

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Wallace Asks 15 Per Cent Wheat Acreage Reduction—
NRA Campaign Among the Consumers—Raymond
Moley's Resignation—Washington for Repeal.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

WHEAT farmers of the nation, in order to receive federal cash benefits under the domestic allotment plan, must agree to reduce their 1934 wheat acreage by 15 per cent. This was the announcement made by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, after the news of the international wheat agreement reached in the London conference was received. The secretary estimated that this reduction will mean a cut of about 9,600,000 acres in wheat plantings and of more than 124,000,000 bushels in the 1934 wheat crop, provided all the farmers sign up. This they were being strongly urged to do in appeals that were broadcast throughout the wheat belt.

Under the allotment plan, the machinery of which is now completed, the government will pay the farmer 23 cents per bushel on 54 per cent of his crop, or that portion destined for consumption in this country. In return the farmer must agree to cut his 1934 wheat plantings by 15 per cent. Some \$120,000,000 in compensating payments is expected to be paid this year, if all wheat farmers sign government contracts promising to reduce their next year's planting by the stipulated amount. Funds for the payments are expected to be raised by a 30-cent-a-bushel processing tax on the flour millers.

The application each farmer signs obligates him to sign a contract with Secretary Wallace when his application is approved in Washington. It must be accompanied by a map of his farm, showing location of all buildings, his crop system, and legal description of his location. It must also have a signed statement of the thresherman as to how much wheat came off the farm in the last three years and a certificate of the elevator or railroad official who bought the wheat.

"BUY under the blue eagle," was the slogan with which Administrator Hugh Johnson opened the great drive to persuade the entire nation to give its full support to the NRA. The cry was taken up by an army of a million and a half volunteers who started out to canvass the households of the country, to tell the people what the recovery act means and to enlist the individual citizens under its emblem.

General Johnson warned the people that "even a shadow" of boycott, intimidation and violence would wreck the whole endeavor; but he insisted that confining one's patronage to dealers who fly the blue eagle would not be boycotting the others and would be not only justifiable but necessary to the campaign's success.

Completion of the automobile code and its acceptance by President Roosevelt was counted a great achievement by NRA, and the manufacturers were fairly well satisfied with the compromise on the union labor problem which gave them the right to deal with their workers on a basis of merit and efficiency. President William Green of the American Federation of Labor was quick to take advantage of the provision of the code which, he held, permits the workers to organize. He wired the general organizer, William Collins, in Detroit to appeal to auto employees to "unite with labor." Pessimistic observers see in all this the seeds of future conflicts.

Henry Ford was still silent on his intentions concerning the code. General Johnson said emphatically that if he did not sign he could not get the blue eagle; that outdoing the code with shorter hours and higher wages would not be compliance.

JOSEPH B. EASTMAN, who as federal co-ordinator of transportation has perhaps the hardest job in the administration, is promoting a freight car equipment replacement program, believing this would be a great contribution toward the increasing employment—as it undoubtedly would. He has asked the executives of class 1 railroads to make a thorough canvass of existing freight car equipment and to submit at the earliest practicable date their views as to the repair or retirement of worn out and obsolete cars.

The railroads are asked to submit their recommendations for repairs and retirements of each year up to and including 1935 with the average cost for each car.

Mr. Eastman wants the railroads to retire and destroy or rehabilitate the thousands of cars whose period of service has expired. He also asks them to consider the voluntary restriction to service on their own lines of cars of light construction and cars of larger capacity that are not good for more than two and a half years of further service.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT selected Secretary of the Interior Ickes to be administrator for the oil industry, and then selected the other 14 members of the planning and conservation committee to assist Mr. Ickes in this work.

The President also took steps to relax the gold embargo for the benefit of the mine owners. He issued two orders, one allowing the sale in foreign markets of gold mined in the United States and the other stringently binding the anti-hoarding regulations to safeguard the national supply.

He made sure that this permission to give gold producers the advantage of the higher prices available abroad would also be shared by the refiners and his two orders made this possible.

Then Mr. Roosevelt cleaned up his desk and began a week-end vacation. He attended the Dutchess county fair at Rhinebeck, and next day embarked on Vincent Astor's yacht for a cruise that was to last until after Labor day.

RAYMOND MOLEY, regarded as the "ace" of the Roosevelt brain trust, is no longer assistant secretary of state or in any other way connected with the administration. Following a call at the summer White House in Hyde Park, Professor Moley announced his resignation and his plans to become the editor of a new weekly magazine to be established by Vincent Astor. His associates will be W. Averill Harriman and V. V. McNitt. The publication will be devoted to controversial articles concerning politics and economics and Moley said one of its purposes will be to interpret the ideas of the Roosevelt administration, though it will not be in any sense an agent of the NRA.

Both Professor Moley and Secretary of State Hull denied that the former's resignation was caused by the disagreements between those two gentlemen which culminated at the London conference. Many independent commentators held that Moley's retirement from the administration heralded the passing of the regime of the professor and the return of practical politicians to the direction of the nation's affairs.

REPEALISTS were unnecessarily worried about the state of Washington, partly because the vote on wiping out the Eighteenth amendment was in the form of referendums in each of the legislative districts. This scheme, however, availed the drys nothing, for the state voted for repeal by about 5 to 2. Nearly complete returns showed that only one district, with two delegates, went dry, so the repeal amendment will be ratified by the other 97 delegates when the convention meets October 3 in Olympia. Washington is the twenty-fourth state in the repeal column.

The state emergency committee, a retentionist organization, fought repeal. It contended that in the event of abolition of the prohibition amendment the state would be without liquor regulation, except laws prohibiting sale of alcoholic beverages to Indians and minors, until the legislature meets again in 1935.

TEA and conversation were all that Montagu Norman, governor of the Bank of England, obtained when he visited President Roosevelt at Hyde Park. He was accompanied by George L. Harrison, governor of the New York federal reserve bank, and he hoped to talk about stabilization of the currency. But there were various other guests present, and still more dropped in during the afternoon—and Mr. Roosevelt had no desire to talk about stabilization or any allied matters. So it was just a pleasant social affair, and Mr. Norman left early.

The eminent Londoner, however, did have a number of conferences with financial men, including Secretary of the Treasury Woodin, and monetary problems were discussed, but the results, if any, were not made public.

THIRTEEN deaths are to be laid to a storm in New Mexico. The Golden State Limited, a transcontinental passenger train, plunged through a weakened bridge into an arroyo near Tucumcari, eight persons being killed and many injured. During the same storm a night mail and passenger transport plane crashed against Mesa mountain not far from Quay, and the two pilots and three passengers perished.

Two pursuit training planes collided in mid air over Randolph field, San Antonio, Texas, two cadets and an instructor losing their lives. Another instructor leaped with his parachute and was saved.

UNCLE SAM is determined to bring Samuel Insull back home to answer for his alleged sins. At the request of American government agents the Greek authorities again arrested the former utilities magnate, and the Appeals court in Athens sustained this action and rejected Insull's plea for release on bail. The fugitive from Chicago will have to spend another month under restraint pending the result of the second effort to extradite him, but, being in poor health, he is kept under guard in a clinic.



Samuel Insull

Insull's lawyers indicated that he will first seek to have himself made a Greek citizen, and, failing this, will attempt to show that the extradition treaty between the United States and Greece is contrary to the provisions of the Greek constitution. He is now accused of violating the American bankruptcy law.

The extradition proceedings may be long drawn out. Insull can only be extradited if the charge against him is an offense against Greek as well as American law. Lawyers in Athens say that violation of the bankruptcy law is a much milder offense under Greek law than embezzlement and larceny, with which Insull was charged in the earlier proceedings.

EUROPE is not feeling at all peaceful these days, and this is due largely to the doings of German Chancellor Hitler and his Nazis in their conflict with the government of Austria. The Austrian Nazis are hurrying across the border to join their comrades in Germany, and the threat of invasion grows day by day. But, if it comes, the invaders will be met at the frontier by a vastly increased Austrian army. Among other steps by the Vienna government is the decreeing of a new short-term enlistment force in which from 16,000 to 20,000 men will be trained annually and a second army created.

President Von Hindenburg and Hitler attended a huge meeting of Germans at Tannenberg to celebrate the German victory there over the Russians, and the former, accepting as a gift from East Prussia a forest estate, said: "I am thinking with reverence, fidelity and gratitude of my kaiser, the king and lord, in this hour, when I am thinking also of my deceased comrades in arms, and when I proceed to thank you for the gift."

The chancellor, flying the same day to Niederwald, near the Saar frontier, told a crowd of 200,000 that Germany would never give up the Saar. At the time of the latter demonstration there was a secret meeting of Nazi chieftains to whom Saar State Counciller Simon said:

"Wherever the German language is spoken, wherever German blood runs in the veins, greater Germany extends. We will not be content just with the Saar. The German language is spoken as far west as Metz and Mulhouse. The Saar, Alsace, Lorraine and parts of Belgium and Holland formerly were German and the German character still lives there today in the people.

"Germany will no longer be a people of 60,000,000 inhabitants, but of 90,000,000. The conquest of the Saar will be the point of departure for other political successes on the western frontiers of Germany. The Nazi, the reich and Chancellor Hitler will not rest until this aim—a Germany of 90,000,000 inhabitants—has been achieved."

The Saar matter, which supposedly will be settled in 1935 by a plebiscite, especially interests France, which now holds the valuable basin. Significantly, Premier Daladier took occasion to inspect the vast new French frontier fortifications, the main works of which are about completed. This great chain of forts and tunnels is designed to protect France from a surprise invasion by Germany.

FRANCE'S Socialist party has a new wing, called "Neosocialist," and it won a startling victory in the convention of the second internationale in Paris. The program of the Neosocialists is in many respects almost identical with President Roosevelt's "new deal," but it favors the gold standard and decries inflation. It is thus summarized by a Paris correspondent.

1. Balancing of the budget.
2. A "vast and inspiring" program of public works.
3. A 40-hour week without reducing salaries or unduly raising prices.
4. Extension of monopolies.
5. Reform of present parliamentary methods.

In Great Britain the Labor party is planning a return to power on a platform that also contains many of the Roosevelt policies.

SENATOR HUEY LONG of Louisiana attained the front page again twice. First, at a charity party at the Sands Point Bath club on Long Island, he gave deep affront to an unnamed gentleman and in turn received a black eye. His explanation, quite incredible, was that he was "ganged" by enemies. Thence he hurried to Milwaukee to address the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and he opened his speech with a virulent attack on the press reporters present because they had sought the truth about the former incident. For this the officers of the organization publicly apologized. It remains for them to explain why they ever invited the "Kingfish" to address them. He is neither a statesman nor an economist, and, in view of political conditions in Louisiana, the fact that he is a senator confers no distinction on him.

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart

Washington.—Secretary Wallace's plan for sending this little pig and that little pig and an old sow or two to market has caused so many pigs to go to market that the distinguished secretary has had to issue a warning against shipping so many of them at this time. The markets were nearly glutted in the first days of operation of the program under which the government is buying pigs and sows, soon to farrow, at premium prices. Secretary Wallace certainly demonstrated that he is the nation's champion hog caller, especially when the Inducement was cash in hand.

As soon as the Department of Agriculture decided that a reduction in the potential marketing of hogs during the coming year was advisable and made known that the government would buy pigs weighing between 25 and 100 pounds and sows, soon to farrow, there was a rush for market. Despite the fact that the government is prepared to buy 4,000,000 pigs and 1,000,000 sows, at the premium prices, approximately 30,000 pigs and 1,000 sows reached the main markets on the first day. Mr. Wallace watched the pigs go to market for a few days more and then tried to shoo them back a bit, explaining that the farmers would have until around October 1 in which to ship their pigs and obtain the premium prices.

By the end of September, it is figured by the experts, the potential marketing of hogs during the coming year will have been reduced by about 2,000,000,000 pounds. In this manner, it is claimed by Mr. Wallace and those who sponsored the idea, the first step will have been taken in establishing and maintaining a balance between the production and consumption of hog products. It is their belief also that this course will establish prices around the level that prevailed between 1910 and 1914.

While the potential marketing is expected to be reduced by about 2,000,000,000 pounds, the actual live tonnage of the pigs and sows for which the government will pay a premium during the emergency period is expected to approximate 650,000,000 pounds. The government has not bound itself to buy more than 4,000,000 pigs and 1,000,000 sows, and so Secretary Wallace has suggested that farmers who plan to ship should get in touch with their county agent or some other authority and learn whether they can sell their stock before the little pigs are sent to market.

It might be well to supply here the premium prices which are to be paid for those pigs and sows which will be purchased. The secretary used the Chicago market as a base and the prices which he fixed for that market, therefore, generally will run somewhat higher than the farmer will receive at interior points, just as they would under normal marketing conditions. The scale of prices per hundredweight, for pigs is as follows: 25-30 pounds, \$9.50; 31-35 pounds, \$9.25; 36-40 pounds, \$9; 41-45 pounds, \$8.75; 46-50 pounds, \$8.50; 51-55 pounds, \$8.25; 56-60 pounds, \$8; 61-65 pounds, \$7.75; 66-70 pounds, \$7.50; 71-75 pounds, \$7.25; 76-80 pounds, \$7; 81-85 pounds, \$6.75; 86-90 pounds, \$6.50; 91-95 pounds, \$6.25; and 96-100 pounds, \$6.

For the sows that are soon to farrow—and the requirements are that this fact shall be unmistakable—the government will pay a premium of four dollars per head, but it will buy only those sows weighing 275 pounds or more. The farmers, therefore, will get the market price for packing sows on the day the shipment is received in the market, plus the premium of four dollars for each sow sold.

The government is trying, as we said above, to reduce the potential marketing of hogs during the forthcoming marketing season and it believes that in so doing several important benefits will accrue to the growers of hogs, and they will accrue immediately. The extent to which purchases are scheduled to be made will mean a reduction of from 12 to 16 per cent in the marketings that are likely to take place otherwise in the 1933-1934 marketing season, according to the calculation. The experts who figured out what the reduction will mean also are authority for the calculation that the action will result in an increase in prices of hogs during the forthcoming season ranging from 25 to 35 per cent. That is the claim, anyway!

So it is seen that the Department of Agriculture expects to accomplish an increase in hog prices by \$1 or \$1.50 over the present base price of about \$4.50 per hundred. The first portion of the benefits to come from the plan is in the form of the premium which we have discussed, and the second is in the form of higher prices for the remainder of the hog crop.

Mr. John Q. Consumer is the one upon whom success of the enterprise depends. Mr. Wallace is going to lay another processing tax on hogs that go into domestic consumption. No such tax will be laid on hogs killed for export shipment. The amount of the tax has not been definitely fixed, but Mr. Wallace holds that one-half cent per pound of the live hogs will provide sufficient funds. It must be noted, however, that a tax of one-half cent per pound on the hoof grows to be much more per pound of edible ham for ham and eggs, or in the pork chops that grace the table.

Mr. Wallace says with emphasis that this emergency program will not be repeated. He plans to give consideration at once to a definite program of a permanent character that will effect a more substantial reduction in the number of sows that will farrow in the future, a sort of a birth-control idea. At the same time and interlinked with the hog program, he proposes to work out some arrangement that will reduce the acreage of corn. It is quite obvious to anyone that if there was an artificial increase in hog prices there would be an expansion of hog production in another year. So Mr. Wallace is going to try to defeat that through birth control of hogs and by causing an increase in the price of corn.

Without passing on the merits of the scheme which Mr. Wallace and his advisers have worked out further than to say he is being criticized vigorously in a good many quarters, it must be remembered there has been a violent change in America's position with respect to its surplus hog products. In recent years, there has been almost annually a decrease in the export of pork and its products because the European countries, hitherto our great market, have been stepping up their hog production consistently since the World war. More recently, most of those countries have sought to protect themselves by establishing high tariffs or by limiting the imports from the United States through quotas.

Meanwhile, hog and corn production has gone on here at the old rate and we just have no place to send the surplus. Hog prices reflect the effect of excess supplies on the domestic market. The products are highly perishable and must move into consumption quickly at whatever price they will bring. There is, therefore, no doubt about the existence, nor the serious character, of the hog problem.

As every one knows, much of the corn raisers' success depends upon the extent to which corn is fed to hogs. This condition is accentuated these days because not so many years ago about 11,000,000 horses and mules more than now exist were eating corn. That corn has been diverted to hog feed. Students of the problem are saying, therefore, that if there is to be a satisfactory relationship between hog and corn production, the corn acreage must be adjusted downward as the hog production shrinks. Otherwise, the quantity of corn released from hog consumption would cause the price of corn to go to the bottom, and the corn farmer would get it in the neck in that way.

It is an extremely delicate balance that Mr. Wallace is seeking. It never has been found in all history and a rail fence opinion is that Mr. Wallace won't find it. On the other hand, there never has been in history a situation so complex as that through which we have been passing and supporters of the idea now being put into operation by the government contend it is the only way out. Since President Roosevelt has been feeling his way in an effort to bring about recovery, observers here seem to be agreed that little more harm can be done by trying out the birth control method for reducing hog production and an acreage reduction plan for reducing corn production.

Doubtless, noon in Washington is not greatly different than noon in a thousand other American cities, or noon on the farm. But there is an "institution" associated with noon in Washington that probably has no counterpart elsewhere. Where other cities have their factory whistles and bells, Washington has its time ball.

Something more than half a century ago, some one conceived the idea of an official time signal under government auspices. Various methods of establishing such a signal were considered. At length, it was worked out and a staff was erected atop the east front of the great State department building and an arrangement perfected whereby a large gilded ball, visible for several miles, would be dropped from the top of this staff on the split-second of noon.

The ball is lifted into position by hand but the trigger that holds it is released by an electrical impulse sent at the instant the naval observatory, through its star-gazing scientists, decrees that noon has arrived. For many years, an electric wire ran direct from the observatory to the state building, but somehow the government forgot about its time ball and allowed a telegraph company to take over administration of it. The telegraph company still sees to it that the impulse goes forward and trips the trigger so that all of Washington, who can see the state building, will know that it is noon.

After a bit of questioning he appeared satisfied and offered me a contract as leading lady to Harold Lloyd.

Washington's Time Ball

Washington's Time Ball

How I Broke Into The Movies

Copyright by Hal C. Herman

By BEBE DANIELS

MY ABILITY to flich an afternoon dress and a pair of high heeled slippers enabled me to "crash the gate" in motion pictures.

As a matter of fact, I had played around motion picture sets while a child in company with my mother, when she took a fling at the screen, and occasionally I was given just a bit by a kind-hearted director, but my first real opportunity was given me because I "borrowed" the dress and the slippers.

It happened on an afternoon when things looked rather black. I was living with my mother again after three years of school and the financial situation of the Daniels was far from being pleasant. Mother had, been playing bits now and then, and on this particular afternoon, was out on location with a company, leaving me to my resources. I had wanted to help but the goddess of luck and the casting directors ignored me completely. My name was known to a few of them but the securing of a job was another thing.

Suddenly the telephone rang. It was Harold Lloyd's manager with the information that he would like to see Mrs. Daniels.

"Mrs. Daniels is not in," I replied. "Not Mrs. Daniels," he went on



Bebe Daniels.

somewhat impatiently, "I want Miss Daniels."

I managed to splutter that he was speaking to Miss Daniels.

"Please come in to see me this afternoon, if possible," he said, and this I promised to do.

I was so excited I could have yelled, but on top of this excitement came the realization that I had nothing to wear. How many times have women been in this situation.

A hasty survey of the house revealed nothing in my wardrobe, but the luck had changed, for mother had just bought a light afternoon frock. Without any debate whatsoever I grabbed that and put it on. Then I found that I needed slippers. Another problem, but still another search and I found a pair in the wardrobe of my aunt who was visiting us at the time. These were appropriated in a like manner and I set out for the interview.

To make a long story short, I got the contract as Harold Lloyd's leading lady.

Sitting in the producer's office awaiting an appointment is not the most pleasant thing in the world, for, in the majority of cases, the wait is a long one. It seemed to me that I sat there fully eight hours, although in reality, as I afterward learned, it was close to two.

I really had no idea what sort of a proposition would be offered me so I was mentally concocting stories relating to my capabilities, my experience and so forth. In addition to this I had done up my hair in such a way that added several years to my appearance and this was helped out by the long skirt on the dress and the high heels.

Finally I was admitted into the private office of the manager. He was very kind and cordial but I was so scared I couldn't say a word. I just mumbled something incoherent and stared. All of the fine stories I had made up went out of my mind in a flash.

He asked me to stand in one corner of the room and then to walk to and fro across the floor which I did.

With a puzzled look he said: "H'm, I thought you were much younger, Miss Daniels."

All my hopes went out the window. Here I had tried to look older and that was the very thing he didn't want.

I couldn't say anything for a moment but realizing that something must be done I started to take down my hair and dress it as I had been in the habit of doing. I can see the expression on that man's face even to this day. He was absolutely dumfounded.

When I had finished and given him an opportunity of seeing how I looked, he smiled.

After a bit of questioning he appeared satisfied and offered me a contract as leading lady to Harold Lloyd.