

# News Review of Current Events the World Over

## Test Vote in House Encourages Wets—Sales Tax Meets Strong Opposition—Two Famous Men Take Their Own Lives.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

**WET** leaders in congress, greatly encouraged by the test vote in the house, have started a vigorous campaign to compel the major parties to place in their platforms planks declaring the prohibition question to the people. The motion before the house was to discharge the judiciary committee from jurisdiction over the Beck-Linthicum resolution for amendment of the Eighteenth amendment, which had been defeated in the committee by a vote of 14 to 6. The test vote was forced under the liberalized rules by 145 petitioners.



J. M. Beck.

On call of the roll, 227 members voted against the motion, 187 for it, and there were 18 not voting. Following the custom, Speaker Garner did not vote. The strength shown by the wets was greater even than many of them had expected and they were correspondingly jubilant. Their cause had gained 89 votes since the house voted December 17, 1917, to submit the Eighteenth amendment.

Beck and Linthicum, co-authors of the resolution, declared the fight was all but won and that all that was needed was one more election. Mr. Beck said: "This vote makes it plain that if the Republican party adopts a dry platform in June it will court disaster." He predicted it would be necessary to wait for the meeting of the next congress for action to modify the dry law, believing that this congress at the session next winter, as a direct result of the November election, will submit the anti-prohibition amendment.

Leaders of the dries, for their part, though admitting wet gains, declared they were undismayed, calling attention to the fact that the wets were still far from having the necessary two-thirds majority.

Both sides, in the Republican party, have been hoping that President Hoover would declare himself, but there was nothing to indicate that he would depart from his neutrality in the prevention contest. A close associate of the President was quoted as saying Mr. Hoover has not changed his belief that the country is still preponderantly dry.

Representative Fred Britten of Illinois introduced in the house a bill for repeal of the Jones "five and ten" law which stiffened the penalties for violation of the Volstead act.

**DEBATE** on the billion dollar revenue bill continued in the house throughout the week, and the opponents of the sales tax sought to form themselves into a bloc. Their determined fight against this big feature of the measure at least resulted in changes for the ways and means committee agreed to accept an amendment omitting certain canned goods and press telegrams from the list of articles upon which a 2.25 per cent sales tax is proposed. The committee also was considering amendments exempting cheap clothing, electricity used for irrigation projects and radio company leased wires.

Prospects for adoption of the sales tax were lessened in mid-week when leaders of organized labor and of the farmers came out in opposition to it. William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, declared "labor will call on its friends in congress to defeat that section of the taxation measure"; and Fred Breckenman of the National Grange said imposition of the sales tax would meet "the unqualified disapproval of the 27,000,000 people upon the farms of this country."

Should the bill substantially as it stands get through the house, its sales tax feature will face strong opposition in the senate. A group of senators is ready to junk it, those including the men who are classed as progressive Republicans. Some of the more liberal Democrats want a substitute bill providing for selective sales taxation and possibly for increased surtaxes on incomes above \$100,000. The house surtax is 40 per cent from \$100,000 up.

**TWO** of the world's famous men decided that life was no longer worth living and so committed suicide. George Eastman, internationally known as the developer of the camera and the photographic film and also as one of the country's greatest philanthropists, put a bullet through his heart at his home in Rochester, N. Y., because he was in ill health and as his farewell note said: "My work is done. Why wait?" Mr. Eastman, who founded the Eastman Kodak company and was chairman of its board, had made a vast fortune but had given away almost \$20,000,000. His philanthro-



Geo. Eastman

pies, estimated at \$75,000,000, were scattered over the world, the recipients including universities and schools and dental clinics in many cities in this and other countries. He was seventy-seven years old, a bachelor and a lover of music and art. Mr. Eastman's many friends mourned his death but none was found to criticize his decision that it was time for him to go.

Ivar Kreuger, head of the great Swedish match trust and one of the world's most noted industrialists, was the other notable suicide. For months his numerous interests had been hammered on the exchanges of Europe and his losses were supposed to have been heavy though his remaining fortune was very large. He had just failed to obtain a \$10,000,000 loan in New York, where he had always been able to obtain vast sums for the asking, so he sailed to Paris and there ended his life with a revolver. Like Eastman, Kreuger was unmarried. His death created a sensation in financial circles, especially in Europe, and the shares in his companies declined sharply. The Swedish government obtained from parliament in special session permission to declare a moratorium on the debts of those concerned to prevent a raid by creditors, and the Stockholm exchange was closed for a time.



Ivar Kreuger

**MANAGERS** of the Republican party are busy making the arrangements for the national convention in Chicago, and many of them in their informal talk in Washington felt certain that Hoover and Curtis would be the nominees, on a liberalized platform which would serve to conciliate the wets without outraging the dries. The members of the national committee charged with selecting the presiding officers of the convention at first thought it would be well to have Charles G. Dawes for temporary chairman and "keynote," but it was said he was unwilling to accept the honor. For permanent chairman it was virtually agreed that Bertrand H. Snell, congressman from New York, would be the best man available. He is one of the party's strong men and a skilled parliamentarian. However, both posts were left unfilled, the final choice to be made at a meeting in Chicago on April 9.

The arrangements committee decided that four radio broadcasting booths should be put in the Chicago Stadium. It also named Dr. A. M. Harvey of Chicago chief of the staff of physicians and nurses, and George L. Hart as official stenographer.

Democratic managers also are slowly completing the details for their convention, but have made no announcements. In general, they will take over the Stadium as the Republicans leave it.

**RUMORS**, and more rumors, all proving false. Cues leading nowhere. Theories swiftly exploded. Investigations and negotiations that have no result. "Such has been the course of the Lindbergh kidnaping case up to the time this is written. Toward the close of the week the authorities were inquiring into a story told by Charles Oliver, a prisoner on Welfare Island, New York, to the effect that the plot to steal the child was hatched in a jail, being proposed to him by one William Gleason of Cliffside, N. J. The latter was taken into custody and denied everything Oliver said. An ingenious theory originated in Philadelphia—that henchmen of Al Capone stole the baby for use as a lever to pry that gang leader out of jail.

**PAUL VON HINDENBURG** maintained his place as idol of the German people in peace time as well as in war. In the Presidential election he soundly beat his chief rival, Adolf Hitler, leader of the Nazis or Fascists. But the aged President failed by one-half of 1 per cent to get a majority of the total votes cast, so there must be a run-off election on April 10. At that time, it is admitted by nearly everyone, he will triumph. As against nearly 19,000,000 votes for Von Hindenburg there were about 11,500,000 for Hitler, Ernest Thaelmann, Communist, polled almost 5,000,000; Dueneberg, Nationalist, got 2,000,000, and Winter, Independent, 1,100,000. Hitler's vote was so far ahead of the Nazi vote in the re-election elections of 1930 that he decided to remain in the contest.

Toward the close of the week the Prussian government claimed it had discovered plans for a civil war and therefore raided Nazi headquarters throughout the state.

**FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT** and Gov. W. H. Murray of Oklahoma were the contenders in the Democratic primaries of North Dakota. The returns from the rural districts were slow in coming in, but on the basis of partial returns it appeared certain that the state's delegation would be instructed for the New York governor. However, Alfalfa Bill had captivated the imagination of many of the farmers and was making a fair contest.

On the Republican side those seeking the preference of the voters were Dr. Joseph L. France of Maryland and Jacob S. Coxey of Ohio. France was well in the lead. Mr. Hoover's name had not been entered but he received some votes.

Mississippi elected a new congressman to fill out the term of the late Percy E. Quinn. He is L. Russell Elzey, Democrat, superintendent of a college at Wesson.

**NEGOTIATIONS** between Japan and China for the withdrawal of Japanese troops from the Shanghai area were reported today to open, after conversations engineered by the representatives of the United States and Great Britain. It was understood the Japanese forces should be withdrawn gradually and that the Chinese should not enter the evacuated territory until final agreement was reached. The operation will be supervised by a commission with neutral members.

Under this agreement China abandons the point that Manchuria must be considered simultaneously with the Shanghai problem, and Japan abandons the point that the status of Shanghai must be fixed prior to her withdrawal.

Meanwhile the Lytton commission sent to Shanghai by the League of Nations, with Maj. Gen. Frank McCoy representing the United States, began investigating the doings of the Japanese in and about Shanghai. Mayor Wu Teh-chen of the Chinese municipality was guide and chief informant of the members and after telling them of the outrages committed by the invaders he took them on a tour of inspection through many miles of devastated areas where, as he said, "you can see for yourselves how thoroughly the Japanese war machine has accomplished its mission of wanton destruction."

That new Manchurian state of Manchoukuo, established by the Japanese and headed by Henry Puyi, is in trouble already. Dispatches from Tokyo said there was revolt in the province of Heilongkiang which is ruled by Gen. Ma Chan-shan, war minister of Puyi's government. The Chinese troops there declined to transfer their allegiance. From Changchun, capital of the new state, word came that a strong Chinese force, equipped with artillery, had captured Puyi, a city of 80,000 people 100 miles southwest of Harbin.

**ADJOURNMENT** until April 11 was taken by the international disarmament conference at Geneva. Correspondents there relate an interesting incident during the discussions in the disarmament commission. Vice Admiral D. P. H. Pound of Great Britain naively proposed that they eliminate from the draft convention of the Washington treaty providing that a nation engaged in war shall not seize a war vessel of another country being constructed in its own yards. He said it was not logical to expect a country at a moment when it is straining to the utmost not to lay its hands on all available material.

But our own Senator Swanson was on the alert at once, declaring this would not do at all. Ships constructed in time of peace for another power should not possibly be considered available to the bidders in time of war, he said. Otherwise, there would never be a chance for the governments to agree on their relative strengths. Mr. Swanson exclaimed:

Other delegates supported Senator Swanson's argument, and later the British admiral smilingly intimated that his proposition had been misunderstood, and withdrew it.

**POSTMASTER GENERAL W. F. Brown**, in a memorandum submitted to the special economy committee of the house of representatives, pointed out many ways in which the cost of the postal service can be reduced, but said all of them require legislation. He admitted that the postal service is overmanned for the handling of the present reduced volume of business due to the depression. He suggested that economies could be achieved by reducing the force, reducing pay, consolidating rural free delivery routes and providing government buildings for post office stations, branch post offices and garages which under the law are now leased.

Such economies, however, said Mr. Brown, would not balance the Post Office department budget which can be effected only by increasing postal rates also.

Mr. Brown submitted for "careful consideration" the proposal of Senator W. H. King that rural free delivery routes be let to the lowest bidder, although the postmaster general recorded himself as opposed to such change because "it would be likely to result in a substantial impairment of the general excellent service, which is now rendered to rural patrons."

**ALFALFA** needs more lime than any other common forage crop. All soils in the East except those of limestone origin need lime for alfalfa, and even limestone soils, such as those in the Shenandoah valley, are often acid at the surface and need lime. The form of lime makes little difference provided it supplies enough calcium oxide. Soils that have not previously been limed will usually require at least one ton of burned lime or its equivalent to the acre.

## Orchardists Seek Eight Cost Cuts

### Hope for 1932 Held Out to Fruit Growers of Illinois.

An eight-point program designed to help orchardists cut their production costs and get at least a small margin of profit in 1932 is being pushed throughout the state by the extension service of the Illinois College of Agriculture, University of Illinois. Thirty county schools are being held to acquaint fruit growers with the eight points.

They are: (1) Economical spraying; (2) tree thinning and culling; (3) gross pruning instead of detail pruning wherever possible; (4) less cultivation; (5) use of more horse power and less tractor power; (6) quantity buying of materials; (7) re-valuation of investment to lessen overhead expense, and (8) repair, rather than replace machinery.

Many Illinois orchards are planted too close, which makes the work in them expensive, according to R. S. Marsh, horticultural extension specialist of the college. Hence, the most timely thing that orchardists can do is the tree thinning and culling. Culling out unprofitable varieties or poorly located trees is just as necessary as removing the non-layers from a poultry flock or the low-producing cows from the dairy herd.

"Trees are now living longer and developing larger tops as a result of better spraying methods and increased use of fertilizers. Hence, they should have more space and should not crowd each other. Where trees are planted on the square system, alternate diagonal rows can be removed with profit where they are too thick. A 20-by-20-foot orchard would be 28 by 28 after diagonal rows were removed, or a 30-by-30 orchard would be 42 by 42. Some new peach orchards are now planted 28 by 28, and the recommendation for apple trees has been 40 by 40 for the past 20 years.

"Several Illinois orchardists this year are thinning and culling trees, since last year's fruit prices and this year's prospects make it an easier job than when market prices are higher. Although this recommendation will reduce the acre yield temporarily, it will increase the yield for each man-hour, which is more economical at the present time."

## Bindweed Always One of Hardest to Exterminate

The perennial bindweed is one of the most persistent weeds, and it is very difficult to kill. If one attempts to kill it by hoeing every time it shows above ground one is usually tired doing this before the weed is killed. Sodium chloride, however, works down into the plant, and will, no doubt, lengthen the period of new growths above ground. Thus, it will weaken, sooner, and, if one sprays just as soon as it appears each time, one should be able to exterminate it. One might start with about four ounces of sodium chloride to a gallon of water, and spray this over about one hundred square feet of ground, thoroughly saturating the leaves. If you find this does not kill the leaves increase the strength until they are killed. While we have not heard of this weed being eradicated, altogether by spraying, it is worth trying. Potatoes could not grow so long as the spraying was continued.—Montreal Herald.

## Terracing Made Easy

Terracing is such a simple, easy job that no farmer can afford to let his top soil wash away. Charles F. Holder, Grayson county, Texas, had lost most of the top strata of soil on one 15-acre field. There were ditches difficult to cross and others that could not be crossed. Fertilizer washed away before crops had an opportunity to utilize it. Mr. Holder decided to terrace. With a steel ditcher and four mules, he and a young son in five days built a series of four terraces totaling nearly a mile in length. The ditches no longer interfere, washing has been stopped and fertilizer remains on the field to be utilized by crops.—Capper's Farmer.

## Live Stock on Feed

Cattle feeding in the corn belt states is 5 per cent less than a year ago, but 8 per cent greater in the states east of the Mississippi river. Nebraska has 20 per cent less, cattle on feed than a year ago, while the feed lots of the western states show a decrease of 17 per cent.

There were 14 per cent more sheep on feed in the whole United States than a year ago. The corn belt states have a marked increase in sheep feeding and the western states also show a gain. Nebraska is feeding 80,000 head of sheep this year.—Nebraska Farmer.

## Alfalfa

Alfalfa needs more lime than any other common forage crop. All soils in the East except those of limestone origin need lime for alfalfa, and even limestone soils, such as those in the Shenandoah valley, are often acid at the surface and need lime. The form of lime makes little difference provided it supplies enough calcium oxide. Soils that have not previously been limed will usually require at least one ton of burned lime or its equivalent to the acre.

## Factors Making for Weed Seeds in Soil

### Get Control by Draining and Summer Fallowing.

The length of time weed seeds remain vital depends on a number of factors, such as having an oily coat like wild mustard seed, the kind of soil and the depth to which the weed seeds are plowed. Seeds may be a long time in heavy soils where they are below the point of germination. Seeds of any kind need air, moisture and heat to start germination, which usually obtains in the top two or three inches of soil. Below five inches of soil too many vital weed seeds may be found which when they are brought up to the surface spring into life and grow. The use of summer fallow and hoed crops are the best agencies in controlling weeds. Equisetum or horse tail is a non-flowering plant, is perennial and spreads by spores instead of seeds. It grows more frequently in damp or springy sour soils, but also grows on high, well drained places, as along railway banks. Too much of it in hay fed to horses has caused trouble. Getting the soil better drained and summer fallowing the land infested will hold it in control. Where green moss is seen forming on the surface of the land one may be sure it is a sign of sourness and it needs lime in some form to sweeten it. Some ground limestone is the cheapest of lime to use.

## Formaldehyde Good for Treating Smut in Oats

Smut infection in oats was more general than average in 1931 and cut yields sharply on many fields. This means that the spores are more widely distributed than usual on oats that will be used for seed this year. Therefore, treating against smut should be the general practice this spring. With the improved methods of using formaldehyde for treatment, not only is treating inexpensive but it eliminates the old problem of swollen oats that might be injured by a sharp freeze and always were difficult to get through the seeder at the desired rate. It is now known that applying formaldehyde with the spray gun, a method which leaves the oats only slightly damp, is as effective as soaking with a sprinkling can.

Mercuric dusts also have proved not only convenient but highly effective in treating for smut. Approximately two ounces of dust is used per bushel of wheat and rye. Oats and barley require about three ounces. Dusts are convenient in that the seed grain may be treated several weeks ahead of seeding.—Wallace's Farmer.

## Saving Waste Products

For every pound of farm products profitably used there are from one to two and a half pounds from which the farmer gets little or no return, states Dr. Henry G. Knight, chief of the bureau of chemistry, United States Department of Agriculture. His department is trying to find profitable methods of using the millions of tons of farm by-products which annually go to waste. Cornstalks and such waste products offer a greater benefit to farmers than would an increased production of the important crops when there is already a surplus in most of them, the chief believes.

## Potato Decrease

Farmers intend to decrease their potato acreage about 1 1/2 per cent, according to the "intention-to-plant" reports of growers to the United States Department of Agriculture. If no changes are made in the present plans, there will be 3,325,000 acres this summer, as compared with 3,382,000 acres in 1931. Most of this reduction is planned in the commercial-producing states, while the late-grown potatoes produced mainly for home and local consumption in Indiana, Ohio and Illinois may show an increase of about 4 per cent.—Indiana Farmer's Guide.

## Agricultural Notes

The earlier lime is applied the sooner it begins to correct acidity for next year's clover.

In Virginia some raspberry growers are using 500 pounds per acre of 6-10-4 fertilizer between the rows.

One way to cut down the cost of raising apples is to weed out the varieties it doesn't pay to grow.

Work corn ground well before planting, then cultivation can be delayed until the corn is high enough to cultivate easily. Kill the weeds before rather than after planting.

Even though the bottom of the hog cycle has almost been reached, rural economists believe that there will not be a very large increase in hog production during the next three years.

Inventory values of live stock on farms in the United States are \$3,000,000,000 lower than they were two years ago.

Wyoming ranks third in the production of sheep and wool, producing 3,100,000 sheep and 25,400,000 pounds of wool annually.

Reforestation will reclaim the fertility of steep eroded hillsides, and prevent further soil losses. The timber crop is the most successful for the purpose.

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Some Latin-American countries resort to revolutions as a simple form of election and regard it as the best method for making a political change. Charles H. Cunningham, former United States commercial attaché at Lima, Peru, said at St. Louis recently, "There is a lot of bluff shooting done in some of the revolutions, with shots being fired mainly for effect." Cunningham said, "During some of the revolutions in Peru foreigners were allowed to transact business as usual in downtown districts, but were warned to keep off of certain streets where fighting was going on."

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