

News Review of Current Events the World Over

President's Farm Relief Bill Passes the House; Labor Unions Oppose Unemployment Relief Bill; Public Works Next on Program.

THE President's farm relief bill passed the house with both Democrats and Republicans voting for and against it. During the hours of oratory, confined almost exclusively to explanation on the part of members as to why they would vote for or against the bill, many interesting statements were made.

"In ordinary times I wouldn't support a measure of this kind," was the statement of Chairman Jones of the agriculture committee after a ballot had prohibited amendments. "But we are at war. And while this war is on I'm going to follow the man at the end of the avenue who has the flag in his hand. I don't think this bill can make things any worse. God knows we all hope it will make things better."

"This is a child of the jig-saw puzzle age," said Representative Clarke of New York, the agriculture committee's ranking Republican. "But filled with horrors and hellishness as it is I'm going to follow the President."

Representative Hope (Rep., Kan.) said he could not support it. "You are putting into the hands of one man control of the lives of 30,000,000 people who live on farms," he said. "If you vote for this bill, you're simply voting for a bigger and better farm board."

In the senate the bill will not have such clear sailing as it had in the house, and it is expected it will pass only after being amended to take out of it provisions many members of both the senate and house object to. It is not safe to predict what the bill will provide for by the time it gets back to the White House for the President's signature.

CONGRESS now has before it the final two, of three, steps in the President's unemployment relief program. The first of these provides for the immediate enrollment of workers to the extent of approximately 250,000 for concentration in government established camps, the men to be employed in flood control, prevention of soil erosion, building of roads in government forest reserves, in forestry and in any other work which the President may direct.

The men congregated in these camps are to be provided with housing, food, clothing, medical attendance, and to be paid a cash wage of not more than \$1 per day. In the case of men with families a portion of the cash wage is to be allotted for the support of the families.

The recruiting of this "civilian conservation force" is to be on the basis of the number of unemployed in the different states in so far as that is possible.

The expense, for the present at least, is to be met, by diverting from the treasury unexpended balances of appropriations made by previous sessions of congress for other purposes. It is said that about \$40,000,000 is available through such a source, and it is expected this sum will maintain this plan for about ten weeks.

There is much opposition to this proposed law on the part of labor unions because of the low wage of \$1 per day. Representative Conroy, Democratic chairman of the house labor committee, refused to introduce the bill because of the labor union opposition.

The second step is an appropriation through which further grants for unemployment relief may be made to the states.

The third step, which the President will submit later, "extends to a broad public works labor creating program," including the operation of Muscle Shoals, the development of other power projects, vast reforestation plans, and a public building program involving the expenditure of \$250,000,000. The cost of carrying out the "three steps" will be about two billion dollars, and it is expected the President will propose to cover half of that amount with a bond issue.

CHARLES E. MITCHELL, former chairman of the National City bank of New York, was arrested at his home charged with willfully evading payment of an income tax of \$657,152 for the year 1929. He was released on bond. The warrant was based on an affidavit and complaint by Thomas E. Dewey, chief assistant United States attorney, which charged that the financier attempted to evade the tax due on an income of \$2,823,465.85 in 1929.

The return filed by Mr. Mitchell for 1919 showed a purported loss of \$48,000, which, of course, resulted in his paying no tax for that year. In Washington, it was reported, Attorney General Homer Cummings had conferred with Roosevelt, and that Mr. Roosevelt "fully approved of the action."

The Washington authorities have directed Mr. Meville to present the case

to the federal grand jury at once with a view to an early trial.

THE passage of the economy bill puts the question of government economies squarely up to the President. That law and the one passed by the last congress putting into the hands of the President the reorganization of government departments and bureaus, give to the President dictatorial powers over government expenditures for salaries up to the point of a 15 per cent reduction, the number of departments and bureaus and the employees needed to operate them, and the amounts to be paid to veterans, and to what veterans.

It is expected that such reductions as are made in the salaries of government departments will be effective April 1, but the savings made in the payments to veterans cannot, under the law, be effective until July 1. For the next fiscal year, beginning July 1, it is predicted the economies effected by the President will amount to a total of \$508,652,000, divided as follows:

1. Elimination of non-service connected disability allowances to World War veterans	\$201,652,000
2. Reduction in pay of government employees	125,000,000
3. Reduction of Spanish-American war pensions	95,000,000
4. Establishment of uniform schedules for disability payments to veterans	40,000,000
5. Limitation on retroactive payments	25,000,000
6. Miscellaneous	22,000,000
Total	\$508,652,000

The plan for the reorganization and consolidation of government departments and bureaus has not yet been announced, but there will undoubtedly be an additional saving of from \$300,000,000 to half a billion dollars effected in that way.

The entire matter of economies in the administrative end of the government is now in the hands of the President.

IN RESPONSE to complaints by American Jews of the persecution and excesses committed against their co-religionists by the Hitlerites in Germany, Secretary of State Cordell Hull asked the embassy in Berlin to make a complete report on the situation.

This action was taken as a result of the representations made to the State department by a delegation from the American Jewish congress, headed by Rabbi Stephen S. Wise of New York.

The department issued the following statement: "Following the visit of Rabbi Wise the department has informed the American embassy in Berlin of the press reports of mistreatment of Jews in Germany."

"The department also informed the embassy of the deep concern these reports are causing in this country."

"The department has instructed the embassy to make, in collaboration with the consuls, a complete report on the situation."

BEER of 3.2 per cent by weight and 4 per cent by volume alcoholic content will be on sale legally in 14 states on April 7. The house of representatives refused to accept the senate amendment providing for 3.05 per cent, and the conference committee decided to accept the house percentage; the committee also killed the Borah amendment providing that the beverage could not be sold to children under sixteen years of age.

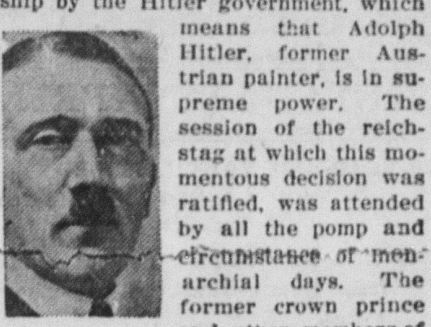
As soon as the new law becomes operative and beer is actually on sale the "drys" plan to bring a test case to be rushed through to the Supreme court for the purpose of determining the constitutionality of the law, and they believe the court will find that 3.2 beer is intoxicating and that the law is unconstitutional.

It was to minimize this possibility that the senate reduced the alcoholic content to conform with a finding of a British commission which had decided the highest alcoholic content possible in a non-intoxicating beverage would be 3.05.

Under the new law the sale of the beverage will be regulated by states, counties or municipalities as was true before the days of prohibition. There is nothing in the law to prohibit the sale in saloons in states or counties or municipalities where saloons may be wanted, and where such method of sale may be authorized.

The sale of beer has been legalized in only 14 states effective on April 7. The prohibition laws have been repealed in five other states, but the repeal in these states does not become effective until after April 7, and in one state not until July 1. The other 29 states are dry either because of legislation enacted after the adoption of the Eighteenth amendment, or were dry previous to that enactment. Some of these states will possibly repeal their dry laws before the present session of state legislatures adjourn.

GOVERNMENT by the people is dead in Germany. The reichstag has abdicated in favor of a dictatorship by the Hitler government, which means that Adolph Hitler, former Austrian painter, is in supreme power. The session of the reichstag at which this momentous decision was ratified, was attended by all the pomp and circumstance of monarchial days. The former crown prince and other members of the Hohenzollern family were saluted with all the formality of the pre-war court.



Adolph Hitler

Von Hindenburg in his address opening the session of the reichstag sounded an appeal to the people "for a national rebirth of the soul for the weal of a unified, free and proud Germany."

Hitler, standing before a golden reading desk, responded. He appealed for foreign aid. He rejected the charge of German war guilt as a lie, and asserted that neither the former kaiser nor the government desired the conflict. He promised to restore "true unity to all Germany, all states, all professions and classes."

"We want to be sincere friends to the world at large," the chancellor said, "and to possess a real peace which will help heal the wounds from which we are suffering. For years heavy burdens have pressed upon our people. After a period of proud revival, poverty and distress have visited us once more."

"Millions of Germans seek their daily bread in vain. Our economy is desolated, our finances shattered. For 2,000 years this faith has clung to our people; ever against our ascent comes our fall. The German—victim of inner disintegration, disunited in spirit, and divided in will and thus helpless in action—becomes powerless to maintain his own existence."

The new order of things awoke Germany to a pitch of enthusiasm not witnessed in many years. Bonfires flared and torchlight processions were held in every city and village. Eighty thousand cheering persons paraded in Berlin.

TO ASSURE an era of world peace the general lines of a solid European front in the form of a pact by the four chief powers were evolved at a conference in Rome between Prime Minister MacDonald of Great Britain, and his foreign secretary Sir John Simon, and Premier Mussolini of Italy. The project, which calls for the collaboration of Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy, is described as founded on the spirit of the Kellogg pact and as an international agreement to outlaw war.



Mussolini

The plan was put forth by Mussolini, according to the following official communique:

"After a full and exhaustive exchange of ideas of the general situation the ministers examined in these conversations a plan put forward by the head of the Italian government for an understanding on larger political questions, with the object of securing collaboration of the four western powers in an effort to promote, in the spirit of the Kellogg pact and a 'no force' declaration, a long period of peace for Europe and the world."

The solid front of the four powers, it is implied, would be for collaboration in European affairs, but such an understanding would also promote a more unified action in dealing with other international problems confronting Europe.

The collaborative agreement, it is inferred, is to be complementary to MacDonald's plan for disarmament.

Premier Daladier of France declared that before France can accept the scheme important modifications must be made. He said France would accept the plan in principle. Among the modifications the premier had in mind was one that Poland and the little entente (Rumania, Czechoslovakia, and Jugo-Slavia) be included in the agreement as equals.

The hopes of Europe to enmesh the United States in the plan to keep peace on the continent were revealed by Premier MacDonald. He said that the "moral support" of America is "ardently desired."

"We are thinking as Europeans," he said, "but we feel that there are many open ears in Washington and throughout the United States listening to what is being said in Europe about disarmament and peace."

"I am sure that many of these people would gladly spring to our assistance in what we are trying to do in a peaceful spirit, consistent with American policies."

THE flood in the Ohio river valley has taken at least ten lives and caused millions of dollars' worth of property damage. The Red Cross is caring for thousands of refugees forced from their homes by the flood waters. Their suffering was intensified by a return of winter. New Richmond, Ohio, is one of the hardest hit of the flooded towns. There were only five buildings in the town of 1,500 left dry and every road leading from the town but one was impassable.

On the Kentucky shore across from Cincinnati water crept across the river flats to leave some 3,000 homeless and isolate their towns of Newport, Bellevue, Dayton, Fort Thomas, and Southgate from Covington.

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart

Washington.—Although the Roosevelt emergency banking program was put forward purely as a solution for the crisis then upon the nation, it has since become apparent that it had a permanent phase that surely is going to carry on far into the future in the shape of a bitter controversy. There is no longer any doubt that the emergency program was based on a plan for a unified banking system for the country, and that, of course, means ultimate death for the state banking structure.

We have long had a national banking system, made up of financial institutions that were chartered by and under the control of the comptroller of the currency in the treasury. We also have had the state institutions that were chartered by and under the control of state authorities and existing by virtue of state laws. There has been a long continuing effort to get them together, but always it has been futile because for the most part the national banking laws were more rigid and the prerequisites higher than the state banking laws required.

It is interesting, therefore, to note the creation of the federal reserve system back in 1914 made some inroads into the state banking field by providing means whereby those banks could join the national banks in the federal reserve system. There remained advantages to the state banks, however, and one of the means used to offset some of those advantages was the passage of the so-called McFadden act in 1927. This allowed national banks to have branches within the city where their parent bank was located.

Various efforts have been made since that time to enlarge the branch banking privileges of the national banks, but to no avail. There was an enlargement of those privileges in the bill by Senator Glass of Virginia that was passed by the senate in the last congress, although it died the death of a rag doll in the house of representatives.

Now comes the emergency banking law, however, with provisions designed to solve the crisis in our country's financial structure but with some other sections furthering the interests of the national banks. The latter sections were completely overshadowed. Most people paid little attention to them. The main object of the legislation was to get the banks open. The bill was put through congress in the record speed of one day and the state banking interests, hitherto on guard against new encroachments, were in a position where they could do nothing.

Actually, the situation resulting from the passage of the emergency law, aside from the provisions for making currency available, is a tremendously long step on the part of the federal government toward squeezing out the state banks. It does so by making available many more advantages for the national banks and state banks that are members of the federal reserve system than they ever have had before. In other words, state banks which were able to meet federal reserve requirements could hardly remain outside of the system. Several hundreds of the 18,000 of them have been admitted to the system in a short space of time.

There are few officials or members of congress who will admit that there is a big drive on to accomplish a great Banking System unified banking system. Their silence, however, does not conceal the fact. State banking representatives who flocked to Washington during the banking holiday in order to protect themselves recognized it. They began fighting, but it was too late. The law was passed.

Their claim was, and still is, that the emergency banking act and the regulations issued under it for the reopening of the banks beginning March 13 resulted in state banks being cast adrift. They were given mighty little consideration. It looks like they will receive less hereafter. So it's the survival of the fittest for them.

This does not mean that the state bank in your community is going to die. The scheme which Washington observers believe they see and which the state bank representatives claim has been worked out operates slowly. It is intended to develop a far flung system whereby the small country banks will be absorbed slowly, perhaps becoming branches of larger banks. Banking facilities will be continued wherever there is need for them, because if the need exists profit can be made out of a bank. Wherefore, there will be an eventual purchase of hundreds of the smaller banks and conversion of them into branches.

Thus, the basis of the controversy comes into view. There is one school of thought in the Favor a Few country which holds Great Systems that the solution to our banking problems is establishment of a few great systems, or at least fewer but stronger banks. There is much support for that idea because of the thousands of bank failures that have occurred in

the period of the depression. Senator Glass, the author of the bill mentioned above and one of the ablest banking students of the time, says there are actually thousands of banks in operation that ought never have been organized. There was no need for them. He referred to some of the real small institutions as pawn shops, adding that they were of no service to their communities and that they toppled over at the first sign of a storm.

But there is another school of thought. Those on this side of the question argue against extension of the branch system and the limitation on the number of banks as placing dangerous power over currency and credit in the hands of a small number of individuals instead of distribution of that power among the communities where the banks are located. From this viewpoint, too, it is said local communities will be denied accommodations at the bank with which they must do business. I have heard it argued at length that a branch of a bank in a distant city will have its hard and fast rules, and either the local citizens meet those requirements or fail to get a loan. If that be true, of course, it means destruction of one of the basic rules of credit, namely, the character and record of the borrower.

At any rate, these are the points set up on each side of the question. Undoubtedly, there is merit to each argument. Moreover, experience seems to have demonstrated that varying conditions make the two propositions work differently in different communities. Yet, whatever may be the view one holds, it cannot be denied that the emergency banking act is an enormous stride in the direction of a unified banking system. If it produces stronger banks everywhere, it surely will have been a blessing even though it leaves sore spots and heartaches in many communities for the time being as a result of the harshness of its terms.

President Roosevelt's bold action respecting the banking situation resulted in many persons Move Required overlooking what I am inclined to regard as a move that required more courage when considered from the political standpoint. He was able to gain quick and decisive and almost unanimous action on the banking legislation because of the perilous situation. He had no such united support when he asked congress to give him dictatorial powers to cut government expenses. Especially is this true concerning the right he sought to trim down the payments being made to former soldiers, sailors and marines whose compensation was being given in cases of physical disability that did not result from actual service in the fighting lines.

No one knows, nor can anyone tell how much money is being paid for disability not connected with the service. It is known, however, that the total payments to veterans exceeds \$950,000,000, a vast sum even for our rich country. There seems to be no equivocation about the willingness to pay compensation to veterans who received injuries in the fighting lines. That is undoubtedly their due. It is the least a government can do. But where the compensation is being paid for things that have happened since the war, there surely is room for doubt. That is the type of payment which the President says he is going to eliminate.

Now that congress has put through the legislation permitting the manufacture and sale of Drys Keep Up beer with an alcoholic content, something near what beer had before the days of prohibition, much speculation has arisen as to how the matter will be viewed by the Supreme Court of the United States. The question surely will get to the Supreme court in rather short order. Prohibitionists are not going to be licked without that final test.

In view of these circumstances, it may be interesting to recall an argument made privately by former Senator John J. Blaine of Wisconsin, when he sought to get action on a beer bill in the last session of congress before his term expired. Senator Blaine took the position that it would be unconstitutional for congress to pass beer legislation that would "authorize" the manufacture and sale of beer where it contained an alcoholic content in excess of one-half of 1 per cent. But he contended that if congress enacted legislation declaring there was no penalty to be used where the alcoholic content was below a stated figure, there was nothing which the Supreme court could hold to be unconstitutional.

In other words, the way he proposed to make beer legitimate was by a negative action. Since the Eighteenth amendment said congress had power to pass enforcement statutes, congress had acted in accordance with the amendment, but it had placed the limit on the punishment. There seems every reason to believe that the law as enacted in the extra session will stand the constitutional test.

Howe About:

Majority Rule Best Clash Over Windows Patriotism and Politics

By ED HOWE

ANYONE who reads a good deal must have noted that the world's progress seems to have been a succession of great outrages, not one of which need have occurred had the people exercised their just right to majority rule. A handful of men were responsible for every great outrage in history; the prompt hanging of a few would have prevented the rivers of blood, the great famines and suffering, of which we hear so much.

I sincerely believe in majority rule. If a President orders us to take part in a foreign war a majority of us do not believe in, it is our right to shake our fists under his nose and tell him we will not do it.

Once when traveling I visited a place where was exhibited millions of bones of children. Inquiry revealed that the bones were of children who had engaged in a children's crusade to rescue the holy sepulchre from infidels. Some foolish man recommended the crusade, and foolish parents responded, instead of hanging the man who made the recommendation. It was one of the great horrors of history, and recollection of it has remained in my mind ever since.

I was reminded of it recently by seeing a recommendation of radicals that parents send their children this winter to march on Washington, and starve and suffer on the way, that something may be kept going on to advance the cause of human folly.

My favorite "notion" is that husbands and wives always clash over keeping windows up or down, and that it is the women who demand more fresh air than the men want. I heard two old people fussing about the subject lately, and the husband had moved to another part of the house, where he could arrange the windows to suit him. They didn't say much about the controversy in my presence, but acted as though a good deal had been said about it in private. On going out I met another old fellow, and told him about the incident, which I thought amusing. "My wife and I have had trouble about the same thing forty years," he said. The natural habits of men and women do not suit each other, and no one is to blame. The only remedy is for them to be as patient as they can. And if one does more than is fair—and reasonable in exercising patience, there will be trouble; both men and women are very "touchy" about their rights.

There is lately appearing in print a summary of the pension scandal following the Civil war. At first the Grand Army of the Republic had only a total membership of twenty-seven thousand, but, as the pension bait was displayed by greedy agents, the number increased to 458,000. A man named George E. Lemon established the National Tribune to glorify the old soldier, and he once admitted to a house investigating committee that he then had in his office 125,000 claims for pensions on which he hoped to collect a commission of \$25 each. Thousands of these clients were bounty jumpers; there were many thousands of these in the war, and many of them were paid \$700 each for enlisting when more timid men were drafted. Many of them were deserters—there were 125,000 deserters during the Civil war—who sold their services over and over. The politicians entered greedily into the movement as a means of securing Grand Army votes and soon it was a common saying the pension scandal was so rotten no editor or public man dared expose it.

The subject is of special interest now that veterans of the World war are beginning the same thing. And the fact that there are millions more of them renders the subject vastly more serious. Thousands of the more intelligent World war veterans themselves recognize this, and are openly opposing the scandal. I hope their influence will prevail; the people themselves are helpless in the presence of patriotism and politics.

There never was universal love; there never will be; it is doubtful if such a state would be desirable.

Men hustling to do better than competitors they hate have done much more for the world than the great souls who dream of universal love.

It is possible to reduce one's philosophy of life to three words: Be a gentleman. Provocation is so frequently offered by the rude that a gentleman is occasionally required to fight; he must strike no foul blows.

Stephen Leacock, a noted man, writes: "Mark Twain had little school and no college. He thus acquired that peculiar sharpness of mind which comes from not going to school, and the power of independent thought obtained by not entering college." This treason has appeared before: H. G. Wells says that Genghis Kahn, who could not read, and who always lived half wild, was the greatest statesman and general who ever lived.

It is said quite generally the present depression is economic. It is really intellectual; the men have all gone crazy. We should turn control of affairs over to the women and children; the men have failed.