

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Chancellor Chamberlain Says Great Britain Wants War Debt Cancellation—Inflationists Lose in Senate—Lame Duck Amendment Ratified.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

GREAT BRITAIN has been invited to discuss with the United States the war debts with a view to revision and possible reduction, the invitation having been extended by the Hoover administration with the almost certain concurrence of President Roosevelt.



Chancellor Chamberlain

The conference, if the British accept, will be held in March; and it will be followed immediately by similar conferences with the nations that are not in default in payment to this country, namely, Italy, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia, Finland and Latvia.

But Secretary of State Stimson, in sending out the invitations, omitted France, Belgium, Poland, Hungary and Estonia, the nations that have defaulted; and this, too, it is understood, met with the approval of Mr. Roosevelt, who will be President when the negotiations are under way.

However, there were indications in Washington that Mr. Roosevelt will have arranged separate conferences with the defaulters. England is especially interested in having France included in such arrangements as may be made, believing a final settlement of debt and economic subjects cannot well be reached unless France is taken into account.

Representative Rainey of Illinois, Democratic floor leader in the house, seemed to be roused by the news.

"The conferences won't amount to anything, in my opinion," Rainey said, "because the American people are not going to stand for a reduction in the debts."

"The debt conferences should be linked with the world economic conference. The thing to do is to bring about a removal of international trade barriers so that trade can be revived. The conferences already projected hold only a possibility of opening up trade routes and giving the debtors a chance to pay."

England accepted the invitation, and her stand on the war debt question was stated plainly by Chancellor Neville Chamberlain in an address before the Leeds Chamber of Commerce. Briefly, the British government will ask either cancellation or reduction so drastic that it will amount to the same thing. If this cannot be obtained, said Chamberlain, the settlement reached must be final and must not involve resumption of the German reparations. "To disturb the Lausanne agreement," he said, "would be to reopen old wounds and to destroy for an indefinite period all prospect of agreement on matters affecting the happiness and prosperity not merely of Europe but of the whole world."

Undertaking to explain the matter to "the farmer of the Middle West," the chancellor said that if the war debt payments were to be resumed they could not be made by loans or by further shipments of gold. "Effective means of paying," he continued, "would have to be found and they could only be found by increasing sales of foreign goods to America or, what would come to the same thing, by diminishing purchases from America."

THERE will be no more lame duck sessions of congress, for the Twentieth amendment to the Constitution has now been ratified by more than 36 states and will go into effect October 15 next.

Action by the Missouri legislature clinched it, and several other legislatures came into line the same day. Under this amendment both senators and representatives assume office on January 3 following their election. The President and Vice President take office on January 20 following election. The newly elected congress is automatically called into session on January 3 and on the same date one year later. The changes do not affect the terms of Hoover and Curtis or any member of the present congress.

Adoption of the amendment is something of a personal victory for Senator Norris of Nebraska who fought for it through many years. It was passed by the senate several times but always previously was blocked in the house.

INFLATIONISTS are becoming more numerous and apparently more numerous daily in Washington, but at this writing they have not got anywhere. Their first big effort was put forth during debate on the Glass banking bill in the senate. Wheeler of Montana, Independent Democrat, offered an amendment providing for the free coinage of silver at the ratio of sixteen to one—the old formula of William Jennings Bryan—and Huey Long of Louisiana proposed another amendment authorizing the government purchase of silver and stabilization at approximately 14.38 to 1.

After violent discussion both these schemes were defeated, by a vote of 56 to 18 in each case.

During the debate Senator Tom Connally of Texas increased the perplexity of the senate by announcing he was preparing a measure to debase the gold content of the dollar by one-third and perhaps, if it were constitutional, to forbid individuals making contracts calling for payment in dollars of current weight and fineness. Both Senator Glass and Senator Fess argued strongly against all the inflation proposals, as did Reed of Pennsylvania.

After being badly mangled by amendments the Glass banking bill was passed by the senate. Its fate in the house is problematical.

FARMERS are to have the opportunity of borrowing \$90,000,000 from Uncle Sam with which to produce this year's crops, unless the bill passed by congress is killed by a Presidential veto. The measure makes available the sum named of the unused balance of \$200,000,000 of R. F. C. funds allocated to agriculture. The loans will be made for planting, fallowing and cultivation, and the secretary of agriculture is empowered to exact from borrowers agreements to reduce acreage not to exceed 30 per cent. One million dollars is allocated for feed for farm live stock in drought and storm stricken areas.

Farm bloc members of congress defended the bill, asserting there would be widespread suffering on the farms unless such loans were authorized. Many members, however, attacked it as paternalistic, socialistic and bound to increase farm product surpluses. Snell of New York, minority leader, declared it was utterly inconsistent with the pending domestic allotment measure, the purpose of which is to increase farm product prices and decrease acreage.

The senate agriculture committee began hearings on the domestic allotment bill Wednesday, hoping they would be completed in a week or so. The same arguments for and against it that were heard in the house were repeated.

MR. ROOSEVELT, in Warm Springs after his inspection of Muscle Shoals, was busy studying the problems that will come before him and conferred with many notable men of his party and a few who are not of that persuasion. Among his callers were several who, according to the cabinet makers, have good chances of being offered portfolios. Among these was Bronson Cutting, the senator from New Mexico who bolted the Republican ticket last fall and helped elect Roosevelt. The gossip was that he would be made secretary of the interior if he were willing to accept the place. Senator Cutting was accompanied on his visit by Senator La Follette of Wisconsin, another "rebel" Republican.

Bernard M. Baruch of New York, chairman of the emergency national transportation committee, also was in Warm Springs helping the President-Elect prepare his program and giving advice especially on the railroad situation. There was talk that he might be appointed secretary of state, probably the only cabinet position he would take, though many still thought that position would go to either Senator Walsh of Montana, Owen D. Young or Norman Davis. Mr. Roosevelt told the correspondents he might announce one cabinet choice before going on his yacht trip, but no more than one. Presumably that will be Jim Farley, who it is conceded will be postmaster general.

PRESIDENT HOOVER vetoed the first deficiency bill, carrying appropriations of \$31,000,000 and the house upheld his action, the vote being 192 to 158. The President disapproved of the measure because he and Attorney General Mitchell held unconstitutional a provision placing control of all substantial refunds from income, gift and inheritance taxes in the hands of a joint congressional committee. Senator McKellar indicated that he would make another attempt to remove control over refunds from the treasury.

ELIMINATION of the citizens' military training camps as an economy move was rejected by the house, which added \$2,500,000 to the War department appropriation bill to insure their continuance. Also \$500,000 was added to the appropriation for the reserve officers' corps. The measure was then passed.

The senate finance committee reported the house beer bill amended to include wine and to provide 3.05 per cent alcoholic content. This measure may get through congress before adjournment but probably will be vetoed if it does.

PLANS for the Inaugural of Mr. Roosevelt are rapidly nearing completion and the stand from which the new President and other dignitaries will review the parade is being constructed. The Inaugural committee, headed by Rear Admiral Cary D. Grayson, is really arranging for quite a big show despite the request of Mr. Roosevelt that the affair be simple and inexpensive. The committee decided that the parade should be limited to about 10,000 marchers who will take two hours to pass the stand. As now planned it will be in four divisions led by General Pershing as grand marshal.

CANADA scored a victory in a rum running case that was ruled on by the Supreme court. It grew out of the seizure of the Nova Scotian rum ship *Mazel Tov*. The court held that in cases of vessels of British and Canadian registry, the 1924 treaty with Great Britain superseded the provisions of the 1922 and 1930 tariff acts. The opinion declared therefore that coast guardsmen may board, search and seize British and Canadian vessels only when they are less than one hour's sailing distance from the American shore, instead of within a 12-mile limit as provided by the tariff act.

ALEXANDER, the handsome young king of Yugoslavia, accompanied by Queen Marie and his foreign minister, Bosko Jetic, spent the week in Rumania visiting King Carol at the latter's country place, Sinaia palace. Officially it was just a family visit, Marie being Carol's sister, but the correspondents said it was for the purpose of seeking a common front on the question of equal armaments, due to come up for discussion in Geneva on January 31. The little entente powers, which include these two nations and Czechoslovakia, did not like the action of the great powers in giving Germany judicial equality in armaments without consulting the little entente, and they propose now to demand more consideration when important matters come up in Geneva.



King Alexander

King Alexander was especially anxious to get Rumania's backing on a protest which Yugoslavia plans to raise against Italy's alleged pouring of machine guns and munitions into Hungary through Austria.

Diplomats in Bucharest said an important side-issue of the royal visit would be a private conference concerned with the problem of restoration of former King George as the ruler of Greece. Such restoration, it was explained, would be immensely valuable to Yugoslavia, since a friendly Greek government would secure use of Saloniki harbor for Yugoslavia should circumstances demand.

SOUTH AMERICA'S two unofficial swarms attracted considerable attention during the week. Colombia sent a joint note to signers of the Kellogg pact asking that they call upon Peru not to violate the treaty at Leticia, toward which a Colombian flotilla was steaming to recapture the town from the Peruvian Nationalists who seized it some time ago. The place was ceded to Colombia by Peru under a treaty signed in 1922. The Peruvian government asked the League of Nations to order suspension of "all measures of force" in the Leticia area.

Secretary of State Stimson hurriedly called to his home the diplomatic representatives of the powers signatory to the Kellogg pact to consider this critical situation. He then sent a note to Peru invoking the pact and making it plain that the United States considered Peru was in the wrong in the dispute.

Bolivians and Paraguayans were fighting desperately for possession of Fort Nanawa in the disputed Gran Chaco and both sides claimed the advantage. The battle lasted for days and the casualties were numerous.

REPORTS from Tokyo said the Japanese cabinet had decided that Japan's withdrawal from the League of Nations was inevitable and had instructed Yosuke Matsuoka to restate his country's position in regard to Manchuria and then leave Geneva for home.

Foreign Minister Yasuya Uchida was understood to have informed the cabinet that application of paragraph four of article fifteen by the league, under which recommendation for definite action in the Manchurian dispute can be made, appeared almost certain. The cabinet, it was said, agreed that this step would be followed by condemnation of Japan's action in recognizing the Manchukuo independent government headed by Henry Pu Yi, the former emperor.

UNIVERSITY of Illinois is losing its accomplished president, Dr. Harry Woodburn Chase, who has been at the head of the big institution only about two years. Doctor Chase has presented his resignation, effective at the end of the current school year, and will become chancellor of New York university, succeeding Chancellor Brown. He went to the University of Illinois from the University of North Carolina, where he already had made a fine reputation.

PRESIDENT EAMON DE VALERA won a smashing victory in the Irish Free State elections, his party gaining votes everywhere at the expense of that of William Cosgrave, his chief opponent.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN WASHINGTON

Congress Headed Straight for Long Extra Session; Many Weighty Problems.

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

Washington.—The wish of a great number of senators and representatives to stay in Washington at least a part of this coming summer is going to be fulfilled. They are headed straight into an extra session of congress, and unless all signs fail it is going to be a long-drawn-out affair.

It always has been the case that a goodly number of the national legislators prefer to stay around the Capitol after a futile session, rather than to go home and see the folks. Constituents have a habit of asking embarrassing questions as to why nothing was done about this, that or the other. So, except for a short period between the retirement of Mr. Hoover and the date which President-Elect Roosevelt fixes for the extra session, representatives and senators are likely to be here on the job through much of the summer.

The incoming Chief Executive thus far has kept his own counsel about the extra session, but the wisecracks among the hundreds of volunteer assistants who have tied themselves to him, or have attempted to do so, claim that the extra session will be called around April 20. That will give Mr. Roosevelt roughly seven weeks of the seven months' "honeymoon" in the White House for which he asked during his campaign.

Mr. Roosevelt was not the only one who desired to have that honeymoon period at the beginning of his administration. The expressions from business leaders were of the same tenor. They thought, and still believe, the absence of congress from Washington for a while would serve as a tonic for the country by allowing business to move along undisturbed during that time.

Heavy Work Ahead.

There is no better way to depict what kind of a job confronts the extra session than to set down some of the things pressing for decision. Here are just a few of them:

The unbalanced federal budget, with its family of related questions like taxation, economies in government, abolition or consolidation of government functions and the policies necessary to carry out those decisions.

Unemployment relief, with the further call for federal funds for loans to financial houses, railroads, cities and states, and now it is even proposed to make loans to school districts.

War debts, to which is inseparably linked proposals for a world economic conference involving tariff policies, economic restoration, monetary standards (involving valorization of silver), and re-establishment of foreign trade.

Inflation of the currency and its Siamese twin, domestic mortgages, both farm and city. Allied with these two questions necessarily is the question of ways and means to pull our own country out of the depression, and legislation revising national banking and federal reserve laws. The demand for immediate payment of the veterans' bonus has a place in the same picture. Prohibition in its various phases.

The whole category of agricultural problems and prices of commodities and questions of production and distribution.

These are not mentioned in the order of their importance, but they all are with us, and they all must be dealt with.

Left-Overs on Card.

No one doubts that the extra session will continue for a good many weeks. There is much to be done. A considerable portion of the work to be faced results directly from Democratic party pledges upon which victory was won. But, important as those are, the things that will be left over from the present do-nothing session of congress probably are equally, if not more, important.

That is to say the Democrats have added to their burden by being unable or unwilling to formulate and pass a definite program of legislation in the current session. Take the question of the treasury's finances, for example. Majority Leader Rainey, of the Democratic-controlled house, has abandoned any attempt to balance the budget, or even take steps to do so, in the short session. Taxes and government economies are all tied up in a neat bundle in that one question. It will not be easily solved.

Of course, it must be stated that any program which the house puts through under present conditions will be torn to tatters in the senate, where an even division of membership makes direct action impossible. That is one of the reasons cited, or suggested by Speaker Garner and Mr. Rainey for dropping a financial program until everything is under the control of the Democrats. Yet such a course obviously adds to the load of the extra session and there are many observers who feel also that it increases the possibility of Democratic factional fights.

The rows which the Democrats will have to settle will not arise in all legislation. The tremendous majority will make for reasonably smooth sailing for instance on such things as prohibition repeal and lesser legislation. But when money questions are up, questions of taking more taxes from a tax-ridden electorate, the varieties of

views will number at least half as great as the number of representatives and senators.

Mr. Roosevelt campaigned on promises of economy. He proposed to the voters to do away with a truckload or so of government functions. Most of the Democrats in congress made the same sort of arguments. Now, however, it seems as though some of them had their tongues in the cheeks. Economies are necessary, judging from the argument one hears in both house and senate, but make it apply to the other fellow, first.

Farm Relief and Banking.

Among other things due to face the extra session are farm relief and banking legislation. If the senate takes the house "farm parity bill," the domestic allotment plan under another name, it faces a certain veto from President Hoover. The bill over which Senator Carter Glass (Dem.), of Virginia, has worked so long and ably to revise the national banking and federal reserve laws, is going nowhere in this session.

So it is easy to see what gigantic forces will be exerted against two measures which it appears Mr. Roosevelt favors. Each of these bills has opposition spreading from coast to coast, but it remains to be seen whether that opposition is strong enough to break the unit of Democratic strength.

The character of the fight that is to come over the Glass banking bill has been thoroughly demonstrated by that which took place in the senate recently. It is no game at which children can play. There are tremendously big bankers against it, and there a goodly number of little bankers against it. Their objections are not to the same sections, but that is immaterial.

This banking legislation links right into the problems of domestic debts, and that, in turn, is tied like a knot about the use of the Federal Reserve system as an aid to economic restoration.

Back of it all obviously are the two camps, one urging inflation of the currency even to the point of abandoning the gold standard and the other group preaching sound money and retention of the gold standard. This phase of the problem that will be left on Mr. Roosevelt's lap provides an entree into the picture for all of the varied patent medicine legislators who have their own plans for curing everything from the hives to an economic breakdown.

Into this picture also is seen the probable advent of leaders in the movement to pay the soldiers' bonus immediately. Many of them want to pay in currency that has just come from the government presses, and with nothing behind it.

The domestic debt situation also gives the self-appointed type of economic doctors another opportunity. There are farm debts and debts of city home owners over whose heads mortgages hang. Plenty of words will rend the atmosphere about these conditions.

Probably some legislation will come out of the situation centering around debts. Changes in the bankruptcy laws are now impending, as I explained in an earlier dispatch. The consensus is that this legislation is moving in the right direction and that something worthwhile will eventuate.

That legislation, however, has only a very slight connection with the general farm problem. It may, and probably will, result in help in the case of mortgages of city property, but it will not deal with mortgages on farm lands. Those mortgages are so great that distinctive and separate consideration must be given them.

Complex Foreign Questions.

Mr. Roosevelt lately has given much thought to the whole category of foreign questions, too. Some of them are in a situation at present that indicates they are growing in complexity. I refer to the Japanese-Far Eastern condition, particularly, but there are disturbing elements in South and Central America as well.

It can be seen, without recourse to imagination, that these are closely related to war debts. Any mention of war debts connects up at once with international tariff policies, and Mr. Roosevelt is proposing some sort of an international new deal with respect to the high tariff walls erected in so many countries.

Congress has said it would have nothing to do with any proposals for war debt revision, but it is going to have that subject before it whether it likes the idea or not. It is extremely improbable that there will be any revision, yet it must be recalled that such men as Senator Borah (Rep.), of Idaho, have said they would not be averse to a scaling down of the war debts, provided they can enforce a limitation on the other nations also to cut down on their expenditures for arms and munitions of war. Let it not be forgotten, the Borah view is gaining.

Then, too, it must be recalled that Senator Harrison, of Mississippi, a Democrat and an astute leader, is promoting an idea about world-wide agreement on tariffs and is seeking to enforce reduction in arms expenditures along with it.

These are all of uncertain form at present. But the ideas are not without merit in the opinion of leaders everywhere. They must be reckoned with, and in the extra session, too.

Thus, when one studies the picture and observes all the detail, it can hardly be doubted that the extra session is in for a peck of trouble. The nature of the problems and the conditions of the people of this nation and of the world preclude any evasion.

Nothing Appealing in Soviet Idea of "Taking Women Out of Kitchen"

A Young Communist newspaper in Russia recently featured a photograph of four girls in red scarfs and short skirts carrying miners' lamps. They were members of a "shock brigade" in a Soviet coal mine. And above the picture was printed in large type, "Women's Work in the Soviet."

We knew, of course, that in Russia women were working as bricklayers, motormen, soldiers and militiamen, as well as in many physically exacting factory jobs. Now the coal mines. The employment of women there is part of the Communist campaign to "get women out of the kitchen"—meaning the home. But if there is anything more edifying about the coal pit than the kitchen it has yet to be shown, says one of the most noted women writers.

Some of my readers may thrill to this "proof" that women can do any kind of men's work. Personally, I do not.

For my part I see nothing thrilling or inspiring in the spectacle of men laboring in the bowels of the earth to dig out coal. The thought of women doing it affects me less agreeably. Then I have never been an exponent of that great human sport which might be called fooling ourselves. And for women to compete with men on a basis of brute strength seems to me so obviously trying to fool ourselves.

The claim that women can do everything as well as men will never have my vote. But I believe they can do a good many things better than men. Home making, education, sociology, certain kinds of literature, science, and art open to them fields in which the feminine understanding can offer something that men do not have to give. And naturally working in these fields where they have something exceptional to offer must bring them the highest form of self-expression. What a pity that a whole national culture should be devoted to stamping or crushing out this uniqueness in the creative ability of women and making them simply a poor imitation of men. And we have not mentioned the loss to the family!

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