

News Review of Current Events the World Over

President Shows Confidence in Tugwell by Promoting Him—High Tax Senators Win a Victory—National Milk Control Program Withdrawn.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S reply to the attacks on Rexford Guy Tugwell, which were renewed by opponents of the administration after the Wirt story was made public, comes in the form of promotion for the head of the brain trust. He has been serving as assistant secretary of agriculture, and is now advanced by the President to the newly created position of undersecretary of agriculture, his salary being increased from \$7,500 to \$10,000 a year. A new assistant secretary can now be appointed who will relieve Mr. Wallace and Mr. Tugwell of some of their heavy duties. The department has been considered understaffed. The post of undersecretary was created by a recent act of congress.

Tugwell's appointment will have to be confirmed by the senate, and it was considered certain the Republicans would take advantage of the opportunity to make fresh attacks on him and his theories of government.

The President also advanced Thomas Jefferson Coolidge, a Boston banker, from assistant secretary to undersecretary of the treasury, which position had been vacant since Raymond Moley stepped out. The higher personnel of that department is now being placed on a permanent basis for the first time since Henry Morgenthau, Jr., became its head.

MEMBERS of the American Society of Newspaper Editors assembled in Washington heard a warm and elaborate defense of the New Deal delivered by Professor Tugwell, who is in part responsible for most of the recovery measures adopted by the present administration. Denying that those who are advising the President seek to bring about radical changes in the life and economic policies of the American people, Professor Tugwell described himself as a "thorough conservative."

"We have a saving irreverence of authority," said Professor Tugwell in speaking of the characteristics of the American people, "which gets us out of holes. These basic traits determine the structure of our laws and of our government. No one, with the slightest sense of history, would try to fit such a people into a regimented scheme, would try to think for them instead of getting them to think for themselves.

"The New Deal is not something which can establish itself in the mind of a dictator or a small governing group. That was the fatal theory of the system from which we are turning away. Its base has to be as broad as the economy which has to be brought under control and as deep as the minds and the hearts of the people whom it affects."

VICTORY in the conference was won by the senate high tax bloc, for the house conferees accepted virtually all the senate increases in estate and gift taxes, the capital stock and excess profits taxes and liberal compromises over income-tax publicity and consolidated returns.

The conference agreement was complete except for the Couzens amendment, adding 10 per cent to all individual income-tax returns next year. The house will take a separate vote on this, and it was believed the senate would not insist on it if it were rejected by the house.

With the revenue bill thus disposed of, the senate finance committee began public hearings on the administration's reciprocal tariff bill, which the house has passed.

SENATORS who urge the remonetization of silver held a conference with President Roosevelt but received from him no encouragement for silver legislation, though no conclusion was reached. The possibility of silver purchases was discussed and the President indicated a disposition to give this matter consideration, but on the whole there was no indication the government will embark on such a policy.

The silver senators were not at all satisfied with the President's attitude and held a meeting at which eight voted to support mandatory legislation for the benefit of silver.

Later it was reliably stated that the President was maturing a plan for international stabilization of currencies and that silver figures prominently in it. Mr. Roosevelt, it was revealed, favors the inclusion of silver in the metal base of currency issues to the extent of 30 per cent, the remaining 70 per cent to be gold. This change can be safely made, however, the President points out, only by international agreement whereby all the signatory nations would admit silver to their reserves against which paper money is issued.

In the London economic and monetary conference Senator Key Pittman offered such a plan, proposing that central banks keep 20 per cent, or one-fifth, of their metal cover or reserve for currency in silver. The proposal was not acted on at the conference.

CHESTER C. DAVIS, head of the Farm Adjustment administration, announced that the national milk control program designed to help dairy farmers had been withdrawn "because we do not feel that it has sufficient support from the farmers." If sentiment changes it may be revived later, but for the present, only minor features are to be carried out. These include dairy purchases for relief purposes and reduction in the number of diseased cattle.

The program, worked out after months of study and argument, called for benefit payments of from \$165,000,000 to \$300,000,000 to dairymen who joined in the plan. In return, the producers were to reduce their milk flow 10 per cent below the peak months of the 1932-1933 period.

As in the case of other farm programs, the funds for benefit payments were to come from a processing tax. This was to be one cent a pound on butterfat and the figure was to be raised gradually to five cents a pound.

A statement issued by the farm administration said the milk decision "is in accord with the administration's fixed policy to attempt no adjustment program which does not have the support of a substantial majority of those engaged in the industry."

CUBA asked for the extradition of Gerardo Machado, deposed president of the island republic, so a general police alarm was sent out from Washington for his arrest. United States marshals went first to the apartment he had been occupying in New York, and were told by his secretary, Julio Fernandez, that he had left for Paris unknown. Federal port authorities and border officials were told to watch for the fugitive. If they can get him back, the Cuban authorities intend to try Machado on charges of murder based on wholesale shootings which occurred a few days before he fled from the island.

They also plan to ask extradition of Gen. Alberto Herrera, Machado's former chief of staff, who like his master took refuge in the United States. Machado has lived in seclusion with members of his family in the Bahamas, Canada and this country since his flight from Cuba. He established his New York residence about six months ago.

WITH unexpected celerity the railway executives and rail union chiefs reached an accord in the wage dispute, and the danger of a strike was averted for another year. At the instance of President Roosevelt but without government interference they worked out their own settlement after the federal negotiators had failed to get results and Co-ordinator Joseph B. Eastman had withdrawn as mediator. Under the arrangement decided upon the 10 per cent wage cut which has prevailed in the railroads during the last two years is to be gradually wiped out in the next twelve months. Two and a half per cent of the existing wage cut is to be restored July 1, another 2½ per cent on January 1, and the remaining 5 per cent on April 1, 1935.

In other words, instead of a 10 per cent cut rail workers will have only a 7½ per cent cut prevailing between July 1 and January 1, a 5 per cent cut prevailing between January 1 and April 1, and full pay restoration after April 1.

These terms worked out by the employers and employees are actually more favorable to the workers than the terms which President Roosevelt twice asked them to accept.

When informed of the settlement, Mr. Roosevelt said: "I am very glad that the railroads and their employees have been able to settle their wage dispute by mutual agreement. The country should be, and will be, grateful to them for this disposition of what might have developed into a troublesome controversy. I congratulate both sides on the wisdom and restraint which they have exhibited. They have set a good example."

OSCAR DE PRIEST, negro congressman from Chicago, won a victory in his fight to remove the house restaurant bar against members of his race. He obtained adoption of his resolution for investigation of the right of Lindsay Warren of North Carolina to fix the rules and regulations for the restaurant—which of course doesn't mean that negroes will be served in that dining room. The vote was 237 to 114, and the balloting followed the Mason and Dixon line almost without exception.

Mr. De Priest showed his wisdom when he learned that some Communist organizations were planning to take advantage of the occasion by staging a demonstration against "Jim Crowism." He said no friend of his would take part in this.

OPEN hearings will begin May 2 by the senate committee on privileges and elections on petitions for the removal from office of Huey P. Long, senator from Louisiana. Walter P. George of Georgia gave out notice that "only charges sufficient in substance and form" and which were not considered by the special campaign expenditures committee last year would be investigated. Notices were sent to Mrs. Hilda Phelps Hammond, Mrs. Ruffin G. Pleasant and former Governor of Louisiana John M. Parker, all of whom have filed petitions seeking removal of the "kingfish."

In the run-off Democratic primary in the Sixth Louisiana district to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Representative Bolivar E. Kemp, Senator Long's candidate, Harry D. Wilson, was decisively beaten by Jared Y. Sanders. Nomination in the primary is equivalent to election.

JOHN DILLINGER, the notorious outlaw, and several members of his gang fought their way out of a trap laid by federal agents and possemen ten miles east of Manitowish, in northern Wisconsin. In three desperate gun battles three men were killed and eight wounded, and the bandits escaped into the woods. Three women who had been with the Dillinger gang were arrested. Two others were believed to have fled with the desperadoes. These two came from Minneapolis and were thought to have warned Dillinger of the impending raid on the camp where he had been for several days.

Some hours after the battles in Wisconsin three members of the gang were seen by three deputy sheriffs in a suburb of St. Paul, Minn. A running gun fight ensued and one of the gangsters apparently was wounded, but the trio escaped and stole an automobile in which they headed for the bridge across the Mississippi river.

Federal and local officials throughout all that region were on the lookout for the Dillinger gang with the tacit understanding that the desperadoes would be shot on sight.

AMERICAN Federation of Labor chiefs have begun a drive to unionize the telephone workers of the country. They charge the American Telephone and Telegraph company is violating the NRA laws through its company unions. It is also asserted that financiers are buying up small telephone companies in the Middle West and Chicago and at unreasonable prices and then forcing the stock on their employees at fat profits for themselves.

Besides demanding that stock sales to employees be outlawed under the pending NRA code for the telephone industry, the A. F. of L. workers told Deputy Administrator L. H. Peoples that the NRA should force the telephone companies to stop expansion of dial telephone systems until such a time as employment conditions become normal.

OFFICIALS of the Department of Agriculture believe the wheat carry-over into 1935 may amount to 340,000,000 bushels, and are studying the export markets to find a possible outlet for part of it. But they cannot develop an export policy until the work of the international wheat conference at Rome is completed.

The wheat carry-over on July 1 this year is expected to be about 295,000,000 bushels, to which may be added 75,000,000 bushels surplus from this year's prospective crop of 700,000,000 bushels.

Secretary Wallace has suggested that processing taxes on wheat might be increased and that the amount of the tax ear-marked to promote exports might be raised from 2 to 4 or even 5 cents.

A 5-cent tax on the 400,000,000 bushels yearly processing of taxable wheat would return approximately \$20,000,000, compared with the \$7,000,000 to be spent in exporting wheat this year. This total would be sufficient to export about the 90,000,000-bushel quota given the United States under the international agreement on the basis of the differential of 2½ cents between the domestic and world prices.

PASSAGE through the Panama canal of the American fleet of 111 vessels, on the way from the Pacific to the Atlantic, was carried out successfully, but not in the hoped-for 24 hours. The time consumed was almost double that, which led the Tokyo press to declare the movement was a "failure."

IN AN extempore address at an exhibition in connection with the federal subsistence homestead projects, Mr. Roosevelt answered various critics of his administration with the declaration that the New Deal is a program of evolution, not revolution. Praising the homestead system as one of the administration's foremost achievements in helping depression-stricken families to gain a fresh start in life, Mr. Roosevelt denied charges that the program contemplated "regimentation" of great numbers of people.

"There is no regimentation," the President said. "We are not going to take people by force from one community and put them in another."

In the long run, he said, the subsistence homesteads will cost the government less than it would cost to keep these families on direct relief.

"We will work out a system for those families, brain trust or otherwise, in an effort to discover new things for communities to do," he said.

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart

Washington.—The senate has started another investigation. It has determined to go on a fishing expedition into the several industries that manufacture things that are used in making war. There will be a long-drawn-out inquiry; there will be seizure of papers and there will be smearing, some justified and some unjustified, of leaders in the shipbuilding, munitions and aircraft industries. It is liable to be a nasty thing before it is concluded and a report made to the senate.

There was no noise about passage of the resolution which was proposed by Senators Nye of North Dakota and Vandenberg of Michigan. The resolution creates a special committee which already has begun work. Its passage actually was noted in the newspapers that I saw with no more display than a couple of paragraphs. But the proposition ought to be among those to which attention is closely directed. Unless the bulk of the observers is wrong, the investigation that the Nye-Vandenberg resolution started is going to have a far-reaching effect both in domestic affairs of the United States and in the international field.

One of the reasons why it is so important to give thought to the investigation is the particular time at which it arrives among the window displays of government activities. If hardly need be stated here that international relations are strained in many parts of the world. There is nothing on the horizon to indicate that they will improve. Strained relations, if they continue, lead inevitably to war, and I reported to you several months ago that some nations are headed in that direction if the information our government has is correct. It is naturally to be expected then that overt acts on the part of some of the disturbed powers are going to follow, and the disclosures which the Nye-Vandenberg committee are prepared to make will help the international situation not one bit. Indeed, there is no reason to believe otherwise than that the impending disclosures will complicate the situation and create more hatred and suspicion. In other words, as I see it, the disclosures are more than likely to hasten that which seems inevitable, namely, war in several parts of the world.

Senator Pope of Idaho, temporary chairman of the committee, told me that the country is likely to be shocked "when it learns the ramifications of the situation," referring to the operations of the shipbuilding, aircraft and munitions companies. While he did not say so, I drew the inference from his remarks that he believes there has been collusion of some kind or other among some of those industrial leaders in order to engender ill will among nations already suspicious of each other.

"We are going to find out how many American shells are going to be used to kill American soldiers later," said Senator Pope.

And so we are off on another crashing, smashing, bull-in-the-china closet type of inquiry. All of us remember the famous investigation of shipbuilding activities at the Geneva armament conference. The committee smeared one William Shearer when Shearer was serving as agent for several of the shipbuilding concerns. None was sure when that investigation started where it would lead. The same can be said of the current inquiry.

To my way of thinking, however, the inquiry is much more important in the effect it will have upon international relations than in the smearing of men and corporations. Frankly, the opinion I have formed after many conversations with men and women of sound judgment is that this is an exceedingly bad time for such a fishing expedition. Any disclosure of relations between a munitions company and a foreign nation are going to be seized upon by that nation's neighbors as evidence and there will be blood in the eye in a hurry.

I hope my observations and conclusions will not be taken as condoning any crookedness. My point is that business relations between a private corporation and its customer should be allowed some degree of secrecy so long as they are not contrary to public good. Governments are going to buy munitions; they are going to buy aircraft, and they are going to have ships built. The question naturally follows, then, whether it is proper or improper for an American plant to sell something it makes to a foreign nation even if it knows they are to be used in fighting. I can see where those commodities ought not to be sold for use against America, but our government buys such supplies constantly and buys them from American makers. If other governments can buy them here, I fail to see why they should not be allowed to do so unless such sales have the aftermath of dragging the United States into war.

These Japanese assertions, or inferences, that "white hands" must stay out of China are not reassuring. The inability of the Europeans to get together in a solution of their own

problems is also disconcerting. It cannot be doubted that some of the foreign nations are sitting atop of a powder keg. It is just possible that the Nye-Vandenberg resolution may strike a match above the powder, as well as serving to embarrass and delay efforts of the various industries to get production expanded that more employment will result.

General Johnson and his NRA has come into more trouble. The National Recovery Board More Trouble for NRA

tached group responsible only to the President, has written a report of findings in several cases where small plants have complained about the effect of the codes. And the report of the board, headed by Clarence Darrow of Chicago, the famed attorney, is a scathing denunciation of some of the code provisions. In fact, some members of the review board take the position that the codes have permitted the great industries to grind the smaller ones, the little fellows, to a commercial death.

The President's views of the report are not known at this time, but it has leaked out that Mr. Roosevelt is willing to have the review board call a spade a spade. Knowledge of his attitude came through devious channels. There was rumor around Washington that the President was going to try to kill off the board by withholding funds from it. The board was the idea of some of the senators, anyway, and it was believed the President felt none too warmly toward it. Yet it has now been established that the President is going to uphold the hand of the board, notwithstanding extreme pressure that is coming from NRA quarters to get rid of it.

In some Washington offices there is a very definite belief that Mr. Roosevelt is entirely willing to let General Johnson retire. General Johnson's bombastic style of speech and his "crack-down" threats have not been so well received in many places and there is opinion available that the general ought to fade out of the NRA. Mr. Roosevelt can't fire him. That would be a dangerous thing to do from a political standpoint. It does seem, however, that a change is coming.

Business leaders have begun to preach more strongly against the codes and they are getting more and more adherents. Some economists who were thoroughly "sold" on the codes have begun to doubt that the types of regulations adopted are all that they have been advertised. As the things are put in practice, their weaknesses develop. Whether they can be corrected for practicable application remains to be seen.

With all of this war talk hither and yon, I inquired from the War department and found that roughly one-third of our army forces are garrisoned outside of the United States. The latest official tabulation shows the army as having 12,150 officers, 885 warrant officers, and 123,459 enlisted men, including around 11,000 Philippine Scouts. Of these, 2,200 officers, 140 warrant officers and 35,034 enlisted men are on posts outside of continental United States.

The matter of the location of our army personnel is pertinent at this time, too, because of the possibility that the United States government sooner or later will grant independence to the Philippines. I hope it is later, rather than sooner, for I hear so much discussion of dangers that appear certain to develop if the Philippines become a nation unto themselves. The consensus seems to be that the natives will be able to govern themselves, but whether they can protect themselves is another matter.

The United States has an army strength of 553 officers, 51 warrant officers and 4,004 enlisted men in the Philippines, in addition to the Philippine Scouts who number 62 officers and 6,398 enlisted men. That is quite a force and an influence against any ideas that foreign powers must overcome before they seize the Philippines. It should be mentioned that the force and influence existent there also includes some rather important American gunboats and a naval base, Pearl Harbor, which undoubtedly is the defense key. So no bloodthirsty foreign statesmen are going after the little islands as long as our forces are there.

There is an international phase to be considered at this time, one that is not as apparent as it is real. I refer to the tangled skein of circumstances resulting from Japanese declarations of a right to influence Chinese affairs and to use force if necessary. That threat—and it cannot be called by any other name—is notice to Russia and to all of the Western powers, the United States included, that the Japanese program of territorial expansion is going forward. It may be that many powers will be involved before Japanese statesmen are made to understand, but certainly it is not a time in which to consider withdrawal from that important position that our nation has in the Philippines.

PUSSY STUCK TO THE SHIP

When the drifter Cat's Eye sank after a collision with the Saltair near London recently, her crew of eight had to make a hurried climb for life to reach the Saltair's deck, but the Cat's Eye's mascot cat refused to desert the sinking vessel. After the ship went down pussy was picked up by a tug.

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