

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Half Million Farmers May Get Double Federal Benefits—
New Processing Taxes Abandoned—Clements
Quits as Townsend Plan Secretary.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

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REXFORD G. TUGWELL, head of the rural resettlement administration, announced that a special committee is considering a plan under which more than half a million growers of farm products would receive double benefits from the federal government.



R. G. Tugwell

It provides that the rural families now getting loans from Tugwell's administration to put them on their feet and keep them off the relief rolls may also receive full subsidy payments in connection with the soil conservation program now being put into operation. There are now 450,000 recipients of the Tugwell loans and the number is expected to increase to 525,000 by July 1.

The soil conservation subsidies are to be paid to farmers who transfer land from commercial crop production to soil conserving growths, or who resort to other "economic" farm practices. Officials said that the rehabilitation clients already are under obligation to treat their soil wisely. Before a family can obtain a rehabilitation loan it must agree to follow a farm management plan drafted by the government.

This plan stipulates that the borrower must conserve his land's fertility and grow food and feed crops for home consumption. It also includes a financial budget.

ONE of the major features of the new tax program suggested by President Roosevelt is omitted from the measure prepared by a house subcommittee and on which open hearings were begun by the ways and means committee. For political reasons it was decided that the plan for new processing taxes on farm and competing products should be abandoned. Mr. Roosevelt's suggestion for a "windfall" tax to recapture part of the refunded or unpaid AAA processing levies was accepted by the subcommittee.

A third suggestion of the President, for graduated taxes on the portions of incomes which corporations do not distribute in dividends to stockholders, was changed to provide levies on total income of corporations varied according to percentages of profits put into reserves.

The subcommittee agreed that the corporation tax rates should be so drafted as to permit corporations, particularly small ones, to build up reserves for lean years without being compelled to pay comparatively high taxes for the privilege of doing so.

The subcommittee figured on collecting some \$25,000,000 from taxes on dividends going to foreigners who own stock in American corporations and \$83,000,000 from temporary continuation of the capital stock and excess profits taxes.

JUST as Chairman C. Jasper Bell and his house committee were about to open their inquiry into the finances of the Townsend old age pension plan organization, Robert E. Clements, co-founder, secretary and director of the movement, resigned. He was summoned to be the first witness before the committee but said his resignation was not motivated by this, but was solely due to his opposition to political activities of other leaders of the organization.

Dr. F. E. Townsend in Los Angeles expressed his "heartly approval" of Clements' action, and it was predicted other officials of the movement would follow the secretary's example. Clements appeared before the committee with a great mass of records, ready to "account for every penny collected." Before testifying he said: "I have nothing to hide. I'm anxious to appear. I have been responsible for financing the Townsend plan. I have collected around \$850,000 and the organization has spent about \$750,000. There is still \$100,000 on hand."

SEVERAL witnesses who appeared before a senate subcommittee declared that the Robinson-Patman anti-chain store bill, which has administration backing, would promote rather than curb monopolies, increase the cost and lower the standard of living, and decrease employment in whole industries.

The hearing was on the Borah-Van Nuyss bill, a modification of the Robinson-Patman measure, but the witnesses particularly attacked the latter, which already has been reported favorably. The house judiciary committee reported the Uterback bill, still another modification of the Robinson-Patman measure, and a bitter fight over the proposed legislation is expected.

The Robinson-Patman bill would prohibit manufacturers from making price discriminations in favor of large quantity purchasers, through advertising allowances, service charges, brokerage

fees, etc. The Borah-Nuyss bill would prohibit such allowances only when they were refused to purchasers of goods of "like grade, quality, and quantity."

ONE of the big fights within the American Federation of Labor has been settled peacefully. It was for control of the building trades department. In the past, building projects have been held up by strikes growing out of arguments over which of two unions should do a certain piece of work. The peace pact provides for appointment of an impartial referee to settle such arguments.

The pact also called for J. W. Williams of the carpenters to head the reorganization department, with M. J. McDonough of the plasterers as secretary-treasurer. Each has been the leader of one of the warring factions and each has styled himself as the lawful department president.

BENITO MUSSOLINI evidently expects another European war, and in preparation for it he announced several drastic measures on the seventeenth anniversary of the founding of the Fascist party. He abolished the chamber of deputies, substituting for it a council of guilds; and he also eliminated the country's large industries, leaving the medium and small private industries in existence.



Benito Mussolini

This latter move, he told the council of the 22 guilds of the corporative state, was to increase the nation's economic self-sufficiency. "When and how war will come, one does not know," he said, "but the wheel of fate turns fast."

Mussolini asserted the large industries, particularly those working for the defense of the nation, would be formed into organizations called "key industries." These, he said, "will be run directly or indirectly by the government. Some will have mixed organization."

HAVING sent Joachim von Ribbentrop back to London with a modified rejection of the four power plans for peace in western Europe, Hitler was preparing his counter proposals which British Foreign Minister Eden had requested. Meanwhile the Reichsfuehrer continued his campaign tour, delivering rousing speeches in defense of his policies. Speaking in Ludwigschafen, in the heart of the remilitarized Rhineland, he said: "Those who want us to grovel on our knees before agreeing to talk with us forget we are not a tribe of savages, but a European nation looking back on thousands of years of culture."

"I stretch out my hand to France. We want peace for common sense reasons. Germany needs no more fame on the battlefield, but is now getting ready to seek laurels in the Olympic peace competition of nations. Men who relish the indecent thought of victor and vanquished are not statesmen. They must be silent when peace talks start."

Most of the continental statesmen who gathered in London to consider the Rhineland affair went home, some of them in very bad humor over the indecisive proceedings. The French, disinclined to consider any further proposals from Hitler, were urging that the French, British and Belgian general staffs get together on plans in accordance with the Locarno treaty.

IN CONNECTION with the signing of the new naval treaty by the United States, Great Britain and France, it was disclosed in London that the two first named powers have reaffirmed the 50-50 ratio for their fleets and again promised not to compete against each other in naval building. The new three power pact limits the size of battleships to 35,000 tons, retains 10,000 tons as the maximum for cruisers and provides no cruisers of that size shall be built for six years.

In the expiring Washington treaty there was an article regarding fortification of naval bases. This is not renewed in the new pact, and Japan requested information as to the future intentions of the powers. Consequently the United States, Great Britain and Japan were carrying on diplomatic conversations on that topic. The new treaty gives the signatories certain liberty of action in the event of unforeseen naval activity by powers not signatory to the treaty. So far as America is concerned, this "escape clause" is taken to apply mainly to Japan.

FOURTEEN persons perished in Mexico's worst aviation disaster. A big trimotored plane carrying ten European tourists and four company employees crashed on the ridge between the volcanoes Popocatepetl and Ixtacchualt and there were no survivors to explain why it fell. Among the tourists were Prince Adolf of Schaumburg-Lippe and his wife, Princess Elisabeth.

KOKI HIROTA, the new liberal premier of Japan, declared in an interview: "While I am premier there will be no war"; and continued: "We intend to cultivate our traditional friendship with Great Britain, the United States, Russia, and other powers, thus fulfilling our great mission of stabilizing east Asia."

On the same day that Hirota made this pronouncement the soviet Russian government ordered its ambassador to Japan to lodge a strong protest following a new border engagement which Soviet advisers said resulted from a Japanese attack on a Red frontier post. Fighting lasted for hours, entailing loss of life on both sides, and the reports.

FEDERAL reserve board has prescribed a 55 per cent minimum margin for purchases of stocks, the ruling becoming effective April 1 for stocks bought through brokers and May 1 for those bought through banks.

The margin regulations were made to apply only to listed securities on registered stock exchanges, thus having no effect upon the large over-the-counter market.

The maximum loan value applying to registered stocks has been fixed at 45 per cent of current market value.

WITH only one change, the house passed the senate bill to continue the Electric Home and Farm authority as a federal agency until February 1, 1937, or any earlier date decreed by the President. The authority was created to help finance sales of electrical appliances.

HENRY BOYLE SOMERVILLE, aged and retired vice admiral of the British navy, was murdered by gunmen at his residence at Castle Townsend, County Cork, Irish Free State. Thrown through the door of the house was a card bearing these words:

"This British agent sent 52 Irish boys into the British army in the last few months. He will send no more."

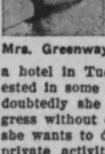
The admiral had received previous threats because of his recruiting activities.

INTRIPID citizens of scores of cities and towns in the eastern and New England states which were devastated by the unprecedented floods were digging out their homes and places of business from the mud and debris as the turbulent waters of many rivers subsided. Reconstruction and refitting began everywhere immediately, and this, as well as the relief of the suffering thousands, was aided by funds totaling more than \$43,000,000 allocated by President Roosevelt before he left Washington for Florida.

Rough estimates were that the total dead in 13 states were 109; the homeless were 221,500, and the total property damage, \$271,500,000. The last figure probably would be tripled if one took into account the losses from interruption to industry and trade and the stoppage of the wages of labor.

Cities along the lower Ohio were threatened as the flood waters raced down to the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico, but they had had plenty of warning and were in a measure prepared.

ISABELLA GREENWAY, the capable lady who has represented Arizona in congress since October, 1933, has announced in Tucson that she will retire from public life at the conclusion of her present term. She was first elected for the remainder of the term of Lewis Douglas, who resigned to become director of the budget, and was re-elected in 1934.



Mrs. Greenway

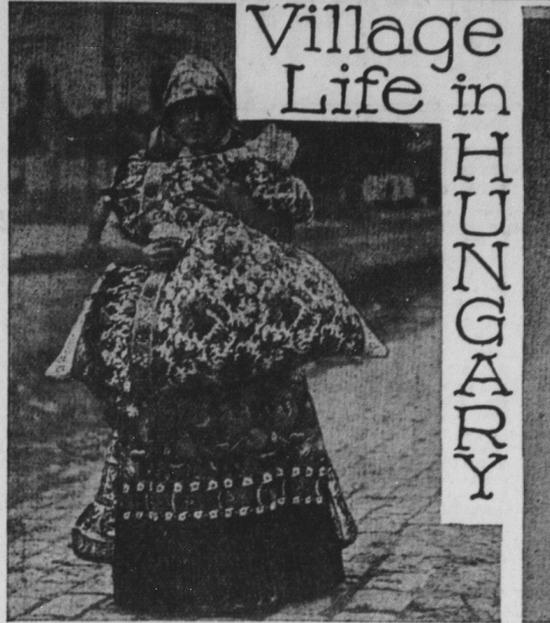
Mrs. Greenway owns and operates several ranches in Arizona and New Mexico and a hotel in Tucson, and is also interested in some mining companies. Undoubtedly she could go back to congress without opposition, but she says she wants to devote more time to her private activities.

STILL refusing to appropriate \$12,000,000 for the Florida ship canal, the senate passed the army bill carrying approximately \$611,000,000. More than half the sum goes for the military activities of the War department. There will be no reduction in the number of CCC camps during most of the coming fiscal year, and the enrollees will be kept up to about the 350,000 mark. This was the decision of President Roosevelt after a threatened revolt of Democratic representatives induced him to change his mind in the matter.

Senator Black, chairman of the senate lobbying committee, has added the Wichita Beacon to the papers whose telegrams he has seized or attempted to seize.

SENATOR WILLIAM E. BORAH is campaigning earnestly for the Republican Presidential nomination, and has just received a big boost for his cause in the announcement that Dr. Francis E. Townsend, founder of the old age pension plan that bears his name, will give the Idahoan all his support. Repudiating President Roosevelt and changing his registration at Long Beach, Calif., from Democratic to Republican, Townsend said Borah was the only Republican candidate who "even approached" the standard of the Townsendsites, although the senator has refused to endorse the Townsend pension plan as it stands.

Hitherto the Townsend organization had favored circulation of third party petitions in every state to enlist millions of people as a demonstration of strength. So the doctor's announcement is a reversal of policy.



Color and Cushions Surround a Mezokovesd Baby.

Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

WANTED, female servant; wages by the month to be clothes, potatoes, carrots, beans—and sixty cents." This is not a line from a musical comedy, or a funny movie subtitle, but the translation of a bona fide "want-ad."

In an American newspaper it might reasonably have aroused curiosity, if not investigation by a local union, but it caused no unusual stir among the crowd of peasants in the small town of Mezokovesd in Hungary, as the town crier shouted it out. There was all the weekly news, as well as the rest of the "advertising" to be heard. The oral journalists of Mezokovesd were informing the townspeople of the week's events, at the usual Sunday morning gathering.

Even with Lenten restrictions, there is little curbing of gaiety among the peasants on their treasured weekly holiday in Mezokovesd. True, you may have no opportunity of seeing a marriage dance. Nevertheless, the air is full of merry excitement and happy chattering. And no one can smile more wholeheartedly and infectiously than the young Hungarian girl!

Mezokovesd is a most typical of Hungarian villages; there the traveler may see the real peasant life of the country. The town's population is some 20,000; it is about three hours' ride to the east of Budapest, and only two trains a day make the trip.

Sunday afternoons the healthy lot of villagers parade in their festive finery, the heavily embroidered costumes ablaze with bright colors. And of a Sunday morning the life of the town centers in the church, always crowded to the doors, and in the weekly "newspaper."

At ten o'clock on Sunday morning you find the streets almost deserted. It is a brisk day and you are glad to have the protection of a heavy coat. The sun teases you faintly at intervals, which is especially vexing, since you have a camera and copious material for pictures.

First Church, Then News. You walk to the center of the town, some distance from the railroad station, and enter the church. If it were not for the saving landmark of the church steeple, it would be easy to get lost in any Hungarian town. There is little standing room in the church, and you find the air too incense-laden to linger long. Besides, your presence causes much curiosity, so that the chanting women, with shawl-covered heads, and the men, telling their beads, are being distracted from their devotion. So you leave and walk about the square, marveling occasionally at the sight of an American-made product in one of the shop windows. And presently the church bells announce the close of the service.

Then the church doors open and crowds of black-clad figures pour out. As if waiting for this signal, two gendarmes take their places on opposite sides of the large square in front of the church and begin to beat a vigorous tattoo on their drums. From the church the people gather in two crowds about these officials, who draw forth important-looking documents of paper and begin their reading.

It is an education and a revelation to hear the news of Mezokovesd. "A cow was lost on Tuesday. If anyone has found her let him report to the town headquarters." There is a long list of farms to rent and sell; plows to rent, servants to hire. The usual monthly wage of the servants is seldom more than three or four pengos (a pengos is worth about thirty cents) added to certain supplies and their needed clothing. It is sufficient, no doubt; their wants are few.

Any national news of importance is told; new laws are read. It is an amusingly terse, clear effort, when one contemplates the columns of unread copy in our own metropolitan papers.

Sunday Afternoon Parade. This rite over, the peasants depart to their homes and the town is suddenly as quiet as on a week day, for during the week all the young men and women are out in the fields, and only the very old and the very young remain in the village.

Dinner, and then you are among the gaily dressed crowds, on their weekly parade about the town. They wait all ways until the afternoon before donning their gorgeous costumes and then they pour into the streets like the sudden blossoming of a garden. Indeed, the pretty aprons are surprisingly like gardens, or bright flowers in a basket, or clusters of posies in the sunlight.

Their embroidery is peculiar to Hungary. Small pieces of it, on sale at one of the homes may be too gaudy to attract some travelers; but on a black apron and a tightly fitting jacket, it seems most appropriate and quaint.

The men of the town are quite as ornately garbed as the women. They are smartly dressed in black velvet trousers made much like riding breeches, short jackets, and leather boots shined to a glow. Some of them also wear the long black aprons embroidered by a doting mother or an adoring and dutiful sweetheart. And all of them wear green hats, round and high—shaped somewhat like a derby—with feathers of varying size and color perched on the side. A fetching lot of fellows, and not slow at flirting with the girls.

But the Sunday parades are not courting parties. Far from it. The men keep to themselves, and the women walk apart from them, for etiquette in Mezokovesd does not permit any promiscuous mingling. Not even the married ones walk together.

And so the boys contrive their own little fun as they pass the maidens—calling to them, teasing them by pulling at one corner of their aprons, or twirling a long braid of hair. Shiny faces blush and the girls giggle—and probably think it the very best part of the entire day! Unmarried girls always go bareheaded, even in the winter months. It is only after the marriage service that a young girl may put up her hair and wear the distinctive headress of the married woman.

Then the hair ribbons are dispensed with and the long braids are wound about the head, so that a cone-shaped cap can be pinned on. Over this is placed the satin shawl that marks the girl as a young matron.

The new brides are easily found. They will be walking together, few of them more than eighteen years old, and some several years younger, still giggling when they pass their young husbands, and proudly conscious of their new coiffures.

Courting and Marriage. Courting? Oh, yes, when they meet at the Sunday balls. And at home, too. But the mother is always present there, and it is more an ordeal than a pleasure. But every Sunday afternoon, except during Lent, they hold a dance, and the young people find it very satisfactory for getting acquainted and falling in love.

When a boy has found his chosen wife, and she looks favorably on him, the young man asks her father. If the father is willing, the young fellow sends two of his friends to ask formally for her hand, and this is considered the official announcement of the couple's engagement.

Then follows the wedding at a Sunday dance. The bride, incidentally, must have complete furnishings for her new house, including linens and clothes for herself. Usually some money or a cow goes with her, too. A father of many daughters has his hands full to get her dowry together.

But her trousseau isn't so formidable as it would seem to us. Her new home consists of one or two rooms. Furnishings are few and simple. And the linens and embroideries that she brings are those she has worked at from early childhood days with this very occasion in mind.

There are no regular streets excepting the main thoroughfares in Mezokovesd. You go this way and that, off at an angle here, and shortly find yourself in a maze of pathways, and in the midst of countless snowy white houses, and yards of hay, straw and barns.

Giggling girls who follow you are overjoyed to pose for their pictures. They tell you that they all have been married within the last few weeks, and that within the next month they will go off to the fields with their husbands.

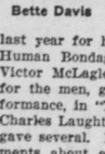
STAR DUST

Movie • Radio

By VIRGINIA VALE

THOSE awards made by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences are still causing violent debates all over Hollywood. Executives of the Screen Actors Guild and the Screen Writers Guild telegraphed the members the day before the awards were made, urging them not to attend the presentation banquet. They charged that the academy is producer-controlled, and that studio politics controlled the giving of the awards.

Of course the Academy heads denied that, and the battle has been on ever since. It is claimed that Bette Davis was given the prize for the best performance given by a woman during the year, not because of her work in "Dangerous," but because she didn't get the award last year for her performance in "Of Human Bondage." It is urged that Victor McLaglen, who won the prize for the men, gave just one good performance, in "The Informer," whereas Charles Laughton and Paul Muni each gave several. In fact, there are arguments about everything but that belated award of D. W. Griffith for his work in the days before there was any Academy. People wept when Henry Walthall introduced D. W.



Bette Davis

They're rewriting Ken Maynard's new picture, because the lioness who acted in it was killed recently. (You may have seen her in "Sequoia.") The company was on location, and the lioness went out for some exercise. In California there's a bounty of \$60 on mountain lions, and a prospector thought this was just one more lion, and shot her.

If you want to go into the movies, you'll be interested in the news that several of the big companies are planning to develop their own actors, by establishing schools in New York. In fact, Paramount already has such a school, and RKO and Metro are thinking of following their example. It's all caused by the fact that the picture companies have not been able to recruit suitable players from the stage. They've scoured the field of vaudeville, radio, night clubs and college dramatic societies, and have concluded that training schools are the best solution of the problem.

Walt Disney has a school, too, devoted to training artists to animate the Disney pictures. Recently he advertised for help, and only fifty people out of the 1,700 who answered made the grade. Now he's advertising again. The candidates whom he accepts receive a small salary while they're learning the work, and then go on the pay roll as animators.

Randolph Scott, who went into pictures, not because he was stellar material, but because it looked like a good way to make a living, is to be starred in "The Last of the Mohicans."

John Boles had to cut short his personal appearance tour and rush back to Hollywood to be starred in "White Fang." Incidentally, if you have to diet to keep your weight down John can sympathize with you. He starts the day by drinking lemon juice in hot water, and the big moment of dinner, for him, is two lamb chops.

Jean Harsholt gives such an excellent performance in "The Country Doctor" that his old contract was torn up and a new one, with the salary doubled, was given him.

Sunny O'Dea, who danced so well in Eddie Cantor's "Strike Me Pink" that she's headed for the top in pictures, still has to go to school in the studio, because she's not yet eighteen. The fact that she has already made a name for herself as a dancer in New York and London makes not the slightest difference.

Gary Cooper's wife, Sandra, who doesn't care for the movie spotlights, has made a reputation in spite of herself; she's known as one of the best dressed women in Hollywood. The other is Kay Francis.

ODDS AND ENDS. . . . Pauline Starke, whom some of you will remember from her movie days, is to be starred in a stage play. . . . Grace Moore doesn't want to make any more movies. . . . Mary Brian is back from England. . . . Jack Benny is thinking of really learning to play the violin—with Rubinoff as his teacher. . . . Never has Freddie Bartholomew given a more moving performance than in the sketch he did on the Rudy Vallee program recently. . . . Boake Carter, news commentator, made 2,172 consecutive broadcasts—then he came down with the grippe, and had to miss one, and he'll never get over it.

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