mr. and Mrs. Hoover.

EUROPE'S latest dictatorship has been established in the little principality of Monaco by its ruler, Prince Louis II, and his people do not take it with good grace. Twice within a week there were political and popular demonstrations against the prince, partly because he had been spending most of his time living a gay life in Paris, and partly because of the decrease in the revenues from the Casino in Monte Carlo—the only revenues of the state. The first disorders were timed for the arrival of Louis from France, and he promptly called out his army of about one hundred men and suppressed them. But when he followed up this action by dissolving both legislative bodies, assuming a dictatorship abrogating the rights of franchise and elective representation granted the citizens twenty years ago the indignant people again broke loose with mass meetings and parades of protest.



Prince Louis

Again Louis mobilized his army, but it was generally believed that he was relying not on his own military strength but on assurance of support from the French foreign office. Since 1911 France has maintained a kind of suzerainty over Monaco, and the prince was probably acting on French advice. There are plenty of French troops in the neighborhood if he should need their aid.

DEATH of Representative David J. O'Connell of Brooklyn reduced the number of Democrats elected to the next house to 214. He had served in congress continuously since 1919 with the exception of one term. Japan lost one of its ablest diplomats in the death of Marquis Kinichi Komura, vice minister of overseas affairs. He leaves no heir to his title.

Community Building

Wealth of Community Based on Real Estate

"Real estate is the one constant factor in a constantly shifting universe and is the real measure of the wealth of a community." This was the message delivered by J. Soils-Cohen, Jr., in an address before the community center of Atlantic City. In his talk he stressed the fact that real estate men from the beginning of modern civilization have been the greatest factors in the upbuilding and the success of the community in which they operated.

"Real estate is real," he said. "It is the basic factor in wealth, the one constant unit in a shifting universe. The manner in which the real estate of any community is utilized determines the measure of prosperity that that community enjoys. Unlike other wealth, real estate cannot be hidden or hoarded. It must be used to its best advantage to really give the owner the greatest benefit and when it is so utilized it benefits the entire community."

"The great problem that confronts the owner of any piece of real estate or the prospective purchaser of any property arises when he tries to determine just what is the best use to which his property may be put. Upon his determination of this question depends his future prosperity and the value of the particular property in which he may be interested."

"With the whole world in the throes of a business depression and many dissatisfied with their business volumes these times have certainly proved that 'real estate is real.'"

Problems to Overcome in Regional Planning

Regional planning encounters one of its most difficult modern problems in the growing tendency of towns to become specialized centers of activity or leisure, according to W. Harding Thompson of the Royal Institute of British Architects. When a community develops into an industrial, commercial, residential or amusement center, it is pointed out, it immediately becomes more dependent upon neighboring communities for all the services which it lacks as the result of its narrowed field of life.

The result is that a set of complex conditions entails research over a large region in order to analyze the structure of society and social conditions in any one town. The problem of the regional planner is thus concerned with the relation between work, home and places of recreation, together with a transport system adequate to the needs of the various populations.

Fireproof City Coming

The "fireproof city" is a commercial possibility. The researches of the British Fire Protection committee, carried out at its testing station in London, have demonstrated conclusively the fire-resisting properties of many materials used today in construction work. The action of intense heat on the three naturally occurring building stones—granite, sandstone and limestone—is found to follow certain definite laws, and in considering these from the point of view of fire problems, one finds that the subject is rendered more complex by the very process of fire extinction. Very few materials used in building are capable of withstanding the application of a strong jet of cold water after having been heated to a high temperature.

Fire Prevention

It has been found by the National Board of Fire Underwriters that the largest fire losses in twenty-two of the forty-eight states in the country during 1928 were due to strictly preventable conflagration. Fire causes were definitely responsible for a \$12,537,750 property loss. Defective chimneys and flues caused the majority of fires in eleven states, the misuse of electricity in three, sparks on roofs in two states, stoves, furnaces, boilers and their pipes in five and rubbish and litter in one.

The home owner might well use the above list as a guide to follow in renovating his home, for by giving special attention to eliminating these causes of fire he will not only make his property more valuable but will beautify it as well.

For Next Year's Garden

There are many reasons for setting out shrubs in the late months instead of waiting until spring. The one reason, however, that is most convincing—the one that changes fanciful musings to eager activity—is the pleasant anticipation of the picturesque garden that will be yours next year. Shrubs are the backbone of the planting, so give them first consideration when you plan the development of your outdoor living room.

Study of Safety

The study of safety in public schools has been made part of the curriculum in many states. In most instances the A. A. A. club is furnishing the A. A. A. graded safety lessons and posters. Schoolboy patrols are in operation in many states and the A. A. A. clubs are furnishing lecturers to address the children on the importance of safety.

Blasting Lowers Producing Costs

Specialist Tells How to Remove Stumps and Boulders on Farm.

Lowering the cost of crop production by blasting stumps and boulders out of tilled fields to reduce the time required for plowing, cultivating, and harvesting, is a safe and inexpensive practice when certain rules are followed, says Virgil Overholt, extension specialist in agricultural engineering at the Ohio State university.

If dynamite is handled with the ordinary recommended precautions, blasting is as safe as other farm tasks, he believes.

Care of Cap.

Crimp all caps with cap crimpers rather than with a pair of pliers, Overholt recommends. Pliers are likely to crush the cap, thus cutting off the powder train inside the fuse and oftentimes, as a result, the charge is either delayed or does not go off at all. The use of cap crimpers is the blaster's best form of life insurance and aid in preventing accidents.

Most accidents in blasting operations are due to investigating why charges have failed to go off. It is best not to investigate a delayed charge until a day later. Fuses, he feels, should be at least a foot and a half long; this length allows the operator about a minute and a half to leave the stump or boulder. Where a blasting machine or battery is used, it is safest to use wires at least 200 feet long.

Always face the charge so that pieces of stone or wood may be dodged if necessary, and never smoke while handling dynamite, he advises. Fuse caps should be kept out of reach of children.

Bursting Boulders.

In bursting boulders, he suggests that the mud capping method be used. This consists in placing sticks of dynamite on the stone and putting about six inches of wet, sticky mud over them. Stump blasting is usually done by placing the charge directly under the stump, or, where there is a taproot, in boring a hole for the charge in the center of the root. However, if the wood is hard, the charge may be placed close to one side of the root. The charge may be tapped with safety after a few inches of earth have been placed next to the dynamite and mud placed in the hole.

Legislation to Improve Quality of Dairy Milk

Ontario has recently introduced legislation to improve the quality of milk offered for sale in that province. "All milk received at a milk and cream distributing plant which is sold or distributed in liquid form for human consumption shall be purchased on a uniform standard of 3.4 per cent butterfat. For milk testing from 3.4 to 4.5 per cent fat, the purchaser shall add 4 cents per 100 pounds of milk for each one-tenth of 1 per cent fat above the standard, and for milk testing below 3.4 per cent fat the purchaser shall deduct 4 cents per 100 pounds of milk for each one-tenth of 1 per cent below the standard."

Asparagus Seed Will Germinate Very Slowly

Asparagus seed germinates very slowly. It is usually two to six weeks from time of planting until the plants appear above ground. As a result it is often difficult to control weeds. For this reason and also because there is quite a variation in the young crowns it is advisable to sow the seed in a small plot and transplant the crowns when one year old into the permanent location. The seed bed should be worked early in the spring to germinate as many weed seeds as possible. These will be killed in the final preparation of the plot for seeding. Asparagus germinates very slowly at 68 degrees.

Extra Fertilization for Garden May Help

If the garden has not been doing well, some extra fertilization may encourage the plants, says the United States Department of Agriculture. A top dressing with a complete mixed fertilizer, at the rate of 2 pounds per 100 square feet, may be applied. A mixture containing 5 per cent nitrogen, 10 per cent phosphoric acid, and 5 per cent potash, is suitable. Bone meal can be used at the same rate, but is slower in its action. If the plants have a poor color they may need nitrogen. This can be supplied by nitrate of soda or ammonium sulphate at the rate of one-fourth pound to 100 square feet.

Pocket Gopher Control in Northwest States

At least 50 per cent more grazing than two years ago is reported by a sheepman whose grazing allotment includes portions of the Cascade and Umpqua National forests, in Oregon, where pocket-gopher control was undertaken two years ago and the areas retreated last year under the direction of the biological survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. Many sections indicated practically 100 per cent success. In some areas that were beginning to erode badly two years ago, grasses and other vegetation are now rapidly regaining a foothold.

Manure Is Valuable Plant Food Source

Farmer Should Not Allow It to Waste Away.

"There is little question but that stable manure on the dairy farms of Wisconsin is, and will continue to be, the chief source of plant food in the fertility maintenance of cultivated land," says G. J. Chapman, University of Wisconsin. "Any farmer who will deliberately allow his manure to waste away and lose its valuable constituents by leaching and runoff, and on the other hand, buy large amounts of commercial fertilizers is in my opinion headed for the poorhouse."

"In the early days there was some excuse for the neglect of this valuable plant food but I believe farmers now are universally aware of the value of manure. Both the farmer, and the back 40 recognize its shortage. There is never enough to go around to all the fields and those farthest from the barn are usually neglected. The best argument for the use of fertilizers is one of stretching the supply of manure and making it go farther, and at the same time balancing the plant food both of the soil and crop being grown."

For handling the manure in the best way Chapman suggests: Manure should be hauled directly to the fields day by day year-round. Exception should be made in case of steep rolling fields, or on deep snow, then it may be piled in small heaps in the field until spring. Plowing under or disking in of all manure as soon as possible after spreading gets better crop results, especially that hauled during spring and summer.

Don't Neglect Rhubarb During Whole Season

Do not fail to take good care of your rhubarb plants all season as well as in the spring when you are making use of the tender stems for sauces and pies. After the first few cuttings of rhubarb stems, many gardeners neglect this crop until the following spring.

Harvest of the rhubarb crop should be completed in from six to eight weeks' time. After this period has passed, allow the leaves to remain. Stir the earth around the plants at least once a week in order that the weeds may be controlled, and that the leaves may store plenty of plant food in the roots without weed competition. By so doing the plants are aided in producing a large crop of tender stems the next year. Keep the seed stalks broken off all summer. If these are allowed to develop, the plant food will go to seed production rather than into the roots where it is desired.

Discover Two Sources of Potato Blackleg

The popular theory, held by potato growers for many years, that diseased seed constituted the only source of infection of blackleg, has been exploded by Dr. J. G. Leach, plant pathologist at University Farm, St. Paul, Minn., with the discovery of two important new sources of infestation. These new sources are first, bacteria present in the soil itself, and second, bacteria carried into the seed pieces by maggots.

Doctor Leach's experiments have shown conclusively that the blackleg bacteria may live over winter in the soil. However, he says, when planting is done under favorable conditions and in light, well-drained soil, a layer of wound cork is formed on the seed pieces which immunizes them to the blackleg bacteria.

Agricultural Squibs

Test your seed corn. If a sample tests less than 90 per cent good kernels, test every ear planted.

Spring grain sown after a heavily-fertilized crop such as potatoes may not pay for any additional fertilizer.

One of the simplest and least expensive ways of testing seed corn for germination is by the rag doll method.

Select a variety of silage corn that will at least reach the glazing stage in a normal season. If early planting is necessary, plant early.

Many feeders have found the silo more profitable for summer use than winter and, without doubt, we will see the silo used more in summer as its merits become known.

Gardens should be planted to provide the kinds and amounts of vegetables needed to balance the family diet. Yields vary with the weather, so plant enough and insure an adequate crop.

Try a row of asparagus broccoli. It grows as easily as a turnip and needs the same conditions. This is the green broccoli that has become popular. "Calabrese" is one of the fine strains. It is old in Europe but a new vegetable here.

For 2 to 4 cents an acre the oat crop can be protected from smut. Last year Pennsylvania farmers paid a 10 per cent toll to this disease which can be controlled easily by treating the seed with formaldehyde. Why pay the extortioner when it can be avoided?