

# News Review of Current Events the World Over

## Congress Not Accomplishing Anything Important—Budget Balancing Likely to Be Postponed—Johnson Assails Borah in Senate Debate.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

IF ANYTHING of moment is accomplished by the present session of congress, almost certainly the last "lame duck" session that ever will be held, political observers will be astonished.



Rep. Rainey

The Democrats, in numerical control of the house, seem bewildered and uncertain; the Republicans gleefully assist in distracting their opponents and complicating their attempts at legislation; the more radical members of both parties slash right and left and add to the confusion. The senate doesn't especially like the house's beer bill, and the house doesn't approve of the repeal resolution before the senate. Proceedings in the upper chamber at this writing are held up by a filibuster conducted by Senator Huey Long of Louisiana for the purpose of defeating the Glass banking bill. And over all hangs the prospect that President Hoover will veto certain of the most important measures if they reach the White House.

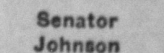
As for balancing the budget, that probably will have to wait for the special session of the new congress. President Hoover apparently has abandoned hope that it can be accomplished at this session, and the Democrats, including President-Elect Roosevelt, give no indication that they have decided how it should be done. They now deny that they plan to raise the income tax, the leaders who conferred with Mr. Roosevelt repudiating their first statements that such was their intention. Representative Henry T. Rainey of Illinois, majority leader, declares congress can balance the federal budget without the imposition of additional taxes, except a tax on beer, and his statement is greeted with general expressions of approval from the taxpayers and many members of congress. He says the budget should be balanced by cutting down the cost of government—a proceeding that has the nominal approval of both parties—and that the imposition of a heavier tax burden on the people would be to "invite revolution." All of which sounds fine, but so far congress has failed to reduce governmental costs in any appreciable degree. The amount it will save in this session may not be as much as \$100,000,000.

Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi, one of the most astute of the Democrats, agreed with the Rainey program. "We," he said, "are going to try to retrench sufficiently to avoid levying of new taxes. It is too early now to tell just how close we can come to balancing the budget through economies. Our plan is to hold off on revenue legislation for several weeks while we try to secure enactment of the beer bill, re-enactment of the gasoline tax and all possible economies. When we know how much we can raise and save it will be time enough to talk of new taxes."

DEMOCRATIC logrolling and Republican tactics of hampering marked the debate on the domestic allotment farm relief bill in the house. Even if it were passed by house and senate it probably would be subjected to veto by the President. The measure was loaded down with amendments by representatives who refused to be controlled by their party leaders.

Proposals to include rice within the benefits of the act were adopted 99 to 24; peanuts were added by the close teller vote of 111 to 110 and the butter fat products of the dairy industry included 102 to 75 on a rising vote. When it was finally assured of passage by the house, the Roosevelt farm relief program was rounded out with the introduction in the senate of companion bills designed to lighten the burdens of agricultural mortgages through the use of further federal aid and federal money.

SENATOR BORAH'S assertion in the senate that France was justified in her stand on the war debt because President Hoover in his conference with M. Laval had given the European debtor nations reason to believe their obligations to the United States would be scaled down if reparations were reduced brought on a sharp debate between the Idaho gentleman and Senator Hiram Johnson of California.



Senator Johnson

The row started with the reading in the senate of letters from Secretary of State Stimson and Secretary of the Treasury Mills denying that Mr. Hoover had given Laval any such assurance. These denials, Borah said, were inconclusive, though it is hard to see how they could be more specific.

Johnson thereupon soundly berated Borah for his stand, and satirically scolded him for not giving the senate

the "facts" known to him when the moratorium was before that body in 1931. The exchange of personalities between the two erstwhile close friends was acrimonious.

Though Mr. Roosevelt declined to co-operate with President Hoover on the war debt question, he is getting ready to tackle this and other international matters immediately after his inauguration. In pursuance of this plan he held long conferences in New York with Secretary Stimson, Col. Edward M. House, who is an authority on foreign affairs; James W. Gerard, American ambassador to Germany at the time the United States entered the war; Sumner Welles, who was assistant secretary of state in the Wilson administration, and Senator Swanson of Virginia, one of our delegates to the disarmament conference.

Over in France there is a growing belief that Mr. Roosevelt secretly engaged himself to a drastic revision of the war debts, and the public also refuses to accept Laval's denial that President Hoover promised him a reduction.

AS LAID before the senate, the resolution for repeal of the Eighteenth amendment was a compromise between the drys and wets on the judiciary committee and satisfied no one. It is designed to bar the saloon, retains for the federal government a certain amount of control over the liquor traffic, aims to protect dry states from importations of liquor from wet neighbors, and provides for submission of the amendment to state legislatures rather than to special state conventions. Speaker Garner and Representative Rainey said the resolution in that form would not even be introduced in the house if it were passed by the senate, because it does not conform to the Democratic platform.

PRESIDENT HOOVER in a special message asked congress to ratify the long-pending international arms convention or to enact legislation at this session, giving the Chief Executive wider powers in placing embargoes on shipments of arms to belligerents. Neither request is likely to be granted. Chairman Borah of the senate foreign relations committee has opposed the arms convention for years and is still against it, and he and others holding that it would not interfere with the enterprises of the greater powers, but would discriminate against small nations. Senator Shipstead of Minnesota said he could approve neither plan, and some of the Republicans, notably Representative Hamilton Fish of New York, declared themselves against them.

"KINGFISH" LONG'S filibuster against the Glass banking bill amused a handful of senators and a lot of visitors in the galleries, but kept the senate from accomplishing anything.



Sen. Glass

Huey made a number of sarcastic allusions to Senator Glass, which rather annoyed the Virginian. He asserted that when he recently he said he knew more about branch banking than Glass, he really "was not giving himself much credit." Then he produced a big Bible and read from Isaiah: "Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth." "Just change that to branch banks," he shouted, "and you've got what'll happen to the independent bankers."

"If you don't take the house of Morgan into consideration," was another contribution, "you ain't going to regulate many banks with any bill you pass here. The house of Morgan is the undisputed kingfish of the banking business."

Long's plan to end the depression was characteristic. He would survey the country, order production to cease of any product of which there is no plenty, issue ten billion dollars of federal bonds for food, clothing, and public works, and "just a little capital levy" on the rich would pay for all of this program.

REPUBLICAN membership in the house of representatives was reduced by two during the week by death. Congressman Robert R. Butler of Oregon died of heart disease induced by pneumonia. Next day the capital was shocked by the suicide of Samuel Austin Kendall of the Twenty-Fourth Pennsylvania district. For months he had grieved over the death of his wife and finally gave up and put a bullet through his head as he sat in his room in the house office building.

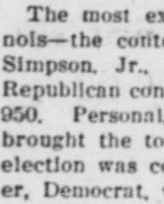
Among other well known men who died were Guy D. Goff, former United States senator from West Virginia, and Benton McMillin, former governor of Tennessee and for 20 years a member of congress.

IN RESPONSE to a special message from the President urging "emergency action" to stave off wholesale forced foreclosures, congressional leaders promised a partial revision of the bankruptcy laws at this session. The house judiciary committee began consideration of a bill embodying the principles suggested by Mr. Hoover to ease the debt situation during the present period of depression.

CALVIN COOLIDGE'S will was found among his personal papers and filed for probate. In a few words the document, drawn by Mr. Coolidge himself, leaves his entire estate to Mrs. Coolidge. The property was estimated by friends at about \$250,000. John Coolidge, the former President's son, was provided for in a trust fund estimated at \$100,000, created by Mr. Coolidge a short time after his son's marriage to Florence Trumbull.

That Mr. Coolidge had known for a year or so that he was in danger of sudden death was indicated by a story from New York to "the effect that his application for \$200,000 life insurance had been rejected because of the condition of his heart."

ILLINOIS Democrats victorious in the November election gave the country a lesson on how to get elected at small cost. Figures submitted by the candidates in that state to the clerks of the senate and house showed that William H. Dieterich spent only \$272 in winning the United States senatorship; the expenses of his defeated rival, Senator Otis F. Glenn, were \$5,838. Martin A. Brennan expended only \$2 in his successful race for the place of congressman at large.



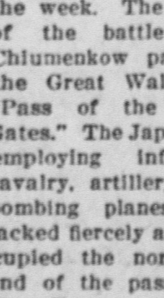
William H. Dieterich

The most expensive victory in Illinois—the contested victory of James Simpson, Jr., Tenth Illinois District Republican congressman-elect, cost \$3,950. Personal, exempted expenses brought the total up to \$18,914. His election was contested by C. H. Weber, Democrat, who spent \$1,525.

THOSE Iowa farmers who conducted the "strike" of last year are making rather successful attempts to stop the sales of property for delinquent taxes and unpaid mortgages. In several localities they gathered in large crowds and saved the properties of farmers, at least temporarily. Their demonstrations were orderly.

FIVE THOUSAND Indiana farmers met in their annual conference at Purdue university and adopted a program developed by the farm management experts of that institution. The fourteen point plan, worthy of the attention of agriculturists of other states, includes a policy of "pay as you go, reduction in costs especially those for outside labor, production of concentrated products to reduce marketing costs, production of high quality goods, taking advantage of marketing short cuts, increased intensity of operations on good lands, culling of live stock vigorously and feeding of good animals well, increased attention to seed selection, testing and other crop practices, increased study of management practices, increased use of home grown seeds, producing more of the family's requirements on the farm, increased production of legume crops, avoidance of investments in permanent improvements, and making more use of governmental and educational forces available to farmers."

DESPERATE fighting for possession of the rich Jehol province was going on between the Japanese and the Chinese armies toward the close of the week. The scene of the battle was Chiumenkow pass in the Great Wall, the "Pass of the Nine Gates." The Japanese, employing infantry, cavalry, artillery and bombing planes, attacked fiercely and occupied the northern end of the pass, but the Chinese concentrated at the southern end and put up a stiff resistance, being aided by the mountainous nature of the country. Japanese planes flew far across the border of the province and bombarded the city of Jehol and other towns, the war office justifying this action by charging that the presence of Chinese troops there constituted a "menace" to the Japanese forces. Of course the Chinese were on their own soil, but a little thing like that does not deter Japan. The Tokio war office claimed victory at Chiumenkow.



Gen. Tsai Ting-Kai

Gen. Tsai Ting-kai, who commanded the Chinese Nineteenth route army in its gallant defense of Shanghai a year ago, has come to the front and asked that he be permitted to lead his army from his encampment in Fukien province against the Japanese invaders. He has little confidence in the stamina of Marshal Chang and seeks to replace him as commander in the Shan-hai-kwan region.

The Chinese Nationalist government handed to all the foreign legations in Peking a sharply worded note stating that Japan, a signatory of the protocol of 1901, had taken an unfair advantage of the terms of the protocol when its troops attacked and occupied Shan-hai-kwan. For this reason, the protest said, the Chinese government could not be held responsible for whatever may be the result of Chinese resistance against Japanese aggression.

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# WHAT'S GOING ON IN WASHINGTON

## Proposed Agricultural Relief Bill Is Complicated and Delicate Problem.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

Washington.—It has been a good many moons since congress has tackled a problem so complicated and so delicate as the present agricultural relief measure, the so-called farm parity bill, with which it is now wrestling. It has taken hold of the domestic allotment plan, disguised by the new and pleasing name, in the hope that it may be the method of solving what everybody knows to be a most distressing condition in a basic national industry.

There can be no doubt that the farmers must have higher prices for their products if the industry is to survive, and that is the fundamental premise upon which the farm parity bill was drafted. Chairman Jones, of the house committee on agriculture, which wrote the bill, told me, however, that he and other members of the committee looked upon the proposal as of an emergency character; that it will have the temporary effect of providing that needed increase in prices, and that the committee members who supported it thought it was worth testing at least until such time as permanent changes and restoration of values can be effected.

The representatives who voted to submit the bill to the house do not conceal their concern over the delicate nature of the tool with which they are working. Along with the potential good admittedly in the domestic allotment plan, there are obviously grave dangers of abuse, and it takes no soothsayer to forecast that the good can be destroyed if the weaknesses fail to stand against practical business operation.

The measure that is under consideration is substantially that which the three leading farm organizations have worked out as acceptable to them.

What the Bill Means.

To begin with, the bill provides that at any time the price levels of wheat, cotton, tobacco, rice or hogs are below the prewar basis, an adjustment charge—in other words, a tax—is to be levied on the processing of the commodity in question in an amount sufficient to lift the price up to the prewar level. That adjustment would apply, however, only to that part of the product entering into domestic consumption and not on exportable surplus. These premiums will be paid to the producers who comply with the requirements of the legislation. Compliance with the requirement consists of obeying the command to reduce the acreage.

Obviously, of course, reduced acreage means reduced output and reduced output means a greater demand for that supply of the product available. So, say the supporters of the bill, "we can force the prices higher."

But the bill is not nearly so simple as those lines make it appear. The plan requires, in the first instance, that there be a virtual referendum of farmers, or among them, to determine whether the plan shall be applied to a particular commodity. When 60 per cent of the producers of wheat, for example, approve the plan for their crop, the federal government begins to collect the tax, and will do so, under the terms of the present bill, for a period of one year. It is provided that it may be extended from year to year by Presidential proclamation, but that is merely a subordinate feature.

The tax is collected from the processor on so much of the commodity as enters into domestic consumption. That tax goes into the treasury, to be returned to the producers who have met the requirements and who have obtained certificates covering the domestic consumption percentage marketed by them. The amount of the adjustment is left in a rather hazy state, but the bill says it shall equal the amount of "a fair exchange allowance."

This "fair exchange allowance" is defined as the difference between the prices received by producers at local markets and the "fair exchange value" which approximates "the same ratio as the price for the commodity paid producers at local markets during the base period (September, 1909, to August, 1914) bore to prices for all commodities bought by the producers during such base period." That, of course, seeks to make the difference in prices the farmers receive and those which they pay for commodities bought virtually the same now as they were in the period before influences of the World war were operative.

Take the Case of Hogs.

In the case of hogs, the "fair exchange value" is fixed on a sliding scale, the figure being 3 1/2 cents a pound from approval of the act to April 30, 1933; 4 cents a pound from May 1 to June 30, 1933; 4 1/2 cents a pound from July 1, 1933, to beginning of the marketing year of 1933-34 and 5 cents a pound after that time, plus an additional one-half cent a pound for each increase of ten points in the index number for factory employment over that same number as it stood at the time the act was made operative. Reduced to simple language, this latter provision seeks to establish an enforced upward movement of the price as greater numbers of workers are restored to factory pay rolls.

The producer may not get certificates of adjustment, however, with so

much ease as asking for them. He has to prove and submit a sworn statement therefor, that he has reduced his acreage, or the tonnage of his hog production, by 20 per cent.

The funds with which to pay those certificates would be raised, as was stated earlier, by the tax on processing. The first processor would be called upon to pay the charge fixed, and then the treasury would use the amount in pro rata repayments as a reward to those farmers who complied with the voluntary reduction program, so there would be, theoretically at least, a tendency to balance consumption and production by holding down the latter.

From these facts it is seen that there must be an apportionment, a determination of the amount that may be produced of each of the commodities to which the bill applies. The method is this: the secretary of agriculture, in effect, determines what the normal requirements for domestic use are going to be, and apportions the total among the producing areas according to their previous percentage of the total output.

But the secretary cannot stop there. The allotment must be carried on through the several states to the counties of each and to the very unit, the farm, so that each farmer may know what he may plant in wheat or cotton or tobacco, or how many hogs he may grow for market. It thus sets up one of the most far-reaching organizations known to history, for it is self-evident that the secretary of agriculture, nor any other one human being, could do that job by himself. There will have to be, first, a federal organization for the headquarters, state headquarters and county headquarters, and workers in all of them in order to see that the requirements are met. If there is not such an organization throughout, there will be no way to prevent abuse of the adjustment privilege.

On the Other Hand.

Now, as to the other side of the picture. If the plan works as Mr. Jones and his colleagues maintain that it will, the farmer will have the twofold benefit of the increased price due to the bounty and presumably the added value given the commodity by shortened supplies.

And, if the plan works, the consumer will find himself in the unusual situation of paying the farmer to raise the price by limiting the supplies. In short, the consumer's bread will cost more because the miller pays an adjustment charge on wheat, and his ham will cost more because the packer has paid the tax as a processor of the hogs, and so on through the list of whatever commodities eventually are included in the terms of the law.

It will readily be seen that this circumstance is certain to present a sharp alignment between agriculture and residents of larger cities and probably of smaller cities and towns as well. There is evidence of it already in the undercurrent of discussions around the Capitol, and the circumstance is not one at which senators and representatives are looking with enthusiasm. They can see plenty of kick-backs, for after all city votes are more important to some of the politicians than are the country votes. The reverse is true of a very great many of the house members and some of the senators, from all of which the possibilities of the alignment become apparent.

But in justification of the use of the farm parity system, its sponsors are saying that American agriculture is now producing under conditions of unrestricted individualism in an era when all other production, including agriculture in almost all other countries, is either protected or controlled. They are saying that American agriculture should not be denied the right to set up its own defenses. It should have its means of protecting itself against this free competition until the time arrives when other producers accept free trade.

Cause for Worry.

It is the potential abuse of the privileges accorded by the proposition, however, that causes the greatest worry. Some opponents urge that the tax will be collected and the farmers will be rewarded, and that there will be an early tendency to forget about the limitation on production that is supposed to result. In that event, it would be undeniably special privilege, a subsidy that would run into hundreds of millions annually.

Behind the terms of the legislation, too, lies an almost certain pressure that will bear down on congress every day of the year to increase the bounties or rewards paid for reduced production. Farmers could claim they were not receiving all they were entitled to receive under the policy of the bill, and demands for higher tariffs would be inconsequential beside the furor that could be set up in behalf of a plea for higher adjustment rates on wheat or tobacco or hogs.

The bill undeniably puts agriculture deeper into politics than it ever has been.

The bill has not been passed yet, and it appears that even if the senate gives it approval, there may be a Presidential veto awaiting. But the fact remains, legislation which many friends of agriculture fear may have more of the bad than it has of good is nearer final enactment now than it ever has been before. The domestic allotment plan, the export debenture plan and the equalization fee have run the gauntlet several times before in one form or another, yet never before have the prospects of final approval been as near as now, since there is a change coming in the White House soon.

# Indians Well Skilled in Art of Trepanning

Surgery, in at least one form, was an advanced art in the New world before the coming of Columbus. This was the operation for wounds in the skull, known as trepanning. Such is the conclusion of Dr. Ales Hrdlicka, curator of physical anthropology of the Smithsonian institution, from an intensive study of the "trepanned" skulls in the National museum collections. In the Andes, he says, there were skilled "specialists" in this line who perfected their technique on corpses and then operated with extreme boldness and rather uniform success on the living. For the most part they were surgeons attending to the wounded after a battle. Doctor Hrdlicka believes that the beginnings of this surgical art may have been brought from Asia by some of the original migrants and that it connects with the neolithic trepannings of Europe and northern Africa.

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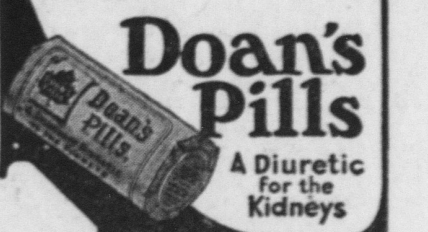
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