

# News Review of Current Events the World Over

## Democrats Renominate President Roosevelt—Drought Again Causes Crop Destruction — International Conference Considers Mediterranean Problems.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD  
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**PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT** was renominated by the Democratic convention in Philadelphia in a demonstration of great popular ac-



President Roosevelt

claim. The convention unanimously adopted a strong New Deal platform and voted the abolition of the historic two-thirds rule.

The sessions were marked with extreme enthusiasm. Party harmony and a determination to stand militantly on the administration's record in the past three years and present a united front in the coming campaign characterized the convention.

The abolition of the two-thirds rule for the nomination of candidates was one of the significant achievements. This rule, which had been in use for more than 100 years, was superseded by the adoption of the rules committee's report recommending that at future conventions only a bare majority be required for nomination. While some southern and the eastern and western states opposed abrogation, they were reconciled to it by the committee's recommendation that changes be made in the apportionment of delegates.

The platform pledged continuance of soil conservation, benefit payments to farmers, a sound currency, a balanced budget and a constitutional amendment if necessary, to achieve the party's broad social program. It praised the accomplishments of the New Deal in a preamble, declaring that it planned to continue them in the interest of the nation. The platform's keynote was that the Roosevelt administration has put and will keep the nation "on the road the recovery and prosperity."

Regarding the Constitution, the platform declared that while the Republican platform proposes to meet national problems by action of the separate states, the Democratic party recognizes that minimum wages, maximum hours, child labor, monopolistic and unfair business practices, dust storms, drought and floods could not be handled by states. It stated:

"If these problems cannot be effectively solved by legislation within the Constitution, we shall seek such clarifying amendments as will assume to the legislatures of the several states and to the congress of the United States each within its proper jurisdiction, the power to enact those laws which the state and federal legislatures within their respective spheres shall find necessary, in order adequately to regulate commerce, protect public health and safety and safeguard economic security. Thus we propose to maintain the letter and spirit of the Constitution."

In addition to soil conservation and benefit payments, the farm plank pledged the Democrats to financing share-croppers and tenants in buying lands; favored commodity loans on farm surpluses and retirement of ten million acres of submarginal land from production and rural rehabilitation.

Reiterating the "good neighbor" policy, the foreign relations plank reaffirmed the party's neutrality program pledged to keep the nation out of foreign entanglements. It reasserted the reciprocal tariff policy, but demanded "adequate" protection to farmers and manufacturers against unfair foreign competition.

Denouncing monopolies and concentration of economic power, the platform declared that the administration would "vigorously and fearlessly enforce the criminal and civil provisions of the existing anti-trust laws."

Other planks pledged: Expansion of the social security program; continuance of rural electrification; protection of the rights of labor to bargain collectively; extension of federal housing projects; just treatment of war veterans and their dependents; extension of the merit system through classified civil service; freedom of speech, press, radio, religion and assembly; protection of public works projects to aid unemployment; opposition to Communism and "the menace of concealed Fascism."

the serious effects of lack of rain. Figures on June rainfall for 1936 and 1934 compiled by Nat. C. Murray, crop authority of Chicago, showed that Ohio had 39 per cent of normal this year and 50 per cent in 1934; Minnesota 46 per cent in 1936 and 32 per cent in 1934; Missouri 28 per cent in 1936 and 62 per cent in 1934; and Kansas 37 per cent in 1936 and 65 per cent in 1934.

Added to the seriousness of the drought situation was a plague of grasshoppers that swept over eastern Nebraska, threatening to destroy hundreds of square miles of crops. The swarm was reported to be 100 miles long. In spots the insects were said to be so numerous that they hid the sun as they passed over valuable farm lands.

**MEETING** in Montreaux, Switzerland, an international conference sought settlement of military and naval problems in the Mediterranean. The conference had been called by the powers as a result of Turkey's request to fortify the Dardanelles, which were demilitarized under the Lausanne treaty of 1923.

The possible threat of Russia's growing naval strength caused an alignment of the British and Japanese. Japan announced it was willing to accept any limitation on Japanese warships authorized to enter the Black sea, providing similar restrictions were placed on Russian warships leaving it. Russia demanded free westward passage of warships and submarines out of the Black sea through the Dardanelles, adding she was unable to see why other powers not bordering on this body of water desired unlimited passage to it. Because of her mutual assistance pact with the Soviet, France was expected to side with Russia.

**REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM LEMKE** of North Dakota announced that he would run for the Presidency as candidate of a new political group known as the Union party.



Rep. Lemke

Mr. Lemke public a 15-point platform embodying demands for re-financing of farm mortgages, old age security, a living wage for all workers, limitation on individual incomes, the establishment of a central bank, the issuance by congress of all currency and its regulation of the value of all the money.

Plans were made for the new party to hold a national convention some time during August in Cleveland.

Mr. Lemke said the Union party has the support of farm unions, labor, the National Union for Social Justice established by Father Coughlin, the Townsend old age pension movement and "all other liberals who have been driven from the old parties."

Mr. Lemke was co-author with Senator Lynn J. Frazier of North Dakota of a \$3,000,000,000 farm mortgage re-financing bill defeated in the house of representatives.

**ARTHUR W. CUTTEN**, who achieved spectacular wealth as a grain trader, died of a heart attack in his home in Chicago. He was sixty-five years old.

An exponent of individualism, Mr. Cutten went his way alone in the grain market, playing his "hunches" against the field. In 1924, he made a profit estimated at between \$1,500,000 and \$2,000,000 in a corner on the corn market. He repeated his success with a coup in the wheat market the following year.

With a group of associates, he entered the stock market in 1923 and during the boom months made millions of dollars.

Most of his life Mr. Cutten was a "long" trader, who bought for the rise in the market, but following the crash, he is said to have become a "bear" or short seller. His operations as a bear in the Chicago Board of Trade brought his suspension for two years, but he won a reversal of this ruling in the United States Supreme court.

**STRIKES** and industrial difficulties continued to harass France, although their ultimate solution was forecast in a conciliatory attitude assumed by the new "popular front" government toward the French chambers of commerce. Representatives of the chambers of commerce received assurance from Premier Leon Blum that no further manufacturing plants would be tied up by "folded arms" strikers, whose number at their peak reached approximately 1,000,000 employees.

In the meantime a strike of sailors in Marseilles was settled after a three-day refusal to work, when the ship-owners capitulated to the strikers' demands. Fifty ships were affected by the walkout. The sailors demanded a 40-hour week, vacations with pay and bedsheets on their bunks.

**THE** death of Bernhard W. von Buelow, secretary of state for foreign affairs in the Hitler cabinet, removed one of the most skilled of Europe's diplomats. Von Buelow, who was fifty-one, was an expert on the League of Nations and gave his country valuable counsel when Germany began to consider rejoining the league. He was noted as a studious and hard-working official, with a vast amount of detailed information always readily available.

A "blueblood" of the German nobility, the diplomat was a nephew of the late Prince Bernhard von Buelow, imperial chancellor. He was one of the first of the German nobles to associate himself with the republican regime after the collapse of the empire in 1918. Although different in background from Hitler, he nevertheless enjoyed the chancellor's confidence.

In Russia, Maxim Gorky, early foe of the czars who became a hero of the Soviet regime and its outstanding writer, died of influenza at the age of sixty-eight. Although not a member of the Communist party, Gorky had a preeminent position in Soviet life and was a former member of the central executive committee. Moscow honored him with a public funeral and interment in the Kremlin in a niche facing Lenin's tomb.

**THE** Seventy-fourth congress adjourned after a session lasting five and a half months during which it appropriated nearly \$10,000,000,000 and was faced by some unexpected legislative complications.

In the closing hours the emergency tax bill which is expected to produce \$800,000,000 in revenue was passed. Supreme court invalidation of the AAA and Guffey coal bills and the passage of the cash soldiers' bonus over the President's veto upset the budget plans and made such a bill necessary.

Although it was passed by the house, the amended Guffey coal bill designed to remove the objections of the Supreme court failed of passage in the senate. Similarly, the Wagner slum housing bill, which had passed the senate, failed in the house.

Larger than normal appropriations for governmental activities were passed. The bonus, farm payments, relief and the greatest national defense program in peace time history helped swell the total.

Funds for continuing the present relief program were voted; the public works revolving fund was amended to permit more heavy construction projects. But congress failed to approve the Florida ship canal and Passamaquoddy tide dam.

Invalidation of the AAA brought a revised and expanded soil conservation and domestic allotment act; the rural electrification administration and electric farm and home authority were both placed on a permanent basis; the Commodity Credit corporation was expanded; two flood control bills were passed. Labor received attention through the Walsh-Healey bill dealing with working conditions on government contracts. A compromise ship subsidy bill was rushed through in the closing hours. Financial legislation included expansion of the jurisdiction of SEC. Important among business legislation was the Patman bill amending the Clayton anti-trust act regarding price discrimination.

A number of important bills failed of enactment. Among these were the Pettigill long and short haul bill, stockyard regulation, Frazier-Lemke farm mortgage bill, and bills on the 90-hour week, extension of the railroad co-ordinator's tenure, anti-war profits, alien deportation, enlargement of the federal trade commission's power and treasury agency service.

**FOLLOWING** the lead of Great Britain, the United States formally revoked all sanctions imposed against Italy during the recent Italo-Ethiopian conflict. A proclamation by President Roosevelt declared all previous communications dealing with the sale of munitions of war, loans and travel by Americans on Italian ships was revoked.



Stanley Baldwin

Although the sanctions were against both Italy and Ethiopia, in practical application they were used only against Italy, since the United States did not supply the African nation with any war materials and the empire of Haile Selassie had no ships of its own.

The French cabinet agreed to abide by any action which the League of Nations may take in cancelling sanctions against Italy.

The British government's decision to abandon sanctions was defended in an address by Prime Minister Baldwin as the only alternative which would prevent a suicidal war plunging western civilization into "barbarous anarchy."

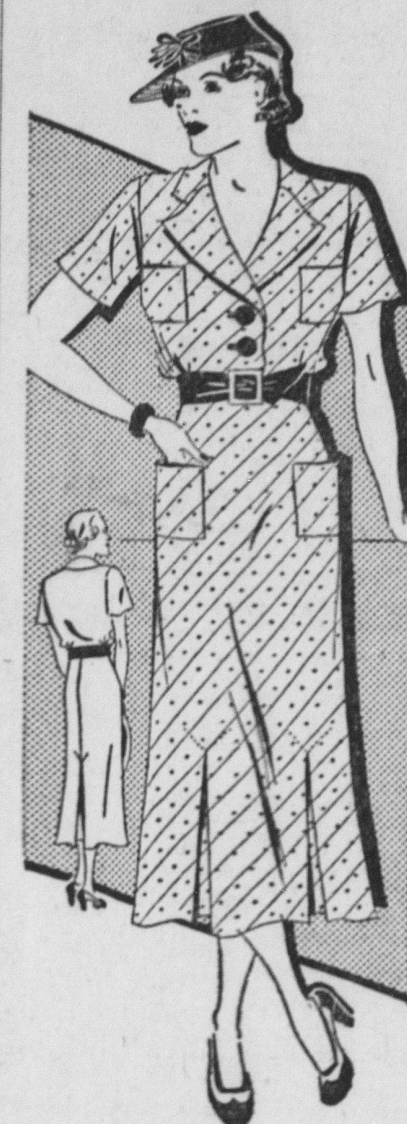
Baldwin asserted: "We think it is right to drop sanctions because they are useless and ineffective."

"There is only one way to alter the course of events as they have thus far taken place. That is by going to war. I do not know a single nation in Europe that is prepared for that. I would not cast my vote for that course."

**A** BATTLE to recover all the pending taxes paid to the government under the invalidated AAA was undertaken by the "big four" of the packing industry—Swift and Company, Armour and Company, Wilson and Company and the Cudahy Packing company.

Having won back \$45,000,000 when the AAA was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme court the packing industry has decided to attempt to recover from the government more than \$200,000,000 paid before injunctions against the tax were granted and subsequent payments impounded.

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## Foreign Words and Phrases

- Aequo animo. (L.) With equal (equable) mind.
- Coup d'oeil. (F.) A comprehensive glance.
- Dulce est desipere in loco. (L.) It is delightful to unbend upon occasion.
- Ex post facto. (L.) After the fact or act.
- In extremis. (L.) At the point of death.
- Lapsus linguae. (L.) A slip of the tongue.
- Necessitas non habet legem. (L.) Necessity has no law.
- Sans pareil. (F.) Without equal.
- Vade in pace. (L.) Go in peace.
- Resurgam. (L.) I shall rise again.
- Sursum corda! (L.) Lift up your hearts!
- Tant mieux. (F.) So much the better.
- Onus probandi. (L.) The burden of proof.
- Pro bono publico. (L.) For the public good.

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