

# News Review of Current Events the World Over

## Supreme Court Bars Reservations to Oath of Allegiance — Economy Plans for Post Office Department Are Announced.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD



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**FIVE** justices of the United States Supreme court have ruled, in the case of Prof. Douglas C. Macintosh of the Yale divinity school, that a foreigner who seeks American citizenship must take the oath with no reservations about taking up arms for the country in time of war. Macintosh refused to swear allegiance without limiting his obligation to bear arms, and therefore is denied the right of naturalization. The same decision was made in the case of *Miss Marie Averill Bland*. Both she and Macintosh are Canadians and both saw wartime service in France.

The statement indicated that the department has felt the depression. It was estimated that due to business conditions revenues to the department this year would be \$58,000,000 below the original estimates.

**THIS** year's Memorial day address by President Hoover was delivered in the memorial park at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, where George Washington and his ragged troops spent a terrible winter 153 years ago, and where more than 3,000 of those patriots are buried. The exercises of the day were impressive. Two thousand troops acted as escort to President and Mrs. Hoover and a battery from Phoenixville fired the salute. In his address Mr. Hoover reviewed his past policies in international matters and outlined his plans for the future, especially concerning the reduction of armaments.

The night preceding this, the President was the guest of the Union League club of Philadelphia at a banquet where he was presented with an oil portrait of himself.



Miss Mary Anderson

**EXPERTS** from many lands were present when the international labor conference opened in Geneva, but the United States was not represented. Secretary of Labor Donak appointed Miss Mary Anderson, chief of the woman's bureau, as the American delegate and she sailed May 12, with the special hope that the conference might adopt an agreement banning night work by women. But just after Miss Anderson reached Europe Mr. Donak sent her a cable instructing her to stay away from Geneva and giving her other missions for the department.

Making his action public, the labor secretary merely said the State department had deemed it "wholly inadvisable" to have any one from the United States government at Geneva, either in official or unofficial capacity.

**MRS. HARRY PAYNE WHITNEY'S** memorial typifying the heroism of the men who went down with the Titanic in order that women and children might be saved was unveiled on the banks of the Potomac in Washington in the presence of President and Mrs. Hoover, and many other prominent persons. Secretary of State Stimson presided at the ceremony. The statue is the contribution of more than 20,000 American women.

**MICHELE SCHIRRU**, an Italian born naturalized citizen of the United States, was executed by a firing squad in Rome after being convicted of plotting to kill Mussolini and of other activities against Fascism. Schirru admitted his guilt, but said his plans had been abandoned and he was about to return to America when arrested.

**INVESTIGATION** of the building material industry, especially those phases of it involved in the letting of contracts for government buildings, has been begun by the federal trade commission. It is believed that the inquiry will throw a lot of light on the long existing fight between the Indiana limestone men and the granite and marble men of New England. Such, at least, is the hope of Senator Henrik Shipstead of Minnesota, who introduced the resolution calling for the investigation.

The trade commission, announcing that preliminary work already had been started, said:

"In this inquiry the commission will investigate and report facts relating to the letting of contracts for the construction of government buildings, particularly with a view of determining whether or not there are or have been any price fixing or other agreements, understandings or combinations of interests among individuals, partnerships, or corporations engaged in the production, manufacture or sale of building materials with respect to the prices or other terms at or under which such materials will be furnished contractors or bidders for such construction work."



Senator Shipstead

**Senator Shipstead** said he introduced the resolution because of complaints that such collusion between the purveyors of building materials did exist and because of further complaints, seemingly aimed at the handling of contracts by the government itself, that specifications for buildings were so framed that they unfairly limited the sources from which materials could come.

The limestone-granite-marble controversy falls in the latter category. The charges are that Indiana's advocates have been too influential and have somehow or other put "Indiana limestone" into the specifications for too many government buildings.



Queen Helene

**EXILE** from Romania and expulsion from the royal family of that country is the fate arranged for Queen Helene, the estranged wife of King Carol. According to Paris, the official organ of the Zeretist party in Bucharest, a decree has been drafted for submission to the new parliament confirming Helene's exclusion and declaring that she is no longer entitled to the rights and honors accorded to royalty. Parliament is expected to adopt the measure as soon as it assembles, and Helene will leave the country permanently soon thereafter, terminating her uncertain marital status of more than two years. Observation of the queen's saint day last Thursday was forbidden in an order issued by War Minister Stéphanescu and authorized by Premier Jorga.

Helene divorced Carol while he was in exile in 1928 with Maria Lupescu. When he made a dramatic flying return to Bucharest last year she spurned his overtures toward a reconciliation and steadfastly refused to be crowned with him.

**SPAIN'S** new Republican government is far from being stabilized yet. Its troubles, both external and internal, continue to cause some uneasiness. According to the authorities in Andalusia, martial law which was proclaimed there several weeks ago may have to be continued indefinitely because of the turbulence of the Communists. Also, martial law has been reinstated in Elda, Valencia, where there was a violent revolt last December. The army, now under command of Don Francisco Aguilera, the new captain general, is kept in readiness to suppress any uprisings anywhere of either Communists or royalists. Elections in Catalonia resulted in complete victory for Colonel Francisco Macia's party. The assembly therefore will be dominated by those who demand autonomy for Catalonia under the authority of the central government.

The other day the Republican government issued a decree guaranteeing absolute freedom of worship to all religions. The pope regarded this as a clear violation of the concordat still in existence between Spain and the Vatican, and he sent a formal protest to Madrid after a conference with Cardinal Segura, the expelled primate of Spain.

**CHINA** appears to be on the brink of another civil war. President Chiang Kai-shek bitterly denounces the Communist rebels of Kwangtung and Kwangsi provinces and says the Nationalist government is forced to choose between accepting Communists into the party, which it will not do, or resorting to war. Large bodies of troops were reported to be moving on toward Canton to attack the insurgents.

**THROUGH** its chairman, J. Weston Allen, the national crime commission makes a report asking all states to pass a uniform law regulating theft information, ownership records and registration to check the growing evil of automobile thefts and the use of cars that are stolen by criminals.

The committee also recommends the enactment by congress of the bill which makes criminal the transportation in interstate or foreign commerce of property stolen or taken feloniously by fraud or with the intent to steal or purloin. The bill passed the house of representatives but did not reach the senate during the last session of congress.

**HAVING** changed his mind about appealing from his conviction and sentence for bribery, Albert B. Fall, former secretary of the interior, has asked the Supreme Court of the United States to reverse the decision of the District Court of Appeals. His brief attacks the validity of the indictment and the admission of certain evidence.

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## Life and Habits of Pocket Gopher

### The Growing of Leguminous Crops Make Life Easy for Little Rodent.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.—WNU Service.)

"Habits and Economic Status of the Pocket Gophers" is the title of a new technical bulletin just issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. The author, Theo. H. Schoffer, is an associate biologist of the bureau of biological survey stationed at Puyallup, Wash., and has had many years' experience making scientific observations of pocket gophers and other rodents, especially in their relation to agriculture.

#### Rodents Widely Distributed.

"The extent to which pocket gophers affect the interests of agriculture is becoming more apparent each year," says the new bulletin. "Scarcely any group of native rodents is more widely distributed in the United States, and certainly none has shown more readiness to adapt itself to the changed conditions introduced in its habitat by the farmer. The growing of such crops as alfalfa and clover has made life easy for the pocket gopher, since these plants furnish an abundant food supply in their roots and are usually maintained on the same ground for a period of years. Reclamation of desert lands also has furnished new food supplies and harbor for these rodents and has assisted their local wanderings." Such changes have favored the pocket gopher's rapid increase in many agricultural sections until, according to the bulletin, it has become one of the most destructive mammal pests of the country.

The bulletin discusses the appearance and general habits of pocket gophers, their disposition and senses, the sounds they make, the burrows they dig and the mounds they pile up, their active seasons, and their breeding habits. Sections also are devoted to the food of these rodents, their natural enemies, and their damage to agricultural crops, including alfalfa and clover, natural grasses, root crops, horticultural crops, irrigated crops, and pasture and range forage.

#### Control of Gopher.

As for the control of the pocket gopher, the bulletin suggests that this is not extremely difficult but requires persistence and co-operative effort. Details of control methods are not discussed, but it is stated that the methods tested and variously employed include fumigation of the burrows of the pocket gopher, trapping with especially designed traps, shooting and poisoning, all either individually or on single premises or in general campaigns of community co-operation.

Copy of the new publication, Technical Bulletin 224-T, may be obtained at 10 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

## Pure Bred Sire Signs Popular With Stockmen

In conducting the "Better Sires—Better Stock" campaign in co-operation with the states for the improvement of domestic live stock, specialists in the United States Department of Agriculture have observed the evidence of unusual interest of farmers and stockmen in the lithographed bare signs being offered to persons who are improving their herds with pure-bred sires. The department regularly grants certificates of recognition to these progressive stockmen, and, on request also furnishes a barn sign, measuring 10 by 14 inches, bearing the words "Pure Bred Sires Used Exclusively on This Farm." Enrollments received in the campaign in March showed that 71 per cent of the stock owners requested these signs in addition to the regular certificates. The sign is printed on heavy weather-resistant cardboard and is lithographed to resemble a bronze tablet.

A recent development in the campaign for pure bred sires is the interest which several county agents and live stock specialists have shown in holding meetings and distributing the signs to stock owners qualifying for them.

## Trap Japanese Beetle When Infestation Light

In the summer of 1929 approximately 17,500 Japanese beetle traps baited with geraniol were used by the United States Department of Agriculture in lightly infested areas, and in 1930 the number was increased to 25,583. The department recommends trapping only where there is a light infestation. The baited traps attract beetles from a great distance and if used in heavily infested areas would draw abnormal numbers from neighboring properties to the property where the traps were used. The cost for bait and for operating the traps was \$1.00 per trap in 1929 and \$1.63 in 1930.

## Delay in Immunizing Hogs May Be Costly

### It Should Be Done Shortly After Weaning Pigs.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.—WNU Service.)

The objection of many farmers to having their swine immunized against hog cholera on account of cost comes principally from those who wait until the hogs are full grown before using the treatment, says Dr. T. P. White, of the division of hog-cholera control, bureau of animal industry, United States Department of Agriculture. In sections where hog cholera is more or less prevalent year after year, Doctor White adds, the serum treatment is the only safe method of protection. In those localities the immunizing of the herd should be a regular practice just as castrating, docking, dehorning, and other common livestock operations. As in the case of those operations that are practiced early in the life of the animal, it is preferable to immunize early.

In experimental tests and under certain field conditions pigs a few days old have been immunized against hog cholera. In general practice, however, opinion seems to favor immunization not long before or soon after weaning. Even at that period, when the pigs may weigh from 30 to 40 pounds, the amounts of serum and virus necessary to confer immunity are much less than for grown hogs. The cost is correspondingly lower, a pig of that age requiring in some cases only a third of the expense necessary to treat a full-grown hog. Also the veterinarian finds it easier to handle young pigs. If a young pig dies the loss is small compared with that of a larger hog.

## Family Berry Patches Being Re-Established

Research dealing with diseases of small fruits and development of new varieties has made possible the re-establishment of the family berry patches, according to A. S. Colby, University of Illinois.

"Both local and distant markets for quality fruit are expanding rapidly. Even more important to consider is the fact, not generally recognized, that a patch of raspberries, strawberries and other small fruits may be cured for easily on a small piece of ground in connection with chickens, a vegetable garden and even a cow, a combination which will help to make a family self-supporting and pay big dividends in health and happiness as well." Illinois circular No. 305 will help you.

## Nothing Replaces Manure for Soil Improvement

Cover or green crops in the rotation of garden vegetables cannot replace manure for soil improvement, according to results of a six-year trial of the two methods by Dr. J. W. Lloyd, University of Illinois. Doctor Lloyd presents his figures in a new bulletin "Fertilizing Tomatoes, Sweet Corn and Muskmelons in a Three-Year Rotation."

Manure and limestone are applied to the field starting with the melon crop, next year bone meal or dried blood is added before the tomatoes. The third year sweet corn is grown without any fertilizer, for best results.

You can get a copy of this bulletin 364 by writing the university.

## Swine Feeding Tests

In Missouri swine feeding tests last year the addition of alfalfa meal to a corn and tankage ration increased the rate and economy of gains. 11 pounds of alfalfa meal replacing approximately 32 pounds of corn and 4 pounds of tankage. Adding small amounts of cottonseed meal or linseed meal and alfalfa meal increased slightly the rate of gain and decreased the feed required per unit of gain as compared to tankage alone, but large amounts of cottonseed meal had the opposite effect.

## Farm Hints

Timothy and alsike clover can be sown successfully up to October 1.

Trees may be used to good advantage on bits of land unfit for cultivated crop.

To do a good, clean job of cultivating, all shovels should be sharp and polished.

Losses of seedlings on land that is not adapted to alfalfa is what makes alfalfa expensive. Be sure your land has enough lime.

Omitting the last spray on the potatoes is like letting the insurance lapse on the day before the fire. As long as the vines are green spraying will help to control blight and rot.

**PROF. AUGUST PICCARD**, Swiss scientist, and his assistant, Charles Kipper, established a new record by ascending 52,500 feet in a balloon. They are convinced they reached the stratosphere and that their observations will be of considerable value. They started from Augsburg, Bavaria, being hermetically sealed in an aluminum ball suspended from a large balloon; 18 hours later they landed on a glacier in the Alps of Austrian Tyrol. They nearly suffocated because their supply of oxygen ran short, and they suffered from hunger and thirst.

**EVERY** time President Hoover takes some cabinet member to the Rapidan camp for a week-end, further plans for reducing the government's overhead are concocted. First came the Army and Navy departments, and then it was the turn of the Post Office department. Postmaster General Walter Brown and his assistants were the guests and the "victims," and after the conference in the woods it was announced that a program had been adopted that would save \$38,000,000 in the present fiscal year and that would produce many economies next year. However, it was emphatically stated that efficiency would be increased instead of diminished and that there would be no decrease in personnel.



Postmaster Gen. Brown