

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Von Hindenburg Dies and Hitler Seizes Presidency of Germany—Roosevelt's Economic Security Program Is Being Formulated.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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PAUL VON HINDENBURG, "German Gibraltar," has gone to his long rest, and Adolf Hitler is now absolute ruler of the reich. Immediately after the death of the president at his summer home in East Prussia was announced the cabinet met and put forth this decree:



Paul Von Hindenburg

"The reich government has passed the following law, which is hereby promulgated:

"I. The office of the reichspräsident is united with that of the reichschancellor. In consequence thereof, powers heretofore exercised by the reichspräsident are transferred to der fuhrer (Hitler) and the vice chancellor (Franz von Papen). He (Hitler) determines who shall be his deputy."

Hitler for the first time became also the commander of the reichswehr or regular army, and Gen. Werner von Blomberg issued an order that every soldier must pledge absolute loyalty to the death to Hitler.

Ever since his great victory at Tannenberg, early in the World War, Von Hindenburg had been the idol of the German people and their grief over his death was general and sincere. Their expressions of sorrow were mingled with veiled but anxious discussions concerning the possible effects on the reich of the aged leader's death and the assumption of full power by Hitler. The president, though forced to give the Nazi chief the chancellorship, had been a constant check on extreme Nazism, and he had the full confidence of other nations that has never been accorded to any other German since the war. As Jacob Gould Sherman, former American ambassador to Berlin, puts it:

"Now that Von Hindenburg is gone, no successor, having regard to his achievements, his prestige, and his tried and tested character, can, at least for a considerable time, create an atmosphere equally favorable to diplomatic negotiations with foreign powers."

Doctor Schurman, however, does not believe the Hitler regime is in danger of falling at this time. He says the German people are not naturally rash and revolutionary and probably will give Hitler a chance to seek a solution of the economic problems that confront the country.

Von Hindenburg, who was eighty-six years old, was a patriot all his life, a veteran of three wars and a marshal of the empire under Kaiser Wilhelm. He was a hard fighter but a kindly gentleman. He supported the republic when it was created but at heart he was always faithful to the self-exiled kaiser. His last days were clouded by the realization that he had failed in the effort to really check Nazism.

CHANCELLOR SCHUSCHNIGG of Austria appeared to have the Nazi revolt completely under control and was making overtures to the Social Democrats and the workers, the latter being warmly praised for not taking part in the putsch as the Nazis had expected they would. The trial of the leaders in the uprising was conducted with dignity and the condemnation and execution of two of them—the man who actually killed Dollfus and the chief of the raid—were taken as matters of course. Another Nazi, who killed a police captain in Innsbruck about the same time the chancellor was being murdered, also was found guilty and hanged.

Three thousand Nazis who took part in the outbreak in Carinthia escaped to Jugoslavia and were disarmed, and the Belgrade government now wonders what to do with them.

WITH monarchists in control of the Austrian government the royalists of that country and of Hungary resumed their schemes for putting the young Archduke Otto on the old throne of the Hapsburgs. There are reports that they held a secret meeting in Vitznau, Switzerland, and formed a restoration plan which they hoped would be acceptable to France, Italy, Great Britain and the little entente. Their first object was to secure the approval of Premier Mussolini. Leaders in the movement are Colonel Randa of the Austrian army, Felix Dunkel, an Austrian monarchist, and Count Hojos of Hungary.

According to the story current in Paris, the condition placed by the little entente and the big powers to allowing Otto to assume the throne is that he will sign a pledge guaranteeing the present boundaries and other terms of existing treaties with regard to Austria and the succession states.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT returned to the mainland from his Hawaiian cruise. The Honston and the New Orleans moved up the Oregon coast, stopped briefly at Astoria and entered the Columbia river. The Presidential party debarked at Portland and almost immediately boarded

a train which carried them rapidly eastward. Stops were made at the Bonneville project in Oregon and the Grand Coulee Irrigation and power project in Washington. Mr. Roosevelt spent Sunday in Glacier national park and then continued his journey homeward.

IN ITS monthly survey of business the American Federation of Labor issued a warning that the enormous expenditures of the government for emergency needs and the artificial increase of buying power, if continued, will lead to currency inflation to meet the huge accumulating deficits.

It called attention to the steadily mounting tax burden, the extension of the relief rolls, the decline in business credit with the increase of government borrowing and the failure of NRA to put men to work in industry.

"The government cannot go on borrowing more than its income for very long," the statement said. "We can not go on increasing buying power in this way without a general expansion of production and consumption. Industry cannot pull itself up by its own boot straps."

ONE of Mr. Roosevelt's pet projects, the program for greater economic and social security, already is being mapped out by the special committee, including



E. E. Witte

several cabinet members, that was named to get ready the necessary legislation for action by the next congress. Executive director of this committee, and therefore the most important member, is Prof. Edwin E. Witte, economist of the University of Wisconsin faculty.

Professor Witte has been rather active in Wisconsin politics as a La Follette progressive and has advanced ideas along the lines on which he is now working.

One of the main points of the program is the gradual decentralization of industry and this has been got under way already through the establishment of homestead projects in several localities. The purpose is to remove thousands of workers from tenement districts in large cities to areas where their standard of living could be raised. Officials believe that greater economic security will result through home ownership with small tracts of land.

There is now under consideration a related plan designed to offer to farmers who have suffered severely from the drouth a haven in Alaska. Jacob Baker, assistant chief of the federal emergency relief administration, has just completed a survey of a million acres of fertile land in the Mantanuska valley and has been discussing with Gov. John Troy the feasibility of taking 2,500 farm families up there as a federal colony.

WILLIAM LANGER, deposed as governor of North Dakota, because of his conviction on federal charges of conspiring to solicit political contributions from federal relief workers, and who was renominated for governor by the Republicans, has withdrawn from the race. The Republican central committee promptly selected Mrs. Langer to head the ticket, and if she wins, the victory will be hailed as a vindication of her husband—just as Jim Ferguson of Texas once was "vindicated" by the election of his wife.

Mrs. Langer, a member of a family socially prominent in New York, has never before taken part in politics. She is a home-loving woman and the mother of four daughters. Her opponent in the fall election will be Thomas H. Moodie, a Williston newspaper man who was nominated by the Democrats.

PAUL MAY, Belgian ambassador to the United States, died in a Washington hospital following an abdominal operation. Mr. May was a veteran diplomat and had held the post in Washington since April, 1931. He was a man of engaging personality,

MARTIAL law in Minneapolis, decreed by Gov. Floyd B. Olson because of rioting incidental to the strike of teamsters there, proved obnoxious to almost everybody and both the trucking firms and their 7,000 striking drivers asked for its dissolution. At the same time Adjutant General Walsh announced that the "insurrection" had been suppressed. Still the governor declined to withdraw the state troops. Additional trucks were given military permits to operate, and a ban against those in interstate commerce was revoked because its legality was in doubt. Beer trucks, however, were removed from the privileged list and were forbidden use of the streets on the ground that they did not furnish a necessary service.



Gov. F. B. Olson

At a mass meeting of union laborers the leaders demanded the withdrawal of the troops, the secretary of the truck drivers' union charging that the soldiers were "little more than strike-breakers."

Governor Olson's reply to this was to have the strikers' headquarters raided and their three leaders arrested. This naturally enraged the truck drivers and there was considerable violence.

Notwithstanding all this, the federal mediators, Father Haas and E. J. Dunningan, were hopeful of bringing about a peaceful agreement in the near future.

Riots in Kohler Village, Wis., in which two men were killed, led Gov. A. G. Schemedeman to place the community under martial control, and 600 members of the National Guard were sent there. During the riot the police and deputies used tear gas bombs and blank cartridges and where these failed to disperse the mob, they opened fire with loaded shells. The officer commanding the Guardsmen ordered the disbanding of the force of special deputies and permitted the strikers to resume peaceful picketing of the Kohler plant.

Longshoremen of the Pacific coast ended their two-month long strike and returned to their jobs in all the ports, as did the marine workers. Pending arbitration by the federal board, stevedores will be employed by employer-controlled hiring halls under supervision of observers representing the board. Control of the hiring halls was the chief issue in the strike and is still to be settled by the arbitrators, along with the questions of increased wages, shorter working hours and improved conditions.

GEORGE N. PEEK, President Roosevelt's special adviser on foreign trade, announced that in an effort to recapture some of America's markets abroad the so-called Second Export-Import bank was ready to finance American shipments to any country in the world.

Hitherto this second bank has dealt only with Cuban trade, while the first bank was created to handle Russian business. Thus far the Russian bank has been moribund because Russia has failed to pay her war debts to this country.

Short term, intermediate, and long term credit will be offered to American shippers who need financing to push through deals abroad, Peek said. He defined short term credits as those of less than 180 days, intermediate credits as those maturing in 180 days to 12 months, and long term credits as those with maturities between one and five years.

SENATOR HUEY P. LONG and Mayor T. Semmes Walmisley of New Orleans were having another lively fight in the southern city. Governor Allen, one of Long's benchmarks, mobilized 500 of the state troops and seized the registration office and his files, and the soldiers also were ordered to search out the city's red light district and gambling houses. The mayor increased his police forces to 1,400 and for a time there was prospect of "civil war."

Walmisley said the "moral crusade" was just a "smoke screen" to conceal the senator's real purpose of taking over the city government and influencing the primary election in September, in which both he and Long are supporting rival candidates.

JAPAN'S hopes for naval equality with Great Britain and the United States were dashed by a frank statement by the secretary of the Navy Swanson to the effect that, in his personal opinion, while the United States might favor a slash of 20 per cent in naval armaments, it would strongly oppose any realignment of existing naval ratios for the principal powers.

"I take the same position I always have," Secretary Swanson said. "The naval powers met in London and distributed naval strength as they thought just and right. Naval strength is relative. If we abandon the ratios there is no telling where we shall go."

"EXPLORER," the huge balloon constructed to carry three army officers far into the stratosphere, made a brave start from near Rapid City, S. D., rose to a height of 60,000 feet and then came to grief. Great rips appeared in the fabric of the bag and it came down rapidly and erratically, falling with its gondola 12 miles from Holdrege, Neb. Maj. W. E. Kepner, Capt. Orvil Anderson and Capt. Albert Stevens "bailed out" and with the aid of their parachutes landed unhurt. But all their expensive and elaborate scientific equipment, with the exception of the spectograph, was destroyed when the gondola crashed. The spectograph had been hung outside and floated to earth on a separate small parachute.

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart

Washington.—While Europe stews and wonders what eventually is coming out of the Austria Causes trian trouble, there is many a furrowed brow in Washington these days concerning our own nation's status in case the need for a sturdy national defense arises. The worries of our own government are not lessened by the weaknesses which Newton D. Baker, former secretary of war, and his committee of experts reported they had observed in our military air service. But from what I can learn, there is some satisfaction among those charged with responsibility of government because the vulnerable spots were pointed out before we are called upon to resort to that branch of our national defense. Having knowledge of the exact situation surely should be of some help.

The Baker board, as it has come to be known, was the fifteenth in sixteen years that has given study to our air force. It apparently went straight to the core of the trouble and said the chief problem, in effect, was a hit or miss policy with respect to air development. Since congress is the policy-making body of our nation, it must accept the responsibility, but my own research and acquaintance with matters relating to the appropriation of funds for the government leads me to believe that the budget bureau has been none too wise in determining expenditures for recommendation to congress.

Recommendations by the Baker board call first for establishment of a military air force of more than 2,200 planes, a force second to none in the world. An air force of young men is advised, a corps of highly trained men who know how to handle their planes that, in event of attacks, the air service will not find itself sacrificing good blood such as occurred in the comparatively safe business of transporting the mails. The board said the government should encourage an air industry in the United States to provide an adequate resource for the nation. If that is done, the report pointed out, there is a reserve strength developed that provides for revenue in peace and strength in war.

I have little confidence that congress is going to pay much attention to the Baker board's conclusions. It seldom has paid any attention to such expert advice. President Roosevelt asked the board to go to the bottom of the problem, however, and it has done so. At least the country is informed, and if its representatives in the house or the senate do not perform in a way that will correct the condition, then we all will know where to place the blame.

For example, the report proposes that there be adequate and continuing appropriations for expansion of the air service of the army. In that recommendation the board struck a key note. It said "continuing" appropriations were necessary, and anyone can see such a view is correct because otherwise a big sum is appropriated one year and wasted work results when the brothers who hold the purse strings say in the next year that they are not going to allow any more such expenditures. It is exactly as though one started to build a house and after the walls were up, the money ran out and no roof could be put on. The structure remains incomplete, no good to anyone.

This question of appropriations has been the bone of contention all along. I do not mean to say that the "brains" of the War department always have been capable of guiding the program effectively, but if congress had pursued a sound policy, a policy that at least was consistent, I am assured by many competent authorities the army air service would not be where it is today.

The Baker board, like most of its predecessors, declined to support the much agitated proposal for an air service detached from the army and navy. Only one member of the board, James Doolittle, the well known flyer, held that view. The board as a whole thought the air service ought to be an integral part of the military or naval branches of the service, and there is every evidence that this is one section of the recommendation that will be accepted by congress without argument. The board saw many difficulties possible under a separate air service, the chief of which is the lack of co-ordination in defense, as well as in attack, in event of war.

But while the Baker report offers numerous technical improvements for consideration and advocates changes here and there in methods of developing the air service, those folks in Washington who have witnessed the fate of the earlier surveys hold little hope for good to come from this one.

Mother nature has her own way of working things out and in her functions apparently she does not need professional theorists. The current proof of this is the drouth and the effect it is having on the agricultural adjustment program. There is very serious consideration being given to suspension of the scheme for curtailing production. Secretary Wallace and Chester Davis, the agri-

cultural administrator, are worried over the prospects although they naturally are saying little. It is known, however, that one of the things they are thinking about is abandonment of the contracts for curtailment of crops because the extreme drouth has made the reduction plans unworkable and even dangerous to the country's food stocks.

So it begins to appear that there will have to be revision of the agricultural program upon which the administration has worked so desperately and upon which it has expended so much money.

The Agricultural department is authority for the statement that the drouth already has removed any probability of a wheat surplus. To this shortage has been added unfavorable conditions abroad that have resulted in a general world total of wheat probably as much as 400,000,000 bushels below what is held to be an average yield. This is happening just when many of the wheat-growing nations of the world were approaching the point of a binding agreement that would hold down the quantity of wheat entering into export trade and thereby force crop reduction. But the authorities tell me the movement for an international agreement naturally is going to die. There being no dire necessity for it, the interest behind it will lag. I suppose there will be few, if any, further moves made on it until years of bumper crops again are upon us and a gigantic surplus of world wheat stares farmers in the face. That is usually the case.

It likely will be some weeks before the Agricultural department can formulate a definite course of action as to revision of the crop reduction plans.

President Roosevelt's return is eagerly awaited among some of the "brain trust" who

Brain Trust's are variously reported in Washington as desiring the Chief Executive to intervene in their own little war. There are a number of minor disputes taking shape among the professors and the so-called young liberals, and I am informed in what I believe to be authentic quarters that anti-administration agents are fomenting more trouble among the group that has served as such important advisers to the President during his term. Obviously, none will admit it, but there is every reason to believe that some keen individuals who are not in sympathy with the New Deal are spreading poison among the brain trusters about each other. The natural result of this, of course, is to cause the young liberals to be suspicious of each other and that kind of suspicion nearly always is followed by an open break.

The stories in current circulation in Washington are that some of the brain trusters are at outs with Raymond Moley, for a time the No. 1 brain trust man with the President but now the editor of a magazine, and that several of those still in the administration are saying unkind things about others who still are serving here. It is a situation not without its humorous side, and from having seen such factions develop before in the government, I imagine this one will turn out to be a real comedy.

The economic events of the last few weeks indicate to some Washington observers that a new crisis is approaching in the depression. August is always a dull month. September is little better from a business standpoint. After that things usually pick up. To get through the next six weeks with drouth devastating millions of acres and strikes and riots and military rule and uncertainties among business interests as to what the New Deal of the future holds, there necessarily must be a steady hand and calm judgment. On top of this, of course, is the disturbed international situation, and it is not helping the weary old world to settle down.

Since the kind of government management of business that we have had has not taken us out of the depression, the course immediately becomes problematical. Shall we have more of the same, or expand it beyond its present scope, or shall we retrace our steps and go back to the old days?

In the midst of this turbulent condition, the slimy head of inflation of the currency again is arising. Strangely enough, there are many men now talking about inflation seriously when all of their knowledge and all of their training ordinarily would make of them the bitterest of antagonists to such a course on the part of the federal government. Some of them have been in Washington in recent weeks and I gathered from the arguments they advanced that they sincerely believed inflation would do good for the country as a whole, and for themselves in particular. That is the sad part of it: they seem to think that they can pay off their debts and that the average person can pay off his debts easier with an inflated currency, and, therefore, they want to turn the printing presses loose.

They are apparently not thinking of the fact that the printing presses will print money, and that the average person will not be able to pay off his debts with it. They are apparently not thinking of the fact that the printing presses will print money, and that the average person will not be able to pay off his debts with it.

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Speech!

By AMY CAMPBELL
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WNU Service.

THERE was such a look of anxiety on her husband's countenance as he stepped in to dinner, that Bella Morris thought the worst.

"Well, I'm in for it at last," he announced. "I've got to make a speech at the club dinner!"

"Oh," said Bella in such relief Bill looked at her with severe envy.

Bill was like many men in that he secretly longed to be able to make a public speech if he ever had to. But he had openly sworn that he would never have to.

Bella was an optimist about everything and she believed, as few wives can, that there wasn't much Bill couldn't do and do well. She said: "You can do it better than anyone else there. Come on and have your dinner."

Bill followed his little wife feebly, but by the end of the meal there was a definite change for the better in him. His color was back. The speech was the topic of the family group of four. Isabella, their eighteen-year-old, informed Bill it was ridiculous of him to feel as he did. Nobody expected oratory in a club speech.

Bill Junior was quiet with some male understanding. "I'll get a book on public speaking from the Lib for you, Dad," he said in a way that did wonders to Bill's self esteem, until his daughter added: "one with gestures," and as if this were not enough, "illustrated, you know."

After that the days of the Morris family were practically devoted to arranging and promoting the details and rendition of Bill's speech. It was his own idea that he try reciting some rhyme downstairs while Bella sat upstairs listening to see if his voice carried. It would be a gathering of hundreds of men from the various districts and Bill felt, since he was going into it, he would like to be heard.

Bill Junior's book from the library had many valuable hints but as Bill Senior read them he felt they were written for the really clever after-dinner speakers who were already well established in the public eye. The book struck panic in him. He wanted to leave town or be taken suddenly ill the night of the club dinner.

The night of the dinner Bella glowed as she saw Bill drive off with a smile she knew he had manufactured just for her. "Your dad," she told her stoical children, "will be the hit of the evening. Something tells me!" Her children answered: "Sure" in a tone that lacked conviction.

As his hour approached, Bill, with more frequency, mopped his perspiring hands. He seemed to be living through centuries. Men with no terminal facilities whatever went on and on in enviable abandonment and the crowd of smoke-dazed men was practically insensible when it neared Bill's turn. Even Bill felt he was gradually becoming entirely numb.

He was suddenly electrified to hear his own name called and in the din of feeble but polite applause he rose and lifted his eyes. After that he practically knew no more. He had thought he was familiar with the good old phrases—Lord knows he had recited them often enough—but now he could remember nothing. He was conscious only of a swirling sea of faces.

He looked about him a few times. He tried to swallow and found it impossible. He recalled suddenly he was to introduce himself and make a brief speech of welcome. It must be done. He had to do it, so he put his head back and looked at the ceiling for inspiration. Every word he had prepared escaped capture. An utter helplessness seized him. He took one long wide look at the volcano of faces and said loudly—so Bill could easily have heard had he been upstairs—

"Gentlemen—BILL MORRIS. Very pleased to meet you!"

And then in trepidation over the sound of his own voice, he turned in a terrible deliberation and sat down. There was a brief silence and then the crowd seemed to go mad. They cheered and applauded and those near him nodded to Bill waggishly and pounded his shoulders. Some one was heard to say: "Neatest thing we ever heard, Bill. It takes you to think them up," and somewhere nearby he heard a remark that this was what made Bill such a big success in every way. He wasted no one's time. He always said the right thing. Good old Bill.

When Bill could get to a telephone, he called Bella.

"Don't wait up, Bella. I've got it over and I don't care when I get home now. Just wanted you to know they seemed to like it—"

"Like it?" she breathed ecstatically. "Like it!" Then she sighed. Bill could hear her and it always meant something surprising. "They just went mad about it, would be better. Bill, you're that clever and you won't ever believe it of yourself. After this you'll rely on your own unusual phrases when you have to make a speech, won't you?"

"Sure will," Bill agreed absently. A belated wonder struck him: "How did you know about it so soon?"

"Why, why, you funny thing," Bella stuttered. "Didn't you know the dinner speeches were being broadcast? Didn't they tell you? You broadcast beautifully, Bill. Beautifully!"

It was then Bill realized how hard he had taken it. The mike and the mention of being on the air entirely lost on him. What a lot of unsuspected sensations there were left in the world. He had been on the air for the first time. Bella was a great girl! A great girl!