

News Review of Current Events the World Over

President Starts His Social Reform Program, Putting Unemployment Insurance First—Visits TVA on Way to Warm Springs.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD
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WITH the election in the background, President Roosevelt is ready to push forward more rapidly his ambitious plans for what he calls "the abundant life" in this country. So he has appointed a large advisory council to aid in formulating and getting through congress his program of social reforms. The chairman is Frank P. Graham, president of the University of North Carolina, who has been serving as vice chairman of the NRA consumers' advisory board. He and his colleagues, all known to be New Dealers or in close sympathy with the New Deal, are asked by Mr. Roosevelt "for advice and counsel in development of a program for unemployment insurance, old age security and adequate health care."



Frank P. Graham

Work on the social program already is well under way and an executive committee has laid the groundwork. Also Miss Frances Perkins, secretary of labor and chairman of that executive committee, has named an advisory committee of physicians and surgeons that, according to advance rumors, will report a program that will be "revolutionary almost to the point of establishing socialized medicine." This medical group is headed by Dr. Harvey Cushing of Yale whose daughter Betsy is the wife of James Roosevelt, son of the President.

Secretary Perkins announced that other committees were being organized to aid in the formation of plans for federal intervention in problems of public health, hospitalization, and dentistry.

WHEN the federal conference on economic security met in Washington, nearly all the members of the advisory committees were present. The President told the delegates that he would present to the coming congress bills to provide for setting up immediately an unemployment insurance program. As to health insurance and old age pensions, he said he was not certain the time had arrived for federal legislation to put these into effect, and he uttered a warning against "organizations promoting fantastic schemes" and arousing hopes "which cannot possibly be fulfilled."

Though Mr. Roosevelt conceded to the separate states the right to decide what type of unemployment insurance they would adopt, he declared that he would reserve to the federal government the right to hold and invest and control all moneys which might be collected.

This was necessary, the President added, because of the magnitude of the funds, and "so that the use of these funds as a means of stabilization may be maintained in central management and employed on a national basis." It is expected that from \$4,000,000,000 to \$5,000,000,000 would be raised in the course of several years.

Mr. Roosevelt insisted that unemployment insurance must be kept entirely apart from the dole, and that it should be managed strictly on an actuarially sound basis. He indicated that he favored legislation along the lines of the Wager-Lewis bill introduced in the last congress, under which a 5 per cent federal tax would be put upon all commercial pay rolls, certain portions of the proceeds being paid back to such states as had adopted legislation for the working of an unemployment insurance program.

Before the conference members went to the White House to hear the President, they indulged in a discussion that brought out all sorts of views on what should be done. Relief Administrator Harry Hopkins and Mayor La Guardia of New York urged immediate establishment of a federal program to include benefits for the 4,200,000 families now on relief. Hopkins said any program not encompassing these destitute "is not worth its salt." La Guardia, in the same vein, said cities cannot hold up under the relief load much longer. This was not in accord with the view expressed a little later by the President, and was an example of the confusion of ideas in the conference.

FOR the purpose of obtaining better co-operation among federal agencies engaged in lending government funds, the President has appointed a committee consisting of the heads of the agencies, with Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau as chairman. The new organization will report to the President from time to time and its activities will cover the treasury, interior, public works, federal housing, farm credit, Home Owners' Loan corporation, agricultural adjustment administration, export-import banking, commodity credit, federal deposit insurance, the RFC, federal reserve board and public works housing.

In connection with this co-ordinating move, the White House stated that when the present applications of the Home Owners' Loan corporation have been reduced to terms of approval the

original \$3,000,000,000 allotment will have been used up.

ANOTHER program that is being rapidly prepared by the President's advisers for action by congress has to do with the nation's natural resources, and the necessary legislation is being drafted by the national resources board. It is of utmost importance, and in Washington there is a belief that it may lead to government control, and possibly government ownership, of all timber lands, oil reserves and coal fields, and government dominion over all existing and future water power developments on the nation's lakes and rivers.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT has gone to his winter retreat at Warm Springs, Ga., where he will remain until after Thanksgiving day, and on the way had some interesting experiences. First he traveled to Harrodsburg, Ky., where he helped Gov. Ruby Laffoon and other officials in the unveiling and dedication of a memorial to the men and women who established there the first permanent Anglo-Saxon settlement west of the Alleghenies. The monument, erected by the federal government at a cost of \$100,000, overlooks Pioneer Memorial State park. It depicts an epoch rather than an event, and the only portrait among the many carved figures is that of George Rogers Clark, who there planned his conquest of the old northwest territory.

From Harrodsburg the President went to see the Tennessee valley development which has been well called the laboratory of the "more abundant life." It was with deepest interest that he viewed the work that is being done by about 1,200 men building dams in the Tennessee river and tributaries to provide power, flood control, navigation and new fields of work for persons drawn from unprofitable land.

After a visit to the Hermitage, home of Andrew Jackson at Nashville, Mr. Roosevelt inspected the revived Muscle Shoals plants and the Wheeler and Wilson dams, and then went to Tupelo, Miss., the first town to purchase power from the new federal development.

UNCLE SAM need expect no payment from France on the war debt on December 15, when the next installment is due. It is stated in Paris that France will then default for the fifth straight time. Pierre Etienne Flandin, new premier, opposed payment in 1932, when he was minister of finance, and his cabinet is now taking the same position as the previous government—awaiting an Anglo-American settlement which would serve as a basis for Franco-American negotiations.



Premier Flandin

The only idea for revision of the debts that has met with any enthusiasm in French parliamentary circles is a 10 per cent payment to correspond with the reparations relief granted Germany by the Lausanne agreement. Proposals for larger amounts, or "payment in kind," have met with coldness. The chamber of deputies is clinging to the position that France will not pay one cent more than it gets from Germany.

ANDREW MELLON may now have another cause for grievance against the federal Treasury department, for the government has made charges against the Mellon Trust company of Pittsburgh, a Mellon institution, of filing "a false and fraudulent income tax return" for 1930 in a tax action demanding payment of \$218,333 plus a 50 per cent penalty.

In supporting its claim, the government listed eight transactions in 1931 as evidence that all were "a part of a false and fraudulent course of conduct on the part of said Mellon Trust company." Among the 1931 transactions were two "accommodation" deals with Andrew W. Mellon.

FEDERAL JUDGE CHARLES I. DAWSON of Louisville, Ky., overruling an attack on the validity of the Frazier-Lemke farm moratorium act, declared "with regret" that it is constitutional. In his opinion he said: "The legislation, in some of its provisions, is unfair to creditors, and unfair even as to farm debtors, for it inevitably closes to them all private sources of credit."

FREDERICK LANDIS, the only Republican to be elected to congress from Indiana in the recent election, died of pneumonia in his home town, Logansport. He was a brother of Keneaw M. Landis, national baseball commissioner.

BUDGET requests for 800 new airplanes have been submitted by the army air corps, and if the corps' plan is approved the United States will have the largest and most up to date military aerial armada in the world, including eventually 2,400 planes.

GERMAN Nazis in the Saar, organized as the German Front, assert that the French separatists have been trying to stir up a quarrel for the purpose of inducing Geoffrey Knox, president of the League of Nations commission for the Saar, to call in foreign troops. The accusation was contained in a note sent the League denying that the German organization has gone beyond the law in urging inhabitants of the Saar to vote for return of their land to Germany in the plebiscite to be held January 13.

In its memorial to the league the German Front asserted that it possesses documents to prove that France has sent arms into the Saar and that pro-French groups have been trained in the use of machine guns and inflammable liquids. This is for the purpose of executing a coup d'etat late in November or early in December, the German note said.

TOM MOONEY, who has served 18 years of a life sentence for complicity in the San Francisco Preparedness day bombing in 1916, may yet win release. The United States Supreme court consented to live at least preliminary consideration to his case, and that is a big point in his favor.

The court ordered the warden of San Quentin prison to show cause within 40 days why counsel for Mooney should not be granted leave to file a petition for a writ of habeas corpus. The order of the court does not mean that it will review the case.

SENATOR THOMAS and his fellow inflationists were not pleased with the President's choice of a new governor of the federal reserve board to succeed Eugene Black.



Marriner S. Eccles

He picked Marriner S. Eccles, a Utah banker, whose ideas of inflation are not at all those of Thomas, for they do not include fiat money. Mr. Eccles believes in "credit inflation"; he would control the reserve banks' purchases of government securities, issue money against these purchases and spend the new money for government bonds, thus creating an endless chain of credit arrangement. So long as this chain were maintained unbroken, the government's credit would be inexhaustible.

Something like fifteen billion dollars, according to Mr. Eccles, should be spent by the government for public works and housing projects, and he thinks this vast sum can be obtained by following out his monetary plans.

THE government has issued an order permitting the free exportation of capital from the United States, and business men take this as a concession to those who demand stabilization of the currency as a prerequisite to business recovery. It does not mean stabilization but is a step toward it and indicated the administration has dropped the idea of bringing about recovery by debasing the dollar. Presumably, if further attempts to cheapen the dollar in foreign exchange were contemplated, the treasury would not leave the doors open for the wholesale flight of American capital abroad.

ARIZONA is determined to prevent the construction of the Parker diversion dam across the Colorado river unless it gets what it considers its share of the hydro-electric power to be developed by that project. Gov. R. B. Moer declared a "war zone" on the Arizona side of the river at the dam site and sent a detachment of National Guardsmen with rifles and machine guns to halt work there.

The United States bureau of reclamation ordered that work on the Parker dam on the Arizona side be stopped until the dispute is settled, so Governor Moer called the troops back to Prescott and Phoenix.

"It's a showdown this time," Moer said, "we are going to get something or we aren't. And if we can't expect anything, we want to know it before this project is farther advanced."

W. P. Whitsett, chairman of the Los Angeles metropolitan water district board of directors, said he "heartily agreed" with Governor Moer that Arizona should have one-half of the power privilege at the Parker dam.

CELEBRATIONS of Armistice day in the United States and the allied countries of Europe were generally marked by warnings of the dangers of another terrible war in the not distant future. At Arlington national cemetery President Roosevelt quietly laid a wreath of chrysanthemums on the grave of the Unknown Soldier while military detachments stood at attention, and then, as taps sounded, Mrs. Roosevelt stepped forward and placed a single white flower at the foot of the shrine. National Commander Belgano of the American Legion was one of the speakers at Arlington, and called for adequate defense of the nation against both foreign foes and the forces of unrest that are attacking our institutions.

IN A cablegram to the League of Nations, Chancellor Riart of Paraguay said his government could not accept a truce in the Chaco war in return for international guarantees, as was proposed by the league. Riart insisted that an end to hostilities should come before negotiations are undertaken to solve the war and to arrange definite terms for peace. However, Paraguay accepted the principle that the conflict proper should be settled by conciliation.

The Chaco consultative committee of the league asked the secretary general to request the United States and Brazil to collaborate in ending the war

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart

Washington.—The smoke of battle has cleared away sufficiently since the election to permit of an analysis and already there is a general conclusion discernible as to two things:

(1) The Republican party must undergo a complete reorganization, a complete elimination of the old line leaders and the assumption of power by virulent forward looking men and women of the newer generations.

(2) President Roosevelt, accorded the greatest vote of confidence ever given a Chief Executive, is confronted with the greatest responsibility ever laid on the lap of one individual in the history of this nation.

Thus, there can be no doubt, according to astute judges, that Mr. Roosevelt and his administration are in real danger because he has too many blind followers. It seems to be generally agreed among political leaders and observers—that is, all political leaders excepting those who refuse to believe a change has come—that the Republican party went into the recent campaign and finished that campaign without any kind of a program. Some critics are saying that Henry P. Fletcher, the Republican national chairman, is to blame. I do not find that criticism supported generally. But in politics some one always must be the goat and apparently Mr. Fletcher is to be made the goat by those Republicans who have been unable or unwilling "to take it."

Mr. Fletcher and his co-workers, Senator Hastings of Delaware, and Representative Bolton of Ohio, are known to have pulled back in their criticisms of the administration. The consensus seems to be, however, that this alone was not sufficient to have resulted in the overwhelming defeat which the party suffered. It was, rather, an entire lack of definite proposals from the Republican leadership, and throughout the country, according to well authenticated information, the younger crowd of Republicans was apathetic. They had nothing to encourage them and nothing to offer in argument in the place of the things the New Deal was preaching.

In some quarters it is emphatically insisted that the New Dealers, theories and all, amounted to a light in the dismal darkness of the economic depression. This school of thought argues that it does not matter whether success has crowned the President's recovery efforts. He at least has maintained a forward-appearing movement and in the absence of anything constructive from the other side, a people down-trodden and with resources exhausted look to him with a hope which they could not pin to any other flag staff.

But, as said above, Mr. Roosevelt has his problems. They are more dangerous than when he took office. With more than a two-thirds majority in each house of congress, the President, it is held generally, must guard himself against too many friends.

The two-thirds majority always has been regarded as a fine asset for an administration in forcing through legislation where it is necessary to apply a gag rule. This is particularly true in the house of representatives which has a tendency to become a maelstrom on too many occasions. Many new members, imbued with the idea of a New Deal mandate, will swallow the President's legislative proposals without question. History shows this to be a most dangerous condition for the Chief Executive. He has no opposition to call attention to mistakes, weaknesses, or vulnerable spots in the programs which he offers.

One official, and a rather high official at that, suggested the other day that he was in favor of "organizing" an opposition bloc in the house and senate. It was his conviction that if there were critics among the Democrats, they would constitute something of a leadership for the Republican minority and that, by these two groups, valuable criticism of administration policies would be available. All through the last session of congress numerous conservative Democrats, mainly from the South, were working under cover to hold the brain trust programs within bounds. Many of the senators, and representatives as well, went about their work quietly but none the less effectively, and I think it is conceded by most persons in a position to know, that these men kept the New Deal from going too far to the left.

One other phase of the Roosevelt problem deserves consideration. The campaign showed any number of men seeking election on the Democratic ticket to have ideas far beyond the New Deal program. In fact, some of them are ultra-radical. Observers here contend that Mr. Roosevelt is faced with a genuine threat from these personages.

In other words, it appears to be within the realm of possibility that he will have to swerve somewhat to the right to insure victory for the policies in which he believes. Legislation always is by compromise. If the President does not desire to go so far to the radical side he may be forced to support certain more conservative propo-

Must Use Care in Storing Potatoes

Unsound Condition of Tubers May Lead to Loss and Disappointment.

By Prof. Ora Smith, New York State College of Agriculture.—WNU Service.

A poor storage place may completely ruin a crop of first class potatoes, but the best storage will not make unsound potatoes into marketable ones. To store wet or muddy, unripe, badly bruised, cut, skinned, diseased, frosted, or otherwise unsound tubers, leads to loss and disappointment. Both moisture and temperature can be controlled by ventilation in a properly constructed storage.

Growers of potatoes in New York state suffer greater losses from high temperatures than from freezing. A storage temperature between 36 and 40 degrees Fahrenheit is recommended as the best for potatoes. Below 36 degrees the tubers develop a sweet taste which is undesirable in market stock but does not injure the seed stock. Potatoes will not freeze at temperatures above 2 degrees. They sprout at about 40 degrees.

When first placed in storage, potatoes should have all possible ventilation as long as there is no danger of freezing. This ventilation lowers the temperature and helps to remove the moisture brought in from the field and also that given off by the tubers in curing. If this moisture is not removed, the pile sweats, and rots often develop. Enough ventilation should be provided during the winter to keep the potatoes dry.

Silage Prized as Winter Feed for the Lamb Flock

Shrewd feeders, and especially those who have plenty of silage available, will be the ones most likely to cash in on the favorable outlook for lambs during the coming winter, according to W. G. Kammlade, assistant chief in sheep husbandry at the college of agriculture, University of Illinois.

Feed costs will be high and profits will be eaten up unless the lambs are fed to gain fast, he pointed out. Rapid gains generally are cheap gains, as they mean good use of feed and a quick improvement in the condition of the lambs.

"Feed costs will be a much more important item in the expense and returns of lamb feeding this season than was the case a year ago. Roughages, especially hays, will cost much more, and all grains have so advanced that it will not be so easy to get a margin over feed costs."

"Silage is a relatively cheap feed and may be used as the only roughage for fattening lambs, if it is properly supplemented to make up for the lack of protein and mineral. When legume hay is not fed in addition to the silage, it is essential that a protein concentrate such as soy bean oil meal, cottonseed meal or linseed meal be included in the ration. Likewise, some simple mineral supplement should be spread over the silage. About one-fourth pound of the protein supplement daily for each lamb is usually enough."

Pretty, but Evil

The wild morning glory may add a bit of pleasing color to the fields, particularly along boundary fences, but its innocent appearance cloaks its real damage. The plant is of the same general family as the sweet potato and thus serves to harbor the weevil, which attacks the sweet potato and does great damage if left uncontrolled. In order to eliminate the weevil it is necessary to clean fields thoroughly after the harvest and also rout out the morning glories in order to deprive the weevil of a host between growing seasons of the vegetable.

May Try Desert Grass

If grasslands can survive for thousands of years on the edge of the Gobi desert in central Asia, despite severe drought, heavy pasturing and wide variations in temperature, why should not grasses of the same species be helpful in rebuilding the depleted range lands of western United States? With this thought in view the United States Department of Agriculture is planning an Asiatic expedition to study conditions in the Gobi region and obtain specimens of grasses with which to experiment in western drouth-besieged territories.

Agricultural Notes

Crops in Sweden this year are reported as "generally excellent."

Nearly 300,000 tons of cotton were grown in Brazil this year.

Unchilled meats must be rushed into the cooler and cans right after killing.

Good silage may be made as late as midwinter if approximately an equal weight of water and stover are put in the silo.

Corn stover silage is worth ten for ten about two-thirds as much as normal corn silage.

Cleaning out dirt in stores of potatoes before they are stored for the winter helps prevent sprouting and rotting.

Agronomists point out that early spring pasture growth may be encouraged by allowing 3 to 5 inches of growth during the fall and fertilizing with a nitrogenous fertilizer early next spring.