

News Review of Current Events the World Over

King Albert of Belgium, Killed by Fall While Mountain Climbing, Succeeded by Leopold—Three Great Powers Protect Austria.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

ONE of the best and most beloved of the few remaining kings, Albert I of Belgium, met a tragic death while practicing for his favorite sport, mountain climbing. He was attempting, alone, to scale a 90-foot pinnacle near Namur and fell, being probably instantly killed. Hours later his body was found and carried to Brussels. Queen Elizabeth was ill and was not told of the king's death for some hours. The Belgian nation was plunged in genuine mourning, and all the world sympathized, for Albert had won high esteem by his heroism during the World War and his just government of his people.

Albert is succeeded by Crown Prince Leopold, duke of Brabant, his eldest son. Leopold is thirty-two years old and was married in 1926 to Princess Astrid of Sweden. They have a daughter and a son. The new ruler was probably one of the youngest soldiers in the World War, enlisting as a private when he was thirteen years old. He was treated as an ordinary soldier, seeing active service in the trenches, and was a sergeant when the armistice was signed.

The dead king's funeral was of course a stately affair. The procession from the Brussels palace to the cathedral of St. Gudule was led by mounted gendarmes who were followed by British, Italian and French troops. Then came the Belgian troops with crepe-draped flags. Albert's personal colors were carried just ahead of the gun carriage that bore the casket, and his favorite charger followed, the saddle empty and field boots reversed in the stirrups. Next walked Crown Prince Leopold, his brother, Charles, and their brother-in-law, Crown Prince Umberto of Italy, the latter carefully guarded by police because of the attempt to assassinate him in Brussels in 1923.

In the throng of notable persons in the processions were representatives of all nations. Ambassador Morris was there for the United States; President Lebrun and Premier Doumergue headed the large French delegation; from England were the prince of Wales, Field Marshal Lord Allenby and Admiral Sir Roger Keyes; Germany was represented by Dr. Friedrich von Keller, and Poland by Ignatz Paderewski.

Next day Leopold was crowned, with Astrid on the throne beside him. The parliamentary reply to the new ruler's speech from the throne thanked the new queen for having given birth to two children, insuring the permanence of the dynasty.

King Albert was the third of his line. He was born in 1875 and ascended the throne in 1909. Throughout the war he was one of the most active members of the Belgian army, continually at the front to help his troops and often in imminent danger of death. After the armistice he took the task of reconstruction work under way and then, with Queen Elizabeth and Prince Leopold, took journeys to the United States, England, France, Spain, Brazil and other countries to study trade conditions and find new outlets for Belgian products.

CAPT. ANTHONY EDEN is moving from capital to capital in Europe on the rather hopeless mission of reviving the disarmament negotiations. In Paris he was told by the seven big men of the French cabinet that France was unwilling to reduce her military power while the Nazi menace continues, and the French government had already refused to discuss the matter with Hitler "while Germany is rearming."



Anthony Eden

Concessions recently offered to the German chancellor had been met with inconclusive arguments, and with demands for a German army of 300,000 effectives, which France rejected. The most the French statesmen would say was that they "looked forward in a most general manner toward the possibility of an international accord, equally hoped for by both parties on the question of disarmament."

Discouraged but persistent, Captain Eden went on to Berlin and Rome for further conversations based on the British plan for reduction of armaments.

FOR the time being the danger of a European war arising from the Austrian Socialist rebellion is over. Great Britain, France and Italy have united to safeguard Austria's independence, and while that holds no other nation dare attack. Long conversations were held in Paris by British Ambassador Lord Tyrrell, Premier Doumergue, Foreign Minister Louis Barthou, Capt. Anthony Eden, British lord privy seal, and representatives of Italy, and the outcome was this statement to the world:

"The Austrian government has inquired of the governments of France, Great Britain and Italy as to their attitude with regard to a dossier which it prepared with a view of establishing German interference in the internal affairs of Austria and communicated to them. The conversations which have taken place between the three governments on this subject have shown they take a common view as to the necessity of maintaining Austria's independence and integrity in accordance with the relevant treaties."

This pronouncement was proposed by Premier Mussolini, who seeks to keep Austria intact as a buffer state between Nazism and Fascism. It is, of course, directed to Hitler, who hopes that the government of Chancellor Dollfuss may be overthrown, if not by force, then in elections.

TREASURY reports reveal that all sources of internal revenue showed large increases during the first seven months of the present fiscal year as compared with the same period of 1933, with the exception of corporate income taxes.

Total receipts for the seven months' period ended January 31 amounted to \$1,397,950,474, a gain of \$569,708,061 as compared with the year before. For the seven months the government's collection of taxes on distilled spirits, wines, and beers amounted to \$120,547,390, as compared with \$4,379,586 in the same 1932 period.

SENTIMENT in favor of the immediate payment of the veterans' bonus is so strong among the Democrats in the house that the promise of a veto by the President did not deter 145 representatives from signing a petition to take the Patman bill from the committee and bring it up for a vote on March 12.

Speaker Rainey had been to the White House and returned with this message: "I am authorized by the President to say that this is not the time to pay the bonus and that he cannot approve any legislation to that effect."

But the members went right on signing. Mr. Rainey was visibly disturbed, but said, in reply to inquiries, "We're going to let the house do just as it pleases."

Wright Patman of Texas, Democrat, author of the bill, told the house the measure would provide the administration with the mechanism for carrying out the inflationary program it already has embraced, and that it would save the government billions of dollars in interest. It seemed most likely that the bill would be passed by the senate, for the sentiment for it has been steadily growing in that body.

ONLY seven members of the house voted in the negative when the \$258,000,000 tax revision bill came up for passage. It is expected the senate will make many alterations in the measure for the purpose of further fortifying the statutes against evasion.

Of principal interest to the average taxpayer is the bill's readjustment of the income tax rate structure to provide a new normal rate of 4 per cent and surtaxes starting at 4 per cent on net income above \$4,000 and ranging in graduated brackets to 59 per cent on incomes of \$1,000,000 or more. The new tax rates, however, will not be effective on 1933 incomes.

Generally the bill is designed to prevent such tax evasion methods as were disclosed during the recent investigations of the senate banking and currency committee into stock market practices.

JUSTICE finally has caught up with Roger Touhy of Chicago and two members of his notorious gang. Their second trial for the kidnaping of John Factor ended in a verdict of guilty, the jury fixing the penalty at 99 years in the penitentiary.

One Charles W. Mayo of Alabama, with an accomplice, devised a fantastic plot for the kidnaping of E. P. Adler, banker and publisher of Davenport, Iowa, from a Chicago hotel. Both were caught and confessed, and then Mayo hanged himself in his cell. The "snatching" game appears to be about played out.

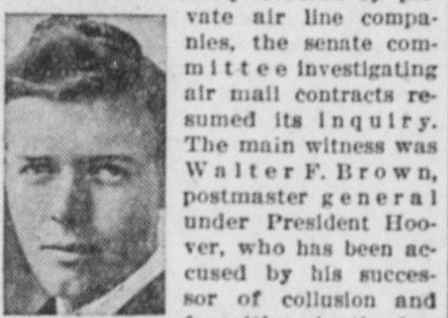
FRANCE was stirred by a mystery murder that is connected with the \$50,000,000 Stavisky scandal. Albert Prince, counselor of the Court of Appeals and the key witness in the Stavisky case, was lured from Paris and slain and his body was tied to a railroad track near Dijon and mangled by a train.

In the same connection, the Paris police announced they had discovered evidence that Stavisky was an international spy as well as a swindler; that he was aided by a number of women, and probably had sold valuable information to the German government.

ACCORDING to the farm administration, 400,000 farmers had signed contracts to reduce their production of hogs and corn this year. Most of these contracts were executed by Middle West farmers. In other states the campaign is just getting well started. Iowa leads with a total of 150,000 contracts, representing more than 80 per cent of corn and hog producers in that state. Figures for other states are: Illinois, 47,000; Missouri, 42,000; Nebraska, 22,000; Kansas, 19,000; Minnesota, 50,000; Indiana, 30,000; Ohio, 25,000; Wisconsin, 15,000; and South Dakota, 13,000.

OFFICIALS of St. Paul and Minneapolis were considerably angered by a statement made by Attorney General Homer S. Cummings in which he said the Twin cities were "breeding grounds of crime." Mayor Mahoney of St. Paul telegraphed to Mr. Cummings demanding that he amplify his charges, but the attorney general's only reply was to say that he meant what he said. Thereupon the mayor gave the Ramsey county attorney a list of twelve persons, including Mr. Cummings, whom he wished asked to appear before the grand jury, which is now in session. It was said legal complications probably would prevent the subpoenaing of the attorney general and other national officials.

AS THE fighting planes of the American army, with their guns removed, began carrying the air mail over routes formerly covered by private air line companies, the senate committee investigating air mail contracts resumed its inquiry.



Colonel Lindbergh

The main witness was Walter F. Brown, postmaster general under President Hoover, who has been accused by his successor of collusion and favoritism in the letting of the contracts. Mr. Brown had denied the charges in a long statement and in appearing before the committee he waived the immunity which generally shields a congressional witness from subsequent prosecution.

At the hearing Mr. Brown again denied the accusations in detail, but made admissions that were not favorable to the defense.

Colonel Lindbergh, more or less involved in the air mail affair, gave to the senate investigators a statement of his aviation profits, as follows:

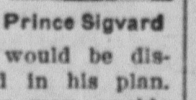
1. From sale of warrants to purchase stock in the Pan-American Airways, \$150,884.50.
2. Salary from Pan-American, \$10,000 a year.
3. Salaries of \$7,194.45 in 1931 and \$6,000 in 1932 and 1933 from Transcontinental and Western Air.
4. From Transcontinental Air Transport (predecessor to Transcontinental and Western Air), \$250,000 in cash, reinvested in that company's stock and later sold at a \$195,033.75 profit.
5. A \$10,000 a year salary as technical adviser to the Pennsylvania railroad for three years and a \$1 a year salary since 1931.

Losses: \$554.75 from investments in other aviation companies prior to 1930.

GEN. AUGUSTO SANDINO, for years the leader of rebels in Nicaragua until a year ago when he made peace with President Sacasa, was murdered by members of the national guard at Managua. His brother and two of his aides also were killed. The crime was denounced by Sacasa and an investigation was ordered, for the government had guaranteed the lives of Sandino and his followers while in the capital.

EVEN in a republic the people like to read about the doings of royalty, so there has been much interest in the romance of Prince Sigvard, twenty-six-year-old son of Crown Prince Gustav Adolf of Sweden.

Sigvard fell in love with Erika Patzek, a German film actress who is little known and comes from a middle class family. The prince was determined to marry Erika but his grandfather, King Gustav, refused his consent and told Sigvard he would be disowned if he persisted in his plan. Nevertheless the young man, unable to get the necessary papers in Berlin, went to London with Erika and it was reported the wedding would take place there on March 8.



Prince Sigvard

The prince is well aware that if he marries the German girl he will forfeit his royal rights and therefore will be just "Mr. Bernadotte," but he apparently is ready to give up everything for love. In 1932 his cousin, Prince Lennert, married the daughter of a Stockholm industrialist and is now known as Mr. Lennert Bernadotte.

IF JAPAN and Russia do not get into a war, it will be the fault of neither. The latest development in their growing hostility is a row over fishing rights in the North Pacific. The Japanese government is enraged because Moscow has doubled the ruble rate of exchange with the yen and has rejected Japanese bids on the Kamchatka fishing grounds based on the old rate. This, the Tokyo foreign office says, is a flagrant violation of a solemn agreement between Baron Shidehara, former foreign minister, and Alexander Troyanovsky, former Soviet ambassador to Japan.

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Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart

Washington.—It has been just a year since Franklin Delano Roosevelt carried his "new deal" program into the Executive Mansion at Washington and the country has witnessed, in that time, many of the most revolutionary changes in its economic and social and financial structure that could be imagined. Indeed, in a nation that has a tradition of being largely conservative, some of the things that have happened, or have been brought about by the new dealers, could not even be imagined except by those who dwell in the house of the theorist. But they have come; they are with us, and without commendation or criticism, it is being asked: what have we?

For one thing, in the past twelve months, we have observed the slowly stretching tentacles of the federal government reaching out into hitherto unknown functions; we have seen those same tentacles taking over more and more the rights of individuals and of states and lesser divisions of government, and we have witnessed what some persons hold to be an absolute destruction of that basic difference between one nation and a union of our several states. That is, according to the view just set forth, we are for the period of the emergency at least, just one people instead of peoples of the 48 states and the District of Columbia. Also, I think it is true that never in our history have we known a time when the President of the United States was possessed of such power either legally or politically, as now.

In the preparation of this weekly letter, I consulted with men and women of thought and vision, and I believe there was no exception to the conviction that none can accurately forecast what the ultimate results of these changes are going to be. Economic and social changes are slow to mature into their full effect. It is natural that they should be. So it is going to be some years before we can know whether the theories and the plans of the new dealers will be accepted into the basic structure of American lives. Of one thing we can be sure: if all of the changes, or even half of them, are knitted permanently into our social structure, the accomplishment of these last twelve months in that direction will have been greater by many times than the changes that have occurred in any other century, indeed, in several centuries combined.

Take, for example, the principles of NIRA, AAA, and the others of the "alphabetical organizations." Every one of them has injected into American life projects and propositions which were rejected in one form or another in their basic ideas in years gone by. Under the desperation of the depression, they were hurled into the whirlpool of our social structure with varying success, as measured by the results thus far. Nearly all of the principles injected into the commercial lifeblood of the nation are of a character to promote group or unit action distinguished from individual action that was developed with the opening up of American resources after formation of the Union. We never have known, for instance, a time when our government told business in so many words that it could work together as a unit, if it met certain requirements, nor have we ever known a time when our government said to agriculture that it had to cut down its production in a monopolistic agreement in order to force higher prices. One could go on and on with illustrations.

Now, to repeat the earlier question: what have we?

There is, and can be, little doubt of economic progress in the last few months. The country has emerged from the depression, to some extent at least. I believe no one can say with assurance, however, that we are far enough on the road to recovery that we can be sure of no relapse. But those persons who are best in a position to appraise conditions certainly feel there has been a gain.

As to the cause of this improvement, one can pick up an argument almost anywhere. The ardent supporters of the new deal assert the Roosevelt policies are responsible, while those opposed to the Roosevelt policies claim there is a probability that some or all of the progress made came from the natural wearing out of the depression. That is, history records the same cause for all depressions. Stocks and supplies are exhausted and production starts up of its own accord to meet the demand.

So we are starting in on a second year of the new deal, as I see the picture, still uncertain as to the outcome but equipped with greater confidence than obtained among the rank and file of the people a year ago. It will be recalled how many times President Roosevelt has said, in presenting new items in his new deal, that there was something else to try. He has experimented. The law of average might seem to indicate that part of them will work, and obviously in part of them have been influential in the economic progress that has been made. But who can say with assurance which they were and how much influence each had? It is my conviction that

anyone attempting to make an unqualified statement of these results at this time is either biased or inclined to stupidity. Human nature has changed slowly through the centuries.

While we are looking into the extent to which the Roosevelt policies have carried the federal government in individual affairs, it is proper to call attention to the far-reaching, even sectional, proposal to give Secretary of Agriculture Wallace authority to control the amount of cotton that may be produced each year. The legislation, known as the Bankhead bill, is undoubtedly the most important proposition yet devised for extending federal power, because it not only invades rights hitherto respected but it provides the secretary of agriculture with power to force cotton farmers to obey his orders in limiting the cotton production.

Wide Powers for Wallace

Succinctly, the Bankhead bill with which congress is now wrestling would limit the production of cotton in the United States to nine million bales for the crop year of 1934-35, and in order to prevent the production of a greater amount there is a destructive sales tax provided for application to the surplus. The tax is fixed at twelve cents a pound for the amount in excess of nine million bales, and that figure, of course, is higher than the value of the cotton itself. To enable the secretary of agriculture to control the production, each farmer who planted cotton would have to obtain from the secretary what is described as a certificate of exemption for the amount he intended to produce. That is to say, the farmer would be given a certificate exempting so many pounds of cotton from the operation of the sales tax, and it is presumed that the certificates of exemption will be issued only for the required amount.

From this brief outline, it must be apparent that never before has there been such a drastic proposal for control of individual businesses of men in this country. Under the present crop reduction plans, the proposition is voluntary. There is a contractual arrangement into which the producer voluntarily enters. But under the new proposal, the limitation is placed directly in the hands of the secretary of agriculture and he is given power at the same time to see that his decisions as to total production and restrictions are obeyed.

I have heard all of the arguments favorable to the bill and some of them against it, but none of them have made clear to me what can be done in poor crop years or in years when there is a bumper crop. What I mean is this: the total for the crop year of 1934-35 is fixed at nine million bales on the acreage of a "normal" or average year. But assume there is especially favorable weather in the year and the production is far above the average, then will the farmer be penalized by having to destroy that part of his crop in excess of the amount stated on his certificate of exemption? Or what benefits will he gain when nature has smiled on his crop?

There is also the converse of the proposition. Assume there is another drought of 1930 proportion and the cotton crop is virtually destroyed. How is the cotton producer going to be rewarded for having reduced his acreage, and where will the country get its supplies of cotton? Obviously, a short crop will enhance the price. Yet with a small acreage, will the farmer get even a fair return from the higher prices?

Secretary Wallace of the Department of Agriculture called attention to another possible result of the bill. He told a congressional committee that he feared there would be a regular business of dealing in exemption certificates develop from that feature of the bill. One can only guess where that would lead.

Mr. Wallace said that the value of the exemption certificates obviously would fluctuate along with the rate of the tax on the excess, and the higher the rate of the tax the greater would be the value of the exemption certificate.

"In so far as the exemption certificates are of high value," he said, "there may be a tendency to shift the emphasis from cotton production to an emphasis on procuring of exemption certificates. These certificates themselves might become a commodity. This could mean that various persons who in the past have engaged in the production of cotton and would be entitled to exemption certificates, may prefer to remain out of cotton production and to rely for part of their income normally received from cotton upon the sales values of their exemption certificates."

The secretary likewise pointed to another vital spot in the statement that there was no due allowance made for differences in soil conditions or weather, between the north and south lines of the cotton belt, and other such purely local phases.

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Mysterious Cosmic Ray Still in Controversy

At Atlantic City recently Dr. Robert A. Millikan, of the California Institute of Technology and Dr. Arthur H. Compton, of the University of Chicago, two of the country's outstanding "authorities" on cosmic rays, debated on the subject for about three hours and still cosmic rays are as much of a mystery as they ever were.

Dr. Compton argues that cosmic rays are photons or "bullets" of light. Dr. Millikan says they are electrons, highly charged particles of electricity. Each backs up his theories with photographs, charts and detailed arguments. But the debate was a draw; there was no decision, in fact. So we are left to make our own choice or decision as to what these mysterious rays are until some scientist proves definitely just what they are and where they come from.—Pathfinder Magazine.

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets are the original little liver pills put up 60 years ago. They regulate liver and bowels.—Adv.

May Doubt It Even Then Many a man never suspects what he is worth until he is sued for breach of promise.—Chicago Daily News.

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