

# News Review of Current Events the World Over

William Green Gloomy About Unemployment—Henry Ford Cheerful—Serious Charges Concerning Government of the Virgin Islands.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

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WITH another winter at hand and millions of Americans still unemployed, organized labor, through President William Green of the American



William Green

Federation of Labor, has asked the administration to appeal to all industries to increase production 30 per cent. Mr. Green in a public statement asserted that for the first time since President Roosevelt's re-employment program got under way in July, 1933, unemployment has exceeded last year's level. The number of persons without any employment he puts at 8,348,000. Those without jobs in industry in September numbered 10,951,000. Jobs for 2,220,000 were provided by conservation camps and emergency relief projects, "but these emergency jobs," he said, "are not creating incomes to pay the costs."

Mr. Green continued: "Could not the administration invite all industries to co-operate in a general program to increase production and put men to work?"

"If the nation-wide level of all production were lifted 30 per cent in a balanced program, adjusting production to consumption needs, each industry would then be assured that all other industries would increase their production, and the wealth produced by putting labor to work would create income to buy the product of all."

"The total number at work in the United States was 39,784,000 in September, 1933; by September, 1934, it had declined to 39,367,000. During these 12 months the normal increase in population has added close to 450,000 to the army of job seekers for whom industry provides no work. Thus the number without work in industry has risen from 10,108,000 in September, 1933, to 10,951,000 in September, 1934."

Quite as gloomy as Mr. Green's report was a statement of the National Industrial Conference board. This agency noted that the general improvement in manufacturing activity usually occurring in September failed to materialize. Instead, declines of 5.7 per cent in the number of wage earners employed, of 6.1 per cent in total man hours worked and of 5.8 per cent in payrolls disbursed, were reported. In addition, it was stated, the rise in the cost of living from August to September depressed real weekly earnings of wage earners 2.1 per cent.

On the other hand, the United States Chamber of Commerce in its summary of conditions throughout the nation reports continued improvement of business sentiment although it has not as yet been reflected definitely in the volume of transactions.

MANY thoughtful persons comment on the apparent discrepancy between the pleas of William Green for more employment and the policy pursued by organized labor in fostering great strikes seemingly for the sole purpose of enforcing unionization and the closed shop. Many thousands of persons are thrown out of employment by these strikes, industries are hampered or shut down and often serious disorders result. To the bystander it does not seem fair that, in a time of distress, such methods should be followed in order that the strength of the unions might be increased. The latest example of this policy is the strikes which brought about the closing of all the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea company's shops and warehouses in Cleveland and which went into effect in Milwaukee against the A. and P. and two other chain store companies. There was a prospect that these walkouts would spread throughout Ohio and Wisconsin.

HENRY FORD, who says that what is done in Washington doesn't matter much so far as recovery is concerned, came out with a statement that should be encouraging to the American business man. He told the Ford managers gathered in Detroit that his company was out of the depression, and they in turn told him of generally improved business conditions in all parts of the country.

Henry Ford

"The depression," Ford set forth in a statement, "would be over for the whole country very soon if American industrialists would just forget the alphabet schemes and take hold of their industries and run them with good, sound American business sense."

"They should take hold of their country, too, in the same way, and run it with good sound American common sense."

SPEDY ruling by the United States Supreme court on constitutionality of the NRA act and the code of fair competition for the lumber and timber products industry may be expected. Judge W. I. Grubb of the Federal District court at Birmingham, Ala., has

ruled them unconstitutional and dismissed an indictment against an operator of several sawmills. The action was taken by agreement of both sides so as to expedite an appeal to the Supreme court.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT announced that, beginning July 1, 1935, he will eliminate the 5 per cent pay cut that is now taken out of the salaries of all federal employees. The pay restoration, he explained, is being planned on the assumption that increases in the cost of living will necessitate it.

The Treasury department thereupon admitted frankly that this means the taxpayers will be called on to pay an additional fifty million dollars a year for the benefit of the 700,000 federal employees who will benefit by the restoration in salaries.

Mr. Roosevelt predicted flatly that the cost of living will advance substantially within the next eight months. When he made this statement at his regular press conference he also cautioned reporters to remember that an increase in the cost of living meant an increase in commodity and property values, thereby lessening the difficulty in paying debts. This is one of the avowed aims of the Roosevelt program.

He said he expected the rise of food, clothing, fuel, housing, and other living costs to be large enough by next July 1 to justify the 5 per cent restoration.

DR. ERNEST GRUENING, chief of the bureau of territories and insular affairs, has gone rather hurriedly to the Virgin Islands to make a personal investigation into a state of affairs that has led to the filing of serious charges before committees of both houses of congress. In a petition for a congressional inquiry, Paul C. Yates, who recently resigned as executive assistant to Gov. Paul M. Pearson, charges that the present administration of the islands is "wasteful, extravagant, inefficient, and tainted with corruption."

Yates was recently suspended and ordered to Washington for an inquiry by Secretary Ickes, who accused him of "disloyalty, insubordination, and gross inefficiency," and in general of being a trouble maker. Yates resigned immediately and came to Washington, but chose to ignore Secretary Ickes' office, carrying his complaints directly to congress.

He charges that Mr. Ickes has been "outrageously deceived" by Governor Pearson and subordinate officials of the Interior department, has ignored "complaints, petitions, and specific charges" presented by the citizens of the islands, and has dealt with officials "in a peculiarly harsh, cruel, and dictatorial manner."

The petition further charges that minor officials in the Interior department aided and abetted Governor Pearson to "whitewash a major public works scandal and deceived the secretary of the Interior regarding public works and the general situation, and were criminally negligent in the performance of their duty."

Secretary Ickes is accused of making prejudicial and injurious remarks about T. Webber Wilson, judge of the Federal District court in the islands, remarks which "reflect unjustly upon the federal judiciary and which are unbecomingly the dignity of a cabinet officer." Ickes also is accused of "unjustly and at the instance of Governor Pearson," having removed from office Charles H. Gibson and Eli Baer, government attorneys, and Capt. Michael J. Nolan, director of police of St. Thomas and St. John, with a record of 14 years' "loyal and efficient service."

CONVERSATIONS in London preparatory to the scheduled naval conference have been quite unsatisfactory so far, for neither the United States nor Great Britain shows any disposition to accord to Japan the equality that nation demands, even though it is merely in principle with the Japanese agreeing not to build up to parity with them. Well-posted observers do not believe the conference will accomplish anything valuable, and Secretary of the Navy Claude A. Swanson says that, regardless of its outcome, his department plans to bring the American fleet up to full treaty strength and will ask congress for the necessary appropriations.

Additional maritime strength was urged before the federal aviation commission. Lieut. Com. C. E. Rosendahl, former commander of the albatrosses Los Angeles and Akron, advised the construction of two military dirigibles to protect aerial trade routes. Secretary Swanson said this proposal is under consideration in the Navy department.

The United States is now 136,975 tons of war craft behind treaty strength. This represents one aircraft carrier, two class B cruisers, 51 destroyers, and 24 submarines, the department disclosed.

CHICAGO'S magnificent World's fair is no more. It closed formally and forever at midnight, October 31, amid a riot of gaiety and with a final burst of fireworks, and the vast throng of last-day visitors left the grounds with a feeling of sadness. Mayor Kelly had proclaimed a half-holiday and thousands upon thousands of Chicagoans joined with the crowds that had come from elsewhere to celebrate the windup of this most notable exposition. After artillery salutes and parades, the final ceremonies were staged in the Court of States with Governor Horner, Mayor Kelly and President Rufus Dawes of the exposition as speakers. Exactly at midnight Mr. Dawes threw a switch that shut off all lights on the grounds and set off a gigantic fireworks display. This was not quite the end, however, for the lights were turned on again, and, though no one was admitted after midnight, the Halloween carnival continued until three o'clock in the morning. Then the lights went out forever.

KING PRAJADHIPOK of Siam is not satisfied with his present status as a limited monarch and has threatened to abdicate unless the government withdraws a measure proposed in the national assembly which deprives him of his traditional right to decide whether persons sentenced to death for crimes shall live or die. This, of course, is but one of the distasteful limitations prescribed by the national assembly since the revolution of 1932 which forced the king to give the country a new constitution. There is no revolution in this case, for the people of Siam generally know nothing about the dispute between the king and the government.



King Prajadhipok

Prajadhipok is at present in England with his queen, and the negotiations are carried on by cable. His majesty's secretary there said the king's fight was really a fight for the principles of democratic government and that he would not give in. The secretary explained that half the members of the Siamese legislative assembly are elected directly by the people, and the other half nominated by the government, with his majesty placing "great importance upon the attitude of the elected members," who Prajadhipok claims opposed the measure relating to life and death prerogatives.

MEXICAN governments, both federal and state, are carrying on a determined campaign against the Roman Catholic church, charging that the latter has been fostering a revolutionary movement. On the other hand, a vigorous denial that the Catholic church had advocated armed resistance to the Mexican government or intervention by the United States in the religious conflict in Mexico was issued by Archbishop Ruiz, the Apostolic delegate to Mexico, in San Antonio, Texas. Bishops and priests are being expelled from various states, and the state of Mexico issued an order limiting the number of churches in the region in which services may be held to 34, the same as the number of priests permitted to officiate in the state. All churches above this number, the decree provided, will be used as schools and public libraries. The action was believed to have been taken to prevent priests ousted from other states from coming to the state of Mexico to officiate.

The Supreme court ruled that all buildings used for Catholic ceremonies shall become the property of the nation. Acting President Rodriguez in a letter to Attorney General Portes Gil said the clergy, on pretext of opposing the initiation of compulsory socialist education in Mexico's schools, has "initiated a frank campaign of sedition which reveals clearly its intention to bring about a revolution."

CHANCELLOR HITLER has realized the danger to his regime in the revolt of the Evangelical Protestant pastors against the tyrannical rule of Reichsbishop Mueller, and has decided to separate church and state. The government of the reich, he said, would not interfere in the quarrel. Some observers in Berlin expressed the fear that this policy would lead to unrestrained growth of German paganism and also to further acts against the Jews, under the leadership of Dr. Alfred Rosenberg, philosopher, and Julius Streicher, publisher of the Stormer, heads respectively of the pagan faith and the anti-Semitic movements.

Acceptance of Chancellor Hitler's new constitution for the German Labor Front, which gives the Labor Front money and property which once belonged to trade unions and employers' associations, was celebrated in 16,000 demonstrations throughout Germany. The biggest was in Lustgarten, Berlin, where over 350,000 were assembled. The Labor Front includes all laborers and office workers.

BOTH France and Germany are worried over prospects of trouble in the Saar, where a plebiscite is to be held January 13, 1935, to determine whether the region shall revert to Germany, be attached to France or remain under the control of the League of Nations. The Nazi campaign in the Saar has been active and large numbers of Storm Troopers are said to have entered the region in disguise. Geoffrey K. Knox, president of the governing commission for the league, has warned that in case of difficulties during the plebiscite he will call for the help of French troops. Foreign Minister Pierre Laval says the French will be ready to respond. The German Nazis are correspondingly irate. There is reason for anxiety.

# Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted  
by William Bruckart

Washington.—With assurance that Joseph E. Eastman, federal co-ordinator of railroads, is going to recommend in reports soon to appear that there be more stringent regulation of the railroads, it is to be noted that Washington conversation lately has included a new idea respecting governmental relations with businesses coming under direct federal regulation. The discussion seems to center about some idea concerning the obligation which government owes whatever business it regulates and whose profits it limits.

The talk one hears in many places is to the effect that if the government, or any government, lays down rules which prohibit a business from reaping the profits that accrue in good years, by the same token it ought to consider some form of compensation to that business in the periods of depression through such as we are now passing because it has refused to permit that business to create a huge layer of fat upon which it can feast in the bad years.

Advocates of such a theory, of course, have immediately found opponents. In other words, two very definite schools of thought have developed and although the question is nowhere near a solution nor is it likely that the forthcoming session of congress will even approach an answer, one can hear arguments pro and con on the point most anywhere the subject is broached.

The proponents of the theory that the government owes an obligation to those businesses which it has regulated within an inch of their lives contend that investors—which means the public who own shares of stock—are being discriminated against by their own government. Their claim is that a business cannot survive unless it is enabled to store away profits of the good years against which it may draw when the prolonged economic depression strikes. The result is, according to this argument, that unless the fat is stored away after the manner of the bear in preparation for winter, investors can expect only to see their savings destroyed from time to time, and this with the sanction of their own government.

In opposition to this new theory of relationship between government and business, one hears the usual denunciations of the sins of the railroads and the public utilities, but one also hears complaint that if the federal government should embark upon a policy of compensating those businesses which it regulates, it might be placing a premium on mismanagement and even downright crookedness. It is argued likewise that the federal government must not use taxpayers' money in this manner nor that it should employ the policy of compensation, as that amounts to a subsidy.

At any rate a new field has been opened. On each side are to be found vigilant and virulent defenders and from this time it is made to appear that congress is eventually going to be compelled to decide how far this regulation of business can properly go. From all of the argument here, it would seem that each side has solid ground upon which to stand. It may be possible that from this controversy something in the way of a new economic policy will develop. The Roosevelt administration has gone farther than any other in history in its regulation of business and there are those who believe that a reaction is due. If that be the case, then it appears logical at least that the two opposing forces may bring about a compromise that will be favorable to general business, which is subject to regulation, and enable those who place their savings in stocks or bonds of such utilities to feel reasonably secure about some sort of an annual return.

Solution of this question of equity between the government and the businesses which it regulates is not as simple as it may superficially appear. For example, the question is put forward whether it is possible to evolve any method of measuring, even roughly, the extent of the public obligation. It is likewise necessary to determine in advance of a final answer to the question, whether the past inequities and past treatment of public utilities is the factor to be considered. There is a question whether the government is openly to assume a direct voice in the management of properties which it regulates if there is a compensating arrangement to protect investors in those businesses. Then, it goes into the question of government ownership or government control of private industry.

Some of the advocates of this program of compensation call attention to the public necessity for maintenance of service, such as the railroads supply, for example. In the case of the railroads and shipping, with perhaps the addition of the growing aircraft industry, it is admitted that there is a willingness on the part of those lines of commerce to aid the nation in time of war.

Should the government engage in distribution of taxpayers' money to offset deficits in the lean years, opponents of the policy say that we should be headed for an even greater bureau-

cracy than has been set up to accomplish recovery under the present administration. Obviously, many business men will not be in favor of further extension of bureaucracy. They have had their fill of bureaucracy under the codes and the Agricultural Adjustment administration.

The form of assistance is another problem. If it were not in the form of a money payment direct to the businesses concerned, then the subsidy must be worked out on another basis. It has been suggested that the regulations themselves might be used to enable some returns not now available. One theory advanced was that the regulations should be flexible and that in the lean years there be some relaxation of the restrictions so that the regulated businesses might proceed more freely in operation.

Another thought heard is that there should be consideration given to competing businesses such, for example, as is the condition between the railroads and the highway users. It is of record, of course, that trucks and buses and privately owned vehicular traffic use national and state highways, built out of taxpayers' money and they do so with the very minimum of taxation. The railroads, as competitors of these lines, have no such beneficent attitudes displayed toward them by the government which, at the same time, has been bearing down with its regulations. It undoubtedly will bear down further when the new Eastman legislation is enacted. So on whichever side of the argument one ranges himself, it is to be seen that there are numerous factors and influences to be considered and these, it may be added, are not questions soluble in one conversation.

As one looks backward upon the campaign of 1934, the methods employed by the two major parties for parties appear worthy of examination. Observers in Washington, I believe, are of the opinion that the campaign developed an outstanding circumstance, namely, that the Democrats lack defensive ability and the Republicans have shown an utter inability as an offensive party.

In all of the debates and the speeches and the statements forthcoming from candidates on either side, there is proof of the conclusion above reached. Some political writers in Washington and some political leaders take the position that when the Democrats were put to the necessity of laying down a fresh program, they failed on the job. They gave the impression of politicians running largely on momentum.

The minority party, if such the Republicans may be called, was wholly unable to take advantage of known vulnerable points in the Democratic armor. The net result was obviously that there was much haranguing and much mud-slinging in what should have been real national issues, but nothing came of it.

The campaign, therefore, has demonstrated in my opinion the need for a strong minority party whether that party be Republican or Democratic. The party in power necessarily is on the spot because it is charged with the responsibilities of government. It is the function of the minority party to criticize and offer counter proposals. The most astute politicians see that condition and, I believe, are at a loss as to what it means for the future.

The federal communications commission, one of the new agencies set up by the Roosevelt administration as a permanent part of the nation's regulatory structure, is preparing to ask congress for an amendment of the communications act of 1934 enabling it to approve mergers. Of course, the particular problem involved in the communications program is the question of mergers of such gigantic corporations as the Western Union and the Postal Telegraph companies and some of the radio companies. The implications and the potentialities of this movement, however, go much further.

It is too early to attempt a forecast of congressional opinion on the communications proposal but it is an opportune time to consider what may happen if congress should approve this step toward creation of single businesses for single lines of service in this country.

It is regarded also as interesting to examine the effect upon the country if it were to be subjected to a well regulated monopoly of all the business in that line such as has occurred in the case of the Bell Telephone system.

Some members of the commission and its staff feel that a merger of the large telegraph companies, for instance, would result in establishment of a more closely knit network of telegraph lines and offices than now exists.

Details of any merger plan are too intricate and too complex to be treated in the space available here but the fact that the communications commission is giving consideration to such a proposal leads on to exploration of merger possibilities and the effect among other lines—such, for example, as the radio, the railroads, the lines of inland waterways, shipping and such other institutions of public service.

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# Utility Demanded in All Live Stock

Better Judgment Suggested in Selecting Breeders for Meat Use.

By E. T. Robbins, Live Stock Extension Specialist, University of Illinois—WNU Service.

Prize-winning live stock fashions may come and go like feminine styles, but producers who strive to obtain the maximum returns from their meat animals should select their breeding stock more along utility lines.

Only farmers who raise the type and size of animals demanded by consumers can expect to sell their live stock for the highest prices, regardless of the latest mode at the live stock shows.

At present many cattle raisers are finding that the fashionable little bulls heget calves that grow too slowly. When ready for market these yearlings will weigh only 800 pounds, while somewhat coarser stock will tip the scales at half a ton. It is the larger yearlings that are making the most money because they more nearly fit the needs and desires of the market. Larger sires will aid many cattlemen in producing the larger, more desirable yearlings.

Likewise, early lamb producers are coming to realize that they need rams of considerable size, if they are to get the largest possible market returns. For this reason, many farmers are changing to the larger breeds. What the sheep man wants is a lamb that will grow fast enough to weigh 70 to 80 pounds at four months of age, and lambs from small parents will not do it.

Hog producers, however, have a different problem. Some of the present breeding stock has such great size that the pigs are still gangling and thin at weights which the market desires. The utility standard in this case is a pig that will grow rapidly and yet become fat at around 200 pounds. For this purpose, boars weighing considerably less than 1,000 pounds are more likely to fit the needs of most producers, rather than the excessively huge sires seen at fairs and live stock exhibitions.

Some breeds of live stock need more stretch while others need more compactness to supply sires for most farm herds and flocks. Thus the breeder who develops his stock along utility standards will render a practical service for the live stock industry.

# Selection of Seed Corn Demands Close Attention

The cheapest and surest way to increase corn yield is by the use of better seed, and the best way to procure better seed, other than buying it from a seed specialist, is to select one's own seed corn from one's best field.

Ears should be selected from stalks that are of average height, or bear ears at a height convenient for shucking. The ears that hang downward are most desirable since these more readily shed water and are not so easily damaged by bad weather. Ears and stalks that have been damaged by insects and disease should not be selected; disease-free seed may be resistant. The main thing to bear in mind is the selection of ears from the best producing plants grown under average conditions. The ears should be well filled out with grain of uniform size. If ample time is taken for the purpose and the selection of seed made with due care with the seed properly dried and kept until planting time, better returns from succeeding corn crops may be expected by the farmer. Because of the drought very few farmers will raise good seed corn this year and therefore if they have some good old corn left over they should take good care of it.—Missouri Farmer.

# Rodents Like Jap Beetle

In their search for effective control measures for the Japanese beetle, entomologists of the Department of Agriculture have discovered that much help may be expected from the small rodents, such as moles, mice and skunks, which are natural enemies of the bugs. They claim that Japanese beetle grubs are choice tidbits for these small animals, although the animals themselves are considered nuisances. The useful part they play in man's struggle against this insect pest of lawns, gardens and orchards, however, may give them a new lease on life.

# Agricultural Hints

Thinning apples has proved most profitable during dry seasons.

Columbus brought sugarcane to America on his second voyage.

The average value of owned farm homes is \$1,135, and tenant farm homes \$500.

There are about 100,000 colonies or hives of bees in Colorado, where honey production is an old, established business.

Drouth has caused soaring agricultural prices in Germany this year.

More farmer bankruptcies occurred during the last fiscal year than in the preceding one.

British fruit canners expect this to be a record year; they state that they require some 25,000 tons of soft fruits.

Experimentalists find that the vitamin C content of the cow's feed influences the amount of this vitamin in the milk.