

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Budget Director Douglas Passing on Public Works Projects; Industrial Codes, More Jobs and Higher Wages; Prohibition Repeal Wins Again.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ICKES, in his capacity as public works administrator, has been so beset by the demands of bureaus and politicians for big slices of the \$3,300,000,000 at his disposal that he was constrained to issue a warning that the program with its huge fund was not a grab bag. Then, after consultation with his advisory board, he decided that all projects must be sent to the budget bureau for radical paring down.



Thus Lewis W. Douglas, director of the budget, emerged as the man relied on to cut out the unwise, unessential and graft-tainted schemes and to submit for board action only the worthy projects. Politicians had been slipping into the lists proposals for construction of post offices, but Secretary Ickes had forbidden their inclusion and in this was supported by President Roosevelt. Ickes insists that each project provide a maximum of work, that it perform a necessary social service, and that it not be a recurring item belonging properly in an annual appropriation bill.

FIVE MILLION business men of the United States are asked by President Roosevelt to accept voluntarily what is called the "President's Re-employment Agreement" which is designed to restore employment and raise purchasing power through increased wages. Every business and trade and every conceivable type of worker are included in this pact, which is the master code that Gen. Hugh S. Johnson, national recovery administrator, and his aids worked out.

The employers are asked to adopt for five months, beginning August 1, minimum wage and maximum hour scales for their workers, to agree not to levy "profiteering prices," to abolish child labor, and to obey various other regulations.

The hours of work fixed are 40 per week for the so-called white collar employees and 35 hours for industrial workers.

The wages proposed are 40 cents an hour for industrial workers, or \$14 per week, except in cases where employees in the same class of work were paid less than that rate on July 15, 1929, and then the 1929 rate is to be applied, but in no case shall it be less than 30 cents an hour.

For the white collar workers, the wage scales are fixed according to populations of the cities in which they work. In cities of more than 500,000, the minimum rate is set at \$15 per week; in cities between 250,000 and 500,000, the rate is \$14.50; between 2,500 and 250,000 at \$14. In towns of less than 2,500 population, all wages shall be increased by 20 per cent, except that the maximum required shall not be more than \$12 per week.

If regular industry codes are signed before or during the five month period, they will supersede the emergency ones. Employers are given until September 1 to come under the plan, and if they have not signed at that date, the President made known that he will exert the powers he possesses under the national industrial recovery act and compel industries to accept codes which he will lay down arbitrarily.

ADMINISTRATOR JOHNSON, according to Washington correspondents, is constructing a big propaganda agency on behalf of the industrial control administration. He has called on such veterans in the game as Charles Michelson, publicity man for the Democratic national committee; Frank R. Wilson, Charles F. Horner and others who were leaders in the Liberty loan drives; Bruce McNamee, William V. Lawson, Heber Blankschorn, and various other skilled publicity men. Primarily, it was indicated, the new organization is intended to win favor for the proposed "master" code mentioned above.

DEPARTMENT OF Labor surveys, reported by Secretary Frances Perkins, show that during June 400,000 workers returned to jobs in factories of the United States, and 100,000 others found work in non-manufacturing industries and in agriculture. Railroads and other industries not included in the surveys, said Secretary Perkins, showed a "significant increase" in employment.

Gains of 7 per cent in factory employment and 10.5 per cent in factory pay rolls made June the third consecutive month in which both employment and earnings have increased.

Secretary Perkins accompanied the report, however, with a warning against overoptimism and speculative production. A gain in a month normally marked by a seasonal decline was "heartening," she declared, but she pointed to the long climb still ahead before the country can regain the 1926 level taken as the base by

the bureau in figuring its employment and pay roll indices.

SENSATIONAL breaks in the prices of all grains, accompanied by similar swift declines in the prices of stocks, led to action by the big grain exchanges. The Chicago Board of Trade stopped future trading for at least a day and issued this rule: "Effective until further notice, there shall be no trading during any day at prices more than 8 cents above or below the average closing price of the preceding business day in wheat or rye, or 5 cents in corn, or 4 cents in oats."

Like action was taken by other boards of trade, all of them curbing trading in privileges.

TWO states, in the past regarded as being dry as the proverbial bone, and the first in the "solid south" to vote on the question of ratifying the prohibition repeal amendment, were won quite easily by the wets. Alabama voted nearly two to one, and Arkansas voted about three to one for repeal. Then came Tennessee, and though returns from the mountain regions were slow, the repealists were assured of another victory. Oregon followed, and her vote, in support of repeal, meant that twenty states were in that column, with none yet opposing.

Postmaster General Fasley, who was interesting himself especially in the votes in southern states, said he was convinced that the Eighteenth amendment would be out of the Constitution before Christmas, and from the way things are going he may well be right. Although only thirty-five states have either voted or arranged to vote on repeal by November 7, action is pending in several others which may bring the total number voting to more than the required thirty-six.

GREAT interest was shown throughout the country in the marital affairs of Elliott Roosevelt, second son of the President. The young man's wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Donner Roosevelt, obtained a divorce from him at Minden, Nev., on a cross bill charging mental cruelty which was untested, and he immediately took an airplane to Chicago where he met Miss Ruth Goggin of Fort Worth, Texas, and her mother. Rumors that Elliott and Ruth were soon to be married were only halfheartedly denied. To the Chicago reporters Mr. Roosevelt said he was there to meet his sister, Mrs. Curtis Dall, and to visit the Century of Progress exposition.

"I'm not going to spend any time answering anything personal," he warned. "If I'm asked, 'Is it so?' I'll say nothing until I get ready to announce it. I'll certainly let all of you know if I ever decide to marry again."

Miss Goggin first met the President's son at Fort Worth in March while he was a guest of the Southwestern exposition.

GEN. ITALO BALBO and his 95 companions on the mass flight from Italy to Chicago left the World's fair city after several days of continuous entertainment that was limited only by the endurance of the aviators. They flew directly to New York and after a rest were conveyed in army planes to Washington to pay their respects to President Roosevelt. Balbo's plans called for return to Italy by way of Newfoundland, going to either Ireland or the Azores, depending on the weather.

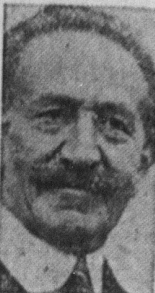
Italy and Premier Mussolini may well be proud of this exploit of their flyers, and all must be highly gratified by the honors heaped on Balbo.

THERE was mourning in America and Lithuania when it was learned that Capt. Stephen Darius and Stanley Girenas of Chicago had crashed and perished in eastern Germany on their flight to Kaunas, the Lithuanian capital. The bodies were found in a forest and were taken to Kaunas, where the government gave them a state burial.

AS THE rather futile world economic conference in London drew toward its close it was announced that a subcommittee had adopted part of Senator Key Pittman's resolution for the rehabilitation of silver, agreeing upon increased use of the metal in subsidiary coinage. The questions of regulating the world output of silver and of its use as a part of the central bank's metal coverage were postponed. Senator Pittman said he was quite satisfied.

"What it means," he said, "is this: All governments agree to cease debasement or melting of silver coins, except India and Spain, and they agree to limit the amount they will sell. We shall get back to where silver was before the World war."

REPRESENTATIVES of about thirty of the principal countries met in Amsterdam, Holland, at the call of Samuel Untermyer, New York attorney, for the purpose of extending the boycott against German goods and of appealing to the League of Nations against the alleged anti-Jewish atrocities perpetrated by the Nazis in Germany.



Explaining the conference and its purposes, Mr. Untermyer said that a boycott already was started in many countries but that its effects had been cushioned by a decision to use up German stocks already on hand. With exhaustion of these stocks, he said, German manufacturers will begin to feel the full force of worldwide sentiment against repression of the Jews.

The appeal to the League of Nations probably will be based on two counts—violation of the labor clauses of the treaty of Versailles in excluding Jews from German labor unions and persecution of the Jews as a minority people. Untermyer said he was working in close collaboration with the British Jewish committee headed by Lord Melchett.

CHANCELLOR HITLER in his efforts to speed up industrial recovery in Germany has created an organization known as the general council for industry, which is to assist the government with its advice and practical experience in solving the unemployment problem. Among the industrial leaders who consented to serve on this council are: Dr. Otto Fischer, president of the Central Association of German Bankers; Dr. Albert Voelger, director general of the United Steel Trust; Dr. Fritz Thyssen, Rhineland coal and iron producer; Karl Friedrich von Siemens, head of the electrical company which bears his name; Baron Kurt von Schroeder, president of the German Chamber of Commerce and a noted banker of Cologne; Vincent Krogmann, mayor of Hamburg and one of the German delegates to the economic conference at London; Dr. Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach, head of the Krupp firm, and Dr. Robert Ley.

The problem for the Germans is acute, for the unemployed there number about five million men, and German exports for the first six months of the year showed an alarming decrease. The government is promulgating new laws designed to help business men who give increased employment. Citizens who give contracts for repairs and improvements to their buildings will be entitled to a 10 per cent reduction in their income and corporation taxes if the increased bill for wages equals the cost of the materials. Newly-formed business undertakings will go tax-free if they deal in new manufacturing processes or bring to the market original products, provided that no competition is given to existing firms.

MEMBERS of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, meeting in convention in Milwaukee, received a message of good will from President Roosevelt, and elected Walter F. Meier of Seattle their grand exalted ruler. Mr. Meier is a graduate of the University of Nebraska, a former corporation counsel of Seattle, and is the author of a book called "The Heart of Eldkom." Gov. David Scholtz of Florida put him in nomination, and was himself elected grand exalted leading knight. Judge James Fitzgerald of Omaha was chosen grand esteemed loyal knight; Leland O'Callaghan of Louisville, grand tiler, and E. L. Safford of Santa Fe, grand inner guard.



Walter F. Meier

As the last act of his regime, before yielding place to the new grand exalted ruler, Floyd E. Thompson of Moline, Ill., named Circuit Judge Clayton F. Van Pelt of Fond du Lac, Wis., to a five year term in the grand forum of the national lodge, the supreme court of the order.

GILBERT N. HAUGEN, who represented Iowa in congress continuously for 34 years and was retired by the Democratic landslide last fall, died at his home in Northwood after an illness of several months. He was born of Norwegian parentage in Wisconsin 74 years ago. Always prominent as an advocate of the farmer, Mr. Haugen in late years was chairman of the house committee on agriculture and had much to do with formulating all farm legislation up to the advent of the Roosevelt administration.

IF THE orders of the Third Internationale are obeyed there will be a lot of "red" disturbance on August 1, which Moscow will celebrate as anti-war day. Communist agitators recently arrested in Riga, Tallin and Helsinki possessed copies of a general letter of instructions addressed to Communist parties abroad from the executive committee of the comintern. The letter ordered a one day strike, street demonstrations and general disorders on the day named. Large numbers of Reds serving time in Baltic prisons have been ordered to go on a hunger strike on August 1 and to present demands for prison reforms, one of which is for permission to have radios enabling them to listen to Moscow programs.

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted by William Bruckart

Washington.—Cotton farmers of the United States, or a sufficient number of them in sixteen states, have just given an advertisement of what can be done by unified action. We have just seen their sign contracts voluntarily under which they have agreed with their government to destroy certain portions of their growing cotton crop as a concerted effort to force prices higher than their industry may live.

Effect of United Action. As a result of this action, more than 9,000,000 acres of growing cotton will be plowed under. That means approximately 3,500,000 bales from the potential crop will never be allowed to attain maturity. It will never be on the market; it will never be used for clothing or other fabrication; it is out of the economic life. Whether such a course is good or whether it is contrary to the laws to which all humans must respond, is another question. The fact is that we who live have seen a government and a people take a step that history must record as epochal.

The farmers are going to be paid for that portion of the crop which they destroy. I have the exclusive information that the average amount to be paid them will be close to \$150. A great many will receive more because they are larger producers and some will get less, but there are thousands of them who will receive around that sum in cash. All will receive the additional benefit of a higher price for that portion of the crop which grows on to harvest.

I am told privately, and I think it is an interesting fact, that the bulk of the contracts offered to the secretary of agriculture under the cotton plan carried estimates by the farmers that are proving to be conservative.

The government, through the Department of Agriculture, is arranging the scale of payments so that it will figure out from \$7 to \$20 per acre. If a farmer's land is producing this year an estimated 100 pounds of cotton and not more than 124 pounds, he will receive \$7 for each acre plowed under. From that basis of production, the payments range upward to \$20 an acre where the production is calculated at 275 pounds to the acre or more.

In addition to the plan of payment I have been describing, there is an option plan under which the farmer is given an option on cotton which the government heretofore has acquired in the various farm relief programs. The purpose of the present plan, of course, is to force the price higher. The cotton which the government holds, therefore, can and will be sold sometime for more money than it was worth when the government bought it. An option is given the farmer by which he can become the titular owner of this government cotton in an amount equal to the amount he agrees to destroy out of this year's crop. He can get this profit instead of the cash payment available otherwise.

The option plan is based upon payments ranging from \$6 to \$12 per acre, and the government makes no payment on destroyed crops where the estimate showed a potential production of less than 100 pounds to the acre. That is true regarding payments under the cash plan, which brings to the fore the real reason there is payment at all. The government considers that the farmer is entitled to a return on his land and the payments, whether in cash or optional holding of old cotton, and gets what amounts to a rental to let it lie idle insofar as the cotton crop is concerned. He can use it for potatoes or something else, just so it is not cotton.

But from whence is the money coming to make these payments and how is the government doing it?

Where Money Comes From. The government is standing up to make these payments and how it is doing it. The government is standing up to make these payments and how it is doing it.

Co-operation Is Sought. The Department of Agriculture is seeking information from a self-appointed crew of individuals who are going about certain sections of North Carolina telling some of the farmers that either they would sign up contracts to reduce their cotton acreage or "we will pull it up by the roots." The threat to pull up the crop was accompanied by another kind of a threat. Agriculture Department folks do not want that kind of help in putting over the program. They want it to be voluntary co-operation, a sincere and serious effort to accomplish something by united action.

On the other hand, I am told, the agents in the various counties are accessible to nearly every farmer, and the department is willing to know of any unfair practices. That is part of the idea of co-operation. If a farmer signs a contract and fails to live up to his agreement, obviously he is hurting his own community and to that extent damaging the chances of success for the whole program.

Accordingly, the total reduction of acreage in whatever crop is figured out here on reports from farm agents in the various counties and the total cost to the government is arrived at. The total average sales over many years is a matter of record. That is, the records show how much the millers of wheat have handled and how much has been exported and the cotton producers' records also are available. The processing tax then becomes a matter of a percentage. It is simplified to the point where the calculation must be made on the difference in the total average value of the crops from 1924 to 1926 and the current prices.

M. L. Wilson, the man who is managing the wheat program for the Department of Agriculture is just as optimistic about the wheat plan for forcing prices higher as Secretary Wallace and George N. Peck, farm adjustment administrator, are about the cotton plan which now has been effectuated. Mr. Wilson told me after a recent tour of three weeks through the 800-odd wheat counties of the nation that 90 to 95 per cent of the wheat farmers are going with the government on the plan. That means signed contracts just as the cotton farmers signed contracts agreeing to stand together in unified action that reasonable profits may be realized from farming operations.

There is going to be a shorter crop of wheat this year than is usual. The Department of Agriculture estimates it will be around 490,000,000 bushels, whereas, it usually runs around 650,000,000 to 700,000,000. According to Mr. Wilson, the wheat farmers recognize that this year's short crop and higher prices will be followed by larger acreage in the plantings of winter wheat this fall and the spring wheat next spring. On the basis of acreage now growing, fall and spring wheat together, the next year's crop easily could go as high as 800,000,000 bushels. Just figure what that would mean on the basis of wheat consumption of around 650,000,000 a year. The carry over would break the price down to the level where it would be on the same basis as other stock feed and it would be disastrous. So Mr. Wilson says the wheat farmers are coming through in good shape as fast as they can be told what the plan means to them.

There are two other phases of the crop program that must be remembered, according to the authorities. One of them is the necessity for patience, particularly as regards the working out of the wheat programs. It will be slower than that affecting cotton. The other matter is less general but more pointed; the matter of attempts at self-policing the industry involved. I mean to call attention to the age-old practice of "taking the law into our own hands." That is not going to be countenanced by the government in any way, shape or form, for a law violator is a law violator, says the Department of Justice, and his punishment will not be made easier simply because he thinks he is enforcing a farm law and he happens to be a farmer.

In this matter of patience, I believe I state the view of the Washington observers as a whole that the various farm plans, as well as the plans affecting industry otherwise, should have a chance to show their worth. It is patent that nothing will help unless the programs designed to extend such aid are given time to mature. Unless they mature, the results are worth nothing to anybody. Hence, the belief of most of us that the nation must be patient.

As regards the self-policing problem. The Department of Agriculture is seeking information from a self-appointed crew of individuals who are going about certain sections of North Carolina telling some of the farmers that either they would sign up contracts to reduce their cotton acreage or "we will pull it up by the roots." The threat to pull up the crop was accompanied by another kind of a threat. Agriculture Department folks do not want that kind of help in putting over the program. They want it to be voluntary co-operation, a sincere and serious effort to accomplish something by united action.

On the other hand, I am told, the agents in the various counties are accessible to nearly every farmer, and the department is willing to know of any unfair practices. That is part of the idea of co-operation. If a farmer signs a contract and fails to live up to his agreement, obviously he is hurting his own community and to that extent damaging the chances of success for the whole program.

But the point of distinction is that, if there are unfair acts on the part of individuals or groups, the government can and will correct them. It is not up to the self-appointed police, say the authorities in the Department of Justice.

How I Broke Into The Movies

Copyright by Hal C. Herman

By HOOT GIBSON

I AM sorry that I cannot relate a tale of hardships and privation, but my entry into motion pictures was accomplished with comparative ease—after I decided to work in them.

I can't exactly say that I broke into the movies. It all seemed to happen systematically. The movies seemed like an opportunity, and when they opened their doors to me, I rode in.

I'm a native of Nebraska, was born in the small but ambitious town of Tekamah, which was smaller than it is now, but it was large enough to please me when I started life under the less fantastic name of Edward—and it gave me my education. My education completed, I began to wander, and inasmuch as the only thing I knew anything about was ranch work, I wandered to different ranches. I have been riding horses as far back as I can remember and I was as much at home in the saddle as on the ground. Being an adventurous youth I began to try various difficult and daring feats of horsemanship, and after plenty of hard work and bumps, I got so I could handle a horse well enough to get a job wrangling cattle, which I did for several years.

I found the task of pursuing cattle over large and dusty prairies quite an unexciting employment. So when I met up with a traveling Wild West show I was overjoyed at the opportunity of joining it as one of the star trick and stunt riders. It was known then as Dick Stanley's Congress of Rough Riders.

In 1912, I entered the annual Pendleton (Ore.) roundup as one of the 175 contesting riders.

When the dust had settled on the rodeo I found myself holding the all-around cowboy championship.

It was a tough job, and I worked hard to get it, but I kept right on riding, for I left with the American delegation of cow-punchers for Australia where I rode in the foreign meets for seven months.

About this time motion pictures were just beginning to show some signs of development and after reaching this country again I found myself talking with motion picture producers. They happened to have a field for western pictures so I started directing "program" or short length westerns.

I might have continued on this unpretentious status for the rest of my career but seeing the opportunities in the acting end of the game, I decided to get into the grease paint and see what would develop. I had directed about 40 pictures and had a fair knowledge of what the industry wanted in the line of western productions.

I have always had what some people call a sense of humor and I wanted to use it to advantage if possible. I saw tremendous possibilities in making westerns that went off the beaten path of melodramatic action pictures. I wanted to intersperse the exaggerated action of my pictures with comedy and human touches. I found a director and together we conspired to do comedy and human touches. The result was a better and more popular brand of pictures.

I know of no other business where merit is rewarded as it is in the movies—but merit must be aided by labor, and plenty of it.

WNU Service

Joan Needs No Glycerine Drops to Simulate Tears

In the sad business of weeping before the camera Joan Blondell has it all over her more sober sisters of the cinema. They resort to glycerine drops, stinging lotions for the eyes and even, at times, to the lowly onion to generate their screen tears. All except Miss Blondell.

Joan will use none of these subtleties. When the time comes for her to cry in a picture she just cries, and the glycerine bottle, the camphor spray and the restaurant onion are never called upon to double for real emotion.

An Immediate Success

Miss Fay Wray started her film career in 1923. She sprang into immediate prominence with her first appearance and counts among her many other successful vehicles, "Finger Points," "Not Exactly Gentlemen," "Conquering Horde," "Captain Thunder," "Lawyer's Secrets," "Unholy Garden," "The Vampire Bat" and "King Kong."



Hoot Gibson