

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Farm Board to Abandon Efforts to Stabilize Wheat Prices—Austro-German Customs Union Stirrs Protests.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD



Sam H. Thompson

NO MORE attempts to stabilize the price of wheat by large purchases on the open market will be made under the auspices of the federal farm board after the 1930 crop is marketed, which probably will be done by May 31. This was the announcement of the board, whose new chairman, James C. Stone, and new member, Sam H. Thompson of Illinois, have just taken office. In making its decision known, the board pointed to its past purchases of large wheat stocks and asserted that "it cannot indefinitely buy more than it sells nor indefinitely hold what it has bought." Farmers must know, the board continued, that "it cannot follow a regular policy of buying at prices above the market and selling below cost."

No definite sales policy for its present big wheat holdings was announced by the board. There were indications, however, that should the farmers display a tendency to help themselves by restricting wheat acreage, the disposal of the 1930 crop holdings would be spread over a long period and sold slowly.

In the market the immediate effect of the announcement was of course a sharp break in prices. On the Chicago Board of Trade wheat deferred futures reached the lowest level: since 1895, July touched 59 1/2 and September went down to 60 cents.

There was quick recovery, however, when the stabilization corporation announced this plan: Effective April 1 the corporation will quote a selling price of 82 1/2 cents a bushel f. o. b. No. 2 hard winter wheat at Chicago for ordinary quality, with premiums asked for grain of high protein and quality. This price will be advanced 1/4 cent a bushel on April 10 and 1/2 cent a bushel every ten days thereafter until June 30, the date which marks the expiration of the current crop year.

In Washington it was asserted that it was now certain that farm relief legislation would be a major issue during the next session of congress, and something new in this line may be devised. Senator Borah is still urgently supporting the export debenture plan, and Senator Watson of Indiana prefers the equalization fee scheme. Senator McNary also likes the latter program but says he cannot see how it will help solve the present problem in the face of the world wheat surplus. President Hoover is opposed to both these plans. Borah suggests that the present wheat surplus in this country be sent to China or destroyed. The European powers will not let it be dumped on their markets.

When the French, British and Italian ambassadors questioned Foreign Minister Curtius in Berlin, he replied in effect that Germany would not back down in its determination to put the tariff union into effect, but he assured them that this in no way heralded an eventual political unification with Austria. It was tolerably evident that Germany was willing to carry the matter to the world court at The Hague.

Briand, French foreign minister, was placed in an embarrassing position for the Austro-German plan is really a start toward his great scheme of an economic union of all Europe in which there shall be no tariff walls.

Owen D. Young, Tammany itself is split into two factions, one headed by Mayor Walker and John F. Curry and the other by Al Smith.

FOR two years the Treasury department has been investigating charges that European safety match manufacturers were disposing of their products in this country at low prices to the injury of domestic producers. Evidently the charges were found to be true, for Secretary Mellon issued an anti-dumping order against the importation of safety matches from eight countries.

Such action previously had been taken against Russian matches. The latest nations affected are Finland, Norway, Estonia, Sweden, Latvia, Austria, Holland and Poland.



Secretary Adams

THROUGHOUT the battle maneuvers of the American fleet in Panama waters Secretary of the Navy Charles Francis Adams was a deeply interested observer. He returned to Washington with the firm conviction that, notwithstanding the development of aviation, the battleship is still the backbone of modern fighting fleets.

"These big surface vessels are essential cogs in our naval fighting forces," said Mr. Adams, and his opinion coincides with those of the leading naval officers who participated in or watched the maneuvers. In reports filed at the Navy department, such officers as Admiral William V. Pratt, chief of naval operations; Rear Admiral Joseph B. Reeves, and Rear Admiral Mark A. Bristol, chairman of the executive committee of the navy general board, agree that without battleship strength the United States would be powerless to prevent a major hostile movement across the ocean directed at this country.

GERMANY and Austria have announced that they are about to consummate a customs union, and have caused great disturbances in the so-called "chancelleries of Europe." Great Britain, France, Italy and especially Czechoslovakia have protested against the move and according to report some of them have warned the two nations not to go ahead with their plan. The British position is that it is a violation of the protocol of 1922 in which the League of Nations reorganized Austrian finances and Austria agreed to give equal tariff to all countries. The French, Italians and Czechs fear the proposed union is the first step toward the political union of Germany and Austria, which would violate the peace treaty. The Czechs are trying to bring the other countries of the little entente to their point of view, and the two Germanic nations have invited Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Jugoslavia to enter the economic combination with them.

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REPEAL of the Illinois prohibition law and the search and seizure act was completed by the state senate by a vote of 26 to 24. The house had previously passed the repeal act, 91 to 56.

ORGANIZED LABOR in the United States is prepared to fight, with all the strength it possesses, any attempts to reduce wages. Such is the assertion of William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor. In a statement issued in Washington, he said: Reductions in wages have been favored and encouraged by bankers and some employers whose desire for standard profits has overcome their better judgment. If they are persisted in, a return to normal conditions will be delayed for two years or more. It is only through the development of the purchasing power of working people to the highest possible point that a market can be found for the goods which we are producing in an ever increasing volume.

In the light of these facts the American Federation of Labor conceives it to be its duty to resist, with all the influence and power at its command, any attempt on the part of employers to reduce wages. Furthermore it will be the policy of the American Federation of Labor to direct its efforts when favorable conditions permit, toward compelling those employers of labor who have reduced wages during this period of unemployment, to restore them."

Raising Pop Corn May Be Overdone

As a Result of Attractive Prices Interest Is Gaining Momentum.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.—WNU Service.)

Indications now point to the possibility that pop corn growing may be overdone in 1931, say specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. Pop corn prices, they point out, are very sensitive to supply, and price depressions due to overproduction have occurred in the past. After a few years of fairly normal production, if a short crop occurs as the result of unfavorable weather or other causes, the price rises to a figure attractive to growers. Immediately many new producers appear who flood the market with disastrous effects to the old growers as well as to themselves.

Relatively high current prices for pop corn and low prices for field corn have combined to make pop corn appear a desirable crop, says specialists of the bureau of plant industry. Judging from current correspondence, they say, many old growers are expanding their acreage and others, attracted by stories of their neighbors' profits, are planning to substitute pop corn for part of their field corn acreage.

Interest Gains Momentum. The present interest in pop corn has been gaining momentum for more than a year as the result of attractive prices. Ordinarily the unbalanced situation would have corrected itself before now, but the weather of 1930 conspired to reduce the yields of pop corn as well as of field corn and so put off the day of price rectification. Stocks of old pop corn were pretty well cleaned up during the winter of 1929-30 and prices rose considerably. In response to this stimulus, acreage was expanded in 1930 but the effect was offset by the unfavorable weather. Prices of pop corn have declined somewhat lately, partly at least in sympathy with general price levels, but they are still relatively high as compared with field corn, the specialists point out.

What is happening may be illustrated by the situation in Iowa, they say, which is the leading state in the production of commercial pop corn. In 1930 Iowa increased her pop corn acreage to nearly twice that of 1929 and nearly three times that of 1927. If, instead of the heat and drought of last summer, the weather had been favorable for corn, enough pop corn would have been produced to glut the market, and overproduction such as that of 1925 would have occurred.

Pop Corn Acreage. The pop corn acreage of the United States is only about one-tenth of 1 per cent of the total corn acreage, the department workers comment. Although the commercial growing of pop corn is concentrated in certain districts to a considerable extent, much of the best land in the heart of the corn belt is suitable for growing pop corn. It can be appreciated, therefore, they say, that the acreage of this crop can easily be overexpanded. The unusually high prices of a year ago, together with the relatively high prices at present, as compared to other grains, may easily lead to the production of too much pop corn in 1931 if the season is favorable. It may be well for those who are planning to increase uncontracted acreage, and especially for those planning to grow pop corn for the first time, to consider the situation carefully before plunging too deeply, the bureau warns.

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Black Locust Grown for Posts and Money

Good Tree to Plant to Check Damaging Soil Erosion.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.—WNU Service.)

Early rapid growth into hard, strong, and durable wood, suitable for fence posts, insulator pins, hubs, mine timbers, and tree nails, commend black locust as a tree crop, says the United States forest service.

Few hardwood trees equal black locust in growth for the first 20 to 30 years. Its network of roots and sprouts make it also a good tree to plant to check erosion. Thick stands develop shade, which causes the young trees to drop their lower branches and develop clean, straight poles in the first ten or fifteen years of their growth. Shade is also a deterrent to the locust borer, the tree's worst enemy.

One-year old seedlings for planting may be bought from nurseries or from state forestry departments. It is also easy to propagate planting stock on the farm. The seed should be soaked eight to twelve hours in warm water, not over 100 degrees F., and sown immediately one-half inch deep. Spring sowing is preferable.

The tree thrives especially well in the Appalachian region and is grown successfully in most other parts of the United States. As post timber, good black locust in Ohio has shown 77 per cent of sound posts after 42 years in the ground. Although a tree crop is not usually expected to yield as much profit as a cultivated crop, black locust timber on an abandoned cornfield in Ohio produced 2,180 posts to the acre in 22 years, netting \$350, or \$16 per acre per year. Under ordinary forest conditions in the Appalachian region, the stand will range from one to twenty cords per acre.

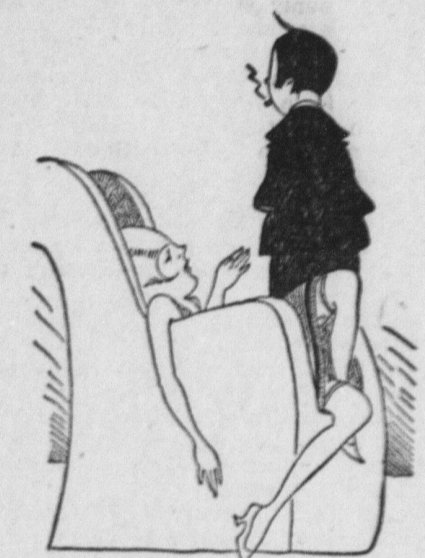
Scraps of Humor



TOO MUCH BOTHER

The lady from the country had seen most of the clocks in the store, but none seemed to suit her. The salesgirl, as a last resort, brought forth a cuckoo clock and explained how the door flew open and the bird cuckooed. The customer seemed impressed but shook her head. "You don't like it?" asked the girl. "I do, but it's bother enough to remember to wind it, without thinking of feeding the bird."

INSOMNIA CURE



"Do you know a sure cure for insomnia?" "Yes, get a job on the police force."

Ode to Winter The fortune teller prates to you Of money by the bale, But I would rather listen to The paying teller's tale.

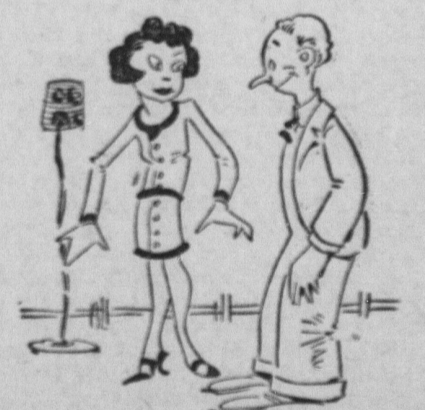
A Ventriloquist Orderly taps at the door of the sergeant-major's bunk. S.-M. (from inside)—Hallo, bullo! What do you want? Orderly—I have a verbal message for you, sir. S.-M.—All right, put it under the door.—Pearson's.

Good Old Gal Sarcastic Boss—I noticed there were 35,000 people present on the afternoon that your grandmother was buried. Office Boy (rising to the occasion)—I couldn't swear to that, sir, but grandma was always very popular!

Takes Practice Mr. Newbywed (sighing hopefully)—Well, I suppose the first hundred are the hardest. Friend—Years or dollars? Mr. Newbywed—No, biscuits.

Hard to Handle "In Russia children are brought up by the state." "Well, it would take an act of congress to do anything with my kid."

MIGHT COME AGAIN



"You say you are engaged. Then I guess there's no hope for me." "Cheer up, many a favorite has been beaten by a rank outsider."

Ouch! Another doggone liar is Dentist McQuirt; He says: "Relax, my boy. This isn't going to hurt!"

Not Yet Alarming Mose—Well, Marinda, what-all do doctah say am de mattah wid you? Marinda—De doctah say Ah's got angelina expectorant, but Ah-n not worried much as he says it's only in his inspid stage.

A Tough Proposition First Chorus Girl—That new fellow of mine has both money and brains. Second Chorus Girl—Well, that's the way they are coming nowadays, and it is some proposition for a girl.

A Rank Growth Magistrate (in English court)—Did you threaten the lady next door, or use any abusive language? Woman—I did not use either threats or language to her—but a few words sort of cropped up.

His Money's Worth Springer—So you paid \$50 for a seat at the prize fight? Did you get \$50 worth of fighting? Hensley—I did when my wife found out about it.

Bacterial Blight Most Important Bean Disease

Development of bean varieties resistant to bacterial blight appears to be the most promising control for the disease, reports Dr. W. J. Zauney, assistant pathologist in the United States Department of Agriculture, who has been conducting investigations on this disease. The results of his findings have been published by the department as Technical Bulletin 186-T, the Bacterial Blight of Beans Caused by Bacterium Phaseol.

Next to anthracnose, says Doctor Zauney, bacterial blight is the most important disease of beans with the annual loss from the disease approximately a quarter million bushels. Losses in very bad seasons have run as high as 75 per cent of the crop and in isolated instances and in particularly bad years, complete destruction of a field is not uncommon.

In field tests no variety showed complete resistance, the author says, although four varieties of the Refugee type showed a very low degree of susceptibility. All other varieties tested showed moderate or very slight resistance.

Copies of bulletin 186-T may be obtained free from the Office of Information, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Farmers Travel Far in Feeding All Live Stock

Farmers travel farther in feeding than in any other operation connected with dairy or meat production. Any practical method of reducing travel should be beneficial. Convenient silos and feed bins, with a labor-saving plan of moving feed to the cows or live stock, are a big help. In the dairy, carrier trucks which will hold enough ensilage or meal for several cows will cut the work in two, as compared with carrying feed in baskets. Arrangement of the barn, smooth floors, accessible mangers which are easily cleaned, are all factors in making feeding a shorter task.

FARM FACTS

Don't burn leaves, save them for mulch or for the compost heap.

Get in plenty of insect ammunition. You will need it early and often.

Put in kohlrabi early. This is a fine vegetable grown early and used tender.

Spray your peaches, plums, apricots, etc., each year for the prevention of fungus attacks.

Plant your vegetables in rows instead of broadcast. It is economical of seed and gets bigger crops.

Tests show that the practice of salting hay does not make the hay keep better. Hay cures best in the field.

Put out poisoned bait for the snails and slugs. They work at night while you sleep, and they may destroy your young plants.

If the bee cellar is efficient, a thermometer inserted in the hive entrance should show a temperature of at least 52 degrees Fahrenheit.

Cost of production is just as important on the farm as in the factory. Profitable agriculture demands, however, that efficient and economical distribution must follow closely upon the heels of low cost production.



M. Norman

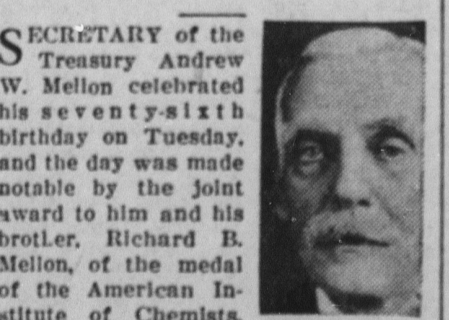
MONTAGU NORMAN, governor of the Bank of England, came to the United States Friday on one of his frequent quiet visits, having little to say to the press, as usual. His arrival interested financiers deeply, for it was believed he would go to Washington and that then or soon thereafter President Hoover would issue the call for the international silver conference which was given authorization by the last congress. Silver has been in a parlous state for many months, for, while production has not greatly increased, the sales by India on its return to the gold standard, and by other countries for the purpose of lessening the silver content of their coins, have glutted the market. In 1928 its price was 62 cents an ounce, and it now sells for about half that.

It was thought Mr. Norman might discuss the plan offered by Francis H. Brownell, chairman of the board of the American Smelting and Refining company. This scheme proposes that the United States, England including India, France including Indo-China, and as many other governments as possible, arrive at a "gentleman's agreement" that "no sale will be made, for a stated period—say three years, or until further notice—of any silver now or hereafter owned by each government, at less than some fixed price, say, for example, 50 cents per ounce.

"Second—an understanding that those governments will purchase the amount of silver they are now authorized by law to purchase for subsidiary coinage, whenever the price of silver in the open market is below the figure to be agreed upon as above (50 cents per ounce, for example).

"Third—as compensation for agreeing . . . and to prevent too rapid a rise—an understanding that the governments, and particularly India, may sell government owned silver whenever the price is more than, say, five cents above the figure agreed upon as above."

SECRETARY of the Treasury Andrew W. Mellon celebrated his seventy-sixth birthday on Tuesday, and the day was made notable by the joint award to him and his brother, Richard B. Mellon, of the medal of the American Institute of Chemists. Though neither of them is a scientist, they are thus honored as pioneer patrons of science who have given millions of dollars to promote it during the last score of years. Much of the practical results of the Mellon gifts have come from the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research which they established at the University of Pittsburgh in 1913. There all industry and many branches of science are furnished a place to make discoveries. The Mellons do not usually pay for these researches, nor receive any credit for them, although they furnish an important part of the scientific machinery.



Andrew W. Mellon

The Mellon Institute, says Dr. Frederick E. Brethout, president of the Institute of Chemists, "is the West Point of our industrial system, assisting the United States to attain and hold its foremost position amongst the industrial nations of the world. Its activities have assisted in bringing to the United States the largest chemical industry in the world.

"What Andrew W. Mellon and Richard B. Mellon have done has become more or less a part of our industrial fabric and technological organization but it required great vision and courage to see this 20 years ago when research was still merely an unwell come stepchild in most of our industries."

Wind-Vane Insect Trap Aids Control Beet Pest

A new wind-vane insect trap devised by entomologists of the United States Department of Agriculture is proving useful in determining the source of beet-leaf hopper migrations, the department reports. Once the source of infestation is known, it may be possible to apply direct control measures before the insects migrate to the sugar-beet fields, if the natural breeding area is small.

This new trap consists of a light wooden box housing a series of parallel upright screens, connected by a funnel with a jar containing cyanide. A weather vane attached to the box causes it to rotate so that it always faces the wind. The traps are mounted on high poles.

Insects flying with the prevailing winds are caught by the screens and carried by air currents down a tube, through the funnel, and into the jar of poison. By examining the jar at regular intervals entomologists can tell which winds bring the insects, at what height they are flying, and the extent of the flight.

Home Conveniences Are of Great Importance

Home conveniences such as light and water are assuming greater economic significance in connection with the production of poultry and dairy products. The high percentage of investment in farm buildings adds also to the importance of the water system and saves lights in their protection against fire. The increase in number of farm housewives who add to their income by keeping "paying guests" has also created a larger demand for water systems, farm light plants and gas plants for cooking. The newer models of farm light plants will do more than 100 jobs on the farm, all at a very low cost.