

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Recovery Act Blue Eagle Becomes the National Bird—Code Making Continues—President Plans War on Kidnaping and Racketeering.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

BLUE eagles of NRA by the hundred thousand are flying all over the United States; innumerable men and women, jobless for long, are going back to work; shorter hours and higher pay are being installed in factories, shops and offices. American commerce and industry is fast being reorganized. President Roosevelt and his whole administration are pushing forward in the recovery campaign determinedly.

Following out the President's program, Gen. Hugh S. Johnson, national recovery administrator, has "drafted" citizens in all the states to lead the great drive. Nine members were appointed on each of 48 state "recovery boards," and seven members were named for service on 20 district "recovery boards" for the recently made codes. The telegraphic notice sent each of the former by General Johnson was:

"President Roosevelt has drafted you as one of the nine members of the state recovery board for the state of . . . as explained in bulletin No. 3 of July 20. He has requested you to volunteer your services without compensation in this great drive for national rehabilitation. As a member of this board your duties will be to get every patriotic American citizen, employer, and consumer to co-operate in this program. Please wire acceptance immediately and you will receive further instructions."

The advisory board for public works is doing its part in the re-employment campaign by dealing out further large sums from the public works fund. Its head, Secretary of Interior Ickes, announced allotments totaling \$118,282,000 for one state and five federal projects. Added to allotments already made, brought the total thus far earmarked out of the three billion three hundred million dollar fund to \$1,038,164,201.

The state project to be financed by the government was beneficiary of the largest allotment. Sixty-three million dollars, Secretary Ickes announced, is allotted for construction of the Grand Coulee dam in the Columbia river basin.

The state of Washington is to undertake the dam project. It is understood. Thirty per cent of the \$63,000,000 total cost, or \$18,900,000 represents a direct outright gift by the federal government. The remainder is to be loaned to the state, at low interest rates over a long-time period.

The upper Mississippi 9-foot channel project, already approved by President Roosevelt, was allotted \$11,500,000. This is a federal project to be undertaken under the government's rivers and harbors program.

Another \$22,700,000 of the public works fund was earmarked for the Caspar-Alcova reclamation project in Wyoming, for many years the pet scheme of Senator John B. Kendrick of Wyoming.

The federal forest service was allotted \$15,282,745; the coast and geodetic survey \$2,600,000; and the geologic survey \$2,500,000.

REPRESENTATIVES of the oil, coal, steel and many other industries were busily trying to agree on their codes in Washington. In each there were factions with conflicting ideas, and it was not easy to reconcile them. This was especially true of the oil men. Among them were many advocates of federal regulation of petroleum prices, but they were told by Administrator Johnson that he would not recommend to the President any price fixing until the effect of production control has been determined.

Formation of the coal code was complicated by the riotous strike in the mining zone of southwestern Pennsylvania. Thirty thousand miners were out and Governor Pinchot called out state troops to control the situation after a quarrel with a sheriff. The National Coal association, controlled by nonunionized operators, asked Administrator Johnson to look into the trouble in the strike region, and he designated Edward F. McGrady, labor adviser to N. R. A., to investigate the situation.

IN BOTH the coal and steel code discussions there was controversy over the open shop versus unions. The steel men took the open shop clause out of their proposed code to facilitate settlement but they declared plainly that they would stand for the present systems of employees' councils in the industry to carry on collective bargaining.

Mr. Johnson said he would not approve any code that does not provide for advisory councils. On the old issue of how collective bargainings should be

carried out, the administrator reiterated that N. I. R. A. provides for collective bargaining through employees chosen by the workers.

Robert P. Lamont, former secretary of commerce and now president of the American Iron and Steel Institute, which represents 98 per cent of the country's producers of pig iron and steel ingots, was the chief spokesman for the iron and steel industry at the hearings. William Green, president of the A. F. L., challenged various sections of the offered code, especially the minimum wage and maximum hours provisions. Secretary of Labor Perkins, who had been making a tour of the Pennsylvania steel mills, wanted the wage rates altered, especially criticizing the 25 and 27 cents minimum hourly rate set up for the southern and Birmingham districts.

Shortly afterwards Mr. Lamont announced the industry had agreed to raise the minimum pay in those two districts to 30 cents an hour.

Both Green and Miss Perkins urged that the 40 hour week would not bring about sufficient re-employment in the industry.

Defending the proposed code, Mr. Lamont said:

"It is estimated that on the basis of a 60 per cent rate of operations and a 40 hour week, substantially all the 49,738 employees who were not receiving work July 1, 1933, would be given employment. On less than a 40 hour week the industry positively could not operate the mills and meet any demands on them in excess of present production."

"The code establishes a minimum rate of 40 cents an hour for common labor in the Pittsburgh, Youngstown, north Ohio, Canton, Massillon, Cleveland, Detroit-Toledo, Chicago and Colorado districts. This rate is only 9 per cent less than the highest base rate paid during the last 11 years, where living costs were above the present level."

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, continuing his vacation at his home in Hyde Park, N. Y., called into conference these Assistant Secretary of State Raymond Moley



Raymond Moley

where and how the federal power can best be used as a weapon against the criminal. He is well fitted for this work, for he is an expert criminologist, was an adviser to the New York crime commissioner and is the author of numerous surveys of crime, notably in Ohio and Missouri.

As for racketeering, both the President and Moley see in the new recovery act the authority, which the federal government has heretofore lacked, to intervene in criminal cases involving business conduct. Until now, unless a criminal act infringed upon some specific federal statute, such as one of the postal laws or the internal revenue act or a law based on interstate commerce, the federal government had no means of jurisdiction.

In the past the anti-trust laws have prevented the smaller industries and business units from banding together. Such a condition provided a fertile field for the racketeers, for illegal combinations, and for violence.

The national recovery act, however, provides directly for the abrogation of the anti-trust laws in cases where they interfere with the working of the recovery program. Industry and business are forced into trade agreements. The federal government sanctions and imposes those agreements and any act in violation of such agreements or tending to destroy the effect of the recovery act is made a crime.

Against kidnaping, the President is counting on a super police force modeled in a general way on England's Scotland Yard, the postal regulations, the income tax law, and the recently enacted kidnaping statute.

Recent instances of kidnaping are familiar to all newspaper readers. The "snatchers" have received large sums for the release of their victims in several cases. The relatives of John J. O'Connell, Jr., of Albany, N. Y., paid \$40,000 for his freedom, and the ransom of Charles F. Urschel, millionaire oil operator of Oklahoma City, is said to have been \$200,000.

CHESTER S. LORD, who as managing editor of the New York Sun for nearly a quarter of a century was admired and loved by two generations of newspaper men, died at the age of eighty-three years, in his home in Garden City, N. Y. The "Boss," as one of his reporters once wrote, "was never known in all the years of his managing editorship to utter an unkind word to any man on the paper, no matter how humble his station."

RESULTS shown by the civilian conservation corps are deemed so satisfactory by the administration that plans are being made to continue the experiment for another six months. Orders are to be sent out for the re-enlistment of all those who desire to go on with the work.

Enlistment is on a six months basis. The first "hitch" expires in November. There are at present 310,575 men in the corps, including 25,000 former service men. The forestry army is located in 1,438 camps in all parts of the country. The cost to the government is approximately \$20,000,000 a month.

SENATOR HUEY P. LONG'S arbitrary rule in Louisiana was seriously threatened when District Judge A. C. O'Donnell began an open court investigation into the election of last fall in which Long's gang is alleged to have resorted to fraud in order to win. The judge ordered fifteen election commissioners, arrested on charges of certifying to false returns, brought before him; and he granted permission to District Attorney Stanley to examine ballot boxes in open court. Governor O. K. Allen, a Long henchman, in trying to halt the investigation, had declared New Orleans under martial law, but revoked the order after eight soldiers had been detailed to guard the grand jury. The latter body appeared to be dominated by the Long crowd.

The United States senate committee announced it planned to resume its investigation of Louisiana elections within two months. The Times-Picayune called upon President Roosevelt to take note of "political racketeering" in Louisiana and not to overlook it in his "war on gangsters."

POLITICS and sugar are making the Cuban situation very difficult for the administration in Washington, and for Ambassador Sumner Welles.



Sumner Welles

Though it was announced that the political situation on the island was clearing up, and though President Machado issued an amnesty proclamation, the troubles there are continuing. The Cuban people are in distress, the school teachers in Havana have been demonstrating because they are not paid, and the veterans of the war of independence undertook to hold a parade to call attention to their inability to collect their pensions. The old soldiers were attacked by police and severely beaten, right under the eyes of Mr. Welles, and it was reported the ambassador would demand that Machado revamp his cabinet and dismiss Gen. Alberto Herrera, the cause of much of the recent disturbance.

The Cuban ambassador in Washington is persistently demanding a larger import quota for Cuban sugar. This and this alone would make the island fairly prosperous and would lead to the subsidence of the political disorders.

At present the sugar conference has tentatively set Cuba's sugar exports to the United States at 1,700,000 short tons of raw and only 110,000 tons of refined. Ordinarily United States importation of Cuban refined sugar is about half a million tons.

THE apprehension of war between the United States and Japan, entertained by not a few Americans, is apparently felt in Japan also, despite official denials. The army and navy heads of the island empire have just submitted to the finance ministry estimates for the 1934-35 defense expenditures larger than any in previous history and 45 per cent greater than the appropriation for the current year. These estimates included 180,000,000 yen (\$50,400,000 at current exchange rates) for new naval construction and 75,000,000 yen (\$21,000,000) for modernization of capital ships.

The navy ministry asked for the fiscal year beginning next April 1 the sum of 280,000,000 yen (\$100,400,000), which is 30 per cent more than the estimates of 1921-22, the largest previous estimates for the sea forces.

The combined Japanese fleet began preparations for maneuvers several hundred miles southeast of Tokyo, in which the major problem will be a battle with a hypothetical enemy. This will be preceded by a four-day defense of the Tokyo district against a sham aerial attack from the sea.

ANDORRA, the little old republic in the Pyrenees, underwent a bloodless revolution and the young people won the right of franchise, hitherto confined to the heads of families. The revolution was supported by the state council, and the authority of Andorra's two co-princes was defied. These co-princes are the bishop of Urgel in Spain and the head of the French state as represented by the prefect of Perpignan. Their joint suzerainty has existed since 1278. They were told the Andorrans insisted on being a free people and that their jobs henceforth would be merely decorative.

President Lebrun of France evidently did not relish this fouting of his authority. The French customs authorities imposed an embargo on all Andorran exports to France, thus ruining at one fell swoop the little nation's most thriving industry, which is smuggling.

FOR the first time since 1912 England's tennis team has possession of the historic Davis cup. The islanders won the trophy by defeating the French players at Auteuil in the challenge round. France had held the cup for six years.

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart

Washington.—Things have happened here in Washington at such a rate recently that most of us have been wholly oblivious to the existence and the subsequent death of the world-wide economic conference in London, and the aftermath of those sessions. True, there never could have been anything come of the conference for the simple reason selfishness ruled that meeting as it rules every other meeting of representatives of different peoples. But it appears from this vantage point that our government is now ready to embark on a new course, one which it could hardly have tackled had the London conference never been held. So at least the London conference resulted in clarifying the general situation from our own standpoint.

You have seen the signs of moves by our government in the last month in guarded announcements to the effect that Department of State's experts were surveying the possibilities of trade treaties with many nations. They are called bi-lateral treaties and affect, of course, only the two nations entering into the compact. While the London conference was going on, it would not have been a gesture of hope for success in that gathering had the United States at the same time moved openly to arrange individual treaties with nations participating in those discussions. That very thing was being done, nevertheless, and now the effort is no longer concealed. The United States is seeking to do in the treaties with individual nations some of the things it sought, and failed, to do at London.

Secretary Hull is back from London. He has had a night of confidential conversation with President Roosevelt. He is ready to go ahead, indeed, he is charged by the President to proceed, with the new plan of action. Consequently, in the next few months we are likely to hear much about agreements between the United States and various other nations by which trade barriers will be removed to some extent and better understandings will have been obtained about commercial relations.

There are so many barriers to the free flow of commerce these days, aside from the low level of purchasing power resulting from the depression, that one can see possibilities of great results. Yet as observers here view the situation Secretary Hull has a hard job. Nations are selfish, or their people are. They naturally want to protect their markets and they obviously are unwilling to give up anything unless they gain something else. So there is to be trading; there will have to be trading, and the United States will have to give in somewhere with every nation in the treaty negotiations.

For instance, if a new trade treaty were to be negotiated with France, it appears that France certainly would have to agree to remove limitations on certain kinds of imports from the United States. They are called quotas. They prescribe that only so many thousand pounds, say, of American wheat can be imported into France. In turn, no doubt, France will demand that the United States establish a lower tariff duty on some commodities which that nation heretofore has shipped here in large quantities.

But to get back to the London conference: I recall having written in these columns at the outset of those sessions that President Roosevelt was in a highly advantageous position when he promoted the meeting of some 64 nations. Whether he expected the widely advertised conference was going to fail, as a great many persons believed, by entering wholeheartedly into it, sending a large American delegation to participate and doing the other things that gave the appearance of sincerity, he maneuvered at the very same time to build another road which this country can follow. When the London conference was called, the big issue was whether our government should act in unison with other world powers on an international basis or whether we were to become an intensely nationalistic country. Therefore, while Mr. Roosevelt on the one hand was pushing American plans and proposals into the conference for an international understanding, he was on the other hand driving legislation like the farm adjustment act, highly nationalistic in character, through congress.

While every ounce of energy is being used to stabilize American crop production within the limits of our own needs and while every effort is being utilized to create a manufacturing structure self-sustaining within our own limits, the President now is seeking to fortify those acts and strengthen our position by treaties with individual nations on trade relations. In other words, he is completing the picture of nationalism.

Whether his program is to develop successfully is quite another matter. He has rejoined what I believe is the majority of the American public in the view that the United States cannot ever act jointly with most of the world powers. Conditions and traditions heretofore have made it impossible

and the view I have expressed cannot be illustrated better than the position which the senate took with respect to the Versailles treaty after the World War. The same thought seems still to be dominant, for the proposal that the United States adhere to the World court has been pending in the senate so long that it is approaching deterioration. The Roosevelt theory, as thus far unfolded, fails to give the impression of isolation for the United States such as always was favored by former Senator James A. Reed of Missouri, and the late Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts, according to the views I hear in Washington discussions, but it is not far from that position.

The administration is going ahead to bring about reduction of the wheat acreage next year

Cutting Wheat Acreage whether we call it a policy of isolation or not, and it is going to see that only so much is produced as will be needed for use in this country. It may seem that the wheat reduction program is rather far afield from the London conference, but let us remember that Secretary Wallace made the announcement that the program would be employed on the very day the London conference adjourned. All of the Department of Agriculture machinery was set in motion that day, and it may be added that, like the trade treaty situation, all of the necessary facts and figures for use in the domestic allotment plan were already compiled and on the secretary's desk. It seems just possible, therefore, that not too much had been expected from the conversations in London regarding world wheat problems.

Secretary Wallace estimated that 456,000,000 bushels would be needed out of next year's crop—the 1934 acreage—in addition to the carryover from this and previous years to supply domestic needs. Accordingly, he has sent instructions to farm agents or agricultural extension agents in the various wheat-growing counties to get to work on contracts with the farmers. The agreements are like those which the cotton farmers were asked to, and did, sign. It is a voluntary proposition. If the farmer signs the contract to withhold some of his normal acreage from planting next year, he will benefit by the receipt of cold cash to the extent of 28 cents a bushel out of the sum which the government collects as a processing tax.

I am told that Secretary Wallace is about ready to announce how much the acreage will have to be reduced in the 2,233 counties in 42 states where wheat is more than a side crop such as on that "strip across the ditch." The maximum that will be cut is 20 per cent of a farmer's average acreage over the past five years, but my information indicates the reduction will be considerably less than the maximum.

If all of the farmers agree to reduce their acreage, the cash paid out this fall and next spring will total **Farmers to Get \$136,000,000** \$136,000,000, an addition to the purchasing power of the wheat contract that cannot be ignored. Under the contract which the farmers will be asked to sign, they will receive an initial payment on their allotment of 20 cents a bushel as early this fall as county wheat production control associations can be organized and the individual allotments completed. The second payment, constituting the remainder of the sum due, will be paid the farmers next spring when they will be asked to submit proof that they have reduced the acreage as agreed in their contract.

The secretary's allotment program was broken down into allotments for each county to which it is applied. County control associations will be supplied with the total estimated to be produced in their respective counties, and the Department of Agriculture expressed the hope that farmers would not grow impatient if they were unable to learn the figures for the home areas immediately. The job will be done as fast as it is humanly possible to do it.

In fixing the size of the wheat crop next year, the government calculators took into consideration every known factor. But they had to make a guess on one thing, the weather. They assumed that the weather was going to be "normal" next year and that there would be a normal crop. That is, they figured the weather conditions would be such as to produce a crop equivalent to the average of the last five years. I have been unable to learn what the allotment plan contemplates in event there should be a widespread drought or how the acreage would be treated if there happened to be a bumper crop.

The government divided up the 456,000,000 bushels which it figured should be grown next year on the basis of the percentage each of the 42 states had grown of the total crop in the last five years. The total of bushels to be produced next year appears to be about 55 per cent of the average amount of the crop in the last five years.

How I Broke Into The Movies

Copyright by Hal C. Herman

By MARION DAVIES

"BREAKING into the movies" is a magic phrase that implies something akin to pugilism. People immediately associate those words with pushing one's way through guarded doors, jumping over studio fences or resorting to all manner of tricks to gain the inner sanctum sanctorum of the film industry.

I imagine the long, hard, uphill fight is hidden or forgotten behind the sudden emergence of some one person into picture prominence through a particularly well-played part in a given picture.

All the fence-climbing, or "gate-crashing" would be of little avail to anyone if the experience or ability wasn't present to keep the person "inside the gate" in Moviedom.

In most cases, at least, experience on the stage, often many years, has preceded a person's advent into screen prominence. Stars don't "break" into the limelight casually.

It is a hard, hard road, with a world of experience that merely puts the player at the threshold. Even there he or she may fall.

My own path to the screen was no bed of roses, but I feel every bit of it was worth the try.

I made my stage debut at the age of fifteen as a dancer in "Chin Chin," a musical comedy. Shortly afterward I joined the Ziegfeld Follies.

While I was busily engaged in this work I put my few spare hours into posing for many of the foremost artists of America; among them Harrison Fisher, Howard Chandler Christy, Haskell Coffin and Penrhyn Stanlaws. Prior to my theatrical work I had



Marion Davies.

been a cloak and suit model. Strange as it may seem, I consider "modeling" a course in theatrical education, especially in the training it gives a person in carriage and walking.

After the Follies a more prominent part was offered me in "Oh, Boy," another musical comedy. Dancing was not difficult for me, but when I tried to sing I realized that my place was in the silent drama. This realization fired me to try the pictures—more as an experiment than a profession.

My first contract was with an independent company, the initial appearance being in "Runaway Roman." The Selznick Select company then began to star me in such features as "Cecelia of the Pink Roses." After two years I signed with Cosmopolitan Pictures, starring in "When Knighthood Was in Flower," "Little Old New York," "Janice Meredith," "Yolanda" and "Lights of Old Broadway."

And finally, I have decided that light humorous roles are best suited to me such as "Thillie the Toller" and "The Fair Code," which I appeared in under the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer banner.

My advice to all who wish to enter motion pictures—or "break into the movies" is to come well fortified with stage experience, if possible. It will prove very valuable.

WNU Service

Una Merkel Had Variety of Roles on the Stage

Una Merkel, which happens to be her right name, was born in Covington, Ky., taught Sunday school, sang in the choir and when she grew up traveled extensively with her parents. She completed her high school course in Philadelphia and entered a dramatic school. She made her first stage appearance in "Two by Two." Following this she played in "The Poor Nut," "Figs," "Two Girls Wanted," and the lead opposite Lynn Overman in "The Gossipy Sex."

It was really Miss Merkel's work in support of Helen Hayes in "Coquette" that attracted attention to her. Joseph M. Schenck, president of United Artists, saw her in "Coquette," later watched her in "Salt Water" and telephoned Mr. Golden to say that he would like her for a picture. She made her cinematic bow in the Ann Rutledge role in D. W. Griffith's "Abraham Lincoln," and she has been in screen work ever since, which adds up to a little more than three years. Some of the films she has appeared in during that time are "Six Cylinders Love," "The Bat Whispers," "Daddy Long Legs," "Wicked," "Don't Bet on Women," "The Impatient Maiden," "Man Wanted," "Private Lives," "Red Headed Woman" and "Huddle."